



Shahrnush Parsipur

1946-

The daughter of an attorney in the Justice Ministry originally from Shiraz, Shahrnush Parsipur was born and raised in Tehran, studied Chinese culture in France from 1976-79, and graduated from the Faculty of Letters at Tehran University. Her first book was *Tupak-e qermez* (The little red ball, 1969), a story for young people. Her first short stories were published in the late 1960s. Her novella *Tajrobeh'hā-ye āzād* (Trial offers, 1970) was followed by the novel *Sag va zemestān-e boland* (The dog and the long winter), published in 1976. Then came a volume of short stories called *Āvizeh'hā-ye bolur* (Crystal pendant earrings, 1977).

By the late 1980s, Parsipur was receiving considerable attention in Tehran literary circles, with the publication of several of her stories and several notices and a lengthy interview with her in *Donyā-ye sokhan*. Parsipur's second novel was *Tubā va ma'nā-ye shab* (Tuba and the meaning of night, 1989), which Parsipur wrote after spending four years in prison. Right before her incarceration, she had published a translation called *Zanān-e romān'nevis* (Woman novelists, 1984) of a book by Michelle Mercier.

In 1990 appeared a short novel, again consisting of connected stories, called *Zanān-e bedun-e mardān* (Women without men), which Parsipur had finished in 1976. The Iranian government banned the novel in mid-1990 and put pressure on the Parsipur to desist from such writing. Thus, from 1992 on, all her fiction has been published overseas, primarily in California and Sweden. These works include: *Tajrobeh'hā-ye āzād: majmu'ab-i dāstānbā-ye be-ham payvastek* (1992), *Adāb-e sarf-e chay dar hozur-e gorg: majmu'ab-e dāstān va maq_lah* (1993), *Aql-e ābi* (1994), *Khāterat-e zendān* (1996), *Mājarā'hā-ye sādeb va kuchak-e ruh-e derakht* (1999), *Shivā: yak dāstān-dānes* (2000). Despite being published in exile, Parsipur's influence on other writers has been huge. In 1999, a collection of short stories by Iranian women dedicated to her appeared: *Az rāh residan va bāzgasht: majmu'ab'i az dāstānbā-ye kārgāb-e dāstān'nevisi-e Shahrnush Parsipur*. An English translation of *Women Without Men* was published in the U.S. in 1998. The only work of Parsipur's to appear in Iran since 1990 is her translation of Chinese stories, *Tārikk-e Chin*.