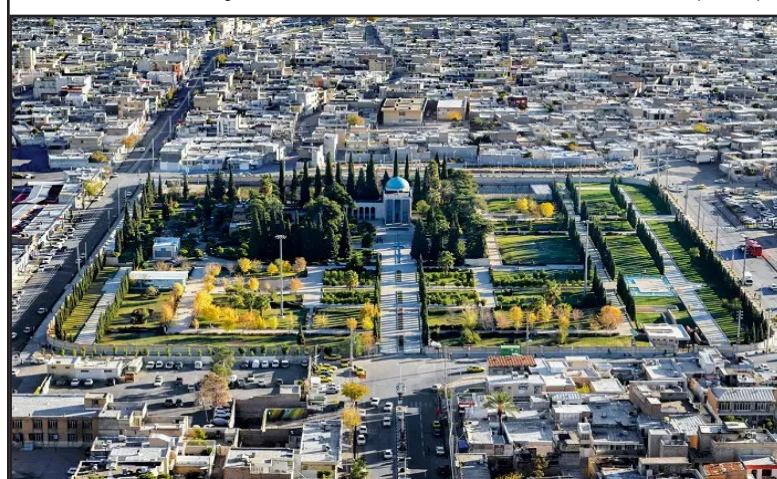


## The Honeyed Medicine of Sa'di (III)



LONDON (BBC) -- Amongst the first Persian poets to achieve renown in Europe, Sa'di had a marked influence on Enlightenment and Romantic writers in France and elsewhere, such as Voltaire, Diderot, Goethe, and Victor Hugo, who quoted some of the Golestan's introductory passages regarding the garden story in the epigraph of *Les Orientales*.

And, while Voltaire jokingly attributed the preface to the tale of his Zoroastrian hero Zadiq to Sa'di, the poet's presence in this major work was more than superficial. "The model king of Serendip, his vizier, the perfect society, are all modeled closely on Sa'di... The criticism of human egotism, too, recall the Persian poet," writes Dr Mozaffar Bekhrad in his book *The Literary Fortunes of Sa'di in France*. "In Sa'di, Voltaire found a true guide to philosophy," he remarks, to the extent that "his arch enemy, Élie Fréron, began to use 'Sa'di' as a sobriquet for Voltaire in critical attacks".

In the U.S., Sa'di greatly inspired Ralph Waldo Emerson. In his eponymous poem in praise of the poet (Saadi), Emerson called Sa'di "the cheerer of men's hearts", and commented on the universal appeal of his "benevolent wisdom": "Through his Persian dialect," wrote Emerson in his introduction to Francis Gladwin's translation of the *Golestan*, "he speaks to all nations, and, like Homer, Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Montaigne, is perpetually modern". It is perhaps for this reason that in the United Nations headquarters in New York there is a Persian carpet, embroidered with the famous verses from the *Golestan* concerning the unity of mankind, which Barack Obama quoted in his 2009 Iranian New Year message. "There was some awareness in that administration of Iranians' love of poetry," says author and political commentator Hooman Majd, "and the notion of speaking to the Iranian people in a respectful way was Obama's. I imagine his speechwriters got the input from someone aware of the carpet".

The *Golestan* and *Bustan* certainly influenced Voltaire and Emerson, but what can we learn from them today? In the *Bustan*, Sa'di exhorts his readers to be generous to the needy – "lest

thou should wander before the doors of strangers" – as much as possible. "If thou hast not dug a well in the desert, at least place a lamp in a shrine." He also reminds us that we require far less than we think. "What need have I of a lofty roof?" a holy man asks a critic who says he can build a better house. "This that I have built is high enough for a dwelling which I must leave at death."

Similarly, the Persian emperor Ardeshir-e Papakan is rebuked by his physician for thinking that "living is for eating" rather than the opposite, and elsewhere, Sa'di tells of the fate of a glutton who fell from a tree on account of his weight. Sa'di also advises his audience to be grateful for and cherish what they have. "He knows the value of health who has lost his strength in fever. How can the night be long to thee reclining in ease upon thy bed?" Or, as a donkey puts it to a straggler elsewhere, "Go and give thanks that, though thou ridest not upon a donkey, thou art not a donkey upon which men ride".

There's also a story in the *Golestan* that illustrates the dangers of not using one's common sense and blindly following the advice of those not qualified to give it. A man suffering from an eye-sore visited a farrier, who applied to his eyes the medication he used on the hooves of horses. Not surprisingly, the man went blind, and his complaint against the farrier was dismissed by the judge. "Had this man not been an ass," said the judge, "he would not have gone to a farrier". Lest there be any misunderstanding, Sa'di clarifies the moral of the story: "Whoever entrusts an inexperienced man with an important business and afterwards repents is by intelligent persons held to suffer from levity of intellect."

Many autumns have passed since Sa'di composed the *Golestan* and *Bustan*. Yet, just as he predicted centuries ago after returning to Shiraz – where his tomb, aptly situated in a resplendent garden, continues to attract flocks of visitors – the pages of these Persian books of wisdom have more than stood the test of time. In the poet's words: "Five days or six – a flower's life is brief; this garden, however, is ever sweet." **Concluded**

# Ammar Festival to Feature Works From 11 Countries

TEHRAN -- The 15th Ammar Popular Film Festival has announced the participation of works from 11 countries.

This year's festival emphasizes the importance of showing the realities of resistance movements and countering global misinformation campaigns.

At a press conference at the Husseinieh Honar in Tehran before the inauguration of this year's event, the festival officials highlighted their dedication to strengthening the international segment of the event.

The festival features a diverse array of submissions, including 154



music videos, 43 documentaries, 28 short films, and 31 animated works.

Notably, contributions have come from 11 countries.

The festival's secretary Marzieh Hashemi shared plans to screen Ammar films in various countries and venues, such as universities, Islamic centers, and cultural organizations.

The event is also set to host various international guests, including artists and cultural figures, further strengthening global solidarity for the cause of resistance.

The 15th Ammar International Film Festival is not just a celebration of artistic expression but a platform advocating for unity against oppression.

The upcoming edition of the event is set to run until January 2, 2025.

## 'Landi Group' Animation Ready for Release



TEHRAN -- A new animated adventure series titled 'Landi

Group', inspired by the legacy of Martyr General Qassem

Soleimani and the heroic teenage Martyr Ali Landi, has been completed and is ready for children's viewing.

According to Borna News' culture and arts section, the series, directed by Hassan Asadi and produced by Muhammad-Ali Asadi, is a fresh creation by the Soureh Animation Center.

Spanning 26 episodes, each about 11 minutes long, the show employs advanced computer cutout animation techniques to bring its stories to life.

Drawing inspiration from the selfless heroism of Ali Landi and the teachings of General

Soleimani, the series aims to craft modern, engaging narratives of resistance heroes for a younger audience.

'Landi Group' follows the adventures of a group of children from resistance nations such as Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran.

Set in a futuristic research hub called "Future City", the team unites to battle a mysterious antagonist intent on wreaking havoc across the globe.

The series will soon be released for Iranian children, delivering stories of courage, unity, and resilience.

## Iranian Researchers Develop Advanced Cancer Detector

TEHRAN -- Researchers at Tehran University have successfully developed an electric device that accurately detects cancerous lymph nodes in humans.

The groundbreaking research was conducted in collaboration with scientists from the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Cancer Research Center at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, IRNA reported.

The device is designed to identify cancerous lymph nodes and inhibit breast cancer metastasis.

Professor Muhammad Abdolhad, head of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty at Tehran University and research team leader, emphasized the importance of detecting cancerous lymph nodes in cancer

treatment.

"Breast cancer is the most common malignant tumor among women and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide," he said. "In 90% of cases, mortality from this type of cancer occurs due to the spread of tumor cells to other organs, where malignant cells circulate through the lymphatic system and disseminate throughout the body."

He pointed to the complications associated with the excessive removal of lymph nodes, saying that a device capable of accurately detecting lymph node involvement in real-time during surgery



would significantly aid treatment processes.

The innovation could prevent the unnecessary removal of additional lymph nodes

and provide valuable assistance in surgical planning, especially when access to frozen section pathology is unavailable.

## Picture of the Day



Hendurabi is a small Iranian island in the Persian Gulf with an area of about 22.8 square kilometers, located to the west of the Kish Island.

Photo by IRNA

## Latest From Production of Series for National TV

TEHRAN -- One of the most anticipated upcoming series is 'Migrant of the Sun Land', which tells the story of Saba Babaee (Koniko Yamamura), the Japanese mother of Iranian martyr Muhammad Babaee.

The script for the series has been completed and is now ready to move into the pre-production phase, iFilm reported.

Following the finalization of agreements with the IRIB, production of the 14-episode series dedicated to the life and legacy of the remarkable woman will begin soon.

The series 'A Man's Word', a comedy exploring themes of resistance and lifestyle, has been added to Simafilm's list of upcoming projects.

The plot follows a young man

who avoids military service out of fear, but ends up in prison after a car accident.

This 30-episode series, written by Mustafa Zandi, produced by Iraj Mohammadi, and directed by Qorbanali Taherfar, is currently in pre-production phase.

'Wind Passage', a historical drama centered on themes of justice and the Pahlavi era, is progressing in pre-production phase.

Spanning 24 episodes, the series delves into the life of a revolutionary activist who, after the Iraq-Iran war, discovers that a former police captain has been held captive in ruins for years.

The series is written by Seyyed Amin Husseinian, produced by Mehdi Shafiee, and directed by Javad Mirza-Aqazadeh.

New photos from the produc-

tion of the 30-episode TV series 'Pardisan', directed by Muhammad-Reza Ahanj, were unveiled recently.

The drama, set in a family environment tied closely to the community of religious scholars, is expected to be aired during the upcoming Ramadan.

Produced by Sajjad Qafeleh-Bashi and Parviz Amiri, 'Pardisan' tells the story of Manijeh, a woman who returns to Iran after years abroad to search for a missing person. Her journey takes unexpected turns, revealing surprises orchestrated by fate.

The screenplay, co-written by Mohsen Jasour and Hussein Soleimani, brings together a talented cast that includes Mona Karami, Roya Javidnia, Vida Javan, Farnaz Zova, Safa Aqajani, and Bahram Ebrahimi.