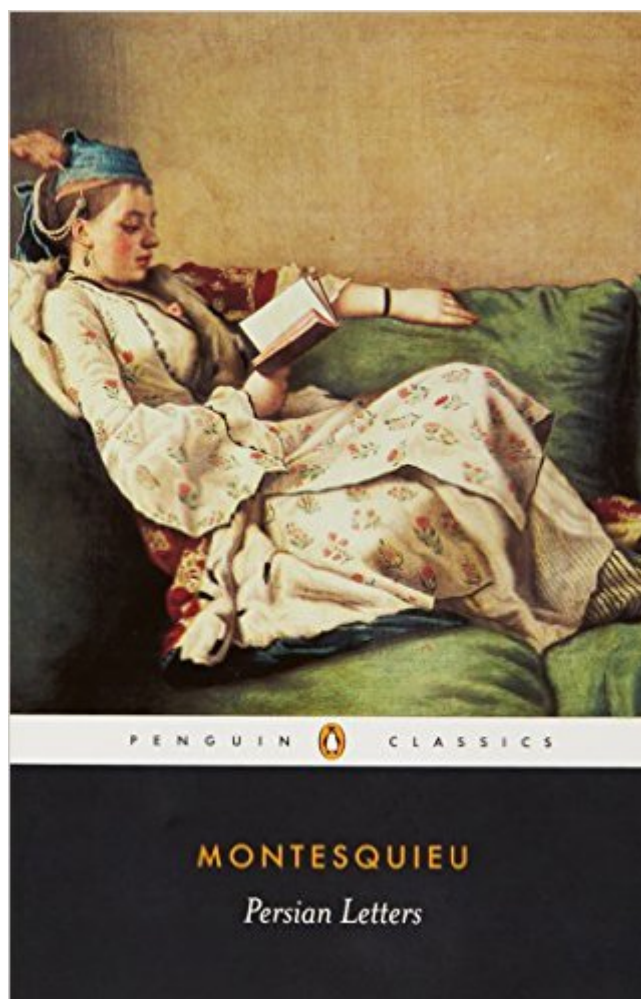


The book was found

# Persian Letters (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Tells the story of two Persian noblemen who have left their country - the modern Iran - to journey to Europe in search of wisdom. This title explains the libertarian, critical spirit of the early eighteenth century.

## Book Information

Series: Penguin Classics

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Penguin; Revised ed. edition (April 30, 1973)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140442812

ISBN-13: 978-0140442816

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #320,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Epistolary #3950 inÂ Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference #4516 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature

## Customer Reviews

This was one of the books I read in my History of the Enlightenment Class my junior year of college. Our brilliant professor didn't assign all of the letters to read, though, and later I went back and read all of the book, not just the ones we'd been assigned to read for class. A lot of books about the politics and philosophy of a certain period in time don't age well, but this one, for the most part anyway, sounds just as fresh and entertaining today as it did in the eighteenth century. And using the pretence of this being a collection of real letters he intercepted from some Persian houseguests, Montesquieu was able to communicate the new exciting beliefs of his age by having them be told through the so-called eyes of Usbek, Rica, and Ibben, who were experiencing this all for the very first time and having to get adjusted to a real clash of values. This also worked to his advantage in a few cases, like where Usbek is talking about how there is a magician even greater than the King of France, saying "This magician is called the Pope" and going into a whole scathing litany about the Pope. He was able to attack the King and the Church by pretending that foreign travellers were writing and believing these things. The subplot is very interesting too. While Usbek and his friend Rica are away in France for seven years soaking up the Enlightenment, Usbek's wives, concubines,

and slaves are getting more and more restless. While the cat's away, the mice will play, and the guiltiest party is the one the reader least suspects. This brings up the Enlightenment question about personal freedom, and how someone might react in such a situation.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Persian Letters (Penguin Classics) Selected Poems from the Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi: Along With the Original Persian (Classics of Persian Literature, 5) Persian Letters (Oxford World's Classics) Persian Letters: With Related Texts (Hackett Classics) Persian Food from the Non-persian Bride: And Other Sephardic Kosher Recipes You Will Love History of Gulf States, Persian people,: Persian people, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirate Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings (Penguin Classics) The Persian Letters (Hackett Publishing Co.) Selected Letters (Penguin Classics) Letters to a Young Poet (Penguin Classics) Poems and Letters: Selections, with the 1550 Vasari Life (Penguin Classics) Essays and Letters. Friedrich Holderlin (Penguin Modern Classics) The Penguin Book of Caribbean Verse in English (Penguin Classics) The Penguin Book of Russian Poetry (Penguin Classics) Penguin Classics Fear and Trembling: Dialectical Lyric By Johannes De Silentio (Penguin Pocket Hardbacks) The Penguin Arthur Miller: Collected Plays (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition) The Penguin Book of the Undead: Fifteen Hundred Years of Supernatural Encounters (Penguin Classics) The Letters of Catherine of Siena Volume II (Letters of St Catherine of Siena) Modern Classics Journeys End (Modern Classics (Penguin)) Little Black Classics Box Set (Penguin Little Black Classics)

[Dmca](#)