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The Bouquet

(Life as seen through stories)

Dr. Ebrahim Chegeni



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Preface

Just as everybody needs food, water and air to continue life, so, many (he or she) need a sort of hobby. No one is there who needs no hobby or entertainment. How good it would be if the hobby or entertainment chosen is at the same time instructive. We are learning from birth to death.

One of the best types of instructive entertainment is book reading. Among various types of books, fiction books are the most popular types.

Short stories are particularly loved by many. The best type of short stories are stories about the adventures explained by a tourist who has seen various parts of the Middle East, has experienced many adventures, has seen many things and now he is telling the story of things seen or heard- and that in a quite sweet interesting language.

This is Sa'di's Golestan (or Rose Garden). He speaks in his Rose Garden in a concise language, quite to the point, freely, avoiding telling a lie or exaggerating. He avoids contempting this or that particular person or concept- talking about social problems. Stories through which social problems are discussed are quite short without extra leaves or branches.

Those stories are there presented to you, in a simple fluent language. The language used in narrative stories, is understandable by every member of the society.

Reading the book you have in your hand is like having your fortune told, simultaneously getting amused, and learning many things easily, as well.

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Introduction

Nearly twenty-five years were spent in preparation of this book. During these years I was studying, learning English, Persian and reading stories.

I was particularly interested in learning English language. My great wish at those times was to learn to understand English language in such a way that I would be able to read books of my interest in English without having to refer repeatedly to dictionaries to find the meaning of words unfamiliar which showed themselves to me while reading. Therefore I tried to learn English as much as possible.

To better understanding of English I tried to learn my native language - Persian. There was a saying at that time on people's talk which went thus, "Those who don't know their own language are ignorant even if they know 200 foreign languages."

To be able to understand my ways of work I found it the most advising to study works previously prepared or done by others. For that very reason I used to study many many books particularly story books written by Persian authors or foreign authors- translated into Persian by able Persian translators.

Following are some of the main references referred to and deeply studied by me to prepare the present book:

1. Persian texts

A. Golestan-e Sa'di, corrected and prepared by:
Kalil Khatib-Rahbar,

B. Golestan-e Sa'di, corrected and prepared by:
Mohammad Ali Foroughi

C. Golestan-e Sa'di, corrected and prepared by: Houshang Golshiri.

D. Dictionary (or) Farhange-e Persian English Proverbs, Hasan Amid

E. Farhange-e Farsi-Farsi, Dr. Mohammad Moir

2. English language references:

A. Webster Collegiate English Dictionary, Daniel Webster (Unabridged Edition)

B. Random House English Dictionary

C. Golestan-e Sa'di, Edward Fehrsch

3. Bilingual references: (Persian-English) (English-Persian) references

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D. English-Persian Dictionary, 6- vol. A. Aryanpour

E. Persian-English Dictionary, Larger Edition A. Aryanpour.