

ICA No. 40

In the Name of GOD



Simurgh and the Thirty Birds

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Simurgh and the Thirty Birds

سرشناسه: حبیب‌زاده مطلق، محمدجعفر، ۱۳۴۰ -
Habibzadeh Motlagh, Mohammad Jafar
عنوان و نام پدیدآور: Simurgh and the thirty birds, M. Jafar Habibzadeh Motlagh
مشخصات نشر: تهران: کانون زبان ایران، ۱۳۹۴ - ۲۰۱۵ م.
مشخصات ظاهری: ۸۵ ص: مصور (رنگی)
شابک: 978-600-5418-46-0
وضعیت فهرست‌نویسی: فیا
دداشت: انگلیسی
موضوع: زبان انگلیسی - کتاب‌های قرائت
موضوع: زبان انگلیسی - مسائل، تمرین‌ها و غیره
شناسه اف: کانون پرورش فکری کودکان و نوجوانان، کانون زبان ایران
رده‌بند دنگره: PE۱۱۳۰/ج۲ ۱۳۹۴
رده‌بند دیوب: ۴۲۸/۶۴
شماره کتاب: ۴۱۳۸۵۳۰ ی: ی

Publisher: Iran Language Institute
Author: Mohammad Jafar Habibzadeh, Motlagh
Editor: Shahriar Fassih
Art and Graphic Designer: Amir J. Chaleghi
Layout Designer: Maryam Yazdani Movahed
Production Coordinator: Amir Bozorgizadeh
Project Advisor: Mahmoud Reza Abdollahi
Proofreaders: Amir Rezaei, Amin Toopchipoor
Narrator: Zahra Garoosi
Audio Engineer: Onangiz Sayyad
First edition: 2016
Printed copies: 2000
Print: Kanoonchap
Address: 33 Fajr St., Motahari Ave., Tehran
Zip Code: 1589793413
Tel: 88308032-4
Website: www.ili.ir



IRAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE



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Introduction

Sheik Fariduddin Attar is a major Persian poet and mystic who lived in the 12th century. He has left behind many poetic works, among which Mantigh-ut-Tayr ("The Conference of the Birds") is a great masterpiece. The name of the book is taken from one of the verses in the Holy Quran. This breathtaking story is told about birds, but it's more about people. Actually, it's a spiritual journey one takes in life!

In Mantigh-ut-Tayr, the birds of the world gather and decide to find themselves a king. The hoopoe, Sheik Attar, tells the birds that he has a solution for all the problems they have in the world. They must find the King of kings, Simurgh, who lives behind Mount Ghaf. Then they can have real peace. At first, everybody is very excited, but once they see that the journey is long and painful, they approach the hoopoe with all kinds of excuses. The hoopoe talks to each bird and tries to convince them, but some seem too stubborn to change their minds. Soon the hoopoe and thousands of birds set off. Things are not always easy, but the hoopoe is always there to help them overcome their problems. They are supposed to cross seven valleys, which needs a lion's heart as the road is long and the sea is deep. A lot of the birds get lost. Many of them are fascinated by all the amazing things they see on their way and forget about Simurgh. A lot of birds die. Only thirty birds have the privilege to visit His Majesty, Simurgh. Getting there after all these years, they see that each was a Simurgh himself.

Simurgh and the Thirty Birds is an adaptation of Mantigh-ut-Tayr, narrating the story in simple words.