

died in 1924 and was buried in the Ashkabad Bahai cemetery, next to his uncle's grave.

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Mohammad-ʿAli Qaʿeni was noted for his intellectual acuity, apologetic and oratory skills, and for his artistic gifts as a calligrapher and musician. He was referred to as one of the nineteen “Apostles” of Bahaʿ-Allah by Shoghi Effendi, the leader of Bahai community until 1957 (Balyuzi, p. 261). He contributed significantly to the scholarly environment of Bahais in Ashkabad and to the development of a highly organized social and cultural Bahai community there (Momen, pp. 287, 299-301).

Works. His main work is *Dorus al-diana*, a standard textbook on various aspects of Bahai religion, which was first taught in the Bahai schools (q.v.) in Ashkabad but soon became widely used in most Bahai schools in Persia and elsewhere. It was first published in Ashkabad in 1911 and later in Tehran, Egypt, and South America. He also wrote an untitled treatise (Cairo, 1922; Solaymani, p. 393) in response to the dissident claims of Mirza Mohammad-ʿAli, younger brother of ʿAbd-al Bahaʿ. His other published works include letters, mainly apologetic in nature (Solaymani, pp. 369-76; “*Nama-ye tariki*,” Rafʿati, pp. 225-34) and the transcript of a talk given by Aqa Shaikh Mohammad-ʿAli Qaʿeni to the Theosophical Society of Surat, India, which is printed in “*al-Bishárat*” (the title of the Persian section of a Bahaʿi periodical, published in India, entitled “*Bahaʿi News*”) on pages 104 of volume I, number 9, 1921 (Solaymani, p. 382). A few unpublished works are held in private collections, including the unpublished treatise “*Resala-ye soʿal o jawab*,” which was taught at the Bahai school in Ashkabad.

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