

**Ferdowsi, the Savior of
Persian Identity**



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Persian classical poetry, and Persian literature in general, is one of the irreplaceable parts of Iranian heritage, owing its survival to Ferdowsi, the greatest Persian poet. Abul-Qâsem Ferdowsi Tusi (Persian: ;c. 935 or 940– between 1019 and 1026) was a Persian poet and the author of Shahnameh ("Book of Kings"), which is one of the world's longest epic poems created by a single poet, and the national epic of Greater Iran.

Ferdowsi is celebrated as the most influential figure in Persian literature and one of the greatest in the history of literature. A national epic is an epic poem or a literary work of epic scope which seeks or is believed to capture and express the essence or spirit of a particular nation.





25th of Ordibehesht in the Iranian calendar (May 15) is the day of commemoration of the great Iranian poet Ferdowsi.

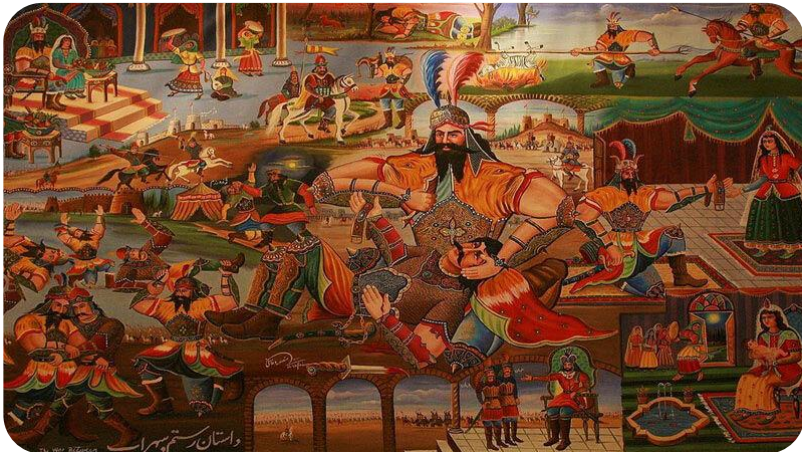
Iranians are very much indebted to Ferdowsi as he preserved Farsi language from annihilation and gave it an independent identity. Abulqasem Ferdowsi, who lived more than a millennium ago, made strenuous effort to keep this sweet language in the face of other languages and did his best to use as many Farsi words as possible in his magnum opus, Shahnameh (the Book of King).

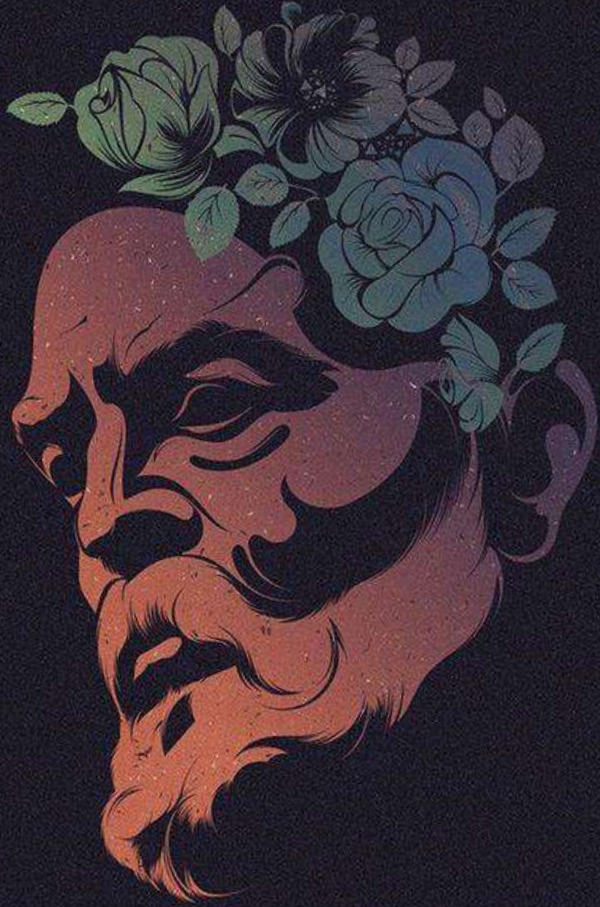
Ferdowsi should be considered as one of the Iranian national heroes, a great poet who breathed a new life in the body of Farsi language, and according to Dr. Abolfazl Khatibi, "through the past experience and Ferdowsi's great endeavour, Farsi language was stabilized, and by writing Shahnameh, he succeeded to preserve Farsi language against the influence of foreign words and keep the syntax and norms of Farsi language from the harm of anomalies.



Shahnameh, the great work of Ferdowsi, is of high importance in Persian literature. It has had a great impact on Persian speakers and writers all over the world. Shahnameh, is the result of 30 years of Ferdowsi's effort. It was finally completed in 1010. Shahnameh is a combination of legend and ancient history of Persian kings and brave warriors. That is why it is an epic.

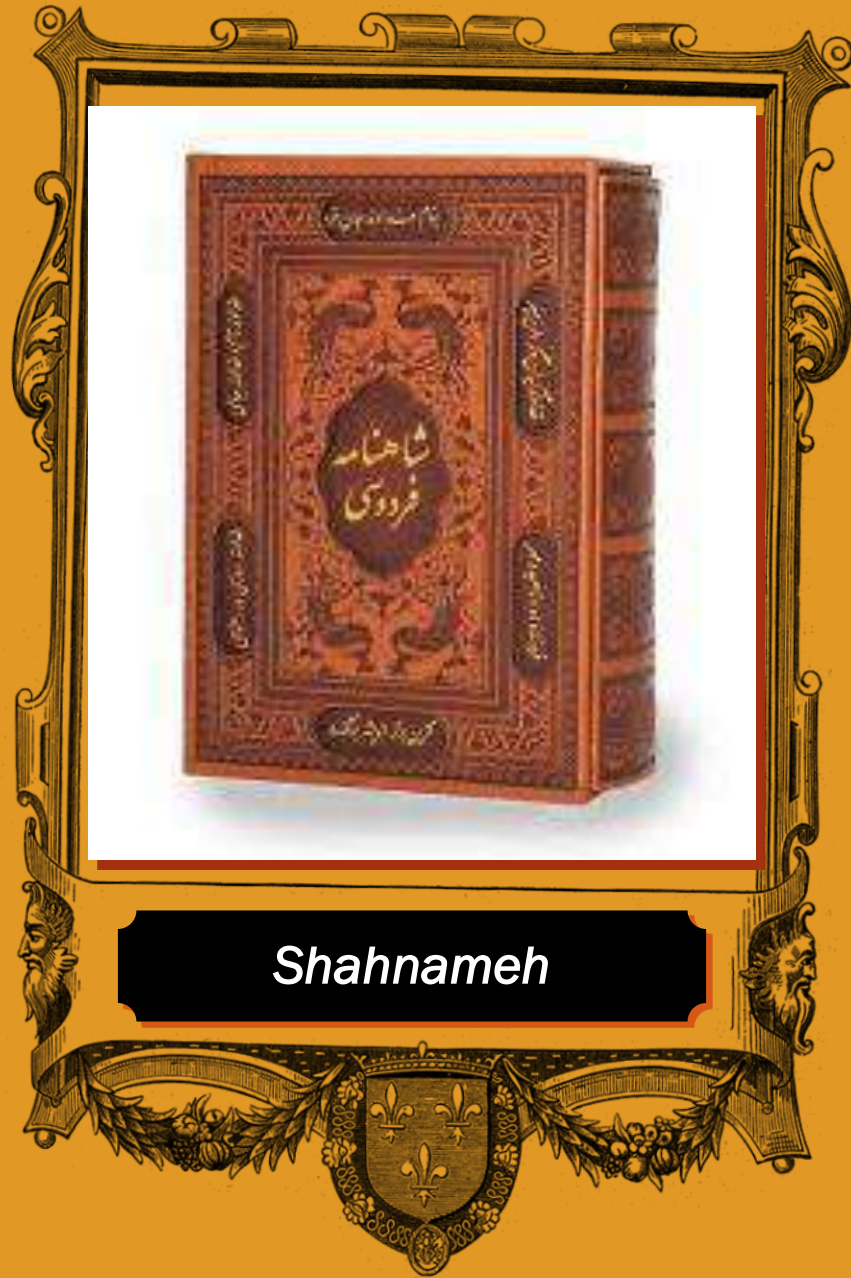
His verses and the stories of Haft Khan (Seven Labors) have been read especially in places such as traditional tea houses through the centuries. It has been an integral part of Persian customs. a person called "Morshed" (meaning Master) recited the epics for people using some portrayed of Haft Khan on the walls.





A Brief Overview of Shanhanmeh
Shahnameh providing a poetic view of Iranian history. The epic begins with the creation of the world and ends with the Islamic Conquest of Persia. The content includes three successive parts: the mythical, the heroic, and the historical ages.

The “mythical age”, which is a short part, contains 2,100 verses (4% of the book). It begins with the praise of God and the creation of the world and man



The Shahnameh of Ferdowsi as World Literature

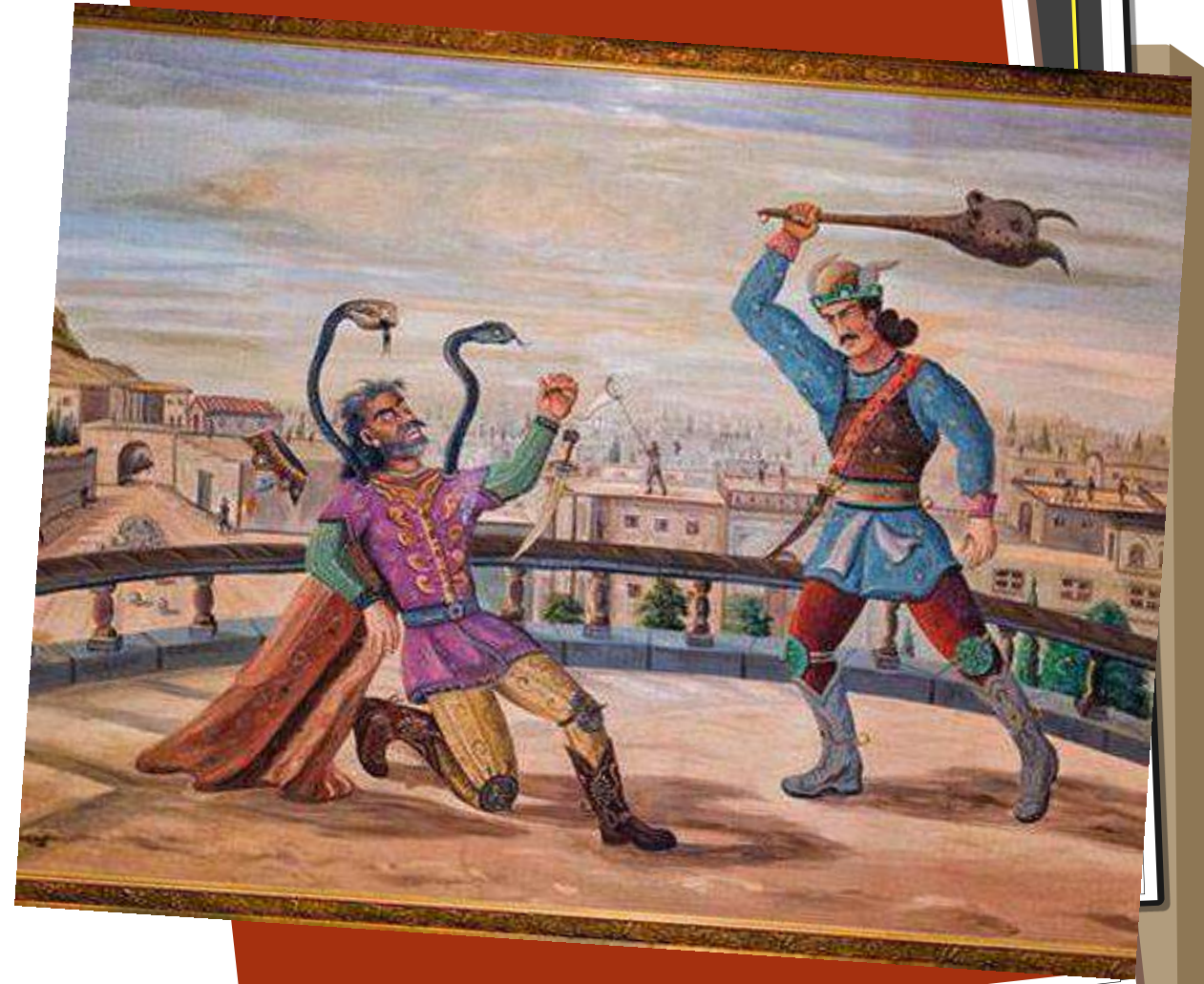
Shahnameh “The Book of Kings”

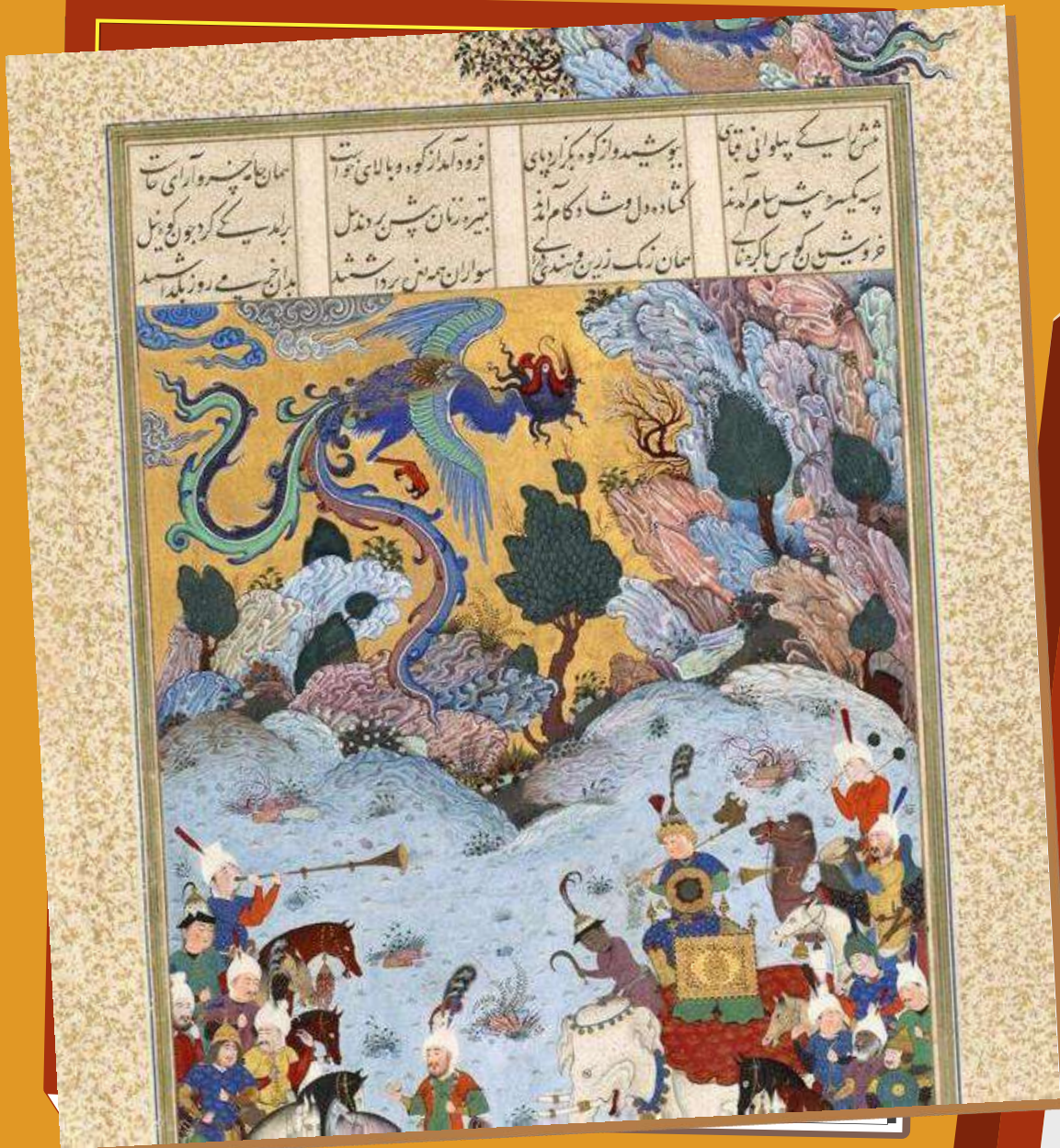
introduced as one of the 100 major literary masterpieces of the world. Consisting of some 50,000 "distiches" or couplets (two-line verses), Shahnameh is the world's longest epic poem written by a single poet.

In the bibliography of Iraj Afshar, Shahnameh was translated to 225 times and nearly 27 languages by the 1355 year, and in 1886 Shahnameh introduced as one of the 100 major literary masterpieces of the world. In Iran, May 25 is celebrated as Ferdowsi Day. Every year on this special day the ceremonies of Ferdowsi and Shahnameh hold at universities and research institutions.



The content of this literary masterpiece is the myths, legends and history of Iran from the beginning to the conquest of Iran by the Arabs in the seventh century. The reign of Fereydoun) is divided into heroism (from the uprising of Kaveh Ahangar to the death of Rostam) and historical (from the reign of Bahman and the rise of Alexander to the conquest of Iran by the Arabs). In fact, it can be said that when the language of knowledge and literature in Iran was Arabic, Ferdowsi revived and revived the Persian language by composing the Shahnameh.





One of the important sources that Ferdowsi used to compose the Shahnameh was the Shahnameh of Abu Mansouri. Shahnameh has had a great influence on world literature and great poets such as Goethe and Victor Hugo have praised it. According to what we learn from the last verses of Shahnameh, Ferdowsi on this day, after thirty years of suffering and difficulty in composing the long epic of Shahnameh, ends his work and creates a unique work, which is full of high human values. And it is a great treasure of ancient Iranian culture.



Tradition and Mythology of Nowruz

On the day of the twenty-first of March at exactly the same moment all around the world, Nowruz happens. However, Nowruz is not just a moment, as it is not just a celebration. Nowruz stands high in the culture, belief and mindset of millions of people mostly living in the Iranian Plateau for thousands of years. It is nowadays celebrated worldwide and by many people with different ethnicities. Nowruz is a single tradition that has survived wars, invasions, changes of governments and religions, and above all time.

To record a single day or one significant event to mark the beginning of Nowruz is almost impossible. As Nowruz has been present in the life of people for what feels like forever. Some believe its origins to be around three thousand years ago and spring at the time of the March equinox.

The mostly accepted legend regarding the origins of Nowruz which is recorded in Shahnameh by the great Iranian epic poet Ferdowsi, is the story of the Iranian mythical king Jam, later to be famous by the name of Jamshid, a name he got from this moment in his life, the invention of Nowruz.



The story of the devil king Zahhak is an example of many stories of this land, a king who killed youngsters in order to feed the two serpents on his shoulders with their brains. Kaveh, a smith man who had already lost his sons because of this cruel king had enough of everything, he created a flag with his smith clothes and started a riot against Zahhak, and win the war against him and became the ultimate symbol for the victory of goodness and light over darkness and the cruelties of men. Isn't it all what Nowruz is about? To end the cold and dark winter with the shortage of light and goods in nature and celebrate the arrival of warmth, light and the awakening of nature.



The Special Moment of Nowruz; a New Year

Nowadays in Nowruz, families set aside a space for a “haft-seen,” or a collection of items that symbolize a different hope for the new year. While some families add their own variations to the haft-seen (more on those in a bit), there are seven things that are always included for example:

Sabzeh: Some kind of sprout or grass that will continue to grow in the weeks leading up to the holiday, for rebirth and renewal.

For more than three million people who celebrate Nowruz all around the world, it is not just a celebration. It is a chance of getting together, appreciate the company of people you love and have faith in a future you can build.





Mehr celebration

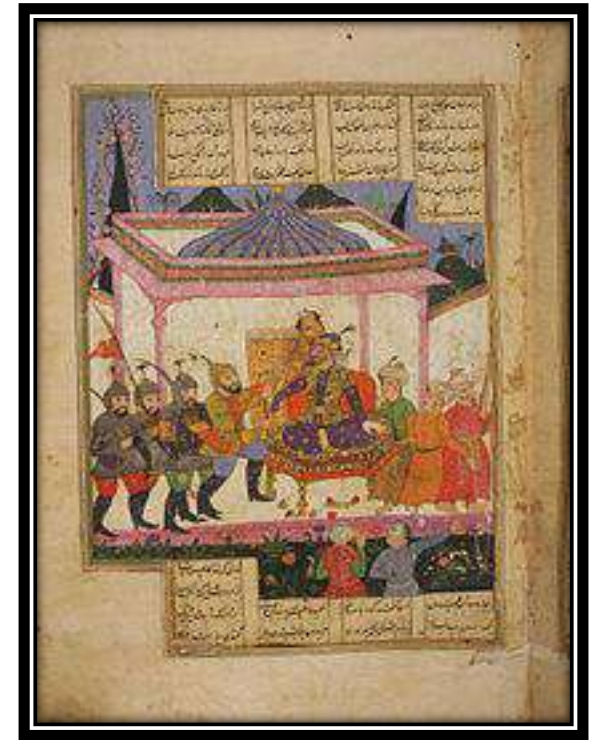
Mehregan or Mehr celebration was one of the biggest celebrations in ancient Iran which was held in Mehr Rooz from the month of Mehr.

"Mehregan" was the biggest celebration of the ancient Iranians after

Nowruz. Mehregan celebration is the beginning of autumn season. This

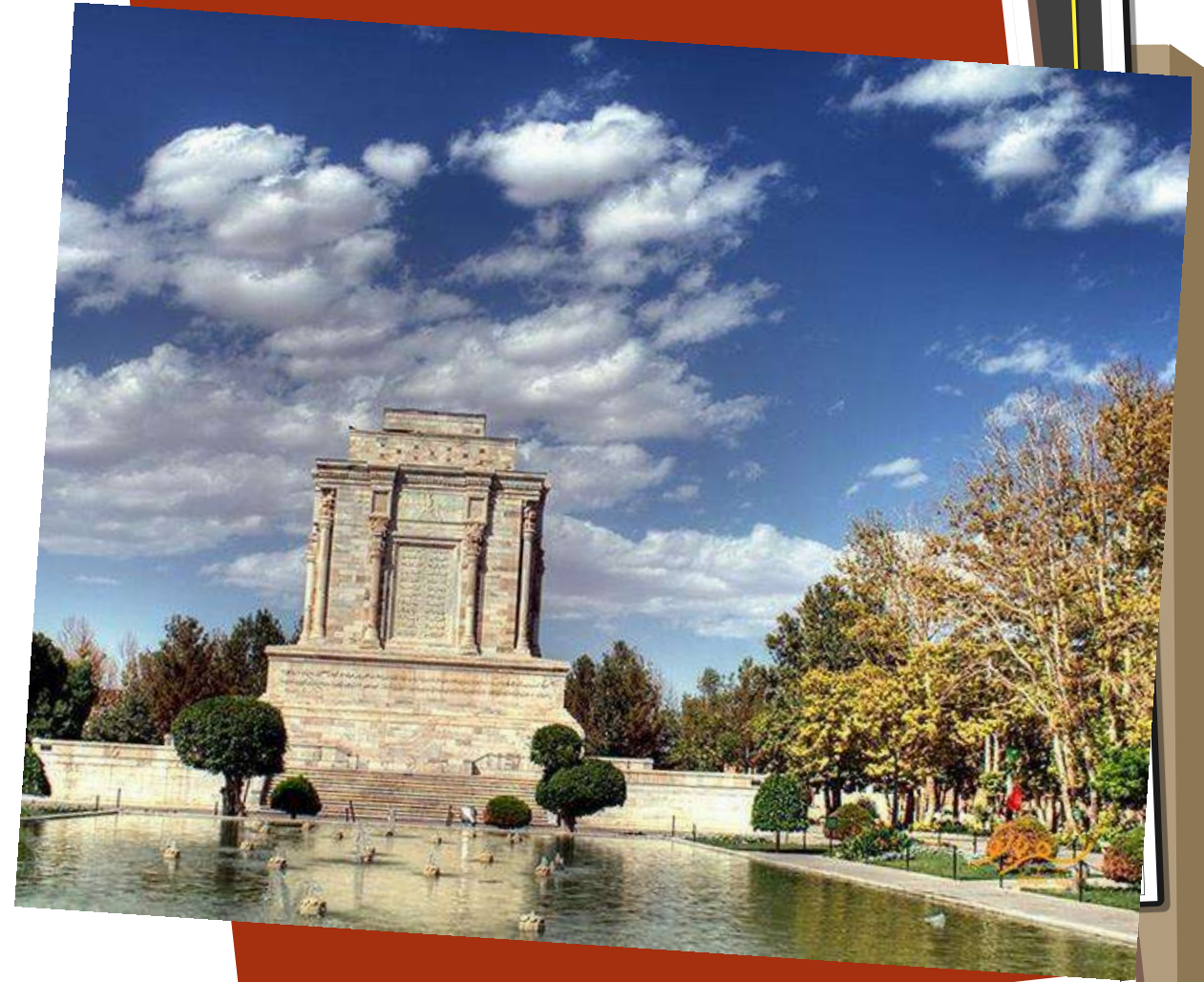
celebration is the day of Mehr from the season of Mehr (October 10).

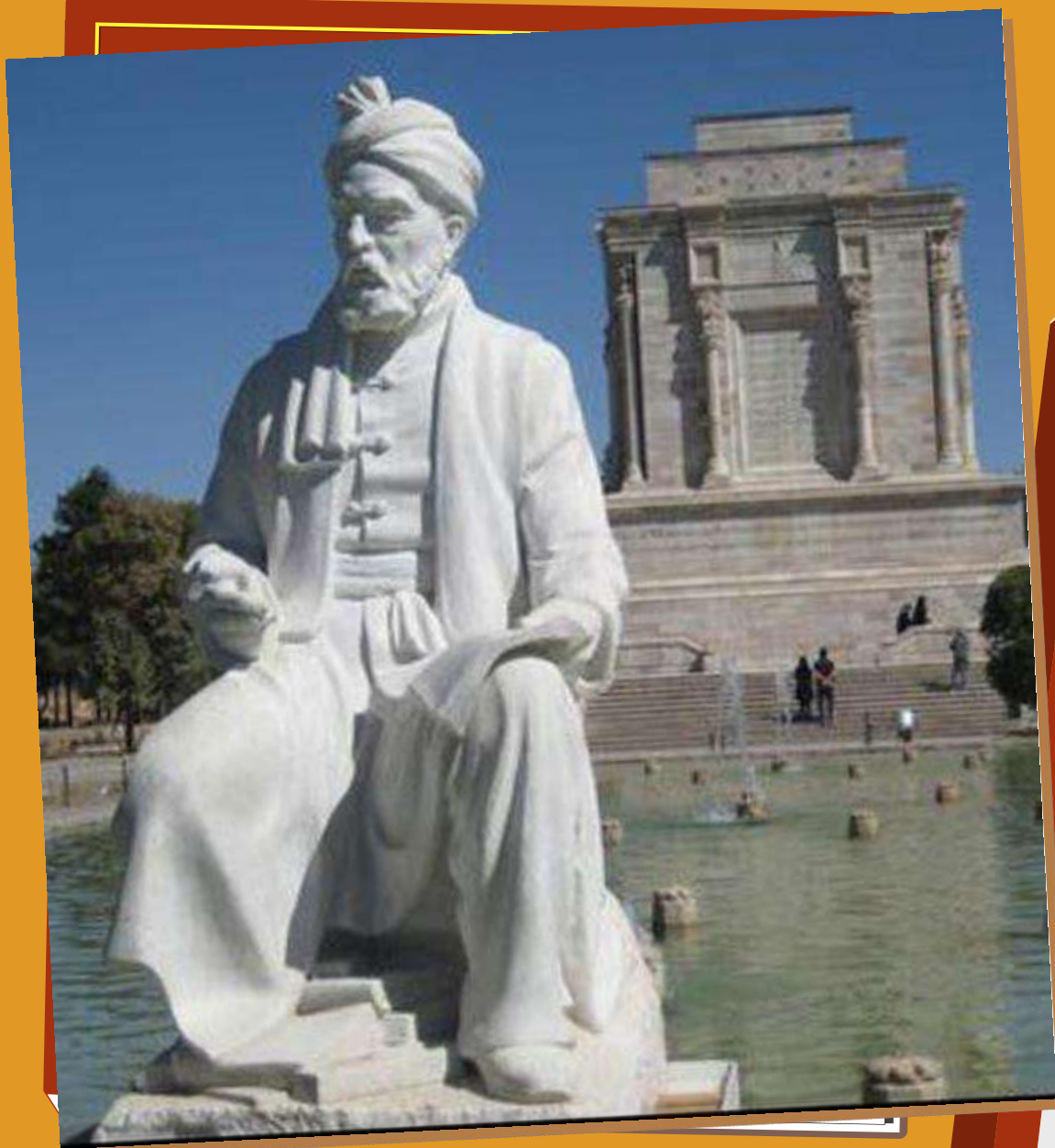
The philosophy of this important Iranian celebration dates back to the time of Zahak Tazi. Zahak and his relatives ruled Iran for a long time and many young Iranians were killed and the people were fed up with their oppression and crimes. At that time, Kaveh Ahangar stood up among the people and by raising his blacksmith's leather, which was later called Darfash Kaviani, he took the lead in overthrowing Zahak Tazi and imprisoned him with the help of the people in Damavand Mountain and put an end to his oppression. This celebration begins in October and lasts for six days and ends on the day of Ramadan.



Ferdowsi's Tomb

Ferdowsi's tomb is a place where the soil embraces the body of the Abolghasem Ferdowsi and has kept the memory of this poet eternal for us until today. This place with a very beautiful atmosphere and caressing eyes hosts many tourists from inside and outside the country and attracts many from far and near. This tomb is located in Khorasan Razavi province, Toos city, and 28 km west of Page village, Ferdowsi's birthplace.





At the end we should say that Persian language owes its development to Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and that is why the name of Ferdowsi is interlinked to the durability of the Persian language." The author of the most valid version of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, Dr. Khaleqi Motlaq believes that: "Part of our nationality is indebted to the persian language, and Persian language is largely owing to the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi."



er Nemati

