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for the Degree of Master of Arts in Persian Language and
Literature**

**Exploring the Inferiority Complex in
Anti-Hero Characters of *Khavaran-
nameh* Through Alfred Adler's Theory**

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Abstract

Inferiority complex is a concept that refers to the feeling of lack and inadequacy in a person. A person who suffers from this complex may constantly compare himself with others and consider himself small and avoid opportunities for fear of negative evaluation by others. Ibn Hossam Khosfi, is a poet in the 9th century of Hijri. Khavarannameh is an epic and religious work by Ibn Hussam, that recounts the bravery and bravery of Imam Ali (a.s.) and his companions. This poem shows the contrast between Islam and infidelity and is known as the most important work of Ibn Hussam. Since Khavarannameh is a religious epic that shows the good and bad of a person, the investigation of the inferiority complex in its negative characters helps our understanding of psychological approaches in Persian literature. These characters usually reflect a feeling of inadequacy and try to compensate for these deficiencies through challenging behaviors. Therefore, this research aims to investigate the inferiority complex in the negative characters of Khavarannameh in a descriptive-analytical way and investigate the most important factors of this complex by exploring the actions and behavior. The results of the research indicate that in Khavarannameh Benmayeh and the basis of the formation of its epic scenes is the confrontation between Islam and disbelief, and it was done with the purpose of educating the individual and punishing him. Inferiority complex is a key element in the formation of negative characters and the main contradictions of Khavarannameh, and due to the effort to seek superiority, it gives depth to the epic scenes of the story. The root of the existence of inferiority complex in the anti-hero characters of Khavarannameh is the sense of superiority and power seeking, and the attempt to rule the disbelief over Islam.

Keywords: inferiority complex, Alfred Adler, anti-heroes, Khavarannameh, Ibn Hossam Khosfi