

Mirza Ahmad Sohrab Dies Here at 65; Leader of the Reform Baha'i Movement

Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, leader of the Reform Baha'i Movement in the United States and co-director of the Caravan of East and West, died on Sunday at Doctors Hospital. His age was 65. He lived at 132 East Sixty-fifth Street, the headquarters of the caravan.

Baha'i is a religious movement founded in the last century. It teaches that the divine command is to unify humanity within one faith and one order.

Mr. Sohrab was born in Ispahan, Iran, and claimed descent from Mohammed. He was educated at the Imperial University of Teheran and at Harvard University.

In his youth he left his native city with an uncle, the Baha'i leader in Ispahan, who had been persecuted because of his religious views. They visited many parts of the East and were finally welcomed as refugees by the Zoroastrian Baha'i colony in Bombay, India.

Subsequently Mr. Sohrab met Abdul Baha, leader of the Universal Baha'i Movement, in Palestine. After working and studying with him for several years he was sent to this country.

He served as a secretary at the Persian (Iranian) Legation in Washington and later founded the Persian-American Educational Society and a society called Orient-Occident Unity.

When Abdul Baha visited this country and Canada in 1912, Mr. Sohrab traveled with him as interpreter and secretary.



Blackstone Studios
Mirza Ahmad Sohrab

He afterward returned East with Abdul Baha, but came back to this country after World War I.

In 1927 he met Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler. Two years later they founded the New History Society, which became the Caravan of East and West, an auxiliary of the Baha'i cause, working for world peace and brotherhood. The caravan lists 2,000 chapters in more than eighty countries.