

Sadeq Chubak

1916–1998

Short-story writer and novelist Sadeq Chubak was born in Bushire, where his father was a prominent bazaar merchant. After elementary schooling in his home town, Chubak attended secondary school in Shiraz, where his family had moved. He later graduated from Alborz College high school in Tehran, and became a teacher. During World War II Chubak served as an English translator for the Iranian General Staff in Tehran.

In 1945 Chubak published his first book, a collection of short stories called *Khaymeh shab-bāzi* (The puppet show). In 1949, the year in which he became a librarian at the National Iranian Oil Company, a position he held until taking early retirement in 1974, Chubak published a second collection of short stories, *Antari ke lutiya sh mordeh bud* (The monkey whose master was dead). By this time critics considered Chubak the leading “naturalistic” short-story writer in Iran.

Chubak proceeded in the 1950s to publish short stories in *Sokhan* magazine and elsewhere, but his next book was the 1963 novel *Tang-sir* (Man from Tangestan), which has been translated as *One Man with His Gun* together with four short stories and a play in *Sadeq Chubak: An Anthology* (1982). In 1965 appeared Chubak’s third and fourth collections of short stories: *Cherāgh-e ākher* (Last alms) and *Ruz-e avval-e qabr* (First day in the grave).

Chubak’s last published fiction was the important novel called *Sang-e sabur* (1966), published in translation as *The Patient Stone* in 1989. Since *The Patient Stone*, except for work on unpublished memoirs, Chubak has apparently produced no creative writing. In 1974 the film version of *Tang-sir* enjoyed considerable success in Iran. In the mid-1970s the author and his wife moved to London and thereafter settled in a San Francisco suburb.

In the 1990s, only two of his works appeared in Iran. His translations of love stories from Sanskrit literature into Persian, *Mahpāreh: dāstān’hā-ye āsheqi-e Hendū* was published in 1991, and in 1999, *Gozideh-e dāstān’hā-ye kutāb-e Sādeq Chubak: entekhāb va tablil-e Rub Allāh Mahdīpur ‘Omrāni* appeared.