

Πηγή: <https://www.instagram.com/whatiamreadingtoday7/>

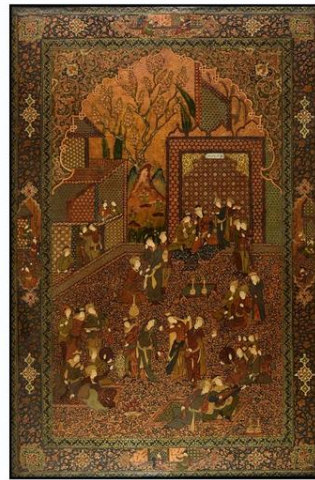
Υπάρχουν και ενδιαφέροντα και πολύτιμα ανάμεσα στον ψηφιακό Ωκεανό. Εννοείται ότι πρόκειται μόνο για μια εισαγωγή. Είναι ουσιώδες να καταλάβετε ότι η αντίληψη των Οθωμανών ήταν ότι βρίσκονταν στο κέντρο του κόσμου και ότι αποτελούσαν κόμβος πολιτισμών.

The Many Tongues of Persian



Persian language evolved from Old → Middle → New Persian and became the literary and administrative lingua franca **from the Balkans to Bengal** for centuries.

Middle Persian / Pahlavi (Sasanian)



Under the Sasanian Empire (3rd–7th c.), Middle Persian (Pahlavi) carried administration and Zoroastrian literature, **bridging into Islamic-era New Persian.**

Old Persian (Achaemenids)



"I am Darius, the great king, king of kings, the king of Persia, the king of countries, the son of Hystaspes"

In the 6th century BCE, the Achaemenid kings – **Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes** – spoke Old Persian, a language they carved in cuneiform on stone to speak directly to the world.

New Persian (Farsi) & the Arabic Script



From the 9th–10th centuries, Persian was reborn. **Now written in the Arabic script** and infused with Arabic vocabulary, it remained unmistakably Iranian in rhythm and spirit.

It was the tongue of **Ferdowsi**, who preserved Iran's epic past in the Shahnameh, and of **Rumi**, who transformed it into the language of divine love.

Not Just a Language – A Civilization



Historians call the vast cultural zone shaped by Persian the “**Persianate world**” – a civilization without fixed borders, united by its language of beauty, learning, and power.

From the **Ottoman** courts of **Istanbul** to the **Timurid** academies of **Samarkand**, from the Safavid poets of Isfahan to the Mughal palaces of **Delhi**, Persian served as the language of kings, mystics, and scholars alike.

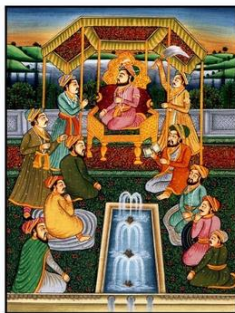
Birth of Urdu (and Impact on Hindi)

ہندوستانی
हिन्दुस्तानी
हिन्दुस्तानी

In medieval North India, the grace of Persian met the earthiness of Hindavi and Khari Boli, **giving rise to Urdu – a language born in bazaars, courts, and Sufi shrines**. It adopted the **Perso-Arabic Nasta'liq script** and a rich Persian-Arabic vocabulary, yet kept the grammar and rhythm of the local speech.

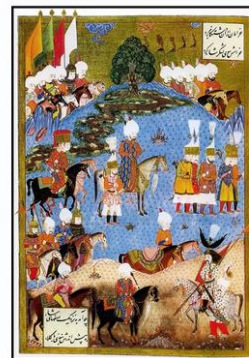
Hindi shares this same base but turned toward Sanskrit roots and the Devanagari script.

Persian in India (1200s–1830s)



From the Delhi Sultanate to the Mughal Empire, Persian shaped courtly culture, chronicled empires, and linked India's many tongues under a single refined idiom. Under **Akbar, reforms around 1582–84** made Persian the official language of bureaucracy, used in imperial orders, chronicles, and correspondence. Even after the **East India Company replaced it with English in 1835–37**, Persian's legacy lived on – in Urdu poetry, Hindi vocabulary, and the aesthetic rhythm of South Asian expression.

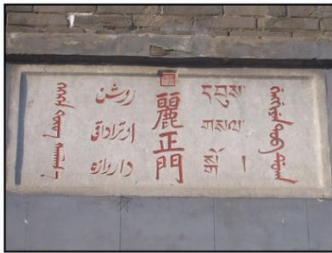
Ottoman Turkish: A Trilingual Blend



In the Ottoman Empire, Persian was not the state language – but it was the language of refinement. **The Ottoman elite studied Persian poetry** and adopted thousands of its words and idioms into Ottoman Turkish, creating a rich blend of Arabic, Persian, and Turkic influences.

For centuries, **Persian remained the literary and spiritual ideal**, shaping Ottoman calligraphy, philosophy, and mysticism.

Between Turkic and Persian



Across Central Asia, Persian's influence ran deep. The Chagatai literary tradition – written in a Turkic language – consciously imitated Persian poetic models, with writers like **Alisher Navāī** blending Turkic expression and Persian elegance. Persian itself thrived in cities like **Bukhara, Samarkand, and Herat**, long considered centers of classical learning. In the 20th century, under Soviet rule, **Tajik Persian was codified as a national standard.**

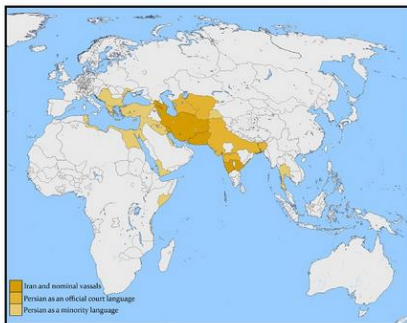
Ghazal, Masnavi, Qasida



Amir Khusrow teaching his disciples in a miniature from a manuscript of *Majlis al-Ushshaq* by Husayn Bayqarah. Amir Khusrow is considered the first Urdu poet

Persian shaped how the world wrote poetry. Its great poetic forms – the **ghazal, masnavi, and qasida** – became shared templates across Asia, inspiring generations of poets in **Urdu, Turkish, Pashto, and Arabic**. The **ghazal**, with its rhyming couplets of longing and loss, later bloomed in Urdu under Ghalib and Iqbal. The **masnavi**, a long narrative poem in rhymed couplets, carried mystical epics like Rumi's *Masnavi-i Ma'navi*. And the **qasida**, born as the ode of praise, evolved into royal panegyric and moral reflection alike.

The Perso-Arabic Script Family



Wherever Persian went, its script followed – graceful, adaptable, and deeply aesthetic.

Languages as diverse as **Urdu (in Nasta'liq), Pashto, Kurdish (Sorani), Sindhi, Kashmiri, and Uyghur** adopted or modified it, adding new letters and local sounds. More than a tool of writing, it became an art form – seen in swirling calligraphy on mosque walls, miniature paintings, and manuscripts from **Istanbul to Srinagar.**

Persian in Global Vocab



Even if you've never read a Persian verse, you still speak fragments of it every day. Through centuries of trade, conquest, and conversation, Persian words quietly entered dozens of languages – including English, often by way of Hindustani. When you walk through a **bazaar**, wear a **shawl**, pull on your **pajamas**, or notice **khaki** fabric, you're using words born in Persian. Even **paradise** comes from *pairidaeza* – “a walled garden,” the ancient Persian image of heaven.