

## **Ferdowsi:**

**Slide 1 :** 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: ابوالقاسم فردوسی توسی; 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

**Slide 2:** 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).

**Slide 3:** 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**

**Slide 1 :** 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.

### **Slide 2:** *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

### **Slide 3**

#### **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.

**Slide 4:**

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.

**Slide 5:**

Farsi language owes its development to Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and that is why the name of Ferdowsi is interlinked to the durability of the Farsi 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 Farsi language, and Farsi language is largely owing to the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi."