

**ANALOGOUS COMPARISON OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S KING LEAR
AND THE STORY OF FERREY DUN OF SHAHNAMEH OF FERDOWSI**

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Abstract

Researcher has conducted a comparative study between Shakespeare’s play *King Lear* and the story of Fereydūn in Ferdowsi’s *Shahnameh*. *King Lear* is the most painful tragedy of Shakespeare. This drama by Shakespeare is the most complete display of power conflict. These conflicts tend toward the destruction of the insane and even at the end affect the personality of Lear and lead him to madness. One of the stories of *Shahnameh* is Fereydūn. Fereydūn is one of the mystical characters of Iran. He was a pishdadi King that based on *Shahnameh* he was the son of Abtin’s son and he won the Zahak using the help of Kaveh the blacksmith and put him in prison in Damavand Mountain, then he became the King of the world.

The common reason for the comparison of these two stories can be traced in the decisions made by two kings on their respected territory. The important point in both the stories is that the decisions made by these two characters lead to inevitable battles, which in turn determine the end of each of the character’s life.

An attempt is made by the researcher in this article to compare the plots, characters, events, and the climax of both the stories. In this regard, the researcher has collected data based on qualitative descriptive method, content analysis, and library method. The results showed that even though these two stories were written in two different cultures, nations, and literary styles, they are similar to each other in terms of fictional core, events, protagonists, antagonists, and even the messages and ethical points.

Keywords: Comparative Literature, Fereydūn, *King Lear*, William Shakespeare, Ferdowsi