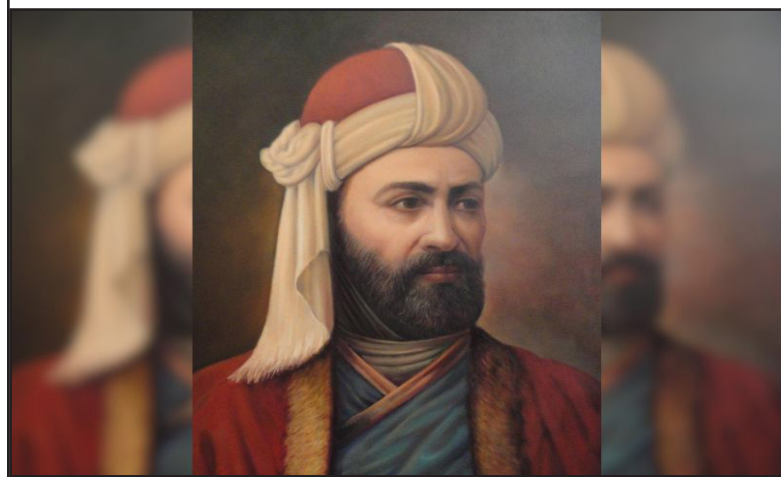


A Brief History of Metaphor in Persian Poetry (Part I)



According to Nezami, the poet is like the woman who tends to a bride's physical appearance before her wedding.

A significant feature of Persian poetry that distinguishes it from most verse written in a European language is that almost all of it—from the earliest poems, written over a thousand years ago, to the present day—remains relatively accessible to a contemporary speaker of the language. The 17th-century English poet Edmund Waller bemoaned the fact that, already, his contemporaries could no longer easily read the works of the 14th-century poet Chaucer:

**But who can hope his lines should long
Last in a daily changing tongue...
We write in sand, our language grows,
And like the tide our work o'erflows.
Chaucer his sense can only boast,
The glory of his numbers lost!**

And as if to confirm Waller's complaint, it was in Waller's lifetime that passages from Chaucer were first "translated" into contemporary English, by Dryden. The Persian language, especially its literary form, has remained far more stable over the past millennium than is true of most European languages. There have been some changes of vocabulary and grammar, but by Western standards they are minor: a modern-day Iranian can read the works of the 10th-century poet Ferdowsi with about the same ease as a modern-day English speaker can read those of 17th-century authors such as Waller and Dryden; there are some difficulties for a non-specialist in the period, but they do not obscure what is usually the obvious sense and rhetorical force of any given passage. A side-effect of the fact that poems from centuries ago can seem and sound relatively "contemporary" to the Persian reader is that such poems

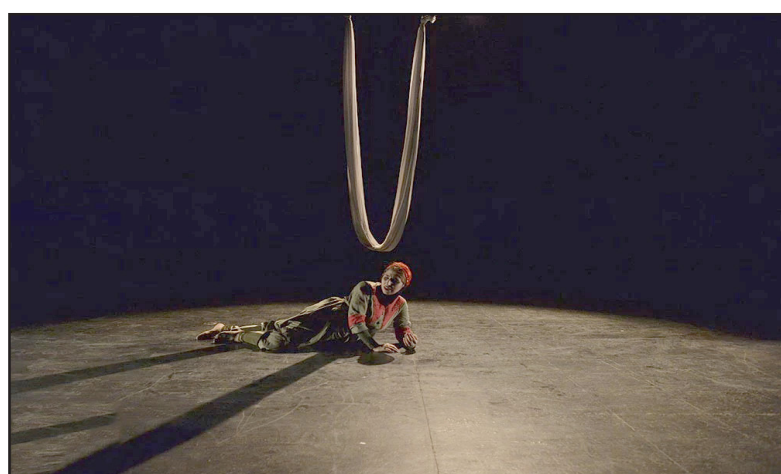
could be—and were—taken as models by poets from a much later date, and this in turn has led to a quite extraordinary continuity of poetic rhetoric from the earliest poems until at least the mid-19th century, and even beyond that period.

There is perhaps something else at work in this rhetorical continuity: all poetry is artificial in its language, but poetry in English has frequently tended to aim at "language really used by men," as Wordsworth put it, and when this is the case it tries, as far as possible, to disguise its artifice; by contrast pre-modern Persian poetry tends to display, and delight in, its artifice. To say a poem in English sounds "artificial" is to condemn it; the same remark about a pre-modern Persian poem could well elicit the response "Of course it does; it's a poem, isn't it?" And so the fact that a particular metaphor or rhetorical trope has been used by many other poets, and is thought of as intrinsically "poetic" rather than as colloquial, is not so much a barrier to its continued use as a validation of it.

The poets Ayyuqi (10th-11th centuries) and Nezami (12th century) both say that the poet is like the woman who tends to a bride's physical appearance before her wedding; that is, the poet uses his or her skill and artifice to make the subject as dazzlingly beautiful as possible. Other common metaphors used by poets themselves to describe poetry are that it is something woven, such as brocade, or a piece of jewelry, such as a pearl necklace. All three of these metaphors emphasize the aesthetic, artificial, fabricated, and artisanal nature of the craft, rather than, say, its sincerity or its truth-telling qualities as they are foregrounded in much Western poetry ("to hold...the mirror up to nature," as Shakespeare's Hamlet says).

Courtesy: Literary Hub

Tunisia to Stage Iranian Monodrama 'Alaa'



TEHRAN -- Iranian monodrama 'Alaa,' written and directed by Muhammad Kazem-Tabar, will be staged at the sixth Carthage International Monodrama Festival in Tunisia.

Previously showcased at the 14th Daegu International Musical Festival in South Korea, and the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, in Tehran, 'Alaa' will now be featured at

the sixth edition of the Tunisian festival.

The cast includes Marjan Aqanouri, Ali Borji, and Muhammad-Reza Azadfar, who bring the production to life with their outstanding performances.

The theatrical production introduces a unique blend of romance and aerial yoga movements, making it a standout performance in the festival.

4500-Year-Old Remains Unearthed on Pirzal Hill

TEHRAN -- Archaeologists assisted by students at Zabol University have discovered architectural remains of about 4500 years old in addition to 4300-year-old objects on Pirzal hill in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Pirzal hill is located 60 km south of Zabol in the province, which was registered in the list of national monuments in 2007.

The hill was explored in 2023 by Zabol University as part of practical courses in archeology for the students of the Faculty of Art and Architecture.

The most important findings were an architectural structure belonging to the fourth period of the Bronze Age (about 2500 to 2300 BC), which included the remains of a house in the first layer of the area.

Hussein Sarhadi, a staff member at Zabol University, attributed the Pirzal site to the Burnt City's fourth period. "The architecture includes the remains of a house in the first layer. The house consists of a number of rooms on the southern edge of a central courtyard," he said.

He said recent excavations indicate the existence of an alley that probably connected the building to other buildings or houses.

"The remains of the alley on the northern side



of Workshop 3 show construction in the late Bronze Age," Sarhadi said.

Exploration work at Workshop 3 revealed pottery belonging to about 4300 years ago, clay objects including figurines and counting objects.

Archaeologists have also discovered objects related to the management of goods and the local trading system, which linked the settlement to other surrounding sites.

According to archaeologists, these exchange

goods included stone containers, animals such as cows, sheep and other necessities such as wheat. The exchange of stone objects such as figurines and marble vessels was common in the area.

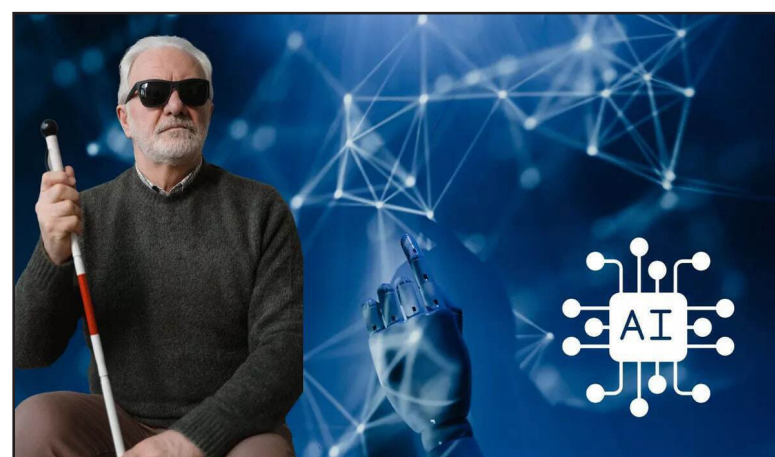
"According to the surface findings, it seems that Pirzal is one of the biggest hills belonging to the last phase of the Bronze Age of Sistan, whose history and quality are still considered as one of the issues discussed in the archeology of southeast Iran," Sarhadi said.

Iranian Researchers Smart Glasses for Visually Impaired

TEHRAN -- A group of Iranian researchers from Islamic Azad University's Tehran branch used artificial intelligence (AI) to design smart glasses which analyze and find the path and obstacles for the blind.

"This product is a demo and a wearable gadget which is considered as assistant smart glasses to help the users to navigate in complex environments and accurately recognize objects with real-time audio capabilities," Alireza Yahyayee, one of the researchers of the project, told ANA.

"While this product provides



special possibilities for the blind people, including voice descriptions, navigation and object

recognition, and improves their daily life, it also provides interactive educational content, vir-

tual laboratory simulations and attractive educational content for students," he added.

Yahyayee described the glasses as an incomparable tool to help doctors and medical staff during operations, consultations, and diagnoses, and said, "It also creates a field for experts for easy access to information, remote collaboration, and implementation of processes."

In 2022, a creative product was also produced by an Iranian company which makes the process of accessing the pages of different websites and reading their texts easier for the blind.

'Father of Coffee', 'Azazil' to Debut on VOD Platforms

TEHRAN -- Iranian VOD platforms are about to introduce new additions to their lineup, offering viewers a diverse range of narratives and performances.

'Father of Coffee', directed by Mehran Modiri, is set to debut on Iranian VOD platforms, iFilm reported.

The comedy series, currently in the final stages of pre-production, follows an Iranian family's journey into the world of coffee importation, earning them the title of the father of Iranian coffee.

Modiri, along with Sam Derakhshani and Jaleh Sameti, star in the series.

'Mortal Wound' gets ready to release its third season, with filming already completed.

Viewers can expect new stories and characters as the series delves deeper into the narrative.

The third season is slated for exclusive broadcast in the upcoming summer.

'Azazil', directed by Hassan Fathi, is another upcoming addition to Iranian VOD platforms.

The series, focusing on social and police themes, is undergoing final modifications before the release.

Parinaz Izadyar, Maryam Zarei, Peyman Maadi, Behrang Alavi, and Babak Hamidian are in the cast.

Kamal Tabrizi is currently

producing 'Heartless' for Iranian VODs.

The series, written by Amir Abbas Payam and produced by Muhammad Sadeq Mirk-

arimi, features a star-studded cast, including Reza Kianian, Merila Zarei, Bahareh Afshari, Bahare Kian Afshar, and Hamed Behdad.

Picture of the Day



May 1 is known internationally as International Workers' Day or Labor Day to recognize the achievements of workers.

Photo by ISNA