

## Raeisi honors Ferdowsi for dedicating life to Iran's culture



### Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - Iran's President Ebrahim Raeisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian expressed their admiration for the renowned poet Ferdowsi on the occasion of Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day (May 15).

President Raeisi acknowledged Ferdowsi's significant contributions to Iranian literature, particularly highlighting his epic masterpiece 'Shahnameh' as a testament to the nation's rich culture, language, and religious heritage.

In a statement commemorating the National Day of Ferdowsi, President Raeisi lauded the poet's profound intellect, unwavering spirit, and his profound desire to inspire and unite Iranians. He emphasized that Ferdowsi's devotion to creating a timeless masterpiece of Persian language and culture led him to selflessly sacrifice his wealth and livelihood.

Raeisi further underscored that Ferdowsi's literary inspiration stemmed from his deep-rooted faith, with evident admiration for the Prophet of Islam reflected in numerous verses dedicated to him and his noble household in the epic poem 'Shahnameh'.

Raeisi sent a message to a meeting held on Monday at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) in Tehran to celebrate the day. "The great nation of Iran is a cultural and spiritual truth on the heart of Asia, the world's most diverse continent, and like a ring, it links together the spiritual and cultural existence of the East and West," Raeisi said.

Raeisi said that celebrating Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh would help strengthen the national identity, solidarity and self-confidence in Iranian society, especially among the members of the younger generation.

In addition, Iran's Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian also paid tribute to the esteemed Iranian poet, highlighting how Ferdowsi's literary works instilled values such as love for the country and its independence.

Amirabdollahian's message conveyed the importance of Ferdowsi's teachings, emphasizing that the poet's profound understanding of preserving national values and safeguarding the homeland's independence takes precedence above all else.

The letters from President Raeisi and Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian underscored the enduring legacy of Ferdowsi and his enduring impact on Iranian culture, literature, and national identity.

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# Iran president prioritizes authorship over translation

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Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi paid a visit to the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) on Tuesday morning, engaging in conversations with publishers and gathering insights on the latest developments in the publishing industry.

During his presence at the fair, the president emphasized the significance of prioritizing original authorship over an excessive reliance on translations within the publishing industry, president.ir reported.

The International Section of the book fair hosted 30 distinguished guests from various countries, representing a total of 27 nations, he noted.

Of particular focus during his visit were authors and publishers working in the domain of children's and adolescent literature.

He drew parallels with the crucial role of nutrition and physical health in children's lives, emphasizing the government's commitment to safeguarding the intellectual well-being



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and ideas of teenagers through careful planning. President Raeisi emphasized several pivotal aspects, which encompassed the imperative of generating appropriate and up-to-date content, specifically designed to meet the needs of children and adolescents, thereby nurturing their intellectual

and cultural growth. He advocated harnessing the thoughts and creativity of young people in the process of writing books. Additionally, he stressed the importance of collaboration between the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, as well as the involvement of the private sector in

publishing informative books that cater to the needs of children and adolescents. President Raeisi also emphasized the significance of ensuring widespread distribution and affordable access to books for readers and book enthusiasts throughout the country.

The Iranian president's visit to the book fair showcased the Iranian government's commitment to promoting originality and nurturing the intellectual growth of young readers, while fostering collaboration and accessibility within the publishing industry.

## Facsimile of rare Masnavi ...

Kara emphasized the cultural connection between Iran and Turkey, particularly referencing the renowned poet Rumi, also known as Mevlana (Maulana).

Acknowledging Rumi's significant position in Iranian poetry and literature, Kara highlighted the TIBF as the ideal platform for unveiling this ancient edition.

Kara further explained that this particular version of the Masnavi,

considered the oldest, received the approval of the great poet during his lifetime.

The publication of this magnum opus was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Konya Tourism Culture Department, the Konya and Annexation Antiquities Lovers Association, and a specialized and scholarly board.

Meticulous attention was given to every detail of the printing process, including the selection

of paper and ink, ensuring complete fidelity to the original version, he added.

Kara also noted the significance of the work in relation to the 750th anniversary this year of Rumi's passing (in 1273 CE), highlighting the poet's global cultural heritage that extends beyond Iran and Turkey to countries like Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

He noted that six publishers from Turkey participated in the book fair, showcasing over a thousand copies of literature, culture, and art books in multiple languages, including Turkish, Persian and English, among others.

Kara emphasized the exchange of ideas between Iranian and Turkish publishers, revealing that the books displayed at the Turkish booth would be donated to Tehran's libraries through the Turkish Embassy.

He encouraged Iranian publishers to visit the Turkish book booth in Tehran, offering support and the opportunity to acquire book copyrights.



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Kara explained the TEDA plan, a cooperative initiative with foreign publishers in Turkey, facilitating the presence of Turkish publishers and their books in various international book fairs.

As part of this plan, 201 books were translated from Turkish to Persian, while 65 books by Turkish authors were translated into Persian by 38 Iranian publishers. Through this program, Iranian publishers obtained copyright licenses, receiving financial subsidies for printing and publishing the books.

Kara also mentioned Iran's similar grant plan,

where foreign publishers receive subsidies to publish Persian books in different languages across various countries, including Turkey. Reflecting on his attendance at the TIBF, he expressed the significance of the fair for Turkey, having participated as a representative six times. He emphasized the global stature of the book fair as one of the largest in the world.

The 34th edition of the book fair, which commenced on May 10, will run until May 20, offering an expansive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.

