This all took place as Ardeshir was returning from India, and he was filled with rage, when he heard the news. He formed an army and attacked Haft-vad. Haft-vad grouped his army and went to battle. The worm, which had by then become a monster, was placed at the head of the army. The battle continued from dawn till dusk, and Ardeshir was doomed. His men were struck by famine and he withdrew 2 Parasangs (6.5 miles), saying, "This is a hard task, but I will not give up, till I accomplish it."

So, he ordered Shahgir, his commander-in-chief, to seize the army; then he disguised himself in the cloths of Khar-bandegan (porters in charge of donkeys) and assembled 12 donkeys, laden with peddlers' goods and some poisonous seeds. He took along 7 men and galloped in the direction of the worm's fort. He told Shahgir that after killing the Worm, he would light a great fire; if it were at night, they would see its light, if by day, its smoke.

He started off in the direction of the fort. When the fort's guards saw the Kharbandegan, they gathered around them. Ardeshir said, "I know the power of the Worm, and I have brought a gift." He poured wine for the men, until they fell asleep. As they slept, the king brought out the poisoned seeds and gave them to the worm, which ate them and died. Then, Ardeshir and his seven men attacked the guards and killed them all. After that, he lit a fire. Shahgir noticed its smoke and galloped towards the fort with the army.

When Haft-vad noticed, he also gathered his army and the two sides battled. Haft-vad's men were scattered.



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