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Reprint.

Common Saws and Proverbs collected, chiefly from Dervishes, in Southern Persia.
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Mem. A.S.B.



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The following common saws and proverbs were collected, chiefly from dervishes and professional story-tellers, during a two years' residence in Southern Persia. Every saw or proverb was submitted to the criticism of at least three educated Persians in Persia, and those not receiving corroboration were struck out of the list. The residue has been revised by Muḥammad Kāzīm Shirāzī, Persian Instructor to the Board of Examiners, who has further compared it with Roebuck¹ and erased all proverbs found in the collection of the latter. Some sayings that have their origin in well-known writings, but which do not occur in Roebuck, have been allowed to stand.

It is not to be supposed that the whole of these proverbs are current in any one district. Still every professional story-teller has a stock of two or three hundred. The story-tellers are, in most cases, illiterate men, and like most illiterate but intelligent people they have excellent and well-stored memories.

The list here given is perhaps only a small portion of the proverbs in common use to-day, in different districts.

1. "The ass's colt through its assinity, keeps ahead of its mother." (Said to a vulgar man that pushes himself forward.) Cf. 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.'
2. "By the time the calf becomes a cow, its master's patience is exhausted." (Said to one with a troublesome child.)
3. "Only a dog of Mazenderan can catch a Mazenderan jackal" Cf. 'Set a thief to catch a thief.' Vide No. 191.
4. "By the time I've made you a man, I shall have become a donkey." (Said by a master to a boy or by a father to a son.)
5. "The winter has passed but the charcoal-seller's face is as black as ever"; (*i.e.*, 'Thanks, the necessity no longer exists, but the shame of not having helped me still remains with you').
6. "An old horse trained for a race is useful for the Day of Judgment." (Said to anyone who, late in life, starts learning a new subject.)
7. "I was born before my father was married"²; (*i.e.*, I'm an old hand and need no teaching; I know a thing or two). Cf. 'None can teach this dog tricks.'
8. "He's learned without having troubled to read." (A taunt to a quack.)
9. * * * * *
- (*i.e.*, 'You talk of the gain but say nothing of the pain'³).
10. "I prefer the trickling stream to the river torrent that rushes once in the year and remains dry the remainder." (I prefer profits small and sure to profits large and risky.)
11. "A hundred sparrows with their chirpings are half a *mann*:⁴ kill an ox whose one thigh is thirty *mann*." (Advice of Vazir to Governor not to loot small fry.)
12. "A swift horse trips." Cf. 'The more haste the less speed: slow and sure.'
13. "A snapped rope may be tied but the knot remains"; (*i.e.*, a quarrel may be made up but a soreness remains; a wound may be healed but the scar remains).

¹ "A Collection of Proverbs and Proverbial Phrases in the Persian and Hindustani Languages" by Thomas Roebuck, Calcutta, 1824.

² This implies not 'bastard' but 'wide awake.'

⁴ Seven Indian seers go to 1 Tabrizi *mann*.

³ عوام الناس يتجاهون بطول مذاكيرهم وغلظهم

امثال

1. کره خور از خوریت پیش پیش مادر است
2. گوساله تا¹ گاب شود دل صاحبش¹ آب شد
3. } شغال بیشه ما زندران را
نگیرد جز سگ ما زندران را
4. تا² میرم قرا آدم کنم خودم خور میشوم
5. زمستان رفت رو سیاهی بزغال فروش ماند³
6. اسپیکه در پیروی⁴ سوغان بگیرند برای میدان قیامت خوب است
7. من بچه پیش از⁵ قباله هستم
8. نخوانده ملا است
9. شما تعریف کلفتی کیر بابا را میکنی اما خبر از کس مادر نداری
10. من آب باریک را بهتر از سیلاب رود خانه میدانم که سالی یکبار بیاید و باقی سال خشک میباشد
11. } صد تا گنجشک⁶ با جیق و جیقش⁶ نیم من است
گومی بکش که گرد رانش سبی من است
12. اسپ تیز رو ساکندری میخورد
13. } چورن رشته گسیخت میتوان بست
لیکن گر هیش در میان است

¹ *Gāb* vulg. for *gāv* (and *au* vulg. for *āb*).³ I.e., *bi-hālat-i pish mānd*.⁵ *Qabāla* = marriage ceremony.² *Mī-ram* vulg. for *mī-ravam*: *tū bi-yāyam* could be substituted.⁴ *Saughān k.* to train for a race, etc. (of horses).⁶ *Ḥiq u ḥiq*, chirping of small birds.

14. "I break the tie of my friendship that perchance when the knot is tied I may become closer to you." (As the two ends of the knotted string become nearer to each other.) (A reply to No. 13.)

15. "He who travels by night reaches his stage during the day:
He who sleeps by night brings ruin on himself."

(He that toils, succeeds; and he that is lazy, fails.) Cf. 'No gains without pains.'
Vide also No. 30.

16. (a) "He commences to mourn before the death."

(b) "He cries out before he is hurt."

(c) بکی قبل أن یلاط

(d) "He weeps before the recital of the martyrdom."

(e) "He takes off his shoes before he reaches the stream."

17. "If fruit hangs over the garden wall, every passer-by will stone it." (Look after your valuables. Often with reference to a wife.)

18. "He is so stingy that if even the gutter pipe¹ of his roof be pointed into the street he can't sleep."

19. "He always makes a poor mouth" (cries poverty).

20. *Servant*—"My work is like a cook's; as you pay, so is your messing."

Master—"A willing horse is given abundant fodder."

21. "To drink deep and keep sober is easy:

If you rise in life and don't become swollen-headed (drunk), then you're a *man*."

Cf. Judge no man until he's seen success.

22. "Good juice comes from the fruit without squeezing"; (*i.e.*, love is not by forcing).

23. "My father was minister to the King. What's that to do with *you*?" (Said to one boasting of his ancestors: *i.e.*, personal worth alone counts.) Cf. 'True worth is more than Norman blood.'

24. "An innocent man may get as far as the foot of the scaffold, but he will not mount it" (*i.e.*, he will escape actual punishment).

25. "New sleeves do you eat the *pilo*." (This saying is attributed to *Bahlūl*, the brother of *Hārūn* *r-Rashīd*. Ill-dressed, he was refused admittance to a feast so he donned a gown with flowing sleeves and was admitted with honour.) Cf. 'Gude claes open a' doors.'

26. "They have made this camel lie down at my door. (They have forcibly tracked this matter to me.)

27. "You will be given butter according to the quantity of your *dū gh*." (Said to a master that expects much from an ill-paid servant.)

28. "Don't take up a morsel larger than your mouth"; (*i.e.*, a small man should not undertake too great a work). Cf. 'He has bitten off more than he can chew.' *Vide* No. 132.

29. "If you wish to avoid disgrace, do as men do." Cf. 'In Rome do as Rome does.'

¹ *Nāvdān*, of earthenware and of practically no value.

14. } پیوند دوستی من از آن پاره می گفتم
شاید گره خورد بتو نزدیک تر شوم
15. } هر که بشب راه رفت روز بمفزل رسید
هر که بشب خراب رفت خاک بسر میکند
تاشب نرویی روز بجائی نرویی
16. (a) پیش از مرگ ماتم میگیرد or پیش از مرگ واویلا
(b) پیش از چوب گریه کردن
(c) پیش از چون¹ دادن آه و ناله
(d) پیش از روضه خوانی گریه میکند
(e) هفوز بآب نرسیده کفش از پایش بیرون میکند
17. هر میوه که سرش از باغ بیرون باشد هر کس از راه میگذرد بران سنگ میاندازد
18. فلان شخص ایققدر بخیل است که شب اگر نارادان خانه اش در بیرون کوچه باشد خوابش نمی برد
19. همیشه داد از نیستی می زند
20. نوکر: — کار ما مثل آشپزی می ماند، هرچه میدهی آش میخوری
آقا: — اسپ رونده² کاه و جوش را زیاد میکنند
21. } گم بدولت برسی مست نگردی مردی
گم بدولت برسی مست نگردی مردی
22. شیر³ آنست که خودش بیاید
23. ”پدر من وزیر سلطان بود“ ”بتوجه ؟“
24. آدم بی گذه پی دار میرود سر دار نمیرود
25. آستین نو تو پلو بخور
26. این شتر را در خانه من خوابانیدد
27. بقدر دوغت مسکه⁴ میزنند
28. تکه بزرگتر از دهن بر ندارد
29. خواهی نشوی رسوا هم رنگ جماعت شو

1 *Chūn* here = *kūn*.2 *Asp-i ravanda*, 'a willing horse.'3 *Shira*, fresh juice of fruit; also boiled syrup.4 In Persia butter is made from *dūgh* which is *māst* mixed with butter.

30. "When the camel wants its ration, it raises its head." (He who wants a thing must exert himself.) *Cf.* 'No pains no gains.' *Vide* No. 15.

31. "You're like the cow that gave nine seers of milk, but after milking kicked over the full pail." (Said of a person that effaces a kindness by an injury.)

32. (a) "The more the camel hates the *jāz*¹ the more he meets it."

(b) "The more the snake hates mint, the more the mint grows at the mouth of its hole."

(Said to one who dislikes a thing and is always coming across it.)

33. "Have you eaten sparrow-heads, that you are chattering like this?"

34. "A fox fell into a vat of indigo and exclaimed:—'I am a peacock of the Seventh Heaven.'"² (Said to one that makes a boast of what is a misfortune to him.) *Cf.* 'The fox that lost its tail.'

35. "While your hand is in the butter rub a little on my hair"; (*i.e.*, While in a fat billet give me a few pickings).

36. "He like a sick ass, and they like lazy dogs are waiting for his death." (Said of expectant heirs.)

37. "Nothing is better than resignation."

38. "When the fountain reaches to a height, it falls headlong." *Cf.* 'Pride and a fall.'

39. "Whatever your hand touches becomes devoid of luck." (Said to an unlucky person.)

40. "In truth is salvation."

41. "The camel mounts a minaret and cries,
'Lo here I'm hidden: expose me not.'"

(Said to a knave or a fool who does ill and says 'keep it secret.')

42. "The uglier the ape the more amusing its tricks." (Said to a wag or to an invalid that shirks nasty medicine.)

43. "Till it straightens itself the snake can't enter its hole." Till the knave forsakes his knavery he won't succeed; *or* 'I won't let you off till you tell me the truth.'

44. "Hunt like the lion that foxes may live by you." (Said to a merchant that thinks only of small ventures, or to a beggar.)

45. "The bridal procession is at the door and the bride has gone to the W. C." (Said to one who does things at the wrong time.) *Vide* Nos. 46 and 104.

46. "When the game is started the greyhound commences to—." (As above.)

47. "The jackal either runs or howls."³ (Said by a servant asked to do more than one work.) *Cf.* 'I canna baith spin and rin,' *and* 'No man can sup and blow at once.'

48. "By the time you have armed yourself the battle is over." (To a slow or idle person.)

49. "The knife has reached the bone."; (*i.e.*, 'The last straw,' *or* 'Matters have reached their worst').

¹ *Jāz* is a thorn disliked by camels.

² *i.e.*, the Highest Heaven.

³ It is supposed that a jackal can't howl and run at the same time.

30. شتر که نواله میخورد گردش را دراز میکند
31. تو مثل گاب نه من شیر می مانی وقتیکه ترا نوشیدند لکد میزنی شیرها را میزنی
32. (a) شتر هر قدر از جاز بدش می آید بیخ گوشش سبز میشود
(b) مار که از پودینه بدش می آید دم سوراخش سبز می شود
33. سرگنجشک خوردی که اینقدر حرف میزنی؟
34. روباهی افتاد در خم نیل گفت "منم طاوس علیین*"
35. تا دستت در دروغن است دست چوبی بسرم بمال
36. او چون خر بیمار و اینها چون سگ بیکار منتظر مرگش هستند
37. هیچ چیز بهتر از گردن تسلیم نیست
38. فغاره¹ چون بلند شود سر نگون شود
39. دست تو بهر چه آشنا شد
خیر و برکت از او جدا شد
40. راستی رستگار بست
41. بسر مناره اشتر رود و فغان بر آرد
که منم فهان بدینجا مکنید آشکارا
42. میمون هرچه زشتتر است بازیش خوشتر است
43. مار تا راست نشود داخل سوراخ خود نمیگردد
44. مثل شیر شکار بکن تا از بواه از دولت سر تو بخورد
45. زفاف آمده است و عروس رفته است سر آب
46. تازمی وقت شکار ریودنش میگیرد
47. شغال یا میدود یا زوزه میکشد
48. تا تو میزنی² اسلحه به پوشی جنگ تمام شده است
49. کارد باسنخوان رسید

¹ Vulg. for *favvāra*, "fountain."

² *Mi-rī* vulg. for *mī-ravī*.

50. "Be a whole man, or be half a man¹ or still be a b—y fool"; (*i.e.*, don't be half and half: be one thing or the other.)

51. (a) "My *gilim* was originally woven black."

(b) "If the *gilim* of one's fate be woven black, not the waters of Zamzam nor Kauşar will wash it white."

(One fated to ill-luck cannot have good luck.)

52. (a) "The sun can't scorch more, nor the slave be burnt blacker."

(b) "There is nothing blacker than black."

(I can't be more unlucky than I am.)

53. "My face is red from slaps and not from health: from starvation my legs refuse their office." (Said to a poor man; you must not judge by appearances.)

54. "The moon with all her splendour is hidden three days a month, but your face is with us always." (Said ironically to a troublesome person.)

55. "Why pipe to one that is deaf, why dance to one that is blind?" *Cf.*, Why cast your pearls before swine?"

56. "If a mulla stretch out his hand to a dish of food, he won't rest till he has plunged it deep into its butter." (Applied to the poverty and greed of mullas.)

57. "Kill yourself by smoking your fill; the opium's free." (A taunt.)

58. "A hundred like you I've taken to the stream, and by cunning brought back thirsty." (I'm smart enough to have taken in a hundred like you, and do you try and get the better of me?)

59. "Take care he doesn't trick you." (Origin obscure.)

60. "Forty years I've been a faithful dog here, and I am now a confidential servant." (Said by a servant to a recruit claiming equality.)

61. "Nothing more uniform have I seen than an egg:
Break it, and two colours are disclosed."

(No man is the same inside and out.)

62. "You are like stone-cakes: different on each side." (As above.)

63. "He's only alive because he's too poor to buy a shroud." (Said of a poor or wretched person.) *Cf.* 'He can't afford to die as he has'nt enough money to pay for his funeral expenses.'

64. (a) "A ladder is mounted step by step."

(b) "God created the world by degrees."

Cf. 'Step by step climbs the hill.'

'Go slow: Rome was not built in a day.'

65. "You're like a brother that—: there's no gain and no sense of obligation."

إنما عمالك كاخ يلو ط أخاه لا أجر في ذلك ولا منة

66. "May your bread be ever tied to the gazelle's horn"; *i.e.*, be difficult to get. (A curse.)

¹ Half a man; 'a coward; a tailor.' Don't be 'half partridge, half quail.'

50. یا مردانهٔ مرد باش یا نیم مرد باش یا هپله هپو¹
51. (a) از ازل گلیم مرا سیاه بافته اند
(b) } گلیم بخت کسی را که بافتند هیاه
} بآب زمزم و کوثر سفید نتوان کرد
52. (a) نه آفتاب ازین گرمتر میشود نه غلام ازین سیاه تر
(b) بالا تر از سیاهی رنگی نیست
53. ما روی خود را از سیلی سرخ داریم² و الا از زور گرسنگی قوت زانو نداریم
54. ماه بچفین روشنایی هر ماهی سه شب پنهان است ولی صورت تو تمام وقت آشکار است
55. چه از برای کوساز بزنی و چه از برای کور برقصی
56. } دست ملا اگر بقاب رسد
} بکفد ژرف تا بآب رسد
57. بکش خود را عجب تریاک مفتیست
58. من صد تا مثل شما را سر جو میبرم و تشنه بر میگردانم
59. شیرۀ بسرت نمالد
60. من چهل سال است درین خانه مثل سگ پارس³ کرده ام تا حالا محرم شده ام
61. } یک رنگتر ز بیضه ندیدم درین جهان
} چون پوده اش دریدم دیدم دو رنگ هست
62. تو مثل نان ساجی⁴ می مانی دو رو هستی
63. از بیکفنی زنده است
64. (a) از نردبان پله پله بالا باید رفت
(b) خدا دنیا را بصبر آفرید
65. کار تو مثل برادریکه کون برادر بگذارد : نه مزد است نه منت
66. همیشه نانت بشاخ آهو باشد

¹ *Haḥlahāḥū* (slang), "half witted" (though not an idiot).

² Note this use of *والا* = "How can it be otherwise when"—or "If you say it is from any other cause, then I will say—."

³ "To bark, keep watch" (of a dog): for *pās kardan*.

⁴ *Nān-i sāji*, bread cooked on pebbles; the upper side is smooth, the under indented by the pebbles.

67. "May your water be warm and your bread cold (sodden) for I'm harried to death by you." (Father to son: a curse.)
68. Opposite to above: a blessing.
69. "You saw the penis: didn't you see the pumpkin?¹" (*i.e.*, you saw my gain, but you didn't see the trouble I was put to.)
70. "My heart is not a table-cloth to be spread before all comers": *i.e.*, I can't tell everyone my secrets. I don't wear my heart on my sleeve.
71. "A pen-knife doesn't cut its own handle." (A man doesn't injure himself or his belongings.) *Vide* No. 192. *Cf.* 'Corbies 'dinna pike out corbies 'een.'
72. "Even a *Qāzi* will indulge in free drinks." (You can't hesitate when a thing is free.)
73. "This year's sparrow-brood is teaching last year's." *Cf.* 'Teach your grandmother.'
74. "One should be like *khākshir* and agree with all temperaments."
75. "May God cut off a portion of his life and add it to his brains." (Said of a fool.)
76. "I talked to him till hair grew on my tongue"; (*i.e.*, till I was tired out).
77. "A broken arm can toil but not a broken heart."
78. "If you are as long-lived as an ass, I'm as patient as a waiting dog"; (*i.e.*, I'm not going to be worn out; you won't get out of my clutches.)
79. "There is a laughter that follows every weeping." *Cf.* Every cloud has a silver lining.' *Vide* Nos. 80 and 157.
80. "Every 'up' has a 'down.'" (As above.)
81. "The *Hāji*'s dead; well, his camel is spare." *Cf.* 'It's an ill wind.'
82. "If you want to be respected don't play with children and slaves." (Don't mix with inferiors).
83. "A glad heart or a sorrowful — it's all the same to us"; (*i.e.*, Do it or not, as you please; let it happen or not).
84. "Were you to draw him on the door of the W.C., the paper² would fall from one's hand." (Said of an ugly person.)
85. "I went to him to blow his nose and by accident put out his eye." (I tried to do him a good turn but did him a bad one, as for instance by putting in a good word for him with his master who took it ill). *Cf.* 'Bid a man to a roast and stick him wi' the spit.'
86. "What do you expect from a hairless palm?" *Cf.* 'You can't get blood out of a stone.'
87. "I never raised my head from the knee of sorrow."
88. "A tank without water wants no fish." *Cf.* 'A blind man needs no looking glass.'
89. "A man who has no room requires no carpet." (As above.)

¹ *Vide* Note 2, p. 311.

² *Āftāba* is a long-necked brass vessel used in all ablutions.

67. آبت گرم و نانت سرد¹ که از دست تو من مردم.
68. آبت سرد و نانت گرم
69. تو کیر را دیدی و کدو را ندیدی² ؟
70. دل که سفره نیست که آدم پیش همه کس وا کند
71. چاقو دسته خود را نمی برد
72. شراب مفت قاضی هم میخورد³
73. گنجشکهای امسالی گنجشکهای پارسالی را یاد میدهند
74. آدم خوب است مثل خاکشیر⁴ بهمه طبیعت سازگار باشد
75. خدا از عمرش بر دارد و روی عقلش بگذارد
76. من زبانم مو در آورد، از بسکه باین نصیحت کردم
77. دست شکسته کار میکند و لیکن دل شکسته کار نمی کند
78. اگر تو خر دیر بمیری هستی من سگ انتظار کشی هستم
79. هر گریه از عقبش یک خنده دارد
80. هر سرازیری یک سربالائی هم دارد
81. حاجی مرد شتر خلاص
82. } اگر خواهی که با مقدار باشی
مکن با کودک و با بنده بازی
83. پیش ما خاطر شاد و دل غمناک یکیست
84. شکش را اگر در خلا بکشی آفتابه از دست آدم می افتد
85. رفتن دماغش را پاک کنم چشمش را هم کور کردم
86. از کف دست که مو ندارد شما چه میخواستی
87. هرگز سرم ز کاسه زانو جدا نشد
88. حوضیکه آب ندارد لازم بماهی نیست
89. شخصیکه اطاق ندارد فرش هم لازم ندارد

¹ *Bāshad*, understood.

In Urdu کف کوی شراب قاضی کو بھي حلال

² From a well-known story of a lady and her slave girl.

⁴ *Khākshir*, a medicinal seed that agrees with all temperaments.

90. "First dig the well¹ and then steal the minaret." (Make preparations beforehand.)
91. "What is a dog that you should be its fur?" (Said to a subordinate to deride him through his master.)
92. "He winnows in the direction whence the wind blows." (He is all things to all men; a time server.)
93. "A servant without pay or ration bosses his master"; (*i.e.*, he is negligent). (Said to one who doesn't pay his servants.)²
94. "He who depends on his neighbour goes supperless to bed"; (*i.e.*, his neighbour disappoints him). (Everyone must strive for himself.)
95. "'The bride wears nine *tumbān*.' 'Her fat bottom is obliged to her; what have I to do with it?'"
96. "You're like a double-toothed saw" (that cuts whether drawn backwards or forwards). (Used of one that runs with the hare and hunts with the hounds.)
97. "Refreshment does not fill the belly but it does strengthen friendship." (Might be said to a host that omitted to offer sweets or tea.)
98. "Love from both sides is good: from one side only it is irksome." Friendship or liking must be mutual.)
99. Another form of No. 98.
100. "In at one ear and out at another." (To a careless person.)
101. "A friend in prosperity, a stranger when out of office" (*i.e.*, a fair weather friend).
102. "These false friends you see
Are flies round the sugar."
(Same as No. 101.)
103. "A wound by the tongue is worse than one by the sword."
104. "He's a cock that crows at the wrong time." (He does things out of season.)
- Compare Nos. 45 and 46.
105. "Domesticity is next to godliness." (Said by a woman to her husband.)
106. "A penniless lover eats *kangar*"³; (*i.e.*, is neglected). *Vide* No. 338.
107. "I have reached old age in this world:
O youth! where art thou? Blessed be thy memory."
(Said by an old man lamenting his lost youth.)
108. (a) "None that sowed barley, reaped wheat."
(b) "What you sow you'll reap."
Vide Matt. vii. 16. *Cf.* 'As ye brew sae ye maun drink,' and 'As ye mak your bed sae ye maun lie on't'
109. (a) "He that has no brother has no strength in his legs."
(b) "He that has no child has no light in his eyes."

¹ The well is to conceal the minaret when stolen.

² Servants in Persia seldom get fixed pay. They get clothes and food, and must 'make' what they can.

³ *Kangar*, a tasteless mountain vegetable somewhat resembling the artichoke: it is cooked and usually eaten with *māst*.

90. باید اول چاه را کند و بعد مغاره را دزدید
91. سگ چه چیز است که پشمش باشی
92. از هر طرف که باد می آید او اوشین¹ میکند = (او هم راه باد است)
93. نوکری که چیره و مواجب ندارد آن نوکر تاج سر آقا است
94. هر کس بامید همسایه بنشیند شب بی شام میخوابد
95. "عروس نه تذبذب دارد" "مذت بکون، گنده خودش، بمن، چه ؟"
96. تو مثل آرزو دوسر می مانی
97. لقمه شکم را سیر نمیکنند اما محبت را زیاد میکنند
98. محبت خوب است از هر دوسر باشد از یکطرف درد سر است.
99. } چه خوش بی² مهربانی هر دوسر بی
} زیگ سر مهربانی درد سر بی
100. ازین گوش می شنود و از آن گوش بیرون میکند
101. در وقت نعمت یار در هنگام عزلت³ اغیار
102. } این دغل دوستان که می بینی
} مگسان اند گرد شیرینی
103. زخم زبان بدتر از زخم شمشیر است
104. مثل خروس⁴ بی محل بانگ میزند
105. عیال پرستی خدا پرستیست
106. عاشقیکه پول ندارد کنگر میخور،
107. } به پیری رسیدم درین کهنه دهر
} جوانی کجائی که یادت⁵ بخیر!
108. (a) کسی جو نکاشت که کندم درو کرد
- OR
- (b) هرچه میکاری میدروی
- (c) هر کس برادر ندارد قوت زانو ندارد
- OR
- هر کس فرزندی ندارد روشنائی چشم ندارد

¹ *Aushin k.* (for *afshān*), "to winnow"; *aushtin* "winnowing fork."

² *Bī* is the Kurdi for *bāshad*.

³ *Aghyār*, pl. of *ghair* but here used as a singular.

⁴ A cock that crows early in the night is unlucky.

⁵ *Bād* understood. *Yād-ash ī-i-ghair* always said when mentioning one absent.

110. "A loaded gun frightens one man; an unloaded one, two"; (*i.e.*, in the first case the bearer of the gun is brave; in the second both the bearer and the enemy are in a fright).

111. (a) "A boast in a strange country" (where none knows or can contradict the speaker).

(b) "A — in the street of the coppersmiths."¹

112. "A stranger-thief unwittingly goes to the fodder-box." (As he does not know the ins and outs of the place. Said to an amateur or beginner in a business.)

113. "A copper and an earthen *āftāba* both serve the same purpose: if their price be looked into, the latter costs a penny and the former five shillings."

114. "A cow that contracts the habit of eating merd can't be cured." (Said to one repeatedly checked for the same fault.)

115. "An egg-stealer will at last develop into a camel-stealer." *Cf.* 'He that will steal a pin will steal a better thing.'

116. "The more you lament the more is your loss;" (*i.e.*, lamenting is no use). *Cf.* 'It's no use crying over spilt milk.'

117. "This world has many ups and downs for the sons of Adam." (Nothing lasts: there are ups and downs in life.)

118. "Nobody's lamp burns till morning." (Same as above.)

119. "One who pays cash is treated like a partner"; (*i.e.*, is trusted).

120. "I came to your house and you didn't even give me a drink of water: you tell me to go and you will send bread after me." (Said to one whose fair promises cannot be trusted.)

121. "The water-mill is served by turn"; (*i.e.*, first come first served: the first comer gets his corn ground first).

122. "To have the confidence of men is better than riches." *Cf.* 'A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches: Prov. xxii.'

123. "None of these shopkeepers' praisings of goods; (*i.e.*, no self-praise).

124. "Why talk rot?"

125. *Seller*:—"Either buy it at its proper price or take it from me as a gift (obligation)."

Buyer:—"There can't be both price and obligation"; (*i.e.*, 'What you say is true; I'm paying a price').

126. "A callow sparrow will swallow mulberries whole: when grown up it skins a millet seed." (When a man is young he acts thoughtlessly; when he grows older he is cautious.)

127. "Setting him aside, his father even hasn't dreamt such a thing." (An emphatic way of discrediting a claim or boast.)

128. "One can find out all about a man in two days, and about a beast in four"; (*i.e.*, it is easier to understand a man than a horse).

¹ The noisiest street in the city.

110. تفنگ پُر یک نفر را میترساند اما تفنگ خالی دو نفر را¹
111. (a) لاف در غربت زدن
(b) گوز به بازار مس گری
112. دزد نا بلد خود را بکاه دان میزند
113. آفتابهٔ مسی و آفتابهٔ گلی از ایشان یک کار بر می آید ولیکن پای قیمت که رسید
این یک پول است و آن یک تومان
114. گاویکه به گه خوردن عادت کرد² محال است که علاجش را بکند
115. تخم-دزد آخر شتر-دزد میشود
116. هرچه غصه بخوری از کیسه ات رفته است
117. این دنیا پست و بلندی برای اولاد آدم بسیار دارد
118. هیچ کس هرگز چراغش تا صبح نمی سوزد
119. آدم خوش حساب شریک مال مردم میباشد
120. بخانه ات آمدم آب هم ندادی میگوئی برو، از عقب نان میفرستم
121. آسیاب نوبت دارد
122. اعتبار به از دولت³ است
123. این بازار-تیزبها را برای من نکن
124. حرف بی معنی چه خاصیت دارد؟
125. فروشده: — "یا قیمت تمام یا منت تمام" *
خریدار: — "هم قیمت و هم منت نمیشود" *
126. گنجشک⁴ گوشتالو توت درست فرو میبرد
وقتیکه بزرگ میشود ارزوا پوست میکند
127. او که بجای خود پدرش هم در خواب ندیده است
128. دو پا بدو روز چار پا به چهار روز شناخته می شود

¹ Note the idiomatic *rā*.

² A habit of improperly fed cows.

³ Vulgarly pronounced *bih zi daulat*.

⁴ *Gūsh-tālū*, "all flesh, fleshy, i.e., naked, callow."

129. "Pigeons that cost a penny a pair don't cry *Yā Karīm*." Cf. 'You can get nothing for nothing and devilish little for a penny.'

130. (a) "The district has a Governor."

(b) "There's a Police-Inspector in the *bazar*."

(You can't do wrong with impunity.) Cf. 'There is a God in the Heavens.'

131. "You must not take exception to what a Governor or a Doctor does."

(Reference to a well-known anecdote.)

132. "Cook only as much as you can eat." (Take only the amount of work that you can discharge.) *Vide* No. 28.

133. "Don't speak words larger than your mouth." (Don't talk above your station, or Don't make absurd claims.) Cf. 'Keep your tongue between your teeth.'

134. "First get up and wash your own filthy trousers and *then* admonish me." Cf. 'The kettle calls the pot black.'

135. "He's drunk without wine; encourage him and he'll get worse." (Don't encourage him to show off; it only makes him worse.)

136. "It was said to a sparrow, 'Stick a minaret up your fundament.' The sparrow replied, 'Say something that's possible.'" (The second part of this—*chīz-i bi-gū ki bi-gunjad*—has many obvious applications.)

137. "Smoke arises from large logs" (but small chips flare up at once without effect). (Important things that last are done by important people.) Cf. 'Great deeds and great men.'

138. "The bowl is hotter than the broth." (Generally used by a relation in the sense of 'blood is thicker than water; I *must* like you more than an outsider does.' Also applied to one more zealous than his superior, as 'The witness is more zealous than the principal').

139. "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you."

140. "Health is wealth."

141. "Every sore has its salve."

142. "Silence gives consent."

143. "He who seeks will find." (By trying comes success).

144. "To kill two birds with one stone."

145. "A hungry cat dreams of fat" (*i.e.*, the most delicate part of the flesh).

Cf. 'A cat dreams of mice.'

146. "Outwardly a sheep; inwardly a wolf." Cf. 'A wolf in sheep's clothing.'

147. "Thorns and weeds¹ succeed the rose." (Said when a good thing has gone and a bad succeeded it; as when a man loses a pretty wife and marries an ugly one).

148. "In the place of the Moon sits the blind² *Scorpio*." (As above).

149. "No rose without a thorn."

¹ *Khār* "brambles"; *khūshār* is the grass and thistly weeds after they are burnt up by the sun.

² Anything blind is mischievous as well as ugly. The sign Scorpio is unlucky. No Persian will commence a work when *Qamar dar'aqrab ast*.

129. ¹ کفتر جفتی صنار² یا کریم نمی خواند
130. (a) ولایت حاکم دارد or محتسب در بازار است
131. بکار حاکم و حکیم نباید ایرادی گرفت
132. اینقدر به پز که بتوانی بخوری
133. حرف از دهن بزرگتر نزن
134. تو و خیز³ برو⁴ خشتک پر از گهت را بشور انوقت بیا کار یاد من بده
135. بی می مست است زیر بغلش را که میگیری مستی اش زیاد تر میشود
136. گنجشک را گفتند که "مزاره بچونت" * گفت "چیزی بگو که بگنجد"
137. دود از کُنده بر میخیزد
138. کاسه از آتش گرمتر
139. برکس میسند آنچه ترا نیست پسند
140. سلامتی بهترین نعمتهاست
141. خدا درد را⁵ داده و دوا را⁵ هم داده
142. سکوت موجب رضاست
- OR
- السکوت علامة الرضا
143. عاقبت جوینده یابنده است
144. یک سنگ و دو چغوک⁶ = (چه خوش بود که بر آید بیک کرشمه دو کار)
145. گربه گرسنه پیه بخواب می بیند
146. در ظاهر میش و در باطن گرگ
147. بجای گل بروید خار و خاشاک
148. بجای مه نشیند عقرب کور
149. جائیکه گل است خار هم هست
- OR
- جائیکه پری رخیست دیوی با اوست
- هر جا که فرشته ایست دیوی با اوست

¹ *Kaftar-i 'Yā Karīm'* a pigeon that is supposed to coo *Yā Karīm*, one of the 99 attributes of God, and is prized accordingly.

² *Şannār* for *şad-dīnār*, a 2-shahi copper coin.

³ *Vā-khīz* and *vakhī*, vulg. for *bar-khīz*.

⁴ *Khishtak*, the inside of the trousers.

⁵ *Rā*, here vulgar

⁶ *Chughūk* in Kirman is a "sparrow."

150. "Unless there were something, people wouldn't say things." Cf. 'No smoke without fire.'

151. "The slave went to the stream to draw water : the stream came down in flood and carried off the slave." (Said of one who instead of a gain meets a loss).

152. "A hint to the wise is sufficient." Cf. 'A word to the wise is enough,' and 'Half a tale is enough for a wise man.'

153. "A guest that tarries long is a burden." (To outstay one's welcome).

154. "He that has money has might." Cf. 'Might is right.'

155. (a) "What comes from the wind (any windfall) goes to the wind" (is wasted).

(b) "The gains by — are spent on the curing of piles." Cf. 'Lightly come lightly go.'²

156. "Weeping *in* season is better than laughing *out of* season." (Same as No. 163).

157. "Many a hope there is in despair. The end of a dark night is light." Cf. 'The longest lane has a turning.' Vide Nos. 79 & 80.

158. "A negro does not become white by bathing." Cf. 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots.' Jer. xii. 23.

159. (a) "The lamp that is lawful at home is unlawful in the mosque."

(b) "First self; then the beggar." Cf. 'Charity begins at home.'

160. "An empty drum and much noise." (Said of a vain and noisy fool).

161. "God knows that two of a trade never agree."

162. "Better the severity of the master than the leniency of the father."

Cf. 'Spare the rod and spoil the child.'

163. "Casting stones *in* season is better than giving money *out of* season." (Same as No. 156).

164. "Were there no fear of the Ruler's rod, the drunken slave would vomit in the *Ka'ba*." (None obeys except through fear. Said to schoolboys and servants.) Cf. 'A blate³ cat make a proud mouse.'

165. "Yes; by combination the world can be conquered." Cf. 'Union is strength.'

166. "Look at your own feet." (Be careful).

167. "None says, 'My *dūgh*⁴ is sour'" (i.e., bad). Cf. 'None cries stinking fish.'

168. (a) "A green-leaf is a dervish's present.

What else can he give, for the poor fellow possesses only this?"

(b) "To carry the leg of a locust to Solomon."⁵ Cf. 'The widow's mite.'

169. "By study the pupil overtakes the master." (Perseverance).

170. "One should commence to pray before misfortune arrives." Cf. 'Prevention is better than cure.'

¹ The disease is supposed to be caused by this vice.

² *Māl-i muft dil-i bī-rahm*.

³ *Blate* "bashful, shy."

⁴ *Dugh* is *māst* and water mixed; it becomes *turush* after few hours.

⁵ The hoopoe invited Solomon and his army to dine and cast into the sea the leg of a locust saying: "He who fails to get meat from this will have broth."

150. تا نباشد چیزکی مردم نگویند چیزها

151. } شد غلامی که آب جو آرد
} آب جو آمد¹ و غلام به بره

152. عاقل را اشاره کافیهست

OR

العاقل یکنفیه الاشارة

153. مهمان که خلی جائی ماند بار میشود

154. هر که زر دارد زور دارد

155. (a) هر چه از یاد آید برباد رود

(b) پول کون دادن خرج آزار بواسیر میشود

156. گریه بوقت به از خنده بیوقت

157. } در نامیدی بسی امید است
} پایان شب سیه سفید است

158. نه زنگی به گرمابه گردد سفید

159. (a) چورافی که بخانه رواست بمسجد حرام است

(b) اول خویش بعده درویش

160. طبل درون خالی آواز بسیار دارد

161. (a) } به نزد خدای² جهان روشن است
} که همکاره با همکاره دشمن است

OR

(b) (بود هم پیشه باهم پیشه دشمن)

162. جور استاد به زمهر پدر

163. سنگ زدن بمحل به که زر دادن بی محل

164. } اگر چوب حاکم نباشد از پی
} کند زنگی مست در کعبه قی = } گر نبودی چوب تو
فرمان نبردی گار و خر

165. آری به اتفاق جهان میتوان گرفت

166. پیش پای خود را نگه کن

167. کس نگوید که دوغ من ترش است

168. (a) } برگ سبزیست تحفه درویش
} چکند بی نوا همین دارد

OR

(b) ران ملخ بسلیمان پیشکش بردن

169. شاگرد رفته رفته به استاد میرسد

170. بلا ندیده دعا را شروع باید کرد

¹ Here read *u* poet, for *va*.

² There is an implication that even God can't endure a second.

171. "What comes late lasts long." Cf. 'Slow and sure.'
172. "Self-praise is no recommendation."
173. "Don't you see that in the pasture one cow infects the whole of the village cattle?" Cf. 'Ae scabbed sheep will smite a hirsle'¹
174. "Regret for what's over is useless." Cf. 'No use crying over spilt milk.'
Vide No. 207.
175. "The dead are dead, but let not the living die." Cf. 'Let the dead bury their dead.'
176. "Peoples are of the religion of their Rulers"; (*i.e.*, people follow their leader).
177. "One bitten by a snake shies at a rope." Cf. 'A burnt child dreads the fire,' and 'A scalded cat fears cold water.'
178. (a) "Draw water according to the capacity of your vessel."
(b) Stretch out your legs according to the size of your sleeping blanket.
Cf. 'Cut your coat according to your cloth.'
179. "A lie has no light"; or "A lie does not last." Cf. 'A lie has no legs.'
180. "Look at his face and don't ask about his circumstances." (His face is an index of his state).
181. "That pitcher is broken and that measure spilt"; (*i.e.*, let bygones be bygones). Cf. 'Let a dead flea stick to the wall.'
182. (a) "He got up from the dust and sat down in the ashes."
(b) "To take shelter from the rain under a water-spout." Cf. 'Out of the frying pan into the fire.'
183. "When the water is over one's head what matters it whether it is one fathom, or a hundred?" (By one overwhelmed by debt or other trouble.) Cf. 'In for a penny in for a pound.'
184. "By repeated asking one can find one's way to China. (By perseverance.)"
Cf. 'Feather by feather the goose is plucked.'
185. (a) "Carpentry is not the work of a monkey." (From a well-known story.)
(b) "It's not in the power of every weaver and cotton-carder"³
To shoot arrows from a loosely-strung bow."
Cf. 'Let the cobbler stick to his last.'
186. "Après nous le déluge." *Vide* No. 269.
187. "Every one is King of his own house"; (*i.e.*, every one is entitled to manage his own concerns). Cf. 'An Englishman's home is his castle.'
188. "A living dog is better than a dead lion." Cf. 'A laying hen is better than a standing mill.' *Vide* also Eccl. ix. 5.
189. "Speaking little is a sign of sense." Cf. 'Silence is golden.'
190. "'I have, I have' (Present Tense) is of use: 'I had, I had' (Past Tense). what good is that?" (Said to one boasting of the past).

¹ *Hirsle* "flock."

² *Kalla* a fathom is 6 feet: originally the space to which a man can extend his arms which is again equal to his height.

³ A cotton-carder uses a '*kaman*' in his profession.

171. دیر آید دیر پاید
- دیر آید و درست آید
172. تعریف خود کردن گنه خوردن است
173. } دمی بینی که گاری در علف زار
بیالاید همه گاران ده را
174. پشیمانی گذشته سودی ندارد = (ماضی ما ماضی or گذشته گذشته است)
175. مردها مرده اند زندها نمیرند
176. الناس علی دین ملوکهم
177. مار گزیده از ریسمان میترسد
- 178 (a) آب بقدر ظرف باید گرفت = پا باندازه گلیم باید کشید
179. دروغ فروغی ندارد or دروغ عاقبت ندارد
180. رویش به بین حالش میپرس
181. آن سبو بشکست و آن پیمانہ ریخت
182. (a) از خاک بر خاست و به خاکستر نشست
(b) از بیم باران زیر ناودان گریختن
183. آبیکه از سر گذشت چه یک کله¹ چه صد کله
184. پوسان پوسان به چین هم میتواند رفت
185. (a) کار بوزینه نیست نجاری
(b) } کار هر بافنده و حلاج نیست
از کمان سست تیر انداختن
186. پس از ما گو جهان را آب گیرد
187. هر کس پادشاه خانه خود است
188. سگ زنده به از شیر مرده
189. کم گفتن دلیل هوشمند نیست
190. دارم دارم بدرد میخورم. داشتم داشتم چه فایده دارد

¹ Kalla, "the height of a man's stature."

191. "A thief knows a thief and a saint a saint." Cf. 'Set a thief to catch a thief.' *Vide* No. 3.
192. "When thief meets thief he slips his club into his *kamar-band*." *Vide* No. 71.
193. "A knowledge of a thing is better than ignorance thereof"; (*i.e.*, acquire all the experience you can).
194. "The crow thinks its young more beautiful than the young of any other bird." Cf. 'He thinks his geese swans.' Cf. 'Every one thinks his own country Kashmir' (Afghan).
195. "By gentle speech and courtesy you can draw a mountain to you by a single thread."
196. "One flower does not make a spring." Cf. 'One swallow does not make a summer.'
197. "God is slow to punish, but He punishes severely." Cf. 'The mills of God grind slowly, but grind exceeding small,' and 'God comes wi' leaden feet, but strikes wi' iron hands.'
198. (a) "An account is an account and a *frater* a brother"; (*i.e.*, business is business and friendship is friendship: you must keep the two apart).
 (b) "Brotherhood has its own place, but the goat can't be sold for less than seven hundred dinars."¹ (*Vide* above.)
199. "God takes the ship where he lists, let the Captain rend his clothes as he will." Cf. 'No striving against Fate.'
200. "Bake while the oven's hot." Cf. 'Make hay while the sun shines.'
201. "You'll never get fruit from the willow tree"; (*i.e.*, you'll never get money from a miser).
202. "It's something to get even a shoe from a dead donkey." (Might be applied to the dividend paid by a bankrupt).
203. "The lamp casts no lustre on its own stand"; (*i.e.*, he benefits others, not his own people).
204. "He raises his foot to be shod"; (*i.e.*, 'he's an ass': said to one who is always thrusting in his oar).
205. (a) "The colander² says to the skimmer, 'You're full of holes.'
 (b) "The pot calls the kettle black." Cf. 'Crookit carlin' quo' the cripple to his wife.'
206. (a) "A house that has two mistresses is unswept."
 (b) "If there are two midwives the infant's head is squashed." Cf. 'Too many cooks spoil the broth.'
207. "Whether you weep or whether you wail, the thief won't give back your property." Cf. 'No use crying over spilt milk.' *Vide* No. 192.
208. "If he spoke late he spoke to the point."

¹ In present value about seven pence. 100 *dinār* being about equal at 1d.

² Both these have holes.

191. دزد دزد را می شناسد و ولی ولی را
192. دزد که بدزد می‌رسد چماقش بیخ کمرش میکند
193. علم هر کار بهتر از جهلش است
194. کلاغ بچه خود را از همه خوشگلتر می‌پندارد
195. } بشیرین زبانی و لطف و خوشی
} توانی که کوهی به موئی کشی
196. از یک گل بهار نمی‌شود
197. خدا دیرگیر است و هم سخت‌گیر
198. (a) حساب حساب است کا کا¹ برادر
(b) برادری جای خود است اما بز از هفتصد دینار کمتر نیست
199. } خدا کشتی آنجا که خواهد بود
} اگر ناخدا جامه بر تن درد
200. تا تنور گرم است نانی به پز
201. هرگز از شاخ بید بر نخوری
202. از خر مرده نعل هم غنیمت است
203. چراغ پای خود را روشن نمیکند
204. پا بلند می‌کند که نعلش کند
205. (a) چلو صاف کن بکف گیر میگوید تو سوراخ داری
(b) دیگ بدیگ میگوید که رویت سیاه است
206. (a) خانه که دو کدبانوست خاک تا زانوست
- OR
- (b) ماما چه که دوتاشد سر بچه کج میشود
207. } گر کنی داد ور کنی فریاد
} مال را دزد پس نخوهد داد
208. اگر دیر گفت گل گفت

¹ *Kākā*, an elder brother; a familiar term for a slave of any age.



209. "We're lame and the stage is long"; (*i.e.*, That's difficult to obtain as I have inadequate opportunities).
210. "Stone breaks stone. *Cf.* 'Diamond cuts diamond.'
211. "Either death drives a man to a place or the need of livelihood." (There is a belief that the place of a man's grave is fixed and "its earth draws him.")
212. "He puts his cheese in a bottle and rubs the bread on the outside." (Said of a niggard.) *Cf.* 'Potatoes and point.'
213. "Till the water is made muddy you can't catch fish. *Cf.* 'You can't make omelettes without breaking eggs.'
214. "In war *ḥalwā*¹ is not meted out." *Cf.* 'One doesn't make war with rose-water.'
215. "In the ant's house, dew is a deluge"; (*i.e.*, a small loss is great loss to a poor man.)
216. "A hair from a bear." '(If you get a hair from a bear it's enough)'; *i.e.*, you are lucky to get as much from a miser. *Cf.* 'Sue a beggar and gain a louse.'
217. "A sweet voice will draw a snake from its hole"; *i.e.*, You can, by soft words, get good even from an enemy). *Cf.* 'A soft answer turneth away wrath.'
218. "The sea does not always remain the same." (Fickle Fortune.)
219. "His fist was opened"; (*i.e.*, his secret was disclosed).
220. "Patience is the key of success"; (*i.e.*, by patience you overcome difficulties). *Cf.* 'All things come to him that waits.'
221. "You can't take a Turkish bath without sweating." (Of various application. Can be said to one who asks if there is anything to pay.)
222. (a) "At night cotton-seeds look like pearls."
(b) "At night cats look like enemies." *Cf.* 'All cats are grey in the dark,' and 'She might easily pass for 45 in the dusk with the light behind her.'
223. "Words beget words and wind brings snow." (Used of a quarrel.) *Cf.* 'Ae lawsuit breeds twenty.'
224. "His life is like the sun when it has declined to the edge of the roof." *Cf.* 'He has one foot in the grave.'
225. "The Tyrant complains of the man over whom he tyrannizes."
226. "God's chosen have ceased to exist and asses swarm in the kingdom."
227. "Speak low for walls have ears."
228. "'Tis a waste of time to paint the brows of the blind."
229. "Drink wine, burn pulpits, set fire to your sacred vestments, Dwell in idol temples, but don't oppress people."
(*i.e.*, all vices are small compared to injuring one's fellow-beings.)
230. "This house is all sunshine." (Always ironical.)
231. "Bad *bādinjāns* always remain uninjured." *Cf.* 'It is always the wicked that flourish.'

¹ The common *ḥalwā* is made of flour, sugar and butter. The Arabian *ḥalwā* is mixed with camel's milk.

209. پای ما لنگ است و منزل بس دراز
210. سنگ را سنگ میشکند
211. یا اجل میدواند یا روزی
212. او پذیر توی شیشه میکند و نان پشتش می مالد
213. تا آب گل آلود نشود ماهی نتوان گرفت
214. در دعوی حلوا قسمت نمیکند
215. در خانه مور شپنمی طوفان است
216. از خرس موئی¹
217. زبان خوش مار را از سوراخ بیرون می آرد
218. دریا همیشه یک قسم نمی ماند
219. مشتش را شد
220. الصبر مفتاح الفرج or من صبر ظفر
221. حمام بی عرق نمیشود
222. (a) شب پنبه دانه در می نماید
(b) شب گربه سمور می نماید
223. حرف حرف می آرد باد برف
224. عمر او آفتاب لب بام است
225. ظالم ار مظلوم باشد شکوه چیست
226. خلق خدا گم شدند ملک خدا خر گرفت
227. آهسته بگو، دیوار هم گوش دارد
228. زحمت بیفایده است و سمه بر ابروی کور
229. می بخور منبر بسوزان آتش اندر خرقة کن
ساکن بتخانه باش و مردم آزاری نکن
230. این خانه تمام آفتاب است
231. بادنجان بد آفت ندارد

¹ Kanada mi-shavad bas ast is understood.

232. "The babe is not suckled till it cries"; (*i.e.*, you won't get anything till you ask for it).
233. "Make him see death that he may become content with fever." Cf. Throw him into the sea and he'll not afterwards mind sea-sickness.
234. "He restrains himself after he has broken wind." Cf. 'Shut the stable door after the horse is stolen.'
235. (Expresses insipidity.)
236. "One hand can't clap." Cf. 'It takes two to make a quarrel.'
237. "The only people who don't know are Adam and Eve," *or* "The only people who don't know are Sa'di and Hāfiz." Cf. 'The whole world knows that Queen Anne's dead.'
238. "Water won't ooze through his closed fist." (Of a miser: close-fisted.)
239. "He brightens his house." (Said of a temporary revival before death.)
240. (a) "He doesn't know the difference between an ox and an ass."
 (b) "He doesn't know *hir* from *pir*."
 Cf. 'He kens nae a mavis frae a madge-howlet.'¹
 'He kens nae a selgh² frae a salmon.'
 'He doesn't know a hawk from a hernshawe.'
 'He doesna ken a B from a bull's foot.'
241. "There's a small bowl under the big one." (There's something behind this.)
242. "Absence and friendship." Cf. 'Distance lends enchantment,' *and* 'His absence is good company.'
243. "His voice is pleasing to his head"; (*i.e.*, he's fond of the sound of his own voice).
244. "Even a dog is a lion in its own home." Cf. 'Every cock crows crousiest³ on his ain midden head.'
245. "The spilt *ghī* is an offering to Imām Ja'far-i Ṣādiq." ⁴ (A man spilt his *ghī* and at once exclaimed, "This was my votive offering to Imām Ja'far.")
246. "If the scald-headed were a doctor, he would treat his own head."
 Cf. 'Physician heal thyself.'
247. (a) "The day of hope is exceeding long."
 (b) "Expectation is worse than death."
 (Cf. 'A day to come seems longer than a year that's gone.'
248. "Ḥasan from Baṣra, Bilāl from Abyssinia, Suhaib from Syria.
 And Abū Jahī from Mecca—this is strange indeed."
 Cf. 'A black hen may lay a white egg,' *and* 'An ill cow may hae a gude calf.'
249. "One should never consider any enemy contemptible." Cf. 'A sma' leak will sink a great ship.'

¹ Owl.² Selgh "seal"³ Liveliest.⁴ One of the twelve Imams.

282. تا نگویید طفل کی نوشد این (Said to one groundlessly claiming kin with a big person) "As a stick as stone and riddle that grew in the wood."
283. بمرگش بگیر تا بتب راضی شود (See things that are in-coming)
284. وقتیکه گوزید خود را جمع میکند (You to narrow in for years) "Believe, is two hours and a half."
285. مثل ماچ بعد از جماع (A word by the tongue is worse than one by the spear) "Fool words"
286. دست یکه صدا نمیکند (The)
287. (a) کسیکه نمیداند آدم و حواست (Persian think any old woman can point and fire a big gun, but that it takes a man to use a sword)
(b) کسی که نمی داند شیخ سعدی و خواجه حافظ است (To sell the skin of an untrapped deer) "Don't sell the bear-skin before you have caught the bear."—Makha. "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched."—Don't put your foot till you get them.
288. آب از سوراخهای مشتش نمیچکد (A "A" that you'll take will be lost after a while)
289. خانه روشن میکند (A stitch in time saves nine)
290. (a) خر و گاو از هم فوق نمیکند (For want of a shoe the horse was lost; for want of a horse the man was lost.)—Wanary. "What does an ass know of the worth of a salmon?"
(b) هر از پیر نمی داند (A man does not see know of the value of lost sugar and sugar candy?)
291. زیر کاسه نیم کاسه ایست (A's no gawd that glitter, nor maidens that wear their hair)
292. دزیری و دوستی (Great)
293. صدایش بسرش خوش می آید (Great)
294. سگ در خانه خود شیر است (Partner to the plier)
295. روزن ریخته نذر امام جعفر صادق (Hir's hawk of a right neck)
296. کچل از طبیب بردی سر خود دوا بگردی (Hir's hawk of a right neck)
297. (a) روز امید بس دراز بود (Fulfilling is difficult) "Hir's poor that canna pro-miss"
- (b) الانتظار اشد من الموت (Hir's poor that canna pro-miss)
298. } حسن ز بصره بلال از حدش صهییب از شام
} ز خاک مکه ابو جهل اینچه بوالعجبیست (The greater the man the greater the responsibility)

249. دشمن نتوان حقیر و بیچاره شمرد

1 Hir and pîr are meaningless words.

250. "We're all sons of Adam." (Said to one groundlessly claiming kin with a big person.) Cf. 'As sib as siene and riddle that grew in ae wood.'

251. "A bearded man with no hair on his chin"; (*i.e.*, things that are incompatible).

252. "Your to-morrow is ten years." Cf. 'Belyve¹ is twa hours and a half.'

253. "Cheatery game will aye kythe."²

254. "A wound by the tongue is worse than one by the spear." Cf. 'Evil words cut mair than swords.'

255. "Bravery lies in hand-to-hand fighting; not in guns and rifles." (The Persians think any old woman can point and fire a big gun, but that it takes a man to use a sword.)

Italiane 188 256. "To sell the skin of an untrapped deer." Cf. 'Don't sell the bear-skin before you have caught the bear.'—*Italian*. Cf. 'Don't count your chickens before they are hatched,' and 'Dinna gut your fish till ye get them.'

257. "Empty-handed you must depart this world." Cf. 'A' that ye'll take wi' ye will be but a kist³ and sheet after a.'⁴

258. "Stop the source of the spring with a bodkin." Cf. 'A stitch in time saves nine,' and 'For want of a steek a shoe may be tint.'⁵

G. B. II 336 "For want of a nail the shoe was lost;

"For want of a shoe the horse was lost;

"For want of a horse the man was lost."—*Nursery lines*.

259. (a) "What does an ass know of the worth of saffron?"

(b) "What does an ass know of the value of loaf sugar and sugar-candy?"

Cf. 'To cast pearls before swine.'

260. "All that shines is not gold." Cf. 'A's no gawd that glitters, nor maidens that wear their hair.'⁶

261. "Picking up a large stone is a sign that it won't be thrown." Cf. 'Great barkers are nae biters.'

262. "Where the broth is, there the wretched scald-head is ready to serve." Cf. 'Flies are always where the sweets are.'

263. "He's from good seed." Cf. 'He's a hawk o' a right nest.'

264. "He's from bastard stock." (Opposite to above.)

265. "Promising is easy; fulfilling is difficult." Cf. 'He's poor that canna promise.'

266. "Cut off one hand of his that lends a book; cut off both of his that returns it."

267. "He who gives teeth, gives bread." Cf. 'God ne'er sent the mouth but he sent the meat wi't.'

268. "The broader his roof the more snow it collects"; (*i.e.*, the greater the man the greater the responsibility).

¹ *Belyve*, "immediately," or "in a little."

² *Kythe* "to appear."

³ *Kist*, "chest."

⁴ In allusion to the death of a purse-proud man.

⁵ *Steek*, "stick": *tint*, "lost."

⁶ About 1721 it was the fashion for virgins to go bareheaded—*Kelly*.

250. همه ما اولاد آدم هستیم
251. کوسه¹ و ریش پهن
252. فردای شما ده سال است
253. دزدی آخر ندارد²
254. زخم زبان بد تر از زخم سنان است
255. مردانگی با شمشیر است نه با توپ و تفنگ
256. آهوی نا گرفته پوست فروختن
257. دست خالی از دنیا باید رفت
258. سر چشمه باید گرفتن به میل
259. (a) خرچه داند قدر زعفران
or
(b) خرچه داند بهای قند و نبات
260. هر درخشنده طلا نبود
261. سنگ بزرگ علامت نه زدن است
262. جائیکه آتش است کچل-گ³ فرایش است
263. او از تخم خوب است
264. او از تخم حرام است
265. وعده کردن آسان است ایغایش مشکل
266. کسیکه کتاب بعاریت بدهد یک دستش را باید برید و کسیکه پس دهد دو دستش را باید زد
267. همانکس که دندان دهد نان دهد
268. هرکه بامش بیدش برفش بیشت

¹ *Kūsā P.*, *kūsaj* Ar. one who has a thin beard or no beard.

² *Duzdī* is also used for cheating at games.

³ *Kachalak*, dimin. for contempt. Scald-headed people are supposed to be very cunning.

269. "After our death, what matters it whether the world is water or a mirage?"
Cf. 'He caresna wha's bairns greet if his ain laugh.' *Vide* No. 186.
270. (a) "Either my head or his cap."
 (b) "I'll either be a plank of the throne or a plank of the coffin."
 (c) "A throne or a bier."
Cf. 'A man or a mouse,' and 'He'll either win the horse or tine the saddle.'
271. "O God, never let a beggar become great!" *Cf.* 'He'll gang mad on a horse wha's proud on a pownie,' and 'A beggar on horseback.'
272. "Never marry a widow though she be a houri." *Cf.* 'He that marries a widow will hae a dead man's head often thrown in his dish.'
273. "Spitting on one's own head." *Cf.* 'Washing one's dirty linen in public,' and 'He that spits against the wind spits in his own face.'
274. "All tall men are fools except 'Umar: all short are mischievous except 'Ali."
Cf. 'High trees show mair leaves than fruit'; (a disparaging allusion to tall people).
275. "His belly is reciting the 'Qul hū Allah.'" *Cf.* 'His wame thinks his wizen's cut: (expressive of intense hunger).'
276. "Chuck away these puffings; if you're a man come on."
277. "'If' was married to 'But' and the offspring of the union was named 'Oh, would that!'" *Cf.* "'If' an' 'Or' spoil mony a gude charter."
278. "If I'm not an active friend, I'm yet not a burden." *Cf.* 'If I'm no kind I'm no cumbersome.'
279. "Marriages are made in Heaven."
280. "Like a statue I was frozen to the spot"; (*i.e.*, struck dumb with amazement).
281. "Like a picture on a wall." (Expresses astonishment.)
282. "I know him vein and sinew." *Cf.* 'I ken him as weel as if I had gane through him wi' a lighted candle.'
283. "Each his own work and each his own load." *Cf.* 'Ilka bird maun hatch her ain egg.'
284. "Every village has its headman;
 Every land has its law."
Cf. 'Ilka land has its ain leid' (language).
285. "As clear and evident as the sun." *Cf.* 'As plain as a pikestaff.'
286. "The elephant recollected its India"; (*i.e.*, I remembered my mother-country).
287. "I wish his nose string was in my hand!" *Cf.* 'I wish I had a string in his lug.'
288. "Lay a thing by and it will come of use even though it be only snake venom" (*or* "the penis of an ass").
289. "It's not the cowl that makes the monk."
290. "You can bend the green stick as you will, when dry it will straighten only by fire." *Cf.* 'It's no easy to straucht in the oak the crook that grew in the sapling.'

269. دنیا پس مرگ ما چه دریا چه سراج
 "A gold crown is no ornament for a beggar." "Every dog has its day."
270. (a) یا سر یا کلاه
 (b) یا تختۀ تخت یا تختۀ تابوت
 (c) یا تخت یا تابوت
271. یا رب مباد آنکه گدا معتبر شود
272. زن بیوه نکن اگر چه حور است
273. تف بالائی سر
274. کل طویل احمق الا عمر
 کل قصیر فتنه الا علی
275. شکمش قل هو الله میخواند
276. این پهنایت را دور بپانداز اگر مردی خودت بیا میدان
277. اگر را با مگر تزویج کردند
 ازو یک بچه شد کاشکی نام
278. اگر یار شاطر نیستم بار خاطر هم نیستم
279. عقد را بر عرش خوانده اند
280. مثل مجسمه برجا خشک نشدم
281. مثل نقش بر دیوار
282. من رگ و ریشه او را میدانم
283. هر کسی کار خودش بار خودش
284. هر دهی کدخدائی و هر ملکی قانونی دارد
285. مثل آفتاب روشن است
286. هندوستان بیاد فیل افتاد
287. کاشکی مهارش دست من بود
288. داشته آید بکار گرچه بود زهر مار (OR کین زهر)
289. درویشی به طیلسان و خرقه نیست
290. چوب تر را چنانکه خواهی پیچ
 نشود خشک جز به آتش راست

1 The whole sūrah is: — قل هو الله احد الله الصمد لم يلد ولم يولد ولم يكن له كفوا احد

291. "Everyone has a five-days' opportunity." Cf. 'Every dog has its day.'
292. "A gold crown is no ornament for a beggar." Cf. 'It doesna set a sow to wear a saddle.'
293. "Keep your gab steekit (shut) when ye ken na your company."
294. "Heaven without companionship would be pleasureless," or "Even Heaven requires company."
295. "Too much praise spoils the child."
296. "There's no economy in the Fast." Cf. 'Long fasting hains (economizes) nae meat.'
297. "To dig up a mountain and unearh a mouse." Cf. 'Much ado about nothing.'
298. "Like a camel on a ladder." (Expressive of extreme awkwardness.)
Cf. 'Like a sow playing a Jew's harp.'
299. "He neither eats it nor gives it to others ;
"He'll let it go rotten and then give it to a dog."
(i.e., 'a dog in the manger').
300. "Love and jealousy are sindle sindry" (separate).
301. "Money solves all difficulties." Cf. 'No friend like the penny.'
302. "Who knows whether the *parda* conceals beauty or ugliness?" Cf. 'None can tell what's i' the shaup (husk) till it's shelt.'
303. "What is in the heart comes on to the tongue." Cf. 'Nearest the heart nearest the mouth.'
304. "The greater the rank the greater the danger." Cf. 'Nearest the king nearest the widdy' (rope or gallows).
305. "Why use poison when you can kill by honey?" Cf. 'Ne'er draw your dirk when a dunt (blow) will do.'
306. "Worthless ; neither ass nor man." Cf. 'Ne'er gude egg nor bird.'
307. "Don't give cash for credit." Cf. 'Ne'er quit certainty for hope.'
308. "Not the best and not the worst." Cf. 'Neither so sinful as to sink nor so holy as to swim.'
309. "I'll call you *Hāji* and you call me *Hāji*"; (i.e., log rolling). Cf. 'Lie for him and he'll swear for you.'
310. Said to one that borrows articles, especially a horse, hawk or gun. Cf. 'Let ilka tub stand on its ain bottom.'
311. "Every word has its own place and every point its proper application."
Cf. 'Let the kirk stand in the kirkyard.'
312. "He who hath money hath fear, and he who hath none hath sorrow."
Cf. 'Money makes and money mars.'
313. "Bright it shone but its fortune was short-lived." (Of a meteor-like career.)
Cf. 'Up like a rocket and down like its stick.'
314. (a) "Too much politeness and too little *bakhshish*.
(b) "He has too much dry courtesy."
Cf. "He puts his hand quickly to his hat and slowly to his purse."

291. هر کسی پنج روزه نوبت اوست
292. تاج زر زینت گدا نبود
293. در مجلس اغیار لبت بسته بدار
294. بهشت بی رفیق لطفی ندارد - یا بهشت هم رفیق میخواهد
295. تعریف زیاد بچه را خراب میکند
296. روزه گرفتن صرفه ندارد
297. کوه کندن و موش در آوردن
298. مثل شتر بر نردبان
299. نه خورده خورد نه کس دهد گنده کند به سگ دهد
300. عشق و رشک جدا نمیشود
301. پول حلال مشکلات است

OR

- پول قاضی الحاجات است
302. در پس پرده چه دانند که خوب است و که زشت
303. هرچه در دل است به زبان می آید
304. هر که قدرش بیش دردش بیشتر
305. کسیرا که از شهید میتوان کشت زهر دادن چه سود
306. او هیچ کاره است نه خرامت نه آدم
307. نقد را بنسیه نباید داد
308. نه خوب خوب است نه بد بد
309. من ترا حاجی بگویم تو مرا حاجی بگو
310. جماع بگیر دیگران لذت ندارد
311. هر سخن جائی و هر نکته مکانی دارد
312. کسیکه زر دارد ترس دارد و کسیکه زر ندارد الم دارد
313. خوش درخشید ولی دولت مستعجل بود
314. (a) در تواضع بیش و در بخشش درویش
(b) تواضعهای خشک زیاد¹ دارد

¹ An Ispahani taunt levelled against the Shirazis.

315. "Wherever a spring of good water is found there gather men and animals."
Cf. 'Rich folks hae routh (plenty) o' friends.'

316. "The end of the *Shāh-Nāma* is good" (=Let us see whether he'll continue in this good path). Cf. 'Ruse (praise) the fair day at e'en,' and 'Praise the ford when you're over it.'

317. "Lying requires no stock-in-trade." Cf. 'Words pay no toll.'

318. "Send you to the sea and ye'll no get saut water."

319. "Lookers-on see more than the players."

320. "A thousand blessings are equal to one health." Cf. 'Health is wealth.'

321. "He who has knowledge has power."

322. "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

323. "(a) "Donkeys don't — dates every day."¹

(b) "Every day is not 'Id that one should get *ḥalwā*¹ to eat."

(One can't expect nice things every day).

324. "You can't have both God and dates."² Cf. 'You can't have your cake and eat it.'

325. "Bad goods will stick to the seller's beard." Cf. 'Bad goods find no purchasers.'

326. (a) "A blow with the fist after being gelt."³

(b) "Hump upon hump"; (*i.e.*, misfortune upon misfortune).

Cf. 'Piling Pelion upon Ossa.'

327. "You were joking with me; do you now joke with my grandfather?" (*i.e.*, You were joking about trifles, do you now joke with great matters? The moral of the fable of the boy who cried "Wolf! Wolf!")

328. (a) "None scratches my back but my own finger-nail."⁴

(It's one's own relations that injure one). Cf. 'Save me from my friends.'

(b) "We are our own misfortunes."

329. "His *kulāh* has no wool"; (*i.e.*, it is threadbare). (He is no longer of any account.)

330. "How easy to be a Preacher, how difficult to have sense."

331. "His hand is not tied to anything special"; (*i.e.*, he is out of work).

332. "His wallet is empty." (Same as No. 329.)

333. "Driven from the monastery and excluded from the *ḥaram* of Mecca."⁵

(Neither one thing nor the other.)

334. "If you want to die (*i.e.*, if you want worse) go to *Gilān*."⁶ (Might be said to a man demanding more than his fare.)

335. "All the water fell from the mill-wheel"; (*i.e.*, all was still).

336. "What good can come from that household in which hens crow like cocks?"

Cf. 'It is a sad house where the hen crows louder than the cock.'

¹ Sweets are in every house on 'Id.

² An allusion to the *Khar-i-Dajjal* that will appear with its rider before the Day of Resurrection and *Bi-jā-yi sargīn khurmā mī-andāzād*. Men will follow the Antichrist for the sake of the dates and so be led into Hell.

³ After a goat is gelt, it is struck on the quarters to make it rise.

⁴ In Arabic the same proverb signifies 'None helps me like myself.'

⁵ *Dhobī kā kuttā na ghar kā na ghāī kā*.

⁶ *Gilān* is damp and unhealthy.

- هر کجا چشمه بود شیرین } 315.
 مردم و مار و موز گرد آیدند }
- شاه نامه آخرش خوش است 316.
- دروغ مایه نمیخواهد 317.
- اگر بدریا ترا بفرسند آبهم گیر نخواهی آورد 318.
- تماشا کن بهتر از بازی کن می بیند 319.
- هزار نعمت و یک تندرستی 320.
- توانا بود هر که دانا بود 321.
- که برسنگ غلطان نه روید نبات 322.
- (a) هر روز خر خرما نمی ریند 323.
 (b) هر روز عید نیست که حلوا خورد کسی
- هم خدا و هم خرما نمی شود 324.
- مال بد بیخ ریش صاحبش 325.
- (a) مُشتِ پسِ خایه 326.
 (b) قوز بالای قوز
- شوخی شوخی باریش بابا هم شوخی؟ 327.
- (a) کس نخارد پشت من جز ناخن و انگشت من¹ 328.
 (b) از ما ست که برماست
- کلاهش پشم ندارد 329.
- ملا شدن چه آسان آدم شدن چه مشکل 330.
- دستش بجائی بند نیست 331.
- چننه² اش خالی است 332.
- از دیر رانده و از حرم مانده 333.
- مرگ میخواهی برو جیلان 334.
- آب از آسیا افتاد 335.
- چه خیری بیاید از آن خاندان * که بانگ خروس آید از ماکیان؟ 336.

ما حک چلدی مثل ظفرک¹

² *Chinta*, a dervish's bag with partitions and worn suspended direct from a shoulder (not across the body, English fashion). In India this bag is called *batūā*.

337. "These are Shiraz compliments." Cf. 'Soft words butter no parsnips.'
Vide 314.
338. "He who has no money eats merd"; (*i.e.*, he has a bad time). *Vide* No. 106.
339. "May no Muslim hear it; may no infidel see it!" (=Alas! how fatally!)
340. (a) "I sought you in the sky; I found you in the earth."
 (b) "My love is in the house and I'm seeking her through the world.
 There is water in the pitcher but I wander athirst."
 (Said on unexpectedly coming across a friend that has been sought for far and near.)
341. "Thoughts are mere air."
342. "Bring the ass and load up the dispute" (*or* "the beans"). Cf. 'The fat's in the fire.'
343. "Yellow dog brother to black jackal"; (*i.e.*, one is as bad as the other).
Vide No. 349.
344. "I'll bet you a hair of my beard that he won't"; (*i.e.*, I'll bet you a farthing he won't).
345. "I'm a *bhoy* from the Pure Country"; (*i.e.*, 'I'm from Shiraz': a *lūṭī* phrase).
346. "Your henna has no colour"; (*i.e.*, 'your words have no value').
347. "If you can't get hold of the lady, put up with her kitchen maid."
348. "I can't satisfy two wives." Cf. 'I can't serve both mistress and maid.'
349. "The bay is no worse than the iron-grey." (The wife is as bad as the husband. The one is as bad as the other).
350. "The *kulāh* of the Taqī on the head of Naqī." Cf. 'Robbing Peter to pay Paul.'
351. "Little Aḥmad goes not to school, but he's made to go"; (*i.e.*, 'If you don't do it willingly, you'll be made to do it').
352. "First rinse your mouth with rose-water and then mention his name"; (*i.e.*, he's a very great person, one not to be mentioned except with veneration. Also said to a pretender claiming equality with a great writer).
353. (a) "None sees his own faults."
 (b) "Everyone sees the faults of others."
 Cf. A camel does not see its own hump.
354. "Every bird that has a crooked beak is not a gos-hawk."
 Cf. All are not hunters that blow the horn.
355. (a) "When the bamboo blossoms."
 (b) "The year that has no Friday," (*i.e.*, never). Cf. 'When two Sundays meet together,' *or* 'When Good Friday falls on a Thursday.'
356. "'*Id-i-Fitr* can never fall on the day of '*Ashūrā*.'"¹
357. "The cloth-merchant is ever naked, and the shoemaker barefoot."
 Cf. Nobody is worse shod than the shoemaker's wife.
358. "His head is like the bottom of a bowl," (*i.e.*, bald). Cf. 'As bald as an egg.'

¹ '*Id-i-Fitr* terminates the Fast, and '*Ashūrā*' is the roth of Muḥarram, the day of Ḥusain's death and the day that the *shabīḥ* (in India *ta'ziya*) is brought out.

337. این تعارفهای شیرازی است
338. کسی که پول ندارد کله میخورد
339. مسلمان نشنود کافر ندیدند
340. (a) تو در آسمان میجستم در زمین یافتم
 (b) } یار در خازنه و من گرد جهان می گردم
 } آب در کوزه و من تشنه لبان می گردم
341. خیال جزو هوا است
342. خر بیار و معرکه (رو با قلی) بار کن
343. سگ زرد برادر شغال سیاه
344. یک شاخه از ریشم بگرو اگر بکند
345. من بچه خاک پاکم
346. حنات رنگ ندارد
347. دستت چون نمی رسد به بی بی * دریاب کنیز مطبخی را
348. من جواب دو زن را نمی توانم بدهم
349. کهر از کبود کم نیست
350. کلاه تقی بر سر تقی
351. احمد به مکتب نمیروند ولی می برندش
352. اول برو دهنت را از گلاب بشو، آنوقت اسمش را به بو
353. (a) عیب خود را کسی نمی بیند
 (b) هر کسی عیب دیگری بیند
354. هر مرغی که مغفارش کج است باز نیست
355. } وقت گل نی
 } سالیکه جمعه ندارد
356. عید فطر هرگز عاشورا نمیشود
357. بزاز همیشه برهنه و کفش دوز همیشه پا برهنه
358. سرش مثل کون طاس است

