

-Translated by Adel Shafipour and edited by

Biography of Ishraq-Khavari

His Parents and Ancestors:

Ishraq Khavari was born in the family of Muslim descent. The father of his great grandfather Sheikh Muhammad's name recorded in the biography of Ulama of Shies with no detail about his life. His son Sheikh Abdul-Rahim was a student of Sheikh Morteza Ansari. Sheikh Abdul-Rahim (great grandfather) was Custodian of Astan Qudes Razavi (A Custodian for Shrine of Imam Reza) which appointed by Naser'u'din Shah of Qajar. A story related by Ishraq Khavari himself ¹ that, "A sheikh by name of Sheikh Abdul-Rahim which was poor went to Attibb`at (holy city of Kerbela and Najaf) for completion of his religious study for few years, in his way back to Iran went to Khorasan in city of Mashhad for Pilgrim to Imam Reza (8th Imam). At same time, a well-known Mujtahids by name of Abdul-Rahim Nahavandi from Tehran went to Mashhad for pilgrim. Shah sent a cablegram to Valie (Mayer) of Mashhad that when Sheikh Abdul-Rahim entered make sure you pay homage and tribute to sheikh. When escort of patronage entered to the appointed place, they asked for sheikh Abdul-Rahim. The response made that, I am sheikh Abdul-Rahim; they forget the surname of Nahavandi. They took this sheikh to Sheriff-Abad about 18 kilometers far from shrine, paid him respect, and took care of him. However, the other sheikh, Nahavandi came and done his pilgrim and went stray. Later on, the Mayer found what mistake been occurred but never the less, He did not brought up the matter. As result of that this Sheikh Abdul-Rahim reside in city of Mashhad gradually made reputation and fortune and by order of Naser'u'din Shah became appointed custodian of Astan Qudes Razavi (Imam Reza's Shrine).After him his son Abdul-Husain became his successor. He was less knowledgeable and educated, but very hypocrite (por Hileh), he made more fortune and multiple wives with many children not worry about their education only making and having more kids. One of his sons was Sheikh Ahmad the father of our late Ishraq-Khavari. He also was like his father-loved money, fortune, women, Along with Ishraq-Khavari's mother; he too married with many women, along with multiple concubines. His women are more then Fath-Ali-Shah's women in Harem. One of the women that he married was Ishraq-Khavari's Mother. She was also his paternal cousin .He once in month would come to her that only for money and the rest of the time he would go to his other women. This kind of manner which would appear from him caused between them separation but he would bring some one to make peace and reconciliation. At the end, their separation finalized.

Birth:

Ishraq-Khavari was born at the dawn of the eighth of Rajab in the year of 1320 A.H accorded by 18th Mehr of 1281 H.Sh (shamsi) which is **(12 October of 1902 A.D)** in Darband Ali khan St. in City of Mashhad. His father for finding name for him, opened Quran and the verse he found at the top of opening page was, "Ina`hou Hamidun Majid" , "Verily, He is praised and glorified". Therefore, he named his son Abdul-Hamid, (The servant of praised one).This boy under the verdant love and

¹ - *Masabih Hedayat volume 9 -Pp. 9-11*

tender care of his Mother and grandmother grow and brought up. He was so pleased from both of them. His mother was well read and she was memorized numerous poems from Persian famous poets such as Hafiz, Sadie, Ferdousi, and Qa`ani. She thought him all those that she knew. Her grandmother was a very virtuous woman. She often Put him to sleep, at down woke him up, and took him to the small water pool at courtyard. She let him to perform abolition, and then he would do the Obligatory prayer and reciting of Islamic Prayer (Addeihe) particularly, Morning Prayer of Hazrat Amir (Ali) and prayer of Ahd Namih (Covenant) which she taught him by herself, made him to say and perform it. Then she would tell the meaning of that prayer in Farsi. At Friday night of each week set him with her, along with him reading and reciting the prayer of Komail. He memorized that prayer as well. Once a week, she took him to shrine of Imam Reza. Gradually, He memorized all the payer of visitations. She often narrating from the book called "Qesas'ul'Anbia" all the story lives of all messengers of God. By this way, he planted the seed of love of religion in his heart and made him a God loving child, to the extend that when he was ten years old he would fasting at Ramadan. One of the very hot summer day of Ramadan, when he was thirst, he would go to the under ground room. There was cool and humid, he was putting his belly on the ground, which that way reduce his thirst by cooling off. His grand mother would tell him that God is everywhere, He knows and sees everything and He does not like liars and hypocrites.

Education:

At age of four when in Iran, there were no electricity, cars, regular schools or colleges exist, he went to a private tutelage rooms (Maktab Khanih) run by an old woman by name of Bibi Sakinih reading and learning a few comic poetic books such as "kulthum Nanih, Cat and mice of Obid Zakani, Khalih Suskih". After age of seven, He went to Rahmantih School. It was school were founded newly, the principal was very kind and good-hearted man, and there were a very many good and knowledgeable instructors. This school had only up to seven grades. It had a very heavy and intensive program. Ishraq-Khavari was one of the best among students the manner and way of sharihe and performing the act of worshipping, therefore; he became the leading figure for congregational prayer. Every noon and eve, student follows his lead and says the prayer. Because, he was very smart and brilliant, always he was a lead student at classroom. Any time a teacher was absent, the principle of school put him in charge of that classroom. In brief, he was in that school for seven years. He learned Math, literature, Usage and grammar in Arabic writings, and reading. He also memorized lots of article from a book called Atbagh'u'Zahab. Because in city of Mashhad was not any further program for higher grade. Therefore, He entered to old style school. For early time, he entered to Mirza Jaffar School then later on to Fazil Khan School, he finished his religious training in primary lessons. Then at Navab School, he rent a room and resides there. In days, he would go to classroom and learn, at night he would to his room. Because, he was not zealot and interested about jurisprudence, therefore, he would love literature, mystical understanding, philosophical matters and the life story of Mystic persons. At that time, there were much great tutelages in city of Mashhad. Arabic literature his teacher was Mirza Abdul-Jawad Adib Nishabouri. This man found the very value of Ishraq-Khavari, his sharp mindedness, memory, and learning capacity. He encouraged Ishraq-Khavari to memorize some chosen passage in Arabic literature. He also done as he had told, he memorized "Maghamat Hariri", some famous ode, and Pieces from great Arabic masterpieces, also poems and Khotabs from Book of "Nahj'u'Balagheh". He had in mine to memorize all Quran. He did memorize some chapters "Surih" of it. Many nights he was wake and speeding on his learning. Little by little, he became a very knowledgeable person, memorized many

books, and was an encyclopedic mind. He studied the "Sharhi Manzomih Haji Mulla Hadi Sabzevari" with Adib, but he was not expert in that field, so it was not very fruitful. It also, at same time some times he would lock the door of his room and read some of Sheikh Ahmad Ahsaie , Seyyed Kazem Rashti , and Muhi'u'Din Arabi's books. He also in the presence of Aqa Bozorg A great tutelage of Philosophy learned the "Sharhi Hedayat" of Mulla Sadra. He did this with strong sense of seriousness, because he thought that he could find his loving desire in the words of philosophers, Hakims, and Mystics, but alas, those did not answer to his heart quest. Then, he made decision to do hardship on his body and purify his heart and soul until be ready for acceptance of radiant light of truth. To this understand the mystery and secret of world of creations, also he wished and prays to comprehend and reach and be able to visit the Waiting Imam. In summery, by age of 20 He completed his education and training of Jurisprudence. His trainers and instructors from childhood until time of his adulthood were 1- Bibi Siyyidih 2- Mullah Abdul-Motaleb Azghandi 2- Hajji Mohaghegh 4- Hajji Aqa Bozorg Turk 5- Aqa Bozorg Shahidi 6- Aqa sheikh Tahir 7- Adib Nishabouri.

His traveling before His Acceptance of Baha'i Faith:

In his word, he says, "Upon familiarizing with the thoughts of great philosophers and studyings of Sheikh Ahmad Ahsaie and reading of "Sharih Qasidih" of Seyyed Kazem Rashti I was traveling in other world. I made decision to take trip and go different places and cities until I become a very distinguished and knowledgeable scholar and true leader. Therefore, I trusted on God and without informing my parents, I embarked and left with a little money walking toward final destination. Before that time, I never traveled anywhere, so I left the house in my way to the masque of Jamih Ghouharshad; I asked the bookseller that I knew him. Please give me the Divan of Hafiz². I opened that book; I saw this poem came in:

"Thou doest welcome me in my wayfarer, O my Mystic Bird"

"The Path is long and I am a new wayfarer on this Road"

"Blessed art that Day, which I fly away from this World"

"From thy Path, all of my ranks asked me about it, how I did?"³

I became zealot and took up the road. Alone and by way of walking, I went and I was confused and lost for five years. In Tehran, I met many educated and distinguished people of all ranks from philosophers and scientists. I went to city of Quem, in that city I benefited from Hujjat'ul'Islam Sheikh Abdul-Karim Yazdi. In Isfahan, I learned philosophy from the very presence of Sheikh Muhammad Khorasani May god rest his soul. I also benefited from Aqa Rahim Arbab. I continued and completed my study of philosophy in there. Then, I took trip to other places such as Yazd, Gilan, Mazandaran, Qazvin, Kermanshah, Iraq, Hamedan, and all other cities and providences. At end, I entered in Malayer of Dawlat Abad. Upon request of inhabitants, I resided there and in madrisih and Masque, I became a very popular Sheikh and spiritual leader of People. I obtained such a reputation that People of Bazaar (dweller of market place) would kiss my hand and feet. They would call me the 13teen Imam.

² - It is a book of Poem by Hafiz that mostly people of Iran look into for guidance and directions.

³ -Hafiz - Persian Poem No....

At The Time of Acceptance of Mighty and Blessed Cause:

Up to that moment, I was not aware of the Baha'i faith. All I knew, were those polemic books, which I read would summarize my knowledge about faith. One day an old man which he was employed by the department of (financial and Taxes?) came to me and invited me to his house for dinner. I thought this is a same routine invitation, which mostly I was getting every known then. He invited mostly lawyer and other prominent people of different ranks. His name was Mirza Hadi from Broujerd. He had a big mustache but he cut his beard with clipper. He had a pants and coat and a clock at top of them on his shoulder. It was in wintertime and everywhere was frozen, we entered into courtyard and from there we went to a small room, which had a wooden heater. At the time of arrival I went straight ahead, I set opposite to the door, I was not paying attention, at that time, other also find the place for sitting with difficulty. Suddenly, I noticed a big man at side of entrance to the door closed to heater sitting, his eyes was big and he had a chubby face with thick lips and a custom black hat of that time, a tie and buttoned coat, but his belly were shown off. He sat with his knees, because that time sitting on chair was not custom. Even though, in that time at the house of rich and prominent people still people were sitting on ground. I did not aware of any thing but I was wondered after saw him all of my companion were began to smoke cigarette, I was too addicted to smoking cigarette therefore I did too. (After, I believe in Bahá'í Faith I quite smoking, thanks God to this day I don't have any bad habits this is a bounty of Blessed beauty, Baha'u'llah). The door of that room opened and a cold and freezing air rushed in as result of that smoked air moved out and reduced the pollution. At the same time, Aqa Mirza Hadi came with a tray of teas. Because, he carried teas from a distance room to this room, all teas get cold. We drank those teas and because that room was small and no empty place left, he sat in the center of room closed by heater and referred to me and said, "I wanted to give you a glad tiding." I said, "Very well, please tell me." He said, "Qa'im All Muhammad, the promised one of all religion is appeared and he enlightens the entire world with his light." I asked, "when, where, and who is He, what is his name, what is proof, Does he has any book?" He said, "His name is Ali Muhammad, the primal Point, The remembrance of great God. He is from Shiraz and he enlightened the world with his light."

...This man did not have a proper education, it would appear to me that he memorized all this and said it like a parrot. He said this entire one after the other sentence and then looked on me and tries to find out that what my reactions about all those comment he made were. At that time, I understood that he is a Babi (Baha'i). I got a thoughtful gesture and I said to me self might be they put some drug to my food or tea or possibly do a magic on me. I saw no effect or influence on me. I began to converse with him. It was very interesting and sweet discussion and debate I had with him. At the midst of our discussion that chubby man which he was silent start to bud in and began to talk. He said, "Please, Mr. Hadie allowed me to discuss this matter to this man. He began to elaborate lots of discussion, which related to this kind of religious conversation which all of you familiar with about defending the mighty cause from refutation. Other conversion tone changed to a heat up an argument. I denied everything, God, prophet, Quran, and Hadith. That great man spoke to me for four hours all of a sudden he got angry but I was very calm and polite during the course of discussion. However, he was crying and yelling, I was very happy of his reaction was such a bitter and to me that was a sign of weakness and loss for this debate. My companions enjoyed and laughed

at him for his behavior, at that moment; he said a few good stories, which related to my denial. At the end of our heated up conversation he got upset and did not talk to us any more. We saw the situation like that; we wanted to leave without eating dinner, But Aqa Mirza Hadi kept us until morning. That good old man did not say anything. Aqa Mirza Hadi brought some secret writing and read it for me, but it did not affect me. I asked that man name. He said, " my name is Abdullah famous as Motlaq like Romi said in his Poem:

Motlaq, This synet and song is from King Throat,
Even though is coming out of Abdullah's⁴ throat.

At that day, Mr. Motlaq upon instruction of N.S.A went to Shah Abad Iraq. So, in that city that I reside roomer went around and it became popular among people that last night Jinab Sheikh had a good discussion with a very great Baha'i teacher (Mobalegh Bahá'í) and put him in his place as result of him which lost battle of that debate, he run out and left city of Malayer. Although the behavior of Mr. Motlaq was very harsh and unpleasant, it put me two years behind to accept the truth of this glorious faith of God. Later we became friend and we often talk about that night, but at first he did not believe that I became Baha'i. At same time Jinab Mirza Yousef Khan Vejdani came to Malayer . *(The story of believing in Bahá'í faith look at MASBH vol 9)* I reached the stage of certitude. When I became Baha'i, the news broke out in that city and every thing went bizarre. It became popular that I became Babi. The ulama of Malayer issued an order for my murder. I was not secure about my life at that moment. Later on, I found out the LSA of Malayer cablegram to LSA of Hamadan, Tehran and Kermanshah and send message to head of army in Malayer for my protection. At that juncture of my life because I did not have anywhere to go, I spending every night at the house of the one of the members of LSA of Malayer. At next night they would transfer me to some one else's house. Finally, I took a trip to Broujerd and from there to Hamadan. Under the kind supervision of LSA of Hamadan, they choose me to become a teacher for Ta'ied a Bahá'í High school. The first thing they instructed me was change my clothes from turban to hat and clock to coat and trousers and slipper to bouts. I stayed there for two years. The tests and trail of God was vehement. The pouring of calamity and difficulties were begun and with no choice, I traveled to Khuzestan. I was another two years in Khoramshar and Ahvaz lived there and worked at educational department. Then I traveled to Tehran at that time, LSA of Hamadan called me again for Ta'ied School to be in charge of literature department. However, there were some jealous people accused me of some, therefore again the tests and difficulties wafted over me. I had no choice that left there and came to Tehran and I got job at daily news on the section translation of Arabic to Farsi. I was there and participated of Bahá'í activity and serving in different institutions. I bought House and settle dawn then the hand of destiny changed my life.

Services and Traveling of after believing of Baha'i Faith:

After

⁴ - Abdullah means the servant of God.

His End of Life:

His Books and Publications:

Baha'i Books (Published):

1- Ma`edih Asmani (Heavenly Nourishment) - Nine (9) volumes

This is a Compilations and collections of many different Tablets written in verities of subjects. This nine volumes are which compiled by Ishraq-Khavari as result of his traveling as a travel teacher when he went in different cities he collected from Baha'i believers which their ancestor or even they were the recipient of many tablets and later on he published those valuables volumes. Volumes one, four, seven, and eight are all tablets of Baha'u'llah. Volumes two, five, nine are the writings of Abdul-Baha and volumes three and six are the writings and letters of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani.

2- Rahigh Makhtoum (The sealed choice Wine) - Two volumes

This is a commentary on the letter of 101 badie. Like God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani wrote a letter ... For Baha'i friends in East but this Tawqih (letter) is very condensed and difficult to read. It has many terminology and brief historical comments. Upon the recommendation of National Spiritual assembly of Iran Ishraq-Khavari wrote a two volumes of commentary for that letter. Dr.Khazeh Fana-Napazier translates the Arabic portion of this letter.

3- Asrar Rabbani (The Divan Mystery) - Three volumes

This is a commentary on the letter of 105 badie. Shoghi Effendi Rabbani wrote a letter 105 Badi for Baha'i friends in East but this Tawqih (letter) is also condensed and difficult to read. It has many terminology and brief historical comments. Upon the recommendation of National Spiritual assembly of Iran Ishraq-Khavari wrote a two volumes of commentary for that letter. The third volumes of this commentary designated to Tawqih (letter) 110 B.E.

4- Qamous Kitab Iqan (A commentary to book of Iqan) - Four volumes

There is four detailed volumes of commentary to Kitab Iqan wrote by Ishraq-Khavari with a dictionary to the end of these volumes that explain all difficult words of kitab Iqan according

to instructions of NSA of Iran. He completed this task. These books are electronically published in Here:

There is also a brief summary of these books published in one volume. This book also can be finding in here:

5- Azkar Al-Mogharebin (Remembrance of Near ones) - three volumes

It is a collections of Arabic prayer from The Bab, Baha'u'llah, Abdul-Baha, and Shoghi Effendi Rabbani.

6- Tashbih VA Tahlil (0000) - One volume

This book is about important tablet and prayers in different topic. It also contains all obligatory prayers and prayer for dead and fasting prayers, tablet of Ahmad, Fire tablet and others. This book can be found in Here:

7- Payam Malakout (The Massage of Realm of God)

This book is a very detailed of spiritual and social teachings of Baha'i faith based many tablets and writings that used by author. He explains 15-(?) topic s in detail. Topics such as 1-Eqalituy between men and woman, 2- Illumination of prejudices 3- Religion must bring Unity and Amity, 4- Oneness of God, Oneness of Mankind , and

8- Dorooj Leali Hidayat () -Three volumes

9- Payam Baha'u'llah (From Baha'u'llah and New Era by Dr. J. Is Lemont)

10- Sharih haleh Hazrat Qusnih-AttHar

This is a brief biography about life of Mirza Mehdi son of Baha'u'llah which passed away at age of 22 years old.

11- Talkhisih Tarikh Nabil (Dawn Breaker)

This book translated from English to Arabic by Abdul-Jalil Bik Sa`ad . Ishraq-Khavari translated from Arabic to Farsi. The footnotes are not translated.

12- Ganjinih- Hodoud VA Ahkam (A treasure of Law and ordinances) - One volume

This is a summarized book from a commentary to kitab Aqdas which written by Ishraq Khavari. He took that from his four volumes books of Teraz 'ul'Atlas Lel-Kitab'ul'Aqdas (A commentary for book of Aqdas)

Ganjinih- Hodoud VA Ahkam can be finding in here:

13- Ayam Tisih (The Nine Days) - One volume

This book is about a detail of explanation of Nine Baha'i Holidays. It also contains all original documents and tablet about these subjects' matters. Book can be found in Here:

14- Tarjomih Tebyan va Borhan (Translation of Utterance and Proof) - Two volumes

These books are written in Arabic. It is a response to polemic that written from Sunnis point of view. Ishraq Khavari translated from Arabic.

15- Tarjomih Dalil va Irshad (Translation of Reason and Guidance)

This also a book from prophesy and reason along with Hadith and Quranic verses from Sunnis point of view. It translated by Ishraq-Khavari.

16- Taqvim Tarikh Amr (Baha'i daily recording calendar)

17- Mohazerat (0000) - Volume three (3)

The third volume did not publish yet. These books are about different subjects, which a group of his Baha'i students asked him different questions about different topics. He responded and later on, he wrote them down and published at their request by approval of NSA of Iran.

18- Ganjih Shaygan (A complementary treasure)

19- Nourien and Na`yerain (Two light shining and Scentelighting Star)

This book is about a sacrificial life of two followers of Baha'u'llah from Isfahan. These two beloved martyrs are Aqa Muhammad Hassan and Aqa Muhammad Husain Nahri surnamed by Baha'u'llah as Sultan of Shohada (King of Martyr) and Mahboob'u'Shohada (Beloved martyr). They have been killed by order of Imam Jumih and sheikh Muhammad Tahir Najafie and his son Sheikh Hassan Najafie (son of the wolf).

20- Athar Qalam Al`a volume three and volume four also compiled and ordered along with a dictionary with in the books put it together by Ishraq-Khavari. These two books also can be founded in here:

21- Yadgarha - (this is a series of type recorded about Kitab Aqdas. It typed and published by Vahid Rafati). This book can be found in Here:

2- Golzar Naiem (a brief definition of Naiem's poem)

This book is a brief version of explanatory of Naiem's Poetry, which summarized from those five volumes in one volume.

Baha'i Books (Unpublished):

1- Tafzil 'u'Dor Yatim Fi Sharhe Asha`r Naiem (Definitions of Pearl) - Five (5) volumes

This is a detailed explanation of the Naiem's Poetry (A famous Baha'i Poet of Time of

Abdul-Baha). This books written in Five volumes but Ishraq Khavari summarized this books in two volumes and published under the title of Janna` t Naiem (Poetry of Naiem and explanation of his poem)

22- Tarikh Malayer VA Hamedan (unpublished)

23- Tarikh Isfahan (Unpublished)

This book is a brief version of explanatory of Naiem's Poetry, which summarized from those five volumes in one volume.

3- Qamous Lawh Sheikh Najafie (A commentary for Tablet of Aqa Najafie -The Son of Wolf) - One volume

4- Mohazerat (0000) - Volume three (3)

The third volume did not publish yet. These books are about different subjects, which a group of his Baha'i students asked him different questions about different topics. He responded and later on, he wrote them down and published at their request by approval of NSA of Iran.

5- Afaq va Anfous in 12 volumes

6- Daerat'u'l - Ma`arif Amri (A Baha'i Encyclopedia) - In Nineteen volumes

This encyclopedia published electronically by H-Baha'i in 16 volumes in here:

7- Safar Namih Latef Athmar Min Hadiogh'u'Asfar (A diary of nit and fruitful trips of paradise) - five volumes

It seems that Ishraq-Khavari wrote these five volumes about his teaching trips and recorded all of his discussion with different people about faith. It is a response to refutation and criticism toward Baha'i faith. The writer of this few notes believe that Aqdah Al-Falah is a similar to these books. It also been told by Ishraq Khavari "A chain of talks in response to refutation and criticism by Refuters" and found in here:

8- Teraz 'ul'Atlas Lel-Kitab'ul'Aqdas (A commentary for book of Aqdas) -⁵ Four volumes

This is a detailed commentry to kitab Aqdas which written by Ishraq Khavari later on he made a summary of that book and published under the name of Ganjinih- Hodoud va Ahkam. Ganjinih- Hodoud va Ahkam can be find in here:

Non-Baha'i Books:

⁵ - Sulaymani in Masabih Hidayat volume nine(9)- Pp.121, Says " this books written in Five volumes"

1- Amin VA Mamoun (Amin and Mamoun)

This is an Arabic book by Jorgi Zaydan, which Ishraq-Khavari translated and published by vahid Dastgerdi's Publishing trust.

2- Doushizeh Ghirvan (Miss. Of Ghirvan)

This is an Arabic book by Jorgi Zaydan, which Ishraq-Khavari translated and published by vahid Dastgerdi's Publishing trust.

3- Sofrih Ghalandar (A dervishes offering Nourishment)

It is a selection of prose and poem by Ishraq Khavari. (Unpublished)

Biographical Notes:

- 1- From Ahang Badie no.5 & 6 of year 129 Badí *(Aug-Sept 1971)*
- 2- Masabih Hedayat volume 9. Pp.*