



Harun and Leyla
An Opera in Five Acts
by Uzeyir Hajibeyov

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Edited by Betty Blair, Editor of Azerbaijan International Magazine
Translated by Aynura Huseynova, Proofread by Gulnar Aydamirova
Prepared for **HAJIBEYOV.com** by Arzu Aghayeva

Characters

Amir—Chief of one of Arab tribes, 50 years old
Leyla—Amir’s daughter, 17 years old, a beautiful girl
Vizier—Amir’s vizier, also a scientist and teacher, 60 years old
Harun—co-commander of the troops, 25 years old, a handsome young man
Zeyd—co-commander of the troops, 30 years old, an ugly person
Bakir, Rahman and two others—co-heads of the troops
A group of girls, Leyla’s friends and maidservants
A group of guys, servants
The troops
Darvish—an old darvish

Act I

The scene opens in Amir’s garden: On the right is Amir’s Palace with a path leading to the garden. On the left side of the stage and behind the palace, there are trees. There are paths in the garden and the garden is full of flowers. There is a fountain in the middle of the garden. In front of it, there is a carpet laid out on the ground. The vizier is sitting with books in his hands. He is teaching some girls who are sitting in front of him. Amir’s daughter Leyla is also among them. Although the other girls listen attentively to the teacher, Leyla is not very attentive; she is depressed. Unconsciously, she covers her face with her hands and seems to be crying.

Vizier

Listen to my admonition, so as not to be sorry in the end,
Listen to my exhortation, so as not to be disgraced in the end
Follow the rules of our religion and traditions
Try not to be guilty in front of God.

Leyla cries.

Distinguish bad from good,
Don't think good of the things that seem good,
Be very careful in choosing your future husband
Find a brave one, don't be a sweetheart to someone who will betray you.

Girls and Vizier (to *Leyla*):

Come on, *Leyla*, tell us,
What is the reason of your troubles?

Music

Come on, *Leyla*, tell us,
What is the reason of your troubles?
Don't conceal your secret from us,
Tell us, tell us, why you are
Depressed so much?
What is the reason of your tears?

Leyla

I'm in such trouble that no one will be able to cure it
The solution is to unite with my beloved.
What if he comes and sees how passionate I feel about him?
Anxiously, I am waiting for him.

Music

Just one look at him tied my heart to him,
As if an iron chain tied my soul to him with love.
This is the cause of my passionate trouble.
I am waiting with tears to reach him.

Girls and Vizier

Then tell us, with whom have you fallen in love?
Who is that lucky person who deserves your attention?

Music

Then tell us, with whom have you fallen in love?
Who is that fortunate one who deserves your attention?
Because you are so beautiful
No one can capture your soul.
Why sorrow, why sadness?
Why so much distress?

Leyla

My beloved is a brave man like a lion in battle,
In combat he wins with just one attack.
Oh, that brave one has conquered my heart, got me into trouble of love,
I always think of him with tears!

Music

I am in love, my soul is on fire of love.
I don't know, what to do, tell me what to do.
My beloved one—it is not a secret—is Harun!
All day long I think of him with tears!

Girls and Vizier

Oh, Leyla, does Harun
Deserve to be your beloved?

Music

Oh, Leyla, that was Harun,
Does he deserve it?
You are the gem of Amir's realm
It will degrade his esteem.
Why sorrow, why sadness?
Why so much distress?

Vizier (*surprised*)

Leyla, what are you talking about? You and Harun? You are Amir's daughter and he is just the leader of the troop! True, he is brave, courageous, bold, and famous for his determined character. But he is still not good enough for you. Give up this idea and don't think about him any more!

Amir has a deep respect for Harun, but I don't think he will be positive in this case because there is another head of the troop besides Harun, that's Zeyd. If Amir agrees in this matter, such a favorable attitude to Harun will damage Zeyd's pride. Let me warn you! Even if you and Harun love each other, I know that Zeyd loves you, too. I tried to make him forget you, but still his love for you runs deep. That's why, if he discovers that you are in love with Harun, he will get mad. God save us, I can't even imagine what will happen after that. So my advice is to forget this love. That's it. That's all I have to say.

Music**Leyla**

I've lost all my courage and patience, Vizier.
I am losing my strength, endurance, Vizier.
My whole day is mourning, Vizier.
My love for life is dying, Vizier.

Vizier

Be patient, Leyla, don't mourn!

Girls

Don't spoil our mood .

Vizier

Stop being so sad.

Girls

Don't put your trust in guys!

Music

Vizier

Don't torture yourself!

Girls

Life is too short, enjoy your time!

Vizier

Put love out of your mind!

Girls: Enjoy life!

Music**All together** *(to each other)*

Let's get together

Look for a cure,

Search everywhere!

Vizier *(alone, to himself)*

As I see, Leyla is truly in love,

For her, our advice is in vain.

All

Searching for this trouble's cure

Let's be Leyla's lifesaver.

Vizier

Be patient, Leyla, don't mourn

Girls

Don't make our mood upside-down

Vizier

Stop weeping

Girls

Don't rely on guys!

Music**Leyla**

A lot of advice, is it useful?

Please, don't torture my distressed soul,

How you can see me dying of love, Vizier,

Why don't the heavens hear my groans.

Vizier

Be patient, Leyla, don't mourn

Girls

Don't make our mood upside-down

Vizier

Stop weeping

Girls

Don't rely on guys.

Music

Vizier

Don't torture yourself

Girls

Enjoy life!

Vizier

Put love out of your mind!

Girls

Enjoy life!

Music

All together (*to themselves*):

Let's get together

Look for a cure,

Search everywhere.

Vizier (*alone, aside*)

Seems to me, she is truly in love

Our advice to her is just in vain.

All

Searching for this trouble's cure

Let's be Leyla's lifesaver.

Vizier

Be patient, Leyla, don't cry.

Girls

Don't spoil our mood .

Vizier

Stop weeping!

Girls

Don't rely on guys.

The Vizier and the girls gradually leave. Leyla remains alone. After awhile, Harun appears. When Leyla sees the one she's been waiting for, she describes her emotions and her troubles of separation this way:

Leyla

Come, Harun, relieve me of this grief, be my saviour!
Come help, stop this separation, I am on fire,
Longing for you, I've been waiting with desire.
Come, stop the trouble of separation and tell me about love.

Music

Harun

No more able to endure separation, I have come to you,
Because, something new has happened to me, I have come to you.

Music

I've never felt fear in front of my enemies.
But in front of love, I lose courage. I have come to you!

Music

Leyla

There is no one to cheer me up, except you,
There is no one to build up my devastated soul, except you!

Music

Harun

Is there anyone who's suffered as much as I have,
I have had so much troubles because of love, I have come to you.

Music

Since the time you captured my soul,

Music

I don't see anyone, Leyla, but you!

Music

No life without you, not a single day without you,
You are mine, I am yours until the end of our lives.
I have come to you!

Music

Leyla

I don't need my friends and relatives anymore

Music

Because none of them can cure my heart.

Music

If I have someone special in my life, it is you, Harun, only you,

Take my hand, hold me, take care of me, I have come to you!

Music

Harun

I am thankful to God, because I know what real treasure is,
That is my love and I enjoy life because I've met my sweetheart.

Leyla

I am thankful to you, my God, you united me with my beloved,
Took me where I met my beloved.

Music

Harun

Show mercy, come to me, give me your hand, Leyla, let's go!
Let's take a walk in the mountains, in the fields, loving each other!

Leyla

In the lake of love, amidst flowers
We are like rose and nightingale!

Music

Harun and Leyla

If there were no nightingales surrounding flowers
Singing love songs for them,
Tell me, would flowers and thorns know
What love was?

Music

(Walking towards the garden)

If there were no nightingales around flowers
Singing love songs for them,

Tell me, would flowers and thorns know
What love was?

Music

The lovers go deep in the garden. At the same time Zeyd, who is in love with Leyla as well, appears on the stage. He is in deep thoughts and seems to be upset.

Zeyd

I can't stop thinking of Leyla all day long.

Music

I spend from night until morning grieving.

Music

Everyone knows that love is unavoidable.

Music

And that is the reason of my troubles.

Music

What is the cure? What is the remedy?
How to reach my beloved?
Come, Leyla, be my beloved.
Come, be my soul!

Come to see my troubles
See how much I suffer!

Music

I can't stop thinking of Leyla the whole day.

Music

I spend all the night until morning grieving.

Music

Everyone knows that love is unavoidable.

Music

And that this is the reason of my troubles.

Music

What is the cure? What is the remedy?
How to reach my beloved?
Come, Leyla, be my beloved
Come, be my soul!

Come to see my troubles
See how much I suffer!

Suddenly he hears Harun and Leyla singing deep in the garden.

Harun and Leyla

If there were no nightingales around the flowers
Singing love songs for them,
Tell me, would flowers and thorns know
What love was?

(When he hears their voices, he gets pale and screams out of envy and rage, saying:)

Zeyd

Leyla, Leyla! *(with anger)*
Oh, Leyla, Leyla! Together with Harun!

Music

Harun! Leyla!
Oh, Leyla, Leyla! Together with Leyla!

Music

Harun! Leyla!

Music

(At this moment he sees Harun coming alone from the garden. Zeyd tries to hide his anger and asks Harun)

Zeyd

Harun, what's going on? What's this?

Leyla is with you,
And she seems to be happy!

Harun, listen to me for a moment,
I am in love with Leya, too.
I can't get her out of my mind,
And can't stop loving her!

(At this moment. Ten of the troops enter).

I am like Majnun, [Reference to the love story of "Leyli and Majnun"]
All my life is full of sorrow.
Have mercy, have mercy, Harun, for a moment,
I am fading like a leaf!

Harun (to Zeyd)

Zeyd, you are making such a strange offer,
Even I don't know what to reply;
We are like one soul in one body with Leyla,
Our love is growing greater by the day.

The troops (choir)

What to do with this problem?
Can we solve it?
(Zeyd is disappointed, and he covers his face with his hands)
Let's go and tell it to Vizier,
He might help us with this!

Zeyd

Harun, leave my beloved alone,
Aren't you afraid of my curses?
I would sacrifice everything for this purpose
Both my life and wealth,
You want my wealth?—it's yours,
You want treasure?— it's yours,
You want service?—it's yours,
Just leave Leyla alone!
I am like Majnun,
My life is full of sorrow.

Show mercy, have mercy, Harun, for a moment,
I am fading like a leaf!

Harun

You want me to forget Leyla?!
I am ready to sacrifice my body and soul.
You insult me by offering wealth and money,
One strand of hair from my lover is more valuable to me than the whole world.

The troops *(as a choir)*

What to do about this problem?
Can we solve it?
Let's go and tell it to Vizier,
He might help us with this!

Zeyd

Oh, Harun! You are killing me!

Music

Act II

Takes place at Amir's palace. The room is decorated in a charming way, peculiar to Arabian style. Amir's couch is on one side of the room. Leyla is alone in the room. She is talking to herself about love.

Leyla

Love is like a pure wine, once you taste it,
You want it one more time.

Music

I want to forget all these troubles, griefs of this life,
And be happy in the world of love.

Music

A day of separation from my beloved is as long as a year to me,
I wish to be with my beloved all the time together

Music

I am bored with the gossip of rivals,
Is there any holy place I could go to end all this?

Music. *(Zeyd enters. When he sees Leyla, he tells her)*

Zeyd

Leyla, I've got something to tell you.
Don't disgrace me again.
Why don't you show a little mercy?
Let me be your beloved one!

By God, I'm in love!
In love with you, Leyla!

I have fallen in love with you, Leyla!

Leyla, Leyla!
By God, I'm in love!
Oh! I love you!
I love you, Leyla!

Leyla

I am amazed by your courage, Zeyd!
How could you dream about
Being the husband of Amir's daughter?
It is just an idle dream you are having!

Zeyd

Show mercy, please,
Take pity, please,
Listen to me, please,
Don't kill my soul this way!

I'm in love, by God!
In love with you, Leyla!
I have fallen in love with you!

Leyla, Leyla!
I'm in love, by God!
Oh, in love!
I love you, Leyla!

Leyla

I am beyond understanding your emotions,
There is no use begging me for love.
Look for your fortune somewhere else.
Don't expect any mercy from me.

Zeyd

Don't refuse me, Leyla!
Don't hurt me, Leyla!
Show mercy,
Have pity for a moment!
I'm in love, by God!

Music

I'm in love, by God!
In love with you Leyla!
I have fallen in love with you !

Leyla, Leyla!
I'm in love, by God!
Oh, in love!
I love you, Leyla!

Zeyd

Don't bother me, Zeyd, any more
Please, have mercy, don't go on any more!
Don't expect any mercy from me!
Go away, don't bother me any more!

Zeyd (*angrily*): I know you are in love with Harun!

Leyla

Yes! I'm in love with Harun!

Zeyd

Leyla, don't break my heart!

Leyla

My love is only for Harun!

Zeyd

Leyla! Leyla! Don't be so cruel! I know you love Harun!

Leyla

Yes! I'm in love with Harun!

Zeyd

Leyla! Don't break my heart!

Leyla

My love is only for Harun!

Zeyd

Leyla! Leyla! Don't be so cruel!

Music

Covering his face Zeyd falls on the table unconsciously. Leyla looks at him bravely.

Zeyd (*begging*)

Don't be so cruel to poor me, have mercy, Leyla!
Please, give me one kind look, Leyla!
See, I am a slave in your hands, Leyla!
Don't depress me by talking of Harun any more, Leyla!

For God's sake, show mercy
Don't be so cruel!
Don't make poor Zeyd
Commit suicide for love!

Music

Don't be so cruel to poor me, have mercy, Leyla!

Please, give me one kind look, Leyla!
See, I am a slave in your hands, Leyla!
Don't depress me by talking of Harun any more, Leyla!

Leyla

Don't beg me in vain.
It is just an idle dream you are having.
Remember it forever, Zeyd!
Leyla won't be your beloved!

Zeyd

Show mercy, Leyla!
Leyla, take pity!
For God's sake, show mercy!
]Don't be so cruel!

Leyla (*in rage*)

Leave me alone! (*leaves quickly*)

Music. *At this moment, Harun enters and approaches Zeyd. When Zeyd sees him, he starts begging Harun as well.*

Zeyd

Harun, I have something to tell you!
Don't disgrace me,
What if you show mercy once?
Please, allow me!
Listen to me, I'm in love,
In love with Leyla!
Harun, Harun,
I love Leyla!
Oh! I am in love, in love with Leyla!

Harun

I am amazed by your audacity, Zeyd.
You dream about being the beloved
Of the person I love! Then don't forget
It is an idle dream you are having!

Zeyd

Show mercy, please,
Take pity, please,
Listen to me, please,
Don't kill my soul like that!
Know this, I am in love
With Leyla,
I fell in love with Leyla!
Harun! Harun!
Leyla is my beloved one
Oh! I'm in love, in love with Leyla!

Harun

There is no use of begging,
It makes no impression upon me.
Look for your fortune somewhere else,
Stop thinking of Leyla!

Zeyd

Don't refuse me, Harun!
Don't hurt me, Harun!
Show mercy, please!
Have pity, please!
Know this, I'm in love.

Music

Know this, I'm in love,
Know this, I'm in love,
With Leyla,
With Leyla.
I have fallen in love with Leyla!
Harun! Harun!
Leyla is my beloved one!
Ah! I have fallen in love with Leyla!

Harun

You have disturbed me long enough, Zeyd!
Please, don't bother me any more!
I'd rather you take my life away,
Than to take my sweetheart from me!

Zeyd (*in anger*)

Harun! Fear me!

Harun

Don't talk nonsense!

Zeyd

Harun, forget about Leyla!

Harun

I'd rather sacrifice my life!

Zeyd

Harun, Harun! Don't your own worst enemy!
Harun! Fear me!

Harun

Don't talk nonsense!

Zeyd

Harun! Forget about Leyla!

Harun

I'd rather die!

Zeyd

Harun, Harun! Don't be your own worst enemy!

Saying this, he unsheathes his dagger; Harun unsheathes his dagger as well and taking their shields, they start fighting. At this moment, the Vizier enters and sees them fighting.

Vizier Allahu akbar! (*steps in between them*) What's going on here?! Amir is coming here now. The messenger came with the news that the enemy is attacking us, but you are fighting here!

Zeyd and Harun stop fighting and sheathe their daggers. Amir's noblemen, boys and girls enter and stand in line. When Amir enters, they start singing:

All

Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!
Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!
We are ready to sacrifice ourselves for you,
May God reward you with long life.
You are very honest, generous and brave!

The Vizier hands Amir a letter who reads it. Music is being played and everyone is singing.

All

Ey, Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!

Amir

May God be with you always.

All

Amen!

Amir

The enemy is attacking us. They intend to kill us and capture our holy places. What should we do?

Harun and Zeyd (*moving forward*)

Attack the enemy and defeat them!

Amir

Here is my command! The troops should be ready today! Harun and Zeyd, Zeyd and Harun! Take the troops and attack the enemy! Listen! Whoever of you returns as a winner can demand anything from me, except my throne. But the one who is defeated had better not be around me any more! Understand?

Harun and Zeyd

Of course, Your Majesty!

Amir

You are free to go. Go and prepare the troops. May God be with you always!

All

Amen!

Harun and Zeyd leave. Bakir, Rahman and others follow them.

Vizier: Your Majesty! You are famous for your generosity throughout the whole world! I hope no one will take advantage of it!

Amir

Vizier, don't you know that if Amir says something, that is the law.

Vizier

There can be no doubt about it, Your Majesty! *(leaves)*

With Amir's sign saz players and dancers come, play and dance. After awhile Amir leaves, and boys and girls follow him.

Music**All**

Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!

Music. *Everyone leaves, Leyla returns to the stage.*

Leyla

What did I do wrong that you burn me in the fire of separation?
Can't you hear my prayers full of sorrow,
If your purpose is to kill me, oh God,
I agree, kill me, set me free from this separation! *(cries)*

Harun (enters):

This separation has made me sad, Leyla,
I will be burning in the fire of separation.
I don't know how I will bear this separation,
I can't imagine how I will survive without seeing my beloved.

Music

It is a matter of time until we must part,
My God, destroy all cruelty, stop all cruelties,

Leyla

You are leaving, Harun, tell me, how will I survive without you?
You will listen to me, who will understand my mourning?

Music

Leyla cries, Harun leaves. While leaving, he sings.

Harun

Farewell, Leyla, it is time to separate, farewell!
Don't forget me, even if I don't return, don't forget me, farewell! *(he leaves)*

Leyla

Oh, Harun, don't leave me, don't go! *(crying, she runs after him)*

Music

Zeyd *(enters)*

He said: whoever comes as a winner,
I will fulfill his dreams.
All these troubles, all these sufferings
Are because of you, Leyla! Oh, Leyla, I'm leaving!
All these troubles are because of you, Leyla! I'm leaving! *(leaves quickly)*

Act III

The scene takes place in a forest, in an empty place. There are two tents with a soldier in front of each of them. Bakir is walking back and forth. The curtain goes up.

Bakir

Yes, Harun defeated the enemy! Zeyd is disappointed... What should I do? Should I accept Zeyd's offer or not? It is too hard, but the wealth he offers is a lot, too. *(He thinks a little)*. Yes, I agree! I need wealth. *(At this time the troops are heard behind the curtain)*. Aha, they are coming!

The troops *(behind the curtain)*

We went to battle,
Got into the battlefield;
We defeated immediately
All of our enemies!
It was unexpectant for them,
So they begged for mercy!
We went to battle,
Got into the battlefield;
We defeated them immediately
All of our enemies!

Music

Harun, Zeyd and the troops come to the stage and repeat the same march.

Harun

Play, drummer, let the troops dance!

Music. *The troop dances; at some moment they unsheathe their daggers and sing.*

The troops

We win all the battles,
When the enemy understood it, they got frightened,
They stopped fighting,
And turned to our friends.

Harun

By the mercy of God, we routed the enemy. The only wish we have is to take this news to Amir as soon as possible. Long live our Amir!

The troop

Long live Amir!

Harun

Now it is time to rest.

Saying this, he goes into his tent; the troops go to rest. It gets dark. Zeyd and Bakir are talking in a secret place.

Zeyd

Is everything ready as I said?

Bakir

Yes, everything is ready.

Zeyd

Now, go and say what I have told you.

Bakir

All right.

Goes towards Harun's tent. Harun comes out of the tent.

Bakir (to Harun): Long live our brave commander, would you like us to move forward with the troops so that you can rest and join us later. Because the troops are too slow, this way we will arrive at our destination late!

Harun (to Zeyd):

What do you think, Zeyd?

Zeyd

Of course, we shouldn't stop the troops.

Harun

Let the troops move! Bakir, you go to the head of the troops. Rahman, you and your friends stay with us.

Bakir

Alright. *(to the troops)*

Sound the travel-signal. We've stayed here long enough.

The signal is given, the troops gets ready and sing the same march and leave. Rahman and two other guards stay. It gets dark. Zeyd enters the tent.

Rahman (to Harun)

We shouldn't have sent the troops so far,
I am afraid we will be helpless in case the enemy attacks.

Harun

Don't worry, Rahman! We gave a very good lesson to the enemy. They don't have any chance!

Rahman

That's right. But if you had only that enemy, you would be right (he gestures to Zeyd with a slight nod of his head).

Harun (puts his finger in his mouth):

Understood... I understand you! You are right.
Rahman! ...but, it is late.

Rahman

Yes, it is late.

Harun

The enemy has a thought of... (*getting angry*)
But I am not afraid of him, let him do whatever he wants.

Rahman

You are right. We are ready. Let him do whatever he wants!

They enter the tent. It's dark.

Music

Harun (exiting the tent)

Let me live, hey cruel one.
Let me see my beloved one more time,
Because she is looking forward to seeing me
Don't shed my blood.

Music

I can't forget Leyla even in a battle, not for a minute,
Oh, will that day ever come when I can see my beloved ?

Enters the tent. Music. It is very dark.

Zeyd (*exits his tent secretly and slowly walks toward the forest*)

It's time to fight. It's time to fight, oh!
Don't be late, don't be late, oh!

At the same time 10-15 men come out of the forest and together with Zeyd attack Harun and his friends. They wake up and start fighting. Harun has very few people whereas Zeyd has many. That's why Zeyd's people manage to kill everyone and run away. While leaving, Zeyd sees Harun's body and supposes that he is dead and then leaves, too. But Harun is not dead, he is seriously wounded.

Harun *(raises his head with great difficulty):*

My wounds hurt me too much, I don't have any hope.

What is this feeling I have... *(looks around)*

I see strange creatures that look like men!

Music

Oh, Leyla! I sacrifice my life to you,

My soul, leave me, I don't have any hope, I don't expect any help.

Music is played. Harun collapses. The sun rises. At this time a darvish passes by. He sees the dead bodies and stops in astonishment.

Darvish

Oh my God, what is this? Is this a death field?

All these dead bodies are victims of mankind!

See with what a cruelty

Men kill each other... who commanded

This action, this cruelty, this wicked behavior?!

Darvish surveys the dead bodies.

Darvish

None of them is alive *(comes towards Harun and looks)*

Darvish

This one is not dead yet. It may be possible to revive him.

He takes different kinds of herbs out of his pocket and holds one of them close Harun's nose.

Harun *(comes round):*

Oh, Leyla... a sip of water... I'm dying!

Darvish

Don't be afraid. I know how to treat your wounds, don't worry!

Harun

Who are you?

Darvish

I'm the one who will heal you. Don't be afraid, you will recover!

Music

Harun

I have so many wounds that I won't recover.

I want to see my Leyla, to look at her beautiful face once more.

(suddenly in fury and rage)

Zeyd! Evil Zeyd!

I wish I could recover and take my revenge.

(Saying this, he collapses. The darvish catches and holds him.)

Act IV

Takes place in Amir's palace again. Amir is sitting on the couch together with his Sazier and noblemen. Girls are dancing in front of them. After awhile, the dance ends.

Amir (to the girls)

Sing a song, dance to song for me, cheer my soul,
Remember the days when we lived very happily!

Music

Girls

Remember the old days,
Those happy days;
How wonderful those times were,
Where did those days go?
Those days have passed!

Music

Nightingales are singing their song,
Flowers are blooming everywhere,
Oh, what beautiful ladies are around them,
Where did those days go?
Those days are already gone!

Boys

What if that happy time returned?
What if we lived those days again?
With flowers and nightingales surrounding us!

Girls

Waiter, give me a glass of wine quickly,
Bring my lady here.
Let her take us to those happy days.
Where did those days go?
Those days are already gone!

Music

Give me your hand, let's go for a walk
Enjoy our time together, enjoy our life
Let's follow love
Where did those days go?
Those days are already gone!

Boys

What if that happy time returned,
What if we lived those days again.
With flowers and nightingales around us!

Girls and Boys

Remember those old days,
Those happy days?
How wonderful that time was,
Where did those days go?
Those days have gone!

Music**Messenger**

Amir, Your Majesty, our troops are coming back from battle. They are on their way.
(Leyla is trembling.)

Amir

May God's mercy be upon you, always. May they bring good news.

All

Amen!

The troops sing the same song from behind the curtain. After awhile, Zeyd and Bakir enter. When Leyla realizes that Harun is not with them, she becomes very disappointed and wants to find out about Harun.

Amir (to Zeyd)

Did you win or lose?

Zeyd

Your Majesty, with the help of God, we won.

Amir

May God's mercy always be with you!

All

Amen!

Amir

Tell us everything from the beginning!

Zeyd

We defeated the enemy and brought to a conclusion their unreal ambitions. They promised not to fight with us for 10 years. This is the peace treaty. *(hands it to Amir)*

Amir (reads and gives it to the Vizier)

What about Harun?

Zeyd *(looks down and with a low voice)*

He became a martyr.

Everyone becomes saddened with this news. Leyla screams with a loud voice and faints. The Vizier gestures for the girls to take her to another room.

Amir

He became martyr? Allahu-akbar! God bless his soul... Cruel enemy! They killed such a brave commander like Harun! *(pensive)* Oh, Harun, Harun! *(again thinking, then he turns to Zeyd)* Zeyd, you returned victorious. What do you want in return?

Zeyd

Your Majesty, when we set off to the battle, you promised that you would do whatever the winner wanted.

Amir

That's right, what do you want?

Zeyd

Your Majesty, your promise gives me courage to ask you for Leyla.

Everyone is surprised by this answer.

Amir *(angrily)*

How could you dare ask this? *(remembers his promise)*

Oh, I have promised... What a difficult wish! Zeyd, ask me for something else, ask me for gold!

Zeyd

Your Majesty, I don't want anything but Leyla. Your promise gives me courage to ask for this.

Amir

I have only one child and that is Leyla... Zeyd, don't take her away from me!

Zeyd

Your Majesty, I am very determined. Order the hangman to cut off my head. But you promised that's why I want her.

Amir *(to the Vizier):*

You were right... *(to Zeyd).*

You can take control over any of my cities you want, but don't ask for Leyla!

Music

Zeyd

You promised,
I heard you.
I went to battle
To fight the enemy.
With my troops,
I fought them;
Defeating the enemy

I surprised them!

With his hand, he signals how he commanded the troops.

Hey... hey... hey... I've fallen in love
With Leyla, Amir!

Music

I have fallen in love
With Leyla, Amir!
What else can I
Do about it?

With my troops,
I fought
Defeating the enemy
I surprised them!
Hey, hey
Hey, come fight!

Amir

Zeyd, wait awhile, I'll give you my answer!

Zeyd leaves.

Amir (to the Vizier)

Vizier, what should we do? This strong battle killed a commander like Harun?... And this merciless Zeyd wants to marry my daughter. I wish the enemy had defeated us, so this incident wouldn't have happened.

Vizier

Your Majesty, of course, if you wish, you can order to cut his head off right away. But you promised... It's Amir's promise... We can't break it!

Amir

While I am able to destroy any of my servants with just one word,
What hell this is. I can't do anything about it:
Because I promised. I have either to keep my word or break it.
Now I have to decide what to do!

All

It is too difficult!
Difficult to solve,
Difficult to solve.
There is nothing easier
Than moving Zeyd away.
Nothing easier than that.
But you promised,
It means you have to keep your promise,
It means you have to keep your promise!

Because you have promised!

Amir

Vizier, what shall we do? Find a solution!

Vizier

Your Majesty, ask Zeyd to give you 40 days. We might find a solution by that time.

Amir (happily)

You're right, Vizier. Call Zeyd! We might find some sort of solution by 40 days.
(*Zeyd enters*).

Amir: Zeyd, my promise is Amir's promise. There can be no doubt about it, I will give Leyla to you, but give me 40 days. After that, Leyla is yours.

Zeyd

Thank you for your mercy!
Alright, I'll wait the 40 days.

Amir

Now you are free to go.
(*Zeyd bows and exits*).

Music

Amir

See! Who it is who I begged for time? My servant! Because I promised.
But I've always kept the promises that I've made.

All:

It is too difficult!
Difficult to solve,
Difficult to solve.
There is nothing easier
Than moving Zeyd away.
Nothing is easier than that.
But you promised,
It means you have to keep your promise,
It means you have to keep your promise!
Because you have promised!

Amir leaves and everyone leaves after him.

Music. *Leyla enters with tears.*

Leyla

My God! Why do you give me so much suffering?
What did I do? What did I do wrong to deserve such suffering?
You took my beloved away from me in such a cruel way.
What was my fault? what did I do wrong to deserve to suffer like this?

I am still waiting for him, but he hasn't come back,
I am Leyla, he is my Geys, he hasn't come back.
You've destroyed all my hopes, awarded me with separation,
What was my fault, what did I do wrong to deserve this? *(she cries)*

Act V

(Same setting—Amir's palace. The Vizier and Bakir are on stage. The curtain rises.)

Vizier

Forty days have already passed... Today is the last day. Zeyd will come but we haven't been able to find any solution.... Tricky Zeyd, he took advantage of Amir's promise and got what he wanted. But Harun... oh, Harun, Harun! Who knows, whether you were killed in the battle or Zeyd killed you in a cruel way *(thinks a little and then turns to Bakir)*.

Bakir! Tell me the truth, otherwise both in this world and in heaven, you will be the object of God's wrath! Was Harun killed in the battle or not?

Bakir *(looks down)*

Long live my Vizier, he was killed in the battle...

Vizier

In battle? Which battle?
What about Rahman?

Bakir

He was killed, too!

Vizier

But, don't forget, Bakir! No guilt goes without punishment! *(turns around and leaves quickly)*

Bakir *(alone)*

I can't look the Vizier directly in the eyes. I am conscience -stricken... What to do? To tell or not to tell? Who can reveal this secret? Rahman is dead, Harun is dead... *(decisively)* No! I won't do it! *(He also turns and leaves quickly)*.

Leyla enters the stage wearing black clothes. She seems weak and is in tears. She sits down and lifts her hands up and prays to heavens.

Music

Leyla

Oh my God, my God!
Kill me, set me free from these troubles,
I can't bear these troubles any more.
How can I live when Harun is dead?
When he is a martyr, I can't live.

She cries. Suddenly she remembers that 40 days have passed and that this is the day Zeyd will come.

Leyla (*anxiously*)

Oh, 40 days have passed.

Today is the final day. Zeyd will come! (*more anxiously*).

I will save myself.

She unsheathes her dagger and starts singing.

I can't do anything else, my only hope is you,
Show mercy upon me, Sword! Bring me Death!

(Ironically) Come, come, Zeyd! *(Again she thinks of Harun and grows pale)*

The only hope which cheers me among all these troubles,
Is that the earlier I die, the earlier my soul will meet Harun's.
We couldn't join each other in this world,
But we will be happy together in heaven.

At this moment Amir and other people enter and see Leyla.

All

Enough Leyla, don't suffer this much.

Don't torture yourself.

It is your fate, the time has passed.

Don't torture yourself.

Only Girls

Oh, what to do? Oh, what to do?

You can't do anything, but follow your fate!

All

It's a matter of God's will,

Don't torture yourself.

They said, be patient, be patient;

Don't torture yourself.

Girls Only

Oh, what to do? Oh, what to do?

You can't do anything, but follow your fate!

All

Enough Leyla, don't angonize so much.

Don't torture yourself.

It is your fate, the time has passed.

Don't torture yourself.

Amir

It was your fate, dear, we don't have a choice,

We have to follow whatever Fate gives us.

Leyla

Oh, my father, understand my secret: your daughter is in love with Harun!
And this unlucky love has made me so disappointed!

Amir

If you had told me before that you had wanted to marry Harun,
Leyla, know this, I would have agreed to this.

Leyla

My Harun is already a martyr, you promised me to Zeyd,
I agree, to be subject to your promise, I will marry Zeyd. (*cries*)

All

Enough Leyla, don't angonize so much.
Don't torture yourself.
It is your fate, the time has passed.
Don't torture yourself.

Girls Only

Oh, what to do? Oh, what to do?
You can do nothing, but follow your fate!
(repeat)

All

It is a matter of God's will,
Don't torture yourself.
They said: be patient, be patient;
Don't torture yourself.

Girls Only

Oh, what to do? Oh, what to do?
You can't do anything except follow your fate!

All

Enough Leyla, don't angonize so much.
Don't torture yourself.
It is your fate, the time has passed.
Don't torture yourself.

Music

Amir is sitting. Everyone is in his place. Zeyd enters.

Zeyd

Forty days have already passed,
Forty days have already passed.
I have come to take Leyla,
Leyla, Leyla!
I am in love, by God!
I am in love with you, Leyla!

Amir

Zeyd! Amir's promise is promise... Take, take Leyla. (*Zeyd bows*)

Leyla (*ironically*)

Come, come, Zeyd! I am ready! (*Zeyd goes towards Leyla*).

Take Leyla's dead body.

She raises the sword to thrust it into her chest. At this moment the door opens, Harun enters and takes Leyla by her arm. Everyone is stunned by this coincidence and no one is able to say a word for some time. Astonished Leyla turns to Harun slowly in surprise and fear. Once she realizes that it is really Harun, she screams.

Leyla

Harun!

She faints. Zeyd is also astonished by this scene and he is looking at Harun. When he realizes the situation, he tries to run away but Harun grabs his arm in a quick manner and says:

Harun

Don't move, traitor, killer!

You won't be able to run away.

Amir (*surprised*):

Harun, how is it that you are alive? Have you come from the grave?

Leyla cries out in joy.

Harun

Your Majesty! Yes, I almost have come from the grave, but God's mercy was with me!

Amir

Tell us, what this all means.

Harun

After I defeated the enemy, this traitor deceived me. He sent the troops in front of us and attacked me with his secret band. They killed Rahman and my other people and seriously wounded me!

Amir

What was the reason?

Harun

Ask your daughter, Leyla!

Amir

Harun, Leyla told me that she is in love with you. Are you in love with her, too?

Music**Harun**

Oh, Amir! I love Leyla more than my life,

I love her and have taken all these burdens for my love.

(together with Leyla)

We are in love with each other, we are like a single soul in one body,
Don't make us part, Amir. Don't separate us from each other!

Music

Amir *(with a happy voice)*

Know this, I agree to my Leyla marrying Harun,
We have to feast for 40 days, each day of which will bring a different joy.

All:

Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!
Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!
We are ready to sacrifice ourselves to you,
May God reward you with long life.
You are very honest, generous and brave!

Zeyd

Kill me, kill me,
Let me receive my punishment!
Kill me, kill me,
I must be punished this way!

All

Ey Amir, you have more fame than anyone.
You are very honest, generous and brave!

End – Curtain Falls