False Attribution or Creative Imitation?
The Tradition of Women's Poetry in Early Qajar Iran

Gawhar Baygum-i Adharbayjani

If I were to loosen my perfumed locks into the wind,
I would ensnare the gazelles of the plain in my trap.

If I were to pass by the church one day,
I would draw to my religion the Christian virgins.

With one look I bring to life two hundred dead;
Go inform Christ of my miracles!

Ziya’ al-Saltana

If I were to loosen my perfumed locks into the wind,
I would ensnare the gazelles of the plain in my trap.

And if from kindness I were to gaze on moldering bones,
I would bring back to life the miracle of Christ.

Tahira Qurrat al-‘Ayn

If I were to loosen my perfumed locks into the wind,
I would make the gazelles of the plain my captives.

And if were to paint my bewitching narcissus with black ink,
I would turn all the people of the world into a wretched lot.

In order to see my face, at the break of every dawn,
The sky brings forth a gilded mirror.

If I were to pass by the church one day,
I would bring to my religion the Christian virgins.