



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Executive Board

EX

Hundred and twenty-seventh Session

127 EX/23
PARIS, 19 August 1987
Original: French

Item 9.3 of the provisional agenda

COMMEMORATION OF THE 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATH OF THE IRANIAN POET HAFEZ

SUMMARY

The above item has been placed on the provisional agenda of the 127th session pursuant to a proposal made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a letter to the Chairman of the Executive Board, dated 10 June 1987. This letter, accompanied by an explanatory note, is reproduced below.

24 AOUT 1987

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Hafez is most certainly one of the greatest poets of Persian literature. His Divan, a collection of poems, is a treasury of lyric poetry a genre of which he is the uncontested master and which he raises to the heights of perfection thanks to his incomparable style and his keen sense of nature and beauty.

The Divan, which is to be found in the homes of all who speak Persian or are familiar with the Persian language (in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Tajikistan, etc...) and in which love, tolerance, mystic aspiration and philosophical inquiry are recurrent themes, holds the reader by its openness in dealing with the complex truth of the experience of life, constantly eliciting a response from him; and it has done so for six centuries. The work of Hafez transcends the limits of time and cultural frontiers. Its influence in the West is well known, to take only the examples of Goethe or Nietzsche.

Today as in the past, faithful to his mission as a poet, Hafez with his lyricism and imagery asks questions of man's innermost being, both human and divine, and for this he may be regarded as one of the greatest poets of world literature.

Permanent Delegation
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to Unesco

No. 3800

10 June 1987

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to refer to the talk we had together on the purpose of my letter No. 3763 of 28 April last, in which I proposed on behalf of my government the inclusion on the agenda of the present [126th] session of the Executive Board an item on the commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the death of the Iranian poet Hafez.

As agreed, I enclose an explanatory note on the subject in the hope that steps will be taken to follow up this proposal.

If however, owing to the heavy work-load and lack of time the inclusion of the item is not possible for the present session, I should be grateful if you would give the necessary instructions now for its inclusion on the agenda of the next session of the Executive Board.

Please accept, Mr Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Réza FEIZ
Permanent Delegate

Mr Ivo MARGAN
Chairman of the Executive Board of Unesco
Place de Fontenoy
75007 PARIS



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Executive Board

EX

Hundred and twenty-seventh Session

127 EX/23 Corr.
PARIS, 18 September 1987
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Item 9.3 of the provisional agenda

COMMEMORATION OF THE 600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATH OF THE IRANIAN POET
KHAJEH MOHAMMAD SHAMS OD-DIN HAFEZ SHIRAZI

CORRIGENDUM

1. Begin the Explanatory Note with this sentence: 'Hafez, so called because he knew the Koran by heart, is most certainly one of the greatest poets of Persian literature. His Divan ...'.
2. After the word 'lyric' in the second line, replace the word 'poetry' by the words 'and mystical poetry -'.

- 1 OCT. 1991