



# Modern Persian Reader

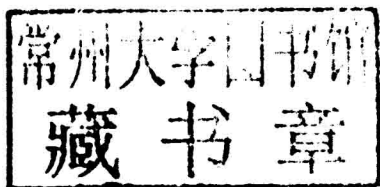
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A. J. Arberry

# MODERN PERSIAN READER

BY

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## PREFACE

This book is designed to provide the beginner in Persian with sufficient reading matter for an intensive course to qualify him for attacking successfully the ordinary newspaper and magazine: it will also give him exercise in formal speechmaking and informal conversation, so that with the aid of some phonetics he will be able to understand what is said over the wireless or at public meetings.

The lack of a suitable reading-book has hitherto been a serious handicap for the teacher and learner alike of this language. Modern methods of language-learning are designed to bring the beginner into contact with correct and idiomatic speech at the earliest possible stage of his studies; and the present volume has been planned to fit in with this practice. With the assistance of a primer of Persian—the grammar of the language, as distinct from its literary form, is simple—the learner should experience little difficulty in making his way through these selections. Notes are provided in order to explain constructions and literary and other references. The vocabulary will enable the reader to dispense with a dictionary; though of course he will need a lexicon in order to read other texts.

In addition to its main object of language-teaching, this volume aims at presenting a fairly general picture of life and thought in modern Persia. The selections have accordingly been chosen with some care, so as to make the picture as complete and as varied as the limited space available will permit. The Persian literary language has passed through a significant development during the last thirty years. Contact with European thought, and the rise of popular journalism, have combined to affect both the vocabulary and the style of the written idiom. This period of evolution is by no means at an end, though by now a sufficient

degree of stabilisation has been reached to enable us to study this phenomenon with some detachment. The passages chosen represent almost exclusively what has been written during the last decade, and therefore illustrate a well-defined stage of the language.

Our picture of Persia is made up of two main elements: politics and culture. These subjects dominate the consciousness and monopolise the conversation of most educated Persians, and it is therefore clearly desirable that strangers going to the country for the first time should have an adequate grounding in both subjects. In these pages the reader will find what Persians themselves have thought and written on many themes regarded by them as of vital importance.

Politically Persia has of late, as throughout her long history, passed through phases of chronic instability and unrest. Taking foreign affairs first, the scene is dominated by an acute feeling of inequality to stand up to the rough and tumble of relations with far more powerful European states, and a sense of having been exploited by certain of those states. Xenophobia is therefore always latent, and often manifests itself, but more with bitterness than violence: for the Persians are a people moderate in action, morbid in thought. The ex-Shah as a part of his general policy of intense nationalism gave powerful encouragement to this barren emotion. The past greatness of Persia sits heavily upon the quickened national consciousness, adding further poignancy to the prevailing sense of impotence, though also acting as a spur to regeneration and resurgence. In internal politics the country appears to suffer from a dearth of trained and responsible statesmen, and those few leaders who courageously carry on the conduct of affairs bear an intolerable burden on their shoulders. Servile compliance with the will and whim of the ruler was for many years the sole path to political advancement, and under such circumstances administration and executive alike inevitably lose the initiative and resilience indispensable to good and settled government. The task of Persia's new rulers is not made any more easy by the enthusiasm with which every minor politician—

and the terms Persian and politician are almost synonymous—welcomes the new-found liberty of speech to indulge in an orgy of destructive criticism.

If religion may be considered a branch of culture, then in this regard also modern Persian culture is in a state of chronic disorder. The former regime in emulation of Kemalist Turkey tried to break the centuries'-old domination of the Mullahs, and to shake off the shackles of an intense conservatism and an all-too-ready tendency towards fatalistic resignation. The religious were unrobed; women were unveiled; processions and pilgrimages were discouraged; shrines were disendowed. Already contact with western thought, and especially western materialism and unbelief, had shaken the fabric of traditional faith: now a tyrant jealous of his powers sought to destroy it entirely. The events of 1941 put an end for the time being to this drift away from religion, and the pendulum has since swung in the contrary direction; but it yet remains to be seen what the final outcome will be in this conflict between spirit and matter.

The reader of these passages will not fail to be arrested by the great and justifiable pride which the Persians take in their literary and artistic heritage. In this pride they are wholly happy, for they know that here they possess an imperishable treasure to whose beauty and value Europe pays ample homage. At the same time modern Persian literature and art labour under the handicap of having inherited a vehicle perfect of its kind, but inadequate to convey the increasingly complex burden of twentieth-century thought. In the new tendencies now apparent in literature European influences are powerfully at work, mainly French, but now to an increasing extent Russian. But the task of recreating the national literature has in reality scarcely begun. Having regard to the age-old genius of the Persian people for clothing subtle and beautiful thought in rich and harmonious language, it is impossible not to speculate with eager anticipation on the future developments of Persian literature. The next twenty years may show the directions this renaissance is to take.

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## VOCABULARY

[Brackets ( ) indicate (1) the imperative-root of a verb, where this is irregular, (2) the singular of a noun, where this takes an Arabic broken plural. "In comp." indicates a verbal form used as the second element in a compound word.]

		son of man	آدميزاد
water	آب	adorning (in comp.)	آرا
prosperity	آبادی	quiet, rest	آرام
reservoir	آبدان	peace	آرامش
blue	آبی	calm, quietness	آرامی
fire	آتش	army	آرتش
gun	آتشبار	desire	آرزو
fire-temple	آتشکده	desirous	آرزومند
flaming	آتشین	to rest	آرمیدن
coming, future	آتیہ	elbow	آرنج
relics, literary works, works	آثار (اثر)	free	آزاد
brick sculpting	آجرتراشی	freely	آزادانه
last	آخر	freedom	آزادی
last, final	آخرین	tormenting, oppressing (in comp.)	آزار
preacher	آخوند	test	آزمایش
manners, ritual	آداب (ادب)	greedy	آزمند
Adam	آدم	easy, simple	آسان
man	آدمی	ease	آسانی



quiet, tranquillity	آسایش	to come	آمدن (آ)
sleeve	آستین	to learn, teach	آموختن (آموز)
sky, heaven	آسمان	study, learning	آموزش
celestial	آسمانی	to mix	آمیختن (آمیز)
water-mill	آسیاب	mixed with (in comp.)	آمیز
to drink	آشامیدن	that	آن
manifest	آشکار	there	آنجا
familiar, friend	آشنا	that which, whatever	آنچه
nest	آشیان	that	آنک
beginning	آغاز	then	آنکه
breast, embrace	آغوش	Antwerp	آنورس
calamity, plague	آفت	then	آنوقت
sun	آفتاب	so much	آنهمه
to create	آفریدن (آفرین)	voice, sound, song	آواز
creation	آفرینش	singer	آوازهخوان
sir, gentleman, honorific	آقا	oh, alas	آوخ
family, house	آل	to bring, carry	آوردن (آر)
instruments, machines	آلات (آلت)	to hang up	آویختن (آویز)
instrument	آلت	iron	آهن
Germany, German	آلمان	song	آهنگ
German	آلمانی	interrogative particle	آیا
to dirty, defile	آلودن (آلا)	future	آینده
target	آماج	custom, rite, law	آئین
preparedness	آمادگی	mirror	آئینه
prepared, available	آماده	beginning	ابتداء
hopes	آمال (امل)	calamity	ابتلاء

ever, (with neg.) never	ابدأ	caution, abstention	احتراز
invention, creation	ابداع	respect	احترام
cloud	ابر	pomp	احتشام
manifesting	ابراز	hoarding	احتكار
importunity	ابرام	possibility	احتمال
Abraham	ابراهيم	need	احتياج
silk	ابریشم	precaution	احتياط
ewer	ابریق	feeling, perception	احساس
tools	ابزار	reckoning	احصاء
perpetuation	ابقاء	fool	احمق
announcement, informing	ابلاغ	states, conditions (حال)	احوال
fool	ابله	revival	احياء
sons	ابناء (ابن)	star	اختر
buildings	ابنيه (بناء)	invention	اختراع
verses	ايات (بيت)	brevity, succinctness	اختصار
agreement, event	اتفاق	speciality	اختصاص
trace, consequence, relic	اثر	mixture	اختلاط
permission	اجازه	variation, variance	اختلاف
gathering	اجتماع	choice, disposal	اختيار
social	اجتماعی	sincerity	اخلاص
effort, judgment	اجتهاد	morals, character	اخلاق
operating	اجراء	moral	اخلاقی
parts	اجزاء (جزء)	moral values	اخلاقیات
summary	اجمال	recently	اخيراً
kinds, sexes	اجناس (جنس)	performance, discharge	اداء
fair sex, ladies	اجناس لطیفه		

administration, department	اداره	Europe	اروپا
culture	ادب	clever, learned	اریب
men of letters	ادباء (ادیب)	from, than	از
literary	ادبی	serpent	اژد
literature	ادبیات	foundation	اساس
perception	ادراك	fundamentally	اساساً
claim	ادعاء	fundamental	اساسی
periods	ادوار (دور)	horse	اسب
scholar	ادیب	means, causes	اسباب (سبب)
passion, wish, will	ارادت، اراده	master	استاد
partisan	ارادتمند		استادن = ایستادن
four	اربعه	mastery, skill	استادی
connection	ارتباط	stay	استاژ
committing	ارتکاب	tyranny	استبداد
reference	ارجاع	gold brocade	استبرق
valuable	ارجمند	exception	استثناء
value	ارز	bone	استخوان
cheap	ارزان	skeleton	استخوان بندی
bestowing	ارزانی	request	استدعاء
judas-tree	ارغوان	ease, rest	استراحت
crimson, purple	ارغوانی	recovery	استرداد
speckled	ارقم	means, ability	استطاعت
pillars	ارکان (رکن)	qualification	استعداد
present	ارمغان	abdication	استعفاء
spirits	ارواح (روح)	use	استعمال
		use, profit	استفاده

independence	استقلال	things	اشياء (شیء)
succour	استمداد	technical language	اصطلاح
transcription	استنساخ	original	اصل
firm	استوار	at all	اصلاً
Isaac	اسحق	reform	اصلاح
secrets	اسرار (سر)	original	اصلی
banknote	اسکناس	principles	اصول (اصل)
Islam	اسلام	genuine	اصیل
armament-making	اسلحه سازی	addition	اضافه
model	اسلوب	additional	اضافی
name	اسم	confusion	اضطراب
names	اسماء (اسم)	of necessity	اضطراً
Ishmael	اسمعیل	room	اطاق
prisoner	اسیر	sides, parts, around	اطراف (طرف)
reference	اشاره	children	اطفال (طفل)
error	اشتباه	notice, knowledge	اطلاع
camel	اشتر	silk	اطلس
fame	اشتہار	assurance	اطمینان
ardour, anxiety	اشتیاق	showing, declaration,	اظہار
trees	اشجار (شجر)	credit, pretence, reputa- tion	
persons	اشخاص (شخص)	belief	اعتقاد
nobles	اشراف (شریف)	attention	اعتناء
poems	اشعار (شعر)	ages	اعصار (عصر)
occupation	اشغال	members	اعضاء (عضو)
difficulty	اشکال	greater, greatest	اعظم

descendants	اعقاب (عقب)	requirement	اقتضاء
notification	اعلام	measure, effort, advance	اقدام
Majesty	اعلیٰ حضرت	confession	اقرار
more general, alike	اعم	equals	اقران (قرین)
depths	اعماق (عمق)	less	اقل
deeds	اعمال (عمل)	clime, region	اقلیم
nobles	اعیان (عین)	peoples	اقوام (قوم)
more	اغلب	greater	اکبر
strangers	اغیار (غیر)	satisfaction, contentment	اکتفاء
to fall, happen, cease to have	افتادن	most	اکثر
opening	افتتاح	majority	اکثریت
pride, boasting	افتخار	borders	اکتاف (کنف)
individuals	افراد (فرد)	now	اکنون
excess, exaggeration	افراط	if	اگر
Africa	افریقا	although	اگرچه
increasing (in comp.)	افزاء، افزون	otherwise	الّا
tale, legend	افسانه	of course	البته
romancer	افسانه نویس	attention	التفات
romantic	افسانه و ش	supplementary	الحاقی
scattering	افشائی	alif, a	الف
acts	افعال (فعل)	words	الفاظ (لفظ)
thoughts	افکار (فکر)	God	الله
to throw, drop	افکندن	inspiration	الهام
good fortune	اقبال	divine	الهی
economic	اقتصادی	Elijah	الیاس

but, now	اما	hopeful	امیدوار
sign	امارت	men	انام
Imam	امام	to heap up	انباشتن (انبار)
Imamate	امامت	selection	انتخاب
honesty	امانت	interview	انترویو
emperor	امپراتور	ascription	انتساب
people, nation	امت	publication, circulation	انتشار
proverbs	امثال (مثل)	expectation, waiting	انتظار
peers, likes	امثال (مثیل)	criticism	انتقاد
order, affair	امر	critical	انتقادی
princes	امراء (امیر)	to throw, cast	انداختن (انداز)
to-day	امروز	throwing (in comp.)	انداز
nowadays	امروزه	amount, extent	اندازه
America	امریکا	counsel	اندرز
American	امریکائی	little	اندک
this year	امسال	to hoard, acquire	اندوختن (اندوز)
to-night	امشب	grief	اندوه، انده
signature	امضاء	thought	اندیشه
bowels	امعاء (معاء)	man	انسان
possibility	امکان	familiarity	انس
smooth	املس	composition	انشاء
peoples	امم (امت)	justice	انصاف
waves	امواج (موج)	justly, indeed	انصافاً
affairs	امور (امر)	departure	انصراف
hope	امید	making to speak	انطاق
		detachment	انقطاع

denial	انکار	epitome, brevity	ایجاز
rough draft	انگاره	delivery	ایراد
finger	انگشت	Iran, Persia	ایران
England, English	انگلیس	Iranian, Persian	ایرانی
English	انگلیسی	Persianism	ایرانیت
to rouse	انگیختن (انگیز)	to stand	ایستادن
varieties	انواع (نوع)	station	ایستگاه
he, she, it	او	they	ایشان
latter days	اواخر (آخر)	fulfilment	ایفاء
optimist	اوپتی میست	would to God!	ایکاش
alas	اوخیش	faith	ایمان
conditions	اوضاع (وضع)	secure	ایمن
times	اوقات (وقت)	this	این
first	اول	here	اینجا
in the first place	اولاً	behold, now	اینک
first	اولی، اولین	verandah, balcony	ایوان
saints	اولیاء (ولی)	Job	ایوب
groundless fears	اوهام (وهم)		
population	اهالی (اهل)		
people	اهل		
importance	اهمیت		
drinking-cup	ایاغ		
days	ایام (یوم)		
necessitating	ایجاب		
causing	ایجاد		
			ب
		by, with, at (insep. prep.)	ب
		with	با
		chapter, account	باب
		on account of	بابت
		West	باختر
		to play, gamble	باختن (باز)

wind	باد	relatively	بالنسبه
wine	باده	balloon	بالون
time, burden, fruit	بار	to take pride, boast	بالیدن
regard	باره	pillow	بالین
well then	باری	roof	بام
to rain	باریدن	bank	بانک
subtle	باریک‌نین	it is necessary	باید
again, still, back	باز	to be necessary (بای*)	بایستن
bazaar, market	بازار	floral design	بته
inspector	بازرس	child, infant	بچه
commercial	بازرگانی	enquiry, research	بحث
playing, acting	بازی	luck	بخت
ancient	باستان	giving (in comp.)	بخش
	باستانی	to give	بخشیدن
inward, within	باطن	in particular	بخصوصه
garden	باغ	miserliness	بخل
gardener	باغبان	bad, evil	بد
remaining, rest	باقی	evil-minded	بد اندیش
remaining	باقیمانده	unfortunately	بدبختانه
wing	بال	misfortune	بدبختی
up, upwards, above	بالا	irreligion	بد دینی
finally	بالآخره	evil-doing	بدکاری
voluntarily	بالاراده	suspicious	بدگمان
Baltic	بالتیک	body	بدن
naturally	بالطبع	bodily	بدنی
		beginning	بدو



to begin with, originally	بدوآ	together	برهم
wickedness	بدی	innocent	بری
elegant	بدیع	Britain	بریتانیا
substitute	بدیل	great	بزرگ
self-evident	بدیهی	mighty	بزرگوار
on, over, beside, memory	بر	greatness, old age	بزرگی
equal, opposite, level with	برابر	feast-making	بزم سازی
brother	برادر	enough, sufficient	بس
for, because of	برای	many	بسا
notable, salient	برجسته	to bind, tie, close	بستن (بند)
enjoying	برخوردار	much, many	بسیار
to come up against	برخوردن	man	بشر
some, a few	برخی	human	بشری
to raise, remove, take	برداشتن	mankind	بشریت
to carry, bear	بردن	plate, dish	بشقاب
investigation	بررسی	then	بعد
farmer	برزگار	afterwards	بعدها
snow	برف	some	بعضی
blessings	برکات	hatred	بغض
leaf	برگ	survival, continuance	بقاء
programme	برنامه	greengrocer	بقال
showing	بروز	bundle	بقچه
strong	برومند	remainder	بقیه
	برون = بیرون	virgin	بکر
lamb	بره	without	بلا
proof	برهان		