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Memoirs on "Wrappers" of Candies

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Annotation. This work is dedicated to the work of the famous Iranian writer - prose writer Bozorg Alavi, "Varaghe parehaye زندان" (Prison notes). The article also describes the life of prisoners, a description of the Iranian prison during the reign of Reza Shah. This work is devoted to the theme of prison in the works of Bozorg Alavi. The focus of consideration is the life of the prisoners of the Iranian prison in the 20th century.

Keywords. Prison notes, the work of Bozorg Alavi, the life of prisoners, the Shah's prison, prison torture, notes, memoirs.

Bozorg Alawi (real name Seyyed Mojtaba Allawi) was born in Tehran, in a large family - he was the third of six children. His father, Abol Hassan Alavi, took part in the constitutional revolution of 1906 and later published the progressive magazine Kaveh in Germany with Hassan Takizadeh.

His paternal grandfather, Seyyed Mohammad Sarraf, was a wealthy banker, a member of the first Iranian Majles. Sarraf was the younger brother of Haj Seyyed Javad Hazaneh, treasurer of Shah Nasreddin Qajar.

Bozorg Alyavi received the nickname "Bozorg" (Persian - great) from the name of his great-grandfather - Seyyed Mojtab Agha Bozorg Alavi, a sugar merchant, confectioner and shipowner who died in the year of the writer's birth.

Bozorg Alawi received his primary education in Tehran. In 1922, he was sent to study in Berlin with his older brother Mortaza. After returning to Iran in 1927, Alyavi first taught German in Shiraz and then in Tehran.¹ During this period, he met and became friends with Sadeq Hedayat. At the same time, he began to engage in dissident activities, being among the famous "53 people" imprisoned in 1937 for communist activities by the government of Shah Reza Pahlavi. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, but was released four years later, in 1941 after a general amnesty.

After his release, Bozorg Alyavi published the collections "Prison Notes" and "53 People" and continued his political activities, becoming the founder of the communist "People's Party of Iran"

1. ¹Modern Iranian prose. Anthology of the Iranian story in 2 volumes. - St. Petersburg: Petersburg Oriental Studies. - 2010, 336 p.



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and the editor of the magazine "Mardom" (Persian - people).² Alawi was in Germany when the 1953 coup overthrew the Mossadegh government, leading to mass arrests of people across the country. The collection "Prison Notes", in contrast to the book "Fifty-Three" with its journalistic orientation, is a kind of artistic illustration, a figurative explanation of what is stated in "Fifty-three". It shows everything that the authorities did to noble people, all the fault of which was the desire to achieve a better life for the Iranian people and the introduction of the principles of freedom and democracy in the country.

The author of his collection "Prison Notes" says: *"Much was written on scraps of paper, on tissue paper, wrappers of juices, sweets, fruits. It was not safe, it was considered a crime to carry a pencil or a piece of paper"*³.

For example, in the story "Padang", the innocent Gholyamhossein was convicted of murder, although everyone knew that he had not committed a crime.

In another, "Setāre-ye dombāledār" ("The Comet"), the great grief that befell the young people is described: on the wedding day, the police arrest the groom, the revolutionary Iraj, who is tortured in prison, tortured, demanding to abandon progressive beliefs. And, although the executioners fail to break the revolutionaries who hold steadfastly, the heroes of the stories in the collection "Prison Notes" are victims.

Also in the amnesty story, prisoners had the right to work in prison and receive a meager salary, with the exception of political prisoners, who were denied this right. *"Political prisoners are not allowed to work in a prison factory. " Give me at least a hundred riyals."*⁴ Political prisoners are arbitrarily and without trial imprisoned for long periods, perhaps even forgotten in the darkness of their cells. Some of them have even been convicted and are subject to deportation. *"Why is my case still pending and why doesn't my interlocutor want it?"* The term of political prisoners has always been long, and many of them were imprisoned indefinitely, but it must be admitted that old political prisoners remained in prison indefinitely for seven or nine years or more. Also, when an amnesty order is issued, it does not include the situation of political prisoners: *"Maybe this is really a general amnesty. It works, but not for political prisoners."*

During the years of Alyavi's imprisonment, his sister, Badri Alavi, showed great dedication, delivering newspapers to her brother every day with great difficulty. It is no coincidence that Bozorg Alyavi dedicated the second collection to his sister with the following words, *"I dedicate these notes to my dear sister, Badra Alavi, the most courageous woman I have seen in my life."*

The collection "Prison Notes" made a strong impression on readers and was a huge success; the workers themselves demanded from the author new works on the same topic. Readers wanted to know more about the prison.⁵ Given their desire, in 1942 he published his book "Fifty-Three Men", which became very popular.

² Persian prose of the XX - XXI centuries: a reader / Compiled by: M.N. Akhmedova, A.M. Nigmatullina. - Kazan: Kazan Publishing House. University, 2019. – 147 p.

³ B. Alavi, Prison Notes, Foreword

.Alavi, Bozorg, (b. 1978); Prison Fragments, Tehran: Amir Kabir ⁴

⁵ B. Alavi, 53 people



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"I want," the author wrote in the preface, "to show my readers as clearly as possible the ulcers of the black period." And he managed to perfectly cope with the task set by him with great skill and reliability, showing the socio-political life of Iran in the 30s.

In September 1941, as a result of a change in the political situation in Iran (Shahrivar events), B. Alyavi and his friends were released along with other political prisoners, but they lost their dear mentor, Taki Erani, who was brutally murdered in prison in February 1939.

Once free, they immediately joined in an active struggle against reaction. And, as B. Alavi writes, "this is how the struggle of the 53s in prison ended and so began their struggle outside the prison."

In October 1941, the People's Party of Iran - "Tudeh" was created, the first appeal of which immediately found a wide response among the masses. The party's press organs, the newspapers Mardom and Rahbar, began to be published. Taking a direct part in the political struggle, B. Alyavi at the same time processes and In 1941 he published his "Prison Notes". "The coming generation," writes B. Alyavi in the preface to his book, "needs to know how freedom-loving Iranian youth were treated and brutally dealt with during this dark period."

The book depicts 53 prisoners in strict realistic colors. With impressive artistic power and pathos, the writer depicted the wonderful image of Dr. Taki Rani, a man of unbending will, who fought against despotism with reaction until his last breath.

The memoirs "53 Men" are a testament to the writer's growth, the development of his artistic skill and the improvement of his realistic method.

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