

Subject:- PERSIAN

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Course No. Per 204(Core)

Unit-II

Topic- Shaikh Saadi

Online Class Materials

By

Dr. Sk Md Hafijur

Guest Lecturer

Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur

Saadi Shirazi

Works

Bustan and Gulistan

Sa'di's best known works are Bustan (The Orchard) completed in 1257 and Gulistan (The Rose Garden) completed in 1258. Bustan is entirely in verse (epic metre). It consists of stories aptly illustrating the standard virtues recommended to Muslims (justice, liberality, modesty, contentment) and reflections on the behavior of dervishes and their ecstatic practices. Gulistan is mainly in prose and contains stories and personal anecdotes. The text is interspersed with a variety of short poems which contain aphorisms, advice, and humorous reflections, demonstrating Saadi's profound awareness of the absurdity of human existence. The fate of those who depend on the changeable moods of kings is contrasted with the freedom of the dervishes.

O darlings of your fathers, learn the trade because property and riches of the world are not to be relied upon; also silver and gold are an occasion of danger because either a thief may steal them at once or the owner spend them gradually; but a profession is a living fountain and permanent wealth; and although a professional man may lose riches, it does not matter because a profession is itself wealth and wherever you go you will enjoy respect and sit on high places, whereas those who have no trade will glean crumbs and see hardships.

Saadi is also remembered as a panegyrist and lyricist, the author of a number of odes portraying human experience, and also of particular odes such as the lament on the fall of Baghdad after the Mongol invasion in 1258. His lyrics are found in Ghazaliyat (Lyrics) and his odes in Qasa'id (Odes). He is also known for a number of works in Arabic.

BUSTAN

The Bustan which is in verse, has a little more than four hundred couplets but almost all are fluent and eloquent. The reader does not come across any monotonous chapter, rather he is absorbed in the fluency of the writing and its sweet and elegant style. The book contains the virtues of ethics and morals, principle of politics and administration, code of conduct for life tinged with scientific, mystical and divine thought in simple and impressive style. It also reflects the behaviour of “dervishes” and their ecstatic practices. The whole of the first chapter of Bustan is devoted to the duties of Kings and good Government. The Bustan also groups several anecdotes in which Saadi explains the idea of fate and the advantages of “resignation” and “contentment”.