

Rosalind Pace

The Persian proverb spoken by the host
apologized for the platters of pilau,
the dishes of lamb stew, yoghurt,
and slices of pale green melon so
sweet and juicy I thought I'd died
and gone to paradise, where
perfection is uninterrupted joy
and every appetite satisfied,
and that
is the idea, to give and give
and call it nothing even though
the feast took three days to prepare
with all six women of the household
working from morning to night,
and the severed head of the sheep
still resting outside the garden wall
where it was thrown.

Nan o piaz, pesh an ee waz.

“Though It Be but Bread and Onion,
Let It Be Given Graciously”