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Ancient Stories will be Rewritten for the Iranian Children

Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran announced the publication of 10 volumes of books comprising the ancient Iranian and world stories which are supposed to make children acquainted with philosophical ideas. Two volumes of this series titled ‘Philosophical Stories for Philosophical Explorations’ which target students at primary and secondary grades.

Iranian Book Published in France

Iranian book ‘If Snowmen Don’t Melt’ written for children by the eminent author Seyyed Ali Shojaei and illustrated by Elham Taheriyan has been published in France by Rue Du Monde publishing company.

The book tells the story of a big snowman built by village children. However, the snowman, rather than being grateful to the villagers for creating him, he instead demands guards and ice cubes since he doesn’t want to melt, and this creates problems for the people.

‘If Snowmen Don’t Melt’ had been earlier published in German language in Switzerland.

Sharjah Exhibition to Showcase Iranian Illustrations

Illustrations by three Iranian artists will be showcased at the 4th Sharjah Exhibition for Children’s Book Illustrations (SECB), which will be held at the Expo Centre in Sharjah from April 22 to May 2.

The artists are Pejman Rahimizadeh, Peyman Rahimizadeh and Reza Dalvand, whose works have been published in the books “Rustam and Esfandiar”, “Zahhak” and “Something Black” respectively.

Iran Seeks Advance in Translation of Persian Works

Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) has prepared a plan to promote the translation of Persian books into other languages. The plan entitled “Translation of Persia (TOP)” was announced by ICRO Director Abuzar Ebrahimi in a press release on Monday.

He called TOP “a national plan” and said, “TOP aims to promote foreign translators and publishers for translation and publication of Persian books in order to improve the knowledge of other nations about Islamic and Iranian culture.”

Swedish Children to Enjoy “A Heart Bigger than the World”

Swedish translation of “A Heart Bigger than the World” by Iranian children’s book author Erfan Nazar-Ahari has recently been published in Sweden.

The book was one of 22 entries to the Peace Story project of the Nami Island International Book Festival in South Korea in 2010.

The book tells story of a little girl who has been wishing to come to the world for the past 1000 years, but God has denied her requests. She finally is allowed to come to the world, but she leaves her heart in paradise, which compels her to spend all of her life searching for her heart.

Iranian Illustrator Receives Nami Concours 2015 Award

Iranian illustrator Hassan Amekan has received the Green Island Award of the 2nd edition of Nami Concours 2015, for his illustration of “Zal and Phoenix”. Nine illustrators from Iran were taking part in this year’s edition of the contest. All the eight other Iranian illustrators including Ali Dalvand, Reza Dalvand, Yekta Jebeli, Zahra Mohammadnejad, Melika Sacida, Narges Mohammadi, Azar Teimuri and Ali Amekan received the certificate of encouragement. Works of the illustrators will be put on display at an exhibition during the Nami Island International Children’s Book Festival in March 2015.

Iranian, Tajik publishers to Discuss Ways to Develop Printing Industry

Some Iranian and Tajik publishers will come together in a meeting in Tehran to discuss ways to develop printing industry in their countries.
Love on the Sidewalk
By: Mustafa Mastoor

There are 12 short stories in this book. The mental background of the writer is apparent in this collection. He’s looking at the social life of people around him. The writer talks about sorrow, loneliness, perplexity, confusion and love in his stories. Some of them are as follow:

*Ya'la Eve*: Two kids, Roya and Ibrahim, decide to get married whenever they grow up, and they do. Ibrahim goes to the warfront and gets martyred.....

*Two Wet Eyes*: Mass’ood Mooness is the supervisor of “Inspection of villagers’ affairs bureau”. He gets carried away by getting too involved with the agony and predicaments of the villagers. .....  

*Like a dandelion (Fiction)*: Kevin claims to have invented a pair of shoes the owner of which can jump 5 cm high after putting them on. Love on the sidewalk reached its 10th edition in Iran, selling over 300,000 copies. A new edition is published on the average each year. The copyright of the book titled “Love on the sidewalk” which has been translated into English are offered for sale globally.

A Few Reliable Narrations

By: Mustafa Mastoor

There are 7 short stories in this book:

A Few Reliable Narrations about Love: A physics teacher falls in love with one of his female students, Kimia.

A Few Reliable Narrations about Life: Kassra who is living with his wife, Sayeh, is always thinking about Mahtab, another woman.

Fragments of the lives of various people are portrayed in 2 stories titled: “A Few Reliable Narrations about Death” and “Predicaments of a Few Deep Wells”, where they face death, suicide or weddings.

There is a poet, in the next story, whose love is turned into hatred. Then he plans a murder.

How God’s Existence was Materialized or the quality of God’s existence verb is the title of the fifth story. There are 3 young couples. Some incidents take place.

“Murdering Joseph” is the next title. The story is about an unknown writer and his love affair with Mooness, his girlfriend.
Wicked Saints

By: Amireza Porhelm  
English text is available.

Unpublished, written in 2014, Page 123

‘Wicked Saints’ is the first book written about the hideously shocking scenes and events of the Iraq and Syria war.

The writer tried to express the story of Islamic state terrorist from dawn to the massacre and sacking of Iraq and Syria cities and villages within the form a wondering story.

The story of this book began as a rebellious warier who committed terrible crimes thousands of years ago in Syrian deserts was descending from the heaven to the same spot of his crimes by the goddess of chastise. The criminal’s flames of wickedness caused the appearance of wicked criminals under the flag of Islam and overrunning of them in some parts of Syria and Iraq. As the story goes on, the writer depicts the life of Abubakr Al Baqdadi and other wicked terrorists and he describes how they occupied the cities and how ignominiously they behaved and treated the people of those occupied cities. They invaded Syria by pretending to be revolutionist while they intended to topple the government and to establish a universal Islamic state.

A Red Vein in the Flesh of Canvas

By: Maliheh Sabaghian  
Sample English text is available.

A Red Vein in the Flesh of Canvas is a feminine story. Taraneh Royai is leading a lonely life after her divorce which has also separated her from her son. Her broken romance prompts her to vow not to fall in love ever again. But then, who knows what fate has in store for them?

Taraneh, a high-flying interior designer, meets a young man who injects liveliness back into her dead sensibilities. She assumes years of suffering and loneliness are already behind her, so she gives in to the newborn feelings deep down. Things go smoothly for a while before her ex – Sina – makes a comeback and brings back to life her pent-up emotions and bitter memories of the past.

The showdown between hating the past and loving the future is not the only problem. Taraneh is grappling with. After years of forced separation from her son, they reunite and move in, but they’re like strangers. She tries her best to win him back. Her maternal feelings and the stamina she’s found in her new love makes her determined not to let her son be taken away from her once again. But the new conditions are unacceptable to her young boyfriend.

She started her writing career shortly after moving to Germany, where she published short story collections and novels. Sabaghian has said her writings are an attempt to form a bridge between Bonn and her birthplace Tehran.
Wolves are not Afraid of Snow

By: Mohammad Reza Bayrami


Life overshadowed by an earthquake takes center stage in Wolves are not Afraid of Snow. Two rural young men part ways over a minor dispute. The end of their friendship on a sour note marks the beginning of an adventurous rivalry. On a very cold afternoon, they decide to walk to a remote spring to see whether it’s frozen over, a dangerous feat their friends don’t dare undertake. Bitter cold, darkness of the sky, the likelihood of falling prey to wolves and getting stranded in a snowstorm in the mountains, and the sadness such an adventure would bring to their lonely parents do absolutely nothing to stop them. Eventually they cover the distance and find the spring frozen, complete with mesmerizing, huge icicles reflecting the afternoon light. Suddenly a loud bang sends the icicles tumbling, and Yousef is trapped under a mountain of ice. They save their lives with difficulty and return to their village just before sundown. But the village is no longer where it used to be, and cruelty of life begin to show its ugly face.

Wolves are not Afraid of Snow won Iran’s “Book of the Year” award in 2007. It also won the “Book of the Season” award and the top prize of the “Children and Young Adults’ Book Festival” of 2009.

Fire without Smoke

By: Nader Ibrahimi


The love of Galaan from Yamoot for Soolmaaz from Gookalaan is forbidden by old tribal hostilities which prevent their union in marriage. This is a love story which takes place against the background of battles between two of the greatest Turkman tribes in Iran. Galaan the warrior is the best poet of the desert; he is vengeful, cruel and supremely honest; Soolmaaz is the most beautiful as well as the bravest girl in the desert; she is also exceptionally proud. Their love is a mad and wild love. Galaan, in keeping with the Turkman tradition, must kidnap his love from her tent, put her on the back of his horse and take her away with him. But his action increases the hostility between Yamoot and Gookalaan.

Fire without Smoke is one of the finest works by Nader Ebrahimi, who was awarded the title of one of the “chosen novelists in the 20 years post Revolution”. Based on this novel, Ebrahimi made a television series of the same name which was very popular in Iran and had many viewers. The prose in this novel is full of succinct and pithy sentences which can be remembered and repeated by readers from one generation to the next.

Nader Ibrahimi (1936 – 2008)

Iranian writer, translator, screenwriter and actor. Ibrahimi was a well known contemporary novelist. Ibrahimi used to be applauded in most of the international award distribution events.
In this book, the history of Bazaar goes back to ancient times and then continues to Medes Period and finally to Islamic Period. Some elements like ornamental shells and stamps on the utensils have given rise to the idea that trade relationships must have existed in various parts of Iran and inevitably, industrial workshops should have taken root around those areas. According to these urban activities, one can assume that the Bazaar or some production-commercial zones gradually established in an independent area inside cities. An example of the civilizations of the time with zones similar to a Bazaar is Ilam. Bazaar formed since Medes Period till Islamic Period and it started to take shape from Achaemenian and continued to Parthian and up to Sassanid periods. An example of a Bazaar in that period is Dora-Euripus checkerboard city at the time of Roman Occupation. This collection covers 18 sections in 5 chapters.
Haft Pekar (the Seven Beauties) in Fluent Prose

By: Nizami of Ganja  Sample English text is available

The poem of Haft Peykar includes five thousand verses and is a memoir of fifteenth Sasanid dynasty king, Bahram the fifth (Bahram the gur 431-438 A.D.). Writing of Haft Peykar finished at 593 of lunar calendar. Haft Peykar is a symbolic story on the bases of the legendary-historical life of Bahram the gur and the poet created an unforgettable story by referring to historical sources.

Bahram was sent to the territory of Yemen by his father Yazdgerd when he was an infant to learn the kingship manner by an Arab man named Na’imman. Bahram was placed in a splendid palace and he grew up and treated there and his fame reached all spots of the world.

He did not do anything except hunting especially hunting of gur and having banquets for drinking wine until one day, Bahram was following a young gur. The gur escaped and hid in a cave. Bahram went inside the cave and saw a sleeping dragon there. He killed the dragon and found a treasure there. This success like all his other feats was depicted on the walls of his residing palace.

The poet begins Haft Peykar with an introduction about praising of God and eulogies about the prophet of Islam and his Ascent then he admires the king of his time and benefits of the language. Then he starts the story of king Bahram and writes this story in 45 chapters that each of them has a specific title. The poet writes his poems by using the words of seven princesses from seven territories and in each story of his poem he is offering a philosophy or advice.

Poem of Muṣḥbat-Nāma in Fluent Prose

By: Attar of Neishabur  Sample English text is available

Persian classic poetry works have always been full of attractions for reading and retelling. The mathnavi of Muṣḥbat-Nāma that is the most valuable mystical work of Attar after his mathnavi of Man iq-u - ayr (birds conference) is in fact an account on the difficulties a followers encounters to reach the Truth. Muṣḥbat-Nāma begins with some verses about the Unity, appreciation of Islam prophet and The Rashidun Caliphs and then two stories. The present book which is in prose is divided in two parts of articles and stories. The articles with the number of 40 are in fact a dialogue between a follower and a character of Muṣḥbat-Nāma stories. In the articles, the follower expresses the characteristics and attributes of each character and asks them to help him reaching his goal. The article part begins with the journey of the ‘follower of thought’. The protagonist of Muṣḥbat-Nāma is ‘follower of cognition’ who in the quest for awareness of real cognition starts to ask questions from existences of universe.

Attar of Neyshabur was not well known as a poet in his own lifetime, except at his home town, and his greatness as a mystic, a poet, and a master of narrative was not discovered until the 15th century.
The author successfully uses cute and childish prose with simple style to transfer the concept and conclude duly. The book's moral is that anything we see around us is not replicable and each task requires its own capabilities. The story sweetly connects with the reader and takes the child into the tale’s environment.

The Day that Chickens Walked on their Heads
By: Anahita Yarmohammadi
Sample English text is available.


I am an unlucky chick! My left wing was strained this morning and for a while I have to do all my works with my other wing! I can’t move a bit because my body hurts a lot and I have many wounds. My head is aching terribly and I feel it is so heavy that it might just roll on my neck and then right onto the ground! This morning I made a lot of effort to get myself out of Mama Chick’s wings. I was rubbing my puffed eye when I saw the sparrow’s little ones. They were sitting in a row on a tree branch.

Mama Sparrow had opened her wings and as she was slowly flapping them up and down, she was telling her little ones:… Up, down, … Up, down …, then keep your feet together and just fly.

I was wide-eyed in surprise. The five little sparrows had not gone any farther than the top of the tree trunk until yesterday. But now one by one they jumped in the sky flapping their wings up and down.

I was very excited. I was so excited that I forgot to wash my face! I hurriedly climbed up the large steps of the rooftop. It took a long time to reach the edge of the roof. When I looked down, I felt my head is dizzy and I panicked. But then I remembered the sparrows that had just jumped and so I kept my head up.

Hassani Stories (6 vols)
By: Mozghan Sheikhi
Sample English text is available.

Hassani was a lazy child and did not like school. He was afraid of Mollabashi who was an angry old man and taught in school. He had a long stick and punished the children with it. The only thing that could pull Hassani out of school was the voice of Geda’ali who was an old man and used to recite poetry and tell stories and the children gathered around him. One day Hassani asked Geda’asli about how he had learnt so much poetry and stories. He answered that at the time when he went to school, the door was closed, so he returned sadly. But on the way home, he saw Geda’ali and when he realized that Hassani wanted to go to school he told him the day was a Friday and thus a holiday. Hassani went to school the next day and became literate.

The book has reached 13th edition and this means unprecedented popularity in Iran. The book has been introduced as the proper book at the end of 1st and 2nd grade elementary school Farsi textbook in Iran. It has won the award of best context illustration and cover art for children & teenagers in 6 festivals of the Center in 1997.

The stories are in 2 groups: either taken from Iranian fables and proverbs or ordinary tales. Each one has an instructive element. Many Hassani stories are taken from Old Persian stories. The Hassani book is a collection of Iranian culture and literature that are transferred to the reader as nice and delicate stories and of course they are readable and interesting for the children of the world.
Jori Jortan Adventures
By: Jafar Ibrahimi


Jori Jortan is a lazy but brave boy who goes to the forest one day to gather firewood with his friends. They get lost on the way back and reach the Light & Sound two-way crossing. Jori advises the children to take the Light way but further they encounter a spotty white demon. Jori Joratn throws soil into the eyes of the demon and saves his and his friends' lives.

But after children go back to the village and tell people about the incident, no one believes they had actually seen a spotty white demon and overcome it.

The story is taken from an Azari tale called Jori Jortan which means little Jortan. This folklore is popular among Iranian children. The demon stories have always been a favorite theme of child audience and the author has successfully created an innovative work.

The book has been printed several in editions and this time its new version has been included in a children's novels collection. The author creates an imaginary environment full of unpredictable events and excitement. The prose style is attractive and instead of strange events, the text can relate with the reader eloquently and motivates curiosity in the reader.

Funny Salty
By: Nasrin Doosti


Once upon a time, in the old days there were a thousand and one houses; under the gray blue sky. The last house was a large house with seven doors. Seven girls lived there with their old mother. Each of the doors opened to a girl's room. Every night, it was the turn of one of them to fetch the big set of keys from their mother and lock all the doors. That was because a frightening monster lived nearby. He watched out every one, waiting to see an open door and enter the house.

All of the old woman's daughters were talented. The first one was a cook and cooked the most delicious foods. The second one was a tailor and made the most beautiful dresses. The third one knitted beautiful things with colorful wools. The fourth daughter made comfortable and light shoes. The fifth one was a skilled barber and unique in making up brides. The sixth one painted so much pictures that you couldn't even imagine. But the seventh daughter...

The book is a remake of ancient and famous story namki. It is the story of 7 sisters living in a house with 7 doors and every night one girl must lock the doors. But Namakin is negligent and forgets to lock the 7th door.

The story has been printed in a large number and is popular. This fantasy tale is rooted in ancient Persian stories and is written with a new style that is delightful. The story elements are arranged in synergy and shape the plot.
The Sun Girls

The women and men in the city gathered together and sacrificed Khorsid, their kindest, fairest and youngest daughter. Suddenly the sky thundered, and the thick wall of clouds cracked. Men and women were stranded in the plain. One could hear the sound of shouting, groans and prayers from everywhere. Not a moment the sky ceased from roaring.

A sudden shower started. Men, women and children danced under the rain, laughed, wept and reveled. The rain was so heavy that caused floods, which filled the homes with water. Then the black clouds deserted the sky and the sun displayed her radiant face to the women and men in the town.

Every girl who was born on that auspicious day, month and year was named Khorshid. In order to pay tribute to Khorshid, the girl who had been sacrificed and cause the sun to reconcile with the earth, the people sacrificed many animals.

Life began with happiness and since then, the sun has lighted our town and the earth like a burning oven forever.

Mehrdad and other potters who were working in Master Mehrban’s workshop were all staring bewildered at Master Mehrban’s lips with their hands sunk in the mud. They were thinking about strange girl who was called Khorsid. One potter had laid his hands in the mud, the other had laid his feet into it, a third massaged the mud in his fist and they all stood like statues of mud and awaited Master Mehrban to continue his story. The sand storm behind the earthenware shop’s door and winds hailed like a pack of wolves.

**Introduction:**
The story begins introducing an ancient tale. Then the daughter turns to the central theme of the story. In this story the period of ripening of the mental faculty of an artist is likened to daughter, the creation of lasting work, causes the rain to fall in the arid mind of the artist.

The story is composed of several chapters. The first chapter depicts the theme of the story. The second zooms on the qualifications of the Sun Girl who is the main heroine of the story. The remaining seven chapters introduces different characters and each one of them comprise the symbol of one of the characters. In the last chapter, where all the contents of previous chapters intertwine with each other and the ebb and flow of the story is displayed, the story reaches to its peak.

In each chapter, the girls are described differently and some girls incite a new creation for the artist. The writer invents draught and famine and leaves the reader to wander in a rude and heartless desert. This causes the reader to feel the tiny drops of rain not only on his skin but also deep in his soul.

Seven girls form the main characters of the story. Mehrane and Mehrgan are the only ones who have survived from their families. These girls represents their features and form the titles of chapters in the book. The living condition of all girls are nearly similar, but each girl has her distinct and independent qualities, yet none of them are perfect and it is their combination that lead to unity and perfection. Their features are imprinted in Mehrad’s mind in plurality and not in unity, a unity which is evident only in the Khorshid or Sun Girl.

The Sun Girl and other six girls are mostly symbolic in nature and are described by the writer in the story.


*Negahban [The Guard].* By Peyman Ismaili, Cheshme Publication, 2014, ISBN 9786006846415. In an unplanned conflict, Siamak accidentally kills Shahib, a member of the local Kapar opposition clan. He buries him in haste and flees back to Tehran, seeking refuge aside Roshanak he then proceeds to escape to the mountains on the western borders hoping to secretly leave Iran.


*Agrabhaye Keshti-ye Bambak [Bambak’s Scorpions].* By Farhad Hassan-zadeh, Ofoq Publications, 2011/3rd editions, ISBN 9789643695941. Novel for Young adults. Kholu, a southern teenage boy works as gravestone-washer in the city cemetery with his friends. They create a gang, calling it the Scorpions and turn a wrecked abandoned ship as their hangout. The cemetery both their playground and workplace is called the asylum by them.

*Pahlavan va Fil [The Champion & The Elephant].* By Shojaei, Seyed Mehdi, Neyestan Publications, 2013. Story for children. This is a story from ancient Iran; tales of the braveries, courage, heroism and loyalty. In this story there is a well-known champion whom everybody likes and respects, they like him not out of fear but because of his kindness, his devotion and his friendliness towards his people.

*Amoo Norooze [Uncle New Year].* By Faride Farjam, Kanoon Parvaresh Publications, 2011. There is a folk story which considers winter as an old lady who has woven her hair into forty plaits as white as snow. Whenever she dusts her home or combs her hair, it snows. She is always waiting to see Amoo Norooz, but she can not. Now you know that she dozes off before he arrives.

*Dayertolmarenf Dastanhaye Irani [Encyclopedia of Iranian Folklor].* By Masoume Ibrahimi, Matin Publications, 2013, ISBN 978-964-42-859-96. Encyclopedia of Iranian Folklore was an effort to recognize the most fundamental topics in Iranian folklore and to fill the aforementioned gap. In this encyclopedia, the basic topics of Iranian folklore are classified across 20 subjects.

*Giyahan va Farhang dar Iran [Plants and Culture in Iran].* By Peyman Matin, Matin Publications, 2014. The ancient Iranian territory has been the origin of many plants, bushes and trees. Ecological diversity besides the archaic cultural background of Iran and widespread use of plants in nutritional and medical diets of Iranians has paved the grounds for the people to attribute a special value to plants.

*Khrname [Donkey Tale].* By Ali Dehbashi, Moin Publications, 2010/8th editions, ISBN 9649225749. The book Donkey Tale or Asslogic is the story of a donkey which is apparently a translation from French and bitterly criticizes social, economical and political life in Iran of those days.


Mustafa Rahmandoost (1950/Iran)

He is a poet, author, teacher and translator of children and young adults' literature. 120 of his books have been published on different topics, with a circulation of 5.5 million copies. Some of his eight books have been translated into English, Chinese, Arabic, Urdu, Turkish, Russian, Swahili, Japanese and Swedish. Since 1979 he has been the editor in chief of a number of children's magazines. During the last 3 decades he has put much effort into deployment of children's literature in Iran, and has had an active presence in most movements in relation to development of study and consciousness of children of Iran.

His books, "The Spring Guardian, "Garden of kindness" and "Prettier than spring"; have been chosen as the best book of the year.

He has been a member of poetry and music council of NIRT for 11 years. As a member of jury he has participated five periods in Book of the Year and four periods in International Festival of Films for Children and Young Adults, Isfahan; as well as children's books, films and publications.

In 1977, he started "Doostaneh" the first site for children and in the same year became Kanoon's First Iranian Storytelling Festival director. His following books have been made in animation: "Silver Sequin", The Spring Guardian", "Three Paces Behind Mother" and" The Lion Hunter Donkey".

He is currently working on slang Iranian literature. "Once Upon a Time", a 50 part puppet series, and "Play with Fingers" a 52 part animation series based on his books are being produced by NIRT and Saba Cultural and Art Company.

Shahr Press

Shahr Press institution was established in 2004. Its task is educating the citizens with urban knowledge and improving this culture in Tehran metropolis.

The most significant activities of Nashre-e Shahr institution involve:

- Production and dissemination of proper books in educating urban culture and citizens' rights for audiences of all ages, supplying required books for libraries and cultural sites of Tehran in Iran.
- Setting up various exhibitions for supplying books as well as reading-encouraging programs such as Friday Book Markets.
- Supplying cultural items to schools and cultural sites involving books.
- Distributing books and cultural products.

Regarding Shahr Press Institution in setting up book exhibitions and serve audiences, one can confess that the institution between 2003 and 2012 to date has put to ten "ad-e Yar-e Mehraban" exhibitions in Iran.

Shahr Press is equipped with one of the latest digital and offset printing machines in the world and welcomes customs printing from other centers and institutions.

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