



EBN ABHAR, MOḤAMMAD-TAQĪ

EBN ABHAR, MOḤAMMAD-TAQĪ (1270-1337/1854-1919), Bahai teacher and one of the “hands of the cause” (see [AYĀDĪ-E AMR-ALLĀH](#)). He was one of two Bahai sons of Mirza ‘Abd-al-Raḥīm Eṣfahānī (d. 1290/1872), the Shi‘ite *mojtahed*, a crypto-Babi and Bahai, and Belqīs Kānom. His zealous Bahai teaching in Zanjān, Qazvīn, Tehran, Yazd, Kermān, and elsewhere led to his frequent imprisonment, for the first time in 1295/1878. At various times resident or imprisoned in Abhar, between Qazvīn and Zanjān, he was entitled Ebn(-e) Abhar (“son of Abhar”) by [Bahā’-Allāh](#) in about 1300/1883. Around 1305/1887 Bahā’-Allāh appointed him one of the “hands of the cause.” Ebn(e) Abhar was imprisoned in Tehran in 1308-12/1890-94, and because he was chained with the same heavy chain that Bahā’-Allāh had worn in 1268-69/1852, the latter referred to him as his “chainmate” (*ham-zanjīr*). He became a permanent member of the first Central Spiritual Assembly established in Tehran at ‘Abd-al-Bahā’s direction in 1314/1897. In 1316/1899, on the advice of ‘Abd-al-Bahā’, he married Monīra (d. 1326/1918), a daughter of a “hand of the cause,” ‘[Alī-Akbar Šahmīrzādī](#). As a Bahai teacher, he visited Turkey and the Caucasus and lived for a while in Ashkhabad. He went to India in 1325/1907 accompanied by Mīrzā Maḥmūd Zarqānī and two American Bahais, Harlan Ober and Hooper Harris. In 1331/1913 he settled in Tehran. He visited Bahā’-Allāh or ‘Abd-al-Bahā’ on more than ten occasions. He and his wife were active supporters of female education and emancipation.



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