

Literary Research

Year 19, NO. 76

Summer 2022

 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2634/Lire.19.76.9>
 DOR: [20.1001.1.17352932.1401.19.76.2.8](https://doi.org/10.2634/Lire.19.76.9)

The reflection of Shadgoli ceremony in the texts of the Abbasid era

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Received: 3/2/2021

Accepted: 23/6/2021

Abstract

one of these ceremonies, hardly mentioned by historians and scholars, is Shadgoli, which was popular in the Abbasid era in Iran, Iraq and Syria (Sham). Applying the descriptive analytical approach, the article incorporates reports containing Shadgoli. The details of this ceremony according to the available historical-literary data are then explained. The information obtained shows that Shadgoli has been a royal celebration dedicated to the rich and little participation of common people is vividly seen. This ceremony is mentioned in Arabic sources as Shazkoli, Shazkola, Shazkollah, Eide Nathr-Alward and Eid Al-Jolessan. It seems that it has been held in spring, in the time of the abundance of flowers and blossoms. Considering the available Persian texts it can be said that Golestanjashn, Golrizgan, Golafshani and Ordibeheshtgan are other names for this ceremony.

Keywords: *Iranian ceremonies, The Abbasid Era, Ordibehesht, Golafshani, Shadgoli, Arabic Texts.*

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

One of the Iranian ceremonies in the texts of the 1st centuries AH, which was spread especially among the Caliphs and political elders, is the Royal Ceremony of Shadgoli: denoting the special ceremonies of spring. Having a short talk on the value of flower and the happiness it brings in the culture of the Abbasid era, we introduce those historical reports and poetic examples that incorporate the Shadgoli as a ceremony or celebration or play. Then we will illuminate the word Shadgoli and other synonymous words to talk about holding it in Farvardin and Ordibehesht, ending it referring to the rituals or programs performed on this day.

Research Question(s)

The most important questions that this article answers are as follows: What are the signs to consider Shadgoli among Iranian seasonal ceremonies? Which social groups Shadgoli has been spread among and what have been the details of this ritual?

2. Literature Review

What follows is the result of several historical and poetic reports, mostly in Arabic and sometimes in Persian language denoting Shadgoli. As far as we have examined, there is no mention of this ceremony in Persian and Arabic books dealing with Iranian ceremonies and customs; The only individual short article on this subject is a half-page note of Ahmad Taimoor in the jornal "Al-Majma Al-Alemi Al-Arabi" in Damascus in which Shadgoli is referred to as a Persian word composed of two parts, "Shad" and "Goli", seemingly a kind of game and entertainment in the joy of blossoming or flowering. Simultaneous with our article is a valuable article entitled " Red Rose and Rosy Wine: a Rereading of some Verses of Abu Nuwas's Diwan written by Somayeh Tabatabai in where the author has dealt more with the subject of wine drinking before flowers in the poem of Abu Nowas and has had a brief look at the origin of the word happiness. what is presented in this article,however, is a detailed and comprehensive look at all the literary and historical reports about Shadgoli, its synonymous words in Persian and Arabic as well as the small or ritual details that have been developed in this ceremony.

3. Methodology

Applying the descriptive analytical approach In this article, we first present the reports in which Shadgoli is mentioned and then we describe the details of this ceremony according to the historical and literary data.

4. Results

- The word "Shadgoli" is a Persian word and is used in Arabic in the forms Shazkoli, Shazkola and Shazkolah. This word seems to have been referred to an ancient Iranian ceremony and our post-Islamic reports show that it was held in the spring, accompanied by drinking and dancing.

- Most likely, Shadgoli has been a royal and aristocratic ceremony having been spread among the Caliphs and ministers of the Abbasid era leaving little allowance for common people.

- In Persian texts, there is no mention of Shadgoli, but we can consider the term Golafshani and Golestanjashn as an equivalent for Shadgoli.

- According to one of the poetic examples, it is clear that Shadgoli has been held in the Sham until the 4th century AH, besides in Iran and Iraq.

- An example of a poem by Mutnabbi in the fourth century refers to the ceremony of Shadgoli in Shiraz; Hafez's mention of Golafshani also indicates the same thing.

- One of the synonymous words for Shadgoli in Arabic texts is Jollasan; Although Ibn-Manzoor has considered Jollasan as a kind of flower, since he has also brought it to mean the scattering of flowers, we think that this word and Collashan is the Arabized form of the word Golafshani in Persian and refers to the same Shadgoli.

- Shadgoli was probably one of the seasonal festivals or a part of the Ordibeheshtgan (the third day of Ordibehesht) in the beginning. However, from the available reports, it is not possible to determine the exact day or days of the Shadgoli. But it is clear that this ceremony was held when the flowers bloomed in the spring.

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