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## Father of Persian Verse

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*Shahid's Caravan*

Shahid's caravan left before ours.<sup>4</sup>  
 Believe me, ours will also leave.  
 Count the eyes, there is one pair less,  
 Measure the wisdom, thousands less.  
 Reap all that enriches your soul  
 Before death comes to bind your legs.

.....<sup>5</sup>

All you have struggled to find,  
 You must not lose easily.  
 Profit turns friend into stranger.  
 Pay him less to ward off that day.

.....

No wolf is as fierce as a lion.  
 The sparrow's cry does not reach the hawk.

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<sup>4</sup> This poem is an elegy for the poet Shahid Balkhi (d. 940), a friend and contemporary of Rudaki who also enjoyed the patronage of the Sāmānid Amir, Nasr ibn Ahmad.

<sup>5</sup> The breaks indicate fragments missing from the poem.

کاروان شهید رفت از پیش  
 و آن ما رفته گیر و می اندیش  
 از شمار دو چشم يك تن کم  
 وز شمار خرد هزاران بیش  
 توشهء جان خویش ازو بربای  
 پیش کایدت مرگ پای آگیش

.....  
 آن چه با رنج یافتیش و به ذل  
 تو به آسانی از گزاره مدیش  
 خویش بیگانه گردد از پی سود  
 خواهی آن روز مزد کمتر دیش

.....  
 گرگ را کی رسد صلابت شیر  
 باز را کی رسد نهیب شخیش