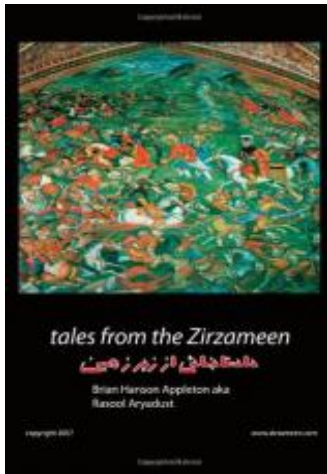


# Tales from the Zirzameen

by Brian Hanson Appleton

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## About the Book

**Tales from the Zirzameen** is a nonfiction collection of short stories in chronological order about the author's experiences in Iran before, during and after the revolution in 1979. What sets this work apart is that the author, who is of non-Iranian ethnicity, was assimilated to a great extent into Iranian culture even converting to Shia Islam. His deep love for the culture and people of Iran is evident and his mission is to keep a human face on Iran.

## Discussion Guide

1. What traditions and customs set Iranians apart from Americans?
2. What traditions and customs do Iranians and Americans share?
3. What are the historical roots of the love hate relationship between the two countries?
4. What role did the American presence in Iran during the 1970s actually play?
5. What caused the revolution and who actually fought in it?
6. What was the Iranian Spring?
7. Was the theocracy a coup d'etat?
8. What was the relationship between the traditional aristocracy and the Pahlavis?
9. What caused the "Silent War" between Iran and Iraq?

10. What is the role of cinema in contemporary Iran and why so many film directors?

## Author Bio

Brian H. Appleton, a.k.a. Rasool Aryadust, holds an MA in Ancient History from the Oxford Network, University of Fundamental Knowledge, St Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2008 and a BA in Anthropology from George Washington University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa 1972. He has written many articles and interviews for various Iranian diaspora publications. He was an army brat, born in Japan and spending his formative years in Greece and Italy and speaks five languages. He worked in Iran from 1974 to 1979. He has been in the lighting industry for the past 23 years, resides in Northern California and is married with two sons. Visit his website at [www.zirzameen.com](http://www.zirzameen.com).

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