

That had been spent between June and December 1721. Then, relates the Bishop's letter of 10.1.1722:¹

"Precisely on the day of the Three Kings" (i.e. the Epiphany—6th January) "my door was knocked, with a summons to the Shah to fetch the replies to the three greatest potentates in Europe, although I was prevented from having that for the king of France: it is true that the Shah himself made me almost an apology, saying to me—after having caused 'Itimad-ud-Dauleh to hand over to me two letters, one for the Sovereign Pontiff, the other for the Emperor—I do not give you that for the king of France because I want 'to send someone there for other business, and it will be that person who will take it': and he then asked his interpreter what answer I gave to that: and I replied that all his Majesty did was well done. The king appeared satisfied, and I went off contentedly. . . ."²

(In another letter—written 14.1.1722³—the Bishop remarked:

"Although the Shah has honoured me with a rich robe, i.e. a whole dress in Persian style, with which I went to receive the replies, all the same he made me no other present towards the expenses, as he had done on the previous occasion: and that was because I did not come from abroad or elsewhere, and because I have my dwelling here: so they have not given me a house nor indemnified me for expenses, although I incurred more than on the previous occasion. . . ."

From the list, part of which has been given above, can be even learnt what it cost the Bishop to receive his *khal'at*, and go to Court that Epiphany morning. For example:

		scudi
"January 6th (1722)	To 3 servants of the Mihmandar	6·30
	To the Mirab	1·50
	To 4 servants accompanying me to receive the replies	2·10
	To the Secretary, Mamadak	45·00
	To the vice-Mihmandar	22·50
" 12th	To the men who brought the <i>khal'at</i>	15·00
" 16th	To the Mulla for copying the <i>raqams</i>	0·30
" 22nd	For the certifying to copies of the <i>raqams</i>	3·82")

To continue the letter of 10.1.1722 about the Shah handing him the replies for Rome and the Emperor:

". . . For months past we had been labouring, spending money and giving presents and, although we had obtained as much as wanted and requested in our petitions, they" (the Persians) "did not get to the end of the business by replying to the letters: and this weighed heavily on me. Whenever some festival of the country drew near, we went in hopes of having the letters taken in hand—then on the eve, or two days before the festival, we would be given an excuse or pretext. Besides, the festivals on which the Shah is wont either to receive letters or to give replies are not frequent: so that, when I heard that on the 17th of the current moon according to the computation of these Persians—the Epiphany, to be precise—there was to be a big festival, I arranged to have application made for our business: and here now at last the position was favourable: all the officials said unanimously that we should have our business dispatched: on the day before the eve of the festival public rumour had it that I should be summoned. So we were very

¹ S.N.R., III, p. 518.

² Bishop Barnabas mentions here that the French had been trying to get the reply for their king, and even offered money for it in competition with him.

³ S.N.R., III, p. 520.