

29<sup>th</sup> of October 2006

## Commemoration...

In the previous issues of (*Nimrūs* 905) we reported the celebration event of Lu'bat Vālā the prominent poetess and lyric writer who lives in London, and we also printed pieces of interviews we had conducted with her in the previous years. Now, we take a look at what happened during the event, whilst, giving an insight into her recently published poetry book.

It is without a doubt that this event and the published book is the first cultural effort of the Toos Foundation in London, whose sole objective is to promote and magnify the cultural and literal activities of the Iranian artist in exile. Throughout the past two decades, most of the efforts made on the cultural fields, and the realm of literature has not surfaced, some of these literary works have not been promoted, as they deserved. Thus, the Toos Foundation has made this enduring problem a duty to deal with and therefore, it is its intention to build a bridge between the Iranians and the culture of Iran.

The programme event of Lu'bat Vālā benefited from various parts: speeches, slides show, visual messages, poetry, music, and so on...the messages came from all over the world and all for a famous poetess whose lifelong work has been for the benefit of modernity and freedom. Of the distinguished figures of the former regime there was Farah Pahlavi the former Queen of Iran, Mehrdād Pahlbod, and Shujā' al-Din Shafā who sent messages. And among the circle of intellectuals there were messages from: Sirus Amuzegār, Ajudāni, Mujābi, Nuri 'Alā' Dr. Sadr al-Din Ilāhi, Parviz Sayyād, Khu'i, Ahrār, Janati 'Atā'i, Pahlevān, Sadiqi, Sekandari, and Mirzādegi. Among the music artists, there were two singers: Shahidi and Khātereh Parvāneh. Various speakers were all present from different corners of the world: Simin Behbahāni, Azar Pazhuhesh, Asemi, Khushnām, Bizhan Shafiqiān, and Shamsi Asār.

Shamsi 'Asār read some translated poems of Lu'bat and Shafiqiān who is the son in law of the poetess spoke about his relationship with the mother in law. Asemi referred to Lu'bat's talent in stage design and told some stories about the memories of those years. Later, Simin Behbahāni who had travelled from Iran mad a speech.

Following Simin's speech, the contemporary poetesses of London read some poetry which they had composed specially for the event. Fakhri Nikzād was the host for the event and the last piece of the live music played was by 'Atā Shafiqiān the grandson of Lu'bat.

At the end of the programme, a tablet of appreciation was given to Lu'bat Vālā by Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi the founder of the Toos Foundation.

It is not fair to speak about everything else, but the efforts and hardship of those responsible for putting this event together with such precision and high quality management.

We thank the good will of Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi and Tufiq Mumtāz for arranging such glorious programme and we hope that this event would be one of many such programmes to come by the Toos Foundation.

## **...And “Par Gushudan hā”**

“*Par Gushudan hā be Havā-yi Parvāz*” is the title of a collection of poetry by Lu’bat Vālā which was published by the Toos Foundation in forms of a book and a CD, at the same time with her celebration event. At the beginning of the collection there is a foreword by Simin Behbahāni which refreshes the past memories. She speaks about the first days of their friendship and she further talks about Lu’bat’s period of youth:

How beautiful it was. With eyes the same colour as the grapes of the garden of paradise which only alights lamps of the imaginations. A skin the same colour as the blossoms of a peach tree and lips as sparkling as cherries and a voice that paralysed the current of water and the motions of the birds!

Simin says: over fifty years has past from their friendships and a large portion of those years have been spent in separations. Despite all the separations, they have spent some sweet years together during their time at the University. Simin worked in the Omid magazine and Lu’bat in Tehran *Mussavar*. However, the closeness had gradually turned into long separations and with the migrant of Lu’bat and the change of the government they fell apart.

Simin, adds: now that I look at Lu’bat’s poems I commend her. She has done well and exile has given her poetry a new profundity. In appearance, she has fallen apart from her homeland, but in spirit her homeland remains in her heart and mind...I understand her sufferings...

The collections are divided into two parts. One is the classical verses and the next is made of new poetry and ideas. Some of the best and most sentimental verses are in the first part:

*My lips are like an instrument empty of lyrics  
My heart is like a homeless bird  
Within the vastness of imaginations, I am so drowned,  
that each mirage to my eyes looks like a reality.  
My prayers every morning is the verses of hatred  
My silence compares to a night prayer  
I am tired of that shattered owl “Lu’bat”  
For every ruin now to me is a home*

*What do I do with spring, winter is in my heart  
The sky is cloudy, the home is ruined  
Separated from myself, desperate, and fallen behind  
Fallen in this sump, hurt by the old and young  
To remain in the hell of night, is an unbearable pain  
Except vengeance and hatred none is in this well  
The tale of respect, is now a strange word  
Alas! There is such turmoil in these day and time*

*The Sage and elite are all in the ruin  
The disgraced occupies every house, as the house of God!*

*In the coldest winter  
I plant the seed of hope  
Within the heart of the darkest nights  
I see thousand of manifestations of the Sun  
The flower of hope, I see  
The flower of hope, I pick*

*In waiting for a miracle one must not sit  
From a dry soil no seed will rise  
We must free the body of earth and the skies  
From the dirt field of the foe  
From the roof of the house, we must clear the darkness*