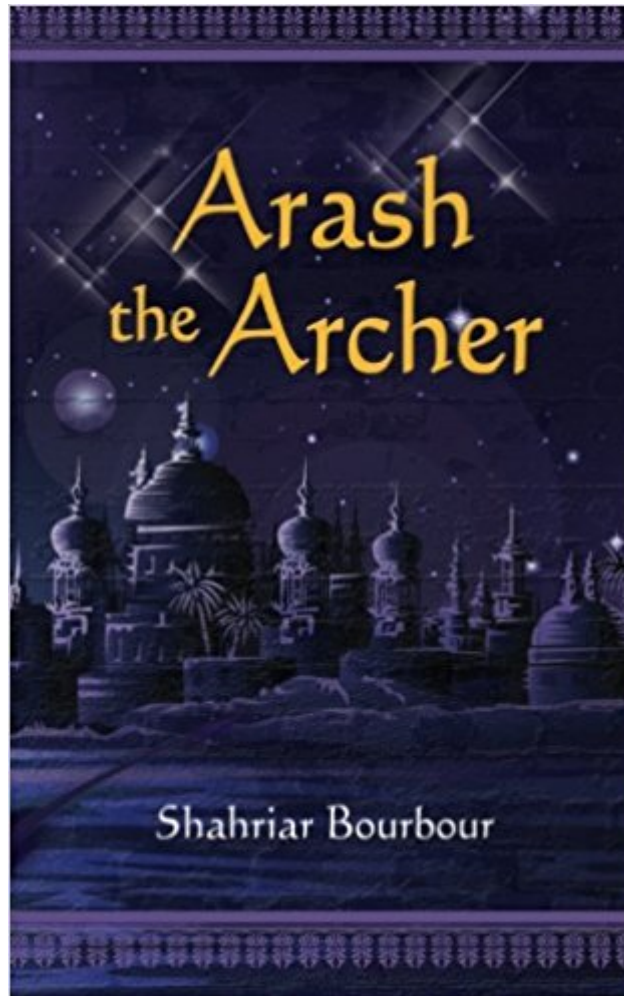




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Arash The Archer: A Story From Ancient Persia



Synopsis

Arash lives in the city of Ray in ancient Persia. At the age of twelve he is a capable archer. His dream is to shoot an arrow far enough to mark the border between the rival empires of Persia and Tooran. He believes that Simorgh the Queen of Birds has given him a message in the form of a riddle that will help him achieve his dream. But he is unaware that Ahriman the Devil and his Deevs are plotting against him. This book is inspired by the ancient story of Arash the Swift Arrow who with a single shot sent an arrow all the way to the Oxus River and marked the border between Persia and her rival empire of Tooran. The story introduces several other characters of Persian mythology including King Hooshang, Simorgh, Zahak, Ahriman and his Deevs, as well as the Zoroastrian philosophy of the constant battle between Good and Evil, to an audience of 8 to 12 year olds. Children with or without Persian heritage, might be more attracted to the mystery and intrigue in which the heroes are children their own age. 2nd edition includes references for further reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My son (7) absolutely loved this book, as did I. For months he was almost obsessed with Arash and his story (as told here). Just as modern variants of European tales have been made, Bourbour has done an excellent job in doing so with this ancient and long-celebrated Iranian story while retaining both the essence and the moral. I hope there will be more.

This book fascinated both my 7 year old (who read it on her own), 4 year old (as a read aloud) AND myself! We quite enjoyed the story as a supplement to our homeschool history lessons about

Persia. It is written true to level (8-12), has a great story flow, and is not overly simplistic as others at this age group are. The names are unfamiliar but not difficult. The factual information at the back in the Authors Note was also a great start for further interest into Persian culture and stories.

I bought this book for my 10 years old son. I believe this is a perfect way to have a connection between the old Iranian/Persian heritage and the new (out of Iran) generation. The pictures and narrative is absorbing and keep you involved for hours and days. I've read it to my son and he read it himself too several times.

You know he's going to shoot the arrow, that's the whole point of the book. So the fact that you want to find out what happens on the way to shooting it tells you it is a good book. Usually translations of retelling older stories leave a less than modern story arc. Like reading the original Cinderella vs. the Disney version. The Disney version has the benefit of modern story telling techniques that make it more exciting, fun, and accessible to kids. The same is the case with Arash. In the book notes you learn that the tale is more of an amalgam of other Persian tales. The result is likely more enjoyable than the originals would be for young readers.

The book is made of small chapters (episodes). It is easily read. The author has used his imagination to tell the story of legendary Iranian hero, Arash the Archer. He has put into action all the main characters, such as Abtin, Manouchehr, Simorgh and so on. A few Zoroastrian terms such as Tishtar, Anahita, Ahura Mazda and Ahriman are mentioned in this book. I liked the book. It however could be more attractive to younger readers, having some colorful illustrations, that hopefully will appear in the coming edition. It is a good attempt to bring Iranian legends and mythology to the western readers and children of Iranian descent.

I highly recommend this book. The author has done a great job in telling a story that is engaging for children and grownups alike. The writing style is very pleasant and the sentences flow smoothly. I had planned to read the story to my children before bedtime within a span of 3-4 days. No such luck. The kids did not let me put the book down until it was finished the very first night.

The author provides a concise and yet insightful story on one of the many legends in the Iranian culture. Written primarily for children, the story is supported by drawings and sketches. I wish the author would provide more drawings in the next edition. Highly recommended for those who like to

get started with the Iranian culture.

For my grand daughter, and amazingly she likes it when we read it to her at bed time

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