

Hadji Mirza Aghasi and Political, Social and religious events in his era

Ali Ahmadalizadeh^{1,2}

¹. Research Institute for Education, Ministry of Education, Tehran, Iran

². Department of Social History, University of Applied Science, Tehran, Iran

dr.alizadeh@yahoo.com

Abstract: Mirza Abbas Irvaani nicknamed as Hajj Mirza Aghasi, the Sadr-e Aazam (Prime Minister) of Mohammad Shah Qajar must be regarded as one of the star-crossed Iranian Sadr-e Aazams, because he undertook the office when Iran economy and agriculture was devastated due to the Russo-Persian Wars and in the other hands, both Britain and Russia were seeking more influence in Iran and in the court. So, in this harsh condition, Mohammad Shah appointed Hajj Mirza Aghasi as Sadr-e Aazam despite of domestic and foreign efforts to bring the power one that capable to meet their purposes. Although, historians described him as incompetent, semi-insane but history also depicts another picture of him as judicious, gentle, indisposed of punishment and kingcraft and science loving patriot. Following to development of the relations between Iran and the European countries, the economic backwardness and sociological and cultural evolution necessity of Iran was completely revealed and impelled some of the Iranian conscious and provident individuals, under the leadership of Abbas Mirza and then Hajj Mirza Aghasi to ponder and undertake effective measures to obviate this backwardness. In economic and sociologic perspective, as well as student dispatching, order book from abroad, abolishment of torture and execution and take advantage of western civilization are of the beneficial measure of Hajj Mirza Aghasi. In the economic field, he succeeded to launch great leaps towards economical development and advancement and calmed disturbed economical situation after two wars of the Fath Ali Shah period. By relying on agriculture as the pivotal economic factor of that age, Hajj Mirza Aghasi succeeded to relief economical difficulties via aqueduct building and stream construction to irrigate agricultural fields, in a manner that the plenty of cheap agricultural products of that period were available in the markets. Weaponry activity in the field of making artillery and other munitions is another important measure of Hajj Mirza Aghasi which played decisive role in the Iran-Harat war. In foreign affairs, Hajj Mirza Aghasi in struggling to reduce the Britain and Russia influences in Iran was forced to drag third country influence (France) in to the country. [Ali Ahmadalizadeh. **Hadji Mirza Aghasi and Political, Social and religious events in his era.** Journal of American Science 2011;7(5):837-849]. (ISSN: 1545-1003). <http://www.americanscience.org>.

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1. Introduction

In the beginning of the nineteenth century A.D. (the lunar thirteenth century), new changes began to occur in international politics which directly influence Iranian political and social status. Russia's invasion of Iran during the Qajar era, Napoleon's envoy of troops towards the East through Iran, Britain's decades-long attempt to keep its colonies in Asia, and Iran's efforts to preserve its land and independence against foreign invasion were all factors posing a challenge to Iran's participation in the international political scene. The main issue for Iran was to mobilize its own people to fight the Russian invasion. This factor determined Iranian policy in its relationship with Western countries and, occasionally, propelled Iran to fight Britain and, sometimes, France. Whenever France and Britain attacked Russia, they strengthened and assisted Iran, according to their own political needs and interests. Various trips by British and French military boards to Iran resulted in a reform of the army, the establishment of a new system, the advent of gunpowder and cannon manufacturers, and the

development of surveys and geographic and geologic data collection. From the circumstances, and in particular from Iran's defeat of Russia, some rulers realized the necessity of obtaining Modern technology. The Vice-Regent, Abbas Mirza, and his minister, Mirza Isa, known as the Great Mirza (first deputy), were the leaders of school reform and progress in Iran. However they had few followers. Because most of Iran's statesmen were former civil servants in both the Russian and British governments, they often compromised the national interests of Iran by performing their orders. Deputy Ghaem Magham Farahani, Prime Minister under Mohammad Shah Qajar, was among the followers of Iran's reform and progress who sought non-intervention in foreign and domestic affairs, and also sought improvements in various aspects of the country. He was ultimately murdered by internal and external enemies who saw their interests threatened.

After death of Deputy Farahani, Hadji Mirza Agassi, considered free-thinking and pro-progress, succeeded Farahani as Prime Minister. He planned to remove Britain and Russia from Iranian domestic

policy, just as his predecessors had sought to do. Thus, he hoped to France help, due to his complete unawareness of the situation in world politics. Agassi did not ultimately become a positive and justified figure in Iranian history; there are many forged narrations about him which hid his true nature, which introduced him as naive, a dunce, and stupid. These forgeries were written by great foreign powers and domestic writers and statesmen. Most of the texts related to the neutralized policies of great powers in Iran and to the efforts to remove the power and further wealth of domestic opponents were written after death of Hadji Mirza Agassi and kingdom of Naser-al-din Shah. But among the writings, certain texts show the other character of Hadji Mirza Agassi, which the curious reader is encouraged to investigate and search further.

This study will consider the role of Hadji Mirza Agassi, including Dervish behavioral characteristics in Iran's domestic and foreign conflicts in the era of Mohammad Shah. Additionally it will consider what effects were left, and will investigate life aspects as well as the social, religious, and political events of his era.

2. Personal and political life of Mirza Aghassi

Mirza Abbas Irvani, known as Hadji Mirza Agassi, was born in Anno Hebraico 1198 / AD 1783 in Yerevan (Etemadoltaneh, 1970). Mirza Moslem was wealthy, and had estates in Yerevan, Salmas and Khoy. After the conquest of Armenia by Russia, Mirza Moslem, along with his family, emigrated to Khoy. His property and assets in Yerevan were then confiscated by Russia due to his linkage to Iran. Years later, Hadji Mirza Agassi wrote a letter to Mohammad Shah, noting that, "In nine years, Russian government took my nine hundred Toman and moreover confiscated my property in Iran" (Iqbal, 1984). Mirza Agassi studied with his father until he was 14 years old, and then, along with Moslem Mirza, went to Atabat to study in 1213 AH / 1789 AD under Mullah Abd-al-samad Hamedani. Mullah Abd-al-samad had been a student of Mr. Mohammad Behbahani and Seyyed Ali Karballayee, and had a brilliant figure in the principles of jurisprudence when Mirza Abbas Agassi went to apprentice with him. He was also considered to be a great man in the school of Sofia NoorAlishahi Sect. Mirza Abbas, influenced by the Master, became interested in theosophy, in addition to current science, which led him to the Alishahi Dervishes sect. However, he did not stay in Karbala for long, as Vahhabis attacked Karbala in November AH 1216/ CE1801. During the massacre, five thousand people were killed, including Mullah Abd-al-samad. According to his will, Mirza Abbas was forced to take his master's wife and

children to Hamadan. Staying at Khoy, he then turned to theosophy and dressed in Sufism dervishes, later embarking on a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in 1225 AH /1810 CE. After returning from the Hadj, He stayed at Khoy, where his house became a meeting place for students and interested religious science. With this reputation, Hadji Mirza Agassi left Khoy and went to Tabriz. After a while, Hadji Mirza Agassi's reputation became known in Tabriz and deputy Mirza chose him to train his child Hadji Mirza Musa Khan (Jahangir Mirza, 1948). Jahangir Mirza writes in "New History" that

"He encountered to the Deputy Grand Mirza in a way. Grand Mirza who was a gentleman and kind to any tribe took him home and behaved in a kindness manner got dervish cloaks and dress him as Mullah. Teacher Mirza Habib Abadi knew Hadji Mirza Agassi knowledge and awareness to penetrate in deputy regime".

As Mirza Agassi was familiar with rational and transcription sciences, as well as divine and mathematical mysticism, the great men respected his works, and Deputy Mirza Isa employed him to teach his son (MoalemHabibabadi, 1958). "New entry of Hadji Mirza Agassi to Great Deputy provided him with the way of progress and advance. Sometimes Hadji Mirza Agassi was gone to Vice-Regent by Great Mirza; totally he was popular (Jahangirmirza, 1905)."Following these meetings, possibly influenced by Hadji Mirza Agassi's fame, Abbas Mirza, the Vice-Regent, began to trust him, and made him a seat and comate in his own house" (Etemadolsaltaneh, 1970).

The death of Deputy Mirza was particularly difficult for Hadji Mirza Agassi as he supported and advocated Mirza Musa Khan, the younger son of Deputy Mirza, in his quest to obtain the position of Vice-Regent. Hadji Mirza Agassi was then forced to leave Tabriz when Mirza Abolghasem was appointed as Vice-Regent instead. From Tabriz, Hadji Mirza Agassi went to Khoy and lived with Amir Khan Qajar, the ruler of Khoy, for three years while teaching the sons of the Vice-Regent Abbas Mirza, particularly Mohammad Mirza (Khan Malek Sasani, 1967). "The Vice-Regent said to Amir Khan Qajar, find an ethical reform teacher and he also reminded Hadji Mirza Agassi and then he obliged to teach and train princes". Mohammad Mirza was taught by Mirza Agassi, and the relationship gradually became that of devotee and follower. When Mohammed Mirza reigned for the next few years, he saw Hadji Mirza Agassi as his heir, and increased his sincerity to him so that "he was sure that Hadji Mirza Agassi

had permanent and direct relationship with God and he himself was an extraordinary creature (Moalem Habibabadi, 1958)" Mohammad Mirza, the Crown Prince and future Mohammad Shah, respected Mirza Agassi much, and accordingly displayed a special sincerity and munificence to him. The Etemad-al-Saltaneh writes,

“Before his prince, Mohammad Mirza goes to decedent Hadji home; there is a book on the ledge; he takes it and found a paper including the manuscript of Hadji , imply the year of decedent price (Abbas Mirza) , then pardon Khaqan (Fath Ali Shah) and finally the reign of Mohammad Shah has been written extensively; after the decedent Hadji begged him not to say anybody”.

The incerity of Mohammad Shah to Hadji Mirza Agassi was primarily due to their Dervish relations (Etemadolsaltaneh, 1953). Hadji Mohammad Shah’s piety and contentment was influenced by the Dervish world such that in most cases, he sufficed to a piece of bread at morning and at night, and prohibited the use of foreign meals and dresses (Jahangirmirza, 1948). But Hadji Mirza Agassi was not the only influence of Mohammad Shah in his tendency to mysticism and Dervishism, as when Hadji Mirza Agassi was elected to be the teacher of Mohammad Mirza, Mohammad Mirza already had tendencies to mysticism. Before he met Hadji Mirza Agassi, two famous dervishes of the period, Hamedani, also called Kosar Ali Shah, and Hadji Zain Abedin Shirvani, also called Mostali, became guides for the Shah. But Hadji Mirza Agassi had a high-level position and credibility in the eyes of of Mohammad Shah (lesanolmolk, 1931). According to "Nasekh- Al-Tavarikh," Mohammad Shah knew Hadji Mirza Agassi as religious and a spiritual man (Jahangirmirza, 1948). Unfortunately, this did not please Abbas Mirza and the chiefs, because:

“Something was inconsistent with the kingdom such as leaving politics, statecraft given by Mohammad Mirza and thereby blamed him, after the death of Fath Ali Shah in 1250 AH /1834 AD of Mohammad Shah became king. According to Reza qoli Mirza, the Prince Mohammad Mirza had a little interest to the throne Crown Prince and acceptance of King problems and disasters, and had not desire to the monarchy but finally he was forced to accept the monarchy because of too much insist of Deputy”.

Mohammad Shah was coroneted in Tehran during Ramadan 1250 AH /1834 CE. The main ethical and personal feature that influenced Mohammad Shah regarding Mirza Agassi was the Dervish sect. "Originally he lived simply; didn't accumulate money; didn't follow Harem; did not put on fine clothes, sufficed to his homemade clothing and keep him from kingdom ritual and ceremony (lesanolmolk, 1974)." Mohammad Shah surrendered the Chancellery appointment to Deputy Mirza AbulGhasem, but he was killed by order of Mohammad Shah less than a year later. Hadji Mirza Agassi was unjustly charged with playing a decisive role in the King's order to kill the Deputy. He informed the Mohammad Shah the immorality of the Deputy. Finally, the order of murder was issued. After killing the deputy, Mohammad Shah appointed his teacher Hadji Mirza Agassi as Chancellor, and he kept this position to the end of Mohammad Shah's reign.

3. Academic works

Hadji Mirza Agassi was a writer interested in poetry, and used the pseudonym "Fakhri" in his poetry reminiscing his great master and mentor Mullah Abd-al Samad Hamedani, under title of Fakh-Al-din. Mirza Agassi composed Arabic and Persian poetry, a sample of which is as follows:

“Founded Parvin cluster on the fog and the hair
Placed a black point on flower called tattoo
beneath the black hair as Badr cloud
My drown in bloody tears as Aurora
Crescent”

Or:

“Again a think of my darling
Took me to Tabriz by Camel
As a Majnoon in Day and Night on Mount
and Desert
A plain reason, search and check there”

Mirza Agassi also composed a book entitled "Mesbah Mohammadi," and compiled a thesis to interpret some of the more difficult verses (Etemadolsaltaneh, 1970).

4. Cultural actions in the age of Hadji Mirza Aghassi

4.1. Publish newspapers and order books

Mirza Saleh Shirazi, founder of the first newspaper in Iran, went to England to study new sciences in the era of Vice-Regent Abbas Mirza. There he learned typography and brought two printers back (Adamiat, 1961). In the last decade of Ramadan 1252 AH, Mirza Saleh Shirazi started a

publication called "Kaghaz Akhbar (i.e. News Paper). It is obvious for residents of protected countries that royal government had a great efforts to train the residents protected countries And since the majority of the training is to notify and aware of the world affairs, so news paper containing western and eastern news will registered in impression office and will sent to different places (Cohen, 1980). Three months after the publication of this newspaper, the first issue of *paper news* newspaper was published in Tehran on Monday 25th of Muharram 1253 AH/ 1787 AD. In the first page "News of East countries and the second page" News of West countries" were published. One issue was published every month, according to Tabatabai of *News Paper (Tabatabai, 1988)*. The daily news contained primarily predication and reflected ideas, and the opinions of Hadji Mirza Agassi and the chiefs of the period. When a person was disappointed with everything and everyone, and found no way to relieve himself, he went to Hadji Mirza Agassi and told the matter and. As the government did not recognize the position and title, he dedicated his own honorable time to ideology. He did not want to lose anyone, as he was compassionate for the poor and devoted his time to appreciating God with sincerity, honesty and loyalty to the Emperor. The Emperor implemented religion, fought wars for Islam, launched supplies of munitions for the army, reclaimed cities, repaired damages and failures, restored canals and gullies, enhanced religion and supported government, and met the needs of Muslims. If anybody had pain or grief he would tell him that he meets their need. He saw no difference between rich and poor, beggars and emperors (Cohen, 1980). No complete and exact information is available about the number and years of the published paper.

Additionally, lithography publishing houses were established in the age of Mohammad Shah. Tehran Lithography publishing house began operation in 1253 AH /1836 AD. A second publishing house was built in Tehran in 1261 AH / 1845 CE, and others were established in Uremia in 1256 AH / 1840 CE, 1259 AH - / 1843 CE, and in Isfahan in 1260 AH /1844 CE (Mahboobi Ardekani, 1991) Perhaps one of the more important cultural works of Hadji Mirza Agassi was to order books from abroad. When Mohammad Alikhan went to the embassy in Paris, Hadji Mirza Agassi supplied him with a list of scientific and technical books to bring back when returning to Iran. The book list demonstrates Hadji Mirza Agassi's intellectual tendencies and the progression of thought in the government of Mohammad Shah; for example, "the Great Encyclopedia" by many authors of the intellectual age, particularly Pascal, Descartes, and Sismund, "French Revolution History," "Shot

Effect," "Great Britain History" by Hume, "Turkish, English and French Dictionaries," "Medical Chemistry," in "Iron and Steel Making" by Flasho and Barro in "Iron Making Industry" by Walter, "Steel Industry" by Amor, "the Best Literatures About Agriculture," and "Steam Machine Model," among others (Nateg,1990).

4.2. *The Dispatch of Students to Europe*

Since the early 19th century, following the development of the relationship between Iran and Europe, Iranian scholars and politicians saw an opportunity to become familiar with the new Western civilization and modern ideas. Gradually such ideas were raised and developed in Iran, and following Iran's defeat in two wars against Russia, not only was the country's overall underdevelopment quite obvious, but also rulers and great men sought to find the causes of Iran's lag and identify "the secret" of European capabilities. The known figures of this movement were minister Mirza Abbas and his respected surrogate Great Mirza who took necessary action to and warn the Iranian people to overcome underdevelopment and the weaknesses of the country, including sending a group of Iranians to Europe to study and learn new industries and science "to be used and be beneficial for Iranian needs". Adamiat, (1961) In line with this thought, in 1226 AH/ 1811 CE, two students were sent to the UK, in addition to a group of five Iranian youths England to study various subjects such as Medical Engineering, Chemistry, artillery, and science. During the reign of Mohammad Shah and Hadji Mirza Agassi's chancellery, the idea of establishing new industries and dispatching students to Europe was raised. At first, Hadji Mirza Agassi thought of sending the students to Egypt, and it was determined that "forty and fifty people were sent from Iran by request of esteemed Great Pasha, His Excellency Mohammad Ali pasha (Adamiat, 1961)" However the trip never occurred due to unknown reasons, and Iran made a decision to send students to France because of bitter experience caused by abuse and betray of Colonel Darcy Todd, disturbance of James Moiré and the difficulties encountered by the five students in the second group to England. Mirza Saleh Shirazi has elaborated in his itinerary that sabotage and hindrance of the British political officials in Iran from one side, and the position of British government during the Herat War and the capture of Kharg Island by the British Navy from the other side, caused the Iranian government and people to grow suspicious of British intentions, and deterred sending students to Britain. For this reason a large group of Iranian students were sent to France (Garmroodi, 1968). In 1254 AH / 1838 CE, five people or more were sent to Europe led by

Ajudanbashi. These students were the third group dispatched to France to study science (Garmroodi, 1968).

Mirza Mohammad Ali Khan Shirazi, Iran's superior ambassador to France negotiated with the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Gyzo, regarding the employment of master craftsmen and dispatching students to France. Gyzo promised integrated cooperation and assistance to Khan. (Adamiat, 1961) Hadji Mirza Agassi then wrote a letter to Gyzo and mentioned the reason for sending students accordingly. "The main reason why we made your agents into trouble was that each student studied in academic science and industry with fluent scholars and professors" (Nateq, 1990). Therefore Hadji Mirza Agassi requested the French authorities to perform and supervise more strictness on Iranian students. Hadji Mirza Agassi expected that students would learn and complete science and technology courses and return to Iran to implement their knowledge, thus avoiding extra costs and expenditures. In other words, he expected them to only think of science education. Certainly, he had realized the necessity of implementing new science in Iran, which is was why he tried to send students to Europe and monitor their academic affairs.

5. Mirza Aghassi and Annul the torture

An important measure initiated by Hadji Mirza Agassi during his Chancellery was to annul torture. The reason for doing so was that the king was the absolute controller and owner of life and property and the other rulers and chiefs were entitled to such rights over their subordinates. Hadji Mirza Agassi, influenced by his Sufi experiences, applied these rights when Iran was under a complete autocratic and dictatorial government. According to Moor Khan, Mirza Agassi was a kind and just man in domestic and foreign affairs. According to Etemad Al Saltaneh, "Hadji Mirza Agassi often pleaded intercedes for people sentenced to murder and save them. He had no desire to the bloodshed at all and didn't any action for removing and dismantling homes and family slaughter" (Etemadolsaltane, 1970). Grant Watson, the British historian, writes,

"At this time power level of Hadji Mirza Agassi was soared and the King held him in high regard and how nice that there was such a gracious chancellor According to altruism, the most important events is manuscript which the King prohibited strongly physical torture of his citizens, based on recommend and urge of Hadji Mirza Agassi. The other step was to ban the

entry of African slaves to Iran through the Persian Gulf and Red sea". (Watson, 1977)

A letter from Mirza Agassi to Mohammad Shah clearly indicates the depth of his hate for punishment and politics.

"Hey for devote myself under your royal ethereal foot, it is extravagant for my seven ANCESTRAL to be sheriff of a village than to be a ruler, punishment and politics belongs to Sultan, and I ignorant Mullah, I can not overstep and take something beyond the limit. I do not have the ability to do a little than a great affairs, maybe it is said to me "you are inept and unemployed. Yes. If I wasn't unemployed and inept, what was the problem of Mullah and Dervish which now I had to hear and tolerate thousands inconvenient form Russian envoy every day. Yea! I accomplished my commitment to the Palace in a true and Dervish manner... Honor is lost, life died out; the wealth and property which we don't have will be lost" (Nateq, 1990).

Hadji Mirza Agassi issued the order to annul torture methods in 1262AH/1846CE. Without any action or complete research about the documents and claims on the behalf of ruler, the true and false claims come to accuracy and clarity, and the ruler and his supervisor do not dare to disturb or hurt human beings without scrutiny and research. The vote against the supreme sacred would bring about punishment (Adamiat, 1961).

6. MIRZA AGASSI AND THE AGHAKHAN MAHALATI UPRISING

A great sedition which led to stimulating foreign clergy to unsettle the situation in southern Iran was an uprising led by Seyyed Mohammad Hasan Husseini, known as Aga Khan, leader of the Ismaili sect. Khalil Shah, Father of Aga Khan, leader of the Ismaili sect in 1232 AH /1816 CE, was killed by pro-Yazd people because of Mullah Hussein Yazdi, and his son Aga Khan became his successor when he was thirteen years old (Nateq, 1990). Fath Ali Shah appeased Aga Khan to prevent crisis and religious conflict, and sent many gifts to him and his daughter Sarve Jahan. Sarve Jahan later married Ali Shah and paid 23,000 Toman and handed over the Qom and Mahallat reign to him (Mahmoud, 1965). Aga Khan lived respectfully at Qajar until he was attracted by Mirza Abolghasem. He appointed Aga Khan to the Kerman reign during his chancellery in Mohammad Shah's kingdom. Despite the deputy of

Shah, Hadji Mirza Agassi paid little attention to Aga Khan. Aga Khan rebelled in 1255AH/1839CE as he was dissatisfied with Mirza Agassi's behavior towards himself. But he could not rebel against Firooz Mirza, who was sent to fight him, and finally refuted at Bam Fortress (Iqbal, 1968). He hoped to be pardoned after Mohammad Shah returned. After returning from Mohammad Shah, Fereidoun Mirza became Governor of Fars and asked Mohammad Shah for the remission of Aga Khan, and the king pardoned him. Aga Khan then went to Tehran and settled in Abdulazim Harem To terminate the Aga Khan problem, and to prevent another crisis in his country, Hadji Mirza Agassi pardoned him and finally gave him Mahallat Region. Etamad Al Aaltaneh writes,

“This year, Aga Khan Mahallati, the head of the Ismaili tribe who had already refuted to Bam made sure to come to State Cabinet and cloistered in Abdulazim Harem.... Hadji Mirza Agassi sent Hadji Abdul Hamid Mahallati to sacred Hermitage and ensured to bring Aga Khan to State Cabinet.... Aga Khan dressed with the green turban came to Hadji Mirza Agassi and in result he was pardoned and released by his intercession”.

Aga Khan left Tehran for a pilgrimage to the sacred Harems, and collected Corps and human force. He then moved towards Kerman and counterfeited the command by Hadji Mirza Agassi to strengthen the position that Kerman ruling was given to Aga Khan (Etamadolsaltane, 1970). When Aga Khan moved to Tehran, provisions for disposal and to prevent him moving to Kerman and Yazd were issued. Kerman pursued Aga Khan Mahalati, and he escaped to Babak where there were many disciples, and then left there to capture Sirjan. He was then defeated by Fazalikhani Biglari. To help Aga Khan, the Emperor of India sent Saeed Khan Balooch, together with abundant artillery and ammunition, via Sistan and Kandahar. But Aga Khan and his followers met defeat. His forces completely disappeared and he fled to India by aid of Britain. In 1262AH/1844 CE, Hadji Mirza Agassi wrote a letter of protest to the British ambassador to discuss the subject, which implicitly referred to Aga Khan dependency to Britain and its help to him

“Hereby the story of the Aga Khan Mahalati , traitor and escapee servant of this eternal state is such that four years before the plaintiff gathered some bandits in Kerman –Baluchistan border he started

to conflict and **Repugnance**, the state border soldiers ruptured his population against his government, they caught the head of artillery gear which engraved in English, he fled to British troops camp located in Kandahar on that time , seized him and took the document to their own country ; kept it there” (Adamiat, 1961).

According to the literature on Aga Khan, on the way to Kandahar when he arrived in Kereshek, Ravelinson was informed of his arrival. Aga Khan was welcomed to Kandahar in 17, 1258. Britain then captured and took over Herat by Aga Khan and gave him the ruling of Herat, so Ravelinson wrote to Lord McNaten, the British army commander in Kabul. Aga Khan sent a letter attached, but the Afghan uprising against Britain and the slaughtered by Afghan groups caused their plot to capture Herat to fail (Mahmoud, 1965). When the plan to capture Herat failed, and the news concerning Aga Khan's complicity toward Britain was relayed to the commanders, the Prince, Safdarjung, and Mohammad Omarkhan Sardar, wrote a letter to Aga Khan stating, "if you came out and joined us it will be desirable and better, otherwise whenever we achieve, First we kill you and your family and then the rest escapees." (Adamiat, 1961). Aga Khan went to India together with British residents of Kandahar, but something happened and that resulted in the separation of Baluchistan from Iran by Aga Khan. At first Aga Khan combated Baluch and as a result of the skirmishes, Baluch plundered his property. In 1260AH /1843 CE, Aga Khan sent his brother Headed Mohammad Baqer Khan, equipped with munitions supplied by the Indian government, to conquer Bahamfel fortresses in Baluchistan, so he went to Bombay. Mohammad Ali Khan Baloch fought with Aga Khan's army and Aga Khan sent his other brother Headed Abolhassan Khan to help Mohammad Baqer Khan, but Iran sent Fazlali Khan along with the army to aid Mohammad Khan Baloch. Provocative letters were written to the heads of Baloch tribes by Aga Khan, and thereby were invited to rebel against the Iranian government and instead obey the government of India (Robin, 1946). Mirza Agassi wrote to the British government to protest this action. In the letter he requested the states to establish discipline and obey limitations, and called for the return and submission of Aga Khan to Iran according to Article I of the treaty signed in 1229 AH /1814 CE. But the British government did not accept Iran's request." (Mahmoud, 1965). Again, Mirza Agassi wrote a letter to the British ambassador, asking "why have British agents seized the opponent escapee contrary to treaty provisions? You ought to surrender him to our borderers or to expel him from

occupied I and..."(Adamiat,48 Again, the British government failed to return Aga Khan to Iran, and finally it was determined that Iran would accept Britain's request and Aga Khan was not returned to Iran, and Indian government was obliged to take Aga Khan from Bombay to Calcutta. But the Indian government did not fulfill its commitment. Hadji Mirza Agassi sought to expel Aga Khan from Bombay. Finally, Aga Khan was sent to Calcutta in 1263 AH/1845CE. But British political forces continually mediated to return Aga Khan to Iran. Mr. Shil, British minister, asked Iran by India's viceroy whether Iran would return Aga Khan to Iran or not; Hadji Mirza Agassi replied in written form

"it is obvious that presence or absence of Aga Khan in Iran is so so and that he left the country was purely foolish and unwise performance ... there is no contrary and object If he accompanied by his wife come from the road of Fars or if in Sacred Harem he come to Mahallat through Kermanshah and sit in his house"(Raein, 1968).

But Aga Khan did not want such a return and Hadji Mirza Agassi disagreed any other conditions for return the Aga Khan to Iran. Hadji Mirza Agassi prevented the entry of Aga Khan to Iran by establishing subtle terms and conditions that were not accepted by Aga Khan, and thus prevented his entry.

7. MIRZA AGASSI AND SALAR RIOT

The riot led by Mohammad Hassan Khan Salar, son of Qajar Allahyar Asifodoleh, began in 1260 AH/1844 CE. His plan was designed and programmed several years prior in the period of Asifodoleh's reign. His son Asifodoleh, groom of Fath Ali Shah, and uncle of Mohammad Shah, was the Chancellor from 1240 to 1243 AH/1824-1827AD in Iran, but he escaped from the field during skirmishes between Russian and Iranian forces in Abbas Abad Castle. He was convicted of betrayal, was dismissed from the Chancellery and was reprimanded (Raein, 1968) But he always considered the Chancellery position. According to Etemad Al Saltane, after the death of Fath Ali Shah and the kingdom of Mohammad Shah, he sought to reach the Chancellery position without seeking humiliation and greed (Etemadolsaltane, 1951). But the Ghaem Magham Farahani was appointed to the Chancellery and to get him way from the Capital he sent Asifodoleh to Khorasan to be ruler. After the murder of Ghaem Magham, Asifodoleh, who still sought the Chancellery position, went to Tehran quickly to bench the Chancellery seat. But when Hadji Mirza

Agassi was selected for the Chancellery, Asifodoleh came back to Khorasan again. From then on, hostility between Asifodoleh and Hadji increased because according to Mostofi, "Khan Qajar found Hadji Mirza Agassi obedience opposite to his affairs."(Etemadolsaltaneh,52 Thus he engaged in a great effort to shake the position of Mirza Agassi, but because of the great influence of Hadji Mirza Agassi on Mohammad Shah, all measures of Asifodoleh remained null and void; hostility between Asifodoleh and Mirza Agassi reached its highest level in the late reign of Mohammad Shah. In particular, the enemy between Mohammad Qoli Khan, the son of Asifodoleh Allah Qoli Mirza Ilkhani, the son of Hadji Mirza Agassi's wife was provoked to this hostility. Mohammad Qoli Khan always wrote to his father and brother in Mashhad about the necessity of the disposal of Hadji Mirza Agassi.(Iqbal,53 When Ghaem Magham's brother and Astan died in 1262 AH/1846CE; Asifodoleh found the position appropriate for substituting his son Mohammad Hassan Khan Salar by himself, and asked the King to allow him to work in Astan Qods and for his son to be the ruler of Khorasan. After Hassan Khan Salar became the ruler of Khorasan, he openly rebelled against the court and challenged the orders of Hadji Mirza Agassi (Iqbal, 1954). According to "Top Histories," Salar told his father that "the general masses of people were offended and dissatisfied Hadji and were also disappointed due to strengthening his reign. If we rebelled and transgressed undoubtedly we would not solve the problem."(Etemadolsaltaneh,55 Thus Salar allied with some Khans in Khorasan and began to gather an army. The main reliance of Salar was on Quchan Kurds and Turkmens of northern Khorasan. But some Kurd Khans did not cooperate with him and supported Hadji Mirza Agassi instead. The palace that one of them was Mohammad Hussein Khan Nardini who became the ruler of Nardini Fort by command of Hadji Mirza Agassi and he disregarded to Asifodoleh and Salar due to the order of Hadji Mirza Agassi and informed him that it was unnecessary to obey the rule of the governor of Khorasan (Watson, 1977).

Mohammad Hasan Khan Nardini was killed by order of Asifodoleh and his followers. After hearing of the killing of Mohammad Hussein Khan Nardini, the King and Mirza Agassi wanted the killer to be sent to Tehran and thus summoned Asifodoleh. Asifodoleh not only did not go to Tehran but also delayed sending the killer of Mohammad Khan Nardini to Tehran. By sending various letters and messages against Hadji Mirza Agassi, he tried his best to undermine him in the court, but Mohammad

Shah did not pay attention to the messages (Iqbal, 1984).

Mirza Agassi sent one of his appointees, Hadji Mirza Abdullah, to Mashhad and appointed him as custodian of as Astan Qods Razavi to immobilize and restrict Asifofolleh. Against this measure, Asifofolleh went to Tehran inwardly to improve his position and outwardly to strengthen his son Mohammad Hassan Khan Salar, but his trip did not turn out the way he intended, and he was exiled to Atabat by order of Mohammad Shah (Raeyn, 1968). Hadji Mirza Agassi played an important role in this verdict, and due to the dependence of Asifodoleh on the British government, Hadji Mirza Agassi was not favorable to him and wants him off the hands of the conspiracy and betrayal.

Hadji Mirza Agassi sent Hamzeh Mirza, the King's brother, as governor to Khorasan (Mostofi, 1947). By sufficient force on behalf of Hadji Mirza Agassi and Mohammad Shah, Hamza Mirza, who was sent to suppress the insurgents, sent a message to Salar to stop, but he replied "It is opprobrious I am the hero but be servitude (Watson, 1977)." By this answer, the war between the two sides began, and finally Salar was defeated and refuted amongst Turkmen. The Salar rebellion and related riots increased more strongly every day due to Mohammad Shah's disease, and these riots continued until Salar and his followers were defeated at Naser-Al-din-Shah in 1266AH/1850 CE. Ultimately, Salar and his followers were killed by order of Al-din-Shah.

8. MIRZA AGASSI AND AGRICULTURE

With the reign of Mohammad Shah and the Chancellery of Hadji Mirza Agassi, from dedicated property were developed and some dedicated property and lands were converted to dedicated property and lands. To save the state from economic decline, Hadji Mirza Agassi initiated the policy of adding public estates and sequestered 1,438 estates, farms and villages in favor of the government in different parts of the country during his Chancellery (Feshahi, 1971). The estates were obtained by confiscation either by princes or by great landowners. In addition, Hadji Mirza Agassi made serious measures to revive barren and arid estates. Abdullah Mostofi writes, "Wherever he found a barren land, he bought and revived it by the aqueduct. In fact when he found a wasteland anywhere he launched to dig the creek closest to the river." (Mostofi, 1947). Hadji Mirza Agassi's interest in agriculture, prosperity and reclamation of lands and estates was such that "he divided his time between office work and agricultural affairs." (Feshahi, 1971) He himself conducted agricultural tasks. The reclamation of Abbas Abad land in Tehran and its conversion to a garden was

under his direct supervision (Mostofi, 1947). Hadji Mirza Agassi used all attempts to increase domestic wealth. One of his efforts in this regard was to a plant mulberry tree for silkworm feeding in Kerman in order that the "decline in export and trading of silk be prevented, according to Watson" (Watson, 1977). But the most important economic action of Hadji Mirza Agassi was in the field of irrigation. He had a strong understanding of agriculture and consequently of the economy. Abdullah Mostofi writes about activities of Hadji Mirza Agassi such that he established and canalized a stream from Karaj River for YaftAbad and Sefanard, which later resulted in the reclamation of Clock, Garmdarreh and MianJoob, and many villages that today are fed by this creek. Hadji Mirza Agassi commissioned the digging of the creek by Qom troops. The creek was ramified from Jajrud River to Amin Abad, near Shahr-e-Ray, which begins in the northern mountains range Behnam Yazeky and Varamin (Mostofi, 1945). Hadji Mirza Agassi asked for follow-up agricultural affairs and attempted to revive the country's irrigation system from the Board of Governors of all states and provinces. He wrote in response to Farrokh Khan Aminodoleh, ruler of Kashan, "Write to your father to renovate Kashan, we may find water for Kashan to reclamation it."

Hadji Mirza Agassi also sought the reclamation of the Shiraz duct of 6Pir River to revive villages surrounding the region. Several subterranean water reservoirs and aqueducts were built near Naeen, Yazd, Kerman and Khezrabad, so Hadji Abad and Husseinabad pulled out of the desert (Garmrodi, 1968). Hadji Mirza Agassi was so attracted to irrigation canals that he personally participated in establishing an aqueduct ceremony (Feshahi, 1971). Hadji Mirza Agassi's agricultural efforts maintained their effects for years later. For example, "most Tehran Khalesjat was of Hadji Mirza Agassi ones which is used as a means of bread providing" (Mostofi, 1947). The nonstop efforts of Hadji Mirza Agassi in the field of agriculture led to lowered costs and an abundance of agricultural products. Mohammad Hasan Khan Etemad Al Saltaneh writes in this regard, "bread price in Tehran on his age was one Abbasi. Meat, oil and other goods were so cheap that now seems to mention them exaggerated" (Etemadosaltane, 1970).

9. HADJI MIRZA AGASSI AND COMMERCE

Mohammad Shah reigned under difficult conditions faced by Iran, including an economic crisis that was a result of the defeat in the Russian-Iranian wars, and compensation for damages in the amount eight Cruor. On the one hand, fertile agricultural lands were isolated from Iran, and on the other hand, based on Article 9 of the commercial

agreement, all goods imported or exported from the Russian borders were subject to a five percent customs duty. Further, to determine "capitulation" right incurred irreparable damages on Iran's political and economic independence (Motazed, 1987). In such circumstances, Mohammad Shah took steps to organize the country's economy. During the reign of Mohammad Shah and his Chancellery under Hadji Mirza Agassi, foreign trade was increasingly expanded. Nateq expresses that:

"Thus reason for release from business recession in the early reign of Mohammad Shah was interpreted that Iran was subjected to border wars with Russia until Abbas Mirza, the viceroy, was alive, i.e. until 1249 AH /1883 CE the traders have little confidence in the peace and did not feel safe. They were afraid that war started again and made passageways of the border into the problem, but to the idea of traders, the new government was not WARMONGER and had confidence to it somehow" (Nateq, 1990).

In addition, commercial routes were a problem often encountered by Iranian businessmen in trade with Europe. After the loss of Yerevan, which a center of international trade through which Iran conducted foreign trade with Europe, Iranian merchants sought other ways to trade. Trade through Baghdad path was considered one of the main roads in late eighteenth century, but increasing chaos and infrastructure problems in Iraq led merchants to use new ways, including Erzurum Trabozan (Isavi, 1983). Choosing this way led to several developments in significant trade regions so that Iranian business centers were transferred to Tabriz, which was soon converted to a large warehouse for goods transported from Europe to Iran. Consequently, the population of Tabriz during the Abbas Mirza era was less than seventy thousand people, which increased to 120 thousand people by early 1830, and to 140 thousand people in 1858 (Feshahi, 1971). Based on trade balances,

"Import influenced strongly on Export in the first half nineteenth century. Increased trade with Turkey, Russia, Central Asia, much reduced trade with India trade which generally led to non-trading caused a great change in Iran business structure and composition... Like other countries, textiles which were one of the major items exported in Iran converted to one of the main items imported because local handicraft had not

ability to compete with European mechanized products. Another important change in imports was uncontrolled increasing of "colonial goods" especially tea and sugar During this period authority export legumes was relegated to import level" (Isavi, 1983).

The main developments in Iranian trade in the first half of the nineteenth century, that is, during the reign of Mohammad Shah and Hadji Mirza Agassi, included a large increase in trade with Britain through Turkey and the Persian Gulf. In this era, "Britain seized at least half of Iran trade and the value of its imports was increased strongly" (Isavi, 1983). Increase in foreign trade led some foreign companies such as Rally Angeles and Burjes to engage in business in Iran and to establish offices in Tabriz (Motazed, 1987).

10. HERAT BATTLE AND HADJI MIRZA AGASSI

Afghanistan was always a target of the great powers, especially Britain, due to its shared borders with India, Iran and Russia. The fear of attack by Afghan groups to India both through Iran and other great powers caused Britain to be sensitive in this area. Herat was important in the region as a key to attacking and capturing India. So Britain sought to separate this region from Iran and to establish a reign to maintain control. Herat had faced problems since the reign of Fath Ali Shah which continued under Mohammad Shah. Mohammad Shah always thought of attacking Herat, and the only minimal stimulus would stimulate him to attack to Herat. Mohammad Shah attack made a loss to Britain and made a profit to the Russia. This was why Britain strongly believed that Iran would take serious actions in Afghanistan. They tried to establish close relationships with the friend of Amir Mohammad Khan Kabul; thus the British political relations completely established with friend of Mohammad Khan in 252 AH /1836 CE. A British political agent, Lord Auckland, wrote to him "we hope to see Afghanistan as a united nation.... and would like Amir Mohammad Khan to improve shipping in Send Rivers (Mahmoud, 1965)." In 1253 AH / 1837 AD Mohammad Shah went to Khorasan in order to suppress some of the rulers of Khorasan stimulated by Afghanistan, to suppress rebel rulers, and to ensure security in Khorasan. They then went to Herat to conquer and instil Iranian sovereignty over Herat. According to Peter Arvri, Britain was very upset and concerned about movement of Mohammad Shah and the major reason for their opposition to government action in the capture of Herat was that "Britain was more concerned about

Article 11 Turkamanchai treaty which basically Russia had the right of consulate and business agency at any point Iran and if Iran had captured Herat, the Russians had to create representative in Herat" (Avri, 1990). This indicated the risk of failure in India because they believed that Russia had influence in the court; in fact when Russia approached India, also due to the weak British weak position with the King and Hadji Mirza Agassi, they were not sure to make advantages of Russia's scores obtained in Turkamanchai.

The Iranian Army clashed with the Afghan Army near Ghorian castle in the 1253 22 Sha'ban AH /1837 AD. After conquering Ghorian, the army moved to Herat on Rabi Thani, and finally was surrounded by the Iranian King. Britain announced Mohammad Shah that the government was "opposed to the siege of Herat, and this action would be considered a hostile action and openly the siege of Herat is disgusted by England" (Kerzen, 1951). The Herat siege lasted nearly a year and at this time British officers were trying to convince Mohammad Shah to stop the siege and even mentioned this measure was against the pact between Iran and Britain. In this case, Captain Alderd Patinjer met with Hadji Mirza Agassi and protested Iran's stratagem, arguing that the "capture of Herat by Iranian corps is against right and justice and makes inconvenience to India and also is against Iran-Britain promise of the Covenant". By offering and showing the official maps supplied by Brans, one the skilled political agents and spies, and thereby Afghanistan, had been introduced as a component of Iranian territory. Hadji Mirza Agassi did not accept the protests of Patinjer and replied by locating a piece of land which is part of Iranian territory according to English admission, which is not unfair and against the Covenant and Testament. Indeed, Hadji Mirza Agassi reminded Britain that it had no right to interfere with Iranian territory, as it was against the contract signed in 1229 AH /1814 CE. According to the contract, "if the war between Iran and the Afghan happens, Britain has no right to intervene and should not help any party help unless the parties ask to be the mediator of peace".

Hussain Khan Ajudanbashi, Iranian ambassador, wrote Lord Palmereston regarding this case.

"Under the treaty it was asserted that England intervention in Afghanistan is not permitted and every time the state trustees shall fight against Afghans, the British government should not intervene and now on the contrary of the Convention, what is means by permitting itself to intervene against Iran and prohibit Iran from his right?"

Secondly, Herat is not inside Afghanistan but is part of Iran in Khorasan under the verdict of Kings, and Kamran was ruler of Herat by the order of descendant King.(Mahmoud,1965) Herat was the government... by confidential communication with Kamran Mirza, the governor of Herat, Mc. Nil ,British minister tried his best to stop Mohammad Shah seize to Herat and to establish peace and calm with Kamran Mirza and the king allowed him go to Herat to talk with Yar MohammadKhan, Minister of Kamran Mirza, and develop a peace agreement to meet Mohammad Shah needs. Mc. Nil went to Herat while encouraged them to British support, he adjusted a peace deal and then came back to Iran. Hadji Mirza Agassi announced Mc. Nil that the King's losses by stratagem should be compensated or at least receive the amount of money to divide between corps had serious injuries" (Watson, 1977).

Mc. Nil objected that nothing should be added to the peace treaty. Mirza Agassi wrote,

"This Treaty has not made a commitment to Iran because Afghans still have not stopped shooting and sudden attack (Watson, 1977). Meanwhile, on that letter Hadji Mirza Agassi estimated incurred damage amount caused by army movement campaign as five or six cruor. Mohammad Shah did not accept peace and continued siege of Herat. The presence of Russia's minister, Count Simonich in Iran camp, increased concern of the British and they accused Iranians to irritate Russia attack to Afghanistan".

K. William wrote that "No health consciousness person won't doubt that Russian diplomats encouraged Mohammad Shah to rally troops and capture Herat". These purposes are only for Russian intent and were conducted against positions held by Britain in India.

"Fear of Russian influence and Afghans willingness to surrender and hardiness Mohammad Shah in Herat led to British threatening Iran to war. McNil gave a message to the Shah of Iran by Stewart now British government force to militate if you do not return and keeps the country such as India and now our military ships has entered in Kharg Island. I announce the war

if you don't give up here, be ready through Fars. Ma. Nill together with some British officers had abandoned the camp of Iran and went to Mashhad and from there to Tehran. After a while Mohammad Shah was informed of departure of Mc. Nil, the British warships seized Kharg Island. Mohammad Shah who knew war with England unsuitable disregarded of the siege of Herat and returned to the capital in JamadiAval 1254AH - 1838 AD".

11. Conclusions

Hadji Mirza Agassi, the chancellor of Mohammad Shah Qajar, should be mentioned among the most misfortune Chancellors in Iran because, despite his efforts to maintain Iran's power and prosperity during his chancellery, historians have defined him through unappealing traits. It must be determined where these misunderstandings originated. As it was explained, Mirza Abbas Iravani, known as Mirza Agassi, turned to mysticism and the Nooralishahi dervish sect during his studies. At the time, Sufi studies did not matter because he was as a normal individual, but when he became a teacher of a prince and then prime minister, his Sufism was not accepted by clerics, scholars and politicians. Particularly, the influence of Hadji on Mohammad Shah was such that it created a mutual relationship as followed and follower (disciple). After the murder of Ghaem Magham Farahani, despite the efforts of domestic and foreign forces to put someone in the Chancellery position who would be unable to achieve their intentions, Mohammad Shah chose Hadji Mirza Agassi as his Chancellor. Mirza Agassi was appointed to the Chancellery under poor economic and agricultural circumstances, the result of long-term wars at Fath Ali Shah reign. Britain and Russians tried to penetrate more and more into Iran's court.

Foreign and domestic documents regarding the performance of Hadji Mirza Agassi during his Chancellery pose two different viewpoints. It should be noted, however, that the majority of these documents were written against him. But even among these literatures we encounter two positive points about him. Historians have introduced him as incompetent, half insane, insincere, hypocritical, scurrilous, and and obscene wealth and greed. They have shown in their own literatures that the king saw another figure and character of Hadji Mirza Agassi in history, including kindness, a hatred of politics and punishment, an interest in science, nationalism and intellectualism. To determine the actual figure of Hadji, we must study his performance during his Chancellery. It is necessary to mention that,

following the development of relations with European countries, economic backwardness and the necessity of changing Iran's social and cultural affairs was completely clear and some informed and provident figures, led by Abbas Mirza, took the necessary actions to solve this problem. Hadji Mirza Agassi was among the Iranian politicians who tried for the continuation of this movement in many ways to resolve the problem and make Iran a strong and powerful state. Hence, he launched political, economic, cultural and social actions. Regarding Iran's economy, the economic policies of Hadji Mirza Agassi sought to empower the Iranian economy. He inherited a situation of economic chaos caused by the Iran-Russia wars and tried to reconstruct the structure of agricultural economics and agricultural irrigation systems to ensure prosperity. In this regard, he initiated measures such as adding to estate property through seizure of estates, farms and villages and the establishment and maintenance of irrigation canals, subterranean streams and aqueducts.

Hadji Mirza Agassi also sought to attract foreign experts to Iran to develop the economy of the state. He didn't restrict himself to this case, as he sent students to Europe to acquire knowledge of science and industry and attempted to improve the country's industries with the support of domestic industries, particularly the textile industry. In the political, social and religious arena, he entered a new attitude into the traditional policy that until then had no meaning in Iran and it was attempted to restrict traditional religious policy and to promote tolerance and religious enlightenment in Iran. This was achieved by weakening the influence of the clerics and expanding the authority of the state and the government. The most important event in the social realm may be Mohammad Shah's declaration after the termination of the Herat war. This was the first time in Iran that a King obliged himself to explain to the nation and the people, namely the people who were called peasant at that time and were not given the smallest importance to them. Regarding different reason, British historians called him the stooge of Russia in Iran's court. One of the reasons for this was that Iran took his troops to Herat by instigation and order of Russia, but looking in the writings and books we find he was neither a stooge of Russia nor a British servant. On the other hand, concerning Russia, non-giving some advantages such as not to permit the fishery to Russia or to Hadji's direct supervision of building stock by the Russia due to his lack of confidence in Russia indicates an independence of Hadji from Russia. Finally, the firm opposition of Hadji Mirza Agassi against Russian and British governments and maintenance of the national interest has brought

about hate, hostility and defamation. Once again we repeat the statement of Ibrahim Safai about Hadji Mirza Agassi "Hadji was one of the scare Ministers and Chancellors in Iran who didn't accept no nicknames and titles and even name of Chancellery and he was ingrate by history." The cultural policies of Hadji Mirza Agassi were conducted with tolerance towards other religions, such as Christianity, issuing commands to freedom of opinion, abolition of torture and execution, and also seeking to instil Western civilization and sending Iranian students to study new Western scientific and cultural achievements. One of the other fields of Hadji Mirza Agassi's activities was his efforts to preserve territorial integrity and to neutralize the fight between Russia and Britain fight for their growth and development in Iran.. During these few decades, Iran's arsenal was filled primarily by weapons which had been prepared in Hadji Mirza Agassi's age. Moreover, Hadji Mirza Agassi opposed the influence and presence of foreign governments in Iran and sought assisting from France to neutralize the two strong powers. He ultimately converted the country to a third power to counter the influence of Russian and British powers.

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Corresponding Author:

Ali Ahmadalizadeh
Research Institute for Education,
Ministry of Education, Tehran, Iran
Mobile: +98.9127778510
E-mail: dr.alizadeh@yahoo.com

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