

Persian Font Embedding with WEFT

The Persian and English fonts seen below have been embedded directly onto the page using WEFT.

WEFT requires Windows and Internet Explorer. [Here](#) is a PDF version of this page for comparison.

Hāfiẓ (born 1325 or 26, died 1389 or 90 C.E.)

English in the Tahoma font

Persian in the Tahoma font

I saw the blue-green field of heaven
and the sickle of the new moon.
I recalled what I had sown
and the harvest season.
I said, "O Fortune, you slept
while the sun rose."
It said, "Still, don't despair
of His preeminent mercy."
On the night of departure,
like Christ, so go to heaven
that a hundred rays from your torch
will reach the sun.
Don't rely on your star,
stealing through the night,
for that fraud made off with Kāvūs' throne
and the cincture of Kay Khusraw.
The golden, ruby earring
burdens the ear—
The time of beauty is passing:
Hear my counsel.
May the evil eye be far
from your beauty mark,
for on the chessboard of loveliness
It advanced a pawn that checkmated sun and moon.
Tell heaven, "Don't boast of this grandeur,
for in the realm of love,
the moon's harvest halo is worth only a barleycorn
and the Pleiades' cluster but two."
The fire of the hypocrite's asceticism
will burn up the harvest of faith.
Hāfiẓ, cast off
this woolen cloak and go.

مزرع سبز فلک دیدم و داس مه نو
یادم از کشته خویش آمد و هنگام درو
گفتم ای بخت بخسبیدی و خورشید دمید
گفت با این همه از سابقه نومید مشو
آنچنان رو شب رحلت جو مسیحا به فلک
کز چراغ نو به خورشید رسد صد برنو
تکیه بر اختر شب‌دزد مکن که این عیار
تخت کاووس ببرد و کمر کیخسرو
گوشوار زر و لعل ارچه گران دارد گوش
دور خوبی گذران است نصیحت بشنو
چشم بد دور ز حال تو که در عرصه حسن
بیدقی راند که برد از مه و خورشید گرو
آسمان گو مغروش این عظمت که اندر عشق
خرمن مه به جوی خوشه پروین به دو جو
آنس زهد ربا خرمن دین خواهد سوخت
حافظ این خرقه پشمینه ببنداز و برو

Bushāq (died, circa 1427 C.E.)

English in the Tahoma font

Persian in the Koodak font

I saw the broad platter of heaven
and the goblet of the new moon.
I said, "O Reason, don't be misled
by an empty dish."
Say to heaven, "What is this grandeur,
when one cannot pawn
the disc of your sun
for a loaf of bread one day?"
If I don't have wheat
for the porridge, I'll sell
the moon's harvest halo for a
barleycorn
and the Pleiades' cluster for two.
At the edge of the tabletop
King Saffron Pilaf advanced
a lentil pawn that
checkmated sun and moon.
If you set King Pilaf's candle
near honeyed sweets,
a hundred rays from your torch
will reach the sun.
Grab the roast sheep's tail
and leave the meat stew!
These are seasoned words—
Hear my counsel.
Plant the seed
in the field of gruel,
so those burned by time
can take a share of the harvest.
If, like **Bushāq**,
my skull turns to dust,
at the table, you'll catch
my scent from the new pitcher.

طبق پهن فلک دیدم و کأس مه نو
گفتم ای عقل بظرف تهی از راه مرو
چرخ گو این عظمت چیست چو نتوان کردن
قرص خورشید تو یک روز به نانی به گرو
اگرم گندم بغرا نبود بفروشم
خرمن مه به جوی خوشه پروین به دو جو
بر لب عرصه خوان شاه مزعفر ز نخود
بیدقی راند که برد از مه و خورشید گرو
گر نهی شمع مزعفر بر حلوای عسل
از چراغ تو به خورشید رسد صد پرتو
دست بر دنبه بریان زن و یخنی بگذار
سخن پخته همین است نصیحت بشنو
تخم در مزرع کاجی به همین نیت کار
که از آن بهره برد سوخته وقت درو
کاسه سر اگرم خاک شود چون بسحاق
بر لب خوان شنوی بوی من از کوزه نو

Jāmī (died 1492 C.E.)

English in the Arabic Typesetting font

Persian in the Arabic Typesetting font

As long as there's the ancient cask of heaven
and the goblet of the new moon
I'll pawn my cloak
to the vintner's shop for a cup of wine.
Tell the gale of eternal wrath,
"Extinguish the torch of the sun!"
One ray of your face
is enough for all eternity.
Not everyone understands
the meaning of the rose's display.
The commentary on that book is unwritten—
hear it from the nightingale.
Heaven harvested your moon-like face
from its field.
Tell the sickle of the new moon,
"Reap the cluster of the Pleiades."
If the Turk of your eye
calls me its Indian slave,
I'll pull the Kayanian crown
from King Khusraw's head.
How often the heart ran after
its goal and did not reach it.
Run down this street too,
my tears, for a few days.
Jāmī, this refuge of good fortune
is neither your place nor mine.
The letter of devotion is sealed:
Kiss the ground and go.

تا خم چرخ کهن باشد و کأس مه نو
هر جامی بودم خرقه به خمخانه گرو
صرصر قهر ازل گو بنشان مشعل مهر
بس بود تا ابد از شمع رخت یک پرتو
هر کس از جلوه گل فهم معانی نکند
شرح آن رفتار نوشته ز بلبل بشنو
زد مه روی تو خرمن فلک از مزرع خویش
گو به دأس مه تو خوشه پروین بدرو
ترک چشم تو اگر هندوی خوشم خواند
در کشم تاج کیانی ز سر کیخسرو
دل بسی در پی مقصود دوید و نرسید
چند روزی تو هم ای اشک در این کوی بدو
جامی این مأمن اقبال نه جای من و تو است
ختم شد رقعہ اخلاص زمین بوس و برو

Jamālẓāde (1892-1997 C.E.)

English in the Tahoma font

Persian in the Roya font

...I saw, as Belqīs had intimated, a
span of night had risen. I looked
at the sky. It had become an
expansive garden in which crores
of shining flowers and star-bursts
had blossomed in its boundless
open space and hordes of fiery
bees had descended upon them
and were over-excitedly and
joyfully flapping around. I had
neither appetite for dinner nor the
ability to sleep. I wished I could
roll up my sleeves and with agility,
fall onto the vineyard of the sky to
fill baskets and platters from the
clusters of stars and throw at the
lovely feet of Belqīs...

... دیدم بطوریکه بلقیس اشاره نموده بود مدتی
از شب بالا آمده است. آسمان را دیدم گلستان
پهنآوری گردیده که کرورها گل‌های کوچک و
شکوفه ستاره در ساحت بیکران آن شکفته
است و فوج فوج زنبورهای آتشین بجان آنها
افتاده از فرط شوق و نشاط بال و پر می‌زدند. نه
میل شام داشتیم و نه قدرت که بخوابم دلم
می‌خواست که آستین بالا بزنم و چالاک
بتاکستان آسمان افتاده از خوشه ستاره‌گان سبدها
و طبق‌ها پر کرده نثار قدم نازنین بلقیس نمایم...

The Content

The Poems

All three ghazals in the original Persian and in scholarly translation used in this demonstration have been taken from the following book with the kind permission of both the author and publisher for use on this instructional website:

Losensky, Paul E. Welcoming Fighani : Imitation and Poetic Individuality in the Safavid-Mughal Ghazal. Costa Mesa, Calif. : Mazda Publishers, 1998. (ISBN 1568590709). Pages 166-73 & 351-52.

"Welcoming" is a literal translation of the critical term "istiḳbāl," referring to the old practice of adopting the meter and rhyme of an earlier poem. This was possibly a precursor to our modern day "copyright infringement" only it was considered to be a compliment back then! "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," as the saying goes. See, the poets even have their [EULA](#) in the last line!

This book is available from the [Mazda Publishers, Inc](#) website.

The Prose

The prose snippet is from pages 32-33 of a famous book by an author who had a real knack for copying and pasting from the classics:

Jamalzadah, Muhammad Ali. Dar al-majanin. Tihran : Kanun-i Marifat, 2536 [1977].

The Fonts (All Unicode-Compliant)

The well-[hinted](#) Tahoma font ships with all Windows computers and that fact, in addition to its functional, stream-lined appearance makes it viewable even at small font sizes and on not-so-good screens. Since earlier versions of Tahoma had bugs in the Persian subset, embedding the newer, corrected version is highly desirable. Tahoma is currently the most commonly used font on Persian websites. It has really been the ONLY decent Persian web font up till now.

The Koodak font is one of a set of fonts being updated by the [FarsiWeb](#) team, a research and development project at Sharif FarsiWeb, Inc, Tehran. These fonts are in the beta-testing stage right now and if you'd like to help troubleshoot bugs, you can [download](#) the zipped set for free. Bug reports should be emailed to: FWPG@sharif.edu

The Arabic Typesetting [open-type](#) font is a cutting-edge, [prize-winning](#) Perso-Arabic and Latin font. It will be included in future versions of Microsoft Office and is currently only available as part of the "Office 2003 Proofing Tools Kit" (sold in computer supply shops) and requires Office 2003 with the latest Uniscribe updates.

Kashida

It is still not possible to implement Kashida on a webpage with CSS2. Wait a couple years for CSS3 for that! What you see above is a clever way of tricking the browser into stretching out the letters by force. You can thank Behdad Eshfahbod of FarsiWeb and the [Persian Digital Library](#) (the link can be slow but it does come!) for devising this brilliant yet completely standards-compliant solution. Among other things, this means you can cut and paste it off the screen into Word or Notepad. In the examples above, the kashida is exaggeratedly longer and not proper according to Persian calligraphy.

WEFT

WEFT is a free program you can download from [Microsoft Typography](#).

[Here](#) is a step-by-step tutorial on how to use WEFT.

Weft only works on Windows computers with Internet Explorer browser. Even then, it only works in certain conditions. [Statistically speaking](#), at this time, it works on at least 50% of computers. Here is some [feedback](#) I've received on what to expect with Weft.

[BACK](#) to Persian Word-processing