

The Guide for the Perplexed in Persian

By Morgan Haki mi, Ph.D

THE GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED

In Persian

A COMMENTARY ON *THE GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED*

In Persian & English

Original Commentary & Persian Translation:

Shirindokht Daghighian

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... understand and ...
...ian has created such
an opportunity for the Iranian Jewry all over the world, her translation of the “The guide for the perplexed” brings about awareness to a community in dire need of one. Less than four decades ago, the hands of faith uprooted insular Jews that have resided in Persia since the Babylonian times, and have remained intact in the course of their historical struggle. It is one of the mysteries of our intellectual history that of Maimonides’ Guide, together with his instructions on how to read his book, have been so widely ignored. No author other than Ms. Daghighian could have been more eloquent and informing to her readers that they are confronting no ordinary book. While many Jewish communities revered Maimonides', unfortunately until today Iranian Jews have not been exposed to this thought provoking religious masterpiece.

There is a saying that the history of Jewish doctrine runs from 'Moses to Moses'; the second of which is Moses Maimonides. Maimonides delves into the most difficult questions of theology and reality itself, many of which are still controversial today. He draws from Jewish, Islamic and ancient Greek philosophers, and evaluates each one on their merits. Controversial when it was written, the *Guide* continues to be a key reference point in the evolution of philosophy, and will be a rewarding journey for the modern reader.

Perhaps the greatest pride for me lies in the fact that a female scholar has taken the initiative to answer the call of history. Shirin a very talented individual, who has made an impact on the Iranian literary society, met this challenge with ease. Daghighian's erudition and strong personal conviction empowers her to convey the message successfully. Her vast knowledge in philosophy, history, and religious, facilitate this rite of passage. Shirin's work has been well celebrated and her style is among the influential prose of the Iranian writers. Her sentences with uncomplicated grammar are the hallmark of a clean style and a careful process in selecting essential elements. Besides presenting a full accurate translation of the three chapters of the *Guide* in Persian, Shirin Daghighian has written an original commentary on this masterpiece of Maimonides in both English and Farsi (add your opinion about my commentary)

The powerful impact of Ms. Shirin Daghighian's work will be ascertained by passage of time. The inspiring interchange has already begun in distinct and stimulating "*café Rambam*" classes for the Persian communities of Los Angeles and New York City. For a community that has been lost in the sea of cultural duality for decades, pursuit of spiritual progression has been imminent. Hence, once again history repeats itself, and the *Guide* becomes an understated channel for the spiritual journey of an ancient group of Jews in exile.

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