



Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings

Abolqasem Ferdowsi

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Among the great works of world literature, perhaps one of the least familiar to English readers is the *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings*, the national epic of Persia. This prodigious narrative, composed by the poet Ferdowsi between the years 980 and 1010, tells the story of pre-Islamic Iran, beginning in the mythic time of Creation and continuing forward to the Arab invasion in the seventh century.

As a window on the world, *Shahnameh* belongs in the company of such literary masterpieces as Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the plays of Shakespeare, the epics of Homer— classics whose reach and range bring whole cultures into view. In its pages are unforgettable moments of national triumph and failure, human courage and cruelty, blissful love and bitter grief.

In tracing the roots of Iran, *Shahnameh* initially draws on the depths of legend and then carries its story into historical times, when ancient Persia was swept into an expanding Islamic empire. Now Dick Davis, the greatest modern translator of Persian poetry, has revisited that poem, turning the finest stories of Ferdowsi's original into an elegant combination of prose and verse. For the first time in English, in the most complete form possible, readers can experience *Shahnameh* in the same way that Iranian storytellers have lovingly conveyed it in Persian for the past thousand years.

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Kathleen Dominguez:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the e-book untitled Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

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