

**ROBAEI
COMPREHENSIVE
DICTIONARY
OF
PROVERBS & IDIOMS**

English-Persian

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IN THE NAME OF
ALLAH

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Preface:

*O Saki! Come back; for of thy service, desirous I am: of
thy service, and of prayer – uttering for thy fortune,
desire I am*

"Hafiz" translator, Wilberforce Clarke

Praise belongs to God, God of all beings that helps me to compile this collection.

As everyone knows idioms and proverbs are meaningful parts of any languages. According to Mr. Abdollah Ghanbari proverbs state a nation's opinions and customs. A proverb conveys human's experiences from one generation to another one. Proverbs not only summarize a lot of words and meanings, but they also show the wisdom, the custom, and the culture of a nation.

As Mr. Motamed says, "an idiom is a multi-word that is a semantic unit whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meaning of its constituents and has a non-productive

syntactic structure.”

Having not enough completed sources of idioms and proverbs and their importance in the language have made me arrange a collection alphabetically which contains more than 6000 idioms, proverbs, and figures of speech. This book not only considers idioms and proverbs, but also it pays attention to some figures of speech such as irony, collocation, paradox, etc.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to professors at “**Shiraz Hafez University**” and give my especial thanks to Mrs. Sareh Mashayekh who helped me perfectly in the publication processes of this book. I am also very grateful and indebted to Ms. Golnaz Davatgarzadeh who spent a lot of hours for me and helped and answered all of my problems and questions. They always impart me from their unsparing contributions and without their invaluable support and assurance; this book would hardly be possible. I would like to acknowledge my debt to Mr. Mohammad Mehdi Kazerouni for his valuable advice and collaboration.

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And last but not least, I am also greatly indebted to my parents, my sisters, and my brother for their priceless support, patience, and encouragement.

I have done my best to collect the most common expressions and proverbs by reading a lot of books in this

field in order to present a somewhat full-fledged collection to the researchers however there is no work which can claim to be perfect and there are certain problems creeping into every book. Hence, readers are kindly requested to forgive the problems and send their suggestions and comments to the author's e-mail farnooshrobaei@yahoo.com for further enhancement of possible corrections in the future editions.

I hope I have done something little to serve Iran and Iranian society and this book can be useful for all professors, teachers, students and English-lovers. I also hope to see more of such works in the future.

Love and respect

Farnoosh Robaei - August 2010

How to use this book:

In this book, all "articles" (a, an, the), "infinitive to", and "to be" have been omitted from the beginning of the idioms and proverbs and placed, in the "round brackets ()", at the end of the expressions. So the expression should be looked up in the entrance of the next word. For example:

A burnt child dreads the fire مارگزیده از ریسمان سیاه و سفید می ترسد

You should look up the proverb in "B" entrance:

Burnt child dreads the fire (a)

To be as slippery as an eel آب زیر گاه بودن

As slippery as an eel (to be)
for example, she is as slippery as an eel

To display mutual history با هم دشمن سرسخت بودن، تشنه خون
کسی بودن، مثل کارد و پنیر بودن

Display mutual history (to)
for example, Ali and Reza display mutual history

Also, all of the correct and idiomatic forms have been written and separated with a "slash /" in case more than one word or preposition is chosen. For example:

Beat about/around the bush (to) خود را به کوچه علی چپ زدن

A "square brackets []" has been used for additional explanations for idioms and proverbs. For example:

Give/get/have the willies

ترسیدن، ترس کسی را برداشتن | مثال:
همیشه تو تاریکی ترس برم می‌داره!

A "comma ," has been used to separate the meaning of idioms and proverbs. For example:

Everything but the kitchen sink

از سفیدی مرغ تا جان آدمیزاد، از سفیدی
نمک تا سیاهی زغال

In cases that the proverb or the idiom has some different usage, all equivalents are separated.

For example:

Have a nodding acquaintance
with...

برای انسان: سلام و علیک داشتن با
کسی
برای اشیا: آگاهی / اطلاعات کمی در مورد
چیزی داشتن

In cases that one item can either come or not and it's absence hasn't any effect in the expression's meaning, it places in the "curly brackets { }". For example:

Hot-tempered (to be)

آتشی {مزاج} بودن

Pay {someone/something} lip
service

گندم نمای جو فروش