**Simorg**¹

*By Fereydoon Moshiri*

Standing on the shoulders of Alborz²,
Rose up like a mountain in flight.
Her long wings unfolding on both sides
Touching the heavens.

With silky wings of light, outstretched,
Kissed the boundaries of her homeland, Iran,
Went to take the whole world under her wings.

In her heart, a flame from Sun’s hearth, blazing.
In wonder, thousands upon thousands of eyes, gazing.

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The fluttering of wings,
Erased the depraved demons of darkness
From the face of earth.

What endured was a wonderful world of love and loveliness!

As if every speck of existence began chanting, in unison choir:

> Behold the light!
> Behold the splendor!

Translated by Fran Moshiri
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¹ A fabulous winged creature in ancient Persian mythology in the shape of a gigantic bird with the head of a dog and the claws of a lion. Simorg or Simorgh (Persian), Sênmurw (Pahlavi), Sîna-Mrû (Pâzand), the name derives from Avestan mərγō saēnō (the bird Saēna), which is etymologically related to śyenā (eagle) in Sanskrit.

² A mountain range in northern Iran. Alborz and its highest peak, Damavand, are very important in Persian mythology, not unlike the importance of Mount Olympus in the Greek mythology.