

TEHRAN URBAN SPACES IN "1001 NIGHTS" AND THE 19TH CENTURY ILLUSTRATIONS (A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH INTERTEXTUALITY APPROACH)

Maryam Lari^{1*} and Yasaman Yazdi²

¹Asst. Prof. Dr., Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch, IRAN, lari_maryam@yahoo.com

²Ms, Department of Art and Architecture, Islamic Azad University, IRAN, yazdiyasaman@yahoo.com

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Although for the first time, Tehran became the capital of Iran in 19th century under Zand dynasty, but its rapid extension happened under Qajar era. As the result of population growth, urban spaces of Tehran such as allies, streets, squares and bazaars developed very rapidly and different aspects of its cultural life boomed as well. The urban spaces of the capital were represented in the literature (novels and poems), photos and paintings. This article surveys the urban spaces of Tehran in the illustrations of a famous story called "1001 Nights", painted by Sani-ol-Molk. This story was already popular in that era but some avant-garde artists tried to find new ways of presentation in their artistic career. Appearance of photography and printing industry were two determinant factors which directly influenced Iranian painting. The traces of European painting are also evident in the illustrations. The artists of that period attempted to use some elements of Western naturalistic painting like perspective and at the same time keep many standards of traditional Persian painting; between them Sani-ol-Molk was the most significant. He illustrated the urban spaces of Tehran instead of Baghdad which was narrated as the main city in "1001 Nights". With the help of this delicate manner, he succeeded to link the plots of an old story with his contemporary events and demonstrated the daily life of people. For uncovering some hidden layers of the illustrations, the article chose Intertextuality as the main approach and conveys the status of Tehran urban spaces narrated in the travelers and biographies. The main challenge of 19th century in Iran, which was dual opposition of "west" and "East", is also shown in this comparative study.

Keywords: Urban space, Tehran, Iranian literature, "1001 Nights", Qajar painting, Intertextuality approach.