

Subject:- PERSIAN

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Course No. Per 204(Core)

Unit-II

Topic- Shaikh Saadi

Online Class Materials

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Saadi Shirazi

Saadi Shirazi better known by his pen name Saadi also known as Sadi of Shiraz, was a major Persian poet and prose writer of the medieval period. He is recognized for the quality of his writings and for the depth of his social and moral thoughts. Saadi is widely recognized as one of the greatest poets of the classical literary tradition, earning him the nickname "The Master of Speech" or "The Wordsmith" (استاد سخن ostâd-e soxan) or simply "Master" (استاد ostâd) among Persian scholars. He has been quoted in the Western traditions as well. *Bustan* has been ranked as one of the 100 greatest books of all time by The Guardian.

Biography

Saadi was born sometime between 1213 and 1219 in Shiraz, Iran. In the *Golestan*, composed in 1258, he says in lines evidently addressed to himself, "O you who have lived fifty years and are still asleep"; another piece of evidence is that in one of his qasida poems he writes that he left home for foreign lands when the Mongols came to his homeland Fars, an event which occurred in 1225. Saadi was a Sunni Muslim. According to Annemarie Schimmel the tendency of Shia to associate with the Sunni poet became the norm after Twelver Shiaism became the state religion of the Safavid Empire.

Saadi Shirazi whose family were from religious scholars, missed his father when he was a child. Then he was under the guardianship of his maternal grandmother. He narrates memories of going out with his father as a child during festivities.

After leaving Shiraz he enrolled at the Nizamiyya University in Baghdad. The Shaikh stayed at Baghdad for about 30 years where he studied Islamic sciences, law, governance, history, Persian literature, and Islamic theology; it appears that he had a scholarship to study there. In the *Gulistan*, he tells us that he studied under the scholar and spiritual guide Sheikh Shahbuddin Shurawardi and Abu'l-Faraj ibn al-Jawzi.