

Title: Bahram Gur and the Indian Princess

Date: 1431

Location: Iran

“This is one of the 9 miniatures illustrating the poem *Haft Paikar* an anthology of five poems by the 12th-century poet Nizami, who lived on the territory of present-day Azerbaijan. The poem relates how Bahram Gur, Shah of Iran, married the daughters of the padishahs of seven lands. A fortress, Khavarnak, was built specially, with pavilions for each of the princesses. The color of each of the pavilions accorded with a particular day of the week and with the planets protecting that day. Bahram Gur visited each of the seven pavilions in turn, where each of the princesses told him a magical story of love, symbolizing the passing of man's spirit through seven stages on the mystical path to God. Each tale ends with praise of the relative colour.

On Saturday , Bahram Gur visited the Indian princess in the Black Pavilion. Each of the compositions showing the ruler's visits to the seven pavilions is very similar: Bahram Gur lies on cushions, with the princess seated at his feet and telling her tale. The differences are in the colour and here the artist creates a harmonious pattern of black and gold, the overall effect lightened by the white and blue of the upper parts of the walls.”

<http://www.arthermitage.org/The-Khamsa-by-Nizami/Bahram-Gur-in-the-Black-Pavilion.html>

