



## HAREM

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**HAREM** (Ar. and Pers. lw. *ḥaram* “sanctuary,” from *ḥarim*, lit. “something forbidden”), wives and other female associates in former aristocratic families and the secluded quarter of a house reserved for them. The most frequently used Persian synonyms are *šabestān*, *moškōy* and *andarun* (q.v.). In Classical New Persian *kāna-ye zanān* “house of the women” was also used (Kaykāvus b. Eskandar, p. 131), but this was replaced by the compound *sarā-ye ḥaram* “the harem quarter” (Nezām-al-Molk, p. 242), which came to prevail in its inverted form, *ḥaram-sarāy*. The Ottomans and the Safavids also used the shortened form *sarāy* “palace,” which more correctly translated the Aramaic *BYT* and Arabic *bayt*, “house.”

i. *In Ancient Iran.*

ii. *In the Qajar Period.*