

2.10 Ode to a Secretary (1974)

Statistically
regathered in you
components each sufficing
to distinguish and compel.
Such egregious beauty
makes me smile – I almost share
with you the fact of it:
almost more it's mine than yours,
this star that I see shine
in the line of you, the dark of you,
the move, the whisper calm of you:
O Khanoum Firoozi!
Sustain or break this spell in me
this image mirror'd back in time
which takes account
of features shadow'd long ago
in coin, brooch and cameo.
So let us share again the smile, and
let us contemplate the curve of shoulder,
classic brow, the queenly aspect, secret breast,
which sum you up, and make you what you are.

Tehran – 1974.