IN THE NAME OF GOD

Commemorating seven decades of
Master Mohammad Ali Movahed’s Active Life

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Ceremony commemorating decades of Master 7

Mohammad Ali Movahed’s Active Life
Professor biography
Dr. Mohammad Ali Movahed

Introduction
On 18 December 2018, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO organized a meeting to commemorate Master Mohammad Ali Movahed, Iranian jurist, mystic and philosopher and translator of the articles of “Shams of Tabriz”, renowned Iranian mystic.

Biography
In 1332, Movahed translated Ibn Battuta’s travelogue, which was published in 1336. The translation was a success and Movahed was admired and encouraged by great Masters such as, Mojtaba Minavi and Mohammad Ali Jamalzadeh.
Movahed studied at the Faculty of Law and Political Science of Tehran
University and got his PhD in Private Law. In 1338, he went to England to continue his studies in International Law at Cambridge University under the supervision of Professor Jennings and professor Schwarzenegger in London.

At that time, he worked with prominent Iranologists such as Arthur Abery, Vladimir Minorski and Lockhart. He also began to work on the manuscripts of Britain Museum and chose Suluk al-Muluk by Fazl Allah b. Muhammad Khunji Isfahani for his work.

He also worked at the National Iranian Oil Company at different positions (Senior Advisor, head of directing board and member of directing board).

At the beginning of OPEC’s establishment, he has been executive assistant of the organization for six months in Geneva.

Iranian Oil Industry

Just in the same way that oil has been woven into our political and economic history, the name of Mohammad Ali Movahed is woven into history of the Iranian oil industry. If it were not for his efforts, the story of the black gold would have been buried in the minds of researchers. He managed to shed some light on hidden aspects of oil 100 years after it was discovered by writing his book, Agitated Oil Dream. The preface of his book reads, “Oil is a sign of agitations and conflicts. Woe betides those who dream oil.”

Movahed has thus far published three volume of the “Agitated Oil Dream”. The first volume focuses on the oil nationalization movement under the late Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq and the second book is continuation of the same story under General Zahedi as prime minister. The first volume covers Iran’s history before the coup d’état of August 19, 1953 while the second book covers developments following the coup up to the fall of Zahedi. The third volume is entitled “From August 19 Coup d’état to Fall of Zahedi” and gives complete explanations about a 20-month period from the coup up to the fall of General Zahedi. This is for the first time that classified information and details of consortium contract are made public. The first volume has been published three times and the third volume has been hailed by researchers on the Iranian history. It has been published concurrent with the second editions of the first and second volumes. Belated publication of the third volume indicates the importance that has been attached to details by the author.

Works:
- Maqalat-e Shams-e Tabrizi (Discourse of Shams-e- Tabrizi)
- Agitated Oil Dream
Ceremony commemorating 7 decades of Master Mohammad Ali Movahed’s Active Life

On 18 December 2018, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO organized a meeting to commemorate Master Mohammad Ali Movahed, Iranian jurist, mystic and philosopher and translator of the articles of “Shams of Tabriz”, renowned Iranian mystic. At this meeting, the French translation of Maqalat-e Shams-e Tabrizi by Charles-Henri De Fouclocour was launched and the first Medal of Excellence of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO was awarded to Master Mo-
vahed and the stamp of Master Movahed was also launched.

The meeting was attended by Seyyed Ahmadreza Khezri, Advisor to the Chairman and Director General of the Presidential Office and Public Relations department of University of Tehran, Mohammad Hassan Talebian, Deputy Director of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, Hassan Balkhari, Head of the Society for Appreciation of Cultural Works and Dignitaries, Shahindokht Molaverdi, Special Assistant to the President for Citizenship Rights, Hossein Masoumi Hamedani, a member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature and representative of Khoy people in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Professor Shafee Kadkani, poet, Fattollah Mojtabayi, founder of religion studies and comparative mysticism in Iran, Tofagh Sobhani, Researcher in Mowlana Studies, Abdol-Mahdi Mostakin, Cultural Advisor at the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Javad Sabbagh, Executive assistant of the Secretary-General at the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

After the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem of the IR of IRAN, the meeting began with a video clip, introducing Master Movahed by the scholar, Dr Mostafa Malekian.
Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi:

Master Movahed is a “masterpiece of artistry in person”
The meeting continued with a speech by Dr Ayoubi, Secretary General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO. He began by poetry of Sham of Tabriz. He referred to Master Movahed as a person who managed to link to Shams of Tabriz and to interpret him in a way that Master Charles-Henri De Fouchecour managed to translate Shams of Tabriz into French. "My greatest mission in this meeting is to tell you all that Master Movahed had no intention of gathering you here and troubling you. But he desired this meeting to be a commemoration of Master De Fouchecour". Master Movahed is a "masterpiece of artistry in person", said the speaker.

Ayoubi continued: «Master Movahed is a prominent lawyer, a member of the Persian Academy of Persian Language and Literature, a historian and mystic scholar, who has devoted his life to research, compilation and translation, and one of his greatest works is his critical printing of Maqalat-e Shams-e Tabrizi. I always urge all my students to visit Master Movahed, because his outstanding personality and his thoughts help you gain knowledge about Iran and Islam.»

He then introduced the French translation of Shams of Tabrizi by Charles-Henri De Fouchecour, a masterpiece that was launched at this meeting. De Fouchecour has published the book under the title “La Quête du Joyau: Maqālāt-e Shams al-din Tabrizi” in October 2017. The book contains the direct teachings of the outstanding master Shams, having been restored through notes taken by his disciples.

Ayoubi said: «De Fouchecour has translated 326 sections of Maqalat-e Shams-e Tabrizi. He also explains the mystic words of Shams Tabrizi and Mowlana in the last 80 pages of his book.»
Dr Merghati, Assistant Professor at Tehran University, read the message of the Governor of East Azerbaijan, Mohammad-reza Pour Mohammadi

The text of his message is as follows:

«Master Movahed is one of the dignitaries of our country, who has transformed the contemporary history of Iran by his innovative research. He is a luminary in the history of Iran and Azerbaijan. Throughout his life, Master Movahed has made great attempts to defend the rights of the Iranian people and to promote the culture and literacy of Iran. Even now, at the age of 95, he is doing research eagerly and moving forward on the path of knowledge steadfastly. Passage of years might have reduced his physical ability, but he has never lost his motivation for research and study.»

Before reading the message of the governor of Azerbaijan, Dr Merghati emphasised the innovative dimension of the nature of Master Movahed and said: «Master Movahed is an insightful scientist who has inspired the society by his scholarly opinions.»
Gholam-ali Haddad Adel Head of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature:

Master Movahed is unique in Mowlana studies

Head of The Academy of Persian Language and Literature said: «Master Movahed is unique in Mowlana studies. It is an honor for our country that Master Movahed has succeeded in introducing Mowlana to the world. Wide range of knowledge, insight, and interest in culture and literature are the traits that make him unique.»

The speaker emphasised: «Master Movahed is very modest and is eager to hear rather than being a speaker. In his personality, the» I«, who is Satan, is curbed and he is a deeply religious man.»
Hossein Masoumi Hamedani, a member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature:

Movahed describes the personality of Shams in a way that goes beyond the national borders

Hossein Masoumi Hamedani, member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, emphasised the need of commemorating cultural personalities to help revive national identities. He said: «Master Movahed needs no commemoration. He is a great person whose works promote sustainability and cultural interaction.» He added: «Movahed describes the personality of Shams in a way that goes beyond the national borders, his Shams is a global personality.»
Dr Ahmad Jalali, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the IR of Iran to UNESCO:

Tabriz is cradle of art

It is difficult for Master Movahed to sit here and listen to us. His greatness is already proven for all, he needs no commemoration. What we are commemorating here is our own culture and history”, said the speaker. He then explained the relation between UNESCO and commemorations of prominent personalities and expressed hope to organize a commemoration for both Master Movahed and Charles-Henri De Fouchecour at UNESCO Headquarters. “What Master Movahed has done is more a national and a strategic service. It is what brings the Iranian nation together,” said the speaker. He referred to Tabriz as the cradle of art and land of cultural personalities.
Master Movahed: throughout my life, I have benefited from the teachings of cultural personalities

Master Movahed thanked the organisers and welcomed the participants. He briefed the session on his first award received from UNESCO for his translation of the travels of Ibn Batuta. He commended the activities of Dr Ayoubi and Dr Jalali and the President of the University of Tehran as well as the Governor of Azerbaijan, and all other speakers for their efforts in promoting the teachings of Rumi and Shams of Tabriz. “I was told that today’s event has been organized for commemorating Charles-Henri De Foucheour for his great translation of Discourse of Shams-e-Tabrizi (Maqalat-e Shams-e-Tabrizi). But, now, it is a good opportunity to speak,” said the speaker.

Transforming the educational system
Master Movahed continued by expressing his feelings about UNESCO and its important missions, and said: “UNESCO’s mission is to contribute to the development of education and promotion of literacy among the young generations of the Member States.” He then referred to the University of Tehran as the first university established in Iran in line with global standards in education and continued to express his opinion on the modalities of transforming the educational system to meet the needs of students. “Unfortunately, our educational system kills the curiosity of students and their desire to learn”, said the speaker.
Charles-Henri De Fouchecour

At the meeting, the French translation of Shams of Tabriz by Charles-Henri De Fouchecour was launched. De Fouchecour has translated and published Discourse of Shams-i Tabrizi under the title “La Quête du Joyau: Maqálat-e Shams al-din Tabrizi” in October 2017. De Fouchecour is also famous for his translation of the Divan of Hafez. He served as the director of the Iranology Department of l’Institut Français in Tehran from 1975 to 1979. From 1972 to 1985, he also held the chair of Persian literature at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris. His work in the field of classical Persian literature is vast. He has published over 50 articles on Persian literature.