



THE BUSTAN

SADI

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THE BUSTAN OF SADI

**TRANSLATED FROM THE PERSIAN WITH AN
INTRODUCTION BY A. HART EDWARDS**

The Bustan Of Sadi.

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CONTENTS

Editorial Note

Introduction

Prologue

Chapter 1. Concerning Justice, Counsel, And The Administration Of
Government

Chapter 2. Concerning Benevolence

Chapter 3. Concerning Love

Chapter 4. Concerning Humility

Chapter 5. Concerning Resignation

Chapter 6. Concerning Contentment

Chapter 7. Concerning Education

Chapter 8. Concerning Gratitude

Chapter 9. Concerning Repentance

Chapter 10. Concerning Prayer

eyes from the face of happiness; bind not my tongue when I recite the creed. Place the lamp of Faith before my way; make my hand short from doing evil.. From the sun of Thy goodness one ray suffices, for except in Thy rays I am not seen. Why should I weep because of my condition? If am weak, my refuge is strong."

STORY OF AN IDOLATER

A fire-worshipper turned his back upon the world and girt up his loins in the service of an idol. After some years he was overtaken by misfortune and wept at the feet of the idol, saying: "I am afflicted—help me, O idol! I am weary—have pity upon me."

Long did he continue in his lamentation, but no benefit did he derive. How can an idol accomplish the desires of a man when of itself it cannot drive away a fly?

The idolater frowned and said: "O thou, whose feet are bound to error! with folly have I worshipped thee for years. Help me to fulfil my wishes, or I will ask them of God."

While his face was yet besmeared with the dust of the idol's feet, the Almighty fulfilled his object.

A pious man was astonished when he heard this. Then did a voice from heaven speak into his ear, saying: "This old man prayed before the idol, but his prayer was not heard, If at the-shrine of God he were likewise spurned, what difference would there be between an idol and Him Who is eternal?"
