

MODERN PERSIAN POETRY

SOHRAB SEPEHRI

The Water's Footfall

SELECTED POEMS

Translated
by

ISMAIL SALAMI

&

ABBAS ZAHEDI

Introduced by

Martin Turner

Zabankadeh Publications

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THE WATER'S FOOTFALL

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با مقدمه: مارتین ترنر

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Publisher's Foreword

Today, Persian poetry is of great interest to the scholars of the world. The attention accorded by various scholars to Persian poetry gave quite a good reason to the publisher to embark upon the publication of modern Persian poetry in English. With this view in mind, the publisher has hitherto published the selected poems of two outstanding Persian poets, namely Forough Farrokhzad, and Fereydoon Moshiri. The Zabankadeh Publications is intent on publishing other selected poems in due course. The present book, a parallel translation, is a fine selection of Sohrab Sepehri's poetry. The publisher wishes to extend his deep gratitude to Sepehri's family for their kind cooperation. Mr. Tahuri, the original publisher of the eight Books, was kind enough to let the present publisher use the Persian text. Great gratitude is due to him too. Martin Turner, English psychologist and poet, graced the book with his revealing notes on Sohrab. The publisher sincerely hopes this series will contribute to the introduction of modern Persian masters to the world.

سخن ناشر

در جهان امروز، شعر و ادب فارسی با پیشینه‌ای کهن دارای جایگاهی خاص نزد ادیبان و محققان دنیای حاضر است. توجه و علاقه‌ی فرهنگ‌های گوناگون به شعر فارسی، انگیزه‌ی این انتشارات را برای ترجمه و نشر اشعار شاعران برجسته‌ی این حوزه‌ی ادبی، به زبان انگلیسی برانگیخت. در این راستا، ناشر، طی چندین سال، به انتشار ترجمه‌ی مقابله‌ای برگزیده‌های اشعار فروغ فرخزاد و فریدون مشیری مبادرت ورزید. در این گذار، انتشارات زبانکده کوشیده است ترجمه‌ی اشعار شاعران برجسته‌ی دیگر را به مرور به زبان انگلیسی منتشر نماید. کتاب حاضر ترجمه‌ای است مقابله‌ای از گزیده‌ی اشعار شاعر فقید سهراب سپهری. مارتین ترنر - شاعر و روانشناس انگلیسی - با یادداشت‌های روشنگرانه‌شان این کتاب را زینت بخشیدند که نهایت سپاس از ایشان حاصل است. در آخر سپاس عمیق خود را به خانواده‌ی سپهری به جهت همکاری صمیمانه‌شان تقدیم می‌داریم. همچنین زحمات مرحوم حاج آقا طهوری، ناشر اصلی هشت کتاب، از مدیران انتشارات طهوری که به ما اجازه دادند از متن فارسی اشعار استفاده کنیم سپاسگزاریم. امید است بتوانیم در معرفی اشعار شاعران برجسته‌ی این مرز و بوم به جهان حاضر مفید واقع گردیم.

MODERN PERSIAN POETRY

Sohrab Sepehri. *Sohrab Sepehri was born in Kashan in 1928; His grandmother had published poetry and it is likely that Sohrab grew up in an ethos which upheld a literary culture. After a high school literature diploma, he entered Tehran University Faculty of Fine Arts in 1948. Five years later he gained his master's degree with distinction as the outstanding student. By then he had published his first three collections of poetry, *By the Grass*, 1949, *The Death of Colour* in 1951 and *The Life of Dreams* in 1953. A very talented artist and a gifted poet, Sepehri came to prominence with the publication of *The Water's Footfall* which was subsequently followed by *The Traveller* and *The Green Space*. Blending visual images taken from painting with eastern mysticism, Sepehri produced a kind of poetry which is unique and original. Sepehri died of blood cancer in Tehran in 1980.*

Ismail Salami (alias Ali Salami). Writer, encyclopaedist, editor, translator and university instructor, Salami was born in Tehran in 1968. Salami has written and translated dozens of works ranging from literature to philosophy. Some of his publications include *Madmen of History*, (Tehran 1999); *Persian Fairy Tales* (Tehran 1999); *A Study of Thirty Great Novels* (Tehran 1999); *Islamic Views on Human Rights* (London 2001; New Delhi 2003); *The Divan of Hafiz*, (Tehran 2004); *A History of Persian Literature*, (Tehran 2002); *An Encyclopaedia of Persian Literature* (Tehran 2004); *With All My Tears* (Selected Poems of Fereydoon Moshiri, Tehran 2002). *Another Birth* (Selected Poems of Forough Farrokhzad, Tehran 2003); *Maybe It's the Messiah* (Selected poems of Simin Behbahani, Tehran 2004); *Political System in Iran* (Tehran 2004). Some of his articles have been translated into Italian, Chinese, Spanish, and Greek.

Abbas Zahedi. Writer, translator, educational researcher and university lecturer, was born in Gorgan in 1955. He is the author of a new system of writing for primary school children which marks his exceptional talent in educational issues. A distinguished researcher, Zahedi has succeeded in writing short stories with a limited number of letters for primary school children, thus enabling them to enjoy reading and to appreciate literature. His publications include *Short stories For Primary School Children* and *Anthology of American Literature* and *The Traveller & We Nothing But Look* (Poems of Sohrab Sepehri, Tehran 2002).

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A CHRONOLOGY OF SOHRAB SEPEHRI

- 1928 Born in Kashan
- 1940 Finishes his preliminary studies at Khayyam primary school, Kashan
- 1943 Finishes his first year of high school
- 1946 Employed in Ministry of Education, Kashan
- 1948 Resigns from Ministry of Education; graduates from high school; begins his studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran University; employed at Oil Ministry, Tehran
- 1949 Resigns after eight months' work
- 1951 *The Death of Colours*, his first book of poetry, published
- 1953 Graduates from the Faculty of Fine Arts with distinction; begins work as a designer at the Ministry of Medical Welfare; participates in several painting exhibitions, Tehran
- 1954 *The Life of Dreams*, his second book of poetry, published; begins working at the Ministry of Culture and Arts and teaching at Art School
- 1955 Translates Japanese haikus, most of which appear in the Literary Sokhan Magazine
- 1957 Travels to Paris and London; enrolls in the School of Fine Arts as a student of lithography
- 1958 Participates in Tehran's first biennial painting exhibition; travels to Paris and Rome; participates in Biennial exhibition, Venice; returns to Iran; begins work as the president of Audio-Video Organization, Ministry of Agriculture
- 1960 Participates in Tehran's second biennial exhibition; wins first prize in fine arts; in order to learn the art of carving on wood, he travels to Tokyo; visits different cities
- 1961 Visits Agra and Taj Mahal, India; holds his first individual exhibition in Abbassi Gallery, Tehran; begins teaching at the School of Decoration, Tehran; *The East of Sorrow* published; relinquishes official positions altogether.

- 1962 Holds individual exhibition in Farhang Gallery; holds another individual exhibition in Farhang Gallery
- 1963 Participates in a group exhibition in Gilgamesh Gallery, Tehran; holds an individual exhibition in Gulestan Film Studio, Darrus, Tehran; participates in Sao Paolo biennale exhibition, Brazil
- 1964 Travels to India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
- 1965 Participates in a group exhibition in Borges Gallery, Tehran; *The Water's Footfall* published in the Literary Arash Magazine; travels to Europe
- 1966 *The Traveller* published in the Literary Arash Magazine
- 1967 Holds an individual exhibition in Seihun gallery, Tehran; *The Green Space* published by Rozan
- 1968 Participates in different exhibitions
- 1969 Participates in international painting festivals in France; earns special degree
- 1970 Travels to the U. S. A.
- 1971 Holds an individual exhibition in Lito Gallery, Tehran
- 1972 Holds an individual exhibition in Cyrus Gallery, France
- 1973 Travels to Paris
- 1974 Travels to Greece and Egypt
- 1977 *The Eight Books* published by Tahuri Publications
- 1979 Travels to England to receive medical treatment for blood cancer; returns to Iran
- 1980 Dies at Pars Hospital, Tehran; buried in the Holy Shrine of Sultan Ali, Mashad Ardahal, Kashan