A Fire of Lilies

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Chapter 2 – Protest and Perish

1 The account of these two attempts was related to me by playwright and novelist Gholamhosein Sa’edi in Paris in the winter of 1984.


3 According to Michael Hillmann, “Nader Naderpur recalls that most of the writers boycotted the event.” In 1971, the Pahlavi government published a volume titled Sokhanraniha-ye Nakhostin Kongreh-ye She’r dar Iran (Speeches of the First Congress of Poetry in Iran), Tehran: Ministry of Arts and Culture, 1971.

4 The Writers’ Association of Iran, “Report of the Executive Board to the General Assembly” dated 14 March 1969, quoted in ibid., p. 22.

5 Ibid., p. 24.

6 The various views on Al-e Ahmad’s death are described by Michael Hillmann in “Cultural Dilemmas of an Iranian Intellectual,” Lost in the Crowd by Jalal Al-e Ahmad (Washington, DC: Three Continents Press, 1985).

8 Ibid., p. 152.
9 Ibid., p. 155.
11 Shams Al-e Ahmad, ibid., pp. 117–119.
14 Bahram Bayza’i, Ten Nights, p. 122.
16 [Historical Transformations] Andisheh-ye Haj-Seyed-Javadi’s letters were disseminated through xerox copies in various forms. In my personal collection of this xeroxed literature of the years from 1973 to 1979 I have a total of 16 letters written by him.
19 Jamshid Amuzegar, “Cable to the American PEN Society,” dated 19 December 1977, translated into Persian and disseminated by the Committee for Artistic and Intellectual Freedom in Iran.
22 The Organisation of Students Affiliated with the Ehya Confederation News and Reports. No. 22 (April 1978), quoted in ibid., p. 31.
23 “Mowza’e Kanun-e Nevisandegan-e Iran” [the Position of the Writers Association of Iran], ratified by the General Assembly on 21 April 1979.
24 “Darbareh-ye Shabha-ye She’r va Ta’liq-e Goruh-e Panj Nafari” [Statement of the Writers Association of Iran concerning the Poetry-Reading Nights
28 “Sarkub, Estebdad, Khafegan …” (Repression, Despotism, Strangulation – A Statement by the Writers’ Association of Iran), Bustan, No. 1, p. 96.
31 “Sarkub, Estebdad, Khafeqan …” [Repression, Despotism, Strangulation – A Statement by the Writers Association of Iran], Bustan, No. 1, p. 96.

Chapter 3 – Authors and Authorities

1 I would like to thank Professor Afsaneh Najmabadi, who read an earlier draft of this essay and made a number of very perceptive suggestions.
4 Adineh was first published in newspaper form for 10 issues. Beginning with number 11, which bears the date April 1987, it evolved into a varia journal