GALYÂN or QALYÂN (nargileh), a water pipe chiefly used in the Middle East and Central Asia for smoking tobacco (Syr. Ar.: nafar; called houqa in India; telamcell in Afghanistan; Pār-e Dāwūd, pp. 208-9). Tobacco was reportedly introduced into Persia by the Portuguese in the early 16th century. Shah 'Abbās I (966-1038/1588-1629), who disliked tobacco, made its use illegal (Falsafi, II, pp. 278-82; Pār-e Dāwūd, p. 199), but people kept using it. The name of the implement for smoking, galīyân, was apparently derived from the Ar. ṣaḥāb (to boil, bubble up); it also refers specifically to the water reservoir of the pipe (Dā'ī al-Eslâm, II, p. 743). The term nargileh, used in Turkish and most European languages, is derived from Sanskrit nālikeraḥ (coconut) and is applied to the water-pipe because the first water reservoir were made of coconut shells. In Gilân galīyân were made from hollowed-out gourds that were decorated and filled with water. They were called qalyân-e kā T (Hājj Sayyed Jawādi, p. 46).

The galīyân is composed of several parts: The bādīr (chimney); sār-e galīyân or sarpāš (the top bowl); sār-kāna in Afghanistan; tana (the body); milāb (the immersion pipe); ney-e pī (hose); and kūta (the reservoir of water). Depending on their composition, these parts distinguish good water pipes.

Various types of sarpāš (top bowls) used with galīyân for holding charcoal and tobacco. The model decorated with the portrait of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah has been particularly popular. After Semsār, p. 23.