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Father of Persian Verse

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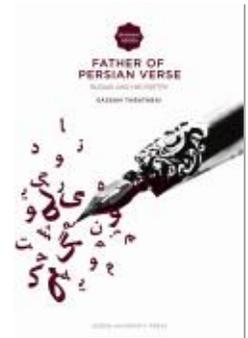
Published by Leiden University Press

Tabatabai, Sassan.

Father of Persian Verse: Rudaki and his Poetry.

first ed. Leiden University Press, 0.

Project MUSE.muse.jhu.edu/book/46350.



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Mehregān

Dear lord, the feast of Mehregān has come.⁴⁹
 The feast of kings and nobles has come.
 It's time for fur instead of silk, a tent
 Instead of the garden and the meadow.
 The myrtle has replaced the lily,
 Wine has replaced the Judas-tree.
 You are generous and your reign is young.
 Such luck: the wine has ripened in your youth.

.....

The flower has returned to the garden.
 It's time for the garden and the meadow.
 The flames of Āzar have died down.⁵⁰
 The flames rise up now in the tulip.⁵¹

⁴⁹ *Mehregān* is a Zoroastrian celebration of autumn, in the month of *Mehr*, the first month of autumn according to the Persian calendar.

⁵⁰ *Āzar*, which means fire, is also the last month of autumn in the Persian calendar.

⁵¹ The last two couplets are not separated from the rest of the poem in the Nafisi manuscript. Here, I have chosen the Sho'ar and Anvary version, which has presented the second fragment separately. There is no thematic transition between the two fragments and the *radif* in the opening couplet of the second fragment indicates that it could be the opening couplet of a separate poem.

ملکا، جشن مهرگان آمد
 جشن شاهان و خسروان آمد
 خزیه جای ملحم و خرگاه
 بدل باغ و بوستان آمد
 مورد به جای سوسن آمد باز
 می به جای ارغوان آمد
 تو جوانمرد و دولت تو جوان
 می به بخت تو نوجوان آمد

.....

گل دگر ره به گلستان آمد
 واره باغ و بوستان آمد
 وار آذر گرش و شعله او
 شعله لاله را زمان آمد