



BĪŽAN-NAMA

BĪŽAN-NAMA, an epic poem of ca. 1,900 lines relating the adventures of the legendary hero Bīžan son of Gīv. Two closely related manuscripts are known: Brit. Mus. Suppl. no. 199, 18th century, and Ethé, Bodleian Cat. no. 1979, undated. The manuscripts are anonymous, but on the basis of a statement in the last line of the poem Šafā has concluded (p. 317) that the author of *Bīžan-nāma* is ‘Amīd Abu’l-‘Alā’ ‘Aṭā’ b. Ya‘qūb Kāteb Rāzī, thought to be the author of *Borzū-nāma*. Šafā noted (pp. 316-17) that a large number of the verses of *Bīžan-nāma* were taken from the story of Bīžan and Manīža in Ferdowsī’s *Šāh-nāma*. Matīnī, after closely comparing the two manuscripts with Ferdowsī’s text, believes that *Bīžan-nāma* is nothing more than a plagiarism of Ferdowsī’s story with some verses added by the author and some of Ferdowsī’s omitted.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

J. Matīnī, “Dar Bāra-ye Bīžan-nāma,” *Āyanda* 7, 1360 Š./1981, pp. 32-37.

Ḍ. Šafā, *Hamāsa-sarā’ī dar Īrān*, Tehran, 1333 Š./1954.