



## ḤĀJĪ BĀBĀ

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**ḤĀJĪ BĀBĀ**, a satirical and politically critical newspaper, published in Tehran between 12 Mehr 1328 Š./4 October 1949 and 28 Mordād 1332 Š./19 August 1953, in 173 weekly issues. Owing to censorship, Issues 140 to 145 were published under the name *Āqā Bābā*.

The key figure behind the production of *Ḥāji Bābā* was Parviz Ḳaṭībi-Nuri (b. Tehran, 1302 Š./1903, d. Los Angeles, 1372 Š./1993), who served as its director, editor and main author; he published his own satirical articles and poetry under the name “Ḥāji Bābā,” as well as a few other pseudonyms. Due to *Ḥāji Bābā*'s support for Dr. Moḥammad Moṣaddeq's government, after the coup d'état of 1332 Š./1953 Parviz Ḳaṭībi-Nuri was imprisoned for many years and banned from any further involvement in publishing; the office of the newspaper and his house were also confiscated.

After the Islamic revolution, Ḳaṭībi published Issues 174 to 186 (5 Ordibehešt-4 Mordād 1358 Š./2 April-26 July 1979), but in view of the political situation he did not consider it possible to continue publication inside Iran. He emigrated to America, and resumed the publication of *Ḥāji Bābā* in New York, from September 1979 until April 1980.

The lengthiest and most important of the three periods during which *Ḥāji Bābā* was published was the one that ended with the 28 Mordād 1332 Š./1953 coup d'état. During this time it flourished, and could boast a circulation of 50,000 copies (Farajīān and Najafzāda, p. 278). The newspaper was then published in a 35 x 50 cm format and included 4 pages of caricatures by the



artist Jamšid Waḥīdī. *Ḥāji Bābā* did not accept subscriptions. The price for a single copy was 3 riyals, increasing to 3 1/2 riyals in the last year of this period.

A complete set of *Ḥāji Bābā* exists in the Princeton University Library holdings, while incomplete sets are held by the following libraries in Iran: Ketāb-ḵāna-ye Markazi, Ketāb-ḵāna-ye Dānešgāh-e Tehrān, Ketāb-ḵāna-ye Melli-e Irān, Ketāb-ḵāna-ye Majles 1, Ketāb-ḵāna-ye Majles 2, and Ketāb-ḵāna-ye ‘Allāma-ye Ṭabāṭabā’i in Shiraz. The issues published in New York (the third period) are held in the Chicago University Library.

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