



- Sunday
- March 5, 2023
- Vol. 8143

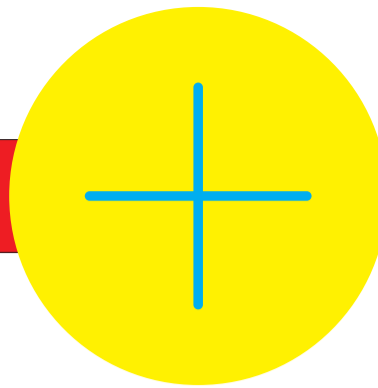
## Iran publishes nearly 80,000 books per year



Every year, nearly 80,000 books are published in Iran, said the CEO of Iran's Book and Literature House, Ali Ramezani. He made the statement at a meeting on Wednesday held on the sidelines of the 31st edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair, adding that these are rich resources for the Persian-speaking population of the world.

## IRAN NEWSPAPER

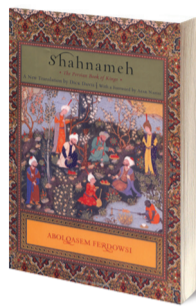
ISSN 1027-1449  
Keytitle: IRAN (Tehran)  
irannewspaper.ir



# IRAN

Iranian Morning Newspaper

# Rich Persian literature



Iran has a rich literature, considered by many as one of the world's richest. What is even most surprising with Persian literature is that classics written under the Old Persian empires are still central to Iran's present-day culture. From the "Shahnameh," written in the 11th century, to the works of popular modern writers, Iranians are very proud of their literary tradition. And they have good reasons for it, surfiran.com reported.

Poetry in Iran is not limited to ancient Persia. Many modern poets have honored the literary tradition of Iran. Unlike English and many other languages, Persian hasn't changed much throughout the millennia, meaning that today's readers can easily read and understand classical literature. Persian literature has many specific features and characteristics, one of them being the importance of poetry. Persian poets have produced rich literature, often influenced by Sufism. Ferdowsi, Rumi, Hafez and others have proven themselves masters of style and aesthetics.

### 'Shahnameh'

The 'Shahnameh' (The Book of Kings) is considered the masterpiece of Persian literature. It is what the 'Iliad' and the 'Odyssey' are to Greek literature.

The Shahnameh is an epic poem written by the great poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi during the 11th century. It took 30 years for Ferdowsi to write his masterpiece: a collection of 60,000 verses. Divided into three parts, the 'Book of Kings' covers the whole history of Persia and its kings, in a mythical way. Like epic tales of ancient Greece, the 'Shahnameh' explores the themes of courage, grief, tragic love, philosophy, and war. It starts with the creation of the world in the first volume, followed by the reigns and great deeds of Persian kings in the second volume, and ends with the story of the Arab invasion of Persia in the last volume.

Ferdowsi's 'Book of Kings' is credited with preserving the Persian language and culture following the Arab invasion. The original purpose of the 'Shahnameh,' commissioned by a Samanid king, was to save Persian history, language and legacy from being forgotten.

### Story of Layli and Majnun

Layli and Majnun is one of the most famous stories in Persian culture. It is a tragic love story that has inspired people over centuries and continues to do so. The story of "Layli and Majnun" is an epic poem written by Nizami Ganjavi during the 12th century. The poet was inspired by an

ancient Arab tale, already known in Persia in the 9th century. The lovers are even mentioned by the famous poet Rudaki. But it is Nizami that truly popularized this dramatic love story that is intended as an allegory for God's quest. Nizami's poem recalls the lives of Layla and Qays, who is called v'Majnun', which means someone possessed or 'mad'. The two fell in love at a young age but their families rejected their union. Eventually, Layli was married another man, and Majnun became a recluse to write verses about his love for Layli. The word 'Majnun' comes from his obsession for his lover.

### Divan of Hafez

Even if poetry would deserve a separate listing, no article about Iranian literature would be complete without Hafez, the most famous Persian poet. Born in 1325, Hafez was a prolific writer who left his footprint in the world of poetry. The Divan (Collection) is a book containing all his poems (about 500), most of which are written in ghazals (a lyric poem close to a sonnet), which has been translated into many languages.

### Bustan and Golestan

The Bustan and the Golestan are the two major works of Sa'di, one of the most influential Persian poets

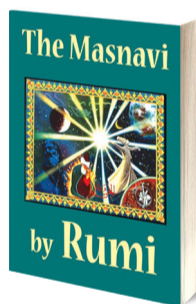
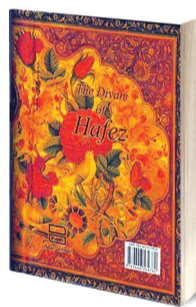
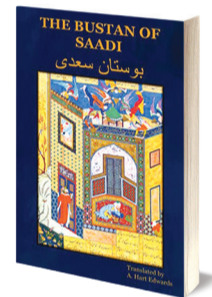
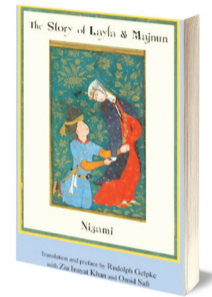
from the 13th century. The Bustan, Sa'di's first work, is a 10-chapter book in prose that deals with the poet's philosophical reflections on life. The Golestan, written a year later, is a collection of Sa'di's poems, giving moral and life advice.

### Masnavi and Divan-e Shams

Alongside Hafez, Ferdowsi and Sa'di, Jalaluddin Muhammad Balkhi, known internationally as Rumi, is one of the most influential Persian poets. His works are gathered into two main books: The Masnavi and the Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi. A Sufi poet, Rumi's poetry mostly explores the philosophical themes of love and desire for God.

### Conference of the Birds

The work of Farid ud-Din Attar is a classic of Persian literature that also deserves to be mentioned. Along with Rumi and Sa'di, Attar was a mystical poet from the 12th century. His "Conference of the Birds" (Manteq at-Tair) is an allegorical poem written in 4,500 lines. It tells the story of a conference led by all the birds to find a good ruler. The story is meant to lead the reader through a spiritual quest, as an allegory of the soul's search for mystical guidance.



## Mysterious tomb unearthed in Armenia



For the past 10 years Polish and Armenian archaeologists have been excavating the site of Metsamor, a once important religious and economic center in ancient Armenia. Recently, researchers uncovered a well-preserved tomb that contains the remains of a couple. "The death of these people is a

mystery to us, we do not know the cause, but everything indicates that they died simultaneously, because there are no traces of the reopening of the tomb," Metsamor expedition director Krzysztof Jakubiak said in a press release, Art News reported. The discovery is a rare one, not

for the couple interred there but because most of the tombs of Metsamor have been looted. This one is untouched. Along with the couple, researchers also found precious artifacts, including hundreds of beads and gold and carnelian pendants that made up three necklaces, ceramic vessels that came from the Syrian-Mesopotamian borderlands, and the remains of a wooden burial bed. The tomb dates from the late Late Bronze Age (1300-1200 BC), making it some 3,200 years old. Metsamor belonged to the empire of Urartu, which spanned parts of modern Türkiye, Iraq, Iran, and Armenia. Metsamor was continuously inhabited from the 4th to 17th centuries, until it was destroyed by Scythian or Cimmerian nomads. Though the artifacts left behind in Metsamor suggest a thriving society, little is known of the people who lived there, as they seem to have had no written language and, as a result, left no texts behind.



12 predatory birds were released into the wild on March 1 in Alvand Mountain, Hamedan. **POURIA PAKIZEH/ISNA**