

## Shiraz is in the heart

Shayan Rahmanian Koushkaki

. . .

Born into saturnine secrecy,  
oh Hafez-e-joonam, how you've been  
quashed. I know it's for the better. Pressured to assimilate  
although two parallels can't meet.  
Perpetually discounted, you, the lesser homolog  
are the eternally same other, eclipsed for centuries.  
yes, I shall stay in exile, banished from the city of the father-poet, I  
know it's for the better

And yet I dream  
of a world where I write  
these lines in my mother tongue,  
One where I don't execute  
the white man's battery of my mother's tongue.  
No it's for the better.

## trilingual

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tenderness  
does not come easy to us. we default  
to rage, for him for her for them for us.  
nevereverending thymos.  
incapable of apathy or moderation,  
i am an amalgamation of wrath anger fury hostility bitterness.  
as we struggle to spell love  
all we learn is to lacerate overpower vituperate erode.

Oh Saturn,  
I am in sempiternal competition with  
    one  
        hundred  
                sixteen  
    other moons,  
gravitating around you, from afar.

vây aziz, drei sprachen and still no words.  
put on that movie you like, first  
just let me cut some fruit  
for you.

### Author Biography

**Shayan Rahmanian Koushkaki** (he/him) is a master student in two separate degrees, North American Studies and New German Literary Studies, at Leibniz University Hannover (Germany). He has a bachelor's degree in the Interdisciplinary Bachelor with English as his major and German as his minor subject. His bachelor thesis, "Redpilling Anons and Trolling Normies: On Politically Incorrect Online Discourses of the Alt-Right" investigates the discursive weaponization of online hate-speech and memes into affect and alternative truth-making. Shayan also co-authored a paper in an anthology at the German Wehrhahn Verlag for literary and cultural studies titled "Kanon und Kanonisierung im Vereinigten Königreich und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika." In his studies, he particularly focuses on postmigration, literary antisemitism, film studies, settler colonial studies, and Black feminist critique of popular culture. Additionally, Shayan is also an organizational member of the Decolonial Feminisms Reading Group as well as a founding editor of *In Progress: A Graduate Journal of North American Studies* and continues to contribute to the journal.