

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres (1905-1987)
Son of Martyr Ayatollah Sayyed Hasan Modarres

Dear Editor,

Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres, the son of the martyr Ayatollah Sayyed Hasan Modarres, was born in Isfahan on Thursday, January 12th, 1905¹. He completed his primary education in this city. Having been elected as a leading mujtahid in the second term of the National Assembly in 1911, his late father emigrated to Tehran (Khajeh Nouri, 1978, pp. 3-7). He took his eldest son Sayyed Ismail with him and sent his other children to the town of Esfeh² to stay with their mother temporarily. They were supposed to join their father after he found a suitable place in Tehran. However, due to the death of their mother, the children were forced to leave for Tehran earlier. After coming to Tehran, Sayyed Abdolbaghi received his primary education in this city and studied religious sciences in the Sepahsalar college, which was entrusted to Ayatollah Modarres by order of Ahmad Shah on July 18, 1925 (Modarresi, 1987, p. 164). He continued studying there until the age of 13. He, then, went to Dar al-Fonun college and completed his medical studies there. According

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1- This date has been recorded by Shahid Modarres in his handwriting on the first page of his printed Quran, as follows: In the name of God, the Most Gracious, and the Most Merciful: Sayyed Abdolbaghi was born on Dhu'l Qa'dah, 6, 1332

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to Sayyed Mohsen Modarresi, son of Dr. Abdolbaghi, his father and Shahriyar (1906-1997), the renowned poet, were classmates at the Dar al-Fonun college. Ayatollah Modarres would like Abdolbaghi to pursue religious education and become a clergyman, like his father and brother, Sayyed Ismail, (Figure 1). However, when he saw his son's intense interest in medicine, he asked him, after becoming a physician, not to charge people for treatment (Modarresi, 2022, January 18); in the correspondence between Sayyed Abdolbaghi and his father, while he was in exile, Modarres always reminded Abdolbaghi "... Along with your profession (treating patients), do study Arabic science and literature, as whatever

AH, (Modarresi, 1987, Document No. 9)

2- It is one of the towns of Isfahan province, located 70 km southeast of Isfahan, in the suburbs of Ghomsheh (Shahreza).



Figure 1. Above: Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres in different periods of life; Below: Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres' medical ID card



you learn from this noble science, though little, is beneficial.” (Salehi, 2011, pp. 193-224). In 1928, the same year his father was sent into exile to Khaf, Abdolbaghi was one of the students who received the scholarship to continue their studies in Europe. He specialized as an internist in Paris. Having gone on a pilgrimage to sacred places in Iraq, he returned to Tehran in 1933. With the permission of the Police Department, while being accompanied by an officer, he went to visit his father in his exile (in Khaf), for three days (Modarresi, 1995, pp. 331-333). On his return to Tehran, he was hired by the Ministry of Health to work in various cities other than Tehran (Figure 1). In 1937, when he was appointed as the head of the Sanandaj Health Department, he was informed of his father’s martyrdom. From 1938 to 1941, he was in charge of the Hamedan Health Department. Among his colleagues in this period, we can name Dr. Ahmad Bahadoran (surgeon and dean of Pahlavi Hospital in Hamedan). After completing their commitment, they returned to Tehran together. Dr. Abdolbaghi again became the head of Hamedan Health Center from 1942 to 1943. After that, he served in cities such as Qasr-e Shirin, Malayer, Isfahan, Damghan, and Varamin. Having returned to Tehran, he settled in a house on Hoghooghi Street, Ghazavi Alley, where he visited the patients. After a while, he opened an office on Mirashrafi Street to visit the patient, but as mentioned before, he never charged his

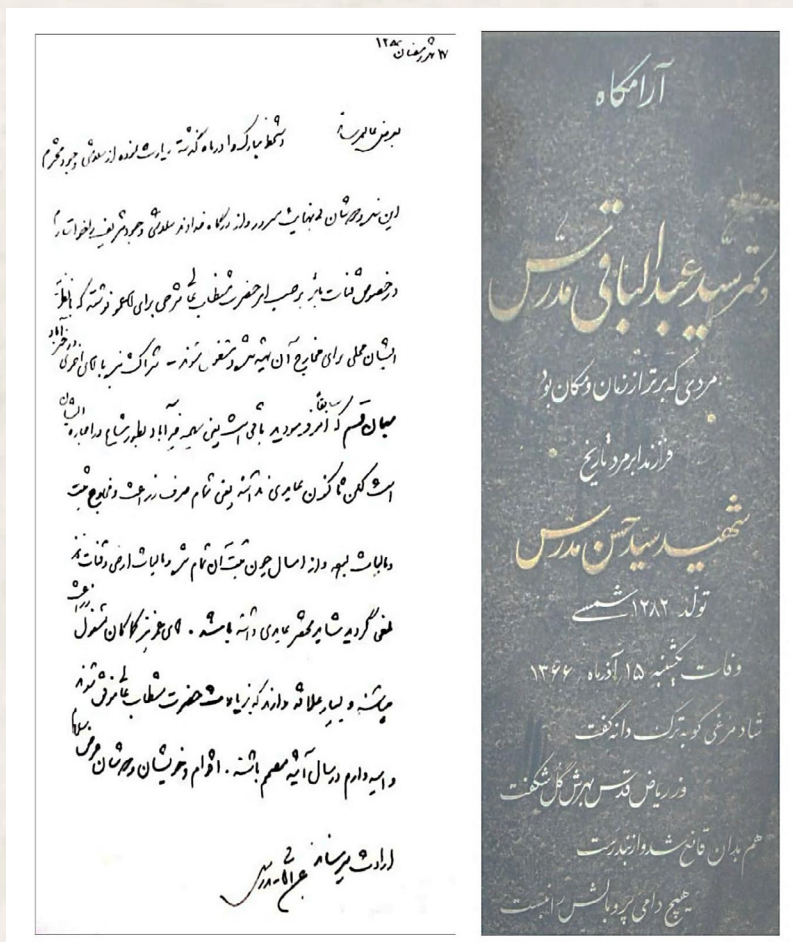


Figure 2. Left photo: An example of the handwriting and letter of Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres to his father while he was in exile in Khaf (December 25th, 1934); Right photo: The tomb of Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres in Ibn Babwayh Cemetery in Shahr-e Ray



patients on his father's advice. He lived on the salary from the Ministry of Health (Modarresi, 2022, January 18). In addition to medical sciences, Dr. Abdolbaghi was an expert in philosophy, wisdom, and mysticism. He analyzed and interpreted the poems of Hafez and Molavi in a nice and novel way. He also had good handwriting because he had learned calligraphy from the famous calligrapher Emad al-Kottab (1861-1936) (Figure 2). A letter of advice in his handwriting is left, addressing his son Sayyed Mohsen. He was also fluent in Arabic and French and studied classical literature in both languages. He was a witness to the life and struggles of his father and mentor, Ayatollah Modarres. He was always by his father's side during his stay in Iran and before his father's exile. (Modarresi, 1987, pp. 269-270). Dr. Sayyed Abdolbaghi Modarres died on December 6, 1987, and was buried in Ibn Babwayh Cemetery (Figure 1). He had four sons, named Sayyed Hossein (died 2006), Sayyed Mohsen, Sayyed Hasan, and Sayyed Mohammad Hossein, and one daughter, named Sayyedeh Masoumeh (died February 1400 due to Corona). He is survived by Mohsen and Mohammad Hossein (physician, living in Germany) (Modarresi, 2022, January 18; Salehi, 2012, pp. 264-5).

Conflict of Interest

None.

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