

## Winter Night

By Nima Yushij

In the cold winter night  
The furnace of the sun too  
Burns not like the hot hearth of my lamp,  
And no lamp is luminous as mine  
Neither it freezes by the cold moon that  
shines above.

I lit my lamp when my neighbor was walking  
in a dark night,  
And it was a cold winter night,  
The wind encircled the pine  
Amid silent heaps.

She was lost from me, separated from this  
narrow lane,  
And still the story is remembered,  
And on my lips these words lingered:  
"Who lights? Who burns?  
Who saves this tale of the heart?"

In the cold winter night  
The furnace of the sun too  
Burns not like the hot hearth of my lamp,  
And no lamp is luminous as mine  
Neither it freezes by the cold moon that shines above.  
My house is cloudy  
My house is cloudy,  
The whole earth is covered by cloud.

From the top of the mountain pass, shattered  
Whirls the heavy wind,  
Destroying all on earth  
Including my senses.  
O pipe! Who have been carried away by the music of your  
pipe; where are you?



# Ancient City of Dwarfs



Translated by Katayoon Dashti  
Edited by Mohammad Reza M. Karimi

Remember Lilliput, the fictional island nation that appears in the first part of the 1726 novel Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift, in which dwarfs lived?

Now imagine a real city with little homes and narrow alleys inhabited by dwarfs.

Although it sounds like a fable, an ancient Iranian city has been unearthed in Shahdad, Kerman province, where dwarfs lived 5,000 years ago. It is known as Shahr-e Koutouheh (City of Dwarfs).

Shahdad, the ancient name of which is Khabis, is located 100 km east of Kerman on the western side of Lut Desert.

Nobody thought an ancient civilization could exist in this desert until 1946. However, following studies conducted by the Geography Faculty of Tehran University in 1946, potteries were discovered in Shahdad as evidence of a civilization that flourished in Lut Desert.

## Excavation Phases

Given the importance of the issue, a group of archeologists visited the area and conducted studies that led to the discovery of civilizations belonging to prehistoric times (end of 4th millennium BC and beginning of 3rd millennium BC).

Scientific and archeological excavations were conducted in this region during 1948-56. Cemeteries belonging to 2nd and 3rd millennium BC and copper furnaces were discovered during eight excavation phases.

Relics discovered in Shahdad's cemeteries included numerous potteries and brassware.

After the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1979 and a lapse of 17 years, archeological explorations were resumed in Shahdad.

The four subsequent excavation phases led to the discovery of houses and workshops clarified many ambiguous issues regarding the architecture and settlements of Shahdad's people.

One of the areas was named Farmers' District, after relics such as ploughs and enclosed lands were discovered there.

Another was named Jewelers' District following the excavation of many precious beads.

Archeologists have unearthed valuable architectural remnants and ancient relics from 3rd millennium BC during a total of ten excavation phases.

## Findings

Shahdad's ancient region is spread over 60 kilometers in the heart of Lut Desert. The city includes workshops, residential districts and cemeteries.

Archeological studies in the residential district known as City of Dwarfs revealed the presence of sub-districts in which jewelers, craftsmen and farmers lived.

Over 800 ancient graves have been excavated during the excavation phases.

Archeological surveys in the City of Dwarfs indicate that the inhabitants abandoned the area due to drought 5,000 years ago and never returned.

Mir-Abedin Kaboli, who oversees Shahdad's archeological excavations, said, "Following latest excavations, we noticed that inhabitants of Shahdad had left many of their belongings at homes and covered the doors with mud."

He said this shows that they were hopeful of returning one day.

Kaboli attributes the departure of Shahdad people to the phenomenon of drought.

## Housing, Alleys and Equipment

A significant aspect about Shahdad is the strange architecture of the houses, alleys and equipment discovered.

The walls, ceiling, furnaces, shelves and all the equipments could only be used by dwarfs.

After the discovery of City of Dwarfs in Shahdad and stories about peoples who lived there, rumors circulated about the discovery of a dwarf's remains.

The latest case pertained to the discovery of a dwarf mummy with a height of 25 cm. The smugglers wanted to sell it at 80 billion rials in Germany.

The news of the arrest of two smugglers and the discovery of a strange mummy spread fast across Kerman province.

Subsequently, Kerman Cultural Heritage Department and police officials sat down to clarify the condition of the mummy that reportedly belongs to a 17-year-old person.

After a lapse of 5,000 years since the departure of dwarfs from the city, a large swathe of this prehistoric region lies buried in soil and the migration of Shahdad's dwarfs remains clouded in mystery.

Many would like to know why Shahdad's dwarfs covered the doors of their homes with mud and never returned.

## Iranian Recipe

### Beef Yogurt

#### Ingredients

Beef, 113 grams, boneless and in small pieces  
Plain yogurt, 5 tablespoons  
Saffron, 1/2 teaspoon  
Onion, 1 small  
Turmeric, a pinch  
Egg yolk, 1 big  
Sugar, 1/2 cup



#### Direction

Place the beef in a pot. Cut the onion in half and put it in the pot. Add turmeric and pour in boiling water until it covers the beef.

Cover the pot with a lid and simmer over low heat for 45 minutes (until the beef is fully cooked).

Shred and mash the beef with a masher.

Mix egg yolk in another pot. Add sugar to the pot and stir in 5 tablespoons of plain yogurt. Add more yogurt, if the mixture is still thick and blend thoroughly until well mixed.

Heat the pot over low heat and keep stirring. Continue stirring until the mixture becomes creamy.

Add the mashed beef to the pot and mix well.

Soak saffron in a little hot water for 30 minutes and pour into the pot. Stir until the mixture is well blended.

Leave the mixture at room temperature until it cools down. Then place it in the refrigerator.

Decorate with pistachios and dried barberries. Serve cold.

#### Health Benefits of Yogurt

Eating yogurt everyday is very healthy for the body. For those looking to supplement their protein, calcium and dairy, yogurt is a healthy choice.

Yogurt is not just a delicious snack. It has great health benefits. It is an excellent source of protein, calcium, riboflavin and vitamin B 12.

When yogurt is compared to milk, yogurt contains more calcium and protein because of the added cultures.

Yogurt must contain active and living cultures to be yogurt. Cultures are composed of unique living microorganisms that are responsible for many of the health and nutritional benefits of yogurt.

It improves natural defense, as it contains a good amount of phosphorus and 88 percent water. People with a risk of osteoporosis should eat at least one serving of yogurt per day.

It has also been claimed that yogurt may protect against some types of cancer, but more investigations have to be carried out.

There are three types of yogurt: regular (whole milk), low-fat and skim. Low-fat and skim yogurt are good for people who are on a cholesterol-lowering diet or just simply watching their weights. These types of yogurt do not raise blood cholesterol levels.

Some people have trouble digesting lactose, a carbohydrate in milk and milk products, because of the deficiency of enzyme lactase in the body. Live yogurt cultures produce lactase and break down the lactose. Yogurt is a healthy way to get calcium for those who cannot tolerate milk products.

## Urban Sculpture Biennial Underway

Iranica Desk

The Third Urban Sculpture Biennial opened at Tehran's Barg Gallery with over 180 works displayed by 172 sculptors.

The opening ceremony on Monday began with tributes paid to the recently-deceased artists Bijan Nemat Sharifi and Arabali Shereh.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony, an official from Tehran Beautification Organization, Mojtaba Mousavi, said the most beautiful works of prominent sculptors are on display in the third biennial that is being held in the best possible manner.

He noted that holding the past two biennials was a good experience for the organization, adding that efforts have been made to hold the biennial based on the set schedule.

Mousavi said that holding the biannual provides an opportunity for exchanging views and information between artists, which plays the main role in the artistic activities undertaken by Tehran's Beautification Organization.

Some 978 artists had sent their works to the secretariat of the biennial.

The sculptures showcased in the biennial will be studied by the jury members. Five selected artists will receive a statuette, certificate of



honor and a cash prize.

The gallery is located at No. 13 Jamali St., off Vafamanesh Ave. near Heravi Square.

## Iran to Attend OIC's Tourism Expo

Iranica Desk

Iran will participate in the Tourism Fair of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which will be held in Egypt.

Director of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization's (ICHHTO) Department for International Affairs Mohammad Parvin said the department and the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran will organize Iran's pavilion in the fair slated for December 20-24.

The official said that introducing Iran's attractions, tourism potentials, culture and civilization are among the main objectives of participating

in the exhibition.

Parvin said a delegation from Iran will participate in the fair.



## Sudoku

No. 298

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Al-Kharazmi. Fill 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid, contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

	1							
		2		9	6	7		
			7			8		
2	6						4	
		4	2	6	3	9		
	5						3	2
			5		8			
		6	3	7		4		
								5

8	5	3	4	2	9	1	6	7
6	4	5	7	3	9	2	8	
9	7	2	8	1	6	5	4	3
2	3	9	7	4	1	8	5	6
5	8	6	3	9	2	4	7	1
4	7		9	8	5	3	6	2
4	2	8	1	5	7	6	3	9
3	1	7	6	9	4	2	8	5
9	6	5	2	3	8	1	7	4