



## DĀNEŠ, ḤOSAYN

**DĀNEŠ, ḤOSAYN** (دانهش هوساین)(b. Istanbul 1286/1870, d. Ankara 1322 Š./1943), a leading Turco-Persian poet, journalist, and scholar.

Dāneš, the son of Moḥammad-Hāšem Ešfahānī, a Persian merchant who had settled in Turkey in about 1850, learned Persian at home while attending a Turkish elementary school; he then attended a French school for two years, followed by several years in a Persian school, the Dabestān-e Īrānīān, founded in 1301/1884. His languages included Turkish, French, English, and Arabic. Dāneš subsequently taught at his Persian school, where he was associated with Mīrzā Mahdī Tabrīzī, editor of the Persian newspaper *Aktar* (q.v.); Āqā Khan Kermānī, a writer and poet; and the writer, poet, and scholar Mīrzā Ḥabīb Ešfahānī (qq.v.). His first book was a geography, *Joḡrāfiā-ye Īrān*, published in 1312/1894. In the same year he began to write for the Turkish newspaper *Eqdām* and to contribute poetry to the Turkish weekly *Tarwat fonūn*. In 1313/1895 he was appointed tutor to the Ottoman princes Loṭf-Allāh and Šabāḥ-al-Dīn, a post he held for six years. During that period he published *Navāy-e šarīr*, a translation of selected works by Alphonse de Lamartine into Turkish. He traveled extensively with the princes in Europe and Egypt. In 1319/1901, after leaving their service, he became a government translator, taught Persian in the Maktab-e solṭānī, and was professor of Persian literature at the Dār al-fonūn (polytechnic college) in Istanbul. In 1328/1910 he declined an offer to become deputy from Tabrīz to the Persian Majles.

Dāneš wrote on literary, political, and social issues for many Persian newspapers. His editorials in *Šams* included sharp criticism of Persian



institutions, society, and customs but were always constructive and educational in tone. He also wrote literary articles in *Kāvar* and particularly *Sorūš*, edited by ‘Alī-Akbar Dehḡodā (q.v.). In addition, he contributed to *Ḥabl al-matīn* in Bombay. His correspondence with E. G. Browne, who called him “a notable man of letters both in Persian and Turkish” (*Lit. Hist. Persia* IV, p. viii), extended over twenty-five years and reveals him as an outstanding personality in the Turco-Persian reform movement and in Turco-Persian belles lettres and scholarship.

Dāneš’s other published works include *Sarāmadān-e soḡan* (1327/1909); *Ta’līm-e lesān-e fārsī*, a Persian-language textbook in four volumes, commissioned by the Ottoman office of education (1331/1913); *Hadīya-ye sāl* (1330/1912); *Ḳarābahā-ye madāyen*, his finest literary accomplishment (1330/1912); *Zardošt-nāma* (1918); a Turkish translation of ‘Omar Ḳayyām’s poetry (1340/1922), which must rank as his most important literary contribution; *Fransızca-türkçe hukuki ve medīni lūgat. Dictionnaire juridique et civique français-turc* (1934); and a *dīvān* of poetry in Turkish.

After the founding of Tehran University in 1313 Š./1934 Danes accepted the chair of Persian and Turkish literature, but, before he could take up the post, Reżā Shah (1304-20 Š./1925-41) visited Turkey and urged him to serve in the Persian embassy in Ankara. He was still working as press attaché when he died, without ever having visited Persia. He is buried in Üsküdar across the Bosphorus from Istanbul.

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(Peter J. Chelkowski)