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MODARRESI, TAQI

MODARRESI, Taqi (b. Tehran 1931, d. Baltimore 1997), Persian novelist and psychiatrist who made his literary debut with the publication of his first novel, *Yakolyā wa tanhāʾi-e u* (Yakolya and Her Loneliness, 1955). He was born to Esmāʿil Modarresi, a lawyer, and Rāżia Ṭabāṭabāʾi, a great grand daughter of Sayyed Moḥammad Ṭabāṭabāʾi, a noted progressive cleric of the Constitutional Revolution era (1906-11 q. v.).

Two years after the young Taqi had begun elementary school, his father passed away, leaving behind a widow and three sons who subsequently moved into Modarresi's maternal grandfather's house. In an interview with ʿAli Dehbāši, Modarresi speaks of the unfortunate convergence of family misfortune and the hardships visited upon Persia because of the Allied occupation of the country, as well as, his early exposure to an intellectual and literary world: "Those days, our home was a gathering place for a few opponents of Reżā Shah's regime. Frequently I would sit and listen to them until I fell asleep. Other times, my mother would gather us around her and read to us from Neẓāmi's *Haft peykar*" (Dehbāši. p. 272). Later his grandfather's personal library provided him with a wealth of reading material, some of which inspired his literary creations.

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