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THE

CARAVAN

**BAHA'I
ADMINISTRATION
& THE COVID-19
CRISIS.**

**CORRESPONDENCE
HIGH COMMISSIONER
OF PALESTINE
& LADY
RUTH WHITE**





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Prayer



O my God! I beseech Thee by the evidences of Thy favor - Prayer

O my Lord! I beg Thee to forgive me for shutting myself out from Thee. By Thy glory and majesty, I have failed to befittingly recognize Thee and to worship Thee, while Thou dost make Thyself known unto me and callest me to remembrance as beseemeth Thy station. Grievous woe would betide me, O my Lord, wert Thou to take hold of me by reason of my misdeeds and trespasses. No helper do I know of other than Thee. No refuge do I have to flee to save Thee. None among Thy creatures can dare to intercede with Thyself without Thy leave. I hold fast to Thy love before Thy court, and, according to Thy bidding, I earnestly pray unto Thee as befitteeth Thy glory. I beg Thee to heed my call as Thou hast promised me. Verily Thou art God; no God is there but Thee. Alone and unaided, Thou art independent of all created things. Neither can the devotion of Thy lovers profit Thee, nor the evil doings of the faithless harm Thee.

Verily Thou art my God, He Who will never fail in His promise.

Prayer of The Bab

Foreword

“Verily, all created things were immersed in the sea of purification when, on that first day of Ridvan, We shed upon the whole of creation the splendours of Our most excellent Names and Our most exalted Attributes.”

– Baha'u'llah

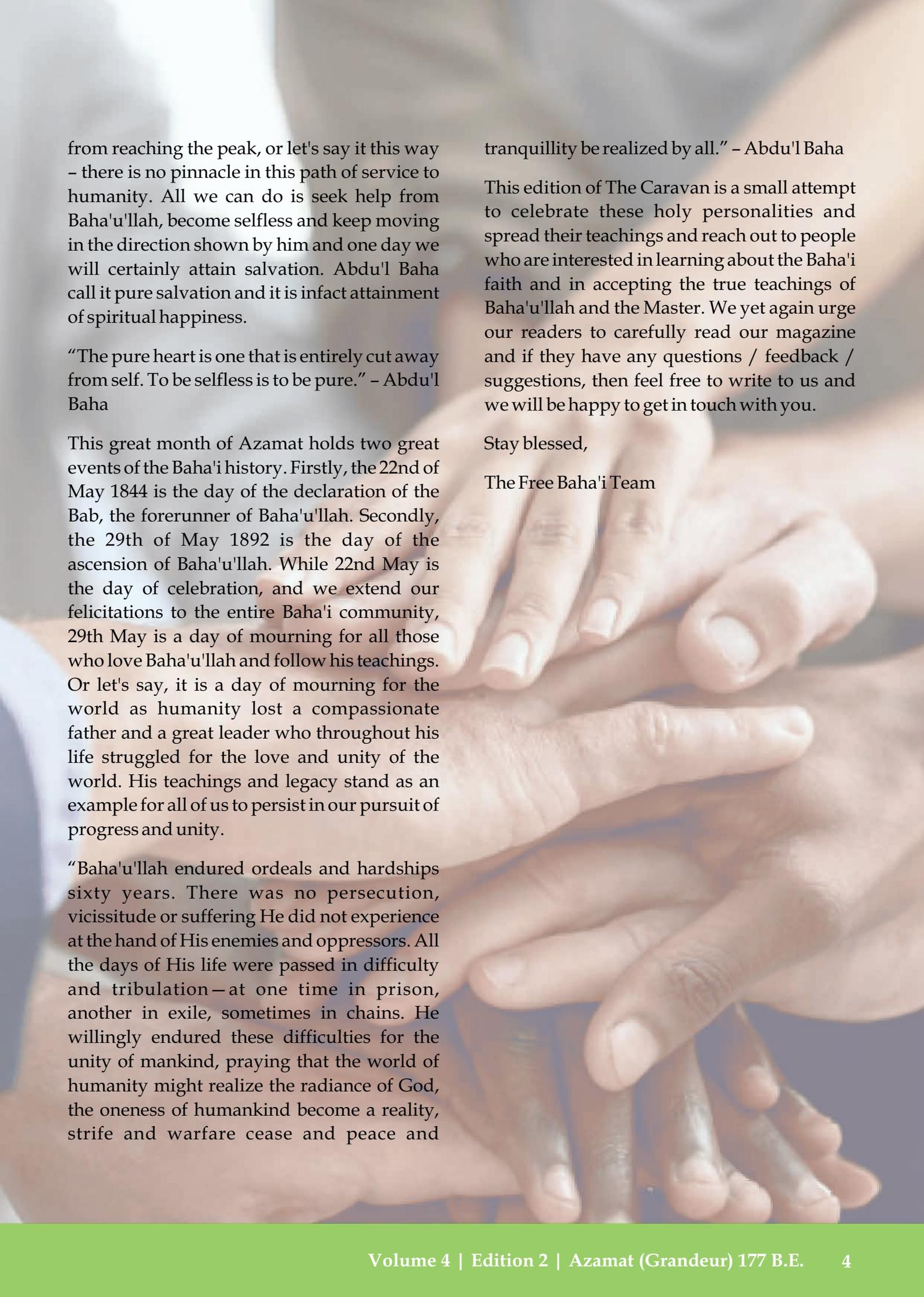
Ridvan, being the commemoration of the day on which the Dispensation of Baha'u'llah began, truly is, “the Day of supreme felicity”, as described by Baha'u'llah himself. We are sure you all, amidst the Coronavirus crisis, must have celebrated the auspicious days of Ridvan with great zeal and enthusiasm. May the spirit of this great stay with us all throughout the year and may the teachings of the new Manifestation spread far and wide. God bless us all.

As Baha'is, we all have had the privilege of observing an incredible transformative influence of Baha'u'llah's teachings, not just in

your own lives, but also in the transformation of the world around us. One of the essential concepts of the Baha'i teaching is the enhancement of one's inner character accompanied with service to humanity. A person cannot be a Baha'i until he is concerned about the progression of humanity, which will circuitously lead to self-development. Let us understand this point in the spiritual words of Abdu'l Baha.

“What are the requirements? Love for mankind, sincerity toward all, reflecting the oneness of the world of humanity, philanthropy, becoming enkindled with the fire of the love of God, attainment to the knowledge of God and that which is conducive to human welfare.” – Abdu'l Baha

And if you're walking on this path of service to humanity, then understand that there is no claim to excellence. The more you toil on this path, the more you will realise how far you're



from reaching the peak, or let's say it this way – there is no pinnacle in this path of service to humanity. All we can do is seek help from Baha'u'llah, become selfless and keep moving in the direction shown by him and one day we will certainly attain salvation. Abdu'l Baha call it pure salvation and it is infact attainment of spiritual happiness.

“The pure heart is one that is entirely cut away from self. To be selfless is to be pure.” – Abdu'l Baha

This great month of Azamat holds two great events of the Baha'i history. Firstly, the 22nd of May 1844 is the day of the declaration of the Bab, the forerunner of Baha'u'llah. Secondly, the 29th of May 1892 is the day of the ascension of Baha'u'llah. While 22nd May is the day of celebration, and we extend our felicitations to the entire Baha'i community, 29th May is a day of mourning for all those who love Baha'u'llah and follow his teachings. Or let's say, it is a day of mourning for the world as humanity lost a compassionate father and a great leader who throughout his life struggled for the love and unity of the world. His teachings and legacy stand as an example for all of us to persist in our pursuit of progress and unity.

“Baha'u'llah endured ordeals and hardships sixty years. There was no persecution, vicissitude or suffering He did not experience at the hand of His enemies and oppressors. All the days of His life were passed in difficulty and tribulation – at one time in prison, another in exile, sometimes in chains. He willingly endured these difficulties for the unity of mankind, praying that the world of humanity might realize the radiance of God, the oneness of humankind become a reality, strife and warfare cease and peace and

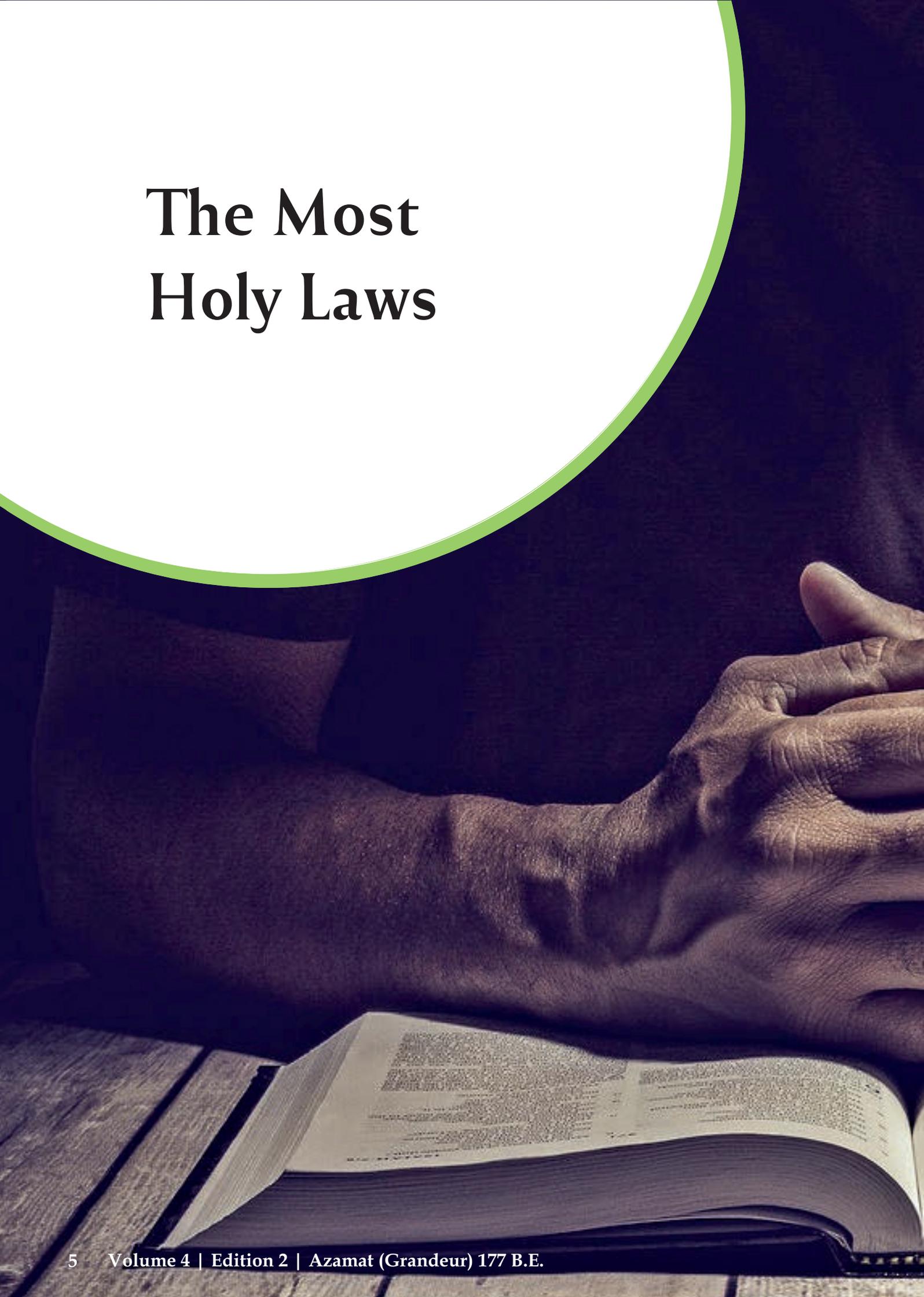
tranquillity be realized by all.” – Abdu'l Baha

This edition of The Caravan is a small attempt to celebrate these holy personalities and spread their teachings and reach out to people who are interested in learning about the Baha'i faith and in accepting the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master. We yet again urge our readers to carefully read our magazine and if they have any questions / feedback / suggestions, then feel free to write to us and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Stay blessed,

The Free Baha'i Team

The Most Holy Laws



In the name of Him who is the Ruler (al-hakim) over what was and what will be.

Those who have been given sight by God see the stipulations (al-hudud, bounds) of God, (which are) the greatest cause for the setting of the world in order and the preserving of the nations. Whoever is careless is of the rabble (hamaj) and the ruffians (ra'a). We have commanded you to break the bounds of the self and passion (al-hawa); not that which was written (ruqima) by the most High Pen (al-qalam al-a'la). It is the spirit of Life (ruh al-hayawan) for whoever is in the (realm of the) possible (al-imkan). The seas of wisdom and explanation have raged (majat) with that whereby the breeze of the Merciful (al-rahman) was violent (hajaj). Seize the opportunity, O possessors of minds (ula'l-albab)! Those who broke the covenant of God (manifest) in His commands and turned back from the path of justice are of the people of error (al-dalal) before the Exalted Self-Sufficient One (al-ghani al-muta'al).

(Source: Al-Kitab Al-Aqdas by Baha'u'llah,
Translated from Arabic by Earl Elder &
William Miller)



A Second Chance

Every time I look at you, I can't help but wonder,
Why I couldn't have known you when I was a bit younger.

I guess good things come with time,
I never thought you would ever be mine.

The first day our eyes met,
We both knew it was not the right time just yet.

I did not get to see you for a while,
But you had me with just one smile.

Who would have ever guessed, I was ever going feel this way,
It was just the other day I could not figure out if I wanted to stay.

Every time you hold me tight,
I know everything is going to be alright.

No matter how far apart we might be,
I know your thoughts include me.

You complete me in every way,
And I pray to God you never go away.

- Bianca Santamaria

Correspondence

Correspondence between the High Commissioner of Palestine and Ruth White, regarding the alleged Will of Abdu'l Baha

Part 2

By

Ruth White

March, 1932.

Tel. Add. "CHIEFSEC, JERUSALEM"
SECRETARIAT,

Any reply should be addressed to
GOVERNMENT OFFICES,

The Chief Secretary,
JERUSALEM

Government Offices,
25th November, 1930

Jerusalem and should quote

No.1232/29

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 7th October regarding the will of Sir Abdu'l Baha Abbas and to ask that I may be furnished with the document purporting to be the will, or a photograph of it, which you caused to be examined by Dr. C. Ainsworth Mitchell.

Steps will then be taken, if possible, to compare that with the original will which is in Palestine.

I am,

Madam,

Your Obedient servant,

(Signed) Max Norock

CHIEF SECRETARY

Mrs. H. Lawrence White

Butler Hall, 88 ,Morningside Drive,



New York City, U.S.A

To the
Chief Secretary
Government Offices

Jerusalem
December 12, 1930

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of November 25, 1930, 1232/29. It gives me great pleasure to send you the photographs of the alleged will of Sir Abdu'l Baha Abbas which I herewith enclose. These photographs are the copies of a set which Mr. Horace Holley sent me. Mr. Holley is the Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of United States and Canada, and this organization officially represents Shoghi Effendi, the alleged successor of Sir Abdu'l Baha. I also enclose two samples of the authentic writing of Sir Abdu'l Baha. One sample is the photograph made from the Book of the Unitarian Church at Montclair, New Jersey, in which book he wrote directly after he had delivered the sermon at the church on May 12th, 1912. The other sample is the photograph made from Bible at the City Temple, London, in which book he also wrote directly after he had finished delivering a sermon there in 1911. One cannot be certain of any writings purporting to be those of Sir Abdu'l Baha except those secured from church records, and other public books in which he wrote and many of these secretaries were related to him, hence they are interested parties, as all of Abdu'l Baha's family share in the tax that is derived from the powers granted in this alleged will.

If you will pardon me for digressing a little I would like to recount to you an incident that occurred while I was in London last May and June, having the alleged will of Sir Abdu'l Baha examined by Dr. C. Ainsworth Mitchell, which made me certain that a Higher Power was guiding this affair. Two years prior to this I had tried to get in touch with the British Analyst of Palestine (as I thought at that time that he was the proper official to address regarding the investigating of the alleged will of Sir Abdu'l Baha) and I was assured by one of the officials at the British Embassy, here in New York City, that there was no British Analyst in Palestine. Then what was my astonishment one night in London, while at a meeting of distinguished scientists, to meet Mr. Gerald Baker, who I learned had been the Analyst there for Great Britain about nine years. I thereupon recounted to him the incident and asked him if he would go to Dr. Mitchell's office and see the enlarged photographs of the alleged will, as well as the authentic samples of Sir Abdu'l Baha's writings. This he did. I am sure that he will be glad to tell you what he has heard personally from Dr. Mitchell.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of my book, "The Baha'i Religion and Its Enemy the Baha'i Organization." Between pages 165 and 200 you will find the printed reproduction of the alleged will of Sir Abdu'l Baha, and the English translation of its complete text. Also a sample of his authentic writing.

If I can do anything further to assist you, please call upon me as I shall be only too happy to help you in any way I can.

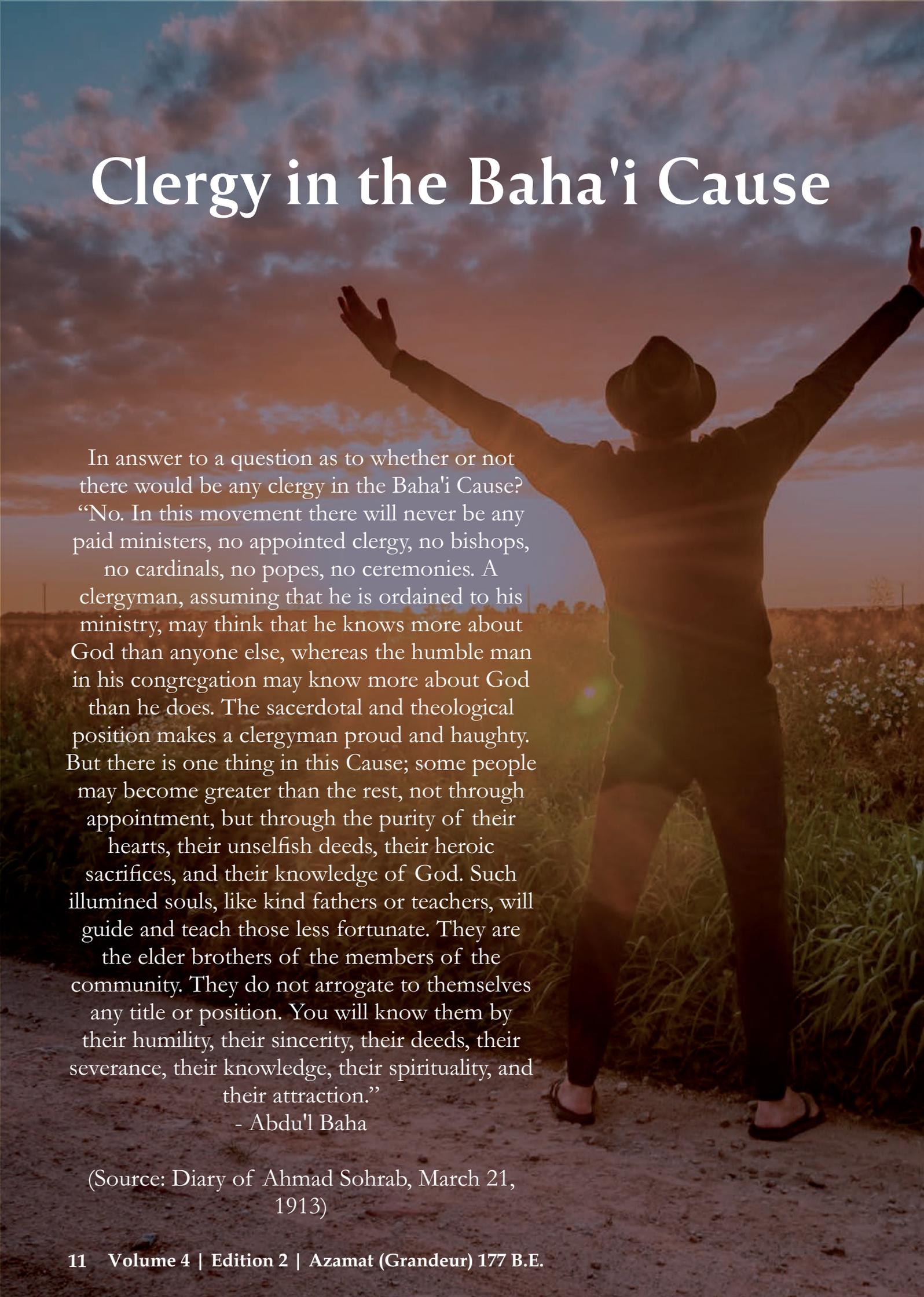
Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ruth White



Abdu'l Baha with a group of friends at Lincoln Park, Chicago (May 1912)

Clergy in the Baha'i Cause

A person wearing a turban and dark clothing stands in a field of tall grass, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a sunset sky with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

In answer to a question as to whether or not there would be any clergy in the Baha'i 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



“Verily, the One True God beareth Me witness that in this Day I am the true mystic Fane of God, and the Essence of all good. He who doeth good unto Me, it is as if he doeth good unto God, His angels and the entire company of His loved ones. He who doeth evil unto Me, it is as if he doeth evil unto God and His chosen ones. Nay, too exalted is the station of God and of His loved ones for any person's good or evil deed to reach their holy threshold. Whatever reacheth Me is ordained to reach Me; and that which hath come unto Me, to him who giveth will it revert. By the One in Whose hand is My soul, he hath cast no one but himself into prison. For assuredly whatsoever God hath decreed for Me shall come to pass and naught else save that which God hath ordained for us shall ever touch us. Woe betide him from whose hands floweth evil, and blessed the man from whose hands floweth good. Unto no one do I take My plaint save to God; for He is the best of judges. Every state of adversity or bliss is from Him alone, and He is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.”

— The Bab

“Bestir yourselves, O people, in anticipation of the days of Divine justice, for the promised hour is now come. Beware lest ye fail to apprehend its import and be accounted among the erring.”

— Baha'u'llah

“Souls are inclined toward estrangement. Steps should first be taken to do away with this estrangement, for only then will the Word take effect. If a believer showeth kindness to one of the neglectful, and, with great love, gradually leadeth him to an understanding of the validity of the Holy Cause, so that he may come to know the fundamentals of God's Faith and the implications thereof – such a one will certainly be transformed, excepting only those seldom-encountered individuals who are even as ashes, whose hearts are “hard as rocks, or harder still.”

— Abdu'l Baha

The (Lip) Service of the Baha'i Administration at the time of the COVID-19 crisis.



Today, Humanity is at a critical juncture faced with the unprecedented and unexpected calamity in the form of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the face of this crisis, Nations, Organisations, communities and even individuals are engaged in selfless service trying to help their fellow human beings' tide over the devastating effects of this pandemic. Nations are rising over past rivalries and animosities, and people are rising over racism and xenophobia to help each other.

However, in the face of all of this, the "Baha'i Administration" is doing, as usual, NOTHING MEANINGFUL. The "Administration", as always, in this time of crisis is bent on paying lip service and nothing more. This way of dumb and mute service is the innate nature of the "Baha'i

Administration" and is in perfect alignment with the past set precedents of service of the "Administration".

Allow me to enumerate the various "Powerful" (read: self-serving and futile; Lip Service) steps which the "Administration" will take at this time of crisis

1. The various secretaries of the Local Spiritual Assemblies will write flowery reports, elaborating in detail each small action done by the individual Baha'is (branded as the LSA's effort) while exaggerating the same to appear as a humungous effort on part of the LSA. This is while in reality the individual Baha'is themselves are encouraged to do good not for humanity but for LSA reports where each activity is counted. One LSA report states about their dilemma where the Baha'is



are asking them for guidance as to how they should serve the community during these dire times! As if any sane person needs guidance on that!!!

The Secretaries of the LSA's know very well that promotion in the Baha'i administrative order is very much tied to one's capacity at writing attractive reports.

2. The National Spiritual Assemblies will then collect all of these puff pieces to assemble a massive report which will be nothing but a whole lot of blarney. All NSA's are supposed to be masters in exaggerating the already exaggerated. The reality here is that the reelection of all of these "serving" members of LSA's and NSA's depends on these rubbish reports and exaggerations. The secretary of

the NSA's will then forward these reports to the World Centre which will then generate a very holy sounding poetic statement which would sound something like this: -

"In city after city, village after village, we see that a greater consciousness of our common humanity is emerging among many people. This is spurring them on to help others and to transcend traditional barriers and prejudices that keep them apart. The Baha'i communities together with local organizations and institutions are raising awareness about the corona virus disease (COVID-19).

3. The next step in their self-serving Lip Service at this time of crisis would be to send out correspondences to figures of authority in various countries (like the office of the Prime

Minister etc). This work comes under the purview of the External Affairs Committee of the NSA and is the most important assignment for all of the NSA's worldwide. In these letters/correspondences the NSA's will express their sympathies and solidarity with the government in this crisis while emphasising that they are all obeying the respective directives given by the said government but without ever explicitly specifying how "they" are going to help.

Because in reality they have no intention of helping and the purpose of sending such a letter is much more sinister. What they in fact desire is a response (which is usually issued to all organisations which write to these august offices) from these figures in authority thanking them for their sympathies which will then be used by the administration to publicise their "Achievement" worldwide - That the Baha'is have received welcoming and appreciating letters from Heads of States - As if the religion of Baha'u'llah needs validation from them.

While not always, often it has also been seen that a whisper campaign is then started to spread malicious news that such and such head of state is now a Baha'i and is hiding his true beliefs fearing public repercussion - proof of which is a polite letter of thanks written by them (simply audacious)

4. The NSA's will then start asking for money from the ordinary Baha'is (whom they fondly refer to as sheep) and from other organisations. Of these monies a very small percentage actually makes its way to relief activities (and the NSA's feel no need to publish statistics regarding how many cents to a dollar is actually spent towards relief activities) but not before the "Administration" will very shamefully make it into a photo-op, usually with Government officials involved, for worldwide circulation, to show acceptance of the Baha'i faith.

5. And Lastly there is section of the "Administration" called as the Kamalabadi Baha'is who will take great pride in labelling this occasion of misfortune as the revenge of Baha'u'llah on Humanity. They will in fact label all that befalls humanity as the revenge of Baha'u'llah since Humanity has not accepted the message of Baha'u'llah, in their sordid thinking, it is then necessary for Baha'u'llah to take revenge from humanity by involving it in harsh punishments.

This kind of thinking originates from a mind which has suffered years of spiritual rot at the hands of the Administration. Such statements of hate and acting like spokespersons for Baha'u'llah comes naturally to them since they have for long left the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and have adopted false ideas, false systems and false "Administrations" as authorities over them.

I believe that it is the moral responsibility of all true Baha'is to condemn these Kamalabadi Baha'is who find solace in the Misfortune of others (including the many Baha'i who have been affected by this).

Alas, But in these times of tribulations and crisis, it seems that the chosen ones of Baha'u'llah, us Baha'is appear to be the most lost all because of this false "Administration" which does service only when it is self-service and helps only when it needs help in return. And all of this grand charade of service (Lip Service) by the "Administration" at the time of crises is only a means of marking their presence and safeguarding their relevance in our society.

Thank you.

A pained Baha'i

“Where there is love, nothing is too much trouble and there is always time.” – Abdu'l Baha



With this, I pray to God to help us follow in the footsteps of the Master and take care of the poor and the needy, always. More power to you!

Want to be a contributor for The Caravan?

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!



THE BAHÁ'Í RELIGION AND ITS ENEMY, THE BAHÁ'Í ORGANIZATION – PART 2

(An extract from Lady Ruth White's book)

(...continued)

Baha'u'llah emphasized in the following that in this day we are not to see through the eyes of clergy, popes, or successors:

.... The religious doctors of every age have been the cause of preventing the people from the shore of the Sea of Oneness, for the reins of the people were in their control. Some among them have hindered the people by love of leadership and some by lack of wisdom and knowledge."

The Book of Iqan; page 10.

"... Among the veils of glory are the religious doctors of the age, and the theologians of the time of a Manifestation, who do not submit to the Command of God, on account of their lack of understanding and their devotion and love for outward leadership... As the people have taken them in place of God for their masters, they await acceptance or rejection (of the

Truth) by these supporting props; for they have no sight, hearing or heart of their own to distinguish and discriminate between truth and falsehood.

"Though all the Prophets, Chosen Ones and Holy Ones have commanded on the part of God that they should see and hear with their own eyes and ears, yet disregarding the exhortations of the Prophets, they have followed and will follow their divines..."

Ibid; page 117.

Also read pages 154 and 155 in "Some Answered Questions." on what Abdu'l Baha says about popes and the papal see.

He also counsels us to go to the source and not take our religion from the mouth of any man, because as all men differ they naturally color what they say by their own individuality;

"Consider the phenomenal sun which shines forth on all existent and contingent beings

with the same effulgence . . . But its appearance in every place, and the light it sheds thereon, is in accord with the degree of the capacity of that place. For instance—in a mirror it reflects as forms and disk, and this is due to the clearness of the mirror itself . . . Likewise, colours also appear in accord with (the nature of) the place; even as in a yellow glass the splendour is yellow, in a white one the ray is white, and in a red one it is red. These differences are therefore due to the place and not to the effulgence of light, and if the place is confronted by an obstacle, such as walls or ceiling, that place is entirely bereft of the splendour of the sun, and the sun does not shine thereon.”

(The Seven Valleys; pages 24, 25)

Some of the foregoing quotations were not familiar to me at the time the alleged will was read, as most of them had been suppressed by Shoghi Effendi and the leaders of the Baha'i organization. But from the very first I neither accepted the alleged will, nor rejected it, but I leaned far more towards its rejection than I did towards its acceptance. My attitude was one of “watchful waiting.” I knew that if it were true, the results of the administration of Shoghi Effendi would be one of the strongest proofs of its authenticity. If it were not true, then time and circumstances would eventually cause the truth to become known.

This stand on my part caused me no embarrassment, inasmuch as I had never belonged to the Baha'i organization (Spiritual Assemblies). From my personal contact with Abdu'l Baha, as well as from all of his teachings, and those of Baha'u'llah, I realized that one of their chief aims was to eradicate the clan consciousness from man, and bring him into the universal consciousness. Over and over again, both Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, show that the Baha'i Religion is to be brought into each of our lives and applied, and not into an organization or box, as the leaders of the

Baha'i organization have tried to do. For even though they try to persuade people that their box includes all the others, yet universally minded people perceive that it is a box just the same, and shy away from it.

In primitive times the clan idea, or organization, was the great achievement. For man was so lacking in the consciousness of the oneness of mankind that he had to be educated into so simple an organization as the family life. Little by little he was led to broaden his conception, from family to tribe, and from tribe to country. But that which was a splendid thing and very necessary at one stage in the life of an individual, or a race, becomes at a later stage not only un-necessary but harmful as well. For in exact accordance as people increase in numbers in these different boxes, or organizations, so do the leaders use the force of numbers to impose their will upon the rest of the race. Thus today we witness the same old primitive warfare of tribe against tribe, only as it is now called organization and is conducted on a larger scale, we lose sight of the fact that the principle is the same as that which governed the primitive races.

This was the martyrdom of Abdu'l Baha. He spoke for the maturity of the age and hoped his followers would catch a glimpse of that maturity, instead of which they construed the Baha'i Religion in a tribal way and patterned it on the effete methods of the past!

Archbishop Trench said that the cults and sects at the time of Christ came to religion not to learn its language, but to compel it to speak their own. This applies overwhelmingly today in the case of the leaders of the Baha'i organization. They have come to the Baha'i religion not to learn its language of the universal, but to compel it to speak their own language of organization.

About two years after I had become interested in the Baha'i Cause (in 1914) an offer was

made to me to travel as a paid teacher in order to promulgate the Baha'i Message. I refused this offer because even then I realized that the door of further spiritual enlightenment would close unless I kept my religion inviolate from money, and everything that smacked of the old ecclesiasticism, as Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha had cautioned their followers to do.

When I visited Abdu'l Baha in 1920 he confirmed my stand. It happened thus: One morning when my husband and I were taking early morning tea with him we 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 Baha'i 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." I thought, "Why is Abdu'l Baha 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 belonging to the Baha'i organization was the right one. His face beamed with happiness as he nodded approval and said:

"The organization that the Baha'is have among themselves has nothing to do with the teachings of Baha'u'llah. The teachings of Baha'u'llah are universal and cannot be confined to a sect."

Abdu'l Baha has said this same thing to many other people only not quite so bluntly.

At this same time Abdu'l Baha also said, in answer to questions that Dr. B. put to him, that the Baha'i Religion was the greatest organization and Baha'u'llah was the greatest organizer. There was nothing incompatible in these two statements that Abdu'l Baha uttered - one to me and one to Dr. B. They both meant the same thing. Baha'u'llah is an organizer in

the supreme and spiritual sense and on the inner plane as the following shows:

"The foundation of the palace of peace is the consciousness of the oneness of mankind."

When people come into this consciousness they are united in an inner organization where there can be no more lack of harmony than there could be between the cells of the body of man. For we become keenly conscious that the members of the body of mankind are as surely one as that the cells of his body form one structure. When this happens we realize that if we are unkind, or harm another, it returns to us like a boomerang, through the immutable workings of the law of cause and effect. But as the punishment for the violation of the Divine Law does not always overtake man so quickly, nor in such an obvious manner, as does the violation of the material law he fails to correlate action and re-action.

Organization is a substitute for the attainment to this consciousness of the oneness of mankind. This is why Abdu'l Baha said that the organization that the Baha'is have among themselves had nothing to do with the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Abdu'l Baha was also asked by a pilgrim if the opening sentence of the following was not a mistranslation:

"The Baha'i Religion is not an organization. You can never organize the Baha'i Cause. The Baha'i Religion is the Spirit of this age. It is the essence of all the highest ideals of this century. The Baha'i Cause is an inclusive movement; the teachings of all the religions and societies are found here; the Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Mohammedans, Zoroastrians, Theosophists, Freemasons, Spiritualists, etc., find their highest aims in this Cause. Even the Socialists and Philosophers find their theories fully developed in this Movement."

To this he replied:

"The Baha'i Religion cannot be confined to an

organization.”

The pilgrim was evidently much pleased with what he considered this modification of Abdu'l Baha's first version of the foregoing. For this second version was immediately printed and circulated by the Baha'i organization, in place of the first version, in pamphlet “9”.

But no sooner was Abdu'l Baha in his grave than the leaders of the Baha'i organization evidently awakening to the fact that the second version really meant identically the same as the first, thereupon suppressed both versions. After his death when they could safely do so, a new edition of this pamphlet was published, and the opening sentence was omitted altogether, without the slightest typographical indication that material had been omitted.

In fact, this has been one of the policies of the leaders of the Baha'i organization since the death of Abdu'l Baha – to suppress and garble the Baha'i teachings to suit their own ends.

Christ's mission was to break up the Phari-saical attitude toward life and religion that the Jews had drifted into. Yet only a few hundred years after the crucifixion, His followers had drifted into the same rut of Phariseeism that Christ came to abolish. He warned them over and over again that if they poured the new wine of his religion into old bottles, there would be an explosion. We know the frightful explosion that took place during the dark ages. In this day things have speeded up, for though only seven years have elapsed since the death of Abdu'l Baha yet the Baha'i Religion has, in the hands of Shoghi Effendi and the leaders of the Baha'i organization, become a more pharisaical cult than any in existence. A Pharisee is the eternal type of all those who have lost their elasticity of mind and become hide-bound to some particular sect, or clan or reform, and who measure faith

with a tape measure and tabulate it and put it in a box. This state of mind is not confined to members of religious organizations. For instance, the Socialists and the Bolshevists are just as Phari-saical in their attitude toward life as the Pharisees were in the time of Christ. They are hide-bound to their convictions, and call themselves progressives without perceiving that the clan attitude toward life which they advocate, and which makes divisions among mankind is always reactionary. This is true, whether people of this type are tabulated under the name of a reform, or a sect, or a religion, and whether the aim is to create class consciousness, or clan consciousness, or youth consciousness, or any other divisions. It is opposed to the principles of the oneness of mankind. That is why it is so lamentable that the members of the Baha'i organization should have reverted to these reactionary conceptions, and lost the glorious heritage that Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha bequeathed to this century. The following by Abdu'l Baha describes these types: “Holding to the letter of the law is many times an indication of a desire for leadership. One who assumes to be the enforcer of the law shows an intellectual understanding of the Cause, but that spiritual guidance in them is not yet established.

The alphabet of things is for children, that they may in time use their reasoning powers. 'Following the spirit' is a guidance by and through the heart, the prompter of the spirit. The Pharisees were extremely orthodox, holding strictly to the law..They were the cause of the condemnation and ultimate crucifixion of Jesus.”

“Were not the Revelation of Baha'u'llah one adaptable to the entire world and its diverse nations, it could not be a unique and universal Revelation, but its elasticity adapts itself to all conditions, and its spirit is one that moulds itself into every vehicle and need for the

accomplishment of the divine plan of unity.

But when some follow merely the hard and fixed letter of the law, they deprive it (the Revelation) of its elastic quality – the spirit – and endeavor to convert it into a hard instrument of inflexible qualities.”

Star of the West, June 24.1915: pages 43, 44. 45.

The very element that had made me shy off from becoming a member of the Socialist organization was the very element that made me shy off from becoming a member of the Baha'i organization. I recognized certain earmarks characteristic to both, which I knew did not ring true to the universal. Fortunately for me the only instruction I ever had regarding the Baha'i Religion was my direct contact with Abdu'l Baha himself, and a very careful reading of the Baha'i literature. I sensed from the very first that the group who were known as Baha'is represented something quite different from that which Abdu'l Baha was trying to present to the world. This conviction came to me overwhelmingly after the death of Abdu'l Baha. For then the clan idea, opposed to the universal principles of the Baha'i Religion, reigned supreme.

Abdu'l Baha said that it would be impossible to create any schism in the Baha'i Religion. The Baha'is have interpreted this as meaning that two Baha'i organizations cannot be formed when, as a matter of fact, both Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha show that no organization can be formed of the religion itself. How can a state of consciousness be organized? And that is what the Baha'i Religion is coming into the state of consciousness of the unity of mankind the unity of religions, and the unity of God.

The moment a group of people form a Baha'i organization they are following a “particular meeting of unity,” which Abdu'l Baha, in the

following, exhorts his followers not to do:

“O friends! It is the wish of Abdu'l Baha, that the friends may establish general unity, and not a particular meeting of unity. You must have great consideration for this fact, for during past cycles such events were, in the beginning, a means of harmony, they became in the end the cause of trouble.”

Tablets Containing Instructions; 1906.

....It is not necessary even to label one's self. One may call one's self a Baha'i and in no way live the life: on the other hand one may live the life and never be known as a Baha'i. It is not so much by what name you are called, but what you are in your heart. Are you loving and serving God? Love and service are the greatest requisites of a good life. Endeavor in every possible way to do some favor, some service for someone else; do this daily, no matter how small or trivial the act of kindness may be. Even a smile counts for much.” From Table Talks of Abdu'l Baha; 1906. “If we are true Baha'is, speech is not needed. Our actions will help on the world, will spread civilization, will help the progress of science, and cause the arts to develop. Without action, nothing in the material world can be accomplished, neither can words unaided advance a man in the Spiritual Kingdom. It is not through lip service only that the Elect of God have attained to holiness but by patient lives of active service they have brought Light into the World.

“Therefore, strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers. Turn towards God and always to do that which is right and noble. Enrich the poor, raise the fallen, comfort the sorrowful, bring healing to the sick, reassure the fearful, rescue the oppressed, bring hope to the hopeless, shelter the destitute!

'This is the work of a true Baha'i, and this is

what is expected of him. If we strive to do all this, then we are true Baha'is, but if we neglect it, we are not followers of the Light, and we have no right to the name.

“God, who sees all hearts, knows how far our lives are the fulfilment of our words.”

“There are prepared souls in every religion. Today God is working in all the churches instructing many souls in celestial brotherhood. These souls are related by invisible and spiritual ties and are being ripened by the Holy Spirit.”

“The Baha'i Religion is not an exclusive society, but a Divine congregation, the dome of which is the Infinite Heaven, and the temple of which is the expanse of the earth.”

“No one can bottle up the Baha'i Spirit. The Baha'i Spirit is the most elusive ether; it is here, it is there, it is everywhere. It is the origin and substance of the highest ideals of this and the coming ages. The Baha'i Spirit is undogmatic, super-racial, inter-social and nonpartisan.” -
ABDU'L BAHA

To be continued...



Some Unanswered Questions



Dear Friends,

Allah'u'Abha,

I am a subscriber of your Magazine “The Caravan” and I get regular copies. I would like to firstly thank you for your efforts. Although I am not a Free Baha'i, based on your articles in the magazine, I was motivated to do my independent investigation of truth. And now I am convinced that the Will and Testaments of Abdu'l Baha was fake or at least some part is forged, (given the facts and reports of Dr. Ainsworth Mitchell) and I fully agree with you that as Shoghi Effendi was not the rightful Guardian, he converted this faith to an

Organisation. The purpose of this administration is not to spread the faith to mankind but to act as an authority over the believers.

I have seen some articles of Huququ'llah in your earlier magazine. Huququ'llah is the right of Guardian only and in absence of Guardian it goes to the Universal House of Justice, which I feel also is not correct. Baha'u'llah has founded this institution of faith to serve the mankind with Guardian as the Head of this institution and Hand of Couse of Gods as his helper. However today I see that these two important pillars are

missing from the current form of UHJ, and this is the reason the faith has deviated from its true path. Our religious values are based on the principles of service to mankind. However, there is no official statement or any donation from the Universal House of Justice in this world-wide pandemic of Corona virus, where as I see many Churches are offering material and financial help generously to those who are affected. Instead of helping the needy ones, reminders are sent to the NSAs to collect funds and send their contribution to UHJ for administrative purpose. Wouldn't it be humane for the UHJ to instruct the NSAs and LSAs to spend their funds on the less fortunate ones in supplying food or medical assistance as situation demands.

I have a few questions which I also wrote to the councillors and the Secretariat office of Universal House of Justice if there is any provision in Aqdas, Iqaan, Tablets of Baha'u'llah or books by Abdu'l Baha or somewhere in his speeches which he delivered during his journey to west, but got no reply from them. I have decided to send you the same questions so that my fellow Baha'is should be aware that my question went unanswered, while our beloved immaculate 9 members of UHJ are keeping mum on this.

1. Can the current Universal House of Justice function without a living Guardian...?
2. Did Baha'u'llah, Abdu'l Baha or Shoghi Effendi instruct in their teachings to start Ruhi Institute?
3. As far as I know Baha'u'llah has said there should be Universal House of Justice in each and every city and there should be one central UHJ to govern all. But now I see NSAs, LSAs, ITC, RBCs, Clusters, Counselors, ABM. From where did these institutes come up?
4. On what ground is the Universal House of

Justice collecting Huququ'llah which is Right of God, and where do they spend these monies? Why are the annual statements of accounts of Huququ'llah not published for Baha'is to know that where there hard earned money is going?

5. Ex-communication is right of Guardian, where is it mentioned in Holy book that UHJ can ex-communicate those Baha'is who counter-question them?
6. Abdu'l Baha has said that there is no clergy in Baha'i faith, then why are the Baha'is being taught right from their childhood through Ruhi Books to obey UHJ without any question? Is this not clergy ship?
7. Why such an important Principle of "Independent Investigation of Truth" is virtually eliminated, and if one asks any question he is labelled as covenant breaker?
8. Why are the more or less, same members being elected every year in NSAs and LSAs?
9. Is it mentioned in the Holy writings that the votes of elections be counted in a close room with hand full ballot officers, why is the counting not done in front of all Baha'is present?

I am not asking these questions to you for answer. I read your ideological difference from main stream Baha'is, as you do not believe in administration. For Free Baha'is, serving humanity is important and as there is no administrative restrictions, a Baha'i can easily teach and serve mankind and he can spend Huququ'llah from his hard earn money to help poor and needy.

Free Baha'i Activities

“We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; yet they deem Us a stirrer up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment.... That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be annulled – what harm is there in this?” – Baha'u'llah (The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. VIII)

Dear Baha'i Faithful,

Allah'u'Abha!

As we are all aware, the world is currently reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic which has caused unprecedented pain and suffering for most. As a result of this pandemic the Naw-Ruz celebrations for the new year have remained largely muted, with faithful celebrating from the safety of their homes.

We were however, delighted to receive emails

from a lot of our friends, informing us that they have put the monies meant celebration into good use by helping the needy. Some have informed that they have distributed food and medical supply like masks / Disinfectants to the most vulnerable of their society. Such acts of generosity and help, are examples of the true Baha'i spirit and are very much in line with the teachings of Baha'u'llah and our Beloved Master who have taught us that service of mankind is the best act of worship.

On a very disturbing note, we received a couple of queries asking “whether Covid-19 is the curse from Baha'u'llah?” After receiving this query from multiple sources, we stated investigating the origin of this corrupt statement. After a brief online search, we have uncovered that this is an irresponsible statement by one Farzam Kamalabadi. Mr Kamalabadi is an eccentric character who unfortunately calls himself a Baha'i, and he has said in one of his videos, and I quote, that “Covid-19 is the curse of Baha'u'llah”. We are of the opinion that one who misinterprets the writings and makes such scandalous

statements should not be called a Baha'i till such time that he publicly repents, and if the so-called "Universal House of Justice" has even an iota of shame, Mr Kamalabadi should be publicly denounced and should be asked to unconditionally apologise for such irresponsible and baseless statements.

We would like to advise all Baha'i faithful that in these tough times, it is imperative to use the Huququ'llah money to help those who are suffering as a result of the halt in economic activity worldwide. This should particularly be emphasised amongst the Baha'i communities in those countries which do not have systems of social support payments. What better use of Huququ'llah than to feed the hungry and help the miserable. We must all donate generously to such causes and keep praying with all out strength to Baha'u'llah to ease this pandemic and to keep all of humanity safe.

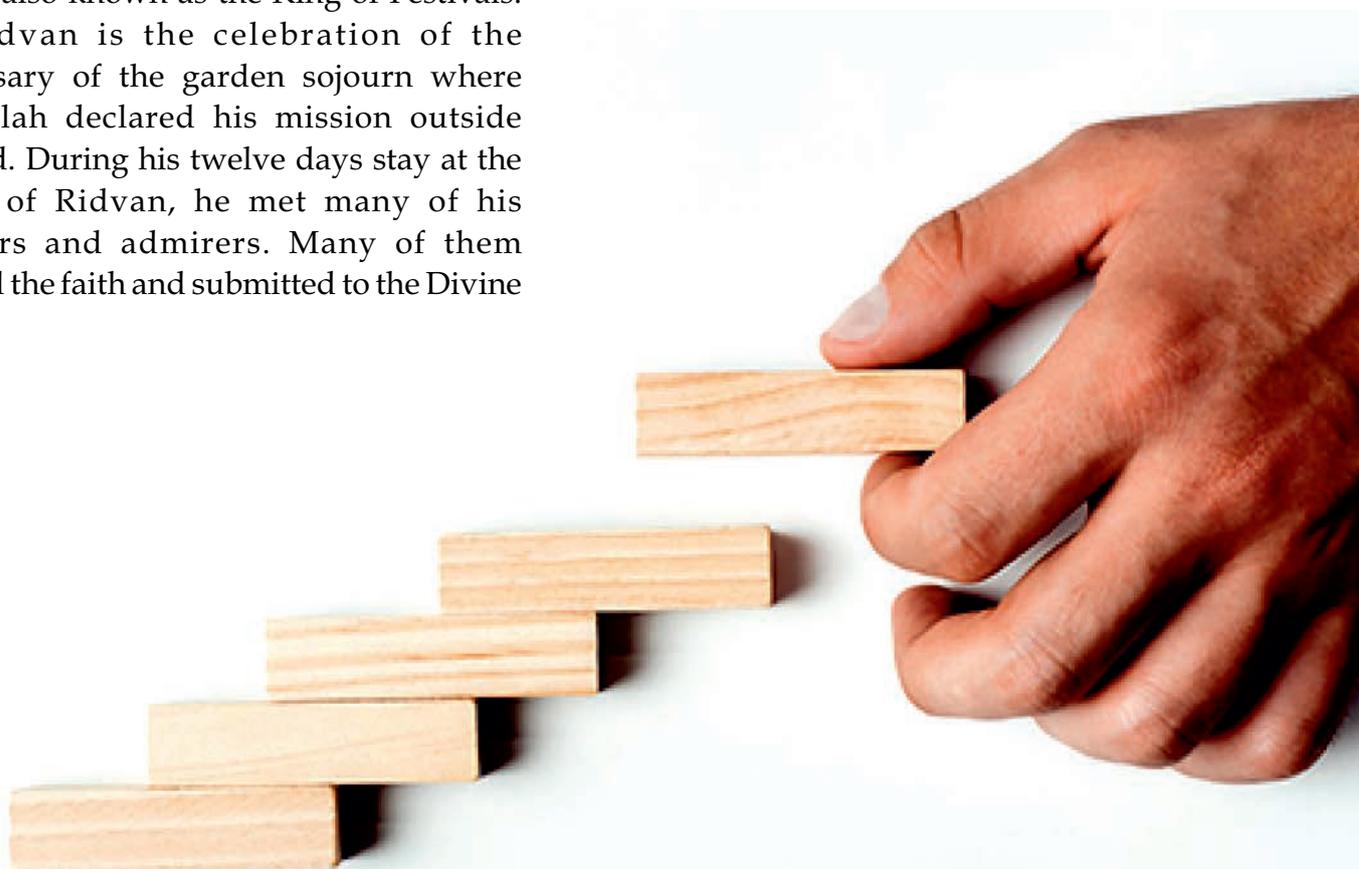
We are also now approaching the festival of Ridvan, also known as the King of Festivals. The Ridvan is the celebration of the anniversary of the garden sojourn where Baha'u'llah declared his mission outside Baghdad. During his twelve days stay at the garden of Ridvan, he met many of his followers and admirers. Many of them accepted the faith and submitted to the Divine

commands at the hands of Baha'u'llah at Ridvan. It was here that He began teaching of equality of men and women, oneness of mankind etc. We wish all the Baha'i a very happy Ridvan.

To Close, we would like to thank all our most dear contributors as well as our beloved critics, who are working tirelessly to help humanity in these difficult times. May God bless them all.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Free Baha'i Team



Blast from the Past

The Story Teller – The Sickness of God



The STORY TELLER

THE SICKNESS OF GOD

There was a time when things were going very wrong on earth. Men thought only of themselves, families strove but for their own advancement, and governments distorted by arrogance and greed, contended with one another, disregarding the rights of their neighbors. Unwholesome fogs, rising out of selfish hearts, settled heavily over the face of the globe, and their poisoned fumes mounted high, assailing the very portals of heaven and discomfiting the inhabitants of those exalted regions. From the very Pinnacle of Perfection, God descended to the celestial gardens and the Prophets, they whom He loved the best of all, drew near and God said to them: "I am banished from my earth, and my Beauty has been bruised and I am sick." What, God banished from the earth! Why, there were thousands of temples built for His glory and crowded with prayerful kneeling men. There were long processions of priests, and countless hermits telling their beads in lonely caves; the world seemed full of worshippers. God said: "Go to the earth, visit high and low, and say to them 'God is sick, and for His healing He needs one human heart.'" So the Prophets started out, longing to discover the breezes of self-denial, eager to gather a million hearts to offer to their Best Beloved.

First they addressed themselves to the priests, the dignitaries of the Church

and the instructors of religion; but these were too busy with their rituals, and with the laws and by-laws of their doctrines, to occupy themselves with such an extraneous matter. So they went to the Brahmins, the monks, the hermits, such as were not tied with organization; but they in their spiritual pride exclaimed "Do not interrupt our contemplation of the Infinite." Then they visited the rulers and the personages in high places, but all explained that it was not their department, and more or less politely ordered them back to the churches. Finally they turned to the middle class, and after to the poor, but every one answered "We must think of our own; this does not apply to us."

The Prophets walked along the earth with their heads bowed low, and they thought of the days when they had walked alone, and they thought of their lives so freely given to save the souls of men. Had it all been vain? Did the purity of their intention leave no trace? Was the memory of their love completely wiped away? Suddenly, out from among the shadows, stole a woman of the streets, and once more the words were said "God is sick, and for His healing He needs one human heart." Immediately the woman plunged her nails into her white warm flesh, and drawing forth her throbbing heart, she laid it joyfully at the feet of the Prophets.

(Reference: The New Historian, Volume I, Number 4, January 1932)

Know Your Heritage



A ring belonging to the Bab



Some Questions Answered

Email 1:

Membership Inbox x



8B Kasper Husen SoroeBorgerskole <[redacted]>
to info ▾

Mar 25, 2020, 3:32 PM (11 days ago)



Hi there.

I find bahai incredibly interesting, and have read a number of books on bahai. But I mostly find this kind of Bahai true.

I would like to hear if there is a formal declaration, or a certificate or something, to show my faith in your community?

Since I live in Denmark, it is very difficult, but I believe in Bhaai and what your community stands for. Hope you can help me, from Kasper

Answer:

Alla'u'Abha Kasper,

Thank you for writing to us. We are glad to know about you. We Free Baha'is do not believe in declaration or signing of card.

A mentioned in the teachings on Baha'u'llah,

“The man who lives the life according to the teachings of Baha'u'llah is already a Baha'i. On the other hand, a man may call himself a Baha'i for fifty years, and if he does not live the life he is not a Baha'i.”

So, following the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha is important and not what they call declaration in the Baha'i faith. It is good to know that you have been attracted towards the teachings of Baha'u'llah, it will be great if you write to us about your journey and what made you accept the Free Baha'i faith. If you agree we can publish your story in our upcoming magazine.

Do go through our website, read all the content available there and if you have any queries do write us back.

Have a great day ahead!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'i



Email 2:

Helping the needy. Inbox x



Alexis Gabana <alex.gabana@baha.org>

Mar 23, 2020, 12:32 AM (13 days ago)



to info ▾

Hi

I find your articles of the magazine very interesting. In the current pandemic of Covid-19, I was curious as to whether we can use the money of huququllah in helping the needy ones or maybe provide people with masks, sanitizer etc. This would be apart from prayers that we make for the people of world.

Answer:

Hi Alexis,

Allah'u'abha!

You have raised a valid question and we are glad a lot of Baha'is are now following the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master and concerned about humanity as a whole. We have received 10s of emails from friends around the world who were asking if they can spend their Huququ'llah amount on those sections of the society who unfortunately lost their jobs due to the ongoing crisis. We have always encouraged such activities as these were the true teachings of Baha'u'llah. I would love to reiterate the same incident of Abdu'l Baha in which it was mentioned how the Master used to give charity every Friday and the beggars used to line up outside his house and he never used to decline anyone. Rest assured my friend, spending a single penny from the Huquq'ullah on the needy will only bring about a sense of happiness and satisfaction for your heart and soul and also would undoubtedly be a source of pleasure for Baha'u'llah and the Master.

As said by Abdu'l Baha, "To be a Baha'i simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood."

In case you have any more questions, do feel free to write back to us. Stay blessed.

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is

Email 3:

Covid-19 and Baha'i faith Inbox x



Gamal Naseer gamal.naseer@outlook.com

to info ▾

Mon, Apr 4, 6:33 PM (4 days ago)



Dear Friends;

I had seen video from noted Baha'i personality Farzam Kamalabadi, in which he mentioned that Covid-19 is curse of Baha'u'llah I would like to ask you humbly that you Baha'is are apparently spreading message of love, kindness and equality of mankind, but your true face is shown in this video shame on you, entire world is suffering from this pandemic and you Baha'is are making fun of humanity, or you people are raciest your leaders are only shedding crocodile tears for fake persecution on Baha'is, I did not see any message from your so called Universal House of Justice praying at holy threshold for for wording off this disease.

Gamal Naseer

Answer:

Hello Gamal,

Thank you for your email, we understand your concern and certainly appreciate your habit of questioning anything which you think is wrong and going against the teachings of Baha'u'llah.

Before we answer your question, we would like to understand if you're a Haifan Baha'i or a Free Baha'i? Even you're a Free Baha'i, we would like to let you know that Free Baha'is do not believe in the current form of Universal House of Justice, where the members are selected and not elected. Free Baha'is believe in the true UHJ which will be established only when the Baha'is are free from the shackles of Administration. So, we do not look up to the UHJ and its members, but in fact look down upon them and following the teachings of Baha'u'llah of doing Independent Investigation of Truth, question all their actions and accept the truth only if they are in

sync with the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Regarding the video of Farzam, we saw it after you brought to our notice and we must tell you that we strictly condemn any such claims because the teachings of Baha'u'llah was always promoting the love and unity of humanity. Our suggestion to you would be that such videos shouldn't be encouraged, as they go against our teachings. Let's just promote unity during this time and pray to God that things normalise real soon and there is peace all across. May God protect us all.

Do write back to us if you have any further questions. Looking forward to your reply.

Best wishes,

Team Free Baha'is



Investigation of Reality

“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 investigation of reality. Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain... 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.”

– Abdu'l-Baha, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, Volume 2, p. 287

Declarations

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 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."

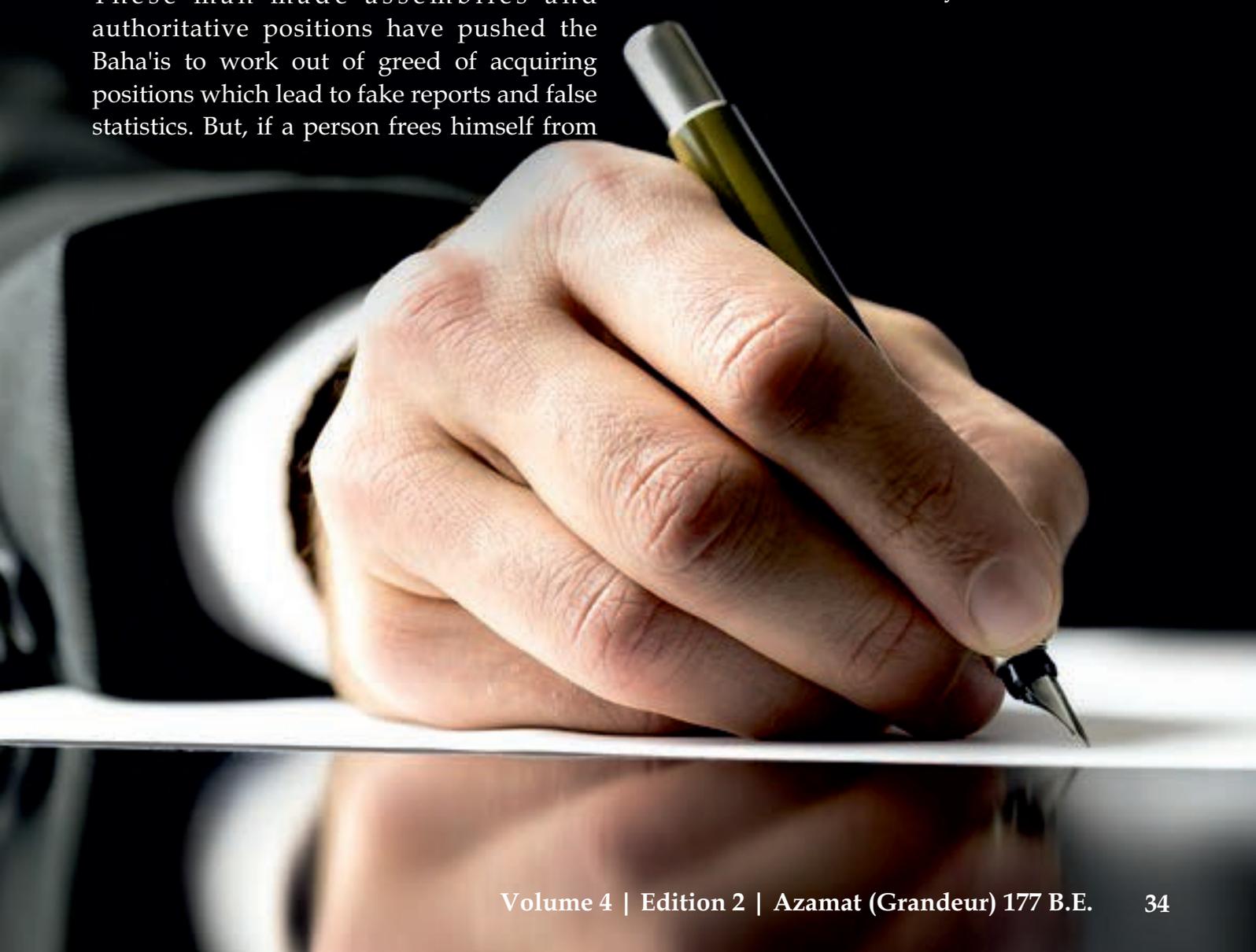
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have pushed the Baha'is 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?



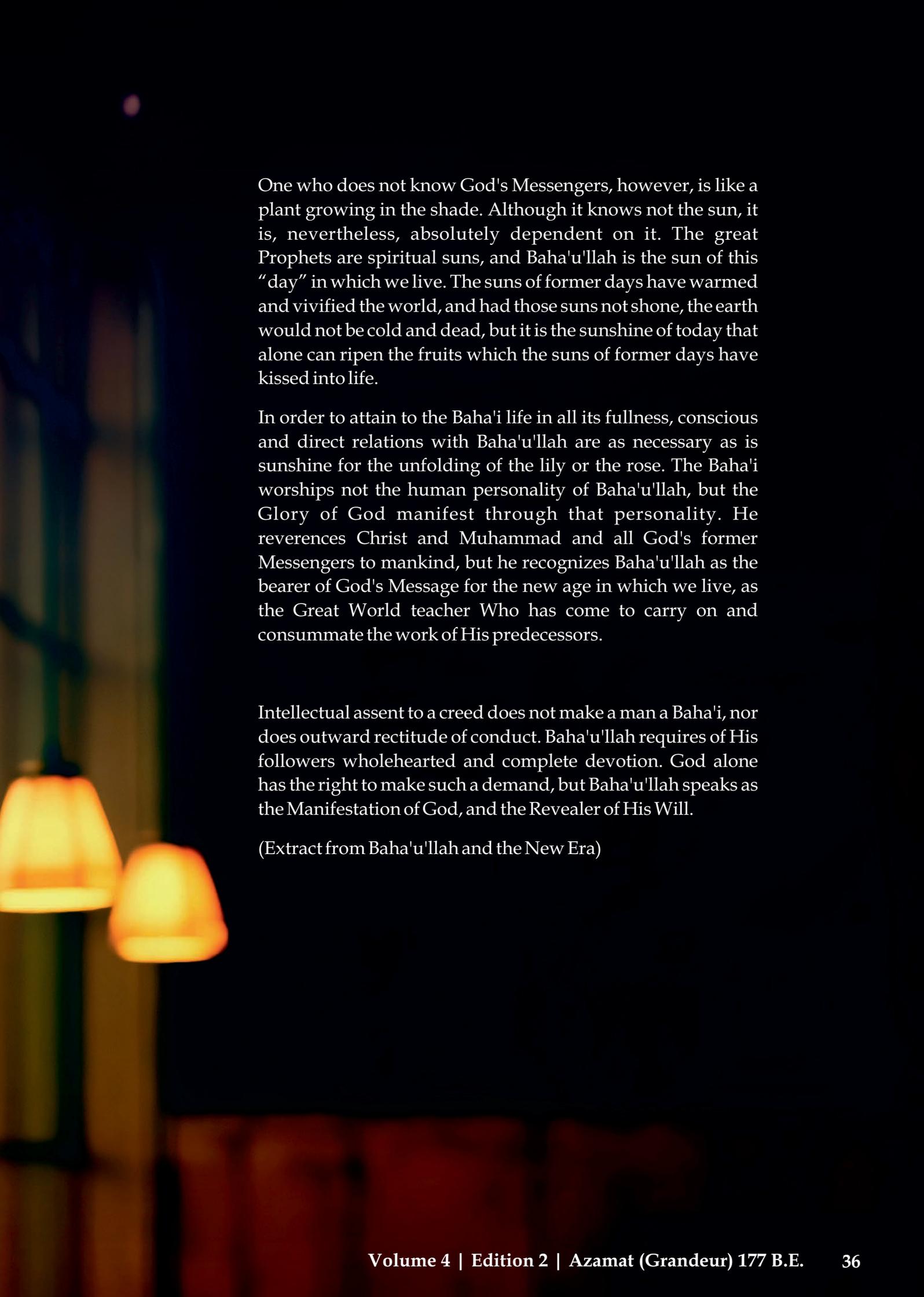
DID YOU KNOW ?

As per Abdu'l Baha, being a Baha'i means to love and serve all humanity.

When asked on one occasion: "What is a Baha'i?" Abdu'l Baha replied: "To be a Baha'i simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood."

On another occasion He defined a Baha'i as "one endowed with all the perfections of man in activity." In one of His London talks He said that a man may be a Baha'i even if He has never heard the name of Baha'u'llah. He added: —

The man who lives the life according to the teachings of Baha'u'llah is already a Baha'i. On the other hand, a man may call himself a Baha'i for fifty years, and if he does not live the life he is not a Baha'i. An ugly man may call himself handsome, but he deceives no one, and a black man may call himself white, yet he deceives no one, not even himself.



One who does not know God's Messengers, however, is like a plant growing in the shade. Although it knows not the sun, it is, nevertheless, absolutely dependent on it. The great Prophets are spiritual suns, and Baha'u'llah is the sun of this "day" in which we live. The suns of former days have warmed and vivified the world, and had those suns not shone, the earth would not be cold and dead, but it is the sunshine of today that alone can ripen the fruits which the suns of former days have kissed into life.

In order to attain to the Baha'i life in all its fullness, conscious and direct relations with Baha'u'llah are as necessary as is sunshine for the unfolding of the lily or the rose. The Baha'i worships not the human personality of Baha'u'llah, but the Glory of God manifest through that personality. He reverences Christ and Muhammad and all God's former Messengers to mankind, but he recognizes Baha'u'llah as the bearer of God's Message for the new age in which we live, as the Great World teacher Who has come to carry on and consummate the work of His predecessors.

Intellectual assent to a creed does not make a man a Baha'i, nor does outward rectitude of conduct. Baha'u'llah requires of His followers wholehearted and complete devotion. God alone has the right to make such a demand, but Baha'u'llah speaks as the Manifestation of God, and the Revealer of His Will.

(Extract from Baha'u'llah and the New Era)

Throwback



Soon after Shoghi Effendi's rise to power backed by the forged Will & Testament of the Master, all of Baha'u'llah's children in-toto, including all of Abdu'l Baha's other grandchildren were condemned as covenant breakers and excommunicated from the cause.

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