
Moḥammad-Reḏā Qanbarī. Zendegī va še‘r-e Ṭāleb-e Āmolī, šā‘er-e gol-hā-ye ātaš. Tehrān, Entešārāt-e Zavvār, 1383/2004, 414 p.

Franklin Lewis



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- 1 The author, who hails from Āmol like Ṭāleb, became an amateur aficionado of the poet during his college days, after his father suggested that he explore whether their 16th century fellow townsman's literary reputation was fully justified. Qanbarī dedicates the work to his father and his high school teachers (10), while recognizing that the work is more a young man's testament of appreciation than a polished scholarly work (8). The introduction is cognizant of what literary histories (e.g., Rypka, Browne) say about Ṭāleb-e Āmolī, but does not quite manage to escape from the format of the *taḡkere*. The introduction to the poet tells us about Āmol and its legendary founding, Ṭāleb's family, and it attempts to extract physical information about the poet from the obviously highly conventional imagery of his *ḡazals*, e.g., the *ḡazal* with *radīf* "az bas ke ḡa'īf-am" is submitted (pp. 29-30) as evidence for the poet's emaciation and physical torpor, a rather dubious premise given the common topos of emaciation, even if we do find some genuine biographical circumstances in Ṭāleb's verse, e.g., his use of opium (pp. 34-5).
- 2 The bulk of the book is a culling of some ten percent of the *ghazals* of Ṭāleb, each given a title from a phrase appearing within the poem. The author admits that his selection of *ḡazals* (from the error-riddled edition of the *Kollīyāt-e dīvān-e aš'ār-e Ṭāleb* prepared by Seyyed Moḥammad Ṭāherī Šahāb, acquired in his youth) represents the not-yet-mature esthetics of his youth, but these poems are produced in a readable layout, correcting the printing mistakes of the *Dīvān*, with an index of first lines and another of proper names. For a more scholarly work, the author himself refers us to Farāmarz Gūdarzī, *Zendeḡī-nāme va kār-nāme-ye adabī-ye Ṭāleb-e Āmolī (Vezārat-e farhang va eršād-e eslāmī, 1382/2003)*, which appeared too late for Qanbarī to incorporate into the results of the present book.

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Thèmes : 11.1.1. Littérature persane classique

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