



## FOQQĀ'

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**FOQQĀ'**, an effervescent drink preserved in heavy and usually rounded clay vessels (FIGURE 1). The beverage was kept cool by placing ice around the container. A reference to *fūgān* in *Loġat-e fors* (ed. Eqbāl, p. 390) has led some lexicographers, including Dehḵodā and Moʿīn, to regard the word *foqqā'*, which is used both in Arabic and Persian, as of Persian origin. However, it is more likely that *foqqā'* is not a Persian loan-word and is related to *foqqā'a* in the sense of bubbles that rise upon water, as suggested by Fīrūzābādī and other Arabic lexicographers (Şādeqī, p. 40; de Sacy, 1826, p. 150 ).

Early dictionaries (Kālīl, p. 176) describe *foqqā'* as a kind of barley wine or beer but the semantic range later expanded to include juices from dried raisins, fruits, honey, and other ingredients. Because the liquid was not allowed to ferment and become intoxicating, a distinction was often drawn between *foqqā'* as non-alcoholic and *nabīd*, which was fermented and could therefore be intoxicating. However, the borderline between the two was not clearly drawn and the available sources sometimes contradict each other. On the whole the sources suggest that Shi'ites, unlike Sunnis regarded its drinking as unlawful (*Baḥr al-fawā'ed*, p. 205; Ḥosaynī, p. 40; Ṭūsī, pp. 253-66).

Both Persian and Arabic literature abound with references to *foqqā'*, its container, *kūza-ye foqqā'*, and its vendor, *foqqā'ī*, and a range of metaphors and expressions derived from them (a list of some of the most important citations is given in the bibliography). For example, a fat or protruding 'beer belly' is compared to the spherical shape of the *kūza-ye foqqā'* (Qomī, p. 49). One particular compound, "*foqqā' gošūdan*," has been the subject of a long and



detailed study in which the author describes how the expression had been used as a metaphor to convey an outpouring of poetic creativity (Pūrjawādī).

It is however, in relation to archaeology that the most significant contributions have been made to this topic in recent years. In a pioneering study, 'Abd-Allāh Qūčānī (1987-8; later expanded and published in English, s.v. Ghouchani and Adle) has demonstrated, with a wealth of references from Persian and Arabic sources, that the sphero-conical vessels which had been found by archaeologists in large numbers in a wide area, stretching from Egypt into Persia and Central Asia, were in fact mostly and primarily containers of *foqqā'* although some may have been used for other purposes.

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