

Soil in Persian Poetry and culture

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Almost everybody knows that soils are the foundation of food production and foodsecurity, supplying plants with nutrients, water and supports for their roots, but how many people or policy makes know that: Soil is a Complex, Dynamic, Open System and life also is the same! Increasing public awareness about soil-related outreach involves the dissemination and acceptance of information about soil to stakeholders who have not been aware of its importance. Public awareness can support efforts to involve private sector, indigenous and local communities and NGOs to engage on soil related activities. In this regard utilization of cultural and traditional understanding of soil issues (ethnopedology, art, literature, customs, and poems) is essential and vital to promote soil awareness among policy-makers, donors and the general public in order to find better understanding of soil's role in global issues such as climate change.

In this paper we extensively analysis Persian and Iranian poems in order to get better understanding of cultural patterns of soils and its contribution to society. In ancient Cultures Classical elements (earth(Soil), water, air, fire,) explained the nature of all matters around the world, same as many other, in Persian. Each of these elements has their nature and personalities. Soil also refers to one part of human's life cycle. After death we join to soil. Therefore in Persian culture and poetry there is lots of poem which express these concepts such as poem below of Umar Khayyam Neyshabouri which noted the importance and the nature of soil and its relation to vegetation, and their cause-effect relationships about one thousand years ago.

“Every unique herb vegetated next to a stream/
is as if grown from the lip of an angelical beauty/
don't stampede (degrade) that herb/
because it is vegetated from the soil of a beauty whose face is like a tulip”.

and

Look how the morning breeze has helped the rosebud bloom/
And how at the sight of the rose the nightingale swoons/
Come sit in the shade of the rosebush for such a rose/
Has often grown out of the soil to fall dawn again.

As an example, This says each part of soil that we step on it, each plant which grew on the soil were a part of human body before, and noticed the value of soil and human effect on it, in an artistic manner. So we generally concluded that cultural patterns have a key role in a better and more common way of soil Understanding.