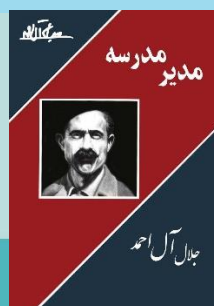
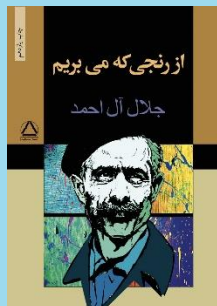
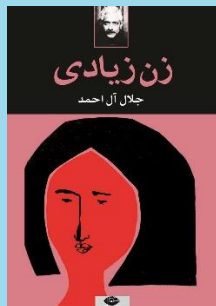




Jalāl Āl-e-Ahmad



About the Author:

Jalāl Āl-e-Ahmad (1923-69)

Seyyed Jalāl Āl-e-Ahmad (1923-69) was a prominent Iranian novelist, short-story writer, translator, philosopher, socio-political critic, and sociologist. His diverse roles and anthropological work make him a figure of immense intrigue and admiration, as he was one of the earliest and most prominent contemporary Iranian ethnographers.

Despite gaining increasing respect and popularity as a writer, Āl-e-Ahmad was obliged to work as a school teacher. This was a common struggle for severe writers of his time, who often couldn't support themselves solely with their pen.

Jalāl Āl-e-Ahmad's published writings, spanning over twenty volumes, have left an indelible mark on Iranian literature and society. His works, including travel journals, translations, village studies, essays, and reviews, are a testament to his prolific writing career. His fiction, in particular, has garnered immense admiration, making him a revered figure in Iranian literature.

Āl-e-Ahmad's writing style was conversational, a trait he shared with avant-garde Persian novelists like Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh. His works, including novels, essays, travelogues, and ethnographic monographs, often explored cultural, social, and political issues. Symbolic representations and sarcastic expressions were regular

features in his books. Notably, he was known for his honest examination of subjects, regardless of potential reactions from political, social, or religious powers.

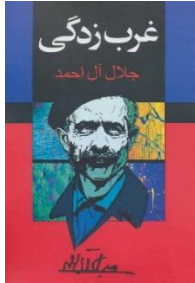
On the invitation of Richard Nelson Frye, Al-e-Ahmad spent a summer at Harvard University as part of a Distinguished Visiting Fellowship program established by Henry Kissinger for supporting promising Iranian intellectuals.

Literary Awards:

The Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award is an Iranian literary award that has been presented yearly since 2008. Every year, an award is given to the best Iranian authors on the birthday of the renowned Persian writer Jalal Al-e Ahmad. The top winner receives 110 Bahar Azadi gold coins (about \$33,000), making it Iran's most lucrative literary award.[31] In some years, there is no top winner; other notables receive up to 25 gold coins. Categories include "Novel," "Short story," "Literary criticism," and "History and documentations." [32] The Supreme Cultural Revolution Council confirmed the award in 2005, [32] the first award was presented in 2008.

Sample of Works:

Westofixication



Publisher: Majid Pubs.

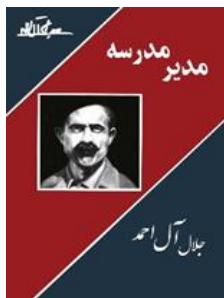
Subject: Novel

Pages: 192

ISBN: 9789644530708

Westofixication is a critical analysis of the impact of Western culture on Iranian society. Gharbzadegi [Weststruckness] is a tour de force on social conditions in Iran. It was written in 1962 when the Pahlavi regime seemed to have control over Iran's destiny. For the author, the result was total national submission to the West and its technology. The Iranian monarchy is portrayed in this work as no more than a native brokerage for Western influence, with no aims and identity of its own. Al-e Ahmad sought to defined in large part by a tradition of conflict with the West. This essay is a document of immense significance for students of Iranian social and intellectual history. Observers of contemporary problems in the developing world in general and in the Middle East in particular will find much in it that pertains to the concern about modernization, Westernization and development.

The School Principal



Publisher: Majid Pubs.

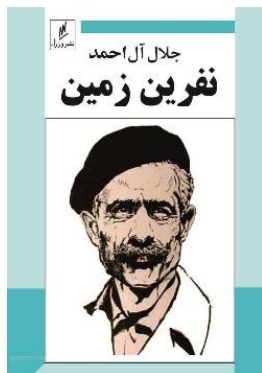
Subject: Novel

Pages: 112

ISBN: 978-9644530777

“The School Principal” is a novel that harshly critiques Iran's education system. The School Principal is an odd sort of social novel. The principal tries to be indifferent yet finds he can't be, but he also forms no close ties to practically anyone in the book. The children remain primarily faceless, and even the teachers and school staff are mysteries. Personal lives remain almost entirely unknown: the principal often wonders where the children go when they leave the school and what kinds of homes they return to. He can barely imagine it. And yet he, too, remains a cipher: he is married, for example, and yet we get almost no sense of his domestic life or his wife. The principal sees society's ills, yet his condemnation also recognizes that redress is not easy. It will not be possible to provide even such basics as running water for a while; bribery can grease all sorts of wheels, and the specter of religion still exerts great influence. This society Al-e Ahmad describes is undergoing a radical transformation in almost all respects—late-1950s Iran, moving rapidly yet awkwardly towards modernization.

The Cursing the Land



Publisher: Majid Pubs.

Subject: Novel

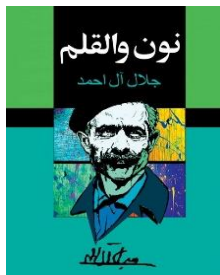
Pages: 248

ISBN: 978-6007987148

In this story, a teacher named Al Ahmed is assigned to educate in a secluded village. He documents the progress and happenings in the village, capturing all that he witnessed, heard, and encountered during his nine-month residency through daily written entries. Finally, his notes come to an end when he is transferred to another village.

In "The Curse of the Earth," the author frequently compares rural and urban life and considers the main difference between the city and the village to be our relationship with the earth. The narrative story's outline and realistic style are mixed with effective scenes and sometimes scattered images. Although the story's language is old, it follows the pattern of new European stories. A work of fiction explores the challenges a teacher faces in a rural village. Besides being a literary work, the novel Curse of the Land is a social document. In this great work, Al-e Ahmad intends to give a social analysis of this own era, and warn his readers against the devastating consequences of modernity.

The Letter N and the Pen



Publisher: Majid Pubs.

Subject: Novel

Pages: 200

ISBN: 978-6007987155

“The Letter N and the Pen” is a historical novel with symbolic elements that reflect Iranian politics. The Pen tells of ancient power struggles and the difficulties of ruling justly. With devices very different from those he employed in his realistic contemporary tale, Al-e Ahmad crafts an allegorical novel that is also a remarkable reflection of modern Iran. The action in By the Pen closely parallels: First, a specific period in the reign of Safavid Shah 'Abbas the Great (ruled 1587-1629), and second, the rise and fall of Mohammad Mosaddeq (1882-1967). The novel, set in two distinct historical periods, mirrors the political and religious conflicts that have shaped Iran. The power struggles between Shi'i and Sunni factions, which dominate the narrative, are not just historical events but also recurring themes in the country's history, as evidenced by the parallels to recent events in Iran.

While the religious intricacies may be challenging for non-Persian readers, the novel's core is straightforward. By the Pen chronicles the journey of two scribes, Mirza Asadollah and Mirza Abdozzaki, who find themselves embroiled in the tumultuous events of their time. As a sect known as the Calenders rises to power, the country is thrown into chaos, leading to the flight of His Royal Majesty and the court and the Calenders assuming control.

A Stone on a Grave



Publisher: Jamedara Pubs.

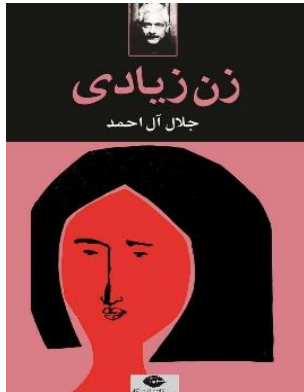
Subject: Novel

Pages: 96

ISBN: 9782000043881

Sangi bar Guri [A Stone on a Grave] is a candid account of a male Iranian, in this case, a well-known essayist, fiction writer, and socially and politically engaged intellectual, in his struggle to cope with his inability to produce offspring. In this book, Jalal Al-e Ahmad delves into the recesses of his psyche to explore the roots of his identity as an Iranian male, his manhood. Consciously, he tries to uncover why having children to continue one's name and legacy, not unlike one's gravestone, should signify that he had existed and why it should be of concern and importance after one's death. In a sense, he attempts to justify his inability to have children. But subconsciously, he reveals aspects of himself and his psyche that he may not have intended to reveal. This volume also includes an in-memorial essay by the renowned writer and Al-e Ahmad's wife, Simin Daneshvar.

The Superfluous Woman



Publisher: Majid Pubs.

Subject: Short Stories

Pages: 176

ISBN: 978-9644530791

“The Superfluous Woman” is a collection of stories exploring the challenges faced by women in traditional Iranian society. This book by Jalal Al Ahmed is a collection of nine short stories depicting the struggles and thoughts of women in a patriarchal society. One of the most valuable works in the book is "The Superfluous Woman," which highlights the lives of men and women who do not have prominent positions in society. The stories are set in a world where ignorance and superstition are prevalent, and both genders suffer equally. Jalal Al Ahmad critiques traditional women's roles, thoughts, and behaviors.

The stories focus on the lives and thoughts of women in society. Jalal Al Ahmad's simple yet captivating prose immerses the reader in his world and introduces them to relatable characters. The unique feature of Jalal's stories is that they are timeless and can be applied to any era. The characters in his stories can be found in our families and communities. Although many women have entered the field of writing, the author's critiques of traditional behaviors and habits are still relevant to society today.

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