

Bahai faith from an early age, and was endowed with poetic talents of high caliber. The most well known of his poetic work is in couplets (matnawi).

During his lifetime, Varqa made three voyages to the Holy Land, twice on pilgrimage during the life of Baha'-Allah (1879, and 1891), and once during the lifetime of 'Abd-al-Baha' (1893). His two eldest sons accompanied him during his last two pilgrimages.

In the spring of 1896, Varqa and his son Ruh-Allah, along with two other Bahais, were imprisoned under heavy chains in the government prison located in Sabza Maydan, Tehran, on charges of spreading the tenets of the new religion and failing to recant their faith (taqia; Mehdi Varqa, 2001, p. 97). Enraged by the assassination of Naser-al-Din Shah (1 May 1896) while on a pilgrimage at the Šah 'Abd-al-'Azim shrine in the south of Tehran, Mo'in-al-Soltan Hajeb-al-Dawla, accused Varqa of having instigated the assassination and proceeded to stab and mutilate his body in front of his son, thereafter strangling the young Ruh-Allah who also refused to recant and insisted on joining his father.

The remains of Varqa and Ruh-Allah were buried in the old Bahai cemetery in Tehran (Mehdi Varqa, 1994, p. 34).

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