

Book of the Month March 2011

Kader Abdolah: “De koning” (The King) & “Het huis van de moskee” (The House of the Mosque)

Kader Abdolah, born in Arak, Iran, in 1954, lives in the Netherlands since 1988, and writes his novels about his home country of Iran/Persia in Dutch. Chosen as this year’s hosted writer for the Dutch Book Week, he is currently with two novels in the Dutch charts, of which one, “The House of the Mosque”, has already been translated into numerous languages, including English.

His main topics include explorations of Iran, its culture as well as its politics past and present, but also the author’s experiences as a refugee and exile in Europe.

In “De koning”, Abdolah goes back to the 19th century, the times of the Industrial revolution, and the “Great Game” of the Russian and the British empires struggling over resources and political predominance in Asia. Persia and its king find themselves at centre stage in this centennial confrontation whose repercussions can be felt until today.

“The House of the Mosque” portrays an Iranian 20th century by the example of one house, Senedjan, and one family, with tradition confronting modernity, religion contrasting with secular ambitions. It is, according to critics in many countries, the complex drama of Iran, in one book.

Kader Abdolah – the name is a pseudonym, made of the names of two of his friends of have been killed by the regime in Iran – has been awarded for his books with numerous awards in the Netherlands. A detailed biography and bibliography is available at his website www.kaderabdolah.nl

