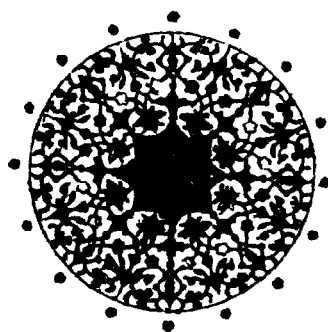




THE  
LAMENT OF BĀBĀ ṬĀHIR



THE  
LAMENT OF BĀBĀ ṬĀHIR



# THE LAMENT OF BĀBĀ TĀHIR.

BEING THE

RUBĀ'İYĀT OF BĀBĀ TĀHIR, HAMADĀNĪ ('URYĀN)

THE PERSIAN TEXT EDITED, ANNOTATED AND TRANSLATED BY

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN

AND RENDERED INTO ENGLISH VERSE BY

ELIZABETH CURTIS BRENTON

LONDON

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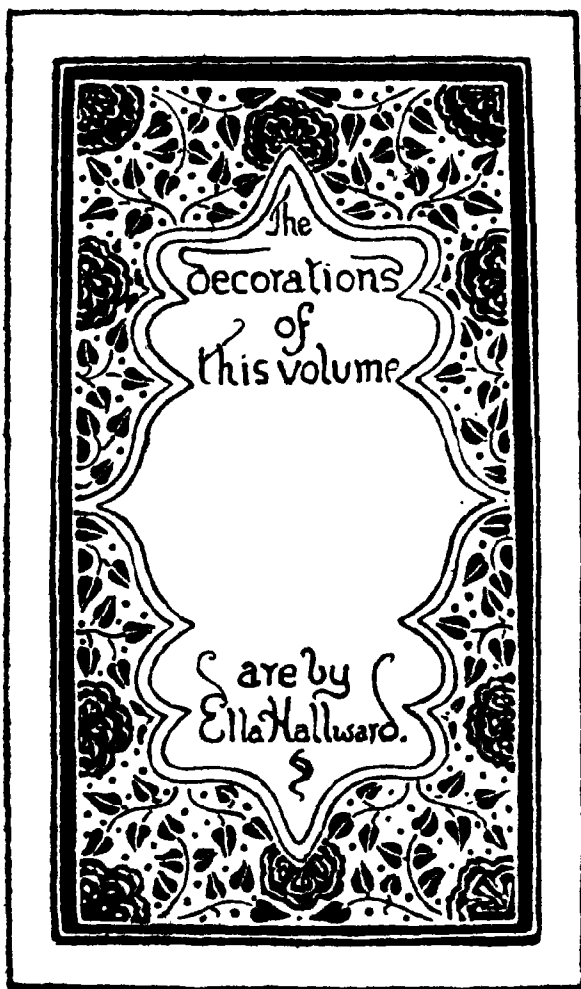
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The  
Decorations  
of  
this volume

are by  
Ella Hallward.



## INTRODUCTION.

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To write an introduction to the poems, and to endeavour to give information about the life of an author of whom the only thing that can be said with perfect accuracy is that practically nothing is known of him, suggests the brick-making industry as practised by the Jews in Egypt. Though the rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir are chaunted and recited to the present day all over Persia, to the accompaniment of the three-stringed viol or lute, known as the Sih-tār ("Three-strings"), and few collections of poems have been published in that country (or indeed in the Persian language), since the introduction of the lithographic press, that do not contain some specimens of his quatrains, concerning the poet himself few precise details, biographical or otherwise, have yet come to light.

The only published attempt to lift the veil of mystery that shrouds the personality of Bābā Ṭāhir is to be found in the *Majma'u l-fuṣahā* of Riḏā-Qulī Khān



(Ṭīhrān A.H. 1295, vol. i., p. 326), where, by way of introduction to ten rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir, the compiler expresses himself as follows:—

“Ṭāhir, 'Uryān, Hamadānī. His name was Bābā Ṭāhir. He was one of the most eminent mystics of his era. The opinion expressed by some writers that he was contemporary with the Seljuq Sultans is erroneous. He was one of the earliest of the Shaikhs, and lived under the Daylemite dynasty. He flourished about A.H. 410 (در سنه ۴۱۰ هجری), and died before 'Unsurī, Firdawsī, or any of their contemporaries. He is the author of rubā'iyāt of great excellence in the ancient language (زبان قدیم), which are still extant. It is also said that there are extant treatises by him, and that scholars have composed commentaries upon them.”

The same author in a later work, the *Riyāzu' l-Ārifīn* (Ṭīhrān A.H. 1305, p. 102), states that Bābā Ṭāhir died in the year A.H. 410 (i.e. A.D. 1019-20 : در چهار صد و ده), and that consequently he cannot have been a contemporary of 'Aynu 'l-Quṣāt-i-Hamadānī (who died A.H. 525 or 526, according to Ḥājī Khalifa, iii., p. 459, 536 [cf. also Jāmi's *Nafahāt*, pp. 475-77]), or of Naṣīru 'd-dīn Ṭūsī (who died A.H. 672), as stated by some writers.\* Unfortunately Riṣā-Qulī Khān does not

\* Vide E. G. Browne, “Some Notes on the Poetry of the Persian Dialects,” in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October, 1895.

state from whence he gathered this information, though in the later work he cites twenty-four of the rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir. This date (A.H. 410), if it could be relied upon (which, as would appear from the succeeding note, seems to be the case), would make our poet a contemporary of Firdawsī and an immediate precursor of 'Omar Khayyām.

Mr. E. G. Browne, to whom I am indebted for most valuable assistance in the preparation of this volume, adds the following very important and hitherto unpublished information to the above :—

“ I have come across mention of Bābā Ṭāhir in a unique history of the Seljuqs, of which the one known MS. is in the Schefer Collection in Paris (*vide* note, p. xii.). This history is called ‘Rāḥatu’ṣ-Ṣudūr wa Āyatu’s-Surūr’ (راحة الصدور و آية السور), ‘The Comfort of Breasts and Signal of Gladness’), and is by Najmu’d-Din Abū Bakr Muhammad bin ‘Alī bin Sulaymān bin Muḥammad bin Ahmad bin al-Ḥusayn bin Hamat ar-Rāwandī, who wrote it for the Seljuq ruler Abū’l-Faṭḥ Kay-Khusraw bin ‘Alā’u’d-Dawla ‘Izzu’d-Din Qilij Arslān bin Mas‘ūd bin Qilij Arslān bin Sulaymān. The book was written in A.H. 599 or 600 (A.D. 1202-1203), and the MS. itself is dated A.H. 635 (A.D. 1237-8), so its evidence is old and valuable. It is there stated that when Ṭughrīl Beg the Seljuq (who reigned A.D. 1037-1063) visited Hamadān, he saw Bābā

Ṭāhir, who gave him good advice, his blessing, and the ring-like broken-off top of his ابريق (or jug for performing ablutions), which the Sultan highly prized as the memento of a holy man, and used to wear as a ring on his finger on occasions of battle, &c. I regard this old and authentic evidence as proving conclusively that Bābā Ṭāhir flourished about the middle of the eleventh century of our era, and that he was a man of some notoriety as a مجذوب, a crazy saint. It is satisfactory to find the early date given by Rizā-Qulī Khān confirmed in this way."

This passage remains therefore, for the present, the most precise authority at our service for the chronology of the author under consideration.

Neither of the collections of poems lithographed at Bombay in A.H. 1297 (A.D. 1879-80) and A.H. 1308 (A.D. 1890-91), and at Ṭīhrān in A.H. 1274 (A.D. 1857-8), nor the Munājāt of the Khwāja 'Abdu'llāh Anṣārī, lithographed at Bombay in A.H. 1301 (A.D. 1882-3), prefix any introduction to the specimens they give of Bābā Ṭāhir's quatrains; but in the Ātash Kadah of Luṭf 'Alī Beg Āzar [Bombay A.H. 1277 (A.D. 1860-61), p. 247] twenty-five rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir are introduced by the following note, under the rubric عراق عجم "Persian 'Irāk," i.e. Media:—

"Uryān, whose name is Bābā Ṭāhir, is a mad-man from Hamadān (همدان); he is a learned man, knowing

all things (همه دان *hama dān*). His history is recorded in some few writings, and his character is well known among adepts. He is a mad lover (in the Ṣūfī or spiritual sense), the ardour of whose soul is evident from his poems, and he has written many quatrains in the Rājī\* dialect (زبان راجی), in a particular metre, most of which have a particular merit of their own. We have selected some of these and preserved them here."

The particular two-beyt metre referred to is not the common rubā'ī metre, though the Persians themselves always refer to the quatrains of Bābā Ṭāhīr as rubā'iyāt. The metre in which these quatrains are written might properly be described as a simple variety of *hazaj* هزج مستحسن محذوف "the curtailed hexameter Hazaj." The metre is as follows:—

و — — — | و — — — | و — —

The earliest MS. that I have seen of these quatrains is one in my own collection, dating only from the end

\* I have retained in this place the term Rājī for the reason that it transliterates the Persian, but I am indebted to Mr. E. G. Browne for the following note: "If the reading زبان راجی is right it must mean 'in the language of one who prays' (a petition, from رجا a 'prayer,' or 'hope'), or if you can find the reading رازی (*rāzi*) it might be 'in the dialect of Rey,' but there is no 'Rājī dialect' that I ever heard of." M. Huart adopts the reading "en dialecte de Réi." It will be seen on reference to the text that the ز (*z*) and the ژ (*z*) are interchangeable in this dialect.

of the 18th century and containing 27 quatrains, and the only other to which I have had access is one in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (which bears the stamp "Acquisition Schefer No. 9655"),\* which is a collection of 174 rubā'iyāt written in ordinary modern Persian, in an ordinary modern *nīm-shikasta* handwriting, by one 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib Bakhsh 'Alī Qarābāghī, in the year A.H. 1260 (A.D. 1844). This contains a prose preface of three and a half pages, but this preface is entirely devoted to praise of the poem itself, which is, to the writer, "such a book that it is the very pupil of the eyes of the clear-sighted, and a fair copy of it is the salt on the table of delicacy of meanings"—and so on *ad infinitum*, together with fulsome and exaggerated compliments to the reigning Shāh of the Kājār dynasty. The MS. ends abruptly and is apparently unfinished, but it would appear that this was intentional, as the compiler ends his preface with a statement that he has collected all the rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir that have come to light down to A.H. 1260 (تاریخ حال که هزار و دویست و شصت هجری), and that he proposes to add any others that he may find, expressing at the same time a hope that the supervising reader will also "show favour, in the event of discovering

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\* These Schefer MSS. are included in the "Supplément Persan," nos 1303—1578.

omissions, with the pen of completion." There is not in this preface a word of historical or biographical information about the author. Mr. Browne tells me that there are six leaves of Bābā Ṭāhir's rubā'iyāt in a MS. at Berlin (Pertsch's Catalogue, p. 727, no. 697). I have not been able to consult this MS.; but Herr Stern of the Königlische Bibliothek informs me that it contains fifty-six rubā'iyāt, without any preface or introduction, and though undated, appears to have been written about 1820. It is therefore of no greater importance than the texts at our disposal.

M. Clément Huart, in his introductory essay to "Les Quatrains de Bābā Ṭāhir 'Uryān en Pehlevi Musulman,"\* states that he infers from a passage in the Nuzhatu 'l-Qulūb of Ḥamdu'llāh Mustawfi, who died in A.H. 750 (A.D. 1349), that this author flourished before that date. The passage referred to is to the effect that the tomb of Bābā Ṭāhir was, ten years prior to that date (i.e. in A.D. 1329), highly honoured at Hamadān. He also tells us, on the authority of Comte de Gobineau's "Trois ans en Asie" (p. 344), that Bābā Ṭāhir is now regarded in Persia as one of the saints of the Ahl-i-Ḥaqq or Nuṣayrī sect, and that his sister, Bibi Fātimah, is equally venerated by this community.

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\* *Journal Asiatique* (Paris), ser viii., vol vi., no. 3, November-December, 1885.

All that we can safely state is that he was a "crazy saint," a dervish, or religiously inspired beggar, from his popular name 'Uryān (عريان), "The Naked," in which condition he doubtless roamed the streets of Hamadān, the especially protected of God and the Prophet, the prefix Bābā indicating the dervish, or kalandar condition, rather than prominence among the Ṣūfī sect. M. Blochet calls my attention to an Arabic MS. in the Bibliothèque Nationale (No. 1903), by an anonymous author, dated A.H. 890 (A.D. 1485), containing at pp. 74-100 a treatise upon the sentences of Bābā Ṭāhir Hamadānī. According to the opening lines of this treatise (after the invocation), it was written at the request of a Ṣūfī named Abu 'l-Baqā al-Aḥmadī; the aphorisms are typically Sufistic of a mild type, and are quite possibly the "treatises" referred to in his introduction by Rizā-Qulī Khān (*vide supra*).

To the above information may usefully be added the following, which is a translation of an account gathered for me from a native scholar by Captain Charles Kemball, His Majesty's Resident at Bushire. It is headed, "Account concerning Ṭāhir, known under the name of 'Uryān, as handed down by tradition," and is as follows :—

"It is stated that Ṭāhir-i-'Uryān was an illiterate person and was a wood-cutter. During the day he was wont to go to the Madrasa (academy) and listen

whilst the students would read their lessons, but the students used to make fun of him. One day he remarked to one of the inmates of the institution, 'I wonder what these students do in order that they may understand the instructions of the Professors.' The student replied jokingly, 'At midnight they get into this pond and plunge their heads under the water forty times; after undergoing this process, they understand the instructions.' Ṭāhir believed this account and did the same himself, though the weather was intensely cold. Just then a flash of light appeared and entered his mouth (?). Next day he came to the Madrasa and commenced a philosophical discussion with the students to which they were unable to respond. When they asked him the reason of this sudden change, he related his story to them, saying, 'I passed the night as a Kurd and opened with the morning as an Arab.' This immensely astonished his hearers. It is stated that there seemed to be extraordinary heat in his body, so much so that no one could sit near him. He used to pass his time continually in the jungles and mountains." Such is the modern tradition concerning our poet-philosopher.

This is the sum total of what we have been able to discover concerning the author of these rubā'iyāt, and in the absence of any early text that might throw further light on the subject it seems all that we are

ever<sup>1</sup> likely to obtain. M. Blochet in Paris, Dr. Ross in London, Mr. Browne in Cambridge, and Mr. Ellis at the British Museum, have, with the utmost kindness and patience, ransacked the stores of biographical lore of which they have command in the endeavour to obtain for me some more explicit information concerning this mysterious personage, and with their combined failure to elicit any details other than those recorded above, I must reluctantly abandon the search for the present.

The other point to be considered is the dialect in which the rubā'iyāt of Bābā Ṭāhir are written. He is often called "Lurī," and Steingass gives "Lurī Ṭāhir Tātī" as the name of one of the tribes of the Lurs. Accordingly, Cte. de Gobineau states that he wrote in the Luri dialect, whilst Chodzko, in his "Popular Poetry of Persia" (London 1842, p. 434), says that he wrote in Māzandarānī dialect. We may, however, I think, adopt the view expressed in the introduction to the quatrains in the Ātash Kadah, that they are written in the Rājī (or Rey) dialect.\* This dialect is one of the north Persian group which M. Huart (*loc. cit.*) proposed to class under the generic term "Pehlevi Musulman"; for a

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\* See the note on page xi.

fuller explanation of the term the reader is referred to the article of M. Huart already quoted, in which his contentions in favour of this somewhat dubious expression are ingeniously set forth and its use justified.

A learned Sheikh of Kirmān, writing to Mr. E. G. Browne under date July 30, 1891, concerning these dialects, says: "The dialect about which you wrote for information is the Lūrī patois of Shīrāz and Isfahān, which is the Pahlavī dialect. Many poets, such as Sa'dī, Abū Is-hāq, Ḥāfiẓ, and Khwājū (of Kirmān), have composed verses in it."\*

It is not expedient, in the introduction of a book primarily intended to present to the occidental reader the sentiment and beauty of a comparatively unknown collection of oriental quatrains, to go into the features of the dialect itself. The student who is interested in this branch of the subject is referred to the text which forms part of this volume. In the notes elucidating that text the dialectal forms are picked out and restored to ordinary Persian; it may be said, however, in this place, that these quatrains having been transmitted through perhaps nine hundred years by recitation and oral tradition, have suffered the usual

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\* E. G. Browne, "Notes on the Poetry of the Persian Dialects," *loc. cit.*, p. 773.

vicissitudes which affect such folk-songs when reduced to writing. Successive scribes, ignorant perhaps of the dialect they were transcribing, and careless perhaps of the historic value of a scrupulous exactitude, have produced a number of extremely variant texts, the variations, however, being fortunately confined within certain limits. The MS. of Mirzā Ḥabīb Isfahānī, from which M. Huart largely took his text, is apparently for the most part in pure dialect, whilst that of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭalīb, in Paris, appears to be frankly translated into pure Persian. It is for this reason that I have, wherever possible, given the text of M. Huart “in chief,” noting the variants to be found in the other texts that I have used in compiling that which appears in this volume, and in arriving at its meaning.

When we come to the discussion of our translation, which purports to place before our readers the sentiments of Bābā Ṭāhir, we get on to exceedingly delicate ground. I must say at once that I alone am responsible for the actual translation of the quatrains, and that Mrs. Brenton has rhymed my literal interpretations with a fidelity and exactitude which is often but little short of amazing. Whatever errors of interpretation are to be found in this volume (and I am exceedingly conscious that they are many), are entirely due to my lack of a just comprehension of the original.

It is for this reason that, after very serious consideration, I have at last, and somewhat reluctantly, decided, on the advice, and at the request, of several students of the language, to append after the text my own measured prose rendering of the quatrains.

The initial difficulty with which one is confronted when attempting to translate a Persian dialect is the absence of any text-book dealing with the subject in anything like a complete form. An invaluable "Table of Phonetic Equivalents" forms part of Mr. Browne's article above referred to, and M. Huart's already quoted article discusses these variants at some length. Besides these sources of information, we have the important work of Berésine, "*Recherches sur les Dialectes Persans*," printed at Kazan (Casan) in 1853, which gives us elaborate vocabularies of the dialects of Gilak and Māzandarān, Gabrī, Kurdish, Tālīsh, and Tātī. Some observations of Mr. Browne upon these difficulties will not be out of place. They are as follows:—"Not only does the Arabic character, especially when unpointed, afford a very imperfect means of representing graphically the finer shades of pronunciation, but every scribe, when he has to do with dialects not used for literary purposes, where he has no fixed rule to guide him, employs his own system, and is usually not consistent even in that. It is bad enough when the scribe is thoroughly familiar with the dialect which

he wishes to express in writing, and far worse when (as is generally the case) we have to deal with copies more or less remote from the original draft, made by persons ignorant of the dialect before them, into which all sorts of clerical errors are almost sure to have crept" (*loc. cit.*, p. 782). "I have learned by experience that the publication of even a very faulty and imperfect account of a matter which is interesting in itself, often suffices to elicit from other workers in the same field valuable communications and criticisms which might otherwise never be made . . . The English rendering which I give must, in some cases, be regarded as rather of a tentative character, though I believe that they fairly represent the general sense of the poems" (*loc. cit.*, p. 783).

With these preliminary observations by way of introduction, we must leave our "Lament of Bābā Ṭāhīr" in the hands of the amateur of verse, and the student of the Persian language. My own interpretations of the quatrains have been versified with conspicuous success (I speak of course from the philological point of view, and not in any way presuming to encroach upon the domain of the literary critic), by Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis Brenton, whose paraphrase of the accepted renderings of the "Rubā'iyāt of 'Omar Khayyām" (by "Elizabeth Alden Curtis") attracted

so much attention when issued by "The Brothers of the Book" at Gouverneur (New York, U.S.A.) in 1899. My own translation has been added at the last moment under circumstances already alluded to. I had not intended that it should form part of this volume, but having been commanded to make a draft of it for the pleasure of a friend, it fell into the kind of measured prose in which it now stands. The result having been (as a fulfilment) a failure, it was cast aside, but was rescued from destruction, and, in a revised form, included herein for the assistance of students who may care to have a guide through the intricacies of the text. The quatrains being in the nature of independent aphorisms have no proper order of their own. Mrs. Brenton has arranged them as they fell into place during the process of constructing her poem; my prose version follows the order of the text, which I have arranged to some extent so as to bring together such sets of quatrains as appear to deal with certain attitudes of mind, e.g. Addresses to God, to himself, to his Beloved, and so on.

It may be observed, in conclusion, that it is often very difficult to determine whether an earthly or a heavenly object of adoration is the object addressed in any particular rubā'ī, but this is a difficulty which is incidental to all oriental poetry in which a mystic or Sufistic tendency is observable.

It only remains for me to record in this place my great indebtedness and sincere gratitude to Mr. E. G. Browne for his invaluable assistance in the compilation of this work.

EDWARD HERON-ALLEN.

VENICE,

*April*, 1901



THE  
LAMENT OF BĀBĀ TĀHIR

*RENDERED INTO ENGLISH VERSE*

BY  
ELIZABETH CURTIS BRENTON





THE  
LAMENT OF BĀBĀ TĀHIR.

---

1.

I am a Nomad, a Fanatic Tramp,  
Life has no ties for such an idle scamp ;  
    Aimless by day I wander, and at night  
A Stone's my pillow, and the Moon my lamp.

2.

By day and night the Desert is my home,  
My Tent the friendly Heavens' spreading Dome,  
    Nor pain nor fever rack me, but I know  
That night and day I sorrow as I roam.

3.

The Roses bloom upon the breast of Spring,  
From every bough a thousand Bulbuls sing.  
    But Earth contains no Pleasure-ground for me,  
A Burning Heart to every joy I bring.

## 4.

Thy pictured Beauty, Love, ne'er leaves my Heart,  
Thy downy cheek becomes of me a part,  
Tightly I'll close mine eyes, O Love, that so  
My Life, before thine Image, shall depart.

## 5.

Out hunting, when a Falcon, once I went ;  
Sudden an Arrow through my wing was sent.  
Be warned, O heedless Wanderer ! by me,  
Against the Height the strongest Bows are bent.

## 6.

Without Thee in the Garden, Lord, I know  
The sweetly-perfumed Roses cannot grow,  
Nor Tears of Grief, although the Lips should smile,  
Be washed away in Joy's bright overflow.

## 7.

I am beset by cruel Tyranny,  
My heart remembers all mine Eyes must see,  
I'll fashion, straight, a pointed sword of steel,  
Put out mine Eyes, and set my poor Heart free.

## 8.

O thou who dost possess no less, no more,  
Of Heavenly Knowledge than of Tavern-lore,  
And that is—Nothing! Oh, canst thou expect  
Aught from a World thou never wouldst explore?

## 9.

A Lion or a Tiger thou mightst be,  
Ever, O Heart, O Heart, at War with me ;  
Fall but into my hands, I'll spill thy Blood,  
That I may then know what to make of thee.

## 10.

Love, since my Day, by reason of thy Flight  
Is all so dark, O come, illumine my Night ;  
By those fair Curves that are thy Brows, I swear  
Grief only shares my bed in my despite.

## 11.

Prince! through my Heart I am Affliction's prey,  
It is the same all night and all the day,  
I often grieve that I should grieve so much :—  
O Someone take my graceless Heart away!

## 12.

O Love, in purple thou dost bid me go,  
Grief, like an extra garment, weights me low,  
Yet will I boast thee as Dawn boasts the Sun,  
Till Israfil the Final Trump shall blow.

## 13.

I am the Phoenix, of such great Renown  
The beating of my Wings inflames the town:  
If one should paint me on a house-wall, why,  
That luckless house would straightway be burned down.

## 14.

That phrase, "Yes, He is God," it troubles me,  
My Sins are like the Leaves upon a Tree ;  
Oh, when the Readers read the Book of Doom,  
What must my shame, with such a Record, be !

## 15.

Alas, how long, then, must I sorrow so ?  
Bereft of all, my Tears unceasing flow ;  
Turned from each Threshold I will turn to Thee,  
And if Thou fail'st me, whither shall I go ?

## 16.

Strung with thy Hair, O Love, my Rebāb gleams ;  
How far from thee my Degradation seems !

Thou lov'st me not, and wouldst not be my Love,  
Then wherefore comest thou to me in Dreams ?

## 17.

Com'st thou ? My Welcome thou shalt not contemn ;  
Come not, and who my bitter Grief shall stem ?

Give them to me, and of thy Woes I'll die  
Or be consumed, or I'll put up with them.

## 18.

A Moment's space to seek my Love I ran,—  
Hurry not so, for God's sake, Camel-man !—

She holds my Heart a Prisoner, and through Love,  
I'm but a Laggard in Life's Caravan.

## 19.

Though we be drunk, our Faith is all in Thee,  
Weak and Unstable, still our Faith's in Thee,

Guebres, or Nazarenes, or Musulmāns,  
Whate'er our Creed, our Faith is Thine, and Thee.

## 20.

Happy is he who's nigh to Thee in heart,  
Who from Thy Teachings never need depart ;  
Too feeble to approach Thee, I can still  
Consort with Those who know Thee as Thou art.

## 21.

Come ye Initiates, let no one fail ;  
Form we a Circle and our Woes bewail,  
Bring Scales and our Fanaticism weigh,  
The most Ecstatic most shall tip the Scale.

## 22.

The Sea within a Cup—this is my Gauge,  
The Dotted Letter that completes the page,  
One in a Million's such a Man as I,  
I am the bright Exemplar of my age.

## 23.

Sweeter than Hyacinths to me is borne  
The Breeze that, sighing, from thy Curls is torn :  
All night when I have pressed thy Picture close  
The scent of Roses fills my Couch at Dawn.

## 24.

Ah, when will Health to my Sick Heart return !  
The Good Advice I give it does but spurn.

Flung to the Winds, 'twill not be borne away,  
Cast in the Flames, alas, it will not burn.

## 25.

What Flame-singed Moth 's as blundering as I ?  
On such a Madman who would waste a Sigh ?

Even the Ants and Serpents have their nests,  
But I have not a Ruin where to lie.

## 26.

For Love of Thee my Heart is filled with Woe,  
My Couch the Earth, my Pillow is as low,

My only Sin is loving thee too well.  
Surely not all thy Lovers suffer so ?

## 27.

Spare me the sight of thy Dishevelled Hair,  
The sight of Tears in those thine Eyes most fair,

Thou would'st deprive me of the Sun, thy Love,—  
Oh, plunge me not too soon in Night's Despair.

## 28.

When thou art absent Sorrow dims my sight,  
My Tree of Hope is barren of Delight,  
And I, when thou art absent, all alone  
Sit, and shall sit until my Soul takes flight.

## 29.

Without thee is my Heart in Mourning clad,  
Show but thy Face, and straightway I am glad ;  
If all men had a share in my Heart's Grief,  
No Heart in all the World but would be sad.

## 30.

Nought can the Meadows of my Fancy show  
Save only Grief's sad-coloured Rose in blow,  
From my poor Heart, 'tis such an Arid waste,  
Even Despair's pale Herbage will not grow.

## 31.

The Lover and the Loved are so much One,  
Each endeth where the Other is begun ;  
My Heart with my Belovéd's little Heart  
Is interwove like Fabric closest spun.

## 32.

I'm a green Log fresh cut from off the Tree,  
O Heart of Stone, thou burnest not for me,—  
    Though who, indeed, expects a Stone to burn ?  
But I must smoulder till I kindle thee.

My Heart is nigh distraught with Love's Emprise,  
Tears gush in Torrents from my throbbing Eyes  
    A Lover's Heart is like a fresh-hewn Log,  
One end sheds Sap, Flames from the other rise.

## 34.

By him who knoweth Grief, may Grief be told,  
Just as the Expert can divine Pure Gold,  
    And who but an Initiate shall gain  
The Knowledge his Initiations hold ?

## 35.

The Heart of Man, you say, is prone to Sin,  
Oh yes ! but did not first the Eyes begin ?  
    If on the tempting Face they did not look,  
The Heart, unknowing, would be Pure within.

## 36.

O thou whose eyes are shadowy with kohl,  
O thou whose slender figure works my Dole,  
Whose locks with musk are laden, art thou dumb,  
That thus with Silence thou shouldst rend my Soul ?

## 37.

O thou hast caused a Thousand Hearts deep pain,  
More than a Thousand sigh for thee in vain,  
I've counted far more than a thousand Scars  
Of thine inflicting, and yet More remain.

## 38.

The Mountain Tulip lasts but seven days,  
The River Violet lives but seven days,  
And I will cry the news from town to town  
That Rosy Cheeks keep faith but seven days.

## 39.

When Trees to grow beyond their boundaries dare,  
They cause the Gardeners much anxious care ;  
Down to their very Roots they must be pruned,  
Though Pearls and Rubies be the Fruits they bear.

## 40.

Blessed are the Friends of God, Oh, blessed are they  
Whose Task is ever "He is God" to say ;

Happy are they who always are at Prayers,  
For Heaven rewards them at the Final Day.

## 41.

Whom fearest Thou, of Man who makest light ?  
Whom fearest Thou, Who puttest him to flight ?

Half-hearted as I am, yet I fear none ;  
Whom fearest Thou, O Double-Heart of might ?

## 42.

What though my Jar of Life be filled with Tears ?  
When I am dead, released from all my Fears,

Thy passing o'er my Grave will bring me back  
To claim again the Bounty of my years.

## 43.

Thy Curly Locks in tangled Masses fall  
About thy Rosy Cheeks that hold me thrall,  
On every separate Strand of thy soft Hair  
There hangs a Heart,—a Heart upon them all.

## 44.

Like a sad-sounding Flute, Oh plaintively  
My Heart laments. The Fear of losing thee  
Will haunt my Soul till Resurrection Day,  
And God alone knows when that Day will be

## 45.

Love, to be sweetest, Love-Returned must be,  
For else the Lover's Heart grows sick, you see :  
Take Majnūn, he was desperately in love,  
But Leila even more in love than he.

## 46.

Such Storms descend upon me from the Skies,  
That salt Tears ever sparkle in mine Eyes ;  
The Smoke of my Lament goes up to Heaven,  
For ever fall my Tears, my Groans arise.

## 47.

Only, from Grief, that Prevalent Disease,  
An Alchemist could free us, should he please,  
Yet comes at last a Remedy for all,  
The Heart returns to Nothing, and finds Ease.

## 48.

Beset with Thorns and Thistles is thy Road,  
Yet up to Heaven's Gate such Seed is sowed,  
If thou canst leave thy Flesh upon these Thorns,  
Leave it, and travel with a Lighter Load.

## 49.

I am but a Taper weeping from the Flame :  
Are not the Tears of Burning Hearts the same ?  
All night I burn, and all day long I weep,  
For Days and Nights like this thou art to blame !

## 50.

Oh, evil Fate that I should have to die !  
But what is Fate when Destiny's awry ?  
A Briar in Love's Path, then let my Thorns  
Tear out my Heart, that I may cease to sigh.

## 51.

What would it matter if but one small Grief  
Were mine ? but Oh, my Wounds are past belief !  
A Doctor or my Love to share my Couch—  
Ah, only one of these could bring Relief.

## 52.

My Heart is fragile, like my Glass, and I  
Fear lest I break it when I heave a Sigh,

A Tree whose Tears are Blood—is this so Strange,  
When in a Pool of Blood my Roots must lie ?

## 53.

I pray thy Sun-like face may never lack  
The Shafts that split my Heart in swift Attack :

Why is the mole upon thy cheek so dark ?  
Objects so near the sun become burnt black.

## 54.

I go—I leave the World—I journey far  
Beyond where even China's limits are,

And going, ask of Pilgrims whom I meet,  
“ Is this the End ? Is this the Outmost Star ? ”

## 55.

O Thou Who didst create the Earth, the Sky,  
How have we served Thee save to curse, deny ?

Now by the Faith of Thy Beloved Twelve,  
Preserve us Lord—we are not fit to die.

## 56.

My Heart and Soul are thine, O Lovely One,  
My Secrets are thy Treasure, Lovely One.

I know not, truly, whence my Sorrow comes,  
But know that thou canst heal it, Lovely One,

## 57.

Where art thou, Love? Where is the Burning Spell  
Of those kohl-shaded Eyes? O Love, I dwell

On Earth but little longer—Tāhir dies—  
Where art thou at this Moment of Farewell!

ELIZABETH CURTIS BRENTON.

NEW MILFORD, CONN, U.S.A

*April*, 1901.



رباعیات بابا طاهر همدانی عریان

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THE RUBĀ'ĪYĀT

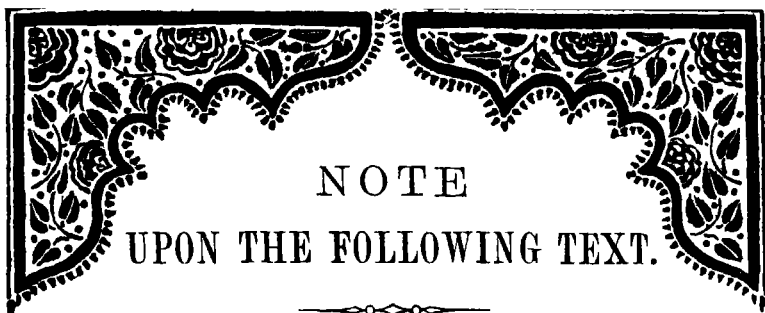
OF

BĀBĀ TĀHIR HAMADĀNĪ URYĀN

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*THE ORIGINAL DIALECTAL TEXT, WITH THE  
PERSIAN EQUIVALENTS AND NOTES*





It has been seen that anything in the nature of a codex, or early and authoritative text of the Quatrains of Bābā Ṭāhir is yet to be found, but I have noted such as are worthy of remark in the Introduction to this volume.

For the text which follows, therefore, I have been reduced to the following materials:—

(i.) The well-known Bombay lithograph, containing the Rubā'iyāt of 'Omar Khayyām, Bābā Ṭāhir, Abu Sa'īd ibn Abu 'l-Khayr, &c. [Referred to as B or B i., and B ii.] رباعیات عمر خیام بابا طاهر ابو سعید بن ابوالحیر Bombay, 1297 A.H., and (second edition) Bombay, 1308 A.H. Both of these contain 57 rubā'iyāt. It was this collection which first called my attention to the author.

(ii.) The *Ātash Kadah* of Lutf 'Alī Beg Āzar. [Referred to as A.K.] آتش کده لطف علی بیک آذر Bombay, 1277 A.H. This contains 25 rubā'iyāt at p. 247.

- (iii.) The *Majma'u 'l-Fuṣṣahā* of Rizā-Qulī Khān. [Referred to as M.] Ṭīhrān, 1295 A.H. تذكرة موسوم به مجمع الفصحا This contains 10 rubā'iyāt at p. 326 of vol. i.
- (iv.) The collection lithographed at Ṭīhrān (1274 A.H.), containing Rubā'iyāt of 'Omar Khayyām, Bābā Ṭāhir (27 rubā'iyāt), 'Aṭṭār, Malik Irij, and poems of Tabrizī, &c. [Referred to as T.]
- (v.) The *Munājjāt* of the Khwāja 'Abdu'llah al-Anṣārī. [Referred to as MA.] Bombay, 1301 A.H. مناجات خواجه عبد الله الانصارى This contains 32 rubā'iyāt at p. 87.
- (vi.) The text constructed by M. Clément Huart in the *Journal Asiatique* (8th ser., vol. vi., no. 3, Paris, 1885, p. 502), purporting to be derived from nos. (i.), (ii.), and (iii.), and a modern MS. belonging to a contemporary collector, Mīrzā Ḥabīb Iṣfahānī, which I understand is now in Constantinople. [Referred to as H.]
- (vii.) A MS. in my collection, which is undated, but appears to be of the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century, which contains 27 rubā'iyāt, three of which are not in any of the above sources. [Referred to as MS.]

## رباعیات بابا طاهر همدانی عربان



1.

خرم آدان که هر رامن نه وندن  
سخن وا نه کنن وا نه نشینن  
گرم پای نه بی کآم نه وینم  
بسم آون بوینم که نه وندن

B 5, AK 5, H 24, MS 5.

1. 1. Persian, هر زمان ترا بیند. The other texts for رامن read روامان, which is unsatisfactory.

1 2. Persian, با نوشینند. The other texts begin with the more ordinary form سخن. MS begins the line نه راری . 'who confide their secrets to thee.'

1 3. بود = بی ; ترا بینم = نه وینم ; اگر مرا = گرم. For B has پای نه بی, AK has دست نبی, and MS. has دست رس نبی, all of which convey a similar meaning.

1. 4. Persian, بشوم آدان ببینم که ترا بیند. The other texts restore the Persian آدان.

## 2.

بیته یا رب ببستان گل مرویاد  
 اگر رویاد هرگز کس مبیواد  
 بینه گردل بخنده لب کشایه  
 رخس از خون دل هرگز مشویاد

B 49, T 4, H 2.

The dialectal forms to note in this quatrain are in ll. 1 and 3, *بیته* for *بی تو*, and in l. 3 *کشایه* for *کشاد*. B has the ordinary Persian form.

## 3.

خوشا آنان که الله یارشون بی  
 بحمد و قل هو الله کارشون بی  
 خوشا آنان که دائم در نمازن  
 بهشت جاودان بازارشون بی

B 26, T 12, H 46.

The terminals *شان* = *شون بی*. T and B restore *شان*.

l. 3. T and B restore the Persian *در نمازند*.

## 4.

مو از فالوا بلی تشویش دیرم  
 گناه از برگت دارون بیش دیرم  
 چو فردا نومه خونون نومه خونون  
 مو در کف نومه سر در پیش دیرم

B 25, H 13.

The terminal دیرم in 1, 2 and 4 = دارم.

1. 1. مو = من. The line translates 'I am troubled on account of (the phrase) "They said Yes, (Thou art our Lord.)"'

1. 2. H has a somewhat pedantic note deriving دارون from دار ('a gallows') with a dialectal plural. It seems unnecessary to seek beyond دارون = the common elm-tree, though B reads داران

1. 3. In Persian, خوانان نامه خوانند, *lit.* 'When to-morrow the Readers of the book (*i.e.* the Recording Angels) read the Book.' B reads خوانان and خوانند

1. 4. The same dialectal forms for من - نامه - دارم. B reads نامه.

## 5.

خداوندا که بوشم با که بوشم  
 مژه پراشک خونین تا که بوشم  
 همم کز در بران سو ته آیم  
 تو کم از در برانی واکه بوشم

B 30, H 16.

It will be observed that this quatrain is identical in sentiment, and almost textually as regards ll. 3 and 4, with B 2, AK 2, H 20, MS 2 (*infra*, No. 6).

The terminals بوشم are the dialectal form of باشم.

1. 1. B has یا for با, and in 1 2 وا for تا, giving the interjectional 'Oh!' and 'Alas!' for the more satisfactory 'with' and 'how long.' It is probably a liberty or carelessness of the scribe.

1. 3. I have followed H in taking سو ته as two words for سوی تو ('towards thee') rather than as one for سوخته ('burnt,' or 'in ecstasy'). برانند = برانی. B restores the Persian form.

1. 4. با = وا ; که مرا = کم. B has سو ('towards') for با or لا.

## 6.

دای بی آشیانی برکیانشم  
 بابن بی خانمانی برکیانشم  
 هم از در بران سو ته آم  
 ته گرا: د، برانی برکیانشم

B 2, AK 2, H 20, MS 2.

Vide note to No. 5 *suprà*.

1. 1. کیانشم is the dialectal contraction of کیان (pl. of که) and شوم.

1. 2. B and AK give the more ordinary Persian phrase خان و مانی

1. 3. The other texts give هم as in No. 5 *suprá*.

1. 4. The other texts, as in No. 5, give کم (= مرا که) for گر, a preferable variant.

## 7.

کشیمون ار برای ار که ترسی  
برانی ار بخواری از که ترسی  
مو وا ابن بیمه دل از کس نترسم  
دو عالم دل ته داری ار که ترسی

B 19, AK 20, H 41, T 26, M 10, MS 20.

1. 1. The other texts begin the line کشیمان, M and MS substituting گری for ار; it is the dialectal form for اگرمارا گشی.

1. 2. M and T have گر for ار; B, AK and MS have ور for ار B has بخوانی for بخواری ('with contempt').

1. 3. ما با = مو وا; the other texts, excepting M, have the مو at the end before نترسم, and begin با ابن.

1. 4. تو = ته; M for عالم دو reads جهانی (syn.).

## 8.

اگرستان مستیم از ته ایمون ✓  
 و گر بی پا و دستیم از ته ایمون  
 اگر گوریم و ترسا و مسلمون  
 بهر ملت که هستیم از ته ایمون

B 4, AK 4, MS 4, T 15, H 23.

The other texts restore the Persian ایمان all through (*vide* note on p. 69), and in the first two lines have the singular دستم - مستم.

1. 1. B and the others have تو for ته here and in 1. 2.

1. 3. B and AK have گبر ('Guebres') for گور, and و (and if) for و. AK and MS has هند ('Hindu') for ترسا; T reads the line اگر هند و اگر گبر ار مسلمان. Every scribe seems to have chosen his own forms of unorthodoxy for insertion.

1. 4. B and T تو for ته.

## 9.

نواى ناله غم اندوته دونو  
 عيار زر خالص پوته دونو  
 بورة سوته دلون واهم بناليم  
 كه حال سوته دل دلسوته دونو

B 56, AK 6, T 16, H 27.

The terminals ذونو = the Persian داند; MS has زونو throughout, AK has it in ll. 2 and 4. Note the elimination of the سوته - پوته - اندوته in خ.

l. 1. This line in AK reads تو ای ناله و امد و ته زده نو.

l. 2. T has زرر for فلت و, giving the meaning 'paucity or pureness,' probably an error for قلب 'alloy'; MS has و قلب in this place, giving 'alloyed or pure.' It might be taken as an emphatic of خالص, but this would be far-fetched.

l. 3. بیا = نوره; دلان = دلون. T restores the Persian forms; MS and AK restore دلان only.

l. 4. The other texts for حال read قدر 'The value (or measure) of their initiation only the Initiates know.'

## 10.

هر اون باغی که دارش سر در بی  
مدامش باغبان خوین جگری  
بباد کندش از بیع و ازین  
اگر بارش همه لعل و گهر بی

B 23, AK 24, T 27, H 45, MS 24.

Excepting for آن in l. 1 all the texts are unanimous as to this quatrain, the intention of which completely baffles me.

## 11.

دلا راه ته پر خار و خسک بی  
 گذرگاه ته بر اوج ملک بی  
 گر از دستت بر آیو پوست از تن  
 بر افکن تا که بارت کمترک بی

B 20, AK 21, H 42, MS 21.

The meaning of this quatrain is exceedingly obscure.

بی as before = بود

1. 1. B and AK restore the Persian *تو*; B has *بر* ('upon') for *پر* ('full of').

1. 2. B and MS have *تو*.

1. 3. MS reads *در آبی* for *بر آیو*; B and AK omit *از* and begin *اگر*, and restore the Persian *آند*. I think there is a lost idiom here.

1. 4. Note the diminutive comparative *کمترک* 'a little less.'

## 12.

نوره سوته دلون گرد هم آییم  
 سخن وا هم کریم غمها کشابیم  
 نزارو آوریم غمها بساکیم  
 هر آن سوته تویم سنگین تر آییم

B 46, H 19.

1. 1. B has the Persian بیا and دلان. سوخته = سوته.

1. 2. B for باهم has باهم, giving us 'let us talk together'  
B also has کساریم ('let us suffer or undergo') for کشاییم,  
but the rhyme is impossible. کنیم = کریم.

## 13.

بوره سوته دلون هون تا بنالیم  
رهر آن گل رعا بنالیم  
بشیم نا بلبل شیدا بگلشن  
اگر بلبل ناله ما بنالیم

B 3, AK 3, MS 3, H 15.

1. 1. In Persian, بیا سوخته دلان هان نا بنالیم. All the other texts read سونه دلهای بوره نا بنالیم. M. Huart has confused ll. 1 and 2 in his note, with a result which is, as he says, "unsatisfactory."

1. 2. The other texts give عشق ('love') for هجر ('departure').

1. 3. بشویم = بشیم.

1. 4. نالد = ناله. The other texts restore the Persian form.

## 14.

جره بازی بدم رفتم به نخچیر  
 سیه چشمی بزد بریال مو تیر  
 برو غافل مچر در کوهسارون  
 هراون غافل چره غافل خوره تیر

B 35, H 5.

l. 2. B has دستی for چشمی, giving the meaning 'covetous' rather than 'ill-omened' or 'black-eyed,' and also من the Persian for the dialectal ما (= مو).

l. 3. Note the dialectal و for | in کوهسارون. B substitutes the word جوکناران, giving us 'river-bank' instead of 'mountain-top.' The 1308 edition of B (but not the 1297 edition) has مچو 'seek' for مچر 'graze' or 'wander.'

l. 4. Dialectal forms اون for آن; چره for جرد; خوره for خود. B restores the Persian form in each instance.

## 15.

دی اسب مرا گفت که در این چه شکست  
 کامطبل تو از زاوهای فلک است  
 نه اب در آن نه سبزه نه کاه و جو  
 این جای ستور نیست جی ملک است

MS 27.

This quatrain, which is in pure Persian, is only to be found in the MS. no. vii. It is more than probably an interpolation (*vide* note on p. 72), and the metre is far from satisfactory.

## 16.

ز شور انگیزی چرخ فلک بی  
که دائم چشم زخم پر نمک بی  
دمادم دود آهم تا سموات  
تم دالان و اشکم تا سمک بی

B 38, H 49

1. 4. سمک is the mythological Fish that supports the whole world in the Muhammadan cosmogony.

## 17.

خداوندا زبس زارم ازین دل  
شو و روزان درآزارم ازین دل  
زبس نالیدم از نالیدم کس  
زمو بسون که بیرارم ازین دل

B 29, H 9.

1. 2. The lithographer of B has the slip درآزارم, which is confusing for a moment.

1. 3. Mr. Browne suggests کشی for کس 'I have grieved so much : kill me with grief.'

1. 4.  $\text{ما} = \text{مو}$  ;  $\text{بستون}$  is the dialectal imperative of  $\text{سندن}$ , and B reads  $\text{بستان}$

## 18.

مو که سر در بیابونوم شو و روز  
 سرشت از دبدۀ بارانوم شو و روز  
 نه تو دبرم نه حابوم میکرو درد  
 همی ذونم که نالونوم شو و روز

B 43, H 7.

Note the recurring dialectal form  $\text{شو}$  for  $\text{شب}$  (and in 1. 3.  $\text{تب}$  for  $\text{تو}$ ), and the pleonastic  $\text{و}$  in  $\text{بیابونوم}$  -  $\text{بارانوم}$  -  $\text{نالونوم}$ , all of which appear in restored Persian form in B, sc.  $\text{بیابانم}$  -  $\text{دارانم}$  -  $\text{جانم}$  -  $\text{نالانم}$ .

1. 1. Dialectal form  $\text{مو}$  for  $\text{من}$ .

1. 3.  $\text{تب}$  for  $\text{تو}$  -  $\text{میکنم}$  for  $\text{میکرو}$  -  $\text{دارم}$  for  $\text{دبرم}$ .

1. 4.  $\text{ذونم}$  for  $\text{دام}$ ; B has the Persian form.

## 19.

بلايه دل بلايه دل بلايه  
 گنه چشمون کرون دل مبتلايه  
 اگر چشمون نوین روی زيبا  
 چه ذونو دل که خوبون درکجايه

B 17, AK 18, H 37, T 25, MS 18.

In all the other texts the final *z* *z* are omitted. They give here the value of است.

1. 1. T and MS substitute خدايا for the second بلى.

1. 2. Pers. چشمان, which is restored by the other texts. For کرون T has کرد, whilst the other texts have the participle کړن کند would be a better emendation.

1. 3. چرمان = نوین, but B and AK read نندى; چرمان and زنا in AK are errors of the scribe. T and MS read the line 'اگ چشمان نکردى دیده بانى', 'If the eyes did not play the sentinel.'

1. 4. For دودو (in B and AK زوى to balance بلى) read Pers. داند; خوبان = خوبون. T and MS read the line 'چه دانستی دلم خوبان کجائی', 'How wouldst thou know, my heart, where the Beautiful Ones are?'

## 20.

ز دست دیده و دل هر دو مریان  
که هر چه دیده وینه دل کنه یان  
بسازم خنجرى نیشش زیولان  
زم بر دبدبه تا دل گدده آزان

B 36, H 3.

B has the ordinary Persian د instead of ذ at the end of each line.

1. 2. Note the dialectal forms **وینه** for **ببند**, and **کنه** for **کند**. B restores the Persian forms.

1. 3. **سازم** is Persian, where one would have expected the dialectal form **بسوحم**. B for **پولان** has **فولاد**, which is synonymous.

1. 4. B has **کردد**, for the dialectal form **گدده**.

## 21.

دلی دهره که بهودش نمیبو  
 نصیحت می کرم سوزش نمیبو  
 ببادش میدهم نش میبرد باد  
 برآتش می نهم دوزش نمیبو

B 6, AK 7, H 26, T 17, M 2.

In the other texts the undotted **د** invariably takes the place of the **ذ**; **نمیبود** = **نمیبو** ;

1. 1. The other texts (except M) restore the Persian **دارم**.

1. 3. M has **میبره** for **میبرد**, AK has **بیادش** and **باد**, evidently an error of the scribe. **نش** compounded of **نه** and **اش** = **اورا**.

1. 4. M has **آذر** for **آتش**, a synonym.

## 22.

مو آن ردم که نام بی قلندر ✓  
 نه خون دبرم نه مون دبرم نه لنگر  
 چو روز آنه بگردم گرد گیتی  
 چو شو گوده بخشتی واهم سر

B 44, H 6.

1. 1. Dialectal مو for من - بود for بی.
1. 2. نه خون دبرم ز مون - خون 'possessions' or 'domestic belongings.' B has the variant line نه خون دبرم ز مون ; دبرم is the dialectal form of دارم.
1. 3. آبد for آب.
1. 4. شو is dialectal for شب. B restores the Persian گرد for گرده.

## 23.

نعلم همچو مو پروانه نه  
 جهانرا همچو مو دبوانه نه  
 همه مارون و مورون لانه دبرن  
 من سیچاره را و برانه نه

B 8, AK 9, H 28, T 18, MS 9.

The terminals **نه** stand for the Persian نیست; **مو** in ll. 1 and 2 = ما.

1. 1. The other texts read this line **چو من یکسوته دل پروانه نه**. The word **پروانه** is especially applied to the moths that fly about a candle. We have here a reference to the Sufi parable, in which the total annihilation of a moth by being burnt in a candle typifies the self-annihilation of the Initiate and his absorption into God. The line as it reads in the other texts carries out the idea even more fully.

1. 2. The other texts begin **مو** **همچو** **مو** **بِعالَم**, &c.

1. 3. The other texts restore the Persian **موران** and **ماران**, and MS restores **دارند** for the dialectal **دیرن**.

1. 4. The other texts for **بیچاره** return to the **دبوانه** of 1. 2.

## 24.

ز کشت خاطرَم جز غم نروبو  
 ز باغم بجز گل ماتم نروبو  
 ز صحرای دل بیحاصل مو  
 گیاه نا امیدى هم نروبو

B 47, T 1, H 35.

The terminals are the Persian **نروید**. B and T have **نروئى** throughout.

1. 2. For بجز. B has جز, which gives correct scansion.
1. 3. The other texts restore the Persian من for مو.
4. The other texts eliminate the dot of ذ in امیدی.

## 25.

دلی نازک بسان شیشه ام بی  
 اگر آهی کشم اندیشه ام بی  
 سرشکم گریه خونین عجب نیست  
 مو آن دیرم که در خون ریشه ام بی

М 8, Н 55.

1. 3. بود = بوه. M for بیست has the dialectal form نی.
1. 4. من = مو. M restores the Persian دارم.

## 26.

اگر دردم یکی بودی چه بودی  
 وگر غم اندکی بودی چه بودی  
 ببالینم حبیبم یا طبیبم  
 ازین دو گریکی بودی چه بودی

В 42, Н 52.

The texts are identical and pure Persian.

## 27.

بنالیدن دلم مانند نی بی  
 مدامم درد هجرانت ز بی بی  
 مرا سوز و گدازه تا قیامت  
 خدا دُونو قیامت را که کی بی

B 21, AK 22, H 43, M 6, MS 22.

1. 1. B and AK begin the line بند بند دلم, and MS بند بند شوم (= شوم) بی; as before = بود.

1. 3. B, AK and MS read گدازت.

1. 4. M has داده (= داد) for دُونو; B, AK and MS read the line خدا رو تا قیامت تا بکی بی, AK having تو for تا.

## 28.

بهار آمو بهر باغی گلی بی ✓  
 بهر شاخی هزاران بلبل بی  
 بهر مرزی نیارم پا نهادن  
 مباد از مو بترسوته دلی بی

B 50, T 6, H 54.

1. 1. آمو = آید. B and T have آئی. B reads the line بهار آئی بهر لاله دلی بی.

1. 2. The other texts begin بهر لاله.

1. 4. سوخته = سوته; من = مو.

## 29.

مو آن بحرم که در ظرف آمدستم  
 مو آن نقطه که در حرف آمدستم  
 بهر الفی الف قدی بر آیه  
 الف قدّم که د. الف آمدستم

B 24, AK 25, H 22.

- 1 1. B and AK have من for مو here and in l. 2.  
 1. 3 B and AK have برآبد for برآبه the dialectal form.

## 30.

مو أم آن آذرین مرغی که در حال  
 بسوحم عالم ار مرهم زنم بال  
 مصورگر کشته بقشم بدبوا.  
 بسوحم خونه از تائیر تمثال

B 52, T 10, H 11

1 1. مو = من. Huart says that آذرین is an emendation suggested by Mīrzā Ḥabīb Iṣfahānī, whose MS had the word عازرین 'impotent' or 'hopeless,' which makes nonsense in this place. B and T have identically منم for مو أم, در حال for آذرین, and فی الحال ('in a moment') for آذرین.

1. 2 بسوزم = بسوحم. T omits هم, which is unimportant for the sense but not for the metre.

1. 3. کشد = کشه, and B and T have the latter (Persian) form.

1. 4. Persian, بسوزم خانه. B and T read عالم ('the universe') for خانه. B has تائیر for تائیر in *both* editions, which would seem to preclude a mistake of the copyist, but is incomprehensible.

## 31.

اگر دل دلبره دلبر چه نومه  
وگر دلبر دله دل از چه نومه  
دل و دلبر بهم آمیخته دیرم  
نذونم دل کهه دلبر کرومه

B 13, AK 14, MS 14, T 21, H 32.

1. 1. نومه (here and in 1. 2) = دام است. T reads this line اگر دل دلبر و دلبر کدماست, the other texts ending the line کدامی.

1. 2. دل است = دله. T reads وگر دلبر دل و دلبر چه, the other texts having دلرا for دل از and ending نامست; they also have دلی for دله, as is frequent.

1. 3. آمیخته = آمیخته. The other texts for دیرم have بینم = وینم.

1. 4. نذونم = ندانم; کهه = که است; کرومه = کدماست or کدامی, which forms are retained by T, B, AK and MS.

T has **و که** for **کهه**; B, AK and MS begin the line **نروم**. AK has **که خبر** 'what news' for **کهه**.

The meaning of the whole quatrain is very mystic and purposely involved.

## 32.

بروی دلبری کرمائلم  
 مکن منع گرفتار دلم  
 خدارا سارون آهسته میرون  
 که مو وامانده آن قافله ستم

B 51, T 9, H 21

The terminations **ستم** represent the auxiliary **هستم**.

l 2. The **م** in **منع** is the accusative after **مکن**.

l 3 B and T restore the Persian forms **سا بان** and **میران**.

l 4. B restores **من** for **مو**, and has **فالمستم** for **ستم**.

The imagery in this quatrain is obscure, but I take it to mean, 'I lag behind in the race for life, making love, and meanwhile life passes.' Cf. Omar Khayyām, **قافله عمر** 'the Caravan of Life'; and also Mr. E. G. Browne's quotation from Qutbu 'd-Dīn 'Atīqī, at p. 51 of his recent 'Biographies of Persian Poets' (Journ. Roy. Asiatic Soc., Jan. 1901) 'Every moment I fall back from this caravan ;

again and again I turn my face towards the abode of that swaying cypress.'

## 33.

ز دل نقش جمالت در نشی با  
خیال خط و خالت در نشی یا.  
مژه سازم نگرد دبدبه پرچین  
که خون ریزه خیالت در نشی یا.

н 4, м 1.

ll. 1, 2 and 4. Note the dialectal form نشی for نشود.

l. 3. M has کردم for سازم, which is synonymous.

l. 4. ریزه is the dialectal form of ریزد. M begins the line خون آبد, a dialectal form of the equivalent که خونابه

## 34.

ص

کارم همه ناله و خروش است امشب  
نه صبر پدید است و نه هوش است امشب  
دوشم خوش بود ساعتی پنداری  
کفاره خوش دلی دوش است امشب

ms 26.

This quatrain is in pure Persian, and only found in the MS. no. vii.

## 35.

هرارت دل بغارت برده وبشه  
 هزارانت حگر خون کرده وبشه  
 هزاران داغ وبش از ویشم اشمرت  
 هنی نشمرت از اشمرت وبشه .

B 11, AK 12, M 5, T 20, H 39, MS 12.

The terminals *وبشه* = *بیش است*. The terminals of M and T are *وبش*, and of B, AK and MS *بیشی*.

1. 1. M and T for *برده* have the dialectal *برته*; B and AK have *ورنه*; MS between this and T has *ورته و بیشی*. M. Huart has misread the termination in AK, which is very badly written.

1. 2. The same observations apply here.

1. 3. In T the final *ت* is omitted. The various scribes have taken considerable liberties with this line, probably not understanding it; thus M has *سزیم* for *ویشم*, B and AK have *ریش از ویشم* for *ریش از سیم*.

1. 4. M for *هنی* (dialectal form of *هنوز*) has the prefix *همی*. The form *اشمرت*, which is to be found also in M, T, B and AK, does not rhyme. MS is the only text before me which has *اشمرت*, which would rhyme correctly in this quatrain as it stands here.

## 36.

پېښان سنبلاڼ پر تاو مکه  
 خماریڼ نرگسان خوناو مکه  
 ورینی ته که مهر ازما ورینی  
 ورینه روزگار اشتاو مکه

B 7, AK 8, H 31, MS 8.

مکه is the dialectal imperative of کردن.

1. 1. The other texts read تاب for تاو.

1. 2. The others for خواب read خوناو 'full of sleep.'  
 نرگیسان in H is a misprint.

1. 3. ورینی = برینی, which is the dialectal form of  
 ورینی 'thou art bent on,' in distinction from برینی at  
 the end of the line, which is derivable from بردن 'to sever.'  
 MS for ته has خود ('self').

1. 4. اشتاب = اشاو ; برینه = برینه.

## 37.

دلت ای سنگدل برما نسوجه  
 عجب نبوه اگر خارا نسوجه  
 بسوجم تا بسوجونم دلت را  
 در آتش چوب تر تنها نسوجه

B 33, T 7, H 34.

The terminals نسوجه = نسوزد. The terminals in T read نسوجی, and in B نسوتی (from سوخنن).

1. 2. نبود = نبوه. The Persian form is restored in B, which ends بسوتی.

1. 3. بسوزم = بسوجم ; بسوزانم = بسوحونم. B and T have the compromise بسوحانم.

1. 4 For آتش B has آرر, and T has آذر.

## 38.

دلی دیرم ز عشفت گیز ووبزه  
مژه برهم رنم سیلانه خیزه  
دل عاشق مثال چوپ تری  
سری سوره سری خوانانه ربزه

B 15, AK 16, T 23, MS 16, H 29.

AK and MS end 1. 1 دویچی, 1. 2 خیچی, 1. 4 ریچی. The whole quatrain with its variations gives us a good idea of the elasticity of the dialect in which it is written.

1. 1. دیرم = دارم, ووبزه = ببیرد. T reads the line (برزد = ووجه) دلم از دست خوبان گیم ووجه, the poet's heart being broken by the power of Beauties in general. B, AK and MS are the same, but soften دست into عشق.

1. 2. T reads this line 'At one time burns upon the fire, at another crumbles away.' (سوجه = سوزد ; برجه = برزند).

1. 3. بود = بی. B, AK and MS have بسان for مثال, a synonym.

1. 4. T has سوحه and رحه, and the 1297 edition of B has سوحی (like AK), a phonetic error of the scribe. سوحه and سوحی = سوزد from سوختن.

B 45 is a slightly variant repetition of this quatrain —

دلی دیرم رعشقت کیژ وژه  
 &c. رههم زلم خونابه رهژه

## 39.

بی ته نکدم دلم خرم نمونه  
 وگر رزی تو وینم غم نمونه  
 اگر درد دلم قسمت نموین  
 دل بی درد در عالم نمونه

B 18, AK 19, MS 19, H 36.

The terminals نمونه = the Persian نماند; the other texts terminate in نمایی. The occurrence in the quatrain of both forms ته and تو is noteworthy.

1. 2. وینم = بینم.

1. 3. نموین is the dialectal form of نمایند, which is restored by the other texts.

## 40.

مسلسل زلف بر رو رفته دیری  
 گل و سنبل بهم آمیخته دبری  
 پریشان چون کری اون تار زلفون  
 بهر تاری دلی آونته دیری

B 22, AK 23, H 44, MS 23.

The terminals داری = دبری. Note also the dialectal forms of ریخته - آمیخته - آویخته

1. 3. B and AK have زآن for چون, and restore (also MS) اون for آن.

## 41.

خور آئین چهره ات افروخته تری  
 دلم از تیر عشقت دونه تری  
 رچه خال رخت دونی سیاهه  
 هرآن بردبک خور بی سوتنه تری

M 7, H 57.

In this quatrain we have the dialectal forms of افروخته - سوخته - دوخته.

1. 3. دانی = دونی. The terminal است = ه. M restores دانی, and has سیاهن the plural form.

## 42.

نسیمی کز بن آن کاکل آبر  
 مرا خوشتر ز بوی سنبل آبر  
 بشو گیرم خیالش را در آغوش  
 سحر از بسترم بوی گل آبر

B 14, AK 15, H 25, M 3, T 22, MS.

The terminals  $\bar{\text{آ}}\text{بر} = \bar{\text{آ}}\text{د}$ , which is restored in M and AK. B, T and MS have  $\bar{\text{آ}}\text{بی}$  all through.

1. 1. MS for  $\bar{\text{آ}}\text{بر}$  reads  $\bar{\text{ک}}\text{ر درون}$ , giving the sense from among those curls.'

1. 3. M, B, AK, T and MS begin the line  $\bar{\text{چ}}\text{و شو}$ . H notes  $\bar{\text{ه}}\text{ر شو}$  from the Isfahānī MS.  $\bar{\text{شو}}$  is the dialectal form of  $\bar{\text{ش}}\text{ب}$ . The other texts read  $\bar{\text{خ}}\text{یالقا}$ .

## 43.

دو زلفونت کشم تار ربام  
 چه می خواهی از بن حال خرابم  
 تو که بمو سریاری نداری  
 چرا هر نیمه شو  $\bar{\text{آ}}\text{بی بخوابم}$

B 41, H 18, T 5.

1. 1. B and T preserve the Persian زلفات. B has بسو for کشم, which is unsatisfactory. The Rebāb is a two- or three-stringed bow instrument, played like a violoncello, much in use in Persia, which I have described elsewhere ('Violin Making,' London, 1885, p. 27)

1. 3. T has تو که بمو for اگر ما من, and B has با ما for بمو, correcting the metre, which is wrong, as above. Mr. Browne suggests تو گر ما مو. These are clearly allowable emendations.

1. 4. شب نیمه شو (Pers. شب), 'midnight.'

## 44.

نه کت بازده چشمون سرمه سایه  
ته کت بالنده بالا دلربایه  
ته کت مشکینه گیسو در ففانه  
انی واجی که سرگردون چرانه

B 10, AK 11, H 38, MS 11.

In ll. 1, 2 and 3 نه کت = نه کت. The other texts omit the final ۛ ۛ.

1 1 The other texts restore the Persian چشمان. I am not quite satisfied whether سرمه سایه should be rendered 'shadowed with surmeh,' or 'are rubbed with surmeh,' giving to the terminal ۛ the power of است. B has the

reading سائی, the 2nd person singular, which is probably the proper reading.

1. 2. In this line the terminal  $\text{ست} = \text{است}$ .

1. 3. تڦائی in B 1297 and نقائی in B 1308 are errors of the scribes.

1. 4. M. Huart appends the following note:—"This line is nearly incomprehensible. واجی must approximate the Talish واج ('word,' Bérésine, p. 52) . . . . بد واهی signifies 'evil word' (Bérésine, p. 30) . . . But چراه seems to be a 3rd pers. sing. of the aorist; we connect it with چردن 'to wander,' which we have already met bearing this meaning. *Cet hémistiche est rebelle à l'analyse et notre traduction très conjecturale.*" I would rather cling to the primary meaning of چرا, and suggest as a translation, 'O Refuser of Speech, wherefore is thy head averted?' Mr. Browne suggests the rendering, 'Why dost thou ask "Wherefore art thou dizzy?"' making چراه = چرائی.

#### 45.

جو خوش بی مهربانی هر دو سرنی  
 که یلک سر مهربانی درد سرنی  
 اگر مجنون دل شوریده داشت  
 دل لیلی از آن شوریده نرنی

All the texts are identical and, save for the contracted dialectal terminal *بی*, are in pure Persian.

l. 1. Compare the Turkish proverb *محبت ابکی باشند* 'Love must be on both sides.' Mr. Browne tells me that in Persia the word *از* is substituted for *هر*. It is certainly better. B ii. begins the line *چه* for *جو*.

ll. 3 and 4. Leila and Majnūn represent in Persian poetry the archetype of profoundest love.

## 46.

بوره نکشو مقور کن وثافم  
 مهل در محبت روز فرافم  
 بجفت طاق ابروی تو سوگند  
 که مو جفت غم از تو طاقم

B 37, H 12.

The variations between H and B are very considerable in this verse, B as a rule substituting the Persian for the dialectal forms.

l. 1. *بوره* = *بیا*, the imperative of *آمدن*; *شو* = *شب*. B's line reads—

*بیا نکشو برافروزون اطافم*

l. 2. *مهل* neg. imp. of *هشیدن* or *هلیدن* B's line reads

*محل در محنت و درد و فرافم*

l. 3. B's line merely transposes thus:—*طاق محنت*

Note the word-play upon جفت and طاق; طاق also meaning 'single' as opposed to جفت 'a pair.'

1. 4. تب = تو; من = مو. B's line reads—

که هم جفت غم تا از تو طافم

retaining the Persian value of تو.

#### 47.

مگر شیر و پلنکی ایدل ابدل  
 بمو دایم بجنکی ابدل ابدل  
 اگر دسنم فنی خوست وریژم  
 ووسم تاجه رنگی ایدل ابدل

B 1, H 8, AK 1, MS 1.

1. 2. Dialectal form بمو for نما.

1. 3. فنی is the dialectal form of the Persian انادی; بریجم = Persian بررم, MS has the form وریژم.

1. 4. ووسم is the Persian ببینم. B gives the compromise بوینم.

#### 48.

نگارینا دل وجانم ته دبری  
 همه ایدل و نهانم ته دبری  
 ندونم مو که این درد از که درم  
 همی ندونم که درمانم ته دیری

M 9, H 56.

In the terminals توداری = تہ دیری.

1. 2. M for بهانم has the synonym بهنہانم, which is required by the metre, which halts here.

1. 3. M for ندونم مو has the strong Persian form نمندام.

1. 4. دانم = دنوم.

## 49.

اگر آبی بجات وا بوازم  
وگر نآبی زهرانت گدازم  
هراون دردی کہ داری بردلم نہ  
بمیرم با بسوجم یا بسازم

B 34, T 2, H 17.

F. Ruckert cites this verse with certain variants in his 'Grammatik und Rhetorik der Perser' (Gotha, 1874, p 22); but he does not cite his authority, and the Grand-Ducal librarian at Gotha tells me there is no MS. or lithograph of Bābā Ṭāhīr in the library there.

T and B restore the Persian ; for , all through.

1. 1. Ruckert has نواجم.

1. 2. T and Ruckert have بهرانت, Ruckert following grammatically with بساجم ('I will put up with it'), the dialectal form of بسازم.

l. 3. B and Rückert have the Persian هراون for هراون, whilst T substitutes بیا 'come'

l. 4. The forms are much interchanged. T has بسوزم. B has بساجم (which does not rhyme); and so has Rückert, who also has تا for the first یا, and translates 'sterben will ich, mir mag weh oder wohl sein,' which, if supported by authority, is good. Cf. the philosophical axiom—

اگر رضا با تو سازد - تو با قضا بساز

## 50.

الاله کوهسارون هفته بی  
 بنوشه جو کنارون هفته بی  
 منادی می کرم شهر و بشهر  
 وفای گلزارون هفته بی

B 16, AK 17, T 24, H 40, MS 17

In ll. 1, 2, 4 we have the dialectal plural in ون instead of ان; the other texts have the Persian ان; بود = بی.

l. 1. (یک هفته) 'of one week's duration' (Pers. یک هفته). Cf. سالگی 'one year old.' The hamza in الاله in H injures the metre. So also بنوشه in l. 2.

l. 2. T and MS restore the Persian form بنفشه.

l. 3. B and AK have میکرو for کرم; MS restores the Persian شهران بشهران. B has شهر و بشهر probably an omission

of the scribe. Connected with the Arabic *سهر* it might be read 'in every waking moment,' *sed quære*.

l. 4.  $\text{ون} = \text{ون}$

51.

دلم از درد تو دائم غمینه  
 ببالین خشتم و بستر زمینه  
 همین حرم که موته دوست دبرم  
 نه هرکت دوست دارة حالش اننه

B 53, M 4, H 30, T 11.

The terminals *z* represent the Persian

l. 1. *نو* is probably an emendation of the scribe. *ته* is in l. 3, and in T here also. M for *دائم تو* has *هجرانت* ('thine absence'). *ار* for H's *ز* for metre.

l. 2. M reads this line *سر نیم خشت و بالینم زمینه* a paraphrase.

l. 3. Compare *دیرم* in this line with the purer but still dialectal form *دازه* in l. 4. M begins the line with the paraphrase *گناه من که* &c.; B restores the Persian *دارم*. Cf. Othello, 'Think on thy sins.' D. 'They are loves I bear to you.'

l. 4. *کت* = *که ترا*. M for *هرکت* has *هرانکت*, and T and B restore *دازه* to *دارد*.

## 52.

مو آن شمع که اشکم آذرین بی  
 کسی کو سوتۀ دل اشکش نه این بی  
 همه شو سوخم و گریم همه روز  
 ز نه شام چنوں روزم چنیں بی

B 48, T 3, H 53.

l. 1. 1. مو = من ; T and B for آذرین read از زمین, which is unsatisfactory. Cf. the rubā'ī of Hafiz, beginning :—  
 در هجر تو من ز شمع افزون گرم  
 'When thou art absent I weep more than a taper.'

l. 2. 2. کو سوتۀ = که اوسوخته ; T has که for کو, and both the other texts have چنیں for نه این, robbing the line of its interrogative form.

l. 3. 3. شب سوزم = شو سوخم. The other texts restore شب.

l. 4. 4. The other texts have چنیں for چنوں.

## 53.

دینه اشکم زمژگان تر آبو  
 بیتۀ نخل امیدم بی بر آبو  
 بیده در کج تنهائی شو و رو:  
 نشینم تا که عمرم بر سر آبو

B 32, T 8, H 33.

T and B end in آبی the other dialectal form of آند  
 .دیتو = بیند.

1. 1. B reads بموکان.

1. 2. For امیدم T reads حیاتم ('my tree of life')

1. 3. شب = شو. For روز و شب T reads همه عمر  
 'all my life.'

1. 4. For که عمرم T has the synonym حیاتم, as in 1. 2.

## 54.

دلا پوشم ز هجرت جامهٔ نیل  
 کشم بار غمت خون حلاه بر دهل  
 دم از مهرت رنم همچون دم صبح  
 از بن دم تا دم صور سرافیل

B 28, H 10.

This quatrain may have suffered severe emendation, but, as it is, it is free from dialectal forms. Note the pun on مهر ('love' and 'sun') in l. 3. Compare l. 1 with the lines introduced (from Farīdu 'd-Dīn 'Attār) by FitzGerald into his 'Omar Khayyām, 'The seas that mourn in flowing purple, of their Lord forlorn.'

## 55.

مدام دل پر آذر ددہ تری  
 خم عیشم پر از خون جگری  
 بوییت زندگی یام پس از مرگ  
 ترا گر بر سر خاکم گذری

B 31, H 47.

The two texts are identical save for از (B) in l 1. Compare Omar Khayyām, who inverts this sentiment (Calcutta MS. 16, FitzGerald's translation 92):

تا بر سر خاک من رسد مخموری  
 از بوی شراب من شود مست و خراب

## 56.

✓ دردبست اجل که نیست درمان اورا  
 بر شاه و وزیر هست فرمان اورا  
 شاهی که بحکم دوش کرمان میخورد  
 امروز همین خورند کرمان اورا

MS 25.

It will be observed that this quatrain, which has a ring of 'Omar Khayyām rather than of Bābā Ṭāhir, is

in pure Persian, and I have only found it in the MS. no. vii.

ll. 3 and 4 Note the play upon the word کرمān, which means in l. 3 the town of Kirmān, and in l. 4 is the plural of کرم 'a worm.' A precisely similar distich occurs in the first chapter of the Būstān of Sa'dī

طمع کرده بودم که کرمāن خورم  
که ناگه بخوردند کرمāن سرم

I had a desire to conquer Kirmān,  
When suddenly *the worms* devour me.

And Firdawsī also makes use of the same word-play in his account of the Great Worm of Haftawād, from which, according to him, Kirmān derived its name.

## 57.

سیه بخنم که بختم سرنگون بی  
توه روزم که روزم وازگون بی  
شدم خار و خس کوه محبت  
ردست دل که نا رب غرق خون بی

B 40, H 51.

l. 2. توه = تباہ ; روز = روز. B for توه reads سیه as in l. 1.

## 58.

✓ از آنروزی که ما را آفریدی  
 بغیر از معصیت از ما چه دیدی  
 خداوندا بحق هشت و جارت  
 ز مو نکذ، شکر ددی نه ددی

т 14, в 55, п 58.

1. 2. T for *دی* has *چیزی ندیدی*.

1. 3. Literally, 'by the faith of thy Eight and Four,'  
*i.e.* the Twelve Imāms of the Faith.

1. 4. T restores *ما*. The *مو* in this line is the only sign of the dialect, and is probably an emendation of the scribe. The whole quatrain is probably spurious. M. Huart appends a note — 'A proverbial expression. Oriental wisdom teaches that it is sometimes dangerous to have seen an escaped camel'; and cites the apologue of Zadig and the horse of the King of Babylon. He evidently was unacquainted with the Turkish proverb (which has equivalents all over Asia), *اولوم مره دوه در که هر قپوده چوکر*, 'Death is a black camel which kneels at everybody's door.' The quatrain is merely an address to God pleading for a longer life.

## 59.

غم دوران نصیب خان ما بی  
 ز درد ما فراغت کیمیا بی  
 رسه آخر بدرمون درد هر کس  
 دل ما بی که درمونش فنا بی

B 39, H 50.

Identical save that B restores رسد in l. 3, and درمان in ll. 3 and 4, بی as before.

## 60.

بشم واشم ازین عالم بدرشم  
 بشم از چین و ماچین دبردرشم  
 بشم از حاجیان حج پرسم  
 که این دبری بسه یا دبردرشم

B 27, H 14.

The texts agree in this quatrain, and the only dialectal peculiarities are the elimination of the و in شوم all through, and the form بسه in l. 4, in which  $\text{ه} = \text{است}$  (Pers.  $\text{است}$ ), and دیر for دور.

## 61.

نگار تازه خیر مو کجائی  
 بچشمون سرمه ریر مو کجائی  
 نفس بر سینۀ طاهر رسیده  
 دم رفتن عزیز مو کجائی

B 57, H 59.

B restores the Persian ما all through, and in l. 2 چشمان. In l. 3 we find the common idiom for the point of death. Cf. 'Omar Khayyām (Whinfield's text, no. 134) چون جان بلب آمد, and Sa'di (Gulistān, chap. i. 16) بسی جان بلب آمد, *et passim*.

## 62.

نه که نا خواندۀ علم سموات ✓  
 نه که نا بردۀ پی در خرابات  
 نه که سود و زبان خود ندوبی  
 بمردون کی رسی هیهات هیهات

B 54, T 13, H 1.

l. 2. T has ز, for پی, giving the equivalent 'made thy way' for 'set thy foot' (in the tavern).

l. 3. ندونی = the Persian ندانی, in which amended form we find it in B and T.

l. 4. بمردون = (Pers.) بمردان. B and T begin the line بیاران, giving us the more mystic 'friends (of God)' for the vaguer 'mankind.'

The poet wishes to convey that if a man has neither the self-denial of asceticism nor the courage of his contrary convictions, he is not fit to be admitted among men of decided character.



THE  
LAMENT OF BĀBĀ TĀHIR  
PROSE TRANSLATION





PROSE TRANSLATION  
OF THE FOREGOING TEXT.

— ♦ ♦ ♦ —

*Note* — In the following translation I have endeavoured to offer a certain measure of ordinary English expression. Where the precisely literal signification has suffered eclipse, it has been restored in the notes. The notes appended to the foregoing text must also be referred to when characteristic Oriental images occur in this translation.

1.

Happy are they who live in the sight of Thee,<sup>1</sup>  
Who hang upon Thy words,<sup>2</sup> and dwell with Thee,  
Too frail to approach, I see Thee from afar,  
And seek the sight of those that see Thee ever.<sup>3</sup>

2.

Without Thee in the Garden, Lord, may no rose bloom,  
Or, blooming, may none taste its sweet perfume,  
So, should my heart expand when Thou art not nigh,  
'Twere vain! my heart's grief naught could turn to joy.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* who see Thee always

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* who talk with Thee

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* Though I have not strength (a foot) to come and see Thee, I will go and see those who see Thee.

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* If, without Thee, the heart smiles and opens its lips (in laughter), may it never wash its cheek from heart's blood.

## 3.

Happy are they indeed whose Friend is God,  
 Who, giving thanks, say ever, "*He is God*";<sup>1</sup>  
 Happy are they who always are at prayer,  
 Eternal Heaven is their just reward.<sup>2</sup>

## 4.

That phrase, "*They said 'Yes'*" fills me with alarm,  
 I bear more sins than does a tree bear leaves;  
 When, on the last day, "*They-that-read-the-Book*"  
     shall read,  
 I, bearing such a record, will hang my head.

## 5.

Lord! who am I, and of what company?  
 How long shall tears of blood thus blind mine eyes?  
 When other refuge fails I'll turn to Thee,  
 And if Thou failest me, whither shall I go?

<sup>1</sup> "Whose (constant) occupation is the reciting of the Hamd and the Ikhlas," i.e. the Sūratu'l-Fātiha, the first chapter of the Qur'ān, beginning الحمد لله "Thanks be to God," and the Sūratu'l-Ikhlas, the 112th chapter of the Qur'ān, beginning قل هو الله أحد "Say: He is one God"

<sup>2</sup> *Lit* Their market, i.e. the market in which their wares find acceptance

## 6.

Homeless as I am, to whom shall I apply ?  
 A houseless wanderer, whither shall I go ?  
 Turned from all doors, I come at last to Thee,  
 If thy door is denied, where shall I turn ?

## 7.

If Thou killest me miserably—whom fearest Thou ?  
 And if Thou driv'st me forth abject—whom fearest  
     Thou ?  
 Though a half-hearted thing, *I* fear none,  
 Thy heart is the two worlds—whom fearest Thou ?

## 8.

Drunkards and drunk though we be, Thou art our  
     Faith,<sup>1</sup>  
 Unstable, weak though we be, Thou art our Faith,  
 Though we be Muslims, Guebres, Nazarenes,  
 Whate'er the Outward Form,<sup>2</sup> Thou art our Faith.

\*

\*

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<sup>1</sup> Perhaps we should read instead of ایمان "faith," امان  
 "quarter" or "mercy," in which case the lines would end, "(we  
 ask) quarter from Thee"

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* In whatsoever faith (or sect) we be, &c.

## 9.

He who has suffered grief knows well its cry,  
As knows the Assayer<sup>1</sup> when gold is pure ;  
Come then ye Burnt-in-Heart, chaunt we laments,<sup>2</sup>  
For well we know what 'tis to Burn-in-Heart.<sup>3</sup>

## 10.

When o'er the Garden wall the branches hang,  
The garden's keeper suffers ever bitter grief,  
They must be cut back, even to the roots,  
Even though pearls and rubies be their fruit.

## 11.

Briar and thorn beset thy way, O Heart,  
Beyond the Dome of Heaven is thy road ;<sup>4</sup>  
If thou art able, then thy very skin  
Cast off from thee, and lighten thus thy load.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* the Crucible.

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* let us lament together.

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* For he whose heart is burnt knows the condition of the Burnt-in-Heart.

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* Thy passage must be over the Zenith of Heaven

<sup>5</sup> *Lit.* If it comes from thy hand (i.e. if thou canst), cast off thy skin, so that thy load may thus be a little less.

## 12.

Come, O ye Burnt-in-Heart, let us gather round,  
 Let us converse, setting forth our woes,  
 Bring scales, make trial of our weight of woe,  
 The more we burn, the heavier weighs our grief.<sup>1</sup>

## 13.

O Burnt-in-Heart, come ye and mourn with me,  
 Mourn we the flight of that most lovely Rose ;  
 Hie we with the ecstatic Nightingale to the Rose-  
     Garden,  
 And when she ceases mourning,<sup>2</sup> we will mourn.

## 14.

A falcon I ! and, as I chased my prey,  
 An evil-eyed-one's arrow<sup>3</sup> pierced my wing ;  
 Take heed ye Heedless ! wander not the heights,<sup>4</sup>  
 For, him who heedless roams,<sup>5</sup> Fate's arrow strikes.

\*

\*

\*

\*

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* the heavier will we weigh (i.e. the greater will be our honour).

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* And though she mourn not.

<sup>3</sup> This might also mean " A black-eyed beauty's arrow," which is probably correct

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* feed (pasture), not on the heights.

<sup>5</sup> *Lit.* feeds (grazes).

## 15.

My horse said yesterday to me : "There is no doubt  
 "But that your stable is a coign of Heaven ;  
 "Here is not grass nor water, straw nor grain,  
 "'Tis fit for Angels, not for beasts like me !"<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \* \*

## 16.

'Tis Heaven's whim to vex me, and distress,<sup>2</sup>  
 My wounded eyes hold ever briny tears,  
 Each moment soars the smoke of my despair to heaven,  
 My tears and groans fill all the Universe.<sup>3</sup>

## 17.

O Lord ! this heart of mine afflicts me sore,<sup>4</sup>  
 I weep<sup>5</sup> this heart of mine both day and night ;  
 Often I grieve but for my grief ; O Some-one  
 Rid me of this heart that I may be free.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is ascribed to Bābā Tāhir in my MS., but I think it is an importation. It is neither in his style or language

<sup>2</sup> *Lit* 'Tis through the mischief-working of Heaven's Wheel that ..

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* My groaning body and my tears reach even unto Samak (ie the Fish that in the Muḥammadan cosmogony supports the whole world, here meant to symbolize the deepest depths of ocean).

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* O Lord ! so afflicted am I by this heart.

<sup>5</sup> *Lit.* I am in torment through this heart of mine, &c

<sup>6</sup> *Lit.* for I am weary of it. *Vide* also the note on p. 32.

## 18.

By day and night the desert is my home,  
 By day and night mine eyes shed bitter tears,  
 No fever rocks me, I am not in pain,  
 All I know is that day and night I grieve.

## 19.

O wicked, wanton, wastrel heart of man,<sup>1</sup>  
 When the eyes sin the heart must bear the doul<sup>2</sup>:  
 If the eyes never saw a lovely face,  
 How would the heart e'er know where beauties are?

## 20.

Beneath the tyranny of eyes and heart I cry,  
 For, all that the eyes see, the heart stores up:  
 I'll fashion me a pointed sword of steel,  
 Put out mine eyes, and so set free my heart.

## 21.

Mine is a heart that has no health in it,  
 Howe'er I counsel it, it profits not,  
 I fling it to the winds, the winds will none of it,  
 I cast it on the flames,—it does not burn.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* A plague is the heart, a plague, a plague.

<sup>2</sup> *Or*, "The eyes see, and the heart is afflicted (with love)."

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* it does not smoke

## 22.

I am that wastrel called a Kalandar,  
I have no home, no country, and no lair,<sup>1</sup>  
By day I wander aimless o'er the earth,  
And when night falls, my pillow is a stone.

## 23.

What blundering Moth in all the World like me ?  
What madman like me in the Universe ?  
The very Serpents and the Ants have nests,  
But I—poor wretch—no ruin shelters me.

## 24.

The Meadow of my Thought grows naught save grief,  
My Garden bears no flower save that of woe ;  
So arid is the desert of my heart,  
Not even the herbage of despair grows there.

## 25.

My heart is dainty as a drinking cup,  
I fear for it whene'er I heave a sigh ;  
It is not strange my tears are as blood,  
I am a tree whose roots are set in blood.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lat* anchor (i.e. settled abode).

## 26.

If single were my grief, what should I care ?<sup>1</sup>  
 If small my sorrow were, what should I care ?  
 Call to my couch my lover or my leech,  
 If either one were nigh what should I care ?

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*

## 27.

With wailing plaint my heart is like a flute,  
 The grief of losing thee is ever at my heels ;  
 Till the Last Day am I consumed with grief,  
 And when that Day shall be, God only knows.

## 28.

'Tis Spring ! in every garden roses bloom,  
 On every bough a thousand nightingales ;  
 There is no mead where I can set my foot,  
 Pray there be none more Burnt-in-Heart than I.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* what (harm) would it be ?

## 29.

I am the ocean poured into a jug,<sup>1</sup>  
 I am the point essential to the letter ;  
 In every thousand one greater man stands out,<sup>2</sup>  
 I am the greater man of this mine Age !

## 30.

A Phoenix I, whose attributes are such  
 That when I beat my wings, the World takes fire ;  
 And should a Painter limn me on a wall,  
 Mine Image being there would burn the house.

\* \* \* \*

## 31.

If my Sweetheart is my heart, how shall I name her ?  
 And if my heart is my Sweetheart, whence is she named ?  
 The two are so intimately interwoven that  
 I can no longer distinguish one from the other.

<sup>1</sup> I.e. an infinite soul in a finite body Cf. the passage in the Prologue to Book I of the Mathnawi of Jalālu'd-din Rūmī "If thou pourest the ocean into a jug, how much will go into it ? But one day's portion"—

گر برتری بحر را در کوزه  
 چند کسب قسمت یک روز

<sup>2</sup> *Lat* in stature (upright) like an *Alif* (i.e. the Persian letter "a").

## 32.

If the mood takes me to seek my Loved One's face,  
 Restrain me not, my heart is thrall to her;<sup>1</sup>  
 Ah, Camel-man, for God's sake haste not so!  
 For I am a laggard behind the Caravan.

\* \* \* \*

## 33.

The picture of thy Beauty, Love, quits not my heart,  
 The down, the mole, Love, on thy cheek I see alway;<sup>2</sup>  
 I'll knit my lashes close, o'er wrinkled eyes,  
 That, weeping, thine image ne'er can leave me, Love.<sup>3</sup>

## 34.

To-night I can do nought but weep and wail,  
 To-night I am impatient, conscienceless;<sup>4</sup>  
 Last night one hour seemed passing sweet to me,  
 To-night 'twould seem, I pay for last night's joy.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* I am the thrall of my heart.

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* The image of thy down, thy mole, Love, will not depart.

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* That (though) blood (i.e. bitter tears) pour forth, thine image may not go forth.

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* beside myself.

## 35.

More than a thousand hearts hast thou laid waste,  
More than a thousand suffer grief for thee,  
More than a thousand wounds of thine I've counted,  
Yet the uncounted still are more than these.

## 36.

Subdue the glories of thine hyacinthine hair,  
Wipe the tears of blood from thy narcissus-eyes ;  
Why robb'st thou me of the Sun—which is thy love ?  
Day passes quick, bring not the night too soon !<sup>1</sup>

## 37.

O heart of Stone, thou burnest not for me,<sup>2</sup>  
That stone burns not, is not, indeed, so strange ;  
But I will burn till I inflame thy heart,  
For fresh-cut logs are difficult to burn alone.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* The oriental imagery of this verse is hard to render It might be translated :

Do not disorder (or make curly) thine hyacinthine hair,  
Do not dim with blood-stained tears thy drunken narcissus-eyes  
Thou art bent on cutting off thy love from me,  
Time will cut it off—do not hasten on.

<sup>2</sup> *Lit* “O stony-hearted one, thou pitnest me not.”

## 38.

My heart is giddy and distraught for love of thee,  
And tears in torrents flood my beating eyes ;<sup>1</sup>  
How like a new-cut log are lovers' hearts,  
Whilst one end burns, the other bleeds its sap.

## 39.

Without thee my heart has no moment's peace,  
And if I see thy face my grief has fled ;  
If all men had a share in my heart's grief,  
No heart in all the world but would be sad.

## 40.

Thy tangled curls are scattered o'er thy face,  
Mingling the Roses with the Hyacinths ;  
But part asunder those entangled strands,  
On every hair thou'lt find there hangs a heart.

## 41.

O may thy sunny face grow brighter yet,  
May thy love's arrow split my heart in twain ;  
Knowest thou why thy cheek's mole is so black ?  
All things become burnt black close to the sun !

---

*Lit.* If I so much as strike my eyelashes together a torrent arises.

## 42.

The breeze that played amid<sup>1</sup> thy curling locks  
Is sweeter far than hyacinths to me ;  
All night I pressed thy picture on my breast,<sup>2</sup>  
At dawn my bed gave forth a scent of roses.

## 43.

With two strands of thy hair will I string my  
    rebāb,  
In my wretched state what canst thou ask of me ?  
Seeing that thou hast no wish to be my Love,  
Why comest thou each midnight, in my sleep ?

## 44.

O thou whose sweet soft eyes the *surmeh* shades,  
O thou whose slender figure rends my heart,  
O thou whose musky ringlets cluster on thy neck,  
Why passest thou unheeding ?—art thou dumb ?

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* comes from the roots (or 'side') of thy, &c.

<sup>2</sup> *Or*, "All night I clasped thine image (phantom) to my breast."

## 45.

Love to be sweet must be reciprocal,  
Love unrequited maketh sick the heart;  
If Majnūn's heart was desperate for love,  
The heart of Leila was more desperate still.

## 46.

Come and illumine my chamber for one night,  
Keep me not wretched by thine absence from me;<sup>1</sup>  
By the two arcs that are thine eyebrows' curves, I swear  
Since thou 'st forgotten, Grief only shares my bed.

## 47.

Art thou a lion or leopard, O Heart, O Heart.  
That thou warrest ever with me, O Heart, O Heart "  
Fall thou into my hands; I'll spill thy blood,  
To see what colour it is, O Heart, O Heart !

## 48.

My Beautiful ! thou hast my heart and soul,  
Thou hast mine inner and mine outer self;  
I know not why I am so very sad,  
I only know that thou hold'st the remedy.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* Do not leave me in the affliction of the day of separation.

## 49.

Comest thou thyself?<sup>1</sup> I will cover thee with caresses,  
Comest thou not?<sup>2</sup> for thine absence will I sorely  
grieve.<sup>3</sup>

Be thy sorrows<sup>4</sup> what they may, lay them upon my  
heart,

And I will either die of them, or be consumed by them,  
or bear them bravely.

## 50.

Seven days the anemones last upon the heights,  
On river-brink the violets last seven days;  
From town to town will I proclaim this truth,  
“ But seven days can rosy cheeks keep faith ! ”

## 51.

Grieving for thee my heart is ever sad,  
A brick my pillow, and my couch the earth ;  
My only sin is loving thee too well :  
Surely not all thy lovers suffer so ?

---

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* If thou comest, by thy life I will, &c

<sup>2</sup> *Lit.* And if thou comest not.

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* will I melt.

<sup>4</sup> I.e. the pains thou canst inflict.

## 52.

A taper I, whose flame sheds waxen tears,<sup>1</sup>  
 Are not the tears from burning hearts the same?  
 All night I burn, throughout the day I weep,  
 Such days and nights are all on thine account.

## 53.

When thou'rt away mine eyes o'erflow with tears,  
 Barren the Tree of Hope when thou'rt away;  
 Without thee, night and day, in a solitary corner,  
 I sit, till life itself come to an end.

## 54.

O Heart! I mourn in purple for thy flight,  
 I bear my grief as the train-bearer bears the train;  
 As the dawn boasts the rising Sun, boast I thy love,  
 Henceforth till Israfil shall sound his trump.

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* whose tears are of fire. Cf. the verse of Jamāl'ud-dīn Salmān quoted, by Sir Gore Ouseley ("Biographical Notices of Persian Poets," London, 1846) beginning

شمع خود سوخت شب دوش براری

"Last night the taper consumed itself weeping sorrow" (at our separation).

## 55.

Full is my heart with fire and mine eyes with tears,  
 Brim full the vessel of my life with grief ;<sup>1</sup>  
 But dead, I should revive with thy perfume,  
 If haply thou shouldst wander o'er my grave.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*

## 56.

Fate is an ill that no one can avert,  
 It wields its sway alike o'er Kings and Viziers ;  
 The King who yesterday, by his rule, devoured Kerman,  
 Becomes to-day himself the meat of worms.<sup>2</sup>

## 57.

Black is my lot, my fortune 's overturned,<sup>3</sup>  
 Ruined are my fortunes, for my luck is brought low ;<sup>4</sup>  
 A thorn, a thistle I, on the Mountain of Love,  
 For my heart's sake.<sup>5</sup> Drown it in blood, O Lord !

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* with my heart's blood.

<sup>2</sup> Observe the note to the text on page 59

<sup>3</sup> *Lit.* topsy-turvy

<sup>4</sup> *Lit.* overturned

<sup>5</sup> *Lit.* By my heart's doing.

## 58.

Since that First Day when Thou createdst us,  
 What hast Thou seen in us save frowardness?  
 Lord! by the Faith of Thy blest Twelve Imâms  
 Forget Thou seest for us the Camel of Death.

## 59.

The Age's grief is our Soul's portion here,  
 To free our Souls from care needs magic<sup>1</sup> art;  
 To all, at last, comes remedy for grief,  
 Annihilation cures all hearts at last.<sup>2</sup>

## 60.

I go, I depart, I leave this world of ours,  
 I journey beyond the furthest bounds of Chin,<sup>3</sup>  
 And, journeying, ask Pilgrims about the Road,  
 "Is this the End?<sup>4</sup> or must I journey on?"

<sup>1</sup> *Lat.* alchemy.

<sup>2</sup> *Lat.* It is (only) our heart whose (sole) remedy is annihilation

<sup>3</sup> چین و مانچین is supposed to mean "China and Manchuria."

<sup>4</sup> *Lat.* Is this distance enough?

## 61.

My new-born Vision of Beauty, where art thou ?  
 Where art thou with thy *surmeh*-shaded eyes ?  
 The Soul of Ṭāhir struggles to be free,  
 And, at this Supreme Moment, where art thou ?<sup>1</sup>

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*

## 62.

O man who ne'er hast studied Heavenly Lore,  
 Nor set thy foot within the Tavern-doors,  
 Thou knowest not what thou hast escaped or gained ;  
 How shalt thou come among the Elect ? Alas !

<sup>1</sup> *Lit.* Breath (of Life) has come to Ṭāhir's bosom.  
 Just as it is time to depart (die) Where art thou, O  
 my dear one ?

