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HU130A/ Frawley

Writing Assignment #3

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Uniquely Persian

1. Nowruz: It is the biggest festival and holiday in Iran. “Now” means new and “ruz” means day, so Nowruz means new day. Nowruz celebration starts first day of



spring and it is also the first day in Persian calendar. Iranian have been celebrated Nowruz for more than 3,000 years and it is rooted in the Zoroastrian religion. To start celebration of Nowruz, each family gather around together and it starts at the exact moment of vernal equinox. Iranian celebrates Nowruz for twelve days, as a symbol of twelve past months and finishes it at the thirteenth day, with celebrating the whole day from early in the morning till evening, outdoor in the nature.

2. Haft Sin: The most important symbol of Nowruz is “Haft Sin”. Haft means seven and Sin is the letter S. Every Persian family makes Haft Sin table at home and keeps it during the thirteen days of Nowruz. There are seven signs which start with the letter S to thank god for giving



them what they need. These seven items are: 1. Sabzeh (wheat, barley, or lentil sprout growing in a dish) symbolizing rebirth. 2. Samanou (a sweet, creamy wheat pudding) symbolizing affluence. Some people believe it also shows the sophistication of Persian cooking because cooking samanou is very difficult. 3. Seeb: (it means apple) symbolizing

3. health and beauty. 4. Senjend: (sweet, dried fruit of lotus tree) represent love. Some people say the fragrance of lotus blooms make people fall in love. 5. Seer: (it means garlic) symbolizing medicine. 6. Somaq: (sumac berries) represent the color of sunrise. 7. Serkeh: (it means vinegar) symbolizing age and patience. Iranian keeps Haft Sin in the home during the thirteen days of Nowruz.

4. Yalda Night: This Persian festival is celebrated on the eve of the first day of winter in Persian calendar. This is the longest night of the year and after this night days grow longer.

Ancient Zoroastrians believed this is the night of Mithra's birth. Iranian celebrates this night because they believe it represents the winning of the light and goodness over darkness. On this night, family members gather together, usually at the oldest member's home, and stay awake all the



night. Traditionally, they read classic poetry and oldest people tell stories about old myths to kids. Special dried nuts, watermelon, and pomegranate are served in this night.

5. Chahar Shanbe Soori (The Festival of Fire): On the eve of last Wednesday of the year (the last Wednesday before Nowruz) Iranian light up bonfires in public places. They celebrate this day and hope to have happiness and enlightenment throughout the coming year. People encircle the fire and sing this song all together:

give me your beautiful red color! And take back my sickly pallor! The ancient Zoroastrians believed in this day Farvahar (the guardian angel of all human) and the spirits of dead will come



back for reunion. These spirits were their honored guests and they lit fire to respect them.

Traditionally, Iranian serves Persian noodle soup, dried fruits and nuts in this day.

6. Persian Food: Persian food is famous for its delicious kebabs and tasty stews. Iranian usually serves their food with white rice that the rice usually comes with saffron. Persian food is also famous for using saffron and some special



spices such as turmeric, cumin, and caraway. They even use saffron in most of their dessert.

It is almost a healthy diet because there is small amount of red meat in each meal. Ghormeh Sabzi (herb stew) is one of the most loved Persian stews. They make it with different kind of herbs such as spinach, dill, parsley, cilantro, chives, etc. and stew meat, kidney beans and dried lemons. Another popular Persian stew is Fesenjan which is made with chicken or meat, ground walnut, and pomegranate molasses.

7. Persian hospitality: For Iranian a guest is a gift from God, and brings blessing and good fate to their home, so even if they don't have much, they give the best of what they have to their guest. To prepare a meal for a guest, they make everything a few times more than what they need. The word enough doesn't have meaning for Iranian; they want everything more than enough when it is for their guest.

8. Persian music: Traditional Persian music is an ancient art of Persian civilization and it backs to the prehistoric era. There is this myth that claims the legendary king of Persia, Jamshid, invented the music. Persian music instrument such as daf, dotar, nay, santur, setar, tar, and tombak.



9. Persian language (Farsi or Parsi): Approximately 110 million people speak Persian in the world. Over the

این گزارش شامل اطلاعات مهمی در مورد اب
اشامیدنی شما میباشد. از شخصی بخواهید
که به شما ترجمه کنند و یا با شخصی که این
موضوع را میفهمند صحبت بکنید.

centuries this language has been changed to its modern form which is spoken today in Iran. Grammatically, nouns don't have a gender. The stress is generally on the last syllable of the word. Farsi is a soft and song like language and has been known one of the most beautiful languages in the world.

10. Persian architecture: Iranian architecture is both structural and aesthetic. Iran is the first country in the world that made wind catchers. Because of climate condition in some part of the country, these wind catcher buildings helped people to stay



away from hot weather. One of the other traditional characteristics in Persian architecture is Yakhchal (ice pit). Ancient Iranian stored ice and sometimes food with this domed shape building. Some other characteristic in Persian architecture are: mosques, bazaars, bridges, and mausoleums.

11. Persian carpet: Carpet weaving has a long history in Iran and it was started from 529 B.C. during the reign of Cyrus the Great in Iran. Through the centuries there have been so many changes in this art, but today Persian handmade carpet is the most famous carpet in the world. Nowadays many people in Iran invested their whole life and wealth in Persian handmade carpet to save this art from the risk of extinction.

