

## **Preface**

This book continues the subject treated in Book I, i.e., translation of Persian legal deeds. As the avid reader may have already noticed, in Book I, I started with personal documents, i.e., those that concern individuals only. One side to such deeds is an individual, the other side is usually the government. Personal documents tend to be easier as many complications in legal documents usually arise from conditions suggested by private parties to a contract, who do not trust each other. In personal documents, trust is not called for as you are dealing with the government and asking them to give you what you think is your right.

Near the end of Book I, however, I introduced a two 'social documents', i.e., the marriage and divorce contracts.

In this book (Volume II) I will continue the discussion of social documents. In doing so, I have tried to interpolate as many documents with as diverse topics as possible. Social documents may be considered more important in that they influence more than one individual. Besides, they contain very important minutiae, the vagueness of which could result in serious ramifications.

Beware that social deeds could be as disparate as the people who draw them! As an example, contracts could be very diverse because depending on the parties, the context, and the objects of transaction, they could vary. You can hardly find two, say lease contracts that are exactly the same.

Nevertheless, this does not mean there is no solution. To revert to the same example, i.e., lease contracts, we know that they are only different in details; otherwise, the general wording would remain more or less the same. This leaves us no choice but to merely focus on commonalities, as particulars could always vary. However, in the actual examples I will be dealing with in this book, there will undoubtedly be details I will have to fully discuss.

As explained in the introduction to Book I, before translating any document, you will need to know how to treat dates in a Persian or English deed. Obviously, for a legal translation to be understandable across different cultures, such dates have to be converted to the target language depending on which way you are translating. To do this, you need to turn to Appendix A, Book I, where a complete discussion of the date conversion technique between the Persian Khorshidi<sup>1</sup> (solar) calendar and the English Gregorian calendar has been presented along with ample practice and exercises.

There are other points that are essential to consider too before we proceed any further. One point to fully understand as in Book I, is ‘caption’, which refers to the heading a legal document has. It is the part, attachment or heading that appears in the premises of a legal document and identifies “the circumstances of its production and the sources of its authority”<sup>2</sup>, i.e., when and where it is written, what is its date of drawing, etc.

Such captions could partially or entirely appear in the form of emblems or texts usually designed in an appealing fashion. Notice that the texts or emblems inside them, whatsoever, are unknown to the Anglophone who is deemed to or happens to read our translation. He/She doesn’t know whether the emblem is actually part of our writing system or whether it is a symbol.

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1. See below for guidelines to pronunciation.

2. Merriam Webster Dictionary of Law (1996).

Such concepts would, therefore, have to be clearly explained by the translator.

This is the approach taken toward such issues in Book I and II. If the captions are emblems, it is explained so, e.g.:

*Emblem of ...*

This way our reader will know that this is a symbol, not a text. Although many symbols themselves are combinations of texts usually wrapped and woven into each other in an appealing fashion, a translator does not have to get involved in this. Most of such emblems either shorten or connote the names of the respective companies. Therefore, all a translator has to do is to mention that this is an emblem. Obviously, when the name of the company is mentioned in the translation, our reader will know what the emblem refers to.

The emblem can as well be a text written in aesthetic typography, in which case the translator has two options: if the text is clearly and readily legible by any non-native or lay person, then the translator might just as well decide to translate it into English. If not, he/she may simply proceed as above by saying *emblem of ...*

One more point to consider is the phonetic symbols used to denote Persian pronunciation, especially when such sounds are absent in English. The list of such signs is provided below. It is, however, by no means exhaustive as it is only limited to those utilized in these books (Book I, II), which are of course common in the legal language. Under no circumstances should this list be construed as a comprehensive tabulation of all pronunciation disparities between Persian and English.

### Chart of Phonetic Symbols

Symbols	Sounds as in:
æ	mat /mæt/
ā	army /ārmɪ:/
i:	mean /mi:n/
ū	fool /fūl/
o	boy /boy/
ķ <sup>1</sup>	ķiābān (Persian for street)
ğ	as 'r' in French for 'raisin'

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1. This sound does not exist in English.

## Introduction

Before you start this book, once again make sure you understand how to convert dates between Khorshidi and Gregorian calendar. Needless to say this is crucial to any successful translation. Appendix A, Book I provides you with a step-by-step instruction on how to do this<sup>1</sup>.

As a second consideration, do not forget the points discussed in the Preface to this book regarding captions, their possible stylistic use and how to treat them in our translation. And last, but not the least, remember to keep note of abbreviations used in this book, especially the English ones. As explained in Book I, contrary to Persian, English makes frequent resort to acronyms and abbreviations. In the former, such application is mostly limited to military situations and contexts. Therefore, it is necessary to know how to treat acronyms when translating from either of these languages into the other. A practical piece of advice is to write them in full when translating from English into Persian. If it is the other way around, you may change the translated English to acronyms if it is repetitive. Otherwise, write it in full.

Here are the acronyms used in Book II. In this book, I will try to use them sparsely as they could be confusing. Therefore, less well-known abbreviations are given in full and are not even included in this table.

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1. As in Book I, examples and translations are *italicized* throughout this book. Moreover, \ shows synonymous expressions, / demonstrates choices (Mr./Ms.), and finally // shows the American//British English variety where applicable.

Art.	Article
B/L	Bill of Lading
CEO	Chief Executive Official/Officer
CFR	Cost and Freight
CPT	Carriage Paid To
FCR	Free Carrier
FOD	Freight on Board
FOD	Freight on Delivery (meaning that the freight of the shipment will be collected from the consignee at the time of delivery)
L/C	Letter of Credit (as opened by a bank to inform a foreign seller that the domestic buyer is creditable)
DOB	Date of Birth
FIATA	Fédération Internationale des Associations de Transitaires et Assimiliés (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations)
POB	Place of Birth
Rls.	Unit of currency in Iran. As in Book I, this abbreviation can be used as the symbol for this currency too. As such, it may be used to precede the amount, just like \$ for dollar.
VIN	Vehicle Identification Number
SGD & SED	Signed and Sealed

Now you are ready to start Book II.