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COMMUNITY LEADER AND ROLE MODEL AKRAM MONFARED ARYA

As an extraordinary woman, who is a mother, a pilot, a writer and a community leader, Akram Monfared Arya is a true role model for every Iranian. Born in Tehran in 1946, Ms. Arya has come a long way with her five children and all that she is proud to speak about from her home town in Stockholm, Sweden. We had a chance to ask her a few questions.



PersianMirror: *Tell us a little about your childhood.*

Akram Monfared Arya: I grew up in Tehran. I got married and while raising my kids, I went to school to continue my education. I also worked for many years while I was doing all the other things. I currently live in Sweden. It is a great place and I came here out of the desire to live in democratic society where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

"I found that there was less resistance and more acceptance with regard to women's rights and freedom" - Arya

PM: *What made you want to become a pilot and what can you tell us about what it was like to be a woman in the Shah's time?*

AMA: I was passionate about flying and becoming a pilot. Believing that men and women equal, I went on to pursue my dream along with many other women of my time. As a woman, I found that there was less resistance and more acceptance with regard to women's rights and freedom.

PM: *Your are also a poet, a writer and now a politician- tell us about that?*

AMA: Writing, whether in the form of story, novel or poem, is the best means of self-expression. I always enjoyed to share my thoughts with Persian, Swedish and English speaking world through publishing my work. As far as my work now goes, as a resident of this country, I wanted to contribute to the well being of my community as well to help the more than 70,000 Iranians who live here. They have a lot of concerns that need to be addressed and represented.

PM: *What qualities do you admire in people? Which do you despise?*

AMA: I admire honesty and openness. I am saddened by hatred and jealousy.

PM: *Desert Island. Three things. What will you take?*

AMA: My passion, my thoughts and my memories.

PersianMirror Quikfacts:

Name: [Akram Monfared Arya \(Taraneh\)](#)
 Born: [Tehran 1946](#)

Favorite Color: [Red](#)
 Languages: [Persian, Swedish, English](#)

Nationality: [Iranian-Swedish](#)
 Never Travel without: [My Pillow](#)

For more information on Ms. Arya, please visit her website www.arya.st.

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