

# Fereydun Tonokaboni

1937–

From the Caspian littoral town of Tonokabon, Fereydun Tonokaboni has university training in Persian literature and is a teacher by profession. His first publication was a novella called *Mardi dar qafas* (A man in a cage, 1961). Then followed a steady output of short stories anthologized in the following collections, among others: *Asir-e khāk* (Captive of the soil, 1962), written under the pseudonym F.T. Amuzgar, *Piyādeh-ye shatranj* (The chess pawn, 1965), *Setāreh'bhā-ye shab-e tیره* (The stars of dark night, 1968), *Yāddāshthā-ye shahr-e sholugh* (Notes from a hectic city, 1969), *Rah raftan ru-ye rayl* (Traveling on rails, 1977), *Sarzamin-e khoshbakhti* (The land of happiness, 1978), and *Miyān-e do safar* (Between two trips, 1978). One printing of his *Dah dāstān va neveshteh'bhā-ye digar* (Ten stories and other writings) took place in Berkeley, California, in 1978. His *Notes from a Hectic City* was reprinted in Tehran in the spring of 1979.

A quintessentially engagé writer of his generation, Tonokaboni challenged the limits of censorship during the 1960s and 1970s. His incarceration in the late 1960s became a cause for united action on behalf of the Association of Iranian Writers, which he helped found. Tonokaboni was a major participant in the “Ten Nights” meetings in October 1977 at Tehran’s Goethe Institute; the “Ten Nights” meetings, published a year later as a book, signaled the revitalization of the Association of Iranian Writers.

In early 1979, Tonokaboni complained in print about censorship of his writing, wondering aloud what differences existed between the Iranian National Television Organization under *Qotbi* (during the later Pahlavi era) and *Qotbzādeb* (during the early Islamic Republican era). No works of his have appeared since.