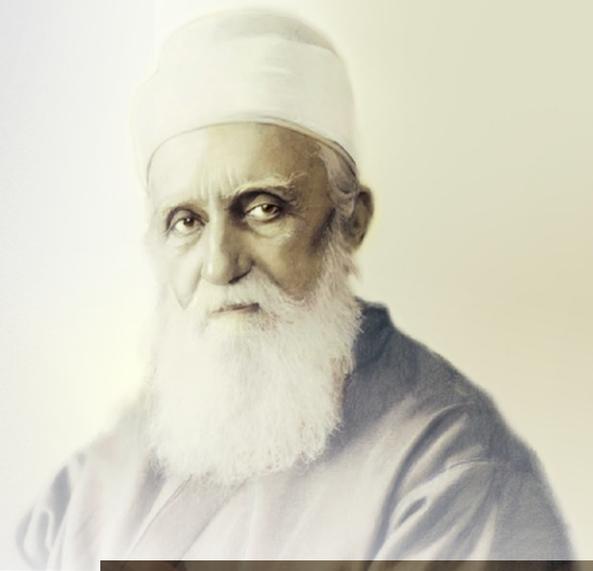




The

CARRAVAN



Will &
Testament

HUQUQ'U'LLAH ? IS NOT FOR THE UHJ!

Volume 2, Edition-6
Sharaf (Honor)
175 B.E.

**Asked &
Answered**



“ 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



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THE FREE BAHAI FAITH

FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION

O Thou forgiver of sins...

O my God! O Thou forgiver of sins, bestower of gifts, dispeller of afflictions!

Verily, I beseech thee to forgive the sins of such as have abandoned the physical garment and have ascended to the spiritual world. O my Lord! Purify them from trespasses, dispel their sorrows, and change their darkness into light. Cause them to enter the garden of happiness, cleanse them with the most pure water, and grant them to behold Thy splendors on the loftiest mount.

- Prayer of Abdu'l Baha



July 1921: Abdu'l Baha with a child outside His house in Haifa

FOREWORD

“...look not upon each other with the eye of strangeness. Ye are all the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch.” – Baha'u'llah

We are glad to be back with, yet another edition of the Caravan and this time overwhelmed with joy that we as Free Baha'is have been given this opportunity of spreading the holy message of Baha'u'llah. The abovementioned quote is a point of guidance for us Baha'is that we should treat one another with love and kindness. Each one reading this magazine should feel a personal responsibility towards this greatest peace movement of modern times and work towards establishing unity within the humanity. That's what Baha'u'llah had come for, to unite the East and the West and for the establishment of world peace.

We as Free Baha'is want to show the world that Baha'u'llah had come for the entire humanity and not for a particular religion. Once people are made familiar with these teachings of the Baha'i faith, they will realise the fact that the promises and expectations of their own beliefs are fulfilled in the Baha'i Faith and become a follower of Baha'u'llah. That is why, we the Free Baha'is do not declare anyone as covenant breaker and believe that this right solely belonged to Baha'u'llah and the Master, as they had farsightedness and knowledge beyond the capacity of a normal human being. Today, no one possess such deep insight and thus no one has the right to declare anyone a covenant breaker and in fact accept one and all with open arms.

In this magazine, we went ahead in analysing the Will and Testament of the Master to find out the stand of Shoghi Effendi, who claim to be sole authority of the Cause after the passing away of the Master. We would request all our readers to do an unfettered investigation if they are interested in discovering the reality.

“O people! The darkness of greed and envy obscures the light of the soul as the cloud prevents the penetration of the sun's rays.” – Baha'u'llah

Nevertheless, whether the Will is genuine or spurious, the actions of the so-called Guardian show that they do not represent the teachings of the Baha'i faith. On that note, even the current Administrative system within the Baha'is is not in sync with the teachings of Baha'u'llah, as He was unifier of the spirit of all religions, and the spirit cannot be incorporated.

A pure heart and free will to search, to investigate, is the very foundation of an independent search for truth. Let it swell in the hearts of all mankind – Once truth is found, then unity can be achieved in its total essence.

If you have any feedback/suggestions/queries, kindly mail it to info@freebahais.org, and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Thank you!
The Free Baha'i Team

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Keep Going!

Is the goal distant, and troubled the road,
And the way long?
And heavy your load?
Then gird up your courage, and say 'I am strong,'
And keep going.

Is the work weary, and endless the grind
And petty the pay?
Then brace up your mind
And say 'Something better is coming my way,'
And keep doing.

Is the drink bitter life pours in your cup -
Is the taste gall?
Then smile and look up
And say 'God is with me whatever befall,'
And keep trusting.

Is the heart heavy with hope long deferred,
And with prayers that seem vain?
Keep saying the word -
And that which you strive for you yet shall attain.
Keep praying.

- **Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

The Principles of the Free Baha'i Faith Explained

The Sixth Free Baha'i Principle is:
“The Equality of Men and Women.”

When we, the Free Baha'is say equality of Men and Women, we mean it. The Master has denoted both men and women as the two wings of the soul, i.e. without one another the life is hollow.

“They must be as the two wings of the soul, each equally developed. The sixth foundation stone, the Sardonyx, is a stone of two layers, one white and one red, symbolical of the two in one who unitedly further the progress of mankind.” – 'Abdu'l-Baha

Considering the time and place in which Baha'u'llah proclaimed his principles, this one, the equality of men and women, was probably the most revolutionary and startling of them all. And yet it is now the most universally accepted, outwardly at least. Feminine emancipation has swept the world, both West and East, and women have proved their capacity to enter the professions, trades, and arts, on an equal footing with men. But this is only a superficial equality, concessions extorted from a man's world. Full psychic equality is not yet; men are unwilling to recognize it, and women, owing to thousands of years of inferior education and position, are unable to accept it.

“The world of humanity has two wings; one is woman and the other man. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of woman becomes equal to the world of man in the acquisition of virtues and perfection's, can success and prosperity be attained as they ought to be.” – 'Abdu'l-Baha

Men and women are not the same, they have different functions. But these functions are complementary, and both must be equal for a perfect result. In psychological terms we say there are two principles, Logos the male, and Eros the female. So far, Logos, the active, achieving principle has been dominant in world affairs. Eros, the principle which brings people into relatedness and maintains harmony, has been in the background or confined to the family. But its power and value are unconsciously recognized in the fact that the woman, the hostess, is the important person at a social gathering, the mother in the home. When this force is released into all human affairs, it will accomplish its work between nations, in the human family. The excesses to which women have been led by their sudden and-swift emancipation, their attempts to achieve equality through sacrifice of femininity, or through outdoing men in masculine activities, offer no standard of judgment for a truly mature sex.

Equality of women does not mean that they must make better males than men, but that they must achieve true maturity of soul. The same obligation rests upon men.

Baha'u'llah declared the equality of men and women, expressed through equal responsibilities and equal rights and privileges. And since that declaration, the bonds by which women have been bound for ages have been breaking, and women have rapidly been securing her rightful place as the equal and partner of man.

“Women must go on advancing; they must extend their knowledge of science, literature, history, for the perfection of humanity. Ere long they will receive their Rights. Men will see women in earnest, bearing themselves with dignity, improving the civil and political life, opposed to warfare, demanding suffrage and equal opportunities. I expect to see you advance in all phases of life; then will your brows be crowned with the diadem of eternal glory.” – Abdu'l Baha

Of great importance is that women should be regarded as the total equals of men. It is their right to enjoy all privileges, an equal education and equal opportunities just as men do. Bringing about the emancipation of women relies on universal education. Girls are to receive as good an education as boys. In fact, the education of girls is of greater importance than that of boys. In time girls will become mothers, and as mothers, they will be the first teachers of the next generation.

“Children are like green and tender branches; if the early training is right, they grow straight, and if it is wrong they grow crooked; and to the end of their lives they are affected by the training of their earliest years. How important, then, that girls should be well and wisely educated!” – Abdu'l Baha

Equality is a virtue of right and of principle among the foundation of God's Teachings. No longer are women held back from their full powerful potency of spiritual endowment. It is incumbent upon men to recognize women as their equal and as their partner in the New World Order. Oneness, Unity, and harmony among mankind cannot be achieved unless there is equality between men and women. The oneness of mankind is essential for world harmony and peace, as the common foundation of racial origins be the same, this hold true to the origins of woman and man, we are all of God's creation, there are no second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God.

“Humanity is like a bird with two wings- the one is male, the other female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards. According to the spirit of this age, women must advance and fulfil their mission in all departments of life, becoming equal to men, they must be on the same level as men and enjoy equal rights. This is my earnest prayer and it is one of the fundamental principles of Baha'u'llah.” – Abdu'l Baha

The Alleged Will of Abdu'l Baha - An Analysis PART 3

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 Third part of the Will, followed by a short summary. We urge our readers to take effort in understanding these Holy words as part of our Independent Investigation of Truth.

Third Part of the Will:

O my God! my Beloved, my heart's Desire! Thou knowest, Thou seest that which hath befallen this servant of Thine, that hath humbled himself at Thy Door, and Thou knowest the sins committed against him by the people of malice, they that have broken Thy Covenant and turned their backs on Thy Testament. In the day-time they afflicted me with the arrows of hate and in the night-season they privily conspired to hurt me. At dawn they committed that which the Celestial Concourse did lament and at eventide they unsheathed against me the sword of tyranny and hurled in the presence of the ungodly their darts of calumny upon me. Notwithstanding their misdeeds, this lowly servant of Thine was patient and did endure every affliction and trial at their hands, though by Thy power and might he could have destroyed their words, quenched their fire and stayed the flame of their rebelliousness.

Thou seest, O my God! how my long-suffering, my forbearance and silence have increased their cruelty, their arrogance and their pride. By Thy Glory, O Beloved One! They have misbelieved in Thee and rebelled against Thee in such wise that they left me not a moment of rest and quiet, that I might arise as it is meet and seemly, to exalt Thy Word amidst mankind, and might serve at Thy Threshold of Holiness with a heart that overfloweth with the joy of the dwellers of the Abhá Kingdom.

Lord! My cup of woe runneth over, and from all sides blows are fiercely raging upon me. The darts of affliction have compassed me round and the arrows of distress have rained upon me. Thus tribulation overwhelmed me and my strength, because of the onslaught of the foemen, became weakness within me, while I stood alone and forsaken in the midst of my woes. Lord! Have mercy upon me, lift me up unto Thyself and make me to drink from the Chalice of Martyrdom, for the wide world with all its vastness can no longer contain me.

Thou art, verily, the Merciful, the Compassionate, the Gracious, the All-Bountiful!

O ye the true, the sincere, the faithful friends of this wronged one! Everyone knoweth and believeth what calamities and afflictions have befallen this wronged one, this prisoner, at the hands of those who have broken the Covenant at the time when, after the setting of the Day-Star of the world, his heart was consumed with the flame of his bereavement.

When, in all parts of the earth, the enemies of God profiting by the passing away of the Sun of Truth, suddenly and with all their might launched their attack; at such a time and in the midst of so great a calamity, the Covenant-breakers arose with the utmost cruelty, intent upon harm and the stirring up of the spirit of enmity. At every moment a misdeed they did commit and bestirred themselves to sow the seeds of grievous sedition, and to ruin the edifice of the Covenant. But this wronged one, this prisoner, did his utmost to hide and veil their doings, that haply they might regret and repent. His long-suffering and forbearance of these evil deeds, however, made the rebellious ones still more arrogant and daring; until, through leaflets written with their own hands, they sowed the seeds of doubt, printing these leaflets and scattering them broadcast throughout the world, believing that such foolish doings would bring to naught the Covenant and the Testament.

Thereupon the loved ones of the Lord arose, inspired with the greatest confidence and constancy and aided by the power of the Kingdom, by Divine Strength, by heavenly Grace, by the unfailing help and Celestial Bounty, they withstood the enemies of the Covenant in well-nigh three score and ten treatises and supported by conclusive proofs, unmistakable evidences and clear texts from the Holy Writ, they refuted their scrolls of doubt and mischief-kindling leaflets. The Center of Sedition was thus confounded in his craftiness, afflicted by the wrath of God, sunk into a degradation and infamy that shall be lasting until the Day of Doom. Base and wretched is the plight of the people of evil deeds, they that are in grievous loss!

And as they lost their cause, grew hopeless in their efforts against the loved ones of God, saw the Standard of His Testament waving throughout all regions and witnessed the power of the Covenant of the Merciful One, the flame of envy so blazed within them as to be beyond recounting. With the utmost vigor, exertion, rancor and enmity, they followed another path, walked in another way, devised another plan: that of kindling the flame of sedition in the heart of the very government itself, and thus cause this wronged one, this prisoner to appear as a mover of strife, inimical to the government and a hater and opponent of the Crown. Perchance 'Abdu'l Bahá may be put to death and his name be made to perish whereby an arena may be opened unto the enemies of the Covenant wherein they may advance and spur on their charger, inflict a grievous loss upon everyone and subvert the very foundations of the edifice of the Cause of God. For so grievous is the conduct and behavior of this false people that they are become even as an axe striking at the very root of the Blessed Tree. Should they be suffered to continue they would, in but a few days' time, exterminate the Cause of God, His Word, and themselves.

Hence, the beloved of the Lord must entirely shun them, avoid them, foil their machinations and evil whisperings, guard the Law of God and His religion, engage one and all in diffusing widely the sweet savors of God and to the best of their endeavor proclaim His Teachings.

Whosoever and whatsoever meeting becometh a hindrance to the diffusion of the Light of Faith, let the loved ones give them counsel and say: "Of all the gifts of God the greatest is the gift of Teaching. It draweth unto us the Grace of God and is our first obligation. Of such a gift how can we deprive ourselves? Nay, our lives, our goods, our comforts, our rest, we offer them all as a sacrifice for the Abhá Beauty and teach the Cause of God." Caution and prudence, however, must be observed even as recorded in the Book. The veil must in no wise be suddenly rent asunder. The Glory of Glories rest upon you.

O ye the faithful loved ones of 'Abdu'l Bahá! It is incumbent upon you to take the greatest care of Shoghi Effendi, the twig that hath branched from and the fruit given forth by the two hallowed and Divine Lote-Trees, that no dust of despondency and sorrow may stain his radiant nature, that day by day he may wax greater in happiness, in joy and spirituality, and may grow to become even as a fruitful tree.

For he is, after 'Abdu'l Bahá, the Guardian of the Cause of God, the Afán, the Hands (pillars) of the Cause and the beloved of the Lord must obey him and turn unto him. He that obeyeth him not, hath not obeyed God; he that turneth away from him, hath turned away from God and he that denieth him, hath denied the True One. Beware lest anyone falsely interpret these words, and like unto them that have broken the Covenant after the Day of Ascension (of Bahá'u'lláh) advance a pretext, raise the standard of revolt, wax stubborn and open wide the door of false interpretation. To none is given the right to put forth his own opinion or express his particular conviction. All must seek guidance and turn unto the Center of the Cause and the House of Justice. And he that turneth unto whatsoever else is indeed in grievous error.

The Glory of Glories rest upon you!

A brief analysis of the above quoted part from the Will & Testament:

The third part of the Will and Testament very much follows the overall theme where the following substances are repeated:

- § Lamentations /eulogy over the oppression to either Abdul Baha or Baha'u'llah
- § The description of the acts of Mirza Mohammed Ali and his criticism
- § The necessity to disassociate from the covenant breakers

But in comparison to the 2nd part, instead of the importance of the House of Justice, this part talks about the importance of Shoghi Effendi as the Guardian of the cause of God.

The start of the third part following the lamentations of Abdul Baha talks about the rise of the covenant breakers, their sinister plans and styles of working as well as the timing of their uprising and its consequences. This is followed by the apparent showing of the victory of the firm believers and the humiliation of Mirza Mohammed Ali and his company.

This is followed by the advice to the believers to take care of Shoghi Effendi:

"It is incumbent upon you to take the greatest care of Shoghi Effendi, the twig that hath branched from and the fruit given forth by the two hallowed and Divine Lote-Trees, that no dust of despondency and sorrow may stain his radiant nature, that day by day he may wax greater in happiness, in joy and spirituality, and may grow to become even as a fruitful tree"

Followed with a description of the stature of Shoghi Effendi as the guardian of the faith, the necessity of his obedience, and the dangers of breaking the covenant of God.

To be Continued.....

A tragic decline of spirituality - *(Guest Article)*

A tragic decline of Faith under the “Universal House of Justice”

For long the Free Baha'is have foretold the faithful about the dangers of deviating from the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha, and how such deviations can only cause a decline in the spirituality of the faithful along with an abysmal lack of interest in it.

By tutoring the faithful to stick to the Ruhi curriculum one cannot expect the faithful to maintain the spirituality which flows naturally in the divine words of the Master. This system of Administration along with its misplaced priorities has made the faithful greedy of positions and commissioning.

A Baha'i today does not aspire closeness to Baha'u'llah but rather aspires to be part of the administration and to be given positions therein and to be made members of various boards here and there.

All of this lack of interest has taken a huge toll on the spirituality of the Baha'is. This lack of spirituality, nay, The death of spirituality is manifested by the abysmally small number of Pilgrims visiting the Holy Land.

I Would like to refer to the article published in “The Jerusalem Post” on 26th of December 2018, Which while stating that the **total number of visitors to the state of Israel was about 4 million there were only about 0.1% of them who were Baha'i.**

Which when translated to actual figures means that **only about 4000 visitors to the State of Israel were Baha'i.**

Also considering the fact that this year saw the convention to elect members of the “UHJ” we can safely assume that around 2000 of those 4000 visitors came for the said convention. That leaves **only 2000 Pilgrims for the entire year of 2018 to have visited the Holy Shrines.**

This figure when compared to the global population of the Bahais shows that a disappointingly low percentage of the “Faithful” would have made the pilgrimage this year.

First the faithful were turned away from the holy texts and now the administration is turning the Faithful away from the holy land too.

It is sad to see the spirituality and the Faith get erased from the hearts of the faithful in such a disgraceful manner and makes one wonder :

WHAT REAL PURPOSE IS THE ADMINISTRATION SERVING ???

Israel News 14:41 | 12/26/18
Home > Israel News

RECORD 4 MILLION TOURISTS TO VISIT ISRAEL BY END OF 2018

1 minute read.
By YVETTE J. DEANE [Share]



Sunbathers visit the Mediterranean Sea at Dor Beach, northern Israel August 28, 2018. Picture taken August 28, 2018 (photo credit: REUTERS/AMIR COHEN)

There were approximately 13% more tourist entries in 2018 than 2017. Comparatively, the increase in global tourism has only grown by 4%.

Israel expects a record-breaking 4 million tourists by the end of 2018.

"I am excited to welcome next week Israel's four millionth tourist in 2018," said Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin. "This represents the unprecedented success of the Tourism Ministry, which invests in marketing Israel around the world. This includes the latest agreement signed with the Philippine Minister of Labor to increase the quota of up to 1,000 foreign workers in the hotel sector."

There were approximately 13% more tourist entries in 2018 than 2017, making it 38% more than 2016. Comparatively, the increase in global tourism has only grown by 4%.

Read more related articles

- Record number of tourists visit Israel in 2018
- Jerusalem world's fastest growing tourism destination

In terms of demographics, most of the tourists who visited Israel were Christians, with 61% of the tourists in 2018. Some 22% were Jews, 12.1% not affiliated, 1.8% Muslim, 0.6% were Buddhists, 0.5% were Hindus, 0.1% were Baha'is, and 1.7% others. 40% of tourists in 2018 have already visited Israel before.

There has been a significant increase of tourists from the United States (813,500), France (320,000), Russia (303,200), Germany (259,500), Britain (200,000) and China (about 100,000).

The Tourism Ministry also invested significant funds to expand hotels throughout Israel. This year, NIS 145 million was allocated to help entrepreneurs build 3,829 new rooms, representing an annual growth of 49%.

The ministry also invested NIS 350 million in marketing Israel as a tourism destination around the world, including in countries such as the US, Germany, Russia, Italy, England, China, Ukraine, Brazil and the Philippines. This investment yielded an average increase of 13% in the number of tourists from those countries.

Direct revenues from tourism were NIS 24 billion.

Tags

- Tourism
- Tourism Ministry
- Christians

It was really shameful to read this article and witness the decay of the faith under the Administration

The Right Of God - Huquq'ullah *(Guest Article)*

By God! In earthly riches fear is hidden and peril is concealed...

Dearly-loved Friends,

One of the spiritual responsibilities of the followers of Baha'ullah is to observe the Huququ'llah (the Rights of God), a law requiring the payment of 19% of total savings from the annual income of a Baha'i's work, trade, or crop, if it exceeds the value of 19 mithqals of gold.

The Blessed Beauty has acknowledged the payment of Huququ'llah in Kitab-i Aqdas, as a means of increasing blessings and bounty, and to cause kindness in different respects.

The Various NSAs, in collaboration with of the trustees of the Board of Huquq'u'llah hold regular meetings to encourage the Friends to pay the Huququ'llah, and to plan for its receipt.

They also intend to encourage those among the youth who are employed and possess particular skills to pay the Huququ'llah.

We should all observe the following issues regarding the very important status of the Huququ'llah.

1. According to Kitab-i Aqdas, payment of the right of God is a private and personal affair. No one is permitted to ask for it. No one is allowed to insist upon its payment. Therefore, to hold meetings, public invitations for the Friends, and any such planning for the receiving of the Huququ'llah from the Friends, etc.; all such activities that the USNSA is engaging in, is not in compliance with the Baha'i Revelations.

2. Bahau'llah, in His tablet, Lisan-e-Huzur (The Language of Presence) has prohibited the attempt to own, collect, or partially/wholly consume the Huququ'llah, without the permission of the authority of the Cause.

Abdul-Baha, in his Will and Testament, has clearly specified that "only the Guardian is the right authority of the Cause, and Future Guardians will be the sole lawful recipients of the Huququ'llah."

Moreover, in the "Nazar-i Ejmali Bar diant-e-Bahai" (an Introduction to the Bahai Faith, written By Ahmad Yazdani), the contents of which were approved and confirmed by the beloved Guardian, we read the following:

Payment of the Huququ'llah is a religious obligation; but none are authorized to ask for its payment. It will be collected by the trustee of the Huququ'llah, and will be submitted to the Guardian in every era, the sanctified reference and authority of the Baha'i Cause. And it will be utilized according to his decision.

(A. Yazdani, Nazari Ejmali, p81, no. 29,105 B.E. [1948])

The Universal House of Justice, despite its position in the Baha'i Faith is not allowed to receive the Huququ'llah.

3. The UHJ, during its more than 50 years of activity, has not provided any annual or periodic bill, for the large and frequent amounts received as donations, compensation, Huququ'llah, properties of the heirless deceased, etc., from Baha'is worldwide.

This lack of transparency in the financial affairs of the UHJ will lead to severe mistrust. It will also lead to accusations of the misappropriation of funds, accusations like the following: that such large amounts were used for expanding the already overly-bureaucratic Baha'i administration, for payments to the Elective branch of the Baha'i administration, for the salaries of the 150 staff members of USNSA, or other unnecessary expenses, rather than towards public welfare, charity, or promotion of the word of God.

I sincerely invite the beloved Baha'i Friends to investigate this law and avoid paying their Huquq to unauthorised institution. Instead I suggest to spend it yourselves according to the guidelines prescribed by the Blessed Beauty and his rightful successor. Everyone of us is a Guardian of the Cause of God. Let us guard the "Right of God" against going in the wrong hands.

Sincerely Yours,

A. Tavekkoli

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)

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

“Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown in the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the host of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humanity.”

– Baha'u'llah

“Among the sons of men some souls are suffering through ignorance, let us hasten to teach them; others are like children needing care and education until they are grown, and some are sick—to these we must carry Divine healing.”

– Abdu'l Baha

An Update on Free Baha'i Activities

“When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed and the Book of My Revelation is ended, turn your faces toward Him Whom God hath purposed, Who hath branched from this Ancient Root.’ Its meaning briefly is this: that after My ascension it is incumbent upon the Aghsán, the Afnán and the kindred, and all the friends of God, to turn their faces to Him Who hath branched from the Ancient Root.”
(Will and Testament of Baha'u'llah)

*Dear Faithful Baha'is,
Allah'u'Abha!*

Baha'i around the world marked the day of 28th November as the day of ascension of Abdu'l Baha, Most Mighty Branch who served his beloved father and witnessed the thick and thin of the life of Baha'u'llah. He was named Abbas by Baha'u'llah and later was known by title of Abdu'l Baha i.e. the servant of Baha. Baha'u'llah appointed him as the Center of Covenant in his Will and Testament and he had the sole authority for the interpretation of Baha'u'llah's writings.

As we were receiving a lot of emails from the faithful regarding Huquq'u'llah, one of our Free Baha'i friends had shared a wonderful article about Huquq'u'llah, which has been made a part of this issue.

*There was a meeting held in Singapore regarding the Covenant of Baha'u'llah in which a learned Free Baha'i explained the importance of Covenant. He compared the Will and Testament of Baha'u'llah (**find attached after this for reference**) with the alleged Will and Testament of the Master. The participants could then conclude that the Will of Baha'u'llah is a master piece, where as one can find a lot of ambiguity in Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, and all this analysis was done in the light of scientific evidence. If the Will wouldn't have been forged, there would not have been any division in the faith and the mighty new world order of Baha'u'llah would have been prevailed. Due to the alleged Will he came to power and ruled the Baha'i community like a dictator and anyone who would object his actions was ex-communicated by him. Not just that, he even excommunicated the entire family of Abdu'l Baha, and even his own parents. He kept aside the teachings of Baha'u'llah, who emphasized in his Will and Testament to respect the Branches. Baha'u'llah was a symbol of peace, love and forgiveness, whereas Shoghi Effendi destroyed his teachings for the sake of power and authority over the Baha'is. One of the Free Baha'is accepted the task of doing an analysis of the Will which would be the very first book of the Free Baha'i Publication Trust. The meeting was concluded with rounds of prayers.*

We are requesting our Free Baha'i friends to focus more on the teachings of Baha'u'llah and spread his message of love and peace.

*Warmest Baha'i Regards,
Free Baha'i Team*

The Will And Testament of Baha'u'llah

لذنه عليك وعلى عبادي المخلصين بتم عمل كل ما وصاك الله
 وكنار العبد ولا تكون من الخائفين: وانه هو المخلص
 في اياتيه وانه لسلطان حق عظيم قل لو اذكر عليك ما
 اشهد في المحبين من فضل الله المهيمن الكبير لشهد
 الافئدة كلها وتقبلوا الى اهلكم صاغرين: بجزا شهد
 الكلمات يرجع الى طلعة التوروا ناكل به واجبين: و
 من قال غير هذا عليه لعنة الله وانابرج منه و
 ما انا من المشركين: وافي مع تلك الكلمات لعدو
 عند حرف من كتاب الله العزيز الحكيم ثم كيف يفيض
 لاحدان يدعي الامرا نوربك الا القوم المفسدين: و
 السلام عليك وعلى من معك في صراط عتر محمد
 هذا ذكره وصي سره سران ابنه ناصر

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
 القيوم العزيز المنذر القدوس: يا اهل البيت اسمع نداء تلك
 ائمة المباركة التعانية التي خلقها اذن الله وتكلم
 من وراء الحجاب عن بين شجرة الحيات في طور القم
 القدس الله لا اله الا هو الحي القيوم المنذر المحبوب
 هو الذي جعله الله قيوما على من في السموات والارضين
 وما بينهما وهو الحي لا اله الا هو المهيمن القيوم: واعنا
 لسراج الارضية التي تصير في مصباح السماء بمثل الشمس
 في قلبه التوروا كذا الامضاء: ان اهل الملا باه
 قل انما الصراط الله الذي استقرت على عرش العلاء
 عليها لعلمكم تعلقوت وانما اهلك الله التي فوجرت على
 بحر التوروا ان كانوا فيها لعلمكم تسلمون فلانها العلاء
 التي قد كان ثعبانها من كبريها لله العزيز المنذر المحبوب
 للذين هم كانوا بقاء رتبهم فارتون: فلانها كاهن
 الاحدية من دخل فيها حي ومن عرض عنها هلك ولكن
 قليلا منكم ما اندكروا: فلانها الامراته الذي
 في صور المبدع اذا لم يصنع كل من في السموات والارض
 الا قليلا من عبادي المخلصين: فلانها النار الله التي قد استو
 ندت في اشد ركة ولكن انتم لا تشعرون: قل انما امر
 الله الخي فلانها علمها معكم نفسه ومن كان عليها ف
 من اهل حق ممدود: قل انما المرف الذي يحدي اذن
 الله في انهار الصافية ان انتم قليلا ما تسكروا: قل
 انه كلف لبيضاء في طور القم على اسرار البياض
 من كل شطرك ولكن انتم لا تشعرون: قل انما الشمس الاحدية
 نداء امر من فوق التوروا ان شهدوا بها اهل الملا
 ان انتم تبصرون قل انه لعن العلاء قد الاح من شطرتنا

قل انما الصبيحة من شربها
 نظرا فقد سلك في قوس لبقاء
 ان اسرها با اهل الملا لعدو
 تشعرون

واسرعوه ان انتم تومنون: قل انه لضع الله قبل ان
 صنع احد من العباد لا عسرك ولو ان لكل فادرون
 قل انه لسلطان الحكيم هل يقدر ان يشركه في الامر
 لا نوربك ولو ان لكل في انفسهم هذعون: قل انما الشرا
 الامراتي تسع باذن الله من وراء الزجاج في برالما
 عيب استاعن حول فوادك لتوفيق الكل باه لا اله الا هو
 العزيز المهيمن القدوس: قل انما طلعة التوروا التي قد
 استوت على عرش العلاء ان اعرفها لعلمكم تستدون
 قل ان الملك اليوم كرتنا هددني فورا ان تباروا اذا
 كنانا دون الله الذي في قبضة قدره ملكوت
 ملك السموات والارض لا اله الا هو الحي المهيمن القيوم
 قل لو تبسوا في السموات اعلى وما فيهن والارضين اسفل
 ومن عليهن هل يجلون خالفا غير الله قل سبحان الله عما
 يشعرون: قل اني يدع الايات لبيات لغوهم مصدق
 قل اني خلق انفسكم وافتدكم واختلاف مراتبكم لا
 لكم ان انتم: قل اني روح الايات لبيات
 واطياب ساطعات لغوهم يشعرون: قل ان انهارا لبيان
 نذ كان مكنونا في خلقه التوروا لك حكم الله الذي
 قد قضى من قبل في كتاب ربك وانما كل بهم منون
 سبحانك اللهم يا الله فاطمها رندرك لبحري ملك الاحدية
 في خاف كل شئ حتى سترت نذالك اعلام هدايتك في
 ملكوت امرك ويسع الخيرة اربك في سموات حكمتك
 اذ انك انما المنذر على ما نشاء وانك ان المهيمن القيوم
 سبحان الذي زل الايات كيف بقاء جودا من لده وهو
 لا اله الا هو العزيز المحبوب: وعند خزان التوروا ظهر على
 يشاء من خلقه وتوان المشركون كانوا من الخلق والاد
 يحيى بميت ثم يحيى بفضله كيف يشاء امر من لده لغوهم
 يسكرون: هو الذي تحم الامر حكيمه وانزل التوروا منه وهو
 الخولا اله الا هو فلان له مسلمون: قل قد قضى امر ربك
 وانفع الحيات واستخلص التوروا على عرش العلاء كيف انتم
 لانتم هذون ان با اهل البيان ان اعرفا قدر ملك الانا
 ثم احضروا بين يديه ثم آياه فاسجدون: قل انتم
 المجال في قصر الجلال وانتم حينئذ تصعرون ثم تصعرون
 قل ان هذا امامته الذي يدركه باحسن عما انتم تدرون
 قل ويل لكم ولما اكسدت ايدكم ما تدعون ما شانت
 انفسكم وبالله ربكم تشركون: هو الذي خلقكم ورزقكم
 وجعلكم كبرا لتسوي على الارض ونوه مسوا باه الغف
 المنذر الوردية: قل هو الذي جعل لكم الشمس صياح لتستقيوا

بجلا واهم

فانهم

وأمر نوراً للهدى وأمر وتكونوا في ظلمات الأرض من الذين
 كانوا يوردونهم بحدوثهم أما تسبون بأن سموات البديع
 من عذبات بأمره واستقرت عليها شمس من نور ربكم ثم
 قدر فيها الأمار لا يحيا وأنهم مشعفات فضلا من عند
 لقوم يفقهون قل إن أفئدتكم وأرواحكم ثم هيأ كلام
 لشيء من علي أن لا اله الا هو ولكن انتم لا تتقون
 يا اهل الملاء هل تجدون من غير غير الله أو من معبود
 قل سبحان الله عما تشركون قل ان نور الله حاظكم
 من كل شطر وروح الامر يؤيدكم في كل حين ان انتم فليدنا
 تعرفون قل ان ارواح البيتين يتعلقون بنور وكيف
 انتم لا تصدون ولا تبصرون قل هل من ملك ومن مل
 غير الله قل سبحان الله عما انتم معضون فلان نور ربكم في يد
 الايات عن بين شجرة الصفراء على اوراق البضا الله لا اله الا
 هو الملك المقدر المقصور قل هو الذي ارسل الرياح
 مبشرات من لدن وارض السموات وانزل التور لعلمكم بقاء
 ربكم توقون وما من الاية الا له الخاف والامر وان اليد
 كل رجوع هو الذي فضل لكم في الكتاب سبل الرشدين
 اني ونزل الايات فيه بيان كل شئ هدى ونور القوم
 يتقون ولقد حكاه الله في الكتاب بعد الذكر الرجوع الى
 وجهه الامر في تلك الايام ومن اعرض عن حكم ربه وقد نور عن صراط
 الله العزيز المقسط والرفوع هو الذي تجدكم بنا وانفكم
 بما كنتم تعملون وله اسلم من بين السموات والارض وما بينهما
 وكل بر موقون اذا قد يادى المناد من حبيب السماء بان الذين
 هم امنوا بالله واياته واتبعوا ما حذر الله في الكتاب ان
 احزاب العدل وفي حجة التور خال دون شواتنا الذين هم ا
 عن امر الله ربك واطاعوا كل ما ساءت انفسهم اولئك اصحاب
 النار وهم فيها معذبون ان يا اهل البيان هل يقدر
 احد ان ياق مثل ما انزل الله في الكتاب قل سبحان الله كل
 عباد له وكل له خاضعون فقل هو الذي حكم في الكتاب
 كل شئ هدى ورحمة لقوم متذكرون وما من شئ الا وقد
 نزل حكمه في الكتاب ذكر من لدن لقوم يشعرون قل هو الله
 الذي انزل التاكينة وارض السموات وارسل ملائكة ليقصرو
 بجود السموات والارض لنصر الذين كانوا اياهم يصرون
 وانه هو السرفي الشجرة يناديكم من كل الجماعه الطوارق
 البيان الله الله العزيز المير المقدر المهيمن المقصور اذا قد
 ارضت الاشارات عن الكلمات واظهرت الحوريات من وده القضا
 ذكر من لدن حميد محمود قل مثل الذين هم ارضوا عن
 طلع نور ويدعون الامر من دون ان عبيتهم النار من شجرة

الصفراء

الصفراء مثل في لطفها الشمس هل تقوى منها من وزان انتم قديرا
 تفكرون ومثل الذين امنوا بالله واياته وطلعت التور مثل
 نور يور من شجرة التور يستقي منها كما انها صفراء شعاع
 لوفا تسترنا طرفون ولقد جاء الامر في ذلك الان من عند
 الله المهيمن العزيز العيون منزه عن امته فاذا كنا لعالمون
 ان يا امه الله ان اخرج من تلك البيت فما سكني في بيت
 اخرى امر من لدن حبيب محمود ثم استغفرى لذنيك و
 اسئل الله من يدافع فضله انه هو الحق لا اله الا هو وانا
 كل من فضله سائلون ثم استصدي بان الامر كله من عند
 والسموات مطويات بيمينه والملائكة يسجدون
 لذي طلعته الشمس والقمر والنجوم تسفقون من خضفه
 وهو الحق في السموات والارض وما بينهما وان لكل اجرة حاق
 قل سبحانك اللهم انت سلطان السماء ومليك لها
 لتغفر من تشاء وتغذي من تشاء وتصور من تشاء
 ولقد تر من تشاء بيدك ملكوت كل شئ حكاه ما شاء بامر
 كن فيكون وله غيب السموات والارض وما بينهما و
 يعلم كل ما انتم تعملون ثم تكفون سبحانك يا اهل العلم
 باق ما دعوت عبادك الا بما حذرت في الكتاب بعد
 ما الله عنتي ندائك في طول الفضاء ان يا اهل شئ انتم

ما شهد الله لا تشهدون اذا قد اذلت السموات امر وابتعث
 الارضين لما تبه وفضي امر ربك واستوت الفلك على رفوف
 وقيل بعد القوم المضدون لبيد كره في ملكوت
 السموات والارض وتكبت سلطانك في كل شئ اذا تكاثرت
 المضدرا المحبوب وان هذا هو السرفي دور الاكوار
 يبلغ حقيقة ذلك الامر الا من ان الله بقلب شكور قل ان
 الله ولا يتبعوا خطوات انفسكم فاعلموا كل ما امركم الله في
 الكتاب وارصد اخر لكم ان انتم تعلمون هو الذي امركم
 بالبر والفلاح واظهر لكم نياج الحكمة وعلما كل ما انتم تعلمون
 وليس لاحد ان يغير حرفا من الكتاب ويبدل حكما منه الا الله
 انزل من قبل اذ هو الذي يرصد جودا من لدن لقوم هم يهدون
 قل دليل لكم هل تجدون من يحلل خبر الله او من يحرم دون
 من سخطه سواء كيف انتم لا تتقون ولا تفكرون او صيكم
 عبادا وما وصاكم الله من قبل في الواح عز مسطورة ان
 في افئدتكم بار حبة الله في تلك الايام هي طلعت النور
 رقيقة المنظر الذي يظفر في المستغاث حتى لا ريب في انما كل
 منظر وان اتقوا الله ثم اجتمعوا الامر ولا تتلفون والله
 هو النقل في السموات والارض وهو الكلمة الاكبر في كتاب
 فتركون ان الذين اعرضوا عن الله ربكم وبخرجه الكلم

عزير

Some Questions Answered / Write to us

Question 1

How do I become a Free Baha'i? Inbox x



Dariush 
to info ▾

Please answer.

Thank you.



Answer:

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for writing us, we are glad to see your message.

With reference to your query, anyone who follows the pristine message of Baha'u'llah is a Free Baha'i. You can become a Free Baha'i without signing any card or giving any written declaration to anyone. We believe that if a person embraces the Baha'i faith from his heart and follows the exact teachings of Baha'u'llah, he is a Baha'i. You should accept the faith from your heart, mere pronouncement from the tongue that you're a Baha'i is useless, unless your actions conform with the teachings of the faith.

If you have any further queries, do write back to us. May Baha'u'llah bless you!

Regards,
Team Free Baha'i

Question 2

Allah'u'Abha Inbox x



Bill 
to info ▾



Hi,

Trust this email finds you well.

Tell me if I can be of any help to you people? I'm a content writer professionally and love reading books. I have read a few books by Ruth White and Broken Silence by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab. If you want my help in writing articles for the Caravan or for your blog, please let me know.

Would be a pleasure working for the sake of spreading the word of Baha'u'llah.

Looking forward to your email.

Thanks,
Bill

Answer:

Allah'u'abha!

We are glad to see your message. It was nice knowing about your interest in books.

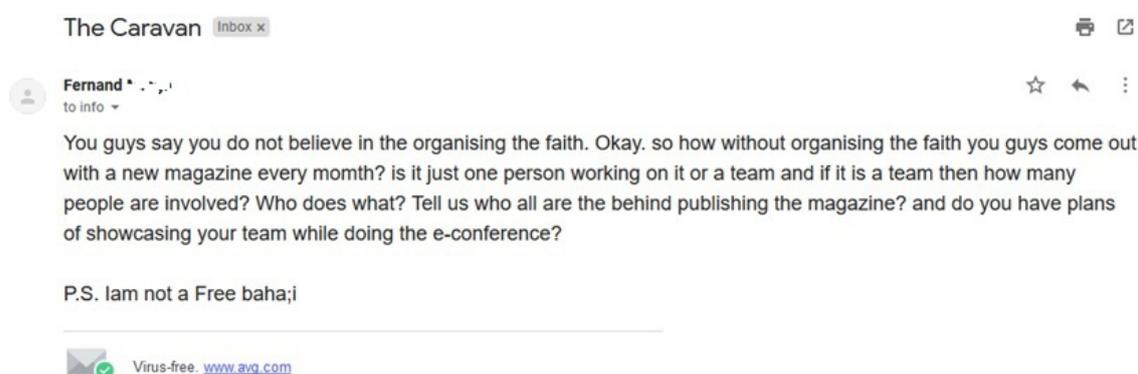
We are really happy to know that you're interested in working for the cause. How about you starting your own blog and start putting up articles that can be helpful for other Baha'is and which will directly help in spreading the message of Baha'u'llah online?

Dedicate this blog to the Free Baha'i faith and if we find it interesting, we would promote it on our website/magazine.

Do feel free to write back in case you have any more questions. Looking forward to your replies!

Thank you,
Team Free Baha'i

Question 3



Answer:

Hi Fernand,
Hope you're doing great!
Thank you for writing to us.

Firstly, we as Free Baha'is believe and follow only the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha and since they were against organising the religion, we as their followers agree to take their advice only. Our Master said, "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." (Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

Here the Master has asked each and every Baha'i to engage in the service. We as Free Baha'is share equal responsibility towards Baha'u'llah and thus, we all should equally work in spreading His teachings. Although we are a team of 5 individuals who cumulatively work on the Caravan, we also invite other Free Baha'is to join us in making it a success. We have a friend in Canada who help us with the Magazine designs. We are closely associated with a lot Free Baha'is situated mainly in USA, Thailand, Canada and UK who help us in printing the magazine and sending out to other Baha'is around the globe.

Do let us know if you have any other queries/feedback/suggestions. We will be happy to help you! :)

Humbly,
The Free Baha'i Team

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 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

Thank you!

[Phillip Edward Ramsey](#) commented on [About](#)

I've been a Baha'i for over 50 years, been on Pilgrimage twice, the house of the Bab and the House of Baha-u-Allah in Baghdad, taught many, some became members of LSAs world wide, etc.

I asked to teach a youth class, but was told I haven read the Runi course and I couldn't teach until I do.

All my life I've searched to find a method that would help my fellow man, I thought that The Baha'i Faith was the Fanfare for the Common Man, it was and now it isn't it has been hijacked buy the same ideas the made all other religions self centered power bases.

My heart is broken, and I all because I wouldn't Runi On.,

***A Glimpse of How the Administration is crushing
the Spirit of True Baha'is !!***

Know your Heritage



Abdu'l Baha's Giveh - Light Cotton Summer Shoes

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 - 1921



The Ascension of Abdu'l Baha (1844–1921), like the Day of the Covenant (November 26), is a Baha'i holy day honouring Abdu'l Baha, who succeeded Baha'u'llah (1819–1892), prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, and led the Baha'i community from 1892 to 1921. Abdu'l Baha passed away in his home on November 28, 1921, in Haifa, Israel, at the age of 77.

The term “Ascension,” of Christian origin, is a reverential term, implying that the person referred to, by virtue of a high spiritual station, “ascended” to heaven and dwells in Paradise.

All the funeral arrangements were done by Abdu'l Baha's sister, Bahiyyih Khanum. The funeral procession took place on November 29, 1921 and was attended by 10,000 mourners of numerous religious backgrounds. In His old age, Abdu'l Baha remained remarkably vigorous. He was a loving father not only to the Baha'is, but to the entire humanity. It has been mentioned by Mohammed Ali Faizi in his book, *The Life of Abdu'l Baha* on page 341 that the Master used to attend Friday congregation prayers at a Mosque in Israel and used to give alms to beggars after the prayers.

In spontaneous tributes to an admired personality, Abdu'l Baha was eulogized as One who led humanity to the “Way of Truth,” as a “pillar of peace” and the embodiment of “glory and greatness.” His correspondence guided global efforts to establish an organizational framework for the community. His interaction with a stream of pilgrims to the Holy Land provided another instrument for instructing and encouraging believers from around the world.

Abdu'l Baha's mortal remains were laid to rest in one of the chambers of the Shrine of the Bab on Mount Carmel.

Did YOU Know ??

The Master approved Mirza Ahmad's stand of spreading the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and even praised him for his efforts. Let us read the following, as described by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab himself.

*"That night in a dream, I found myself in a little room in the hotel at Tiberias where I had often been with Abdu'l Baha. I was turning over the pages of my diary and, as I did so, I noticed a fragrance coming in through the window. The Master must be near, I said to myself and I went out, continuing in my mind: I will look for his footsteps in the sand and if I find them, I will place my own feet into them. I walked by the Sea of Galilee which was in a state of great commotion, and rising from the waves, I saw Abdu'l Baha in white turban and gown, which were wet as were his hair and beard; and Abdu'l Baha advanced over the water and joined me, standing at my side, and his hair and beard had become dry. The Master said: Khayli Khoub, Mirza Ahmad, and slapped me on both cheeks, as he used to do; then, we will walk together. We began to walk, and the Master asked, Are you happy? Very happy, I answered. He went on: **This will be a most significant year for you. You have much for which to be grateful to Baha'u'llah; and to show your gratitude, you must do what she wants, you must teach the Cause. Great blessings will follow.** He then withdrew over the sea, which had become as smooth as glass, and disappeared in the waters."*

(Broken Silence, pg. 65-66)

If you closely read and analyse, both Baha'u'llah and the Master were more concerned about spreading the pristine message of the Cause. Mirza Ahmad dedicated his entire life in serving the Cause and even died on this holy path of spreading the holy message.

Such incidents should give a sense of ownership to all the Baha'is around the world and they should work for the Cause where ever they are. The sole motive of all Baha'is should be to walk on the path shown by Mirza Ahmad, the earnest devotee of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

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