

## The Gulistan Or Rosegarden Of Shekh Muslihud Din Sadi Of Shiraz

From a festival in ancient Greece to a worldwide event today, the Olympics have inspired athletes and supporters alike. Find out how the biggest sports event in the world was born and discover the amazing heroes who made Olympic history.

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This Is A New Release Of The Original 1884 Edition.

The Gulistan is the most influential book in the Iranian world. Its prose is the model, which all writers of Persian seek to emulate. Voltaire, Goethe, Arnold, Longfellow, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, and Franklin discovered, read, and took inspiration from the work. To understand the mind of Iranians, one should read the Gulistan.

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The truly renowned and highly esteemed Persian poet Sa'di produced in A.D. 1258 a work that he called The Gulistan; or, Rose-Garden, whose leaves, as he says, "cannot be touched by the tyranny of autumnal blasts, and the delights of whose spring the vicissitudes of time will be unable to change into the inconstancy of autumn..." And so it has proved to be. It is read with admiration and rapture both in Asia and Africa, while in Europe it has been translated into Latin, English, French, German, and Dutch. In Persian and other Eastern countries where Persian is spoken and understood, quotations from Sa'di are constantly used in society, and are also current among the people. Sheikh Muslih-uddin Sa'di Shirazi was born at Shiraz about A.D. 1193, and after his education at the college of Baghdad, became a Dervish and a great traveler. European scholars have long since appreciated and admired his style, his language, and his witty and telling similitudes.

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This masterpiece of Persian literature is a fascinating glimpse into the origins of one of the world's most venerable cultural traditions. Penned by one of the foremost Persian thinkers of the early medieval era, The Gulistan of Sa'di is a whirlwind tour through the political and intellectual issues of the period, ranging from advice for rulers to debates over different religious practices. Text in English & Persian. Is the Gulistan the most influential book in the Iranian world? In terms of prose, it is the model, which all writers of Persian seek to emulate. In terms of moral, philosophical or practical wisdom, it is endlessly quoted to either illustrate or prove a point. Sir John Malcolm even relates being told that it is the basis of the law of the Persians. It also travelled abroad. Voltaire, Goethe, Arnold, Longfellow, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, and Franklin discovered, read, and took inspiration from the work. Moreover, travelers to Iran have often point out that to understand the mind of the inhabitants, one should read the Gulistan. Written some seven and a half centuries ago by Sa'di of Shiraz the Gulistan or Rose Garden is a collection of moral stories divided into eight themes: "The Conduct of Kings", "The Character of Dervishes", "The Superiority of Contentment", "The Benefits of Silence", "Love and Youth", "Feebleness and Old Age", "The Effects of Education", and "The Art of Conversation." In each section stories are told from which the reader learns how to behave in a given situation. Sa'di can be moral. "Honesty gives God pleasure. I haven't seen anyone get lost on the right road." He may be practical. "If you can't stand the sting, don't put your finger into a scorpion's hole." He is philosophical in these lines which are engraved at the entrance of the United Nations: "The members of the human race are limbs one to another, for at creation they were of one essence. When one limb is pained by fate, the others cannot rest." The Gulistan is considered the essence of elegant but simple Persian prose. For 600 years, it was the first book placed in the learner's hand. In Persian-speaking countries today, quotations from the Gulistan appear in every conceivable type of literature and is the source of numerous everyday proverbial statements, much as Shakespeare is in English. This is the first complete English translation of the Gulistan in more than a century. Wheeler M. Thackston, Professor of Persian at Harvard University, has faithfully translated Sa'di into clear contemporary English. To help the student, the original Persian is presented facing the English translation. A 3,600 word Persian-English and Arabic-English glossary is included to aid with the more difficult meanings. The Gulistan is imbued with a practical wisdom of life. Sa'di recognizes people for what they are. Every personality type that exists is found in the Rose Garden, the good, the bad, the weak, the strong, the pious, the impious, honest folk, and the most conniving of cheats. Hypocrites abound, foolish kings appear with their wily ministers, wise rulers vie with their malevolent courtiers, boastful young warriors turn tail and run. The beauty of Sa'di's wisdom is that it is timeless. What is expressed is in a setting so close and familiar to the modern experience that it is as relevant today as it was six hundred years ago.

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The Gulistan is among the most famous works of Persian literature by one of Persia's greatest poets, Muslih-uddin Sa'di Shirazi. Born in Shiraz sometime between 1184 and 1210 CE, Sa'di received his education in Baghdad and spent several decades in travel and pilgrimage. In 1256, Sa'di returned to Shiraz. He wrote the Gulistan in 1258, the same year that the Mongols sacked Baghdad. The Gulistan or Rose Garden of Sa'di, intended as a 'mirror for princes,' includes prose didactic tales interspersed with short verses. The book is divided into eight parts: The Manners of Kings, The Morals of Dervishes, The Excellence of Contentment, The Advantages of Silence, Love and Youth, Weakness and Old Age, The Effects of Education, and Rules for Conduct in Life. This classic translation by Edward Rehatsek has

been edited and updated with a new introduction by David Rosenbaum.

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