



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Religion/Ceremony History Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion **Shahnameh**

Age Group (circle one): PreK-K Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5 **Grades 6-8** Grades 9-12

Lesson # (if applicable): 2

Subject of the Lesson: Tahmineh and Rostam

Background knowledge for the Teacher:

Rostam is the celebrated hero of Iranian mythology, represented as the mightiest warrior known for his extraordinary strength, courage, and loyalty.

Rakhsh (meaning luminous in Persian) is stolen by horsemen while Rostam is asleep after hunting and consuming a large meal in a meadow. When Rostam wakes up, he searches far and wide for Rakhsh. Eventually, after following his horse's footprints, Rostam reaches the nearby kingdom of Samangan. He asks the king for his assistance in locating Rakhsh. Excited by seeing the legendary Rostam, the king of Samangan asks Rostam to stay in the palace and Rostam accepts.

While in Samangan, Rostam meets the king's daughter Tahmineh. Tahmineh had heard about Rostam and fallen in love with his description. One night the princess enters Rostam's chamber to tell him that she has heard such heroic stories about him that she cannot love anybody but him and wishes to marry him and bear his child. Rostam tells Tahmineh that as soon as Rakhsh is found, he has to leave Samangan. Tahmineh tells Rostam that she will find Rakhsh. Although caught by surprise, Rostam also falls in love with Tahmineh's beauty, honesty, and bravery. The couple were married. Tahmineh finds Rakhsh and returns it to the true owner, Rostam.

Before Rostam heads back home, he gives Tahmineh a jewel from the band around his arm, saying: If a daughter is granted to you, take, and bind it on her hair to secure a good fortune and as a talisman to brighten the world. If a son is granted to you, bind it upon his arm in token of his father. He will attain the ability of Sam, son of Nariman, and he will have the courage and spirit of a nobleman. Rostam returned home unaware that he had fathered a son, Sohrab.

Lesson for Students:

The teacher will use the information in the "Background Knowledge for the Teacher" section to go over the story. After reading the first story to the students, the students can work on the activity listed below.

Activity for Students:

After reading, students will create a match game with the different people/animals from the story. They will write the person/animal's name on one side and a description or information about them on the other side.



Sources:

1. *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings* retold by Elizabeth Laird
2. *Shahnameh: The Epic of the Kings* by Abolqasem Ferdowsi (Translated by Reuben Levy)

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