



DĀNEŠKADA

DĀNEŠKADA, a monthly literary journal published from Tawr 1297/April 1918 to Tawr 1298/April 1919 in Tehran by the distinguished poet, literary critic, and scholar **Moḥammad-Taqī Malek-al-Šo‘arā’ Bahār**, considered the leading Persian literary figure of his time. It was named for a literary society founded by Bahār a year earlier, which included such leading Persian literati as Ġolām-Rezā Rašid Yāsemi, ‘Ali-Asḡar Heḡmat, ‘Abbas Eqbāl, and Sa‘id Nafisi; these men contributed most of the articles, poems, and translations published in *Dāneškada*.

Dāneškada was the second literary periodical established in Persia, after *Bahār*, which had been published by Mirzā Yusof Khan E‘tešām-al-Molk in 1328-29/1910-11. Because of the distinction of contributors, particularly Bahār himself, *Dāneškada* attracted considerable attention and exerted a strong influence on the literary development of the period. Nevertheless, it did not meet the expectations of those who were committed to bringing about fundamental reforms in literature; Taqī Raf‘at, a leader in this reform movement, sharply criticized *Dāneškada* in the paper *Tajaddod*.

In the lead article of the first issue, entitled *Marām-e mā* (Our goal), Bahār defined the objectives of *Dāneškada*: to create and encourage formal, as well as thematic, innovations in literature in order to reflect contemporary life, but without breaking completely from traditional norms established by the great masters of the past. The editor also pledged to adopt in Persian prose useful elements from the works of Western authors. Like its predecessor *Bahār*, *Dāneškada* included translations of works by Johann Friedrich Schiller,



Alexandre Dumas, Jean de La Fontaine, and other European writers; a fiction serial entitled *Salṭanat* (Kingship), attributed to Dumas and translated by Ġolām-Rezā Eqbāl-al-Solṭān Baḳtiāri, appeared throughout the run of the journal. No such title is known among the works of either the elder or the younger Dumas, however.

Moḥammad Moḥiṭ-Ṭabāṭabā'i (pp. 240-241) has reported that *Dāneškada* received financial support from the government; that, while Bahār was editor of the semiofficial newspaper *Irān*, he took advantage of the facilities to print *Dāneškada*; and that *Dāneškada* ceased publication only when he was dismissed from his position at *Irān*. There is no evidence, however, that *Dāneškada* ever received financial support from the government or anyone else, even though Bahār did issue it from his office at *Irān*. In fact he complained in one of his poems about the financial losses he had sustained in publishing *Dāneškada* (Moširi, p. 190). Nor is there any evidence for Moḥiṭ-Ṭabāṭabā'i's claim (p. 168) that the purpose of establishing *Dāneškada* was to draw the younger generation away from *Kāva*, a Persian-language periodical published in Berlin. During the period when *Dāneškada* was in circulation *Kāva* was a pro-German political magazine; it became a literary journal only on 22 January 1920, nine months after *Dāneškada* had ceased publication.

Dāneškada had a print run of 500 copies. Its unassuming cover bore the title written in *nast'liq* script style and details of publication. Each issue contained 54-66 single-column pages measuring 14 x 20 cm. It was printed at the Tehran publishing house. The cost of an annual subscription was 30 *qerāns*, and each issue sold for 2 *qerāns*. Complete sets of the journal can be found in most Persian libraries and in the libraries of the University of Cambridge in England and Harvard and Princeton Universities in the United States.

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