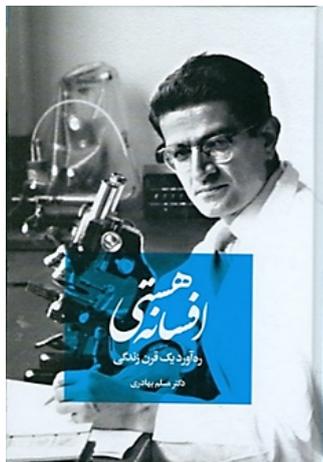


Book Review

The Life Story of Dr. Moslem Bahadori, the Pioneering Professor of Tehran School of Medicine

**Afsanehy-e Hasti (Tale of Existence)**

Moslem Bahadori

Mirmah, Tehran, 2018

712 pp, paperback

Reviewed byMohammad Hossein
Azizi, MD*Academy of Medical Sciences of
the I. R. of Iran, Tehran, Iran*"The past is never dead. It's not even past".¹*William Faulkner (1897–1962, the writer and the Nobel Prize
winner for Literature)

In 2018, the memoirs of Dr. Moslem Bahadori (b. 1927), the pioneering professor of pathology at the Tehran School of Medicine was published. Dr. Bahadori enrolled at the Tehran School of Medicine in 1948 and graduated in 1954. After receiving an MD degree, he continued his training in the pathology department of the Tehran Medical School, where Dr. Kamaleddin Armin (1914–1995), was the professor of pathology and the head of department. In 1958, Dr. Bahadori went to the Cardiff University, Wales, England to continue his training under supervision of the famous pulmonary pathologist, Professor Jethro Gough (p. 85, book)

In 1962, he married Dr. Naiad Pishva (1933–1997), who subsequently became a professor of pathology at the Tehran School of Medicine. (p. 101) Dr. Bahadori went to the United State in 1970 as an invited professor and passed a one year course on pulmonary pathology at the University of California under supervision of Professor Averill Liebow (p. 147).

The book entitled "*Afsanehy-e Hasti*", meaning "Tale of Existence"² is a well-written informative autobiography of Dr. Bahadori, full of detailed information on the life and career of the author as well as valuable data about

social and historical issues in the 20th century Iran. The book is 712 pages long, including a 416-page text and an index and 296 pages devoted to photographs and documents. It is organized in chronological order, based on the author's memories from his early childhood up to 2016.

In the preface of the book, the author mentioned that he lived for more than 90 years and he has had an eventful life. Dr. Bahadori added that most people ignore or forget occasions in their lives, however his life, as someone who was born in a small village and in due course flourished and became an emeritus professor of the main university of Iran, has been full of various happenings, and thus his memories might be of value to others. He described his observations of numerous events with accuracy and honesty.

Apart from his personal information, thanks to his sharp memory, the book contains issues that could be motivating for both medical professionals and non-medical readers. Some instances are as follows:

According to the author's narration, the routine daily life of Iranians during his childhood, around 80 years ago in the birth place of author named "Zangisha Mahaleh"-Tonkabon, in the northern Iran was very different from today. For example, he mentioned that when he was a child living in that small village, there was no primary school, and the only place for children's training was the so-called *Maktab khaneh*, a traditional elementary school for teaching small kids. At that time, families in that village had their own personal houses, store houses for keeping rice and little gardens for planting vegetables as well as stables for domestic animals. An average farmer owned around 4 to 9 hectares of land for farming, devoted mainly to rice cultivation. The families in Zangisha Mahaleh village were mostly self-sufficient. They had facilities for making required items such as cloth weaving, wool and cotton spinning, mat making and knitting wool socks and stockings. (p. 20, book)

An overview of the educational system from *Maktab khaneh* to the Tehran University founded in 1934 as the first modern higher educational center with special focus on the Tehran School of Medicine is also depicted.

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Based on the book's data, Professor Bahadori has significantly contributed to improving the School of Medicine in Tehran University. In the 1960s, he was a member of the board of trustee in the medical school. In that time, a fundamental educational reform occurred, several departments were established and the number of faculties increased. In due course, two further actions were carried out, including the establishment of the "National Council for Medical Education" in 1969, as well as the foundation of the "National Organization for Educational Evaluation" in 1972. He played a crucial role in these two affairs. Another achievement of Professor Bahadori and his colleagues, supported by Mr. Majid Rahnema (1924– 2015), the Minister of Science and Higher Education, was the establishment of the Health Care Networks (the Behvarz training program, now called Primary Health Care) in Fars, Shemiranat and Orumia. (p. 160) Dr. Bahadori also contributed to the foundation of new medical schools in six provinces of Iran in 1977, which was initially suggested by Dr. Ghasem Motamedi, the Minister of Science and Higher Education of that time (p. 172).

A noteworthy part of the book describes the major events in Iran at that time, such as occupation of the country, known as "Anglo-Soviet invasion" in 1941 during the World War II. It was very disruptive for Iran, and had a profound impact on Iranian lives due to inflation, severe shortage of food and hundreds of the Polish immigrants coming to Iran (p. 29). When the author was a medical student, "the nationalization of the Iran oil industry" occurred in 1951, a significant historical movement in which the author was actively involved (p. 49).

Writing about several contemporary influential people in the field of medicine, science, and culture in the past few decades, especially medical professionals is an additional useful feature of the book. By looking at the book's index, the reader can find the names of several

famous professionals, for instance Dr. Mohammad Ali Hafizi, pediatrician and the director of Tehran Medical School and Dr. Parviz Dabiri, the founder and professor of pathology department at the Isfahan University Medical School (pp. 82,320).

Professor Bahadori is a prolific writer and up to 2016, he authored 14 books in the field of pathology in Persian, and 133 articles in local and international English journals. When he was a medical student, he started cooperating with the first academic medical journal of Tehran Medical School, an activity which was sustained so far in several medical journals as a member of the editorial board, peer reviewer or author.

In summary, the reader of the book "*Afsanehy-e Hasti?*" will find that the author, Professor Bahadori who was born in a small Iranian village around 92 years ago, finally obtained a unique position as an eminent medical teacher, and taught many medical students and residents between 1968 and 1997. The effective factors for his accomplishments were his constant efforts for learning and teaching, hard-working and trying to have a fruitful life, the characteristics that may be detected in similar scientific, social and cultural role models. Accordingly, this book can be regarded as a guide for the young generations.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

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