

Abdul Hassin Molavi

(- 14 Apr 1921)

The Evening Star, April 15, 1921, p. 22

Wife Detained In Husband's Death

Mrs. Molavi Says Abdul Shot Himself After They Quarreled

Abdul Hosseirn Molavi, a Persian, twenty-six years old, who conducted an antique shop in New York City up to several months ago was shot to death in his room in the house of Miss L.M. Chapman, 1314 Rhode Island avenue, last night about 11:40 o'clock. He died before a physician reached the room.

Coroner Nevitt declared today the wound from which he died could not have been self-inflicted.

Mrs. Lydia Gertrude Kanode Molavi, his wife, twenty-two years old, whose parents reside at 520 12th street northeast, was the only person in the room when the shooting occurred. She did not hear the report of the shot, she told the police.

The wife declares that her husband committed suicide. Coroner Nevitt conducted a careful investigation of the affair with Detective Frederick M. Cornwell, however, and the latter placed the wife under arrest. She was taken to the house of detention at 3 o'clock this morning.

Police investigators were unable to find any person who heard the report of the pistol shot, and it is probable that the investigation will be continued a day or two before an inquest is held for the purpose of having a jury attempting to fix the responsibility for Molavi's death.

Roomer Called In

Patrick Rossiter, who occupies a room on the third floor of the Rhode Island avenue house, opposite the room in which the shooting occurred, says he was asleep and did not hear the report of a pistol. He was the first person summoned to the Molavi room, Mrs. Molavi requesting him to telephone for a physician.

Going to the lower floor, Rossiter was unable to find the telephone and Mrs. Molavi, becoming impatient over the delay, hurried there to do the telephoning. She was in the booth sobbing and trying to get quick action over the telephone, when Miss Chapman, who was in a basement room reading, heard her and went to her assistance. Dr. Grant S. Barnhart responded to the call and pronounced life extinct.

Dr. Barnhart summoned Coroner Nevitt to the house and Detective Cornwell and police of the second precinct assisted in an investigation. Mrs. Molavi, distressed and nervous, was seated in a room on the first floor when Detective Cornwell reached the house. She went into a lengthy explanation of the affair and several times repeated the statement that she did not hear the report of the pistol shot.

Mrs. Molavi said her husband had been brought here when he was a boy, possibly not more than twelve years old, and was known as Abdul Hosseirn Khan.

Educated in a school at Valparaiso, Ind, the young man returned to this city and in October 1919, Miss Kanode and he were married. The couple went to New York, where the husband was in business until several months ago, when they returned to this city.

Couple Had Disagreed

Mrs. Molavi said she and her husband had had a disagreement about a prospective real estate and business transaction and that her husband had refused to speak to her, and all day yesterday, she stated, they remained in their room. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon he went out and did not return until about 11 o'clock.

A few minutes before his return, she said to Detective Cornwell, she went to a closet, procured a bottle of gin and took two drinks. Her husband did not speak to her when he returned, she stated, but he undressed and went to the bathroom. He returned to the room and lay on the bed reading a copy of The Star.

A little while later, Mrs. Molavi said, she smelled burned powder, and turning, she said, she saw blood. Then she hurried to get water and a towel. The time the shot must have been fired, Mrs. Molavi stated, she was standing in front of the dresser pretending she was getting her clothing together preparatory to leaving.

The copy of The Star that Molavi was reading is being safeguarded by the police as an important piece of testimony. It is thought by the police that he was looking at the Mutt and Jeff cartoon when the shot was fired, the bullet passing through the paper, striking him in the left side passing through his body and a pillow and being found on the mattress by Detective Conwell.

The Evening Star, April 16, 1921, p. 4

Mrs. Molavi Held By Coroner's Jury

Witnesses Declare Woman Confessed to Shooting Her Husband

A coroner's jury today held Mrs. Lydia Gertrude Molavi, twenty-two years old, widow of Abdul Hassin Molavi, shot to death in his room at 1314 Rhode Island avenue Thursday evening, for action of the grand jury and declared that Molavi came to his death as the result of a wound inflicted by a pistol held in the hands of Mrs. Molavi.

The jury's verdict was reached after testimony by Detective Fred A. Cornwell, who said that Mrs. Molavi confessed last night that she shot her husband after his persistent refusal to answer her questions or converse with her. His testimony was strengthened by like declarations from Detective Flaherty of headquarters, who was present last night at the alleged confession.

Throughout the testimony of several witnesses, Mrs. Molavi sat silent with members of her family. She exhibited little emotion and kept her head lowered and shielded with her hand from the gaze of a crowd which filled the room.

Admits Firing Shot

Mrs. Molavi last night about 7 o'clock admitted firing the fatal shot, according to the police. She repeated her protestations of love for her husband, and knelt in silent prayer beside his body at the morgue, concluding: "God and Abdul please forgive me."

Late yesterday afternoon, after she had been questioned by Inspector Grant and Detective Cornwell and Flaherty, the prisoner asked that she be returned to the house of detention, promising she would tell her story of the fatality at 7 o'clock. Her request was complied with. She was taken back to the house of detention and cared for by members of the woman's bureau.

The Evening Star, June 18, 1921, p. 3

Mrs. Molavi Out On Bail

Lydia G. Molavi, charged with murder in the second degree in connection with the killing of her husband, Abdul Mooserin Molavi, a Persian antique merchant, pleaded not guilty yesterday when arraigned before Justice Siddons in Criminal Division I. Attorney Henry I. Quinn asked the court to fix bail, and the young wife was released on a bond of \$10,000.

The Evening Star, January 12, 1922, p. 34

Molavi Trial Halted

An indefinite postponement of the trial of Mrs. Lydia G. Molavi, twenty-three years old, charged with murder in the second degree in connection with the killing of her husband, Abdul Hasein Molavi, a Persian antique dealer, was made necessary by the illness of two of the witnesses for the prosecution.

Capt. Bertrand Emerson, assistant United States attorney, told Chief Justice McCoy in Criminal Division 1 of the condition of his witnesses and asked that the case, scheduled for today be deferred. He also stated that a new aspect of the case was presented to the United States attorney's office only yesterday and time is needed to run down the evidence. Mrs. Molavi is on bail of \$10,000 awaiting trial.

The shooting occurred last April at 1314 Rhode Island avenue where the

