



KHADIV-JAM, HOSEYN

KHADIV-JAM, Seyyed **HOSEYN** (Seyyed Ḥoseyn Kādiv-Jam, b. 1927, Mashad; d. 17 October 1986, Tehran), Iranian translator and scholar of Persian and Arabic. His major publications range from translation of contemporary Arabic scholarship on Islamic philosophy to the critical edition of a number of major works in the fields of medieval philosophy and pre-modern history of Iran.

Born into an underprivileged family originally from Aškeḍar in Yazd, Khadiv-Jam dropped out of school at the end of his elementary studies. During his teenage years, he spent time as an apprentice carpenter in Mashad. Early in his twenties, Khadiv-Jam earned a high school diploma through self-study and in 1959 finished his B.A. studies in Persian language and literature at the University of Mashad. Before long, he embarked on a short stint of teaching in local high schools (Afšār, p. 603-604; Soltāni, p. 44; Yusefi, p. 32). While studying at the university, Khadiv-Jam frequented the literary meetings held at Maḥmud Farroḳ's (1896-1981) house in Mashad. In 1963, he is reported to have collaborated with Farroḳ toward the publication of Majd-e Kẖāfi's (d. after 1338) *Rowzeh-ye kold*, an imitation of Sa'di's *Golestān* (Afšār, p. 607).

In 1962, the Ministry of Education arranged for Khadiv-Jam's transfer to [Tehran](#) as an associate scholar on the payroll of the [Bonyād-e Farhang-e Iran](#). Khadiv-Jam had been recruited to work as a librarian at the National Library of Iran (Ketāb-ḵaneh-ye melli) while doing research at the Bonyād under the supervision of [Parviz Natel Khanlari](#) (Afšār, pp. 603-4). During his time in Tehran, Khadiv-Jam was a regular visitor to the offices of various literary magazines including *Soḵan*, *Yaḡmā*, *Rāhnamā-ye Ketāb*, and *Vaḥid*, where he



met regularly prominent writers and scholars such as [Ali Dashti](#), Mojtabā Minovi (1903-1977), Moḥammad Moḥiṭ Ṭabāṭabā'i (1902-1991), Aḥmad Ārām (1904-1998), Ḥabīb Yaḡmā'i (1901-1984), and Ja'far Šahidi (1918-2005). In 1965, Khadiv-Jam collaborated with Minovi in the publication of a festschrift on the occasion of the 70th birthday of his mentor, Maḥmud Farroḡ (Afšar, p. 607). Khadiv-Jam was a close friend of [Jalal Al-e Ahmad](#). Al-e Ahmad was an admirer of Khadiv-Jam's Persian translation of a book by contemporary Lebanese writer 'Omar Farrukh (1906-1987) on the Arab freethinker Abu'l-'Ala' Aḥamd b. 'Abd-Allah al-Ma'arri (d. 1058). During the first half of 1969, Al-e Ahmad and Khadiv-Jam were collaborating on the publication of the first part of a jargon-free, basic Persian translation of the Qur'an, but Al-e Ahmad's sudden death on 9 September 1969 halted the project (Khadiv-Jam 1984, p. 38).

It was after his arrival in Tehran that Khadiv-Jam was admitted to the graduate program at St. Joseph University in Beirut. In 1965, he completed his studies in Lebanon, graduating with a doctorat des lettres degree. Completed under the supervision of Professor 'Afif 'Osseiran, an established scholar of Persian, his doctoral thesis deals with the life and work of the Central Asian scholar and scribe Ša'yā b. Fariḡun (fl. 900-950), the author of the *Jawāme' al-'olum*. This latter work is a compendium of classified synoptic notes delineating the scope and subject of the major branches of knowledge among Ša'yā b. Fariḡun's contemporaries (A'lam, p. 105). Khadiv-Jam published a revised version of his thesis in 1971 in Iran.

The 1960s and early 1970s were the prime of Khadiv-Jam's scholarly career. During the years spanning between 1963 and 1974, he published more than fifteen books, almost all of them being either translations from Arabic or critical editions of medieval Persian and Arabic texts. The most important among the texts edited by Khadiv-Jam during this period are one of the earliest Persian translations of [Ġazālī's](#) *Eḡya' 'olum-al-din* by Mo'ayyad-al-din Moḥammad Ḳvārazmi (d. after 1223) in four volumes, the *Mafātiḥ al-'olum*, an encyclopedic dictionary on six key branches of knowledge in medieval Iran by Moḥammad b. Yusef Kāteb Ḳvārazmi (d. after 976), as well as Persian translations of the *Al-Jabr wa'l-moqābela* by Abu Ja'far Moḥammad b. Musā Ḳvārazmi and the *Eḡšā' al-'olum* by Abu Našr Moḥammad Fārābi. He also edited and published in 1973 the *Masir-e Ṭālebi*, a late 18th century travelogue in Persian by the Deccan-based Iranian litterateur and globetrotter Mirza Abu Ṭāleb Ešfahāni, also known as Landani.

In 1975, Khadiv-Jam published his critical edition of the *Kimiā-ye sa'adat*. This



first print was based only on four manuscripts of the work kept in various libraries in Cairo, St. Petersburg, and Istanbul. About eight years later, in 1982, Khadiv-Jam completed a new edition of the book, this time based on six additional manuscripts and two lithograph editions of the *Kimiā-ye sa'ādat* on top of the above-mentioned four manuscripts. This edition has been praised in modern scholarship as “the best and most accurate critical edition” of the *Kimiā-ye sa'ādat* (Šafiī-Kadkani, p. 31). Another of his publications was the critical edition of a Persian dictionary on the *Šāhnāmeḥ* by Moḥammad b. al-Reza al-'Alavi al-Ṭusi, whom Khadiv-Jam claims in his preface to have authored the book early in the 16th century; an argument that was later challenged and rejected (Omid-Sālār, pp. 602–14). Khadiv-Jam died in Mashhad after a long illness on 17 October 1986.

Pictures of Hossein Khadiv-Jam with his handwriting. (Courtesy of Mr. Farid KhadivJam)

[Mr. Khadiv-Jam \(Figure 5\)](#)

[Mr. Khadiv-Jam \(Figure 6\)](#)

[With friends \(Figure 11\)](#)

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