



## KIPĀ

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**KIPĀ** , (also *gipā*), a traditional Iranian food made with a sheep's tripe or its small intestine filled with minced meat, rice, split peas, a sprinkling of salt, and such spices as cinnamon, caraway seeds, pepper, and, sometimes, other ingredients. The tripe and intestines are first thoroughly washed. The edges of the stuffed tripe are stitched up and then it is cooked in heated fat. All the stuffing comes under the general term *maṣāleḥ*. This practice of sewing the opening of the tripe after being filled with *maṣāleḥ* goes back some centuries, as attested by the opening verse of one of the parodist **Boshāq Aṭ'ema**'s (d. 1423 or 1427; q.v.) *ḡazals*, parodying the poet Sa'di's well-known *ḡazal* :

No *kāči* [similar to *halwā*, q.v.] can be made with these seeds that we have sown.No *kipā* can be sewn with this thread that we have woven (Boshāq Aṭ'ema, p. 164).

The compiler of the 19th-century *Farhang-e Ānandrāj* states that *gipā* is the Persian form of the Turkish *kipā* (Moḥammad Pādšāh, s.v. *kipā* and *gipā*) whereas Dehḡodā suggests that *kipā* may be a contracted form of *kalla pā* or *kalla pāča* (s.v. *kipā*), which is Persian. Moḥammad Pādšāh adds that *kipā* is a kind of pilau; and Mirzā 'Ali-Akbar Āšpazbāši, under his "Second Table" that introduces different kinds of rice, gives a thorough description of the ingredients of *kipā* pilau and the way it is made (p. 16). *Kipā* seems to have been very popular in the past. Boshāq Aṭ'ema mentions it over fifty times both in his poetry and prose (see, e.g., pp. 28, 38, 110, 136, 195, 229, passim). In his treatise called "Kār-nāma," Bāvarči Baḡdādi presents the recipes for over a dozen *gipā*, including chicken *gipā*, mutton *gipā*, and squash *gipā* (pp. 166-72).



The maker/vendor of *kipā* was called *kipā-paz*, *kipā foruš*, or *kipā'i*. As traditionally *kipā* was prepared and sold by *kalla-paz* along with sheep's cooked head and trotters, *kalla-paz* and *kipā-paz* were interchangeably used (Dehḵodā, s.v. *kipā-paz*).

In spite of its popularity for centuries, in recent decades *kipā* has practically disappeared from the places where it was once abundantly available.

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