



became active and much-loved members of the community. Dr Afnan worked as a researcher at the cancer clinic at McMaster University for 8 years, gaining the respect of his colleagues through his unique combination of great knowledge and great humility.

Dr Afnan through extensive personal study and research, which he started in his youth, became a distinguished scholar of the Bahá'í writings and one of the handful of experts in the area of the Writings of the Báb. He authored numerous articles and essays on a wide range of Bahá'í subjects over the years that were recently published in two volumes

Dr Afnan was one of the main faculty members of the Institute of Advanced Baha'i Studies in Iran. Since Bahá'í institutions were banned by the order of Islamic government authorities in Iran, Dr Afnan, assisted by his dear wife, established the Institute for Baha'i Studies in the Persian language in Dundas. This Institute, over the years, published a large volume of books and booklets on various Bahá'í subjects and encouraged and assisted Persian Baha'i scholars.

In Memoriam

341

In 1989, Dr Muhammad and Dr Mehry Afnan were invited to move to Haifa, Israel, where they both served in the Research Department at the Bahá'í World Centre for the next thirteen years.

Upon returning to Canada in 2002, they settled in Mississauga and once again became enthusiastically involved in Bahá' activities. They had the opportunity to serve at the World Centre once more when they were invited to work on a special project for three months in 2013.

Dr Afnan made a number of valuable presentations at the annual sessions of Irfan Colloquium based on his vast knowledge and studies. His research-based articles and commentaries are published in various volumes of Safini-yi Irfan.

The Universal House of Justice expressed recognition and appreciation for lifelong services of Dr Afnan in the following message e-mailed to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Canada:

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of dearly loved Muhammad Afnan, devoted servant of the Ancient Beauty and an esteemed scion of the noble family of the Blessed Báb. His exemplary services to the Cause over many decades—in the administration of the Faith in Iran, in the enrichment of Bahá'í scholarship, and, in particular, in the study of the Writings of the Báb—were distinguished by diligence, wisdom, and surpassing humility. Serving at the Bahá'í World Centre, he made invaluable and lasting

contributions to the work of the Research Department.

We offer our loving sympathy to his dear wife, Mehri, their children, and other family members and assure them of our ardent supplications at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of his illumined soul in all the worlds of God and for the consolation of their hearts.

— The Universal House of Justice

— In Memoriam: Muhammad Afnan (1930-2017) (Used by permission of the curator)