

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

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بدم خویش کشم آهوان صحرا را
بدین خویش کشم دختران ترسا را
خبر دهید ز اعجاز من مسیحا را

اگر بیاد دهم زلف عنبرآسا را
گذار من بکلیسا اگر فتد روزی
بیک نگاه دوصد مرده میکنم زنده

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

بدم خویش کشم آهوان صحرا را
دوباره زنده کنم معجز مسیحا را

اگر بیاد دهم زلف عنبرآسا را
وگر ز لطف نظر افکنم بعظم رمیم

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

اسیر خویش کنم آهوان صحرا را
بروز تیره نشانم تمام دنیا را
برون برآورد آینهٔ مطلا را
بدین خویش برم دختران ترسا را

اگر بیاد دهم زلف عنبرآسا را
وگر بنرگس شهلای خویش سرمه کشم
برای دیدن رویم سپهر هر دم صبح
گذار من بکلیسا اگر فتد روزی

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.