



‘ALĪ AKBAR ŠAHMĪRZĀDĪ

‘ALĪ AKBAR ŠAHMĪRZĀDĪ, ḤĀJJĪ MOLLĀ known as Ḥājj Ākund, a prominent Iranian Bahā’ī. Born in Šahmīrzād in 1258/1842, he was the son of Mollā ‘Abbās; he pursued a formal religious education in Mašhad, where he was converted to the Bahā’ī faith. His open expression of his new beliefs caused his expulsion from Mašhad and subsequently from Šahmīrzād. Thenceforth he lived in Tehran where he is said to have become so well known as a Bahā’ī that whenever there was any trouble, he would put on his *‘abā* and turban and sit awaiting the arrival of guards to take him away. He was arrested many times and imprisoned on at least the following occasions: in about 1285/1868 on the orders of Mollā ‘Alī Kanī; in 1289/1872 for seven months and in 1300/1882 for two years by Nā’eb-al-salṭana; in 1305/1887-88; in 1308/1891 for two years, when he was imprisoned with Ḥājjī Amīn and several political activists, though the Bahā’īs had not been active politically. He visited ‘Akkā three times: in about 1290/1873, about 1306/1888-89, and 1312/1894-95. Bahā’allāh appointed him one of four Hands of the Cause (*Ayādī-e Amr Allāh*), and he was entrusted with many important tasks such as the custodianship and transport of the remains of the Bāb and organizing and administering the Bahā’īs of Iran. He died in Tehran on 21 Rabī’ I 1328/4 March 1910.



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