

A Study of People's Beliefs in Saadi's Anthology *Golestan***Saeed Yazdani*****Department of English Literature, Bushehr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr, Iran***
Phone: 00989126046788, E-mail: yazdanisaeeds@yahoo.com**KEYWORDS** Culture. Beliefs. Iran. History. Narrative. Folk Literature

ABSTRACT Folk literature has been an important media through which people's beliefs and dreams are expressed. These beliefs have been displayed through different literary forms including prose, poetry and narratives. *Golestan* written by the Persian poet, Saadi, is one of such outstanding literary works which on reading brings to surface people's beliefs. The work is not only endowed with literary advantages, but it also makes use of anthropological and historical issues relevant to the contemporary society of the poet. *Golestan* has been written during one of the most troublesome and controversial periods of the Iranian history. In writing this article, and in order to gather data, the researcher profits from qualitative research and instruments such as observation and interviews with Iranian elders. The narratives in Saadi's *Golestan* reflect lives, customs and beliefs of the people living in the seventh century A.D. In this article an attempt is made to trace the beliefs of the Persians in *Golestan* and the way it reflects people's cultural and aesthetic characteristics.