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Cultural interactions of Safavid Iran with European countries

As soon as Shah Abbas I (1588-1629) became the king of the Safavid dynasty of Iran, he intended to transform the capital city. Before that, during the reign of the same dynasty, the capital was Tabriz and then the city of Qazvin and finally in 1597-98 Isfahan became the capital city. A few years later, as a result of the forced deportation of the Armenian people organized by Shah Abbas, new Armenian settlement was formed in Iran, the most prominent center of it was Isfahan.

Jean Chardin, in his "Travel notes", mentions that investments were encouraged to develop the new capital, and shortly after, traders and factories from different nations settled in Isfahan and contributed to the revival of trade. With the arrival of Europeans and the trade connections of Armenian Khojas, the Safavid dynasty and painting of that period underwent significant changes and is considered to be an important period of Iranian Art and civilization.

From the point of view of understanding the Safavid dynasty, lifestyle, and taste and imagination in general, it is important to study the structure and decoration of the palaces of the kings and the mansions of the Khojas built in that period. The frescos painted in palaces and private houses can be a professional source not only for Art historians, but also for historians, ethnographers and researchers studying Safavid Iran in general.

The artistic problems of the examined era will be studied: the adopted line, color, style, artistic solutions, decorative elements, etc. Such a multi-faceted artistic examination will lead to a deeper observation and evaluation of the cultural changes in Iran starting from the 17th century.