

My heart

By Hafez



Lady that hast my heart within thy hand,
Thou heed'st me not, and if thou turn thine ear
Unto the wise, thou shalt not understand
Behold the fault is thine, our words were clear.
For all the tumult in my drunken brain
Praise God! who trieth not His slave in vain;
Nor this world nor the next shall make me fear!

My weary heart eternal silence keeps —
I know not who has slipped into my heart;
Though I am silent, one within me weeps.
My soul shall rend the painted veil apart.
Where art thou, minstrel! Touch thy saddest strings:
Till clothed in music such as sorrow sings,
My mournful story from thy zither sweeps.

Lo, not at any time I lent mine ear
To hearken to the glories of the earth;
Only thy beauty to mine eyes was dear.
Sleep has forsaken me, and from the birth
Of night till day I weave bright dreams of thee;
Drunk with a hundred nights of revelry,
Where is the tavern that sets forth such cheer!

My heart, sad hermit, stains the cloister floor
With drops of blood, the sweat of anguish dire;
Ah, wash me clean, and o'er my body pour
For in my heart there burns a living flame,
Transpiercing death's impenetrable door.

What instrument through last night's silence rang?
My life into his lay the minstrel wove,
And filled my brain with the sweet song he sang.
It was the proclamation of thy love
That shook the strings of life's most secret lyre,
And still my breast heaves with last night's desire,
For countless echoes from that music sprang.

And ever, since the time that Hafez heard
His lady's voice, as from a rocky hill
Reverberates the softly spoken word,
So echoes of desire his bosom fill.

On friends and enemies

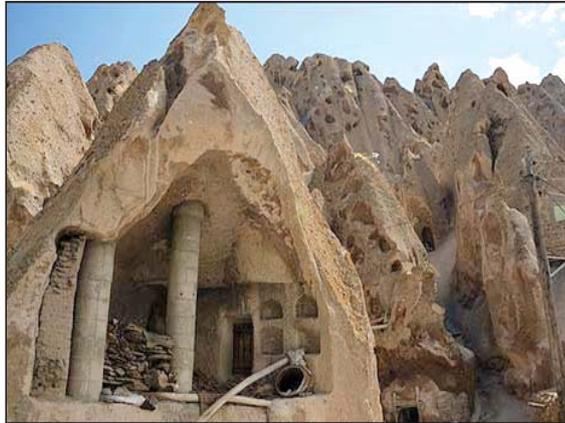
By Sa'di

I am displeas'd with the company of friends
To whom my bad qualities appear to be good;

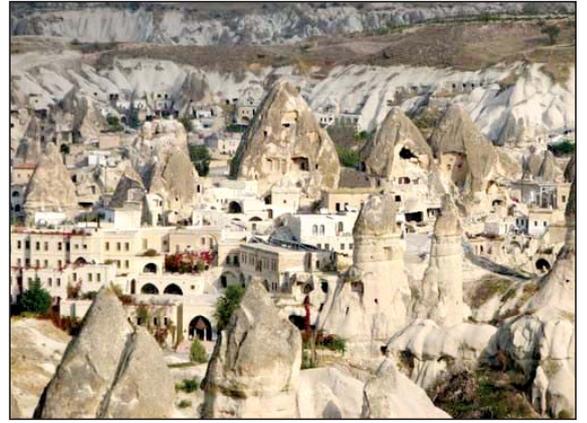
They fancy my faults are virtues and perfection;
My thorns they believe to be rose and jessamine.

Say! Where is the bold and quick enemy
To make me aware of my defects?

Kandovan, an inhabited rocky village



Mehr News Agency



hamshahronline.ir

Kandovan is a renowned stone and tourist village in Iran. The astonishing village is located 50 km south of Tabriz in the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan. It is not only famous for its scenic beauty, but also its uniqueness due to the fact that many of its homes have been made in caves located in cone-shaped rock formation — thus making the complete village look like a gigantic termite colony.

According to 360cities.net, houses carved inside the rocks are so peculiar that you would definitely want to visit them once. Some of these houses are at least 700 years old and still inhabited. Most of the houses are two to four stories high. Kandovan's first inhabitants moved here centuries ago to escape Mongol invasion.

The architectural history of Kandovan dates back to the 13th century CE. The homes of this unique village are not just built on the mountain, they are carved into it. Built out of volcanic ash and debris spewed during an eruption of Sahand Mountain, these rocky structures were compressed and



shaped by natural forces into cone-shaped pillars. They have been eroded by the elements over the years into their current shapes. Local residents say that the homes are not only strong but also unusually energy efficient. These homes require minimal supplemental heat during the long cold season and remain cool in the summer. 'Kando' means a bee's hive, and this is how Kandovan got its name.

Despite the village's isolated nature, tourists from around the world can be found wandering its narrow streets — impressed by this old place. Those not necessarily wanting to stay in caves, don't have to worry about their stay. This rocky village has a five-star rock hotel called 'Laleh Hotel'. Decorated with traditional furniture, it is the third rock hotel in the world. This 40-room hotel is inspired by the traditional architectural style of Kandovan. You will be amazed to have a bed, a TV room, kitchen and even jacuzzi — all inside a rock.

Far away from pollution and noisy metropolitan cities, this stone village helps people relax. It is a quiet place for those who are looking for peace and comfort.

Construction works endanger Golpayegan Jame' Mosque

Iranica Desk

Construction of a modern marketplace in the vicinity of Golpayegan Jame' Mosque in Isfahan province has damaged the precincts of the ancient monument.

The 916-year-old mosque — a Seljuk-era monument — is a good example of Islamic-Iranian architecture. It was founded during the rule of Abu Shuja' Mohammad bin Malikshah, a Seljuk king.

It has also been registered as No. 191 on the National Heritage List. However, the construction operation in the precincts of the mosque has shaken the foundation of the historical building.

Reza Bayat, a lover of Golpayegan heritage, said excavation activities have been conducted at a depth of seven meters and as close as four meters from the mosque. The northern side of the mosque has been dug, he added.

In addition, a Friday Prayer ground, called 'Mosalla', has been established adjacent to Golpayegan Mosque, eclipsing the precincts of the mosque and creating an obstacle to its registration on UNESCO's World Heritage List, he said.

Bayat believes that profiteering, cultural illiteracy, and mismanagement have undermined the city's history and civilization.



Also, Fereydoon Allahyari, the director-general of Isfahan Cultural Heritage Department said following a visit of cultural heritage officials, a directive was issued to suspend the construction activities and demolish the shops.

However, Mehdi Nobakht, the head of Golpayegan Cultural Heritage Department said that the shops, which have remained from the past, would be renovated in keeping with the architectural style of the mosque. They will help meet the mosque's expenses and costs, he added.

Also, Ali Firooz, the head of Golpayegan Islamic City Council said the project is at a safe distance from the mosque and would not damage the historical monument.

Golpayegan is to the north of Isfahan province. It is famous for its beautiful carpets. They tend to be like coarse Arak rugs, but are thick and well-made rugs from good wool. Its handicrafts are carpet-weaving, giveh weaving, wood-carving, and embossed works.

Qom River, the most important river of Golpayegan, runs through the city, irrigating Khomein, Delijan, and Mahallat, before eventually emptying into the Gavkhouni salt swamp near Isfahan.

Golpayegan Dam, which has been constructed on this river, is the first modern dam in Iran. Irrigation in the area is by aqueducts, wells and spring waters.

Its agricultural products include wheat, cotton, barley, grains, sugar, beet and various fruits.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

Shrine of Imamzadeh Ali bin Mohammad Baqer (AS) in Mashhad Ardehal Village near Kashan, Isfahan province.

Kavir National Park, a protected zone

Kavir National Park is a protected ecological zone in northern Iran. The park is located 120 kilometers from Tehran and 100 kilometers off Qom. Siakhkoh (Black Mountain), a large, semi-circular rocky outcrop is roughly in the center, and presents a sanctuary for wild ungulates and carnivores. The park includes flat to undulating desert and steppe landscapes, reminiscent of parts of Africa or Australia.

Kavir National Park, which is located in Semnan province, spreads over an area of 440,000 hectares.

Cultural and historical monuments such as Qasr-e Bahram Caravanserai, Nahr-e Sangi and Sangfarsh are also located there.

This park is among the biosphere reserves of the world due to its unique features. Mainly, there is no human inhabitant in the park.

Kavir National Park is home to important wildlife species such as onager, Asiatic cheetah, leopard, striped hyena, caracal, beech marten, flamingo and even ruddy shelduck.

This protected ecological zone, also known as the Little Africa, has below the minimum rainfall in the country. Therefore, its rare vegetation is adapted to the drought. Namak Lake (Salt Lake) sits outside the park's boundaries. This is actually a salt marsh, and water flows into the lake from the north via Qom River, which also flows through the northern part of Kavir National Park. Qom is one of the very few permanent rivers through the entire desert expanse in Iran.



hamshahronline.ir

IRAN DAILY

promotes your interest.
For placing ads, contact

Tel: 88745309