



IRANIAN STUDIES OUTREACH | BILINGUAL LECTURE SERIES



What Kind of Wine did Rudaki Fancy?

OCT. 9, 2017 | 2:00 PM | 348 HUMANITIES

KAMRAN TALATTOF (UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA)

One of the earliest Persian poets, Rudaki (859–941), employed the word wine within a wide semantic register in his poems. However, his unicity is most manifest when the process of wine making within a highly allegorical poem entitled “Mother of Wine” is depicted. Through contextual, historical, and discursive analyses, it is argued that this poem—written in the form of a qasideh—was composed for the purpose of being performed for an aural audience, and thus reflected the conscious cultural discourse of the Samanids (819–999 – the first Iranian dynasty following the Arab conquest of Persia), who deemed themselves heirs to past, pre-Islamic grandeur, and sought to connect both in content and form (here the performativity of the poem) with the Sasanian empire (ca. 224–651).

SPEAKER



Kamran Talattof (Ph.D. Univ. of Michigan, 1996) is the Roshan Institute Chair in Persian and Iranian Studies, as well as the chair of Roshan Graduate

Interdisciplinary Program in Persian and Iranian Studies, at the University of Arizona. Many of his research and publication focus on issues of gender, sexuality, ideology, culture, and language pedagogy. He examines how cultural artifacts are created both within, and in response to, prevalent social conditions, political ideologies, and the dominant discourses of sexuality. Talattof is the author, co-author, and co-editor of more than a dozen books and tens of articles including the award-winning *Modernity, Sexuality, and Ideology in Iran: The Life and Legacy of a Popular Female Artist*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.

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