



An Iranian Childhood

Hamid Dabashi was born and raised in southern Iran in the 1950s and 1960s. During this time, his homeland was changed beyond recognition, from the 1953 coup d'état to the 1963 political protests and the beginning of the Marxist rebellions against the Shah in 1971. In this vibrant, unique, and personal study, Dabashi recounts his experiences of this defining period in modern Iranian history, deftly blending the personal with the political, the ordinary with the extraordinary. He combines vivid childhood memories with careful reflections to explore the intersections of history and memory. This lyrically written book draws upon a rich tapestry of themes and sources, including art, literature, and folklore. In doing so, Dabashi asserts the power and place of the knowing postcolonial subject. Redrawing the limits of modern literary historiography, he asks what it means to be a Muslim and an Iranian and, indeed, what it is that forms the humanity of a person.

HAMID DABASHI is Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. He is the author of many books and scholarly essays on subjects ranging from Iranian Studies, medieval and modern Islam, and comparative literature to world cinema and the philosophy of arts. His books and articles have been translated into numerous languages, and he has taught and delivered lectures in many North American, European, Arab, and Iranian universities.

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An Iranian Childhood

Rethinking History and Memory

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*For my children
Kaveh, Pardis, Chelgis, and Golchin
So they know and remember . . .*

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