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Father of Persian Verse

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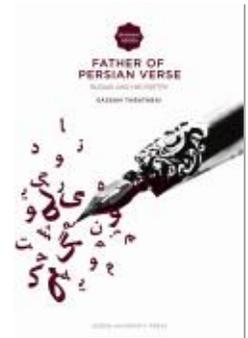
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The song of the zir

At dawn, the song of a moaning *zir*
 Soothes my ears more than prayer.³⁸
 No wonder, the wail of the *zir*
 Lures the prey out of the field.
 It always pierces the heart
 Although it has no arrows.
 At times it weeps, at times it wails,
 From morning till night, and again till dawn.
 It speaks but it has no tongue.
 It recites the story of lovers.
 At times, it can sober up a mad man.
 At times, it can put a sober man in chains.

The pen

It's a cripple who walks, has no ears but talks.
 It's an eloquent mute, sees the world without eyes.
 It is sharp as a sword. It moves like a snake.
 It has a lover's body and a darkened face.

³⁸ *Zir* is a high-pitched note. It is also the name of an ancient musical instrument. *Takbir*, part of the Muslim "call to prayer," is the proclamation of faith: *Allah-o-Akbar* ("God is great").

وقت شبگیر بانگ ناله زیر
 خوشتر آید به گوشم از تکبیر
 زاری زیر و این مدار شگفت
 گر ز دشت اندر آورد نخجیر
 تن او تیر نه، زمان به زمان
 به دل اندر همی گزارد تیر
 گاه گریان و گاه بنالد زار
 بامدادان و روز تا شبگیر
 آن زبان آور و زبانش نه
 خیر عاشقان کند تفسیر
 گاه دیوانه را کند هشیار
 گاه به هشیار برنهد زنجیر

لنگ رونده است، گوش نی و سخن یاب
 گنگ فصیحست، چشم نی و جهان بین
 تیزی شمشیر دارد و روش مار
 کالبد عاشقان و گونه غمگین