



Extended Abstract

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Anthology of Poems from the Central Library of Tabriz (*Nakhjavani Anthology*), Another Manuscript of *Rowzat al-Nazer* and *Nuzhat al-Khater*

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Introduction

Rowzat al-Nazer wa Nuzhat al-Khater is a text from the 8th century A.H. that contains poems by famous and unknown poets in Persian and Arabic. The author and compiler of this text is Ezz al-Din Abdul Aziz ibn Abi al-Ghanaem Kashani, who also included some of his own poems in *Rowzat al-Nazer*. Based on the studies conducted, three texts under the title *Rowzat al-Nazer wa Nuzhat al-Khater* are mentioned in the Catalogue of Iranian Manuscripts: The first text, titled *Rowzat al-Nazer wa Nuzhat al-Khater* by Abdul Aziz Kashi, is a manuscript preserved in Istanbul University Library under number 766 F. This text contains a collection of Persian and Arabic poems. There are explanations in the Catalogue of Iranian Manuscripts regarding this text that do not match the manuscript (Derayati, 2011/17: 241). Derayati has mentioned the date of writing for *Rowzat al-Nazer wa Nuzhat al-Khater* as 792 A.H.; while the manuscript lacks the date of writing and the name of the scribe. The second text is also kept in the Hagia Sophia Library under the same title, which is apparently a summary of Kashi's original text, under number 4019. Derayati attributes this manuscript to Abdul Aziz Kashi (Derayati, 2011/17: 242). However, there is no mention of the author's name in the original manuscript. The third text has the same name and a slight difference with the title

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Rowzat al-Nazer, *Nazhat al-Khater*. This manuscript is kept in the Hagia Sophia Library under number 4020 and is different from *Rawdat al-Nazer* by Abdul Aziz Kashi.

Method and Literature Review

This research was conducted using a descriptive-analytical method and an attempt was made to compare two manuscripts of the anthology of poems in the Central Library of Tabriz (*Nakhjavani Anthology*) and the anthology of *Rowzat al-Nazer and Nuzhat-ol-Khater*, by examining both texts page by page and in detail to prove that they are one and the same.

There are three important articles in connection with the anthology of poems in the Central Library of Tabriz: First, an article titled "Introduction to the *Nakhjavani Anthology*" by Aziz Dolatabadi in which, while examining the poems, chapters and sections, as well as the calligraphy and the scribe, the author is said to be unknown (2004: 120-96). Second, an article titled "Criticism and Review of the Newly Found Anthology from the Seventh Century Hijri (*Kashi Anthology*)" by Mojtaba Safar Alizadeh (2010: 181-206). In this article, the author examines *Nakhjavani Anthology* and its poems and its correspondence with *Rowzat al-Nazer and Nuzhat al-Khater* anthologies. Safaralizadeh considers the scribe and author of the anthology to be Abdul Aziz Kashi and distinguishes between the two texts of *Rowzat al-Nazer and Nuzhat al-Khater* and *Nakhjavani Anthology*. Seyyed Mohammad Emadi Haeri also included *Nakhjavani Anthology* in an article titled "Ezz al-Din Abdul Aziz Kashi, Identification, Bibliography, and Manuscript Search" (Emadi Haeri, 2004: 386).

Discussion and Analysis

The Tabriz Poetry Anthology, known as *Nakhjavani Anthology*, is preserved in the Central Library of Tabriz under number 3047. This anthology consists of a collection of Persian and Arabic poems that all date back to before the eighth century A.H. Some pages of the manuscript in question are missing from the beginning and end, therefore, the name of the author, scribe, and date of writing are not available. More than 11,000 verses from famous and unknown poets have been recorded in this anthology. There are also Persian and Arabic poems from the author of the text. The anthology in question consists of three parts, but five pages of the first part have been destroyed, and only two chapters of the third part remain.

The manuscript of the anthology *Rowzat al-Nazer and Nuzhat al-Khater* is preserved under number 766 F in Istanbul University Library. This anthology, which has a number of pages missing from its end and does not have a date of writing, has 307 pages and the number of lines on each page is 25 lines. *Rowzat al-Nazer* is a collection of selected Persian and Arabic poems compiled by Ezz al-Din Abdul Aziz Kashi in the early 8th century AH. This important and valuable work is of special importance and value in terms of introducing and presenting poetic examples of a number of unknown poets as well as in attributing poems to known poets. *Rowzat al-Nazer* contains more than 15,000 verses of Arabic and Persian poetry from about 300 poets, a significant number of whom are unknown, such as Badi' Khatami, Sa'in al-Din Shirazi, Qutb Saveh, Taj Jami, and Noor Munshi. The poems included in *Rowzat al-Nazer* are presented in three parts:

the first part has two chapters entitled “praises” and includes forty-six chapters. The second part has twenty-three chapters entitled correspondence. The third part has nine chapters and is presented on various topics. The present study has attempted to examine the hypothesis that the *Nakhjavani Anthology* is another version of *Rowzat al-Nazer* by comparing the two manuscripts of *Rowzat al-Nazer* and *Nuzhat al-Khater* with them. In line with this hypothesis, a page by page comparison of the two manuscripts was conducted.

Conclusion

The present study, by presenting evidence and visual and written samples from two copies of *Rowzat al-Nazer* and the poetry anthology of the Central Library of Tabriz (*Nakhjavani Anthology*), concluded that *Nakhjavani Anthology* is another, but incomplete, version of *Rowzat al-Nazer* and *Nuzhat al-Khater*. Five pages at the beginning of the text and 70 pages at the end are missing in *Nakhjavani Manuscript* in comparison with *Rowzat al-Nazer*. This has caused the number of verses in this version to be nearly 4,000 less than *Rowzat al-Nazer*. *Rowzat al-Nazer* is more complete than *Nakhjavani Anthology*, and the omissions that exist at the beginning and end of *Nakhjavani Anthology* are not in the Istanbul manuscript. Another important point concluded by the comparison of these two manuscripts is the possibility that the scribe of the two manuscripts is the same person. *Nakhjavani manuscript* is written in almost the same style as *Rowzat al-Nazer* and *Nuzhat al-Khater*. The similarity of the script of the two manuscripts is so great that it is almost certain that the scribe of the two manuscripts is the same person. Considering the evidence in the text of both manuscripts, the scribe is a descendant of Shams al-Din Kishi. Furthermore, regarding the differences between the two manuscripts, it should be acknowledged that there are minor differences, especially in mentioning of the names of the poets. However, sometimes, both manuscripts include the same mistakes, strengthening the idea that minor differences cannot indicate a duality between them.

Keywords: Anthology of Poems, *Rowzat al-Nazer* and *Nuzhat-al-Khater*, *Nakhjavani Anthology*, Abdulaziz Kashi

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