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## Father of Persian Verse

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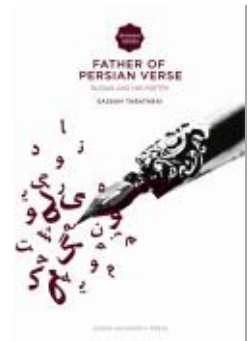
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*Tortured by the beloved*

If I'm not unlucky, how did I get involved  
 With this quick-to-anger woman of easy virtue?  
 She likes it if I'm thrown to the lions.  
 I can't stand it if a fly sits on her.  
 She tortures me. But my love for her  
 And loyalty to her never leave my heart.

*The cruel beloved*

My eyes are a sea. The fire in my heart roars.  
 How can the pupil survive between sea and fire?  
 She has a crocodile's bite. She tears at the heart.  
 She is cruel. I will suffer if I give my heart.

*Ayyār's message*

Ayyār sent a secret message to me:<sup>42</sup>  
 "Don't mention me in your poems so much.  
 This old man abuses me because of you.  
 I wish God would save me from his tyranny."

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<sup>42</sup> Ayyār means shrewd or sneaky. Nafisi claims that Ayyār is the name of one of Rudaki's favorite concubines.

گر نه بدبختمی، مرا که فگند  
 به یکی جاف جاف زود غرس  
 او مرا پیش شیر بیسندد  
 من نتاوم برو نشسته مگس  
 گرچه نامردم است، مهر و وفاش  
 نشود هیچ ازین دلم پرگس

دریا دو چشم و آتش بر دل همی فزاید  
 مردم میان دریا و آتش چگونه پاید  
 نیش نهنگ دارد، دل را همی خساید  
 ندهم، که ناگوار د، کایدون نه خردخاید

کس فرستاد به سر اندر عیار مرا  
 که: مکن یاد به شعر اندر بسیار مرا  
 وین فژه پیر ز بهر تو مرا خوار گرفت  
 برهاناد ازو ایزد جبار مرا