

MEMORIAL

Mohammad-Reza Moharreri: A Multi-dimensional Professor

For the first time, I became familiar with Professor Moharreri c.a. 1997 because of transferring a very old version of Zakhireh Kharazmi copied and given to him by my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Moattar. It was a long time when this famous Shirazi psychiatrist had been working on compiling this unique traditional Persian medical text in which he encountered and later reported tale-therapy, music-therapy, and other wonderful traditional psychological treatments. After that, I had this chance to visit him continuously in Hekmat, the Traditional and Islamic Medical group, Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences (IAMS) where he, as a permanent member, used to attend frequently up to the time when he lost physical abilities. For compiling Moharreri's memory book¹ as a selection of IAMS for receiving the first degree of Science Medal, I visited his office and home. The spaces were well adorned by paintings and calligraphies designed and dedicated to him by famous artists such as painting from Avicenna's description of love disease from Tajvidi, his portrait well painted by Khorosh as well as very nice calligraphies from Malekzadeh, Kalhor, and other eminent calligraphers. Despite today's one-dimensional aspect of medical students

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1- Mohammad-Reza Moharreri
Honor Book, 2006.



and academic staff, different dimensions of this great psychiatrist should be seen in an overview.

Firstly, his own favorites: following his family name denotation (Moharrer meaning a calligraphic writer) after his father's occupation, in addition to nice calligraphy writing, he is known as the founder of Fars Society for Calligraphy. He loved painting and kindly gave Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) museum his medical students' nice paintings of pathology samples (Figure 1). As a poet, his poems are well-known among Persians. Mansour Rastegar Fasaei, his old friend and professor of Persian literature, well indicated in his mourning²:

“your poem was the fine Shiraz language of loving, while the contents of your calligraphy prescription were only healing”

شعرت زبان فاخر شیراز عشق بود مضمون نسخه های خطت جز شفا نبود



Figure 1. Prof. Moharreri (fourth from the left) visiting Behbodestan Nemazee museum.

He showed and conveyed the special smell and nice shape of seasonal flowers and fruits growing in his home. This was his second dimension: connection with and attraction to nature. His implication of the unique odor of winter sweet flower in his yard to me with a sensation- like a poet- reflected his perceptions and his enthusiasm; he shared these feelings with people like a psychiatrist who gives some suggestions to his patient.



Thirdly, respecting humans: He was inspired by some old Persian scholars like Jorjani, and he spent more than 30 years of his life on compiling his prominent manuscript called *Zakhireh Kharazmshahi*³ as the starting traditional medical work in modern Iranian universities. Some years after the establishment of traditional pharmacy, he kindly agreed to teach this text to Ph.D. students. Since 1992, because of his attempts, classical teaching of medical ethics as well as medical history was introduced to Iranian medical universities. He told me about his home meetings with outstanding medical and literature professors, such as Mir and Nurani Vessal, his contemporary professors at Shiraz University, about science and art regularly all over the year.

He mentioned that his mother had taught him the holy Quran as the ultimate nice spiritual relation with Allah. He translated Nouroz prayer in Persian poem:

“Oh reformer of hearts and minds, Director of day and night and transformer of conditions, Change us to the best in accordance with your will”

ای دیده و دل از تو دگرگون مادام ای آنکه به تدبیر تو گردد ایام

وی آنکه بدست توست احوال جهان حکمی بنما که گردد ایام به کام

He had relations with self, nature, society, and he had spiritual relations in his life, which made him flexible, polite, kind, revered, patient, and at the same time serious as some features for a whole human, which are the minimum requirements for university professors. During his life, Shiraz psychiatric hospital, where he visited patients for more than 20 years, was named after him, Professor Moharreri Hospital by SUMS. Finally, this professor with sci-art traits slept next to his beloved nephew in Ghasr-Dasht gardens.

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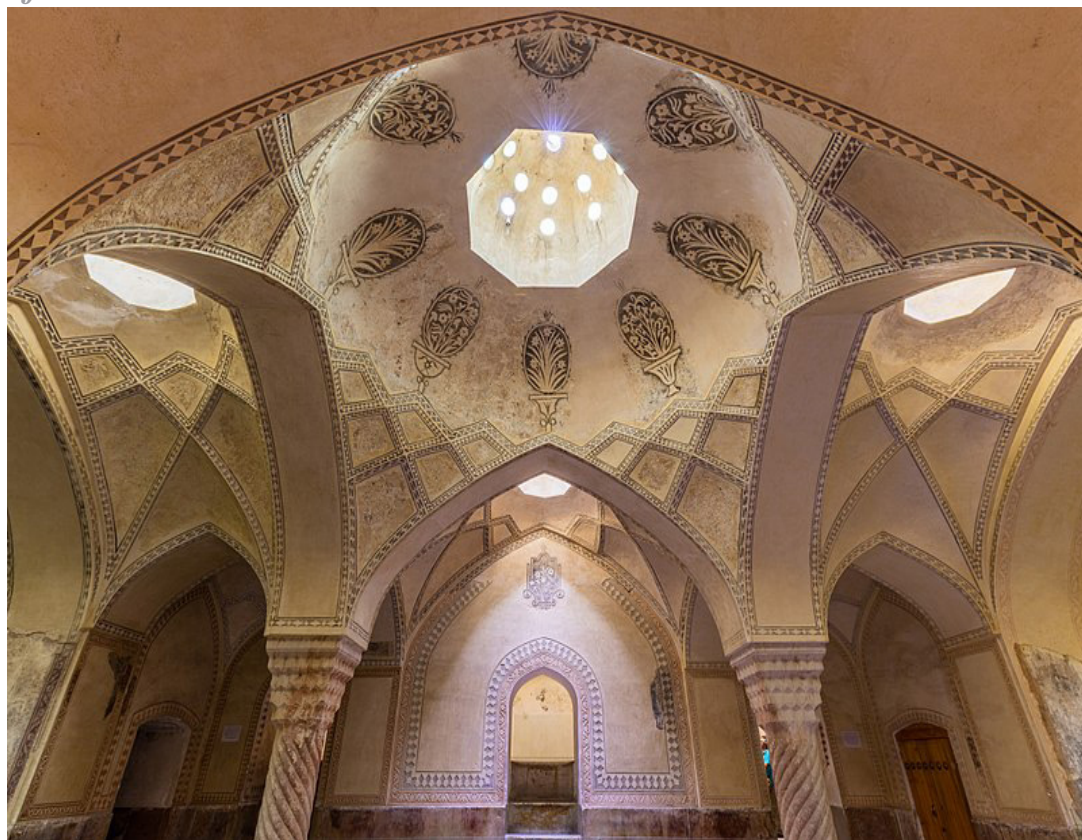
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3- Jorjani, 2001.





Vakil Bath is an old public bath in Shiraz, Iran. It was a part of the royal district constructed during Karim Khan Zand's reign.

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