

Esteemed Mr. Ashari, Director General of the National Library and Archives,

Dear Mr. Trgina, Director General of the University Library in Bratislava,

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am pleased to welcome you all on today's ceremony of the Inauguration of the Exhibition of Islamic Manuscripts from the Safvet beg Basagic Collection, which is in the holdings of the University Library in Bratislava. We are glad to see you here in such a good number.

Scientific, historical, cultural, spiritual and artistic value of the Basagic Collection is simply great. It is certainly fascinating how it is possible that a country thousands of kilometers far away from Iran has in its holdings a Collection of original Manuscripts and Prints made in Farsi and Arabic. By my opinion the answer is simple - the art, poems, poetry, songs in the same way like good ideas, the philosophy, the truth and justice or the universal values of human rights, do not have borders. They are just timeless, boundless and measureless because they are the common base for all humankind.

The good books are storehouses of knowledge, history, or beauty, common good or basic rules, which help the people to move forward, overcome problems and achieve further development. We can try to find in them a remedy for our troubles or joy and inspiration for future days of success. I love books, where you can find knowledge, ideas of light, beauty and inspiration.

As I have learned, the poetry and philosophy has been a preferred form of literary expression of the old Persia. I like calligraphic books, where artists lavished the text with lovely drawings, miniatures and the text is embellished. The books with the images of the Old times. It is amazing that not only words contained in the works of old masters are well preserved, are timeless, but also, the marvelous goldish, blue, red and other colours of the ornaments and illustrations of the books

are in so good conditions, that they add a special artistic and spiritual value to them.

Decorative art of the old manuscripts is an important reflection of their content and the Old times, and they interact together monumentally. I can not speak farsi, neither can I read the text but, I can feel the strong impact of the calligraphy and decorations of the old manuscripts and prints. As such, these decorations can be studied by anyone interested in gaining an intimate window to the period when these drawings and texts were created.

I would like to dedicate my appreciation to the people who made this exhibition in Iran possible. Let me name at least three of them – first – the Esteemed Aliakhbar ASHARI, the Cultural Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Iran National Library and Archives. The Director of the PR at the National Library and Archives Mr. Hamed YARI, as well as, the DG of the University Library in Bratislava Mr. Tibor TRGINA. It is certainly a unique exhibition, which has never before been held in Iran.

I also wish a good success and a lot of creative invention to the cooperation between the two Libraries, which was established today.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Motashakeram.