

**Investigating Young Adults' Understanding of Hafez Poems
and Their View of His Personality and Poetry**

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Introduction

Hafez Shirazi is one of the most prominent orators of Persian language and has a special place among Iranians. In recent decades, many researches have been conducted and numerous books and articles have been published on various aspects of Hafez's poetry and thought. But so far, no independent research has been done on the topic of how young adults relate to Hafez's poetry. It is obvious that Hafez's poetry was not written for teenagers, and it is impossible for teenagers to fully understand many of them. For this reason, some people do not consider Hafez's poetry to be suitable for young adults and consider it futile to try to connect this age group with Hafez's poetry. On the other hand, there are others who emphasize the necessity of connecting teenagers and young people with works such as *Divan-e Hafez*. It seems that the judgment of adults about whether or not Hafez's poems are suitable for young adults is not an accurate judgment without a methodical

investigation of their own opinions. Paying attention to this issue led to the formation of the following article.

Purpose and Methodology

The present article was formed with the aim of assessing the level of familiarity and understanding of young adults of Hafez's poems and to know their point of view about him. This article is a part of an extensive postdoctoral research. Another part of the achievements of this research is organized in an article titled "An investigation on Capabilities of *Divan-e Hafez* to Present to Young Adults".

As it was said before, no research has been done in connection with the aforementioned goals and topics and this research is the first attempt in this field. To conduct this research, the following steps were taken:

a. A list of the most important features of adolescence was prepared using developmental psychology sources.

b. With the aim of identifying the capacities of *Divan-e Hafez* to present to young adults, this work was analyzed and the poems that seemed suitable for this age group, considering their characteristics and basic needs, were identified and notes were taken from them.

P. According to the objectives of the research and with the consultation of the experts, a scientific questionnaire was designed.

T. This research was carried out during the spread of the Corona virus and the closure of schools, and since direct access to students was impossible, an online questionnaire was prepared and made available to them on the internet. In total, more than 400 completed questionnaires

were received by the project executors, which is a reassuring statistic in such researches.

Discussion

401 young adults from different regions of Iran participated in this survey. Examining the questionnaires and paying close attention to the responses of the teenagers showed that they understand verses with the theme of friendship better than other selected poems from *Divan-e Hafez*. The most popular poems of Hafez in their opinion are the poems written with the theme of love and friendship. Teenagers are interested in the character of Hafez and his divan and would like to know more about him, his thoughts and his poems. 95% of the participants considered Hafez's selected poems as suitable works for their peers, and 72.81% of them counted the usefulness of these poems for teenagers as high and very high.

90.93% (321 people) of the book-reading young adults who declared their reading level to be average or more at the beginning of the survey, said that they have become interested in reading Hafez's poems to an average level and more than that at the end, after reading a selection of Hafez's poems. However, the point worthy of attention is that the interest in reading this work is not only seen among young adults who like to read. At the end of the survey, 72/91% (35 people) of the teenagers who were not very fond of reading (48 people) also expressed their interest in reading his poems (51.42%, high and very high and 48.57%, moderate).

According to 91.89% (205 people) of teenagers who read fiction books more than other books, Hafez's poetry and character are lovely

and attractive (63.59%, high and very high and 26.31%, average); Therefore, writing novels for teenagers based on Hafez's life and poetry or inspired by it can be the focus of this age group.

The most important reasons given by the teenagers for their interest in Hafez's poems are: the variety of subjects, sweet language, pleasantness and calmness of the poems, simple meaning of many verses, the adaptability of the poems to the reality of the world and life, their rich meaning, the value of advice and showing the right path in life.

Conclusion

If we believe that *Divan-e Hafez* is a national treasure, we should investigate if this work, which was written for adults, has the capacity to be used by young adults or not. Can teenagers connect with this work and benefit from this treasure? The findings of this article may not be able to accurately and completely reflect the real thoughts and feelings of teenagers about Hafez's poetry and personality, for reasons such as the selection of Hafez's poems, not being able to have a face-to-face conversation with teenagers, and the possible influence of family, school advertisements, etc. on their opinions; however, it contains points that can open new horizons for those interested in this field.

Paying attention to the features of *Divan-e Hafez* and the findings of this article show that parts of this work, but not all of it, can be suitable for young adults. Although *Divan Hafez* was not written for teenagers, it has capacities that may be effective in increasing the mental, social and spiritual health of the young generation and become the link of this generation with part of its national and spiritual capital.

However, teenagers want a work suitable for their age. They want to receive Hafez's poems in an attractive way that suits their taste and the possibilities of today's world. They want to get to know Hafez and his works in newer, more creative and special formats. Therefore, we can establish a link between the teenagers and the heritage of their ancestors only when we present these valuable treasures in beautiful and attractive packaging according to their taste. We need to turn them into updated and dynamic elements in the life atmosphere of the young generation.

Keywords: Hafez Shirazi, poetry, today's generation, young adults

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