



# Esma'il Fasih

1935–

An active novelist and short-story writer since the late 1960s, Esma'il Fasih was born and raised in Tehran. In 1956 he traveled to the United States to attend college. With degrees in English literature and science, he returned to Iran and in 1963 began seventeen years' employment with the National Iranian Oil Company, most of it teaching at the Abadan Institute of Technology. Forced into retirement in 1981, Fasih now lives with his family in Tehran and occasionally serves as a technical consultant to the NIOC.

His first novel was *Sharāb-e khām* (Raw wine, 1968). Then came *Del-e kur* (The blind heart, 1974), *Dāstān-e Jāvid* (The story of Javid, 1980), *Sorayyā dar eghmā* (Sorayya in a coma, 1983), which appeared in translation in 1985, *Dard-e Siyāvash* (Siyavash's pain, 1985), *Zemestān-e shast-o do* (Winter of 1962, 1987), and *Shabbāz va joghdān* (The falcon and the owls, 1990). Fasih's novels often treat various members of a fictitious family called "Aryan." Several of these were reprinted in the early 1990s.

Fasih's first short story collections were *Khāk-e āshnā* (The familiar earth, 1970) and *Didār dar Hend* (Visit to India, 1970), followed by *'Aqd* (Wedding, 1978), and *Nemādha-ye dasht-e moshavvash* (Symbols of the shimmering desert, 1990). In the late 1980s, Fasih was also publishing short stories in the Tehran journal *Ādineh*. His article called "The Status: A Day in the Life of an Iranian Writer" in *Third World Review* 9 (1987) sheds light on the situation for writers of fiction living and working in Iran in the 1980s and 1990s.

Nonetheless, his novelistic output has been steadily prolific, including: *Farār-e Farvabar* (1993), *Bādeh-e koban* (1994), *Asir-e zamān* (1995), *Panāh bar Hāfez: yak hasb-e hāl* (1996), *Koshtab-e 'eshq* (1997), *Tasht-e khun* (1997), *Lāleh bar afrukht* (1998), *Bāz' gasbt be-dar khungāh* (1998), *Tārāzbedi/Komedi-e Pars* (1998), *Dar entezār* (2000), and *Nāmeb'i beh dunyā* (2000).