



Ahmad Shamlou (1925 — 2000) was a very prolific Persian poet, writer, and journalist. His poetry should be placed within the new frames initiated for Persian poetry by Nima Youshij

Ahmad Shamlou's career spanned over half a century, a century with decisive turns in the country's socio-political environment. Such environment combined with the richness of the poet's repertory of myth and his universal outlook on human condition allowed him to use themes that are to some extent exotic to Iranian culture in his poetry. It is so that he artfully uses the atmosphere like the Passion of Christ or Exodus and Passover or masterpieces like Hamlet for his personal expressions.

Maryam Dilmaghani
<http://www.ahmadshamlou.com>

Ayda in the Mirror

Ahmad Shamlou
Translation: Maryam Dilmaghani

Those two oblique lines
on your face
are the sketch of your pride
and my fate as the wanderer
of the lanes of night.
Those two oblique lines
on your face
are the sketch of my fate in this dark
without being armed by the hope of dawn;
and my destination
for I fearlessly kept a chastity unstained
in the hazardous crossroads of this world.
My life was a sacrifice,
a fierce sacrifice,
that never had someone attempted.

Your eyes are the mystery of fire
And your love is the triumph of mankind
challenging the rule of destiny.
Your bosom
is a minute peaceful place
left to within rest
and to within die
and to flee the town,
the towns that shamelessly accuse
the truth of the skies.

The mount starts with the first rocks in the hill
And man with the first pains and cries.
In me dwelled a captive rebel
Yet never accustomed to the noise of his chains-
I was born with your first gaze.