

THE QUANTUCK LANE PRESS



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Contact: Austin O'Driscoll  
(212) 790-4371  
aodriscoll@wwnorton.com

## SHAHNAMEH

### THE EPIC OF THE PERSIAN KINGS

**Based on the epic poem by Ferdowsi, Illustrations and Design by Hamid Rahmanian, Translation and Adaptation by Ahmad Sadri, Foreword by Shelia Canby**

*Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings* [The Quantuck Lane Press, dist. by W. W. Norton & Company, hardcover with slipcase, 592 pages, 500+ four-color illustrations, \$75.00, ISBN 978-1-59372-051-3], is a new illustrated edition of the classic work written over one thousand years ago by Abolqasem Ferdowsi, one of Persia's greatest poets. This new prose translation of the national epic is illuminated with over 500 pages of illustrations and will be published in March 2013 to coincide with the Persian New Year, Nowruz.

Originally written to help protect the millennium-old mythological and epic traditions of Iran amid many turbulent cultural storms, *Shahnameh* is part myth, part history, beginning with the legend of the birth of the nation and following its tumultuous history through the generations. It contains superhuman heroes, magical birds, heart-wrenching love stories, and centuries-long battles. Over the years, Persianate people have lovingly copied and illustrated the *Shahnameh*, though the illustrated edition that is widely accepted as the last great masterpiece was commissioned in 1563. Now, four-and-a-half centuries later, we aim to continue this long tradition with the creation of this exquisite edition of *Shahnameh* for a new generation of readers.

The lush and intricate illustrations in this edition have been created by award-winning graphic artist and filmmaker Hamid Rahmanian, incorporating elements from

traditional Persian imagery from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries while the new translation and adaptation by Ahmad Sadri, retells the mythological and epic stories of the original poem in prose format. This *Shahnameh* is an extraordinary literary and artistic accomplishment.

**HAMID RAHMANIAN** is a filmmaker and graphic artist whose work has been exhibited in international competitions and publications. His narrative and documentary films have premiered at festivals such as Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca, and Venice, and have gained international recognition for their socially conscious storylines. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**AHMAD SADRI** is professor of Sociology and Anthropology and James P. Gorter Chair of Islamic World Studies at Lake Forest College. He has written two books in Persian, *Reviving the Concept of Civilizations* and *An Apocalypse Soon*, and his translations include *Saddam City* (from Arabic) and *Reason, Freedom and Democracy in Islam* (from Persian). He lives in Gurnee, Illinois.

**SHEILA CANBY** is Patti Cadby Birch Curator in Charge of the Islamic Art Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Previously she was Curator of Islamic Collections at the British Museum. Her publications include *Persian Painting* and *The Golden Age of Persian Art*. She lives in New York City.