

## Investigating the Major Features of Iranian Culture in the Persian Painting (Herat and Safavid Schools)

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### Abstract

The Iranian culture as one of the oldest cultures in the world has well-known features among other cultures in the world. In search of these features in the redevelopment of a culture such as literature, art and industry, the Persian painting can be described as one of the best examples. Painting of Iran with its ancient traditions represented one of the most amazing eastern styles to the world. In a small Iranian miniature piece, the worldview of people and their creators is deeply embedded. In this regard, this research seeks to find these links among the characteristics of Iranian culture and the characteristic features of Persian painting as well as how they would be appeared by the visual elements. Elements like pure, flat, and resplendent colors that are rooted in the friendly mood of people, the importance of happiness, and the ancient celebrations among Iranians, are the lyrical and modest figures in honoring the status of courtesy and respect; also the sacred and non-universal impersonation of elements and objects in the abstractive "Sacred art" is the impression of the prominence of spirituality, religion and mystical schools among Iranians. On the other hand, poetry and belles letters among them are quite influential in choosing literary, epic, and romantic themes. To find the influences this research is concentrated on heyday of Persian painting of Harat and Safavid schools. The methodology used in this article is descriptive-analytical and sometimes adaptive, and the data collection method is library based and documentary.

**Keywords:** Iranian culture, Persian painting, miniatures, literature, visual elements

### Introduction

Art as one of the products of humanity in human societies is boasted and formed in the context of the culture of every society in a tangible relationship. There is no doubt that this close relationship has existed between the Iranian culture and the art of painting and miniature from so long ago, but finding out which aspects and in what ways and with what visual examples can one find and prove this relationship is an issue that is investigated in this research. In addition to exploring the more known and fortified characters of the Iranian culture, this can be evaluated and observed along with the emergence of their pictorial features in the

Persian painting with an analytical process. Although there are many publications in the description of Persian paintings, and with them, there are some explanations about the Iranian culture, the works that directly and analytically deal with the factor of Iranian culture as the cause of the formation and symbolic signs of those research resources are very rare. In this study, the characteristics of the culture of the Iranian people with which they are known to others are searched as represented in the form of effective visual elements in the miniatures. It is noteworthy that due to the wide range of the art of Persian painting, the main focus of this research is on the courses on the two schools of Herat and the Safavid, for the former Behzad is the most well-known figure, and Reza Abbasi is the most known artist of the second, which are mentioned as the peak of Iranian flourishing in the history of art (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century respectively).

### Definition of "Culture"

The word culture (Farhang) is one of the oldest words in the ancient history of the land of Iran. The root of "far" meaning the front or the front of, and "hang" from the Avestan root of "eang" meaning dragging together convey the meaning of pulling or pulling up [1]. Also for Iranian, it sometimes had the meaning of education and sometimes involved in arts and crafts, even literature. But among many definitions of the word culture in the field of human sciences, the definition of Taylor, which everyone believes to be the best definition, is "a complex set of identities, beliefs, rights, arts, customs, morals, and other characteristics that a person acquires as a member of his community [2].

### Iranian Culture and Characteristics

Iranian culture has plumed as one of the oldest cultures in the world, and in a close association with specific geographic features of the land has always had a strange historical continuity. Although it is reasonable to divide it into the pre-Islamic culture and after the arrival of Islam, the option of combining Iranian-Islamic culture is an indication of the integration of these two cultures which is not only completely different from the Islamic countries of the region, but it has also retained its deep roots of identity. Due to the great attacks by neighbors and foreigners, Iranian culture has