

A Gurānī poem in « Pahlavi » script

There exists a short Gurānī poem, in four couplets, each of ten syllables with a caesura between two rhyming hemistiches. We learn from a note of B. P. Nikitine (1932) that it was engraved on an amulet (according to the testimony of a Kurdish prince, Sureya Bedr Khan); however, according to the testimony of another Kurdish personality, Sa'īd Khan Kurdestāni, it was written in "Pahlavi" script on a piece of parchment, and was found in Suleymanieh. Nikitine has given only its translation into French; but M. Bahār (1936) quoted the verses in Persian script with a translation.

We are in ignorance about the author and also the date of the poem. For this reason, any speculation to classify it as a forged literary piece is absurd. Indeed, the text is a true Gurānī poem; and the content also reflects the spirit of a large part of the Perso-Aryans in the difficult period of defeat.

سره لسه وائیسه	سه لسه قسه لسه
تسه لسه تسه لسه	سه لسه سه لسه
سه لسه سه لسه	سه لسه سه لسه
سه لسه سه لسه	سه لسه سه لسه
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سه لسه سه لسه	سه لسه سه لسه

'wrmzg'n rm'n 'tr'n kwž'n
wš'n š'rdn' gwr' gwr'k'n
zwk'r¹ y 'rb krđn' h'pwr
gn' w² p'l' y ht' š'rzwr
zn³ w kny' n w dyr⁴ bšyn'

1. زوركار .

2. گناى .

3. شنو .

4. ديل .

mrd⁵ 'c' tly w ry⁶ y hwyn'
rwšt zrtwštr' m' nw' by ds⁷
bzyk' nk'⁸ 'wrmz w hwyc ks⁹

/hormazgān rimān ātirān kužān
wē-šān šārdinā gawra gawrakān
zōrkar i arab kirdinā xāpūr
gunā u pāla hatā šārazūr
zan (žan) u kanīkān u dīr (dīl) ba-šinā
mērd āzā tilī wa rūy i hū'nā
rawušt zarduštra mānawa bē-das
bazīkā nē-kā hormaz wa hū'ckas./

'The places of Ahura Mazdā were destroyed, the fires extinguished;

They hid themselves, the great of the great.

The bully Arabs ruined

The villages and towns as far as Šahrazūr.

Women and girls went into exile,

The noble (free) men weltered in blood.

The religion of Zarduštra was left forsaken;

(As if) Ahura Mazdā does not have pity to anyone.'

For more studies see these two texts with opposite viewpoints:

D. N. Mackenzie, "Pseudoprotokurtica", BSOAS, 26/1, 1963, 170-75.

آرش اکبری مفاخر، "سرود ورمزگان: شعری به زبان گورانی از سده نخست هجری به خط پهلوی"، مجله مطالعات ایرانی، ۱۷، ۱۳۸۹، ۱۱-۲۷.

Raham Asha

⁵ . میرد

⁶ . روی

⁷ . بیکنس

⁸ . نیکا

⁹ . وهیوچکس