

**An Investigation on Capabilities of *Hafez's Divan* to Present
to Adolescents**

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Introduction

Hafez's Divan is one of the precious literary treasures that different groups of people use according to their literary knowledge and intellectual tendencies. Years of experience in the field of Hafez research and youth literature for the authors of this article, as well as face-to-face communication with teenagers and familiarity with their characteristics, interests and concerns, raised the question whether Hafez's poetry is beneficial for teenagers or not? To investigate this issue, a research (in the form of a post-doctorate) was organized, of which this article is one of its achievements.

Purpose & Method

This article seeks to answer three basic questions:

1. Are parts of *Divan Hafez* suitable for the teenage age group?
2. If the answer is positive, what are the capacities of this literary work to present to teenagers?

3. Relying on these capacities, which of the basic needs of teenagers can be answered?

This research was carried out in two ways: one is the study of reliable sources related to the topic and its descriptive and analytical review, and the other is the compilation and distribution of a special questionnaire for teenagers. The search to find the answers to these questions was followed from two ways: One is the study of reliable sources related to the topic and its descriptive and analytical review, and the other is the compilation and distribution of a special questionnaire for teenagers. The premise of the research was that some of Hafez's compositions are linguistically understandable for the teenage age group and many teenagers can communicate with at least the basic levels of some of these compositions. In order to ensure the correctness of the research findings and to avoid judging instead of teenagers, a questionnaire was designed, which reached a number of teenagers after confirming its validity and reliability. 401 teenagers from different regions of Iran participated in this survey. By analyzing the data collected from the questionnaires, the level of teenagers' understanding of Hafez's poetry and their views about him and his divan were investigated.

Discussion

95% of the participants considered Hafez's selected poems as suitable works for their peers, and 72.81% of them counted the usefulness of these poems for teenagers as high and very high.

The most important reasons given by the teenagers for their interest in Hafez's poems are: the variety of subjects, sweet language, pleasantness

and calmness of the poems, simple meaning of many verses, the adaptation of the poems to the reality of the world and life, their rich meaning, the value of advice and showing the right path in life. The findings from the analysis of the data collected from the questionnaires are fully presented in an article titled "Investigation of teenagers' understanding of Hafez's poems and their views on his personality and poetry", which is in the judging stage. In writing the upcoming article, attention has been paid to the results of that article as well. To determine the suitability of a literary work to be presented to a certain age group, the characteristics of that age group and the work should be examined. Some of the most important characteristics of adolescence are: trying to know oneself and finding the meaning of life, achieving formal thinking and developing critical thinking, idealism, love and strengthening friendships. The findings of the research showed that there are commonalities between Hafez's poetry and the characteristics of adolescence; Hafez, as evidenced by his *divan*, has been seeking to know himself, his God, existence and the meaning of life for many years, he also has an idealistic and critical point of view, he thinks about moral and social dos and don'ts and talks about all of them with his real and imaginary audience. The issue of love and friendship is also serious for him and he sincerely and honestly shares his experiences with his audience. In addition to these, Hafez is a dreamer and a legend and shares his words with his reader in an artistic atmosphere. Some concepts and topics of *Divan Hafez* are also suitable for teenagers; Concepts such as love, friendship, belief in God, moral and social issues, self-discovery, self-esteem, freedom and idealism. Various characters and the relationships between them, along with the narrative

structure of many poems, can be attractive for this age group and enable them to benefit from this work. Another feature of *Divan Hafez*, which makes it possible for teenagers to communicate with it, is the language of this work; the first layer of many of Hafez's poems is understandable for teenagers or can be understood with a brief explanation.

The characteristics of Hafez's poetry are such that if it is selected and adapted appropriately, it can give a suitable answer to some of the requests of teenagers. This work provides a safe space for the dreamer and by expressing the realities of life and the world, it opens his eyes to the truths of the world and prepares him to enter a world where sadness and happiness are together. Hafez's self-disclosure and his courage in expressing thoughts and feelings that adults, usually due to expediency, hide in their chests can also be attractive to teenagers who are eager for intimate relationships, love and hearing about the worlds inside and outside, and answer part of their needs in this regard. Also, *Divan Hafez* is a magic mirror that teenagers can see a part of themselves in layers, and reading it, as an elitist work of art, can help develop their creativity.

Conclusion

The possibility of teenagers benefiting from *Divan Hafez* does not mean that they fully understand the subtleties and verbal and spiritual complexities of this work; It is meant that the conceptual commonalities of some of Hafez's poems with features from the teenage period can make this work one of those ancient works of Persian literature that can be presented to teenagers. It is possible for teenagers to understand the first layer of many of Hafez's verses, and the more a teenager's linguistic and literary knowledge and ability to understand content increases

during his studies and after the early years of adolescence, the more he can understand and receive and benefit from Hafez's poetry. In addition, as in recent decades, the formation of literary works (rewriting, re-creation, etc.) and artistic works (animation, etc.) based on works such as *Shahnameh*, *Kalila and Demna*, *Bostan*, *Golestan*, *Khamsa* Nizami, *Mantegh- Al-Tayr*, *Masnavi*, etc. ..., has increased the familiarity and connection of teenagers with these texts and their understanding and benefit from ancient Persian literature, the formation of works centered on Hafez's poems can also have such results. The findings of this research show that this capability exists in *Divan Hafez*; but so far it has not been addressed as it should be. It is hoped that the results of this research will lead to the formation of new thoughts and ideas in the minds of people and organizations related to teenagers, especially ministry of education, creators of literary and artistic works and producers of special products for teenagers, and a multifaceted and beneficial connection between a part of Iran's ancient literature and culture. The young generation of the country and the adults related to them.

Keywords

Hafez, *Hafez's Diwan*, Adolescences.

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