

he returned to his capital:¹ he was back there by 27.6.1619.² Indian, Muscovite and Turkish envoys had also recently arrived, in addition to the English agents of the East India Company resident in Isfahan. According to the MSS. *Hist. Miss.*³ it was the 27th July, when riding in the Maidan, that in his unconventional way 'Abbas I took the Spanish ambassador aside with an interpreter; then

"de Silva set forth to him the complaints of his Most Catholic King, viz. that the *Shah* "had taken from him" (the king of Spain) "the island of *Bahrain* with its pearl fishery, and the "fortress at *Bandar*" (i.e. *Gāmburun*) "together with other places on the land. The king "curtly replied to the first part that the island in question had been taken away by himself "from the *Shaikh* of *Hurmuz*, formerly and still now his vassal: wherefore there was nothing "to do with the king of Spain in this matter. And, without giving the ambassador time "to answer a single word, he" (the *Shah*) "turned his back on him in a disparaging manner "and entered the palace. . . ."

Whether that date is an error for August 2nd, and this was part of the following incident or not, both della Valle⁴ and the MSS. *Hist. Miss.*⁵ give 2.8.1619 as the date of the official representations.

The account they separately tell, pieced together is to this effect: 'Abbas I was about to go off into the hills when he summoned the various ambassadors to an audience in the Maidan, 2nd August:

'He caused also to sit near him the Fr. Vicar (Provincial) of the Discalced Carmelites, 'who alone with two other gentlemen of the ambassador . . . he called them to come 'near, wishing them to be, as it were, witnesses present to listen (to what would be said), 'but not the rest, nor a single one of the Portuguese Augustinian Fathers, although they 'had come with the other guests. Of the king's people there joined the group only . . .'

'Being seated after this fashion, for the first thing with much insistence and many compliments the king begged the Fr. Vicar (Provincial) to be pleased to be the interpreter 'in the talk with the ambassador, saying that he was not satisfied with the ambassador's 'own interpreter: and the Father expressed himself ready to do his Majesty's bidding. The 'ambassador remarked that he desired nothing more than that his Majesty should show 'favour to the Religious, both the Portuguese Augustinians and the Discalced Carmelites 'sent from Rome, and that they should be given sites and permitted to make houses, i.e. 'convents, in which would be included churches after their style. . . . The *Shah* answered 'that this matter need not concern any ambassador from Spain for he ('Abbas I) was 'already of his own volition doing this.

'2. The ambassador stated as the desires of his master, the king of Spain, that the *Shah* 'should enter into amicable relations with the Portuguese, subjects of king Philip, and 'refrain from favouring the English corsairs intent on damaging the latter.

'Here the *Shah* brusquely interrupted, blaming the Portuguese for the kind of amicable 'relations they were maintaining with himself—ill-treating Muslim traders, taking them 'slaves, making Christians of them by force. Should they change their methods he was 'prepared to be their good friend. But he said nothing about the English, and it was 'already noised abroad that he had granted them the privilege of disembarking their goods 'at *Gāmburun*.

'3. Don Garcia asked for the restitution of the island of *Bahrain* ("Braharem") and of 'the fort at *Bandar Gāmburun* to the *Shaikh*' ("king") 'of *Hurmuz*, vassal of the Portuguese.

¹ MSS. *Hist. Miss.*, chap. XXXI, book 3, part 2. On 18.6.1619 the *Shah* had been in Isfahan and Fr. John Thaddeus had tried to see him on Carmelite business and to obtain an audience for Don Garcia, but "he the *Shah*, departed again "at once, so that, when the Fr. Vicar Provincial had learnt of the king being there and had got to the palace in haste, "as soon as he could, he found that the monarch had already gone away. . . ." *Vide della Valle*, letter of 24.8.1619, vol. 2, VI, p. 15.

³ Chap. XXXVII, book 3, part 2, O.C.D.

⁴ Vol. II, XVII, p. 55.

⁵ Chap. XXXI, book 3, part 2.