



میرزا ابوالحسن علیخان مغلام پسران
Mirza Abolghassen
Ghani, magham pseran.



مرقوم میرزا جعفرخان شیرالدوله

Hossein Ziai

GENEALOGY

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Paternal Line: *Ziai*



Mir Abol-Qāsem

According to oral traditions handed down the generations, the Ziai genealogy begins with Mir Abol-Qāsem, a high-ranking man of letters at the Safavid court who accompanied Shah Abbas I on his last trip to Mashhad on 13 September 1601. Born and raised in Herat, Shah Abbas (1571-1629) had recaptured Mashhad from the Uzbeks—his archenemies on the east—in 1598; he had then renovated and tenaciously promoted the shrine of Imam Reza as a Shi'ite rival to Mecca to offset the dominion of the Sunni Ottomans—his archenemies on the west. When the shah—prototype of “The Sophy” in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* (1601-1602)—went on a pilgrimage to Mashhad on foot from Isfahan, Mir Abol-Qāsem, likely a native of Khorasan in his entourage asked for permission to stay. The shah obliged and granted him the village of Hosni in Torbat-Heydariyeh, ancient Zāveh (“zav” meaning ‘body of water,’ ‘canal,’ ‘ravine’), a mountainous region with fertile plains and abundant water that had been settled in prehistory and thrived since. The target of the first massive Mongol invasion in 1220 CE, Zāveh was in the 15th century renamed Torbat-Heydariyeh after the Sufi Qutb ud-Din Heydar (d. 1221) who is buried there, ‘torbat’ meaning burial ground.



Torbat Heydariyeh



Bibi Hosniyeh and Nowbahar

Once settled, Mir Abol-Qāsem’s family came to be known as *sādāt-e Hosni* سادات حسنی and enjoyed a degree of authority in the community. His property was bound by the Bibi Hosniyeh shrine on the west—the area where his descendants continued to live and thrive for three hundred years—and encompassed Nowbahar on the east, the agricultural terrain that became the center of the Ziai household in the first decade of the 20th century.

Hāj Mirza Abu-Tāleb

The first attested progenitor of the Ziai family tree is Hāj Mirza Abu-Tāleb *Hakim-bāshi* حکیم باشی (‘physician’) in the 18th century. He fathered a long line of doctors beginning with his famous son, Hāj Mirza Soleimān; his gravestone survives at Bibi Hosniyeh.

Hāj Mirza Soleimān

Hāj Mirza Abu-Tāleb's son Hāj Mirza Soleimān proved to be an exceptionally gifted man. With higher aspirations than his predecessors, he left Torbat and ventured north to Mashhad to study medicine with a prominent doctor. He later gained such distinction as a physician that when the Emir of Bukhara fell ill, Mirza Soleimān was escorted with much fanfare to treat him at his court in Transoxiana—Māwarā'ul-Nahr ماوراء النهر in Arabic/Farārūd فرارود in Persian—which formed part of Greater Khorasan and is now mostly in Uzbekistan.

Mirza Soleimān stayed on in Bukhara where he rose to the ministerial rank of *vizir* and trusty advisor to the Emir. He also accumulated considerable wealth, which he used to buy the release of scores of Iranians in Turkmen captivity and send them back in groups to their homeland under the protection of armed cavalry. In time, he asked leave from the Emir to return to his birthplace and went back to Mashhad where he continued to practice medicine.

In Torbat Heydariyeh where he sometimes treated patients as well, Mirza Soleimān expanded his land holdings north to include Benhang, as well as Ferezq and the adjacent villages in Bālā-Velāyat, and in the south acquired the new fort near the Bouri-ābād shrine مزار بورياباد. His name recognition was such that his grandson, who himself rose to prominence as *Zia'ul-Atteba* (Hossein Ziai's grandfather, see below), was referred to as "Hāj Mirza Soleimān's grandson".



Benhang



Boori-Abad Village



Ferezq Village

Mirza Soleimān had three sons, all three physicians, Abdol-Hossein, Hāj Mirza Hassan, and Mirza Mahmoud.

Hāj Mirza Hassan apprenticed with his father and became a *hakim-bāshi* in Torbat; his gravestone and that of his son Mirza Mohsen who died young survive at Bibi Hosniyeh.

Mirza Soleimān died in Mashhad and was buried in the shrine complex of Imam Reza.

Mirza Mahmoud

Mirza Mahmoud, Mirza Soleimān's youngest son from his second wife, was a child when his father died and was denied any inheritance. He was nevertheless able to study medicine in Mashhad and grew to be the most prominent *hakim-bāshi* among the three brothers.

Mirza Mahmoud's first wife hailed from Tajrish, northern Tehran; their son, Fakhr'ul-Atebba, became a physician in Torbat.

His second wife was from Kadkan. They had four children, two daughters and two sons. The older son, Mirza Habib *Doktor* had four daughters but an anemic professional career, unlike the younger Mirza Āqā Mohammad who rose to fame as Zia'ul-Atebba ضياء الاطباء.

Mirza Mahmoud once took his children on a pilgrimage to Karbela before he passed away in the 1890s. He, too, is buried in Bibi Hosniyeh.



Mirza Aqa Mohammad, Zia'ul-Atebba



Zia'ul-Atebba

Mirza Āqā Mohammad *Zia'ul-Atebba*

Mirza Āqā Mohammad, Mirza Mahmoud’s youngest son, was born in 1870 in Hosni. A soft-spoken gentleman of great integrity with an affable countenance and kindly green-eyes, he was regarded with love and respect across the region, from Kāshmar and Torbat to Khāf, Qāen, and Birjand and earned such distinction as a doctor that Mozaffar al-Din Shah titled him *Zia'ul-Atebba* ‘Light of Physicians’. A token of his standing in the community is that when he chose the surname “Ziai” in response to the 1925 mandate by Reza Shah (written into law in 1934) that all citizens adopt family names, other branches of the family—whether related by blood or marriage—asked to follow suit, and he consented.

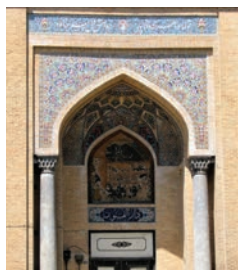
Mirza Āqā apprenticed with his father before he left for Mashhad to attend Mirza Ja‘far Rāshed’s school. He had to cut his studies short, however, and returned to Torbat to tend to his father who had taken ill and who died soon after.

Mirza Āqā married Bibi Sakineh, daughter of Āqā Sheikh Mohammad Yazdi, and had two children, Arastou, who died young, and Alireza, who was born in 1891.

Meantime, while people consulted with Mirza Āqā as a *hakim-bashi* on the strength of being “Hāj Mirza Soleimān’s grandson,” he aspired to gaining his rightful place in the ranks, but in modern medicine. Sometime after 1892, he left his family in the care of his wife’s maternal uncle, Hāj Seyyed Mohammad *Ra’īs ut-Tojjār*, and traveled to Tehran where he learned French at the Alliance Française, studied with Dr. Hanjan, and graduated from the Dār ul-Funūn دارالفنون. When he returned to Torbat and set up his practice his fame spread wide and before 1901, earned him the honorific *Zia'ul-Atebba* during the premiership of Ali-Asghar Khan *Atābak A'zam*.



Dār ul-Funūn in winter



Dār ul-Funūn



Mirza Ali-Asghar Khan Atābak A'zam

When Zia'ul-Atebba’s first daughter Robāb—who grew up to be talk of the town for her porcelain skin and blue eyes—was born in 1902, he built a house in Bāgh-Soltan, a street in the affluent part of town where Great Britain and Russia came to establish their consulates during WWI.

A few years later, Amir Shaukat'ul-Mulk Alam, the modernizing overlord of Qā'enāt (and father of the future PM Amir Assadollah Alam) sent his envoy Hassan Khan Yazdi to Zia'ul-Atebba and invited him to relocate to Birjand to treat his illness and help him build a modern medical facility in town; he agreed. At the time, Birjand was the second most important urban center in Khorasan after Mashhad, and owing to the challenges and opportunities it presented to foreign powers, also home to British and Russian consulates and the Imperial Bank بانک شاهنشاهی.



Robab and her children, Ali and Belqeis

Zia'ul-Atebba traveled to Birjand on horseback with his loyal steward Karbelā'ī Gholām-Hossein in tow and his wife and children following by carriage. The family was housed in Kalātehye Rahīm-ābād close to Akbariyeh next to his host. While Zia'ul-Atebba helped shape the new medical facility and train the staff, Alireza attended Shaukatiyeh High School (est. 1908), the third modern institution of higher learning in Iran after Dār'ul-Funūn in Tehran (est. 1851) and Rushtdiyeh in Tabriz (est. 1886/7).



Shaukatiyeh School, Birjand

Some three to four years after the birth of their son Mahmoud in 1909, the family returned to Torbat where they had two more boys, Khalil (b. 1915) and Taher (b 1917) and a daughter, Behjat (b. 1920). Over the following years, Zia'ul-Atteba would occasionally travel to Birjand—which in 1923 became the first city in Iran to acquire a plumbing system—to remedy Shaukat'ul-Mulk's ailments, practice in the new medical facility.



R-L Taher, Alireza, Zia'ul-Atteba (Mohsen on lap), Mahmoud, Khalil. Bahjat, Robab's children, Ali and Belqeis. c 1926



R-L (Front) Mahmoud, Bibi Sakineh, Zia'ul-Atteba. (Back) Taher, Behjat, Khalil, c 1934



Aqa Zia and Bibi flanked by Alireza and Batoul: Batoul (Sori on lap). Back R-L Belqeis, Behjat, Mahmoud, Robab, Ali. Mohsen (with scarf), Pari.

On occasion, he also enjoyed playing tennis, a sport that he was evidently able to handle never mind the head and body wrap, the customary male attire in those days. It was not until after Reza Shah's decree, enacted between 1927-1930, which, beginning with government officials mandated all men (except clerics) to wear Western attire and the Pahlavi hat that Zia'ul-Atteba, by then in his late-50s, adopted his trademark suit, coat, and hat.



R-L Taheri Khan Nazer, Zia'ul-Atteba, Shaukatulmulk Alam, Johnson (Head, Imperial Bank). Birjand mid-late 1920s



Reza Shah in Pahlavi hat



8th Majles deputies in Pahlavi hats (Teymourdash seated center)



Zia'ul-Atteba



Zia'ul-Atteba and Amir Shaukatulmulk Alam. Tehran



Zia'ul-Atteba at 78 with grandson, Hossein. Mashhad 1948



Zia'ul-Atteba in his 70s

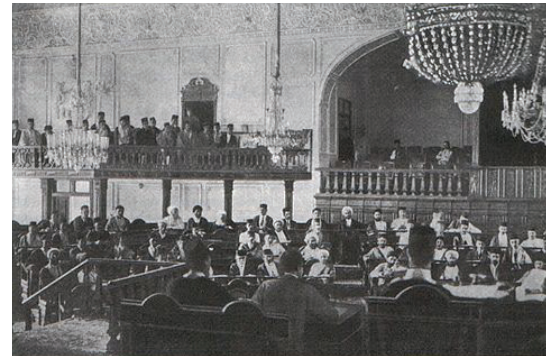
To accommodate the expanded household, he moved to Nowbahar, part of the family estate north-east of town that was an agricultural expanse with some hamlets, bountiful orchards, and cultivated fields. There, he built a fort for the peasants, an eight-room mansion and terraced garden for his family, and bathhouses for both. When his oldest son, Alireza, married, he added an L-shaped wing to the house and entertained the extended family at Nowbahar throughout the year, memorably so, especially in summertime.

Zia'ul-Atteba was a household name in Torbat for his medical expertise but also for his altruism. Members of his family remember—not without a little grudge, though always fondly—his habit of turning up at home half-frozen on winter nights because he had given his coat away, again, to some soul along the way and with an empty pocket because he had treated needy patients for free that day.

At fifty-four, Zia'ul-Atteba's friendship with leading Khorasani statesmen led him to enter politics, Abd'ul-Hossein Teymourtash Sardār Moazzam (1883-1933) from Bojnourd, who became Reza Shah's Court Minister, and two Birjandi dignitaries, Shautak'ul-Mulk Alam and Tehran University Chancellor Seyyed Mohammad Tadayyon (1881-1951). Zia'ul-Atteba was elected from Torbat Heydariyeh to the 1st Majles but he declined; re-elected to the 2nd term he also declined, this time so that Mo'tamen'ul-Saltaneh Farrokh could serve. He was then elected to the 5th Majles—the period of transition from the Qajar to the Pahlavi Dynasty—and went to Tehran where he lived in the house of his former teacher, Mr. Hanjan, in Sar-Cheshmeh; he was not elected to the 6th Majles but to the 7th, this time from Kāshmar; and in the 8th-12th terms again from Torbat. He ended his service in 1941 when Reza Shah was forced to abdicate following the Anglo-Russian occupation of Iran and remained in Nowbahar for the rest of his life.



Majles facade



Majles interior. Tehran 1906

Mirza Āqā Mohammad—generally known as Mirza Āqā Zia, affectionately as Āqā Aziz Jān, and officially as Zia'ul-Atteba—passed away in 1954 at age eighty-four and was laid to rest at the shrine complex of Imam Reza in Mashhad. Known for his acute powers of observation, penmanship, and exquisite script, he kept a journal that is presumed lost as it was in the care of his younger son, Taher, whose library and other belongings were appropriated after the 1979 Islamic revolution. Should the journal ever come to light, it shall no doubt contain noteworthy facts about Zia'ul-Atteba's life and the society of his time, in Khorasan and in Tehran.



Zia'ul-Atteba in formal attire c 1935



Dr. Alireza Ziai

Alireza Ziai

Alireza Ziai, Zia'ul-Atebba's son, was born in 1891 in Torbat Heydariyeh. He passed away on 28 April 1942 and is buried in the Bibi Hosniyeh shrine.

Alireza attended Shaukatiyeh High School in Birjand, which was formed on a modern educational system, and went on to graduate from the Dār'ul-Funūn School of Medicine in Tehran. On his return to Khorasan in the 1920s, he set up his practice in Mashhad and it was not long before he was recognized for his expertise. His clinic stood at the three-way intersection of Khosravi and Arg Avenue (later, Pahlavi) better known as Chahār-Tabaqeh چهار طبقه; the street showcased the first "Four-Story" structure in the city and was lined with other important buildings, including foreign consulates and Haj Hossein Āqā Malek's house, later a museum.



Dr. Alireza Ziai clinic. Intersection of Khosravi and Arg. Mashhad 1950s



Dr. Alireza Ziai clinic (far L). Mashhad 1950s



Chahar-Tabaqeh. Mashhad 1330

Dr. Alireza and his wife, Batoul Rād, had three children, all of whom were born in the month of July in Nowbahar, Mohsen (m. Nahid Gharib), Pari (m. Hamid Moussavian) and Sori (m. Yadullah Zafari).



L-R Mohsen, Pari, Sori Ziai



Photo signed by Mohsen's father, Dr. Alireza Ziai



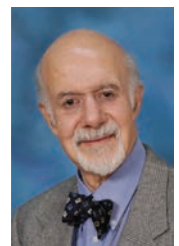
Mohsen Ziai 1950



Mohsen Ziai, M.D. graduation day with Mahmoud and Hossein Ziai. Johns Hopkins 1952

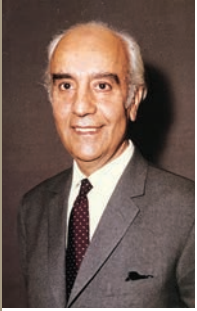
Mohsen was born in Nowbahar in 1925. He attended primary school in Mashhad before traveling to Tehran where he graduated from the American College (Alborz) in 1945. He left for the U.S. intent on pursuing his generations-long family tradition, medicine, and three years later graduated magna cum laude from Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia. He then went to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, earned an M.D. in 1952 with a specialty in infectious diseases, and followed up as chief resident at the Boston Children's Hospital and a research fellow at the Harvard Medical School.

For the next twenty-four years, Dr. Mohsen Ziai served as chairman of the faculty of medicine at the Universities of Tehran, Shiraz, and Mashhad, and chancellor of the University of Mashhad. In 1977, he left for New York where he was appointed Chairman of Pediatrics at the Rochester General Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester. The family moved to Virginia in 1982 where he chaired the Inova Fairfax Hospital, a position that he held until he retired in 1999. By then, he had become a household name in pediatrics and his publications were required textbooks in medical schools in the U.S.



Dr. Mohsen Ziai

Mohsen Ziai and his wife Nahid Gharib (m. 1959) had four daughters, Niloofar, Parinaz, Fatemeh, and Ameneh, all of them highly accomplished in their respective fields.



Dr. Mahmoud Ziai
1980s

Mahmoud Ziai

Mahmoud Ziai was born in Birjand in 1909 and brought up in Torbat Heydariyeh. A practicing OB/GYN, university professor, and hospital director, he enjoyed an acclaimed medical career in Mashhad from 1938-1956 and served as a parliamentarian in the capital from 1957-1979. Dr. Ziai passed away in 1993 in Tehran in the arms of his son, Hossein, who honored his father's memory by donating land in Torbat to establish primary and high schools for boys and girls, named "Dr. Seyyed Mahmoud Ziai Educational Complex" مجمع آموزشی دکتر سید محمود ضیائی.



Dr. Mahmoud Ziai
Girls School, Torbat



Dr. Mahmoud Ziai
Educational Complex,
Torbat



Mahmoud Ziai at
primary school



American College dorm
with hunting gun and
tennis racket 1925



American College
boarder 1928

Mahmoud Ziai attended primary school in Torbat and Mashhad, and high school at the American College boarding school in Tehran. He then traveled to Beirut to attend the American University (AUB) and in 1934 graduated at the top of his class with an M.D. from the School of Medicine. As reported in the 23 July 1934 issue of Ettelā'āt in Tehran (and re-printed as a memento forty years later) he returned to AUB where he was contracted to teach and then went to the University of Lyon in southern France where he obtained a specialty in OB/GYN and completed his residency in 1936.



McCormick Hall, American College
of Tehran



Back of postcard sent to Mahmoud Ziai,
"Beirut, Syria". 13 Mar 1930



AUB classmates. Center, M. Ziai. Back L,
Fereidun Varjavand. 1934-35



Mahmoud Ziai
M.D., AUB 1935



Drs. Ziai, Yeganeh and Dehqan.
AUB Dorm, c 1934



Ettel'at 23 July 1974



ID card France (cover)



ID card France.
14 Oct 1934-36

He went back to Beirut in 1936-37 to teach—his younger brother Khalil was then at AUB—where he met Ozra Moshiri who was pursuing studies that she planned to complete in Brussels in fall 1938. They fell passionately in love, returned to Iran the following year, and were married in Tehran on 25 September 1938. The couple then moved to Mashhad where they set up house and started their professional careers, he, following in the footsteps of his older brother and father, and she on the foundation of her calling, education, and experience in health and human services.



R-L Mahmoud Ziai, Ozra Moshiri, Khalil Ziai. Beirut 1936



Wedding. Tehran 25 Sept 1938



Newly-wed Ziais with Dr. Shahidi and Reza Moshiri. Mashhad 1939

Dr. Mahmoud Ziai went on to acquire a stellar reputation in Mashhad as a practicing gynecologist, a professor at the University of Mashhad Faculty of Medicine, Director of Shāhreza Hospital, and a professional collaborator with his wife at the Nursing Academy, which she had founded at the Red Lion & Sun Society (RLSS).

For recreation, Dr. Ziai enjoyed hunting and would at times travel as far as Bojnourd about 170 miles north of Mashhad to hunt with his local Turkmen friends. Another source of recreation was drama. He had appeared on stage as a college student in Beirut and continued performing in Mashhad, a city that boasted a rigorous theater scene in the 1940s, more so than Tehran. In Mashhad, the productions of Chekhov, Molière, and sundry Persian comedies were staged at the Red Lion & Sun Society with RLSS as part of charity events hosted in the aftermath of the Anglo-Russian occupation of Iran when the poor were hit particularly hard and typhus was widespread. Most of the plays were directed by the veterinarian wife of the British consul-general, and always sold out despite the costly ticket price of five *tomans*.



Mashhad home, early 40s



R-L Assadullah Alam, Dr. Alireza Ziai, Mr. Sepehri (Mr. Alam's asst), Zia'ul-Atteba, Dr. Mahmoud Ziai, Dr. Fazel (optometrist), Mashhad 1939-40



Seated (C) Dr. Mahmoud Ziai, Director, Shāhreza Hospital, Mashhad



Hunting in Bojnourd



Turkmen hunting party. Bojnourd



Mahmoud Ziai, student production. Beirut 1930s



As Latifeh Khan. Mashhad



Mahmoud Ziai (R)

But the most dramatic event of Mahmoud Ziai's life occurred on 6 July 1944 with the birth of his son, Hossein, at the Shāhreza Hospital. Ironically for an OB/GYN who delivered more than 20,000 babies over his career, owing to his wife's repeated miscarriages, it took him six years before he could set his eyes on his own child.



Hossein Ziai, born 6 July 1944

In 1956, following another family tradition, Dr. Ziai initiated a second life and entered politics. He moved with his family to Tehran as the elected representative to the Majles from Mashhad and was reelected to the 19th and consecutively, the 21st-24th terms.



Shāhreza Hospital. Mashhad 6 July 1944



Mrs. Bernice Cochran's (R of Ozra Moshiri) send-off party for the Ziais. Mashhad 1956



Send-off to Tehran. Mashhad Airport 1956

Fluent in English, French, Russian, Arabic, and conversant in German, Dr. Mahmoud Ziai was elected chairman of the parliament's Foreign Relations Committee in the mid-60s and served in that position for more than fourteen years until 1979. Following the Islamic Revolution, he was imprisoned at Evin and repeatedly threatened with execution, but was released in 1981, evidently owing to his impeccable financial record in all the years he served in the government.



Dr. Mahmoud Ziai 1960s



Willy Brandt and Dr. M. Ziai. Berlin 1967



Moroccan delegation at Persepolis

Dr Mahmoud Ziai's son, Hossein, pursued an academic career in philosophy. His grandson, Dādali, studied acupuncture and Chinese medicine in northern California complemented with Western medicine and orthopedics, and has a highly fulfilling practice in Santa Cruz.

MERIDIAN ACUPUNCTURE

Blending traditional techniques with a bio-medical perspective, Dādali Ziai has been practicing acupuncture and acupressure in Santa Cruz, California since 2005.

Dādali Ziai, L.Ac., MTCM
 Downtown in the Galleria
 740 Fourth Street, Suite 340A
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Dr. Khalil Ziai

Khalil Ziai

Born in Torbat Heydariyeh, Zia'ul-Atteba's third son, Khalil (1951-2005) graduated from the American College of Tehran (renamed Alborz College in 1940), and spent the 1936-37 academic year at the American University of Beirut as an undergraduate. He then left for Graz, Austria, where his outstanding academic record at the medical school led him to the University of Vienna School of Medicine—the foremost institution in his field at the time—where he earned an M.D. degree with a specialty in ophthalmology in 1941.

Dr. Khalil Ziai returned to Iran in 1949 where he taught at Tehran University and founded the Ophthalmology Unit at the Rāzi Hospital, and later, at Fārābi. He had several inventions to his name, including a device to keep the eyelids open during surgery, and Abi Fam, a medication for dry eyes. Following a family tradition of public service, he served as representative of Torbat Jām in the 20th Majles.

In 1950, Khalil Ziai married Sediqeh Malek (daughter of Hāj Hossein Āqā Malek) and had two daughters, Tahereh (m. Atā Safā'i) and Asiyeh (m. Taghi Gharagozlou). A lover of classical music who had watched Furtwangler and Toscanini performances in Vienna, and a gifted vocalist, he co-founded the Tehran Philharmonic Society with Houshang Afshar, Reza Nā'ini, and Fouad Rouhani.



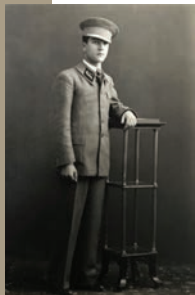
Khalil Ziai. Vienna 1931



Alborz College, Tehran



Dr. Khalil Ziai 2002



Taher Ziai at 18, 12th grade, Tehran 1935



Taher Ziai and Haydeh Adl 1938

Taher Ziai

Zia'ul-Atebba's youngest son, Taher, was born in Torbat Heydariyeh in 1917. He graduated from The American College of Tehran in 1935 and earned an M.S. in Engineering from the Technical University of Berlin and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Vienna.

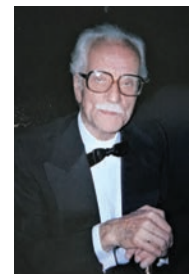
On returning to Iran, he taught at Tehran University, served as Deputy Director of the Plan Organization, and later, of the Ministry of Economy, and was appointed Minister of Industry and Mines until the merger of that institution with the Ministry of Trade. In 1947, he was elected to the 4th Iranian Senate, and in 1948

became Secretary of the Senate. In 1950, while retaining his senate seat, he was appointed president of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines, and served in that position as a powerful and influential voice for economic development and industrialization until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Taher Ziai was married to Haydeh Adl, daughter of Mansour- Saltaneh Adl and Mehrolmoulook Hedayat. The couple had two daughters, Guity (m. Hosseingholi Zolfaghari) and Leila (m. Hosseingholi Samsam).



Senator Taher Ziai



Taher Ziai at the wedding of her granddaughter. Houston 2000

Senator Taher Ziai passed away in 2012.



Behjat and her mother Bibi

Behjat Ziai (Asfia)

Zia'ul-Atteba's youngest child, Behjat, a sharp, witty, and very elegant lady, married Safi Asfia, an engineering prodigy who graduated from l'Ecole polytechnique (1934) and l'Ecole des mines (1936) in Paris at twenty-three. Head of the Plan Organization and deputy prime minister under Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Asfiya was one of the most brilliant technocrats responsible for economic development in Iran. He spent five years in prison after the 1979 revolution during which time he learned Italian, molecular biology, and computer science, and taught French to his jail mates. He died in April 2008, seven months after Behjat—his wife, soulmate, and steadfast pillar of support—passed away.

The couple had three daughters, the prodigiously charming Safiyeh (m. Amir Rouhi) who was beloved by everyone and best friends with Hossein and whose passing in 2001 caused collective grief beyond measure; Safoura (m. Jean-Marie Clément) and Safa (m. Jacques Farahmand).



Behjat and Safi Asfia 1978

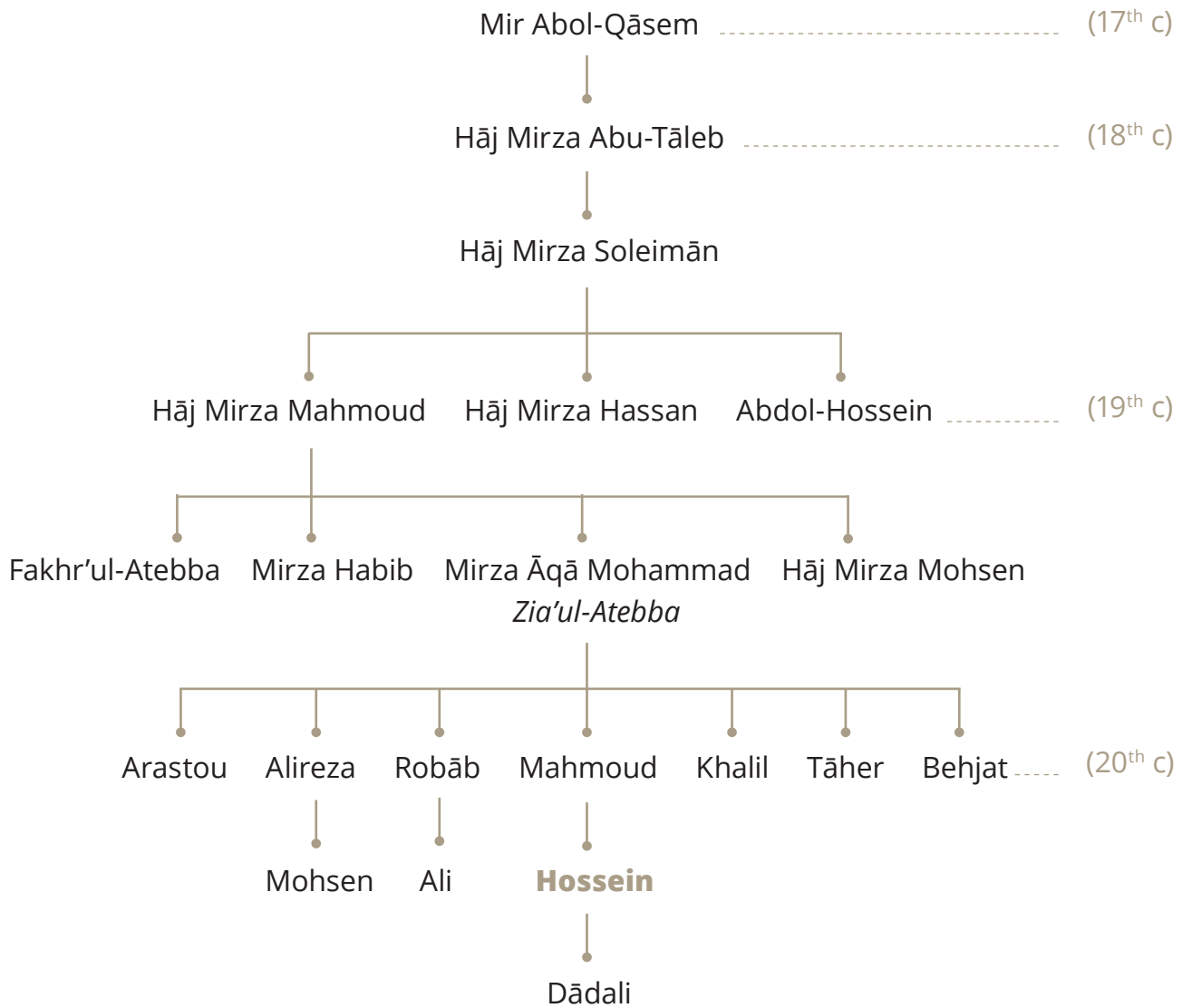


Safi Asfia, Ozra Ziai, Hossein 1949-50

ZIAI FAMILY TREE



GENERAL ERA



Maternal Line: *Moshiri*



Hossein Ziai's mother, Ozra Moshiri, traced her lineage on her father's side back to Ali Asghar, son of Imam Zain al-Ābedin, in the eighth century. His family had moved to Iran from Medina in the mid-10th/early 11th century and settled in the village of Hezāveh in Arāk/Farāhān where they were known as *sādāt-e Hezāveh* آسادات هزاوه ای.

Mirza Issa Bozorg Farāhāni, *Qāem-Maqām I*

The more recent lineage begins in the 18th century with Mirza Issa (b. 1735), a famous statesman whose service overlapped the Zand (1751-1794) and Qajar (1785-1925) dynasties. Some of his descendants came to be known as *Qāem-Maqāmi* قائم مقامی and others as Moshiri مشیرى in homage to another titled family member, *Moshir ud-Dowleh*.

Mirza Issa, better known as Mirza Bozorg Farāhāni, *Qāem-Maqām I* (1753-c 1822) was born in Hezāveh and died in Tabriz where he is buried in the shrine of Shah Hamzeh. He served as chief minister to Crown Prince Abbas Mirza (d. 1833) in Tabriz and was appointed *Qāem-Maqām*, prime minister, when Fath-Ali Shah Qajar (r. 1797-1834) first created the position.



Mirza Issa Bozorg,
Qāem-Maqām I

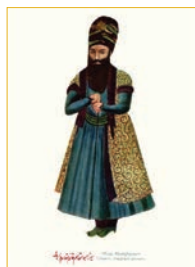


Mirza Abol-Qāsem,
Qāem-Maqām II
(1779-1835)

Mirza Bozorg was hailed for his vision and achievements as a statesman and for his extensive writings. He is also credited with educating his cook's talented son together with his own children in Tabriz, the boy who was to enter government service under Mirza Bozorg's son and rose to become Mirza Taqi Khan Farāhāni *Amir Kabir*.

Mirza Abol-Qāsem Farāhāni, *Qāem-Maqām II*

Mirza Bozorg's son, Mirza Abol-Qāsem Farāhāni, *Qāem-Maqām II*, was born in Arāk in 1779 and died in 1835. He succeeded his father as chief minister to the crown prince when Abbas Mirza became governor of Azarbaijan and was later appointed prime minister by Mohammad Shah Qajar (r. 1834-48). A powerful and visionary statesman whose simplified Persian prose style greatly influenced writing and literature, *Qāem-Maqām II* dedicated himself to reforming education, finance, and the rule of law, and helped demarcate the contested Iranian-Ottoman territorial boundaries. His progressive reforms prompted both royal and clerical hostility, however, and he was killed by order of Mohammad Shah at the instigation of Hāj Mirza Āqāssi in 1835, yet he was given a regal funeral. The family protégé Amir Kabir (b. 1807) undertook even more far-reaching reforms as prime minister. Among the most consequential of these was the founding, in 1851, of Dār ul-Funūn ('polytechnic') in Tehran, the first modern institution of higher learning in Iran.



Mirza Abol-Qāsem.
Postcard published
in Brussels 1930s



Mirza Abol-Qāsem funeral procession 1835



Amir Kabir

But as in the case of his predecessor, his enemies prevailed in the end and Nasser al-Din Shah (r. 1848-1896)—whose only full sister married Amir Kabir in 1835—had him put to death in Kashan in the bathhouse of the Fin Garden *باغ فین* in 1852.

Seyyed Ja'far Khan *Moshir ud-Dowleh*

Mirza Abol-Qāsem's male line continued through Mirza Mohammad Hassan and Mirza Mohammad Taqi Vazir to Mirza Seyyed Ja'far Khan '*Tabār Hosseini*,' *Moshir ud-Dowleh* who was born in Farāhān in the 1790s.



Seyyed Jafar Khan Moshir ud-Dowleh (c 1860)



Moshir ud-Dowleh miniature by H. Zarif



Moshir ud-Dowleh (seated) at the Court of St. James

In 1815, Seyyed Ja'far Khan was sent by Crown Prince Abbas Mirza to Britain to study engineering with the modernization of Iran's state and military apparatus in mind. On his return, he taught math and engineering and in 1844 built the Engineering School, *مهندس خانه*, in Tabriz. His pioneering role earned him the title, The Engineer, *Mohandess-bāshi* *مهندس باشی*. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1836-1842, he was appointed to serve on a commission, along with his Ottoman, British, and Russian counterparts, to help demarcate the Iran-Ottoman frontiers, but when he reached Tabriz he fell ill and sent Amir Kabir, then in charge of the army in Azarbaijan, in his place. In 1858, Nāsser al-Din Shah (r. 1848-96) appointed him head of the state council *ریاست شورای دولت*, hence his title, *Moshir ud-Dowleh*, and in 1860, as the first permanent ambassador to the Court of St. James.



Mohammad-Sadeq Khan Sartip



Haj Shahzadeh Khanum marriage certificate

Moshir ud-Dowleh returned to Iran a year later in 1861 and while keeping his titular government post was sent to Mashhad to serve as Custodian of the Āstān-e Razavi, the Imam Reza Shrine Complex and Endowment, where he built the Āstān Hospital. He passed away in 1862 and is buried in Mashhad.

Moshir ud-Dowleh's son, Mohammad-Sādeq Khan Sartip, was married to the daughter of Tahmāsp Mirza Qajar, Shāhzādeh Khānum Rakhshandeh Gohar.



Sartip Haj Fazl-Ali Khan Moshiri



Sartip Haj Fazl-Ali Khan in later years



Bibi Shahzadeh, sister of Mehrtaj Khanum



Samsam ud-Dowleh



Hossein-Qoli Khan Moshiri (center, seated)

Their son, Sartip Hāj Fazl-Ali Khan married Mehrtāj Khānum, who was the sister of Bibi Shāhzādeh and daughter of Āqā Khan Samsām ud-Dowleh. They had four daughters, Amirzādeh Khānum, Khanqezi Khānum, Fakhr'ul-Sādāt, and Shams'ul-Saltaneh, and three sons, Majid Sultan, Hossein-Qoli Khan, and Abbas-Qoli Khan.



Abbas-Qoli Khan Moshiri in his youth



R-L Abbas-Qoli Khan, Sultan Ahmad Rad Mu'tamed ul-Mamalek. Mostafa Moshiri (C). M. Mohebbi, Abol-Qasem Rad (standing)

Abbas-Qoli Khan Moshiri

Abbas-Qoli Khan, who was the first to choose Moshiri as a family name during the reign of Reza Shah, married Khadijeh Rād, (“Mamanu”), daughter of Mo'tamed ul-Mamālek-e Bozorg, and had seven children, Ozra (m. Mahmoud Ziai; they had one child, Hossein), Hassan (m. Qamar Sa'ādat—two daughters, Narguess and Laleh); Forough (m. Amir Houshang Teymourdash—three children, Elaheh, Kamran, and Tannaz); Reza (m. Āmeneh Foroubar—two sons, Farhad and Fariborz); Farīd; Homa (m. Gholāmreza Vahābzādeh); and Mahin (m. Ali Gharavi—two children, Shahriar and Shahrzad).

Abbas-Qoli Khan Moshiri passed away in 1953 and is buried in the family grounds at Shābdolazim in Rey, near Tehran.



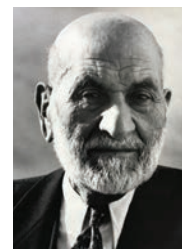
Khadijeh Rad



Front row, far L Ozra Moshiri



Parents and siblings of Ozra Moshiri



Abbas-Qoli Khan Moshiri in older age



Ozra Moshiri

Ozra Moshiri

Ozra Moshiri, daughter of Abbas-Qoli Khan Moshiri and Khadijeh Rād, was born in Tehran in 1908. She was a pioneering woman in promoting public health, social welfare, and women's rights in Iran. She held a leadership position at the Red Lion & Sun Society (RLSS) and rose to be Undersecretary of Urban Housing and Development. Her compassion and selfless diligence turned her into a household name, including among child beggars in Tehran that she moved off the streets and into the classroom, so they may have a better future.

Ozra Moshiri attended Jeanne d'Arc High School in Tehran and at a time when Yahya Qaragozlou *Etemad ud-Dowleh* was minister of education, graduated from the Teachers' Academy *دارالمعلمین عالی* in 1928 (later, *Daneshsarā-ye Āli*) with a focus on science. Now nineteen, she returned to Jeanne d'Arc where she taught math and biology for the next decade while volunteering at the RLSS, then under the patronage of the Queen Mother. Her social life while living at home with her parents in Tehran included a ladies group made up of Jeanne d'Arc alumna of mixed ages that called themselves *The Crazyies* *دیوانگان* and met regularly up until the 1979 revolution.



Jeanne d'Arc. R-L (1-6) Mah-Monir Nafisi, Ozra Moshiri, Pouran Vakili (m. Diba), Stepanian, Tajel Farmanfarma (m. Khansari), Homa Farmanfarma (m. Etehadiyeh)



Ozra Moshiri (C) with Jeanne d'Arc students. Standing, L-R Louise Samsam, Fakhri Afkhami, Banu. Seated, Mehri Esfandiari, Monir Asfia



Ozra Moshiri at home in Tehran, mid-1930s



Ozra Moshiri (standing far L) at Jabbareh Farmanfarmayian wedding. Tehran 1936



Clockwise L-R Ozra Moshiri, Mahin Afshar Ghassemloo, Forough Teymourtash, M.-Ali Moshiri, Mahin Gharavi



L-R Nahid Eskandarmirza, Safiyeh and Lilly Firouz, Ozra Ziai



Ozra Moshiri and Mahmoud Ziai wedding. Tehran 1938

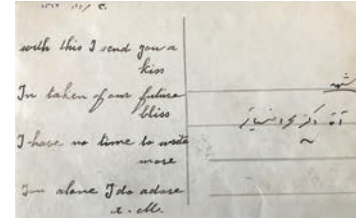
In 1936-37, she was at the American University of Beirut where she met Dr. Mahmoud Ziai. The two fell deeply in love and decided to marry but not before she completed her course of studies in Brussels. A hint of their romance is a postcard that she sent her fiancé from Brussels on 21 August 1938. Addressed to "Dr. Mahmoud Ziai, Mashhad," it reads: *With this I send you a kiss / In token of our future bliss / I have no time to write more / You alone I do adore*, signed x M [for Moshiri]. They were married in Tehran on September 25 of that year.



Brussels student permit. Apr-Oct 1938



Postcard to fiancé from Brussels



Love poem from Brussels to Mashhad. 1 Aug 1938



Mother and newborn. Mashhad 6 July 1944

The couple soon moved to Mashhad where her husband developed the OB/GYN department of the Shāhreza Hospital while she completed a two-year Nursing School curriculum.

On 6 July 1944, after six years, nine miscarriages, and nine months of total bed rest, Ozra Ziai gave birth to their only child, Hossein, an event that Shāhreza Hospital administration and staff who were fans of both husband and wife celebrated by lighting up the entire building.

A perennial student, she completed a certificate course in public health administration at the University of Winchester in London in 1949-50, and undertook further studies in Denmark in 1952 where a visit to a nursery inspired her to build an orphanage with a day-care center at the Red Lion & Sun Society back in Mashhad.



Red Lion & Sun Mashhad 1940s-50s



Ozra Moshiri, nursing school student (3rd from R). Mashhad c 1942



Ozra Moshiri at the orphanage. Mashhad, early 1950s

Also at the RLSS, she founded the much-needed Nurse's Aides Academy and held the first graduation ceremonies in 1955 with her husband at her side, Loqmān Adham presiding.



Ozra Moshiri at the orphanage with Queen Soraya. Mashhad mid-1950s



Nurse's Aides teachers. Ozra Moshiri (front row, 2nd from L)



Nurse's Aides Graduation. Mashhad 1956

When the family moved to Tehran in 1956 following her husband's election to the parliament, she was given a warm and grand send-off by the children and the personnel of the orphanage.



Ozra Moshiri receiving parting gift from the orphanage that she founded. Mashhad 1956



Orphanage farewell event, Mashhad 1956



RLSS event in honor of Ozra Moshiri. Mashhad 1956

Once in Tehran, she joined the RLSS volunteer corps and later assumed a leadership position in the organization. She was also elected to the Women's Council (later, Ministry of Women) and served on multiple delegations and committees overseas in Pakistan, at the International Women's Council in Switzerland, and elsewhere.



L-R M. Hakimi, Ozra Ziai, Dr. F. Parsa, F. Yeganegui



R-L 2nd and 3rd, Ozra Moshiri, Mehrangiz Dolatshahi



1957 newsclip Pakistan



Iranian Delegation to International Council of Women

Ozra Moshiri was appointed the first female director general of the Bureau of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) during the premiership of Hassan-Ali Mansour, a close family friend, and following Mansour's assassination by a member of the Fadā'iyān-e Islam in 1965, Undersecretary of the Ministry under Amir-Abbas Hoveyda.



Back row, 5th from R, next to Bahram Farmanfarma



Hassan-Ali Mansour and Hossein 1944-45



Undersecretary of Housing and Urban Development (*Ettela'at* interview)

Side-by-side with extensive contributions to advancing social welfare with a focus on youth and women, Ozra Moshiri Ziai's cardinal achievement was her 1961 initiative that transformed the lives of people suffering from leprosy in Iran. Supported by Health Minister Dr. Abdol-Hossein Rāji under the patronage of Shahbanou Farah, she proposed and helped build **Behkadeh Rāji** a fully functioning, economically self-sufficient village in the outskirts of Mashhad where the diseased, previously shunned and isolated, were able to live together and thrive with their healthy families. The development was a change-maker in the living standard, health, access, image, and economic prospects of the inhabitants and was subsequently replicated in Tabriz (Baba-Baghi) and elsewhere in Iran.



Youth Corps, Red Lion & Sun



Community Development work, Mashhad mid-1940s



RLSS Youth Corps greeting Ozra Moshiri and Maryam Firouz



Ozra Ziai in Madrid during Adolfo Suarez premiership



Kermanshah - organizing women volunteers

Ozra Moshiri was an indefatigable woman with a big heart. Fluent in French, English, and Azari Turkish, she knew volumes of classical Persian poetry by heart, was a loving daughter, a devoted wife and a gifted miniaturist, her husband's professional partner, and a loving mother and grandmother.



Ozra Ziai photo signed to her mother. Brussels 1938



Ozra and Mahmoud Ziai 1939



The Ziais at home in Tehran 1989



Miniature painting of Mahmoud Ziai by Ozra Ziai



Ozra Moshiri artwork



Nurse's Aides graduation. Mashhad 1956



Ziais meeting with the head of the Finnish Parliament. Helsinki late 1960s



Ozra Ziai and Hossein 1944-45



Ozra Ziai and Hossein 1949



Ozra and Hossein Ziai c 1950



The Ziai family c 1955

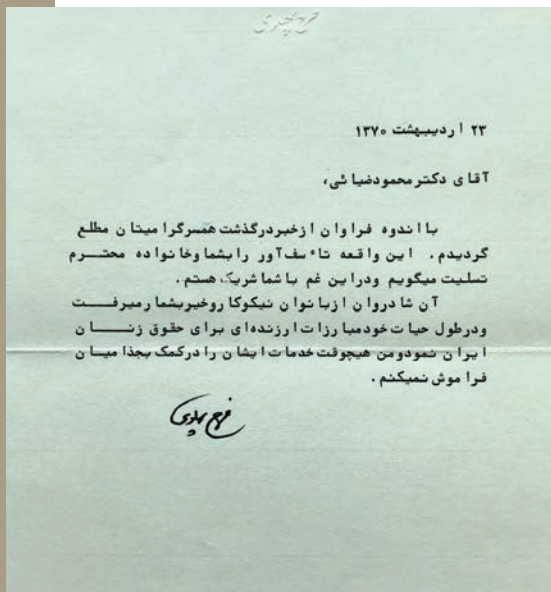


At home in Tehran 1959-1960



Grandparents, Dadali, and Mahasti. Cambridge 30 June 1973. Photo: Hossein Ziai

In March 1991, she and her husband spent six weeks in Los Angeles with their son Hossein and his family after a long period of separation. In mid-April, she asked her daughter-in-law to drop her off at the home of her friend and fellow social worker Sattareh Farmanfarmaiyan in Westwood. Just before getting out of the car, she expressed that she felt compelled to return to Iran where thousands of Kurds were stranded in the mountains and in desperate need of emergency help. Over the next hour, she remained in the car in the shade of a tree and gave an impassioned account of how she planned to organize and dispatch contingents of food, tents, clothing, and medical supplies to the Kurds over the mountain passes, with herself in tow. But that opportunity was not to come.



She passed away in Los Angeles on 28 April 1991. Her demise came about without warning or precedent less than twenty-four hours after she was hospitalized for abdominal pain whose nature remains unknown, leaving her husband of fifty-three years, family and friends, and tens of thousands of her beneficiaries and supporters in mourning.

Ozra Moshiri Ziai was laid to rest in Morning Light at Forest Lawn in the Hollywood Hills.

Shahbanou Farah Pahlavi condolence note to Dr. Mahmoud Ziai. May 1991

MOSHIRI FAMILY TREE

GENERAL ERA

