



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CENTRAL LIBRARY HOSTS MYTHOLOGY TALK DISCUSSION ABOUT THE *SHAHNAMEH* -- *THE PERSIAN BOOK OF KINGS* *Mythology Talk Explores how Myth Resonates in Everyday Life and Invigorates Culture*

San Diego, CA. The San Diego Public Library resumes its occasional series entitled MYTHOLOGY TALK exploring the founding myths, epics and stories of peoples and nations and the relevance of these to life in the 21st century on Monday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library located at 820 E Street. The next ‘mythology talk’, *The Shahnameh (or the Persian Book of Kings)*, is the national epic of Iran. This free event is open to the public.

The *Shahnameh* is a masterpiece of world literature, an enormous poetic narrative, longer than the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* combined, written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi around 1000 A.D. It is considered as the national epic of the Farsi-speaking world, telling the mythical and historical past of (Greater) Iran from the creation of the world up to the Islamic conquest of Persia in the 7th century. Written in almost pure Farsi unmixed with adoptions from Arabic, it was pivotal in reviving the Farsi language and culture in Iran after the massive influence of Arabic.

Join Dr. Babak Rahimi of the Literature Department at UCSD in a discussion of the *Shahnameh* and its central role in the Persian literary tradition. Books on the *Shahnameh* are available in the Library. A complete English text can be found at <http://www.omphaloskepsis.com>. Mythology talk is part of the Library’s “talk series” including literature, philosophy, and science that illuminates the what, why, and how of human culture.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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