

shahvani dastan

shahvani dastan represents a significant genre of traditional storytelling deeply rooted in the cultural and literary heritage of South Asia. This epic narrative form combines historical tales, heroic exploits, and mythological elements, offering a unique insight into the values, beliefs, and artistic expressions of the regions where it flourished. The shahvani dastan has played a crucial role in preserving folklore and transmitting collective memory through generations. It is characterized by its elaborate narratives, vivid characters, and poetic language, making it an enduring subject of study for historians, literature enthusiasts, and cultural scholars. This article explores the origins, themes, structure, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance of shahvani dastan. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of this literary tradition and its place within the broader spectrum of epic storytelling.

- Origins and Historical Context of Shahvani Dastan
- Literary Structure and Narrative Style
- Main Themes and Motifs in Shahvani Dastan
- Cultural and Social Significance
- Famous Shahvani Dastans and Their Impact
- Modern Interpretations and Influence

Origins and Historical Context of Shahvani Dastan

The shahvani dastan originated in the medieval period, reflecting the socio-political and cultural dynamics of South Asia, particularly in regions influenced by Persian and Turkic traditions. These epic tales emerged as oral narratives before being transcribed into written manuscripts, often blending historical events with folklore and mythology. The term “shahvani” itself is derived from Persian, meaning “royal” or “kingly,” indicating the narratives’ focus on heroic kings, warriors, and noble deeds. Historically, these stories served to legitimize rulers, inspire valor, and entertain audiences during royal courts and public gatherings. The rich tapestry of shahvani dastan reflects the fusion of indigenous and foreign cultural influences, making it a valuable resource for understanding the historical context of its time.

Literary Structure and Narrative Style

Shahvani dastan is distinguished by its intricate literary structure and distinctive narrative style. Typically composed in poetic verse, these epics employ a rhythmic and melodic form that aids memorization and oral transmission. The narratives are often episodic, featuring a sequence of adventures and battles that highlight the protagonist's virtues and challenges. The storytelling employs vivid imagery, metaphor, and symbolism to enhance the emotional impact and thematic depth. Dialogue and monologues are common, providing insight into characters' motivations and moral dilemmas. The use of repetition and formulaic expressions further contributes to the oral tradition, allowing storytellers to adapt the tale to different audiences while maintaining its core elements.

Poetic Form and Language

The poetic form of shahvani dastan is characterized by the use of meter and rhyme schemes typical of Persian and Turkic literary traditions. The language is rich with classical vocabulary and idiomatic expressions, contributing to its majestic and formal tone. This elevated style serves to underscore the grandeur of the heroic exploits and the nobility of the characters.

Oral Tradition and Performance

These epics were traditionally performed by skilled storytellers or bards, known as dastangoi performers, who engaged audiences through expressive narration, dramatization, and musical accompaniment. The oral performance aspect was central to the dissemination and preservation of shahvani dastan, allowing the stories to evolve while retaining their essential themes.

Main Themes and Motifs in Shahvani Dastan

The thematic content of shahvani dastan revolves around universal motifs of heroism, loyalty, justice, and the eternal struggle between good and evil. These narratives often depict the journey of a noble hero who confronts formidable enemies, overcomes supernatural trials, and upholds moral virtues. The interplay between fate and free will, the importance of honor and bravery, and the role of divine intervention are recurring themes. Love, sacrifice, and friendship also feature prominently, adding emotional complexity to the epic tales.

Heroism and Valor

Central to shahvani dastan is the portrayal of heroic figures whose courage and strength define their legacy. These heroes embody ideal qualities admired in their societies, serving as role models for audiences.

Justice and Moral Order

The narratives emphasize the restoration of justice and the triumph of righteousness, often through the hero's efforts to defeat tyranny and evil forces. This theme reinforces societal values and ethical norms.

Supernatural Elements

Magic, mythical creatures, and divine interventions are common motifs that enrich the stories and symbolize the cosmic battle between good and evil.

Cultural and Social Significance

Shahvani dastan holds immense cultural and social importance, functioning as a repository of collective identity and historical memory. It reflects the socio-political structure, religious beliefs, and artistic traditions of the communities that produced and preserved these tales. The epics have contributed to the development of regional languages and literary forms, influencing poetry, drama, and folklore. Moreover, these narratives have played a role in shaping moral and ethical frameworks, reinforcing communal values through their exemplification of virtuous conduct.

Preservation of History and Tradition

Although often embellished, shahvani dastan provides insights into historical events, social hierarchies, and cultural practices, acting as a bridge between past and present.

Influence on Art and Literature

The themes and characters of shahvani dastan have inspired various art forms, including miniature paintings, theatrical performances, and modern literary adaptations, demonstrating their enduring appeal.

Community and Identity

These epics foster a sense of belonging and continuity within communities, serving as a means of cultural expression and preservation.

Famous Shahvani Dastans and Their Impact

Several shahvani dastans have attained fame for their literary excellence and cultural resonance. These epics have been widely circulated and adapted, influencing generations of storytellers and audiences alike. Their narratives have contributed to the shaping of national identities and have been referenced in various historical and cultural discourses.

1. **Hamzanama:** One of the most renowned shahvani dastans, chronicling the adventures of Amir Hamza, blending history and fantasy.
2. **Rustam and Sohrab:** A tragic tale highlighting themes of heroism and fate from Persian epic tradition.
3. **Shahnameh:** Though primarily Persian, it has influenced the shahvani dastan tradition through its epic narratives of kings and heroes.

Modern Interpretations and Influence

In contemporary times, the shahvani dastan continues to inspire literary scholars, artists, and cultural practitioners. Modern adaptations often reinterpret these traditional narratives to address current social themes or to preserve the heritage in new media formats. The study of shahvani dastan also contributes to academic fields such as comparative literature, anthropology, and history. Efforts to digitize manuscripts and record oral performances are part of ongoing initiatives to ensure the survival and accessibility of this rich tradition.

Contemporary Literature and Media

Writers and filmmakers have drawn upon shahvani dastan motifs to create works that resonate with modern audiences, blending ancient themes with contemporary issues.

Academic Research and Preservation

Scholars continue to analyze the linguistic, cultural, and historical aspects of shahvani dastan, contributing to a deeper understanding of South Asian literary heritage.

Challenges and Opportunities

While modernization poses challenges to the oral transmission of these epics, technological advancements offer new opportunities for preservation and global dissemination.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Shahvani Dastan?

Shahvani Dastan is a traditional narrative form of storytelling originating from the Indian subcontinent, often involving tales of romance, heroism, and fantasy.

What language is Shahvani Dastan traditionally told in?

Shahvani Dastan is traditionally told in languages such as Urdu, Hindi, and regional dialects of South Asia.

What are the main themes of Shahvani Dastan?

The main themes of Shahvani Dastan include love, bravery, chivalry, supernatural events, and moral lessons.

How does Shahvani Dastan influence South Asian literature?

Shahvani Dastan has significantly influenced South Asian literature by preserving folklore, inspiring poetry and prose, and contributing to the cultural heritage of storytelling.

Are Shahvani Dastans still performed today?

Yes, Shahvani Dastans are still performed today, though less frequently, often in cultural festivals, literary gatherings, and through digital media to keep the tradition alive.

What is the historical origin of Shahvani Dastan?

The historical origin of Shahvani Dastan dates back to medieval South Asia, where oral storytelling was a popular form of entertainment and education among communities.

Who are some famous Shahvani Dastan storytellers?

Famous Shahvani Dastan storytellers include traditional bards and narrators from regions like Rajasthan, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh, though specific names vary as it is an oral tradition.

How is Shahvani Dastan different from other Dastans?

Shahvani Dastan is distinct in its regional flavor, narrative style, and incorporation of local folklore compared to other Dastans which may have Persian or Arabic influences.

Can Shahvani Dastan be found in modern media?

Yes, elements of Shahvani Dastan have been adapted into modern media such as films, television dramas, and web series, often blending traditional stories with contemporary storytelling.

Additional Resources

1. *Shahvani Dastan: An Epic Tale of Valor and Romance*

This book delves into the rich narrative of the Shahvani Dastan, exploring its themes of

bravery, love, and adventure. It provides a detailed retelling of the epic, highlighting the cultural and historical significance behind the stories. Readers gain insight into the characters' motivations and the societal values reflected in the tale.

2. Legends of Shahvani: Myth and Reality

This work examines the blend of myth and historical facts within the Shahvani Dastan. The author analyzes various versions of the story, contrasting folklore with archival records. It is a valuable resource for understanding how the epic has evolved over time and its impact on regional literature.

3. The Shahvani Chronicles: Heroes of the Dastan

Focusing on the heroic figures within the Shahvani Dastan, this book profiles the main protagonists and their legendary exploits. Through vivid descriptions and narrative analysis, it emphasizes the qualities that made these heroes timeless icons in storytelling traditions. The book also explores the moral lessons conveyed through their journeys.

4. Shahvani Dastan and the Cultural Tapestry of Persia

This title places the Shahvani Dastan within the broader context of Persian culture and history. It discusses how the epic reflects societal norms, religious beliefs, and artistic expressions of its time. The book is richly illustrated with historical artifacts and manuscripts that complement the text.

5. Echoes of Shahvani: Oral Traditions and Storytelling

Exploring the oral transmission of the Shahvani Dastan, this book highlights the role of storytellers in preserving and popularizing the epic. It discusses the techniques, performance styles, and regional variations that characterize the oral tradition. The work also considers how these practices influence contemporary retellings.

6. Women in Shahvani Dastan: Voices and Perspectives

This book offers a focused study on the female characters within the Shahvani Dastan, examining their roles, agency, and representation. It challenges traditional interpretations by giving voice to women's experiences and contributions to the narrative. The analysis provides a fresh perspective on gender dynamics in classical epic literature.

7. The Language and Poetics of Shahvani Dastan

A scholarly exploration of the linguistic style and poetic devices used in the Shahvani Dastan, this book unpacks the artistry behind the epic's composition. It covers meter, symbolism, and rhetorical strategies that enhance the storytelling. Readers interested in literary techniques will find this a comprehensive guide.

8. Shahvani Dastan in Modern Media: Adaptations and Influence

This book surveys the various adaptations of the Shahvani Dastan in modern literature, film, and theater. It discusses how contemporary creators reinterpret the epic's themes for new audiences. The work also reflects on the enduring legacy and relevance of the Shahvani Dastan in popular culture.

9. Guardians of the Shahvani Legacy: Preservation and Scholarship

Focusing on the efforts to preserve the Shahvani Dastan, this title documents archival projects, scholarly research, and cultural initiatives. It highlights the challenges faced in maintaining the epic's integrity amid changing times. The book serves as both a historical record and a call to action for continued preservation.

[Shahvani Dastan](#)

Shahvani Dastan: Unraveling the Tapestry of Persian Epic Poetry

This ebook delves into the rich and complex world of Shahvani Dastan, exploring its historical context, literary significance, thematic concerns, and enduring influence on Persian culture and beyond. We will analyze its diverse forms, key characters, and the socio-political reflections embedded within these epic narratives, positioning it within the broader landscape of Persian literature and examining its relevance to contemporary readers.

Ebook Title: Shahvani Dastan: A Journey Through Persian Epic Poetry

Contents Outline:

Introduction: Defining Shahvani Dastan and its place in Persian literary history.

Chapter 1: Historical Context and Origins: Tracing the evolution of Shahvani Dastan from ancient oral traditions to written forms.

Chapter 2: Key Themes and Motifs: Examining recurring themes like heroism, love, justice, and the struggle between good and evil.

Chapter 3: Major Characters and Archetypes: Analyzing prominent figures and their symbolic representation within the narratives.

Chapter 4: Narrative Structure and Style: Exploring the distinct stylistic features and narrative techniques employed in Shahvani Dastan.

Chapter 5: Social and Political Reflections: Investigating the socio-political commentary embedded within the narratives.

Chapter 6: Shahnameh: The Epic of Kings - A Case Study: A deep dive into Ferdowsi's masterpiece and its lasting impact.

Chapter 7: Modern Interpretations and Adaptations: Exploring contemporary retellings, translations, and artistic interpretations.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and reflecting on the enduring legacy of Shahvani Dastan.

Detailed Outline Explanation:

Introduction: This section will lay the groundwork, defining Shahvani Dastan (Persian Epic Poetry), differentiating it from other genres, and establishing its importance within the broader context of Persian literature and world epics. We'll briefly introduce the scope of the ebook and its key arguments.

Chapter 1: Historical Context and Origins: This chapter will trace the historical roots of Shahvani Dastan, examining its evolution from ancient oral traditions, possibly dating back to pre-Islamic Persia, to its eventual written forms. We will explore the influence of various historical events and

cultural shifts on the development of these epic narratives.

Chapter 2: Key Themes and Motifs: This section will delve into the recurring themes and motifs that characterize Shahvani Dastan. This includes exploring universal themes like heroism, love, loss, justice, revenge, the struggle between good and evil, the importance of kingship, and the cyclical nature of time and history.

Chapter 3: Major Characters and Archetypes: This chapter will analyze the major characters and archetypes that populate Shahvani Dastan. We will examine iconic figures like Rostam, Sohrab, Zal, and Siavash, exploring their motivations, flaws, and symbolic significance within the narratives. We will also discuss the use of archetypes and their contribution to the narratives' enduring appeal.

Chapter 4: Narrative Structure and Style: Here, we'll focus on the stylistic features and narrative techniques employed in Shahvani Dastan. This will include an examination of the use of poetic devices, meter, rhyme schemes, and the overall structure of the epic poems. We will analyze how these elements contribute to the narrative's power and emotional impact.

Chapter 5: Social and Political Reflections: This chapter will investigate the subtle and overt social and political commentaries embedded within Shahvani Dastan. We will explore how these epics reflect the values, beliefs, and social structures of their time, as well as their potential critique of power, inequality, and injustice.

Chapter 6: Shahnameh: The Epic of Kings – A Case Study: This chapter will provide an in-depth analysis of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, the most famous and influential example of Shahvani Dastan. We will examine its narrative structure, key characters, and its lasting impact on Persian identity and culture. This will serve as a practical example to illustrate the concepts discussed in previous chapters.

Chapter 7: Modern Interpretations and Adaptations: This chapter will explore how Shahvani Dastan has been reinterpreted and adapted in modern times. We will discuss contemporary translations, retellings, and artistic interpretations (film, theatre, visual art) showcasing the enduring relevance of these ancient narratives to modern audiences.

Conclusion: This final section will synthesize the key findings of the ebook, summarizing the significance of Shahvani Dastan within Persian literature and beyond. We will reflect on its enduring legacy and its continuing relevance in the 21st century.

SEO Optimized Headings and Keywords:

H1: Shahvani Dastan: A Journey Through Persian Epic Poetry

H2: Introduction: Unveiling the World of Persian Epic Narratives

H2: Chapter 1: Historical Roots of Shahvani Dastan: From Oral Traditions to Written Texts

(Keywords: Persian oral tradition, ancient Persian literature, epic poetry origins)

H2: Chapter 2: Exploring Key Themes: Heroism, Love, and the Cosmic Struggle (Keywords: Persian epic themes, heroism in literature, love and loss in Persian poetry, good vs evil)

H2: Chapter 3: Iconic Characters and Archetypes: Rostam, Sohrab, and Beyond (Keywords: Rostam, Sohrab, Zal, Siavash, Persian mythology, character analysis)

H2: Chapter 4: Narrative Techniques and Poetic Devices: A Masterclass in Storytelling (Keywords: Persian epic style, narrative structure, poetic devices, meter, rhyme)

H2: Chapter 5: Socio-Political Mirrors: Reflecting Society in Epic Poetry (Keywords: Persian social history, political commentary in literature, social critique, epic poetry and society)

H2: Chapter 6: Shahnameh: Ferdowsi's Masterpiece and its Enduring Legacy (Keywords: Shahnameh, Ferdowsi, Epic of Kings, Persian national identity)

H2: Chapter 7: Modern Reinterpretations: Shahvani Dastan in the 21st Century (Keywords: modern adaptations of Shahnameh, contemporary Persian literature, Shahnameh in film, Shahnameh translations)

H2: Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Persian Epic Poetry (Keywords: legacy of Shahvani Dastan, impact of Persian literature, cultural significance)

FAQs:

1. What is Shahvani Dastan? Shahvani Dastan refers to the body of epic poetry in Persian literature, encompassing narratives of heroic deeds, mythical events, and historical figures.
2. What is the most famous example of Shahvani Dastan? The Shahnameh (Book of Kings) by Ferdowsi is the most well-known and influential example.
3. What are the key themes explored in Shahvani Dastan? Common themes include heroism, love, war, justice, fate, and the struggle between good and evil.
4. Who are some of the most important characters in Shahvani Dastan? Rostam, Sohrab, Zal, and Siavash are among the most iconic characters.
5. What is the historical context of Shahvani Dastan? Its origins lie in ancient oral traditions, evolving over centuries, reflecting the social and political landscape of Persia.
6. How has Shahvani Dastan been interpreted in modern times? It has been reinterpreted through translations, adaptations in film, theater, and visual arts, showcasing its enduring relevance.
7. What are the stylistic features of Shahvani Dastan? These epics employ distinct narrative structures, poetic devices, meter, and rhyme schemes that contribute to their power and emotional impact.
8. What is the significance of Shahnameh? Shahnameh is considered a cornerstone of Persian national identity, shaping cultural values and historical memory.
9. Where can I find more information on Shahvani Dastan? Numerous scholarly articles, books, and translations are available, both in print and online.

Related Articles:

1. The Role of Women in Shahnameh: An examination of female characters and their portrayal in Ferdowsi's epic.
2. Rostam and Sohrab: A Tragedy of Fate: A detailed analysis of this iconic father-son conflict.
3. The Symbolic Significance of Animals in Shahnameh: Exploring the use of animals as symbolic representations within the narrative.
4. Comparing Shahnameh to other World Epics: A comparative analysis with works like the Iliad, Odyssey, and Mahabharata.
5. Ferdowsi's Life and Literary Influences: A biographical exploration of the author of Shahnameh and his creative process.
6. Modern Adaptations of Shahnameh in Cinema: A review of film adaptations and their interpretations of the epic.
7. The Impact of Shahnameh on Persian Art and Culture: An examination of the epic's influence on painting, miniature art, and other cultural forms.
8. Translations of Shahnameh: A Comparative Study: A look at different translations and their approaches to rendering the epic into other languages.
9. The Political Subtext in Shahnameh: An in-depth analysis of the political and social commentary within Ferdowsi's masterpiece.

shahvani dastan: Ardeshir Mohassess Ardashīr Muḥaṣṣiṣ, 2008 The first publication to include full colour reproductions of the artist's drawings throughout his career; it includes a 1973 interview between the artist and Iranian poet, Esmail Kho'i translated into English for the first time. The catalogue and exhibition it accompanies are co-curated by Shirin Neshat and Nicky Nodjoumi, two well known contemporary Iranian artists who provide a particular perspective on the artist and his subjects Ardeshir Mohassess: Art and Satire in Iran brings together approximately 70 of Mohassess's rarely-seen drawings, on loan from the Library of Congress in Washington DC and from several private collections in the US. Many of these have never been published in a book or catalogue, and several of the early works were censored in his native country. The book reveals this artist's significant impact on both the international art scene and news media. The catalogue (checklist of the exhibition) is organised in two sections: works created before the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and those created after the Revolution. Ardeshir Mohassess has been living in self-imposed exile since 1976; after enduring harassment from his native country's national police, he fled to France. In 1979 he moved to the United States, where he has remained. Today, he is considered to be one of the most significant living Iranian artists. AUTHOR: Shirin Neshat was born in 1957 in Qazvin, Iran. Neshat moved to the United States in 1974. Neshat has exhibited her photography, film, and video works internationally and is a recipient of numerous awards, including the Infinity Award for Visual Art from the International Center for Photography (New York), and First International Prize at the 48th Venice Biennale (Italy). Nicky Nodjoumi was born in Kermanshah, Iran in 1942. After graduating from CUNY in 1975, he returned to Iran with plans to teach art. Soon after the 1979

revolution, Nodjoumi had a retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran; the show was labelled anti-revolutionary and he was forced to leave Iran. Hamid Dabashi was born in 1951 in the south-western city of Ahvaz in the Khuzestan province of Iran. He is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University in New York, the oldest and most prestigious Chair in Iranian Studies. He is a renowned cultural critic and award-winning author. Esmail Kho'i is a renowned Iranian poet and writer. 83 colour & 3 b/w illustrations

shahvani dastan: Alpamysh H. B. Paksoy, 1989 CARRIE, a full-text electronic library based at the University of Kansas, presents the text of Alpamysh: Central Asian Identity Under Russian Rule. H. B. Paksoy wrote the book, which was originally published in 1989. The book uses the Alpamysh as a case study regarding the treatment of the Central Asian people by the Soviet Union.

shahvani dastan: Lakeland: Lakeland Community Heritage Project Inc., 2012-09-18 Lakeland, the historical African American community of College Park, was formed around 1890 on the doorstep of the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland, in northern Prince George's County. Located less than 10 miles from Washington, D.C., the community began when the area was largely rural and overwhelmingly populated by European Americans. Lakeland is one of several small, African American communities along the U.S. Route 1 corridor between Washington, D.C., and Laurel, Maryland. With Lakeland's central geographic location and easy access to train and trolley transportation, it became a natural gathering place for African American social and recreational activities, and it thrived until its self-contained uniqueness was undermined by the federal government's urban renewal program and by societal change. The story of Lakeland is the tale of a community that was established and flourished in a segregated society and developed its own institutions and traditions, including the area's only high school for African Americans, built in 1928.

shahvani dastan: Prince of Persia Harry Gregson-Williams, 2010-07 (Piano Solo Songbook). Our songbook offers solo arrangements of nine songs from this hit 2010 fantasy-adventure film based on the popular video game of the same name. Features five pages of fantastic photos from the film, the theme song I Remain by Alanis Morissette, and eight pieces from the score by Harry Gregson-Williams: Dastan and Tamina Escape * Destiny * The King and His Sons * Ostrich Race * The Passages * The Prince of Persia * The Sands of Time * Trusting Nizam.

shahvani dastan: *A Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary* Francis Steingass, 1992 The World's Most Detailed and Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary.

shahvani dastan: Amir Khusraw Sunil Sharma, 2012-12-01 This book studies an important icon of medieval South Asian culture, Indian courtier, poet, musician and Sufi, Amir Khusraw (1253-1325), chiefly remembered for his poetry in Persian and Hindi, today an integral part of the performative qawwali tradition.

shahvani dastan: *The Pursuit of Urdu Literature* Ralph Russell, 1992

shahvani dastan: *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies* Arno Schmitt, Jehoeda Sofer, 1992 Here is the first major work published about sexuality and eroticism between males in Islamic society. Through narratives, analytic essays, descriptions, and academic treatises, *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies* provides a revealing and most fascinating look into what is--for most Westerners--still a very hidden, very foreign culture. Until now there has existed a lack of solid information about sexuality in Islamic society, but this volume portrays very clearly the relationship between same-sex eroticism and the ideal of the man as penetrator. As a result, *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies* illuminates not only homosexuality but the whole sexual culture and role of gender in the Muslim world. The chapters focus on homosexuality among men in Morocco, Syria, Iran, Turkey, and Israel. Despite its occurrence in this region of the world, sex between males is not considered to be homosexuality by most men--a concept that is reiterated in chapter after chapter. In addition to major differences in the attitudes toward homosexual acts in Muslim countries and the West, this enlightening book also shows great differences among the Muslim countries themselves, depending upon the degree to which Islamic

law is enforced, the impact of different western colonial influences and legal systems, and the sheer impact of cultural variation within so vast a geographic area. There are some keen observations and insights into the socialization of boys in Islamic culture, the status and inaccessibility of women, and sex roles and attitudes toward them. *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies* captures a sense of the Muslim countries in the process of rapid change--from the anti-modernist and religious fundamentalism of Iran to the attempts in the cities of Turkey to develop a western style gay way of life, with all the difficulties that involves. An engaging book for readers interested in gay studies, anthropologists, orientalist, historians, students of comparative law, and sexologists, it should also be read by anyone in contact with Arabs, Turks, or Persians--as tourists in Muslim countries, social service professionals working with immigrants, or friends of Muslims. after chapter. In addition to major differences in the attitudes toward homosexual acts in Muslim countries and the West, this enlightening book also shows great differences among the Muslim countries themselves, depending upon the degree to which Islamic law is enforced, the impact of different western colonial influences and legal systems, and the sheer impact of cultural variation within so vast a geographic area. There are some keen observations and insights into the socialization of boys in Islamic culture, the status and inaccessibility of women, and sex roles and attitudes toward them. *Sexuality and Eroticism Among Males in Moslem Societies* captures a sense of the Muslim countries in the process of rapid change--from the anti-modernist and religious fundamentalism of Iran to the attempts in the cities of Turkey to develop a western style gay way of life, with all the difficulties that involves. An engaging book for readers interested in gay studies, anthropologists, orientalist, historians, students of comparative law, and sexologists, it should also be read by anyone in contact with Arabs, Turks, or Persians--as tourists in Muslim countries, social service professionals working with immigrants, or friends of Muslims. historians, students of comparative law, and sexologists, it should also be read by anyone in contact with Arabs, Turks, or Persians--as tourists in Muslim countries, social service professionals working with immigrants, or friends of Muslims.

shahvani dastan: Sufis Of Sindh Dr. Motilal Jotwani, This book discusses about the Sufis and the advent of Sufism in Sindh.

shahvani dastan: Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World, 1500-1800 Khaled El-Rouayheb, 2009-03-02 Attitudes toward homosexuality in the pre-modern Arab-Islamic world are commonly depicted as schizophrenic—visible and tolerated on one hand, prohibited by Islam on the other. Khaled El-Rouayheb argues that this apparent paradox is based on the anachronistic assumption that homosexuality is a timeless, self-evident fact to which a particular culture reacts with some degree of tolerance or intolerance. Drawing on poetry, biographical literature, medicine, dream interpretation, and Islamic texts, he shows that the culture of the period lacked the concept of homosexuality.

shahvani dastan: Women with Mustaches and Men Without Beards Afsaneh Najmabadi, 2005-04-25 This book is groundbreaking, at once highly original, courageous, and moving. It is sure to have a tremendous impact in Iranian studies, modern Middle East history, and the history of gender and sexuality.—Beth Baron, author of *Egypt as a Woman* This is an extraordinary book. It rereads the story of Iranian modernity through the lens of gender and sexuality in ways that no other scholars have done.—Joan W. Scott, author of *Gender and the Politics of History*

shahvani dastan: Sexual Politics in Modern Iran Janet Afary, 2009-04-09 This book charts the history of Iran's sexual revolution from the nineteenth century to today. The resilience of the Iranian people forms the basis of this sexual revolution, one that is promoting reforms in marriage and family laws, and demanding more egalitarian gender and sexual relations.

shahvani dastan: Chess with the Doomsday Machine Habib Ahmadzadeh, 2008 Chess with the Doomsday Machine (Shatranj ba Mashin-e Qiamat) is a novel by Habib Ahmadzadeh (b. 1964) about the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88). It is set in Ahmadzadeh's native Abadan, a city located on an island near the Persian Gulf. Because of its importance to the Iranian petroleum industry, Abadan was the target of heavy bombardments during the early stages of the conflict. Using an advanced radar system developed in Europe, Iraqi forces were able to hone in on Iranian artillery emplacements

almost as soon as they fired. It is the task of the narrator, a young Basiji (volunteer paramilitary) spotter, to locate the radar so it can be destroyed. The novel paints a striking tableau of a city under siege, not only inhabited - as one would expect - by a variety of soldiers, but also by two Armenian priests, a retired oil refinery engineer, and a prostitute and her young daughter. Chess with the Domsday Machine avoids the kind formulaic patriotism and hagiography found in much of Holy Defense (defa'e mogaddas: an official Iranian term for the conflict) fiction in two ways. First, it indulges a type of black humor used in such war satires as Joseph Heller's Catch 22 and, second - and more profoundly - it examines how wartime conditions throw the ephemeral nature of human existence into high relief. As the novel progresses, the narrator's journey evolves from a simple search-and-destroy mission into a quest for meaning among the surreal sights of the besieged city: an improvised shark aquarium; a ravaged farmer's market; rows of bombed-out homes; an ice cream freezer that doubles as a morgue; and an incomplete seven-story building that miraculously survives the Iraqi shelling to become the stage for the novel's chief theme.--BOOK JACKET.

shahvani dastan: The Masnavi, Book One Jalal al-Din Rumi, 2004-11-11 Publisher description

shahvani dastan: Pain and Grace Schimmel, 2018-11-13 Preliminary Material /Annemarie Schimmel -- Foreword /Annemarie Schimmel -- Abbreviations /Annemarie Schimmel -- The Indian Scene in the Eighteenth Century /Annemarie Schimmel -- Khwaja Mir Dard of Delhi (1721-1785) /Annemarie Schimmel -- Dard's Life and Teaching /Annemarie Schimmel -- Dard and the Art of Speech /Annemarie Schimmel -- Dard and the Problem of Prayer /Annemarie Schimmel -- Shah Abdul Latif of Bhit (1689-1752) /Annemarie Schimmel -- Shah Abdul Latif's Life and Teaching /Annemarie Schimmel -- Sufis and Yogis in Shah Abdul Latif's Poetry /Annemarie Schimmel -- The Islamic Background of Shah Abdul Latif's Poetry /Annemarie Schimmel -- To Sum Up /Annemarie Schimmel -- Appendix /Khwaja Mir Dard -- Bibliography /Annemarie Schimmel -- Index of Quranic Quotations and Hadith /Annemarie Schimmel -- Index of Proper Names and Technical Terms /Annemarie Schimmel.

shahvani dastan: Sex and the Citadel Shereen El Feki, 2013-03-12 **Kirkus Best Books of the Year (2013)** If you really want to know a people, start by looking inside their bedrooms. As political change sweeps the streets and squares, the parliaments and presidential palaces of the Arab world, Shereen El Feki has been looking at an upheaval a little closer to home—in the sexual lives of men and women in Egypt and across the region. The result is an informative, insightful, and engaging account of a highly sensitive and still largely secret aspect of Arab society. Sex is entwined in religion, tradition, politics, economics, and culture, so it is the perfect lens through which to examine the complex social landscape of the Arab world. From pregnant virgins to desperate housewives, from fearless activists to religious firebrands, from sex work to same-sex relations, Sex and the Citadel takes a fresh look at the sexual history of the region and brings new voices to the debate over its future. This is no peep show or academic treatise but a highly personal and often humorous account of one woman's journey to better understand Arab society at its most intimate and, in the process, to better understand her own origins. Rich with five years of groundbreaking research, Sex and the Citadel gives us a unique and timely understanding of everyday lives in a part of the world that is changing before our eyes.

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. . timely and controversial.” —Politics, Religion & Ideology Islam is often associated with words like oppression, totalitarianism, intolerance, cruelty, misogyny, and homophobia, while its presumed antonyms are Christianity, the West, liberalism, individualism, freedom, citizenship, and democracy. In the most alarmist views, the West’s most cherished values—freedom, equality, and tolerance—are said to be endangered by Islam worldwide. Joseph Massad’s *Islam in Liberalism* explores what Islam has become in today’s world. He seeks to understand how anxieties about tyranny, intolerance, misogyny, and homophobia, seen in the politics of the Middle East, are projected onto Islam itself. Massad shows that through this projection Europe emerges as democratic and tolerant, feminist, and pro-LGBT rights—or, in short, Islam-free. Massad documents the Christian and liberal idea that we should missionize democracy, women’s rights, sexual rights, tolerance, equality, and even therapies to cure Muslims of their un-European, un-Christian, and illiberal ways. Along the way he sheds light on a variety of controversial topics, including the meanings of democracy—and the ideological assumption that Islam is not compatible with it while Christianity is. *Islam in Liberalism* is an unflinching critique of Western assumptions and of the liberalism that Europe and America present as salvation to Islam. “Essential reading for all scholars of Islam and Middle East politics.” —Cambridge Review of International Affairs “Reminds us that in order to move beyond scholarship revolving around a simplistic binarism between West and non-West, we must never forget how this opposition has shaped and continues to actively influence scholarship today.” —Los Angeles Review of Books

shahvani dastan: Gay Life Stories Jón Ingvar Kjarran, 2019-03-27 Drawing on ethnographic encounters with self-identified gay men in Iran, this book explores the construction, enactment, and veiling and unveiling of gay identity and same-sex desire in the capital city of Tehran. The research draws on diverse interpretive, historical, online and empirical sources in order to present critical and nuanced insights into the politics of recognition and representation and the constitution of same-sex desire under the specific conditions of Iranian modernity. As it engages with accounts of the persecuted Iranian gay male subject as a victim of the barbarism of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the book addresses interpretive questions of sexuality governance in transnational contexts and attends to issues of human rights frameworks in weighing social justice and political claims made by and on behalf of sexual and gender minorities. The book thus combines empirical data with a critical consideration of the politics of same-sex desire for Iranian gay men.

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shahvani dastan: *Sex and Desire in Muslim Cultures* Aymon Kreil, Lucia Sorbera, Serena Tolino, 2020-12-10 What have different ideas about sex and gender meant for people throughout the history of the Middle East and North Africa? This book traces sex and desire in Muslim cultures through a collection of chapters that span the 9th to 21st centuries. Looking at spaces and periods where sexual norms and the categories underpinning them emerge out of multiple subjectivities, the book shows how people constantly negotiate the formulation of norms, their boundaries and their subversion. It demonstrates that the cultural and political meanings of sexualities in Muslim cultures - as elsewhere - emerge from very specific social and historical contexts. The first part of the book examines how people constructed, discussed and challenged sexual norms from the Abbasid to the Ottoman period. The second part looks at literary and cinematic Arab cultural production as a site for the construction and transgression of gender norms. The third part builds on feminist historiography and social anthropology to question simplistic dichotomies and binaries. Each of the contributions shows how understanding of sexualities and the subjectivities that evolve from them are rooted in the mutually-constitutive relationships between gender and political power. In identifying the plurality of discourses on desires, the book goes beyond the dichotomy of norm and transgression to glimpse what different sexual norms have meant at different times across the Middle East.

shahvani dastan: Erotic Persian Paul Sprachman, 2020 This book is a general survey of language and images that arouse sexual desire. The book begins by examining the works of the great Persian poets and prose authors who avoid direct mention of bodily functions and use imagery borrowed from nature and food when describing the charms of lovers and human sexual activity. The examination shows how erotic imagery, at one time innovative, hardened into clichés over centuries of repeated use. The book's focus on the semantics of allusive Persian also leads to a general notion of what makes one poem or piece of prose sexually stimulating and another inspirational. Here Erotic Persian joins an ongoing controversy: namely, to what extent are some of the works of great Sufi authors like Rumi, Saadi, Hafez, etc. erotic? Dealing with both the pleasures of the flesh and the spirit? The book asks: Can certain works be at once carnal and spiritual? The prevailing view frowns on such interpretations, insisting great authors never wrote solely to arouse readers' desires. If erotic material found its way into the canon, many assert, it was there merely to divert the reader's or listener's attention away from the everyday and direct it toward spiritual truths--

shahvani dastan: Nabokov's Eros and the Poetics of Desire M. Couturier, 2014-06-03 Nabokov gained international fame with *Lolita*, a highly erotic and morally disturbing novel. Through its comprehensive study of the amorous and sexual behaviors of Nabokov's characters this book shows how Eros, both as a clown or a pervert, contributes to the poetic excellence of his novels and accounts for the unfolding of the plots.

shahvani dastan: Sufis of Sindh Motilal Wadhwal Jotwani, 1996

shahvani dastan: Vladimir Nabokov Brian Boyd, 2016-06-10 The story of Nabokov's life continues with his arrival in the United States in 1940. He found that supporting himself and his family was not easy--until the astonishing success of *Lolita* catapulted him to world fame and financial security.

shahvani dastan: Stalking Nabokov Brian Boyd, 2013-06-25 In this book, Brian Boyd surveys Vladimir Nabokov's life, career, and legacy; his art, science, and thought; his subtle humor and puzzle-like storytelling; his complex psychological portraits; and his inheritance from, reworking of, and affinities with Shakespeare, Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Machado de Assis. Boyd also offers new ways of reading *Lolita*, *Pale Fire*, *Invitation of a Beheading*, and the unparalleled autobiography, *Invitation of a Beheading*, disclosing otherwise unknown information about the author's world. Sharing his personal reflections as he recounts the adventures, hardships, and revelations of researching Nabokov's life? oeuvre?, he cautions against using Nabokov's metaphysics as the key to unlocking all of the enigmatic author's secrets. Assessing and appreciating Nabokov as novelist, memoirist, poet, translator, scientist, and individual, Boyd helps us understand more than ever Nabokov's multifaceted genius.

shahvani dastan: A Cultural History of Sexuality in the Modern Age Gert Hekma, 2014-03-13 Sexual cultures have changed enormously in the 20th Century. We have greater sexual equality than ever before and homosexuality has shifted from being a crime, a sin, and a disease to an acknowledged and sometimes legally sanctioned variation. However, many sexual practices remain controversial, even demonized. The sexual revolution, psychoanalysis, changes in the law, medical advances, and the explosion of sexual imagery in the media have all contributed to a liberalization of sex. At the same time, Western cultures continue to think about sexuality as a desire shaped by nature, as of greater interest to men than women, as private, and as shaped by love. *A Cultural History of Sexuality in the Modern Age* presents an overview of the period with essays on heterosexuality, homosexuality, sexual variations, religious and legal issues, health concerns, popular beliefs about sexuality, prostitution and erotica.

shahvani dastan: The Annotated Lolita Vladimir Nabokov, 2000 An annotated edition of *Lolita*, first published in 1970 with a revised edition in 1991. The novel which first established Nabokov's reputation with a large audience is a comic satire on sex and the American ways of life. It focuses on the love of a middle-aged European for an American nymphet.

shahvani dastan: A Man of Many Worlds Qāsim Ghani, 2006 Rare is the life lived at the center of history-shaping events, and rarer still the combining of such a life with brilliant gifts of observation and expression. Dr. Ghasem Ghani of Iran was such an individual. His recollections of a

career of pioneering scholarship and diplomacy have been published to great acclaim in twelve volumes in the original Persian. Now his son has edited and abridged this record into a single volume in English? *A Man of Many Worlds: The Diaries and Memoirs of Dr. Ghasem Ghani*. For anyone interested in modern Iranian history and the interacting traditions of East and West, it is essential reading, full of insightful observations and comments that are relevant today.

shahvani dastan: *Journey to Heading 270 Degrees* Aḥmad Dihqān, 2006 *Journey to Heading 270 Degrees* is a novel about the Iran-Iraq war. It tells the story of Naser, a veteran of several battles though not yet out of high school. Unable to resist pull of communal soldiering he returns to the front to find himself in the midst of one of the war's decisive clashes. The Iraqis attach the Iranian fortified positions in tanks, while Naser's unit repels them on foot. During the battle, Naser loses several comrades but gains an understanding of the futility of conflict.

shahvani dastan: *Obsession and Culture* Andrew Brink, 1996 Many twentieth-century novelists speak for a male psycho-class needing imaginative externalization of obsessive sexual fantasies of control of women. Attraction, avoidance, and guilt are powerful motivators for writers and readers alike, and the moral ambiguity of serial monogamy, as well as other forms of exploitative sexuality, prompt certain writers to construct symbolic expiation and repair in fiction.

shahvani dastan: *A City Under Siege* Habib Ahmadzadeh, 2011

shahvani dastan: *Sir Aurel Stein* Jeannette Mirsky, 1998-10 An extraordinary man, who advanced human knowledge on many fronts, Sir Aurel Stein (1862-1943) pursued dramatic adventure with scientific purpose. Jeannette Mirsky has drawn from Stein's voluminous outpouring of books and articles as well as from his letters and unpublished archival materials to produce a lively and definitive biography of this archaeological explorer, geographer, historical topographer, and linguist. [Mirsky] has digested the correspondence, and she quotes so skillfully that her book will save many people the trouble of reading Stein's own exhaustive and exhausting volumes. Definitive.—Larry McMurtry, *Washington Post* A first-rate and unique biography of one of the more significant explorers of Central Asia and the Indo-Iranian borderlands. . . . Mirsky has recreated not only the life of an intrepid explorer but the spirit of the times.—Choice Mirsky has performed a signal service in distilling the life, travels, and letters of Aurel Stein into a manageable, graceful, and meaningful synthesis.—Theodore A. Wertime, *Technology and Culture*

shahvani dastan: *The Philosophy of Ecstasy* Leonard Lewisohn, 2014 Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207-73), founder of the Mevlevi Sufi order of "Whirling Dervishes," is the best-selling poet in America today. The wide-ranging appeal of his work is such that UNESCO declared 2007 to be "International Rumi Year." However, his writings represent much more than love poetry. Rumi was one of the preeminent thinkers of Sufism, the esoteric form of Islam. In this groundbreaking collection of 13 essays on Rumi, many of the world's leading authorities in the field of Islamic Studies and Persian Literature discuss the major religious themes in his poetry and teachings. In addition to discussing the ideas of love, ecstasy, and music in Rumi's Sufi poetry, the essays offer new historical and theological perspectives on his work. The immortality of the soul, freewill, the nature of punishment and reward, and the relationship of Islam to Christianity are all covered, in order to bring Rumi's poetry properly into the context of the Sufi tradition to which he belonged.

shahvani dastan: *Bahrain Through The Ages - the Archaeology* Shaikha Haya Ali Al Khalifa, Michael Rice, 2012-11-12 Introduction, Shoreline changes in Bahrain since the beginning of human Occupation, Variation in holocene land use patterns on the Bahrain Islands: construction of a land use model, The human biological history of the Early Bronze Age population in Bahrain, Dental anthropological investigations on Bahrain, India and Bahrain: A survey of culture interaction during the third and second millennia, The prehistory of the Gulf: recent finds, The Gulf in prehistory, Some aspects of Neolithic settlement in Bahrain and adjacent Regions, Early maritime cultures of the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The origins of the Dilmun Civilization, The island on the edge of the world', Burial mounds near Ali excavated by the Danish Expedition, Dilmun - a trading entrepôt: evidence from historical and archaeological sources, Dilmun and Makkan during the third and early second millennia B.C, Death in Dilmun, The Barbar Temple: stratigraphy, architecture and

Interpretation, The Barbar Temple: its chronology and foreign relations Reconsidered, The Barbar Temple: the masonry, The land of Dilmun is holy, Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf during the second millennium B.C.: Urban crisis and colonialism, The chronology of City II and III at Qal'at al-Bahrain, Iron Age Dilmun: A reconsideration of City IV at Qal'at al-Bahrain, MAR-TU and the land of Dilmun, The shell seals of Bahrain, Susa and the Dilmun Culture The Dilmun seals as evidence of long distance relations in the early second millennium B.C., Indus and Gulf type seals from Ur, Animal designs and Gulf chronology, Eyestones and Pearls, The Tarut statue as a peripheral contribution to the knowledge of early Mesopotamian plastic art, Commerce or Conquest: variations in the Mesopotamia-Dilmun Relationship, The occurrence of Dilmun in the oldest texts of Mesopotamia, The Deities of Dilmun, The lands of Dilmun: changing cultural and economic relations during the third to early second millennia B.C., Trade and cultural contacts between Bahrain and India in the third and second millennia B.C., Bahrain and the Indus civilisation, Dilmun's further relations: the Syro-Anatolian evidence from the third and second millennia B.C.; Tylos and Tyre: Bahrain in the Graeco-Roman World, A three generations' matrilineal genealogy in a Hasaeen inscription: matrilineal ancestry in Pre-Islamic Arabia Bahrain and its position in an eco-cultural classification-concept of the Gulf: some theoretical aspects of eco-cultural zones, Dilmun and the Late Assyrian Empire, Some notes about Qal'at al-Bahrain during the Hellenistic period, The Janussan necropolis and late first millennium B.C. burial customs in Bahrain, Qal'at al-Bahrain: a strategic position from the Hellenistic period until modern times, The presentation and conservation of archaeological sites in Bahrain, The Barbar Temple site in Bahrain: conservation and presentation, The traditional architecture of Bahrain.

shahvani dastan: Anthropometric Data from Baluchistan India. Ethnographic survey, 1908

shahvani dastan: *Royal Persian Paintings* Basil William Robinson, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center, Brunei Gallery, 1998 Iranian art of the Qajar period (1779-1925) has long been neglected and is little understood. This beautifully illustrated book for the first time comprehensively examines the flowering of Persian painting and the visual arts of this period. It focuses on the growth of a remarkable tradition of life-size figural painting, virtually unseen in the Islamic world. Exquisite historic manuscripts, lacquer works, calligraphies and enamels further illuminate the subject. The Qajar Epoch carries essays by leading scholars exploring the historical and social context of the period. Detailed entries describing and interpreting a wide variety of painting and artifacts, many hitherto unseen masterpieces from museums such as the Hermitage and private collections are virtually all illustrated in color and accompanied by translations of inscriptions, technical appendices and extensive bibliographies. A unique reference work, The Qajar Epoch will appeal to both specialist of pre-modern Iran and all those interested in non-Western artistic and cultural traditions.

shahvani dastan: Iran Revisited Ali Pirzadeh, 2016-04-20 This book examines Modern Iran through an interdisciplinary analysis of its cultural norms, history and institutional environment. The goal is to underline strengths and weaknesses of Iranian society as a whole, and to illustrate less prescriptive explanations for the way Iran is seen through a lens of persistent collective conduct rather than erratic historical occurrences. Throughout its history, Iran has been subject to many studies, all of which have diagnosed the country's problem and prescribed solutions based on certain theoretical grounds. This book intends to look inward, seeking cultural explanations for Iran's perpetual inability to improve its society. The theme in this book is based on the eloquent words of Nasir Khusrau, a great Iranian poet: "az mast ki bar mast". The words are from a poem describing a self-adoring eagle that sees its life abruptly ended by an arrow winged with its own feathers—the bird is doomed by its own vanity. The closest interpretation of this idiom in Western Christian culture is "you reap what you sow", which conveys a similar message that underlines one's responsibility in the sense that, sooner or later, we must face the choices we make. This would enable us to confront - and live up to - what Iran's history and culture have taught us.

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