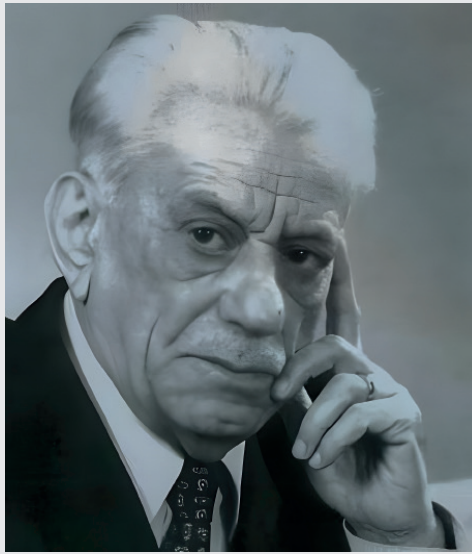

BAKHTIYAR VAHABZADEH*



**(August 16, 1925 - February 13, 2009)*

In 1942, Bakhtiyar Vahabzadeh entered the Faculty of Philology at Baku State University and graduated in 1947. In 1980, Vahabzadeh was elected a member of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. He was one of the pioneers of the freedom movements that began in the 1960s. He ensured the publication of many works addressing the struggles of the Azerbaijani people by smuggling them abroad. Vahabzadeh, who paid great attention to using Azerbaijani Turkic in its purest form and articulating the feelings of his people, is known as the People's Poet in Azerbaijan. Between 1980 and 2000, he was elected as a member of parliament five times. In addition to poetry, Vahabzadeh wrote numerous narrative poems and plays, and he also did translations. His work "Yollar-Oğulları" is dedicated to the Algerian independence movement, and "Mugam" is dedicated to the composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov. In 2002, he was awarded the Commander Medal by the Romanian Ministry of Culture for his book "Benim Garibim". Translations into Other Languages: Turkish: 15 books, Russian: 14 books, Azerbaijani in Iran: 5 books, Armenian: 3 books, Uzbek: 2 books, German: 2 books, English: 2 books, Turkmen: 1 book.

Two Blind Men**

There's a blind man I know: His eyes have no sight,
But he is not blind.
Though he sometimes gets scorched in the fire of sorrows,
He does not turn a cold shoulder to his passion and his
mind.
He reads and writes day and night,
In his mind's eye he sees, feels, knows.

But . . . There is someone else . . . Although he is not blind,
He cannot see nonetheless.
His bosom friend might get killed before his very eyes,
"I saw nothing," he says.
He claims whatever is good as his, but fails to see the bad;
Looks at the clock, but can't tell what time it is.
Nothing noble visits his thoughts and feelings;
Often he denies he saw something though he really did.

A man is hardly blind if his eyes have no sight;
Blind is he who does not want to see.
To such an ignorant troglodyte,
Life itself is a grave, if you ask me.



**Translated by Talat Sait Halman

Vahabzadeh, B. (1998). Two Blind Men. Poems, Short Stories and a Play (Edit. Hadi Sultan-Quarraie). Indiana University Turkish Studies Publications: Bloomington.