

SOME VERSES OF CLASSICAL PERSIAN POETRY
FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

A man came upon a thirsting dog in the desert;
He found no sign of life in its body save its soft breathing
That man of admirable faith made of his cap a bucket.
And he tied his own turban to it like a rope.
Preparing himself for service, he extended his arm;
He gave that helpless dog a drink of water.
News came to the Prophet about the condition of that man,
That the Ultimate Judge had forgiven all his sins.

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Do thou good to creatures, O fortunate one,
Lest God be harsh with thee tomorrow!

—*from the Bustan of Sa'di* (c. 1213—1291 CE)
translated by Jay R. Crook