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Father of Persian Verse

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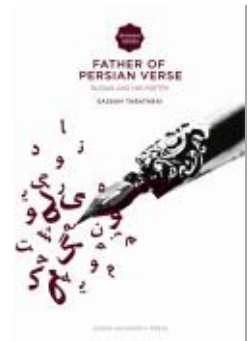
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Hoopoe

I saw a hoopoe near Sarakhs
 Whose little song reached the clouds.
 She was wearing a little cloak
 Of many different colors.
 O ugly and inverted world,
 I stand before you in awe.

Winter's breath

This grass field, tinged by winter's breath⁵²
 Like the tails of tigers and wolves,
 Is now dyed and designed like the *Arzhang*,
 In a spring that bears Mani's mark.⁵³
 Don't feel too safe on the ship of life,
 The Nile is full of crocodiles.

⁵² According to the Persian calendar, *Day* is the first month of winter.

⁵³ Māni or Manes (c. 216-276) was the Persian founder of Manichaeism. Māni was also a painter and his scripture, the *Arzhang*, is illustrated with colorful paintings.

پوپك دیدم به حوالی سرخس
 بانگك بر برده به ا بر اندرا
 چادرکی دیدم رنگین برو
 رنگ بسی گونه بر آن چادرا
 ای پر غونه و باژگونه جهان
 مانده من از تو به شگفت اندرا

آن صحن چمن که از دم دی
 گفתי دم گرگ یا پلنگ است
 اکنون ز بهار مانوی طبع
 پرنفش و نگار همچو ژنگ است
 بر کشتی عمر تکیه کم کن
 کین نیل نشیمن نهنگ است