



# The CARAVAN

A Systematic  
**PURGE**  
of **Persian** Baha'is

Will & Testament

“This cause is pure  
spiritual democracy  
and **not** a  
**theocracy.**”



Volume 2, Edition-4  
**'Izzat** (Might)  
175 B.E.

Let's  
Pray!

“ There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not  
'Appointed' anyone to perform any special service,  
but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of  
the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is pure  
spiritual democracy and not a theocracy.  
- Abdu'l-Baha ”



Emails



PUBLISHED BY  
**THE FREE BAHAI FAITH**  
FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION

**O Lord! Provide for the speedy  
growth...**

**O Lord! Provide for the speedy growth of the Tree  
of Thy divine Unity;**

**water it then, O Lord, with the flowing waters of  
Thy good-pleasure, and cause it, before the  
revelations of Thy divine assurance, to yield such  
fruits as Thou desirest for Thy glorification and  
exaltation, Thy praise and thanksgiving,**

**and to magnify Thy Name, to laud the oneness of  
Thine Essence and to offer adoration unto Thee,  
inasmuch as all this lieth within Thy grasp and in  
that of none other.**

**Great is the blessedness of those whose blood  
Thou hast chosen wherewith to water the Tree of  
Thine affirmation, and thus to exalt Thy holy and  
immutable Word.**

**- Prayer of The Bab**



*The house of Baha-O-Llah at Bahjee  
photograph taken in the early part of the century*

**Historical Image of the Mansion of Bahji,  
*Residence of the Divine Manifestation***

# FOREWORD

Two months after the passing away of the Master, his sister sent the following cablegram to the US:

**January 16, 1922**

**Haifa, Wilhelmitte, N.Y.**

**In Will, Shoghi Effendi appointed Guardian of the Cause and Head of the House of Justice.**

**(Signed) Greatest Holy Leaf**

The appointment of the successor came as a thunderbolt out of a clear sky to all the Baha'is, as Abdu'l Baha had given no hint that he intended to appoint a successor. On the contrary, he said that after him the power of the Baha'i cause was to vest in what will be called as House of Justice. "In case of difference, Abdu'l Baha must be considered...After Abdu'l Baha whenever the Universal House of Justice is organised it will ward off differences." (Star of the West, Nov. 23, 1913, p. 238)

Both Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha were against organising the Baha'i cause. This thought runs through all their writings and they have expressed it in different ways. After the passing away of the Master, we find how schism affected the cause and the Baha'is were divided into groups. The Will of the Master was the first point when the Baha'is differed, because Abdu'l Baha not only gave no hint that he intends appointing a successor, but he declared himself in unmistakable terms against such a policy.

**"This cause is pure spiritual democracy and not a theocracy." – Abdu'l Baha (Diary of Ahmad Sohrab, the secretary of the Master)**

The teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master was always freedom from the clan conception of life. Therefore, the appointment of a successor in the face of Shoghi Effendi, endowed with all the powers of a pope, means a reversal of all they taught during their lifetime. They always emphasised Independent Investigation of Truth, although after Shoghi Effendi came to power all the Baha'i principles were never acted upon and people were forced to follow what they were ordered to, and the freedom was taken away. The Will of the Master was force-fed on the Baha'is. Those who tried to investigate and question the Will were declared faithless. This made the Baha'is of that time accept what was not an established fact.

We don't want our dearest readers to continue to accept something which is not an established fact and thus present an analysis of the Will so that we all can reach to an informed conclusion. We again hope this endeavour will serve its noble purpose of awakening the Baha'is who believe in following the pristine message of Baha'u'llah.

We appreciate the efforts of our readers who are helping us in this journey of spreading the true values of the divine manifestation.

Regards,

The Free Baha'i Team

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## **If anyone walks in my path**

*If anyone walks in my path I will cry to him that he  
may be warned*

*That whoever becomes my lover shall not escape  
from sorrow and affliction*

*If anyone obeys me not and does not grasp the cord  
of my protection*

*I will drive him far from my sanctuary, I will cast him  
in wrath to the winds of "NO"*

*I am Eternal from the Everlasting World; I am the  
One from the Realms of the Limitless*

*I am come [to seek for] the people of the Spirit, and  
towards me do they advance.*

**(Poem translated by Edward G Browne and  
attributed to Tahirih)**

# The Principles of the Free Baha'i Faith Explained

The Fourth Baha'i Principle is:

*"Religion Must be a Source of Unity."*

"If it is not, its non-being were better than its being. The fourth foundation stone, the emerald, is green. Green is the color of harmony and unity. There is no color known that green will not harmonize with, as the green foliage blends with every hued flower. It is the color of immortality and humility." – 'Abdu'l-Baha

The oneness of Religion is an essential part of World Order. For until men are united spiritually, there can be no true brotherhood, nor any universally accepted authority. And both are essential to a social order.

Various religious systems developing round the Person of their Founder, come into contact with other "religions" which have grown in the same way, and because they see the outer differences, accentuated by differences of climate, occupation and clothing, conclude that they are actually different religions. The inevitable conclusion is that "ours" is the only true one, thus making superficial differences into impassable barriers.

Baha'u'llah shows how the teaching of a Manifestation of God is divided into two parts. The spiritual principles which do not change, and social ordinances and decrees which vary with the growth of man. He asks none of the established religions to accept the laws and ordinances of one among them. Neither does he leave us to fight it out among ourselves. In his own Revelation he fulfils the hopes and promises of all previous religions, those promises recorded in their own scriptures. His Book of Laws has the same authority as the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount and is acceptable to all religions. Without denying what has gone before and without "lowering" one Manifestation in favour of another, the Truth revealed by Bahá'u'lláh is able to bring religious unity to a torn and divided race.

This new age, this new cycle of human power, revolves around a new principle, the principle of Unity. "Unification of the whole of mankind is the hall-mark of the stage which human society is now approaching. Unity of family, of tribe, of city, state, and nation have been successively attempted and fully established. World unity is the goal towards which a harassed humanity is striving. Nation building has come to an end. The anarchy inherent in state sovereignty is moving towards a climax. A world, growing to maturity, must abandon this fetish, recognize the oneness and wholeness of human relationship and establish once for all the machinery that can best incarnate this fundamental principle of its life."

“A new life, is, in this age, stirring within all the peoples of the earth; and yet none received its motive.”

“O ye children of men, the fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race...” – 'Abdu'l Baha

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### **In answer to a question as to whether or not there would be any clergy in the Bahai Cause?**

**“No. In this movement there will never be any paid ministers, no appointed clergy, no bishops, no cardinals, no popes, no ceremonies. A clergyman, assuming that he is ordained to his ministry, may think that he knows more about God than anyone else, whereas the humble man in his congregation may know more about God than he does. The sacerdotal and theological position makes a clergyman proud and haughty. But there is one thing in this Cause; some people may become greater than the rest, not through appointment, but through the purity of their hearts, their unselfish deeds, their heroic sacrifices, and their knowledge of God. Such illumined souls, like kind fathers or teachers, will guide and teach those less fortunate. They are the elder brothers of the members of the community. They do not arrogate to themselves any title or position. You will know them by their humility, their sincerity, their deeds, their severance, their knowledge, their spirituality, and their attraction.”**

**Abdu'l Baha**

(Source: Diary of Ahmad Sohrab, March 21, 1913)

# The Alleged will of Abdul Baha - An Analysis PART 1

As promised to our dearest readers, we present in this article the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha which was made available for the masses after his death. The Will is divided into three parts and each part has its own content and significance. Here we shall present the first part of the Will, followed by a short summary. We urge our readers to take effort in understanding these Holy words as part of Independent Investigation of Truth.

## *First Part of the Will:*

All-praise to Him Who, by the Shield of His Covenant, hath guarded the Temple of His Cause from the darts of doubtfulness, Who by the Hosts of His Testament hath preserved the Sanctuary of His most Beneficent Law and protected His Straight and Luminous Path, staying thereby the onslaught of the company of Covenant-breakers, that have threatened to subvert His Divine Edifice; Who hath watched over His Mighty Stronghold and All-Glorious Faith, through the aid of men whom the slander of the slanderer affect not, whom no earthly calling, glory and power can turn aside from the Covenant of God and His Testament, established firmly by His clear and manifest words, writ and revealed by His All-Glorious Pen and recorded in the Preserved Tablet.

Salutation and praise, blessing and glory rest upon that primal branch of the Divine and Sacred Lote-Tree, grown out, blest, tender, verdant and flourishing from the Twin Holy Trees; the most wondrous, unique and priceless pearl that doth gleam from out the Twin surging seas; upon the offshoots of the Tree of Holiness, the twigs of the Celestial Tree, they that in the Day of the Great Dividing have stood fast and firm in the Covenant; upon the Hands (pillars) of the Cause of God that have diffused widely the Divine Fragrances, declared His Proofs, proclaimed His Faith, published abroad His Law, detached themselves from all things but Him, stood for righteousness in this world, and kindled the Fire of the Love of God in the very hearts and souls of His servants; upon them that have believed, rested assured, stood steadfast in His Covenant and followed the Light that after my passing shineth from the Dayspring of Divine Guidance—for behold! he is the blest and sacred bough that hath branched out from the Twin Holy Trees. Well is it with him that seeketh the shelter of his shade that shadoweth all mankind.

O ye beloved of the Lord! The greatest of all things is the protection of the True Faith of God, the preservation of His Law, the safeguarding of His Cause and service unto His Word. Ten thousand souls have shed streams of their sacred blood in this path, their precious lives they offered in sacrifice unto Him, hastened wrapt in holy ecstasy unto the glorious field of martyrdom, upraised the Standard of God's Faith and writ with their life-blood upon the Tablet of the world the verses of His Divine Unity.

The sacred breast of His Holiness, the Exalted One (may my life be a sacrifice unto Him), was made a target to many a dart of woe, and in Mázindarán, the blessed feet of the Abhá Beauty (may my life be offered up for His loved ones) were so grievously scourged as to bleed and be sore wounded. His neck also was put into captive chains and His feet made fast in the stocks. In every hour, for a period of fifty years, a new trial and calamity befell Him and fresh afflictions and cares beset Him. One of them: after having suffered intense vicissitudes, He was made homeless and a wanderer and fell a victim to still new vexations and troubles. In 'Iráq, the Day-Star of the world was so exposed to the wiles of the people of malice as to be eclipsed in splendor. Later on He was sent an exile to the Great City (Constantinople) and thence to the Land of Mystery (Adrianople), whence, grievously wronged, He was eventually transferred to the Most Great Prison (Akká). He Whom the world hath wronged (may my life be offered up for His loved ones) was four times banished from city to city, till at last, condemned to perpetual confinement, He was incarcerated in this prison, the prison of highway robbers, of brigands and of man-slayers. All this is but one of the trials that have afflicted the Blessed Beauty, the rest being even as grievous as this.

And still another of His trials was the hostility, the flagrant injustice, the iniquity and rebellion of Mírzá Yahyá. Although that Wronged One, that Prisoner, had through His loving-kindness nurtured him in His own bosom ever since his early years, had showered at every moment His tender care upon him, exalted his name, shielded him from every misfortune, endeared him to them of this world and the next, and despite the firm exhortations and counsels of His Holiness, the Exalted One (the Báb) and His clear and conclusive warning;—“Beware, beware, lest the Nineteen Letters of the Living and that which hath been revealed in the Bayán veil thee!” yet notwithstanding this, Mírzá Yahyá denied Him, dealt falsely with Him, believed Him not, sowed the seeds of doubt, closed his eyes to His manifest verses and turned aside therefrom. Would that he had been content therewith! Nay, he even attempted to shed the sacred blood (of Bahá'u'lláh) and then raised a great clamor and tumult around him, attributing unto Bahá'u'lláh malevolence and cruelty towards himself. What sedition he stirred up and what a storm of mischief he raised whilst in the Land of Mystery (Adrianople)! At last, he wrought that which caused the Day-Star of the world to be sent an exile to this, the Most Great Prison, and sorely wronged, and in the West of this Great Prison He did set.

O ye that stand fast and firm in the Covenant! The Center of Seditiousness, the Prime Mover of mischief, Mírzá Muhammad 'Alí, hath passed out from under the shadow of the Cause, hath broken the Covenant, hath falsified the Holy Text, hath inflicted a grievous loss upon the true Faith of God, hath scattered His people, hath with bitter rancor endeavored to hurt 'Abdu'l Bahá and hath assailed with the utmost enmity this servant of the Sacred Threshold. Every dart he seized and hurled to pierce the breast of this wronged servant, no wound did he neglect to grievously inflict upon me, no venom did he spare but he poisoned therewith the life of this hapless one. I swear by the most holy Abhá Beauty and by the Light shining from His Holiness, the Exalted One (may my soul be a sacrifice for Their lowly servants), that because of this iniquity the dwellers in the Pavilion of the Abhá Kingdom have bewailed, the Celestial Concourse is lamenting, the Immortal Maids of Heaven in the All-Highest Paradise have raised their plaintive cries and the angelic company sighed and uttered their moanings. So grievous the deeds of this iniquitous person became that he struck with his axe at the root of the Blessed Tree, dealt a heavy blow at the Temple of the Cause of God, deluged with tears of blood the eyes of the loved ones of the Blessed Beauty, cheered and encouraged the enemies of the One True God, by his repudiation of the Covenant turned many a seeker after Truth aside from the Cause of God, revived the blighted hopes of Yahyá's following, made himself detested, caused the enemies of the Greatest Name to become audacious and arrogant, put aside the firm and conclusive verses and sowed the seeds of doubt.

Had not the promised aid of the Ancient Beauty been graciously vouchsafed at every moment to this one, unworthy though he be, he surely would have destroyed, nay exterminated the Cause of God and utterly subverted the Divine Edifice. But, praised be the Lord, the triumphant assistance of the Abhá Kingdom was received, the hosts of the Realm above hastened to bestow victory. The Cause of God was promoted far and wide, the call of the True One was noised abroad, ears in all regions were inclined to the Word of God, His standard was unfurled, the ensigns of Holiness gloriously waved aloft and the verses celebrating His Divine Unity were chanted. Now, that the true Faith of God may be shielded and protected, His Law guarded and preserved and His Cause remain safe and secure, it is incumbent upon everyone to hold fast unto the Text of the clear and firmly established blessed verse, revealed about him. None other transgression greater than his can be ever imagined. He (Bahá'u'lláh) sayeth, glorious and holy is His Word:—"My foolish loved ones have regarded him even as my partner, have kindled sedition in the land and they verily are of the mischief-makers." Consider, how foolish are the people! They that have been in His (Bahá'u'lláh's) Presence and beheld His Countenance, have nevertheless noised abroad such idle talk, until, exalted be His explicit words, He said:—"Should he for a moment pass out from under the shadow of the Cause, he surely shall be brought to naught." Reflect! What stress He layeth upon one moment's deviation: that is, were he to incline a hair's breadth to the right or to the left, his deviation would be clearly established, and his utter nothingness made manifest. And now ye are witnessing how the wrath of God hath from all sides afflicted him and how day by day he is speeding towards destruction. Ere long will ye behold him and his associates, outwardly and inwardly, condemned to utter ruin.

What deviation can be greater than breaking the Covenant of God! What deviation can be greater than interpolating and falsifying the words and verses of the Sacred Text, even as testified and declared by Mírzá Badí'u'lláh! What deviation can be greater than calumniating the Center of the Covenant himself! What deviation can be more glaring than spreading broadcast false and foolish reports touching the Temple of God's Testament! What deviation can be more grievous than decreeing the death of the Center of the Covenant, supported by the holy verse:—"He that layeth a claim ere the passing of a thousand years..." whilst he (Muhammad 'Alí) without shame in the days of the Blessed Beauty had advanced such a claim as this and been confuted by Him in the aforementioned manner, the text of his claim being still extant in his own handwriting and bearing his own seal. What deviation can be more complete than falsely accusing the loved ones of God! What deviation can be more evil than causing their imprisonment and incarceration! What deviation can be more severe than delivering into the hands of the government the Holy Writings and Epistles, that haply they (the government) might arise intent upon the death of this wronged one! What deviation can be more violent than threatening the ruin of the Cause of God, forging and slanderously falsifying letters and documents so that this might perturb and alarm the government and lead to the shedding of the blood of this wronged one — such letters and documents being now in the possession of the government! What deviation can be more odious than his iniquity and rebellion! What deviation can be more shameful than dispersing the gathering of the people of salvation! What deviation can be more infamous than the vain and feeble interpretations of the people of doubt! What deviation can be more wicked than joining hands with strangers and with the enemies of God!

A few months ago, in concert with others, he that hath broken the Covenant hath prepared a document teeming with calumny and slander wherein, the Lord forbid, among many similar slanderous charges, 'Abdu'l Bahá is deemed a deadly enemy, the ill-wisher of the Crown.

They so perturbed the minds of the members of the Imperial Government that at last a Committee of Investigation was sent from the seat of His Majesty's Government which, violating every rule of justice and equity that befit His Imperial Majesty, nay, with the most glaring injustice, proceeded with its investigations. The ill-wishers of the One True God surrounded them on every side and explained and excessively enlarged upon the text of the document whilst they (the members of the Committee) in their turn blindly acquiesced. One of their many calumnies was that this servant had raised aloft a banner in this city, had summoned the people together under it, had established a new sovereignty for himself, had erected upon Mount Carmel a mighty stronghold, had rallied around him all the peoples of the land and made them obedient to him, had caused disruption in the Faith of Islám, had covenanted with the following of Christ and, God forbid, had purposed to cause the gravest breach in the mighty power of the Crown. May the Lord protect us from such atrocious falsehoods!

According to the direct and sacred command of God we are forbidden to utter slander, are commanded to show forth peace and amity, are exhorted to rectitude of conduct, straightforwardness and harmony with all the kindreds and peoples of the world. We must obey and be the well-wishers of the governments of the land, regard disloyalty unto a just king as disloyalty to God Himself and wishing evil to the government a transgression of the Cause of God. With these final and decisive words, how can it be that these imprisoned ones should indulge in such vain fancies; incarcerated, how could they show forth such disloyalty! But alas! The Committee of Investigation hath approved and confirmed these calumnies of my brother and ill-wishers and submitted them to the presence of His Majesty the Sovereign. Now at this moment a fierce storm is raging around this prisoner who awaiteth, be it favorable or unfavorable, the gracious will of His Majesty, may the Lord aid him by His grace to be just. In whatsoever condition he may be, with absolute calm and quietness, 'Abdu'l Bahá is ready for self-sacrifice and is wholly resigned and submitted to His Will. What transgression can be more abominable, more odious, more wicked than this!

In like manner, the focal Center of Hate, hath purposed to put 'Abdu'l Bahá to death and this is supported by the testimony written by Mírzá Shu'á'u'lláh himself and is here enclosed. It is evident and indisputable that they are privily and with the utmost subtlety engaged in conspiring against me. The following are his very words written by him in this letter:—"I curse at every moment him that hath kindled this discord, imprecate in these words 'Lord! have no mercy upon him' and I hope ere long God will make manifest the one that shall have no pity on him, who now weareth another garb and about whom I cannot any more explain." Reference he doth make by these words to the sacred verse that beginneth as follows:—"He that layeth a claim ere the passing of a thousand years..." Reflect! How intent they are upon the death of 'Abdu'l Bahá! Ponder in your hearts upon the phrase "I cannot any more explain" and realize what schemes they are devising for this purpose. They fear lest, too fully explained, the letter might fall into alien hands and their schemes be foiled and frustrated. The phrase is only foretelling good tidings to come, namely that regarding this all requisite arrangements have been made.

O God, my God! Thou seest this wronged servant of Thine, held fast in the talons of ferocious lions, of ravening wolves, of bloodthirsty beasts. Graciously assist me, through my love for Thee, that I may drink deep of the chalice that brimmeth over with faithfulness to Thee and is filled with Thy bountiful Grace; so that, fallen upon the dust, I may sink prostrate and senseless whilst my vesture is dyed crimson with my blood. This is my wish, my heart's desire, my hope, my pride, my glory.

Grant, O Lord my God, and my Refuge, that in my last hour, my end may even as musk shed its fragrance of glory! Is there a bounty greater than this? Nay, by Thy Glory! I call Thee to witness that no day passeth but that I quaff my fill from this cup, so grievous are the misdeeds wrought by them that have broken the Covenant, kindled discord, showed their malice, stirred sedition in the land and dishonored Thee amidst Thy servants. Lord! Shield Thou from these Covenant-breakers the mighty Stronghold of Thy Faith and protect Thy secret Sanctuary from the onslaught of the ungodly. Thou art in truth the Mighty, the Powerful, the Gracious, the Strong.

In short, O ye beloved of the Lord! The Center of Sedition, Mírzá Muhammad 'Alí, in accordance with the decisive words of God and by reason of his boundless transgression, hath grievously fallen and been cut off from the Holy Tree. Verily, we wronged them not, but they have wronged themselves!

O God, my God! Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self and passion, protect them with the watchful eye of Thy loving kindness from all rancor, hate and envy, shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy care and, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, make them the manifestations of Thy glorious Signs, illumine their faces with the effulgent rays shed from the Dayspring of Thy Divine Unity, gladden their hearts with the verses revealed from Thy Holy Kingdom, strengthen their loins by Thy all-swaying power that cometh from Thy Realm of Glory. Thou art the All-Bountiful, the Protector, the Almighty, the Gracious!

O ye that stand fast in the Covenant! When the hour cometh that this wronged and broken-winged bird will have taken its flight into the Celestial Concourse, when it will have hastened to the Realm of the Unseen and its mortal frame will have been either lost or hidden neath the dust, it is incumbent upon the Afnán, that are steadfast in the Covenant of God and have branched from the Tree of Holiness; the Hands, (pillars) of the Cause of God (the glory of the Lord rest upon them), and all the friends and loved ones, one and all to bestir themselves and arise with heart and soul and in one accord, to diffuse the sweet savors of God, to teach His Cause and to promote His Faith. It behooveth them not to rest for a moment, neither to seek repose. They must disperse themselves in every land, pass by every clime, and travel throughout all regions. Bestirred, without rest and steadfast to the end they must raise in every land the triumphal cry "O Thou the Glory of Glories!" (Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá), must achieve renown in the world wherever they go, must burn brightly even as a candle in every meeting and must kindle the flame of Divine love in every assembly; that the light of truth may rise resplendent in the midmost heart of the world, that throughout the East and throughout the West a vast concourse may gather under the shadow of the Word of God, that the sweet savors of holiness may be diffused, that faces may shine radiantly, hearts be filled with the Divine spirit and souls be made heavenly.

In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world. Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head corner-stone of the foundation itself. This wronged servant has spent his days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service. He rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world and the celestial strains from the Abhá Kingdom roused the East and the West. The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Bahá!

The disciples of Christ forgot themselves and all earthly things, forsook all their cares and belongings, purged themselves of self and passion and with absolute detachment scattered far and wide and engaged in calling the peoples of the world to the Divine Guidance, till at last they made the world another world, illumined the surface of the earth and even to their last hour proved self-sacrificing in the pathway of that Beloved One of God. Finally in various lands they suffered glorious martyrdom. Let them that are men of action follow in their footsteps!

O my loving friends! After the passing away of this wronged one, it is incumbent upon the Aghsán (Branches), the Afnán (Twigs) of the Sacred Lote-Tree, the Hands (pillars) of the Cause of God and the loved ones of the Abhá Beauty to turn unto Shoghi Effendi—the youthful branch branched from the two hallowed and sacred Lote-Trees and the fruit grown from the union of the two offshoots of the Tree of Holiness,—as he is the sign of God, the chosen branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, he unto whom all the Aghsán, the Afnán, the Hands of the Cause of God and His loved ones must turn. He is the expounder of the words of God and after him will succeed the first-born of his lineal descendents.

The sacred and youthful branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, as well as the Universal House of Justice, to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abhá Beauty, under the shelter and unerring guidance of the Exalted One (may my life be offered up for them both). Whatsoever they decide is of God. Whoso obeyeth him not, neither obeyeth them, hath not obeyed God; whoso rebelleth against him and against them hath rebelled against God; whoso opposeth him hath opposed God; whoso contendeth with them hath contended with God; whoso disputeth with him hath disputed with God; whoso denieth him hath denied God; whoso disbelieveth in him hath disbelieved in God; whoso deviateth, separateth himself and turneth aside from him hath in truth deviated, separated himself and turned aside from God. May the wrath, the fierce indignation, the vengeance of God rest upon him! The mighty stronghold shall remain impregnable and safe through obedience to him who is the Guardian of the Cause of God. It is incumbent upon the members of the House of Justice, upon all the Aghsán, the Afnán, the Hands of the Cause of God to show their obedience, submissiveness and subordination unto the Guardian of the Cause of God, to turn unto him and be lowly before him. He that opposeth him hath opposed the True One, will make a breach in the Cause of God, will subvert His Word and will become a manifestation of the Center of Sedition. Beware, beware, lest the days after the ascension (of Bahá'u'lláh) be repeated when the Center of Sedition waxed haughty and rebellious and with Divine Unity for his excuse deprived himself and perturbed and poisoned others. No doubt every vainglorious one that purposeth dissension and discord will not openly declare his evil purposes, nay rather, even as impure gold, will he seize upon divers measures and various pretexts that he may separate the gathering of the people of Bahá. My object is to show that the Hands of the Cause of God must be ever watchful and so soon as they find anyone beginning to oppose and protest against the Guardian of the Cause of God, cast him out from the congregation of the people of Bahá and in no wise accept any excuse from him. How often hath grievous error been disguised in the garb of truth, that it might sow the seeds of doubt in the hearts of men!

O ye beloved of the Lord! It is incumbent upon the Guardian of the Cause of God to appoint in his own life-time him that shall become his successor, that differences may not arise after his passing. He that is appointed must manifest in himself detachment from all worldly things, must be the essence of purity, must show in himself the fear of God, knowledge, wisdom and learning. Thus, should the first-born of the Guardian of the Cause of God not manifest in himself the truth of the words:—“The child is the secret essence of its sire,” that is, should he not inherit of the spiritual within him (the Guardian of the Cause of God) and his glorious lineage not be matched with a goodly character, then must he, (the Guardian of the Cause of God) choose another branch to succeed him.

The Hands of the Cause of God must elect from their own number nine persons that shall at all times be occupied in the important services in the work of the Guardian of the Cause of God. The election of these nine must be carried either unanimously or by majority from the company of the Hands of the Cause of God and these,

whether unanimously or by a majority vote, must give their assent to the choice of the one whom the Guardian of the Cause of God hath chosen as his successor. This assent must be given in such wise as the assenting and dissenting voices may not be distinguished (i.e., secret ballot).

O friends! The Hands of the Cause of God must be nominated and appointed by the Guardian of the Cause of God. All must be under his shadow and obey his command. Should any, within or without the company of the Hands of the Cause of God disobey and seek division, the wrath of God and His vengeance will be upon him, for he will have caused a breach in the true Faith of God. The obligations of the Hands of the Cause of God are to diffuse the Divine Fragrances, to edify the souls of men, to promote learning, to improve the character of all men and to be, at all times and under all conditions, sanctified and detached from earthly things. They must manifest the fear of God by their conduct, their manners, their deeds and their words.

This body of the Hands of the Cause of God is under the direction of the Guardian of the Cause of God. He must continually urge them to strive and endeavor to the utmost of their ability to diffuse the sweet savors of God, and to guide all the peoples of the world, for it is the light of Divine Guidance that causeth all the universe to be illumined. To disregard, though it be for a moment, this absolute command which is binding upon everyone, is in no wise permitted, that the existent world may become even as the Abhá Paradise, that the surface of the earth may become heavenly, that contention and conflict amidst peoples, kindreds, nations and governments may disappear, that all the dwellers on earth may become one people and one race, that the world may become even as one home. Should differences arise, they shall be amicably and conclusively settled by the Supreme Tribunal, that shall include members from all the governments and peoples of the world.

O ye beloved of the Lord! In this sacred Dispensation, conflict and contention are in no wise permitted. Every aggressor deprives himself of God's grace. It is incumbent upon everyone to show the utmost love, rectitude of conduct, straightforwardness and sincere kindness unto all the peoples and kindreds of the world, be they friends or strangers. So intense must be the spirit of love and loving kindness, that the stranger may find himself a friend, the enemy a true brother, no difference whatsoever existing between them. For universality is of God and all limitations earthly. Thus man must strive that his reality may manifest virtues and perfections, the light whereof may shine upon everyone. The light of the sun shineth upon all the world and the merciful showers of Divine Providence fall upon all peoples. The vivifying breeze reviveth every living creature and all beings endued with life obtain their share and portion at His heavenly board. In like manner, the affections and loving kindness of the servants of the One True God must be bountifully and universally extended to all mankind. Regarding this, restrictions and limitations are in no wise permitted.

Wherefore, O my loving friends! Consort with all the peoples, kindreds and religions of the world with the utmost truthfulness, uprightness, faithfulness, kindness, good-will and friendliness, that all the world of being may be filled with the holy ecstasy of the grace of Bahá, that ignorance, enmity, hate and rancor may vanish from the world and the darkness of estrangement amidst the peoples and kindreds of the world may give way to the Light of Unity. Should other peoples and nations be unfaithful to you show your fidelity unto them, should they be unjust toward you show justice towards them, should they keep aloof from you attract them to yourselves, should they show their enmity be friendly towards them, should they poison your lives, sweeten their souls, should they inflict a wound upon you, be a salve to their sores. Such are the attributes of the sincere! Such are the attributes of the truthful.

And now, concerning the House of Justice which God hath ordained as the source of all good and freed from all error, it must be elected by universal suffrage, that is, by the believers. Its members must be manifestations of the fear of God and daysprings of knowledge and understanding, must be steadfast in God's faith and the well-wishers of all mankind. By this House is meant the Universal House of Justice, that is, in all countries a secondary House of Justice must be instituted, and these secondary Houses of Justice must elect the members of the Universal one. Unto this body all things must be referred. It enacteth all ordinances and regulations that are not to be found in the explicit Holy Text. By this body all the difficult problems are to be resolved and the Guardian of the Cause of God is its sacred head and the distinguished member for life of that body. Should he not attend in person its deliberations, he must appoint one to represent him. Should any of the members commit a sin, injurious to the common weal, the Guardian of the Cause of God hath at his own discretion the right to expel him, whereupon the people must elect another one in his stead. This House of Justice enacteth the laws and the government enforceth them. The legislative body must reinforce the executive, the executive must aid and assist the legislative body so that through the close union and harmony of these two forces, the foundation of fairness and justice may become firm and strong, that all the regions of the world may become even as Paradise itself.

O Lord, my God! Assist Thy loved ones to be firm in Thy Faith, to walk in Thy ways, to be steadfast in Thy Cause. Give them Thy grace to withstand the onslaught of self and passion, to follow the light of Divine Guidance. Thou art the Powerful, the Gracious, the Self-Subsisting, the Bestower, the Compassionate, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful.

O friends of 'Abdu'l Bahá! The Lord, as a sign of His infinite bounties, hath graciously favored His servants by providing for a fixed money offering (Huqúq), to be dutifully presented unto Him, though He, the True One and His servants have been at all times independent of all created things, and God verily is the All-Possessing, exalted above the need of any gift from His creatures. This fixed money offering, however, causeth the people to become firm and steadfast and draweth Divine increase upon them. It is to be offered through the Guardian of the Cause of God, that it may be expended for the diffusion of the Fragrances of God and the exaltation of His Word, for benevolent pursuits and for the common weal.

O ye beloved of the Lord! It is incumbent upon you to be submissive to all monarchs that are just and to show your fidelity to every righteous king. Serve ye the sovereigns of the world with utmost truthfulness and loyalty. Show obedience unto them and be their well-wishers. Without their leave and permission do not meddle with political affairs, for disloyalty to the just sovereign is disloyalty to God Himself.

This is my counsel and the commandment of God unto you. Well is it with them that act accordingly.

\*\*\*\*\*

***The first Part of the Will focuses on the basic introduction of the covenant, using the concept of the lote tree, the concept of branches (Aghsan) and twigs (Afnan), as well as describing the services of the Master in the protection of the cause. Along with that there is also a constant mention of the covenant breakers either passively or actively throughout the text.***

*Abdul Baha describes the greatest of all things being the protection of faith and actively defending it against slanders, and then goes on to describe the various sacrifices of the Baha'u'llah, his struggles with Mirza Yahya and his period of incarceration at various towns and cities across the Ottoman empire.*

*Amongst the constant theme created in the criticism of his brother is his description as the centre of sedition and mischief. He criticizes his brother in a very poetic fashion, describing his actions as being the cause of great agony for the dwellers of heavens amongst other things. The Master then goes on to give the great reminder that "there is no grievous mistake bigger than breaking the covenant." and then declares his brother as the one who has broken the covenant of God.*

*Abdu'l Baha in the latter half again reminds the firm believers to stay true to the Covenant of God after his passing away and then promulgates the order Hereby appointing Shogi Effendi as his rightful heir and leader of the Baha'i faith after him and giving him the title of the "Guardian of the cause of God". Further on he describes the importance and status of Shogi Effendi with verses comparing his obedience to that of God Himself.*

*Thereafter is addressed the topic of succession, the role of the Hands of the Cause, as well as the formation and functions of the Universal House of Justice which shall be covered in detail in the next magazine.*

# The Purge of Persian Baha'is

from the Baha'i Administration

***Prelude:** Although this is an old article, it is still very relevant today. Reading these articles, we can come to this conclusion that how the current form of UHJ has always been working completely in contrast with the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master. We believe all Baha'is should read the following article for the sake of 'Independent Investigation of Truth' and with an open mind. No preconception should affect in deriving a conclusion. May Baha'u'llah bless us all.*

Very often the discussion going amongst the few veteran Baha'is that still remain, is that they do not see the spirituality and vigour that they were used to seeing about two decades ago. The present status of the Baha'i Faith is more like an organization being managed by Board of Directors. There are now more do's and don'ts, ex-communication verdicts, sudden resignations, quick elevations and mid-term and annual reports. Gone are the days of fire-sites, deepening on Holy writings, discussions on the life of the Master and the early contributors, contemplating on divine words and observing the Holy Days solemnly.

Those Baha'is who have seen the olden days are sane enough to analyse and draw conclusions. They may not make their views public due to fear of being declared covenant breakers, but their discontentment is noticeable. Slowly but surely the sincere Baha'is are getting side-lined and replaced by nominations of the Supreme Body is thus more with management strategies than with reliance and trust and prayers. Spirituality has taken back-seat. It therefore not surprising to see members of the Faith indulging in corrupt practices, involving in scandals that draw parallel from Hollywood and surfacing as law-breakers. All this is happening so commonly that a NDF without it is considered providence.

This drift naturally has come as the people at helm of affairs have not experienced sacrifice and ever shed a drop of blood. They have no attachment except for purpose of enjoying control and positions. The Faith and position have come to them on the platter. Their elevation to the highest administrative body is made more out of selection by forces external to the faith, who are exploiting the wonderful religion for ulterior motives. These are vested interests (non-Persians) who want to keep this thing going for as long as possible - because Baha'i Faith is a lucrative and profit-making business for them.

Post demise of Shoghi Effendi the powers that be in Haifa and in the USA and Britain have been packing this cult with their own people, side-lining the Persian Baha'is. In fact, within administrative positions there are far more Anglo-Europeans in charge than Persians. Thus, the Faith is witnessing the reducing influence of the Persian Baha'is. The cradle of the Faith, which was specially revered by both Bahauallah and Abdul Baha, is seen more as a political foe. Indeed, with the reducing influence of the Persian Baha'is the Faith has become devoid of spirit at leadership level. Persian Baha'is today are looked down and mocked upon, accused of nepotism and suspected to believe in Concept of Guardianship.

### **Some of the Persian Baha'is who have been over-looked are:**

- 1 - Fazil Mazandarani
- 2 - Ahang Rabbani
- 3 - Jamshed Fozdar
- 4 - Firoz Anarki
- 5 - Burhanuddeen Afshin
- 6 - Dr. Ahmed Ansari
- 7 - Dr. Hamid Moghbelpour
- 8 - Mr. Serrosh Najmi
- 9 - Dr. Jabbar Edilkhani

The fact remains that Anglo-European pronounces "Huququllah" as "Coca-Cola" and consider Abbas Effendi and Abdul Baha had a father and son relationship. The Persians Baha'is are supposed to do all the donkey's job and provide much of their hard-earned money. But the management at the very top remains with non-Persian Anglo-Europeans.

The respect that the faith had earned during the time of Persian Baha'is due to its high standards of morality and discipline is dwindling. The Baha'i Faith today is like a political party interested in advancement for reasons other than spiritual. The spirit is diminishing, the body is growing. Alas! The growth is more damaging to the faith than the schemes of all open opponents of the Faith. We do not need in an external enemy for damaging the Faith when destiny has taken over. We are collapsing faster than the old-world order.

With prayers for revival of the spirit and earnest hope that Bahauallah changes the destiny of the Baha'i Faith and we can see the good old days of the Faith with deepening happening on Aqdas, Iqan and Some Answered Questions instead of senseless and unproductive Ruhi curriculum. We will see an Administrative order where knowledge of the Holy writings will be considered as true knowledge rather than boring Ruhi books. Very soon let's hope we see the servants of Bahauallah serving on our administrative bodies rather than Board of Directors working as highly paid executives on our NSA, LSA, UHJ etc.

### **1 - How Hands of Cause Fadil Mazandarani was silenced by Universal House of Justice**

Hand of the Cause Asadu'llah Fadil Mazandarani

Date: Sat, 16 Dec 95

Subject: Zuhur'l-Haqq and Encyclopedia

Once again through sheer brilliance, Chris Buck has managed to cut through all the smoke and put his finger right on the heart of the issues -- the short answer is: yes, there are a lot of similarities between what happened to Zuhuru'l-Haqq and the current status of the Baha'i Encyclopedia.

Let me first state what I know as to what happened with Zuhuru'l-Haqq project. The lessons may then be obvious. On 11 Jalal 107 BE (1951) the NSA of Iran (Ali-Akbar Furutan was NSA secretary) published a 16-page open letter which at the end contains a short response by Fadil. This letter was the kiss of death for both Zuhurh'l-Haqq series and Fadil's scholarship and reputation.

He spent the latter part of his life away from the Baha'i community -- though extremely active in teaching field. After the passing of his wife, he married a Muslim woman and his three sons were raised with deep resentments towards the Baha'i community in general -- though they are very knowledgeable about the Cause and have many good Baha'i friends. His youngest son lives here in Houston, another passed away (in Ohio?) with the eldest (he is about 80 years old now) being in the States now seeking medical treatment (heart problem).

Of most concern is that Fadil had some extremely valuable and \*unique\* Texts and documents in his possessions, not to mention the fact that he had completed a number of very important books on the Faith which I believe he never shared with the administration and left with his sons -- which either have all been destroyed or awaits freezing of hell before they are handed over to the Faith. As an example of some of the books which he has completed but you never hear anyone mentioning it is a massive Encyclopaedia on the Cause under the title "Asraru'l-Athar-i Umumi" (General Mysteries of the Writings). Years earlier he published a 5-volume Baha'i encyclopaedia series titled "Asraru'l-Athar-i Khususi" (Specific Mysteries of the Writings) which no serious Baha'i student should be without. But his "Umumi" version was apparently the finest single piece of scholarship ever attempted in the Cause and it's a great shame if destroyed -- or never published. But again, what is of greatest importance is the massive number of Tablets and original documents which he had in his possession which never found their way to the Cause.

Some time ago, when I was posting on Quddus (I believe my first post on this topic), I discussed that for example he had a Tablet of Baha'u'llah in his possession where He states that had the Bab not declared, then Quddus would have. (Dr. Muhammad Afnan in Andalib states there is not such Tablet, but I think he knows better.) Anyway, the question is what happened with this most productive Baha'i scholar of all time (in my view, several orders of magnitude above Mirza Abu'l-Fadl or anyone else in the Faith)?

The answer to this question is with "the Dawn breakers"! All roads eventually lead to "The Dawn breakers" which the beloved Guardian has stated is the "standard for Baha'i history", but, has served as the standard for Baha'i fundamentalism. "The Dawn breakers" in my view is the biggest barrier to Baha'i scholarship! In fact, one can trace back the emergence of Baha'i fundamentalism right to the publication of this book and then exaggerated statements about it being "THE STANDARD". And that's when Fadil's troubles began. Fadil's view of history was based on several decades of incomparable collection of Texts, documents, narratives, interviews with old believers and extensive travels throughout the region -- not to mention a very elevated sense of devotion to the Cause which both Abdu'l-Baha and the beloved Guardian have praised repeatedly. So, what happened? Fadil had completed his first 3 volumes when Ali-Akbar Furutan got all bent out of shape. Now Furutan was (and is) somewhat of intellectual lightweight (and I'm afraid history won't be very kind to him on his writings, unless the House send out (which they will!) an extremely glowing cable after his death to silence all his critics (which are many)). This is all in early 1930's. So, Furutan, knowing that he couldn't take on a great mind like Fadil, got together with a real intellectual superstar (well, fast becoming one in those days), namely, my other hero, Ishraq-Khavari.

Together they made a case that certain points in Zuhuru'l-Haqq series do not conform to The Dawn breaker - the "standard"! So, they write to the Guardian. This makes Shoghi Effendi all upset with Zuhuru'l-Haqq as he didn't like anything that deviated by a dot from the Dawnbreakers. So, on 15 September 1932, he writes (my inadequate translation):

"Immediately organize a special committee to investigate, reorganize and bring into conformity Jinab-i Fadil's history with that of Nabil's history [the Dawnbreakers]. Of this task and grave responsibility, no delay is permitted, and utmost effort must be diligently exerted."

Poor Fadil. After a letter like this from the Guardian, well, his goose was cooked. What happened next is the ugliest chapter in Baha'i scholarship which has ever occurred. If you think things are bad now with respect to scholarship, well, you ain't seen nothing. (I have no intention of discussing the details on Talisman, and if pressed, will move the conversation over to Tarjuman, but in truth rather not disclose any details, mostly because there is no guarantee that what I know is really what happened. Remember, I'm just a young lad in my 30's, I wasn't around in those days.) What is a matter of public record and I can safely state is that a committee was organized and closely (word by word) examined Zuhuru'l-Haqq. Now the Guardian wanted this to be done overnight. Well it took nearly 20 years to complete this process (Fadil's "confessional" letter is dated 1951).

So, those hoping for a quick resolution of Baha'i Encyclopaedia impasse may wish to make note of this. At the end, as I said, NSA of Iran published a 16-page letter outlining all the "errors" in ZH-3 and included Fadil's own short letter giving a blanket agreement with their comments. This letter of NSA of Iran is the greatest stupidity ever committed by a Baha'i institution and shows only their depth of ignorance. I will share its content as our discussion of ZH-3 unfolds. This letter resulted in discouraging a model servant of the Faith from further association with Baha'i administration and silenced anyone who dared to do serious or independent scholarship.

Forever though the memory of this illustrious scholar of the Cause is inscribed upon the hearts of those seeking knowledge. The incredible injustice that took place a half-century ago must be set right, and it is my intention to speak publicly, openly and supportive of the Hand of the Cause of God Fadil-i Mazandarani wherever I can. If justice means anything to you, I implore you to do likewise.

## **2 - How Ahang Rabbani was Silenced by Universal House of Justice**

Oppressed Baha'i Scholar Ahang Rabbani with his family.

Subject: Why me?

From: Ahang Rabbani

To: [secretariat@bwc.org](mailto:secretariat@bwc.org)

Date: 3/30/2007

Dear Universal House of Justice,

I have no idea how to start this letter, so I'm just going to type and then send the letter without reading it because if I read it, I would never send it.

I've been upset with the House of some time now. I hate feeling this way. I love the Faith and I love the House. But I feel that I'm being persecuted unjustly by the House. That sounds crazy, I know.

But that's how I feel. I think I've been extremely loyal to the Faith and the House for all my life and have served it with dedication all my life, but I've been dealt with extremely harshly and unjustly.

I came to Haifa in 1981, giving up a very promising professional career, to serve the Faith. When my service was no longer needed (or actually some folks had plans to bring Hoda Mahmudi from some rather strange designs they had at the time), I had to go through a most excruciating period of months of unwarranted criticism from folks I loved and respected. To this day I don't know what crime I had committed that warranted such treatment during those incredibly dark days in 1988.

When I came to the States my interests shifted to translation and scholarly activities. I wish I had never done so because it has brought me nothing (absolutely nothing!!) but pain and heartache. Time and again, when I worked on something, I would send it to the World Centre (when I absolutely did not have to and was advised by family/friends not to do so) out of a sense of loyalty that getting the House's approval and blessing was a good thing. Every time I was disappointed. It's been going on for 15 years now. I keep pouring my heart into my work just to find the World Centre has come up with some new excuse to block my labor from seeing daylight -- while all kinds of incredibly low-quality books are filling up Baha'i stores. Along the way I'm terribly shocked to see that I'm target of all sorts of accusations by the House of Justice which only later prove to be false and baseless.

So, I have to ask: What have I done to warrant this? Why I am being singled out for what appears to be ... well, I don't know what word to use. But it doesn't feel good. I can't sleep. I'm very angry with the House and really hate myself for feeling this way. I DON'T want to feel this way. What do I do???

If you don't want me to be a Baha'i, just say so and I'll leave. I have complete trust in whatever comes from the House is from God (though I really hate it that I'm always criticized or and everything I do is rejected -- even though I know my manuscripts and work is first-rate.)

If you don't want me to do work (which I had understood naively to be what the House wants those of us with interest in such things to work on), then just say so and I'll close my books and go to something else in life.

I probably have made no sense whatsoever and will be very upset with myself after I send this, but at this stage if I don't, I'll never write a letter and won't know why I'm targeted for so much negativity.

Please help me to regain my faith. With tears pouring from my eyes I beg of you! I need your help please PLEASE  
Deepst love,  
Ahang,

### **3 - Mr. Jamshed Fozdar**

Mr. Jamshed Fozdar son of Mr. Khodad Fozdar and Mrs Shireen Fozdar a Baha'i is from a respected Family who served the Faith with distinction for the whole of his life whose two family members have served as Counsellor was supposed to go through the rigorous courses of Ruhi Book where a 15 year Old girl appointed as Teacher will teach you the tenets of Baha'i Faith.

Any disagreement from this system will make you a recipient of a warning letter from the House of JUSTICE. The language used in the letter will make you further reflect that whether the letter is written by the custodians of the Faith or an international Terrorist organization threatening you to come in line with the UHJ or get ready to be declared as Covenant breaker.

#### ***Letter to Mr. Jamshed Fozdar 18 December 2007***

“The House of Justice was most surprised to learn that, beyond expressing such opinions in your letter to the Spiritual Assembly of Sarawak and its attachments, you have been taking steps in a number of countries to gather a cadre of believers around you, urging them to take action in support of your particular views, which are often contrary to the clear direction being given by the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá’í world. As you will recall, in the letter to you dated 7 December 2004 sent on its behalf, the House of Justice conveyed its displeasure regarding similar actions on your part. Your obstinacy in persisting in this pattern of behaviour demonstrates a total disregard for the appeal made to you in that letter to correct your mode of conduct. You should consider this letter a final warning, which if not heeded will necessitate the removal of your administrative rights in the Bahá’í community. The House of Justice would profoundly regret having to take such action.”

#### **4 - Mr. Feroz Anarki**

Mr. Anaraki a Professor by profession who served on the National Spiritual Assembly of Bahais of Thailand was accused of “disclosing confidential information”

#### ***Letter to Mr. Anaraki dated 2 February 2010***

“Having considered Dr. Anaraki's recent conduct, in particular the manner in which he has chosen to respond to the question put to him about the disclosure of confidential information, the House of Justice has concluded that he has shown gross failure to fulfil the basic spiritual obligations of a Bahá’í serving on an institution of the Faith. On that basis, you are instructed to deprive him of his administrative privileges forthwith, a sanction that will, of course, require his immediate removal from membership on the Spiritual Assembly of Bangkok. You should notify the Assembly accordingly, in a manner that you deem appropriate. Dr. Anaraki should be informed of the reason for this decision, and he should also be told that if consideration is to be given to lifting the sanction now imposed upon him he will first need to demonstrate a pronounced change in attitude towards the institutions of the Faith over an extended period of time.”

#### **5 - Burhanuddeen Afshin**

Mr. B. Afshin migrated to India in 1968 from Iran, after a very hard work was elevated to the position of Counsellor. The group of Anglo European Baha'i could not see his popularity. He was the future member of UHJ. But the group leased another NSA member Mr. R.N. Shah after him. Mr. R.N. Shah was deadly against all the Persian background Baha'is. He uses to criticize the Panchgani community and use to say that what these Iranians are doing in this tiny place of Panchgani. It is a well-known fact that R.N. Shah was never a Baha'i; he was against all Persian Baha'is. He disbanded the Persian conference use to be held every year in Panchgani, he manipulated the votes and he earned huge amount of money. He brought his corrupt son in law as an NSA member and then we saw what happened.

Mr. Jabbar wanted Mr. Afshin to do some deepening in Bangladesh but the house did not approve as it felt that he is increasing his field of influence. It looks like that all of Persian Baha'is are branded as Doubtful covenant Breaker hence their movement and participation in any important conferences are denied by UHJ.

#### **6 - Dr. Ahmed Ansari**

Another Persian Baha'i settled in India suffered untold persecution through the Jews supported Baha'is. He was legally elected to NSA but asked by the House to resign. When he was elected as delegate for National Convention, he was asked to resign. A tirade of moral corruption was leashed against him and his family. His sister was also not spared and accused of being a family breaker.

#### **7 - Dr. Hamid Moghbelpour**

He was a member of NSA of India for a long time. He was a prolific donor to the Baha'i Funds. In the ethnic cleansing of Baha'i Administration from the Persian background Baha'is, he too was not spared. It is reported the Payman Mohajir, member of the UHJ advised the NSA to seek his resignation from the membership of LSA of Varanasi as well.

#### **8 - Mr. Suroosh Najmi**

A former member of NSA of Pakistan was barred from being elected to any administrative body under Baha'i Administration. He along with another member of NSA was accused by Counsellor Rehani and Mr. Mehrdad of being elected by unfair means. The correct reason was the Jew dominated Baha'i Administration was unwillingly to see his popularity rising day by day.

#### **9 - Jabbar Eidhelkhani**

He is counsellor appointed in Bangladesh as no American or European Baha'i would like to stay in Bangla Desh. He is very hard working sincerely but very recently he was accused of stage managing the delegate election of NSA trying to induct his wife into NSA. Had any European or US Baha'is agreed to migrate to Bangla Desh, he would have shown the door as Mr. Afshin was shown.

- By Anonymous (The Author requested us not to disclose his identity)

# Inspiring Quotes

*Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!*

– **The Bab**

*The first duty prescribed by God for His servants is the recognition of Him Who is the Dayspring of His Revelation and the Fountain of His laws, Who representeth the Godhead in both the Kingdom of His Cause and the world of creation.*

– **Baha'u'llah**

*The divine religions were founded for the purpose of unifying humanity and establishing universal peace. Any movement which brings about peace and agreement in human society is truly a divine movement; any reform which causes people to come together under the shelter of the same tabernacle is surely animated by heavenly motives.*

– **Abdu'l Baha**

# An Update on Free Baha'i Activities

## ***O SON OF BEING!***

***Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee. Get thou from it thy radiance and seek none other than Me. For I have created thee rich and have bountifully shed My favor upon thee.***

**(Hidden Words, By Baha'u'llah)**

Dear Baha'i faithful;

Allah'u'Abha!

With blessings from our Master, this is our fifth Caravan Magazine. The Caravan of Baha'u'llah is moving at a good pace, all with His blessings and mercy. We take immense pleasure in spreading the pristine message of Baha'u'llah. We have a wonderful news to share that the faithful in Canada, America and Singapore have started study circles with close associates and relatives – 7-4-2 in United States, Canada and Singapore respectively. They gather once a month and read the Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah and have reported that is much effective then Ruhi books, which was previously started but was discontinued due to lack of interest from the faithful. As these study circles have become a big success and the Baha'is are finding it more appealing than their previous Ruhi curriculums, we have requested other Faithful to implement the same.

We have another amazing news from India - A faithful has created a blog to propagate the message of Baha'u'llah. Our good wishes are with him.

A faithful from Angola sent us beautiful pictures of his ongoing teaching program in villages and townships. He has been associated with the Free Baha'I faith since a few years now and we feel proud to have such hardworking and talented people working for Baha'u'llah. He had requested for some printed 'The Caravan' magazines for distributing amongst seekers, which were provided to him through post.

We have been receiving a lot of emails wherein the faithful are asking to meet other Baha'is in their respective areas. We did consult with our close friends but since they are afraid of banishment from the Administration, they are reluctant to meet the newcomers. Although with mutual consultation it has been decided that soon we will have a Free Baha'i conference wherein we will invite all our faithful to join and discuss how to serve the faith better.

We have noticed during the consultation with other faithful that all friends have a common goal that is spreading the teachings of Baha'u'llah and our beloved Master. They are fed up with the organizational structure and restrictions laid down by assemblies. Baha'is now need freedom from the chain of administration, so they can freely organize fire sides and study circles, so that the message of love and peace reach to all mankind.

We would like to thank all faithful for support and with great pleasure we would like to share our blogs which are created and managed by small group of faithful in their respective countries.

1. Blog for Thailand - <https://freebahai19.wordpress.com>
2. Blog for USA - <http://freebahais.blogspot.com>
3. Blog for Singapore - <http://singaporebahai.blogspot.com>
4. Blog for Australia - <https://australiabahais.wordpress.com>
5. Blog for Angola - <https://angolafreebahais.wordpress.com>
6. Blog for Canada - <https://freebahaisca.wordpress.com>
7. Blog for India - <https://freebahaisindia.blogspot.com>

We would like to encourage other faithful to commence this small yet effective service in spreading love and peace for the sake of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Free Baha'i team.

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## Want to be a contributor for The Caravan Magazine ?

Interested in contributing to the Caravan Magazine by writing a guest article?

Kindly send us your article at [thecaravan@freebahais.org](mailto:thecaravan@freebahais.org) and if we find your article unique, knowledgeable and interesting enough for our readers, we will surely publish it in our upcoming issue.

If you have any other queries, you can write to us at

[info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org)

Thank you!

# Some Questions Answered / Write to us

## Question 1

Members by me. Inbox x



 **MRS ELIZABETH TOOMAN** <...@verizon.net via yahoo.com>  
to info@freebahais.org

Aug 2, 7:57 AM (13 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Greetings. Wondering if their is anyway to meetup with other members if their are any in my area. Which is the NYC metro area. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Thank you for all you do here. Many blessings from the Free Baha'i site. Thank you + many blessings upon you.

## Answer:

Dear Elizabeth,

People who are associated with the Free Baha'i faith are in the fear of getting excommunicated by the UHJ and thus don't declare about their beliefs to other Baha'is. Although their heart is very much following the pristine message of Baha'u'llah.

**"I counsel you that you study earnestly the teachings of Baha'u'llah, so that, God helping you, you may in deed and truth become Baha'is."**

**– Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p 96**

We advise you to take steps towards spreading the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and make people realise and follow the pristine message and beware of the corruption happening in the faith, and not what the current form of UHJ is trying to inculcate amongst the Baha'is.

We request you to kindly share your contact details with us, so if anyone is interested in contacting other members in the US, we would share your details and they can contact you. :)

Have a great day ahead.

May God bless you!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'i

## Question 2

Allah'u'abha



**Devan Singh** <...@gmail.com>  
to info



Allah'u'abha, my friends. I have recently been exposed to the teachings of Sayyid al-Bab and Baha'u'llah, reading much work in a short time. I would like to join amongst the believers, inshallah, but I am uncertain of the authenticity of leadership. I would begin with Baha'u'llah naming Mirza Muhammad Ali and Abdu'l-Baha as leaders of the faith and covenant, respectively. It seems Abdu'l-Baha eclipsed his brother, who spoke on this, and labeled him a covenant breaker. Their works both profess the truthfulness of their father, though disagreeing on things such as reincarnation and the metaphysics of the Manifestations, and Mirza's will speaks lovingly of his younger brother. Next we come to Shoghi Effendi's claim of succession, which was questionable at best due to the seemingly forged will of Abdu'l-Baha. He seems to have been a madman drunk with power, excommunicating every male member of his family as covenant breakers and seemingly failing to name a successor. This being said, Mason Remey's claim was similar and at least as believable as Shoghi Effendi's; his line of succession still alive with the Orthodox Baha'is (even this being contested by one Leland Jensen). Finally, Rex King claims to be the interim leader until Shoghi Effendi's son returns from occultation, al la the Shi'a Imam Mahdi. Forgive the long message, I pray you will be able to give guidance.

**Answer:**

Allah'u'abha!

Thank you for writing to us, Devan. Could you pls tell us which Baha'i sect do you belong to or have sourced your learning from? Also, do tell us where are you based and how did you hear about the Free Baha'i faith?

Regarding successorship between Mirza Muhammad Ali and Abdu'l Baha, they both were given the authority by Baha'u'llah although after His passing away, Mirza Muhammad Ali acted against the true teachings of his father and thus was declared as Covenant Breaker by the Master. It was all in the likelihood of the faith.

Shoghi Effendi claimed leadership which was based on a forged Will of the Master and the same has been proved by Lady Ruth White, the first inspiration of the Free Baha'is along with Dr. Mitchell - Do know more about it on our official website and shoot questions just in case.

All the leaders that came to power after Shoghi Effendi obviously were deviated and thus we do not want to discuss them here. We the Free Baha'is follow only Baha'u'llah and the Master and follow the pristine message and try to work for the sake of humanity and world peace. Baha'u'llah and the Master always believed in giving the power to common people and disregard denomination by leaders and clergymen. The Master has clearly declared - "There are no officers in this cause! ..." The Baha'i faith was always about service to humanity and never about rule and leadership of one or a few conmen who have now destroyed the essence of the faith.

Do watch this video to understand the pristine message of the Master and look around to find out how the majority of the Baha'is have gone away from it

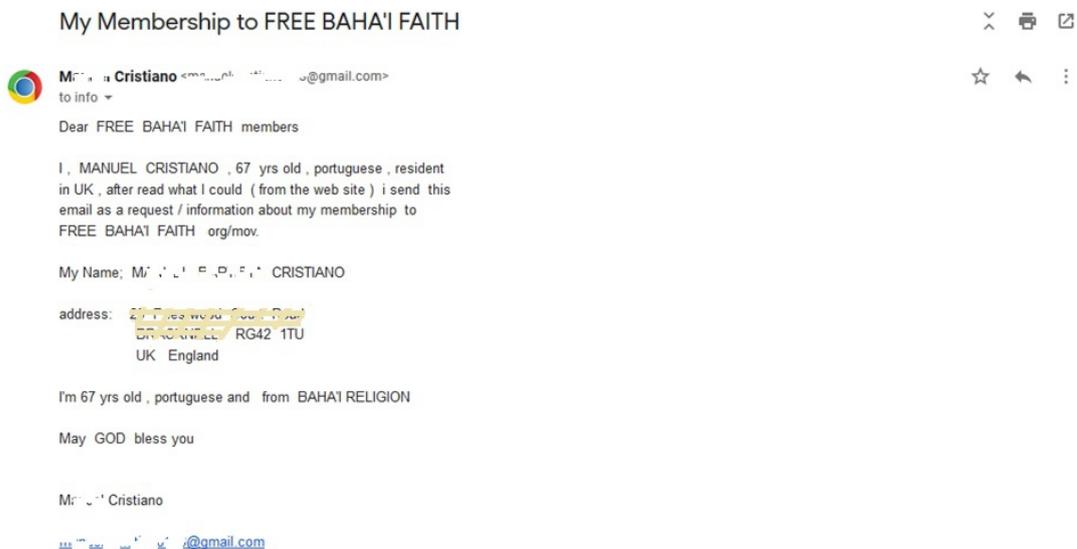
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2U\\_t0xWMzA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2U_t0xWMzA)

Do feel free to write back in case you have any more questions. Looking forward to your replies on the above-mentioned questions.

Thank you,

Team Free Baha'i

**Question 3**



**Answer :**

Hi M,

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for writing to us. We welcome you to the Free Baha'i faith and wish you success in both the worlds. Although we do not believe in declarations. We believe in spreading the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and don't work for numbers. Anyone who would wish to work for the faith should follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, serve the faith and promote world peace and harmony.

Why do you think the Baha'i Faith got split into various groups after the passing away of the Master? Don't you think the rule of the so-called guardian Shoghi Effendi and his Administration has played a very crucial role in the division and disunity of the Baha'is?

If you wish to read more about the Free Baha'i faith, kindly visit our official website - [www.freebahais.org](http://www.freebahais.org). For any further queries do write us back.

Humbly,

The Free Baha'i Team

**Write to us -**

**Hello again from India**

 From **Rajnesh G** <[rajneshg@gmail.com](mailto:rajneshg@gmail.com)>   
To [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org)   
Date **Wed 08:25**

Hi there,

Im happy to see my article on the UHJ member being widely circulated on the internet, all thanks to the Free Baha'i magazine. I will always be indebted towards your kind help. Im an ex NSA member and its been more than 25 years serving the faith but now I have realized how UHJ has fooled us and is just using us as a tool and is not really concerned about the Baha'is in India. I still believe that there were far better candidate than Praveen mallick to represent India at the UHJ. There is definitely some politics behind him being elected otherwise I know Praveen personally and trust me he has done no extraordinary service for the faith. Anyway I have now renewed by covenant with Baha'u'llah and look forward to work for the faith. I have created a blog which right now only has my article. Here is the link for your reference - <https://freebahaisindia.blogspot.com/>

Do let me know what else can be uploaded on the blog and would be nice if you can update my blog link on your website so i can expect visits from around the world. Thank you team!

Regards,  
RG

**Answer:**

Allah'u'Abha,

Rajnesh!

We're glad to receive your email. Thank you for writing back to us. May Baha'u'llah be your helper in this difficult journey of renouncing pseudo UHJ and accepting the pristine message of the faith. We would like to assure you that most of Baha'is are annoyed with the treatment of the UHJ and are upset over the fact that the essence of the religion is lost. The faith is left with a bunch of power seeking people who are only concerned about gaining position and fame.

Baha'u'llah was against organizing the religion and wanted every Baha'i to work for the cause wholeheartedly. However, the current form of UHJ is functioning exactly reverse. They have made people work towards gaining authority. Unfortunately, all this started right after the passing away of the Master and as soon as the so-called Guardian Shoghi Effendi came to power. Anyway, we advise you to spread the message of love and bind people together with the pristine message of Baha'u'llah. India is a country where truth prevails, so make sure you and other sincere followers of Baha'u'llah are united towards the cause and promote world peace and harmony.

We saw your blog and it simply looks amazing. Great work there. If you wish you can upload all the 4 Caravan Magazines on your blog. Also, keep sharing more such interesting analysis about the condition of the faith in India. Keep updating your blog regularly and soon we will get it linked to the official website. Do write back in case you have any queries/feedback/suggestions. Humbly,

The Free Baha'i Team

# Know your Heritage



**A Head Dress of Baha'u'llah displayed in His room at Bahji**

# Declarations into the Free Baha'i Faith

*We* the Free Baha'is do not believe in declarations. We believe in spreading the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and don't work for numbers. A Free Baha'i should purify himself from greed of attaining positions, and start working out of love for humanity and world peace.

Our Master Abdul Baha' has clearly stated,

*"There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not appointed any one to perform any special services, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is purely a democracy, and not a theocracy."*

**(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)**

These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have pushed the Baha'i to work out of greed of acquiring positions which lead to fake reports and false statistics. But, if a person frees himself from administration, he will fulfil his duties towards Baha'u'llah and not for NSA or UHJ. Thus, he will be rewarded by Baha'u'llah for his efforts. For this reason, Free Baha'is do not believe in Officers or Office Bearers and one must be the Guardian of his own faith and action.

So, anyone who would wish to work for the faith should follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, serve the faith and promote world peace and harmony.

**Why do you think the Baha'i Faith got split into various groups after the passing away of the Master? Don't you think the rule of the so-called guardian Shoghi Effendi and his Administration has played a very crucial role in the division and disunity of the Baha'is?**

# Have you done your independent investigation of truth ?

**Abdu'l Baha** has said,

“... It is the duty of everyone to investigate reality, and investigation of reality by another will not do ...”

“God has given man the eye of investigation by which he may see and recognize truth. He has endowed man with ears that he may hear the message of reality and conferred upon him the gift of reason by which he may discover things for himself. This is his endowment and equipment for the investigations of reality. Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain. Each human creature has individual endowment, power and responsibility in the creative plan of God. Therefore, depend upon your own reason and judgment and adhere to the outcome of your own investigation; otherwise you will be utterly submerged in the sea of ignorance and deprived of all the bounties of God. Turn to God; supplicate humbly at his threshold, seeking assistance and confirmation, that God may rend asunder the veils that obscure your vision. Then will your eyes be filled with illumination; face to face you will behold the reality of God and your heart become completely purified from the dross of ignorance, reflecting the glories and bounties of the kingdom.”

**The Promulgation of Universal Truth. Discourses Abdul Baha; pages 285-287-288**

# Throwback - 1920

Lady Ruth White while narrating her first visit to the home of Abdu'l Baha, in May 1920, says that she decided to ask whether her stand against the Administration was right. So, one morning when she with her husband was taking early morning tea with the Master, she found him engulfed in great floods of correspondence, and contrary to his usual custom of praising people he spoke of the dreadful lack of harmony existing among the members of the Bahai Assemblies in America, and the letters of complaint that they wrote to him one against the other.

**“Great God!” he exclaimed, “Can’t they understand that I have nothing to do with such pettiness?”**

The thought occurred to me, “Why is he telling me this? I have never belonged to the Assemblies.” I concluded that this was an opportune time to ask him if my stand in not becoming a member of them was the right one. His face beamed with happiness as he nodded approval and said:

**“The organization that the Bahais have among themselves has nothing to do with the teachings of Baha’o’llah. The teachings of Baha’o’llah are universal and cannot be confined to a sect.”**

(Source: Abdu'l Baha's Questioned Will and Testament, pgs. 37-38)

# Did YOU Know ??



**Abdu'l Baha is often referred to as the “Master” or the “Beloved” by most of the Baha'is. But did you know that this title was one of the many given to him by his father, Baha'u'llah.**

**“Aga” is the Persian word for the “Master” or “Lord” and by this title, he was known to all the Baha'is until the year 1892, when Baha'u'llah departed from this world and then he took to himself the name of “Abdu'l Baha” which means the servant of God. But to the people outside the Baha'i community, he was ever known as “Abbas Effendi”**

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**PUBLISHED BY THE FREE BAHÁ'Í FAITH  
IN  
SINGAPORE | USA | THAILAND**

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**THE CARAVAN || REVIVED EDITION : VOLUME 2 || AZAMAT 175 B.E**