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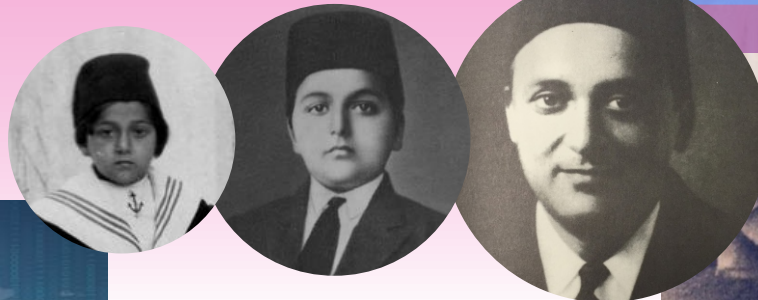


# The C̣aravān

“ 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



SHOGHI EFFENDI  
"THE SIGN OF GOD"!!?



THE PRINCIPLES OF  
THE FREE BAHAI FAITH



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



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

***Lord! Provide for the speedy growth of the Tree of Thy divine Unity; water it then, O Lord, with the flowing waters of Thy good-pleasure, and cause it, before the revelations of Thy divine assurance, to yield such fruits as Thou desirest for Thy glorification and exaltation, Thy praise and thanksgiving, and to magnify Thy Name, to laud the oneness of Thine Essence and to offer adoration unto Thee, inasmuch as all this lieth within Thy grasp and in that of none other.***

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

***Prayer of The Bab***



# Foreword



**Baha'u'llah** died in 1892. His son and successor, Abdu'l Baha, remained a prisoner of the Turkish government until the Revolution of the Young Turks in 1908 and the overthrow of the Sultan Abdul Hamid. This newly recovered freedom gave Master the chance to give special impetus to the Baha'i religion by his winning personality during his trip to Europe and the USA. This was the high point of the Baha'i movement, when the largest numbers of believers were counted in Europe as well as in the USA. The eminent esteem and judgement of this man was seen at his funeral in 1921 in Haifa. According to contemporary reports there were relatively only few Baha'is who followed his coffin but thousands of Jews, Mohammedans and Christians. He had lived the new religion. He through his brilliant gift of speech and actions

towards the people of other religions had also won the hearts of many believers of the other three great religions.

After this absolute high point in the history of the Baha'i religion came the journey into the abyss. A grandson of Abdu'l Baha, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, established himself afterwards in Haifa as the "Guardian" by means of an alleged testament of Abdu'l Baha. He became the unseen power behind the Baha'i religion. If Abdu'l Baha had explained that this religion could not be compressed into an organization, Shoghi in turn built up an administration. The spirit completely disappeared behind the form. The alleged testament of Abdu'l Baha which made Shoghi Rabbani the "Guardian" and a kind of world dictator and world pope, one is surprised about so many similar power-hungry ideas. Not the power of a fascinating personality, as Professor Browne of Cambridge found in Baha'u'llah or in Abdu'l Baha, as Lady Blomfield later presented it in a description of the visit of the Master in London, but of power per se. Is this not a very plausible explanation for the excommunication of half of the extended family of Abdu'l Baha within a few weeks in 1941? He handled the critical voices which were soon raised with skilful psychology. A censorship was imposed in the first quarter year of his "Guardian office" within his own ranks. He excommunicated former members, who wanted to awaken

**"Independent investigation  
of truth" —  
were represented as  
"harmful elements"..."**

# Foreword...



their brothers in faith with critical publications in compliance with one of the most important principles of the Baha'i religion – "Independent investigation of truth" – were represented as "harmful elements", as "enemies" or as "crazy", even when what they said made complete sense.

On the following pages the proof is presented: a complete turnabout of the Baha'i religion has taken place through the alleged testament of Abdu'l Baha with the Guardianship and the Baha'i Administration. As unbelievable as it may sound, it has turned into an instrument of power politics. The so-called "Guardian" has not only falsified Abdul Baha's testament, as the following pages will show, but he has also turned the Testament of Baha'u'llah, the Manifestation of God for our time into something just the opposite.

We would urge our readers to clear their hearts from malice and read this edition of The Caravan carefully in order to lead to a derived conclusion. If you have any feedback /suggestions/queries regarding the Will or anything about the Baha'i faith, do write to us at [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org), and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Thank you!

The Free Baha'i Team



*The most acceptable prayer is the one offered with the utmost spirituality and radiance; its prolongation hath not been and is not beloved by God. The more detached and the purer the prayer, the more acceptable is it in the presence of God.*

*- The Bab*



*These sanctified Mirrors... are, one and all, the Exponents on earth of Him Who is the central Orb of the universe, its Essence and ultimate Purpose. From Him proceed their knowledge and power; from Him is derived their sovereignty.*

*- Baha'u'llah.*



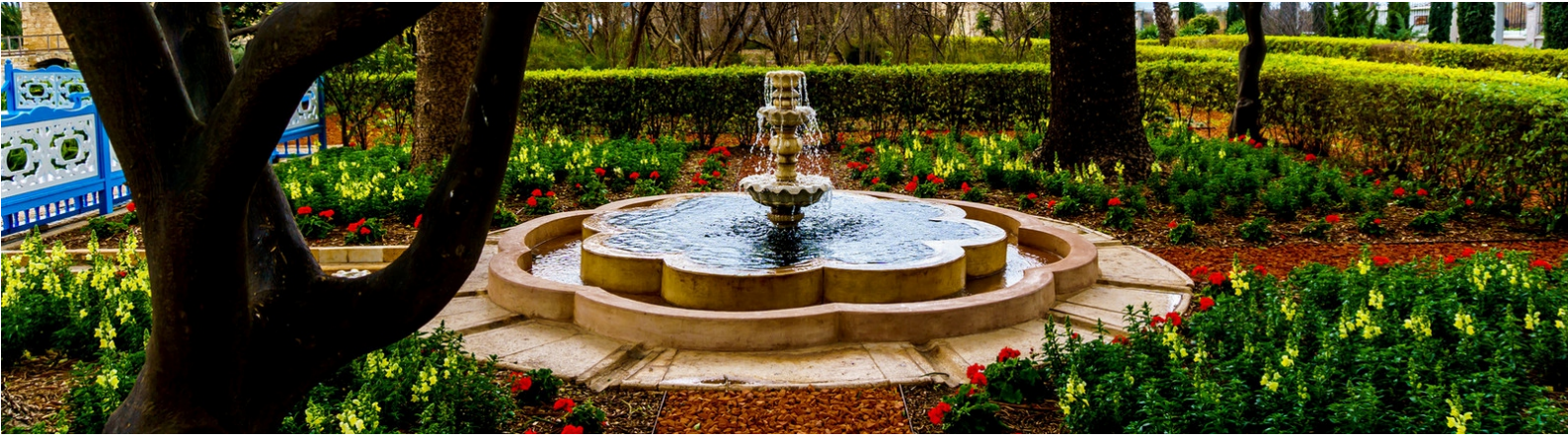
*There is one God; mankind is one; the foundations of religion are one. Let us worship Him, and give praise for all His great Prophets and Messengers who have manifested His brightness and glory.*

*- Abdu'l-Baha*

# Shoghi Effendi



**Shoghi Effendi, the self-proclaimed “Guardian” of the Baha'i Cause, after Abdu'l Baha**



# Hang on to Hope

Freedom

Freedom flings  
Tyrant kings  
Into their rightful place  
A head on a plate  
Democracy inflates  
The morale of the people  
Oligarchy deflates  
The idea that we're equal

Spiteful dictators make their way through the system  
And dominate the world while nobody listens  
Distracting people with things that glisten  
Disseminating hatred as their vision  
Engendering fear is their mission  
To buy or sell weapons  
For more money or more power  
Dropping bombs from their ivory tower  
From extreme explosions we cower  
Explosions of hatred then violence  
Explosions hastened by silence

# Hang on to Hope



Explosions of fire we ferment  
To burn the faces off our enemy  
To avoid exercising our empathy  
Creating a world filled by entropy  
People say \*\*\*\*\* like freedom isn't free  
When the currency we pay for freedom  
Is restriction  
We dampen our fiery feelings  
With prescriptions

Freedom is free  
It's inherent  
It can only be taken or given away  
It is not a proper excuse to slay  
Those that rightly disagree  
With what you're imposing

Freedom is fleeing far far away  
When people are molded by clay  
Of those with the power to shape civilians  
Of those with the power to bring billions  
Of people to their knees  
When freedom is our fee  
To live in timid apathy

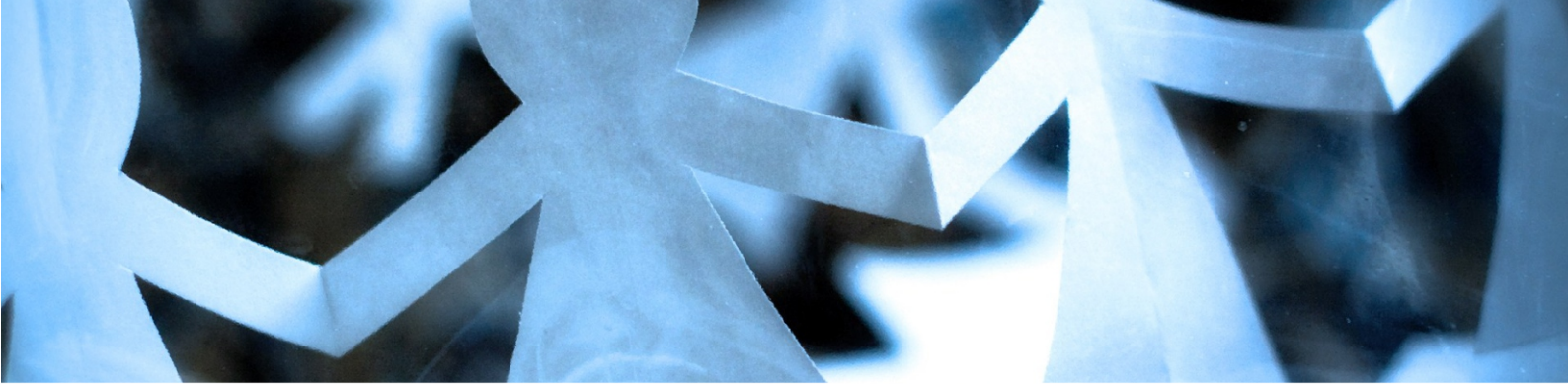
-Andrew Rueter

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# The Principles of The Free Baha'i Faith Explained

The First Basic  
Baha'i Principle is

**“The Oneness of the  
World of Humanity.”**

“Hands may be black, white, yellow or brown, but the hue of the heart is one.” The first foundation stone is the Jasper; it is clear red, like the hue of the heart. In ancient times it was called the bloodstone.” – Abdu'l Baha

Any historical ingenious theories of essential racial superiority, which many people still embrace, cannot survive investigation nor the inquisitive examination of a sincere seeker. Foundations of racial superiority prove to be nothing more than expressions of national or racial conceit and pomposity, when considered without egoism or prejudice. There is simply no known fact of human anatomy or physiology which implies that the capacity for culture of civilization inheres in one race or another race of mankind.

The strength of a living society depends upon the unity of its millions of diversified

individuals in a common ideology, which must be excellently suited to the needs and conditions of that society. The science of Anthropology has revealed to us our common ancestry. Beyond doubt it has proved totally and conclusively that the human race, though varying in color, size, and feature, is not made up of different kinds and species. Humanity is one, Homo Sapiens, Man. We are one people from the same origin and with the same history.

“In every dispensation the light of divine guidance has been focused upon one central theme.... In this wondrous Revelation, this glorious center, the foundation of Faith of God and the distinguishing feature of His Law, is the consciousness of the oneness of mankind.”  
– Abdu'l Baha

Long experience is at last convincing men of the truth of the prophetic teaching that selfish views and selfish actions inevitably bring social disaster, and that if humanity is not to perish ingloriously, each must look on the things of his neighbor as of equal importance with his own, and subordinate his own interests to those of humanity as a whole. In this way the interests of each and all will ultimately be best served.

# The Principles of The Free Baha'i Faith Explained...

“That which the lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its people in one universal Cause, one common Faith. This can in no wise be achieved except through the power of a skilled, an all-powerful and inspired Physician. This, verily, is the truth, and all else naught but error.” – Baha'u'llah

We are all fruits of one tree, the leaves of one branch, the flowers of one garden. This is most characteristic of Baha'u'llah's teachings onto us. The unity of mankind and of all created beings by God is the main theme of his teachings. Every member of the human family, whether of the peoples or of the governments, cities or nations, have become increasingly interdependent. For none, is self-sufficiency any longer possible, in as much as political ties unite all people and nations, and the bonds of trade and industry, of agriculture and education, are being strengthened every day. Therefore, the unity and oneness of all mankind can in this day be achieved.

The whole of mankind is groaning, yearning to be led to unity and to terminate its age long martyrdom for oneness. It yet stubbornly refuses to embrace the light and acknowledge the sovereign authority of the one Power that can extricate it from its entanglements. Our human society is now close to approaching the stage which the unification of the whole of mankind can be realized. All of mankind is but of one origin, our Shepherd is the Loving God. Upon us are bestowed His Most Great mercies, for we are considered as one-fold. The highest and most excelling grace bestowed upon men is the grace of 'attaining unto the Presence of God' and of His recognition, which has been promised unto all

people. This is the utmost degree of grace vouchsafed unto man by the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days, and the fullness of His absolute bounty upon His Creation.

In human nature, there is a spiritual and intellectual potentiality for development of a higher and higher form of social order. This order itself may reach its ultimate-size and shape with the boundaries of the planet, which is in a world order, but development within that final commonwealth is unlimited. The very nature of things is in the realization of the inner potentialities of man himself towards spiritual evolvment and enlightenment.

Before us is unfolded a principle of oneness among mankind. From family life to tribal life, to city to state, to provinces, kingdoms, and nations, a veil has been lifted from our hearts, that we, all races of mankind, can come together as one, united together. No longer as races of men, but as a race of mankind united in oneness and in brotherhood.

“In that day, saith the lord of Hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree.” Zechariah 3:10





## **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



“Rid thou thyself of all attachments to aught except God, enrich thyself in God by dispensing with all else besides Him, and recite this prayer:

Say: God sufficeth all things above all things, and nothing in the heavens or in the earth or in whatever lieth between them but God, thy Lord, sufficeth. Verily, He is in Himself the Knower, the Sustainer, the Omnipotent.”

— The Bab

“This is the Day in which God's most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things. It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness.”

— Baha'u'llah

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

— Abdu'l Baha



# The Bab – Herald of the Baha'i Faith



## The Life of the Bab

On a spring evening in 1844, a conversation took place between two young men that heralded a new era for the human race. A Persian merchant announced to a traveller in the city of Shiraz that He was the Bearer of a Divine Revelation destined to transform the spiritual life of humanity. The merchant's name was Siyyid Ali Muhammad, and He is known to history as the Bab (meaning "the Gate" in Arabic).

The middle of the 19th century was one of the most turbulent periods in the world's history. Great revolutions were under way. In parts of Europe and North America, time-worn social structures and relationships were being challenged by sudden and unprecedented changes in the fields of agriculture, industry, and economics. At the same time, throughout the world followers of diverse religions perceived that humanity was on the cusp of a new stage in its development, and many prepared themselves for the imminent coming of a Promised One, praying fervently that they would recognise Him.

## A Quest Fulfilled

A young scholar named Mulla Husayn was one such soul engaged in a life-changing quest. He felt drawn, as if by a magnet, to

Shiraz—a city renowned for the perfume of its roses and the singing of nightingales. On the evening of 22 May 1844, as he approached the gate of the city, he was greeted by a radiant young man who wore a green turban. This stranger greeted Mulla Husayn as if he were a lifelong friend.

"The Youth who met me outside the gate of Shiraz overwhelmed me with expressions of affection and loving-kindness," recalled Mulla Husayn. "He extended to me a warm invitation to visit His home, and there refresh myself after the fatigues of my journey."

The two men spent the entire night immersed in conversation. Mulla Husayn was astonished to discover that each of the characteristics he was seeking in the Promised One was manifest in this young man. Before departing early, the next morning, his Host addressed to him these words: "O thou who art the first to believe in Me! Verily I say, I am the Bab, the Gate of God...Eighteen souls must, in the beginning, spontaneously and of their own accord, accept Me and recognize the truth of My Revelation."

Within several weeks of the Bab's declaration, seventeen more people had, by their own spontaneous efforts, recognized His station, had renounced the comforts and

# The Bab – Herald of the Baha'i Faith



security of their old way of life, and – severed from all attachments – had set out on the mission of spreading His teachings. These first eighteen followers of the Bab became known collectively as the “Letters of the Living.”

One of them, the poetess Tahirih, was to play a pivotal role in breaking with the past, raising the call to full equality between women and men. The last member of the group, a young man who was given the title *Quddus* – meaning “The Most Holy” – displayed a level of devotion and courage that made him the most revered of the Letters of the Living.

Mulla Husayn was overwhelmed at the words that poured forth from the Bab that night. The Bab demonstrated an innate wisdom that, even when He was young, had left His family awe-struck. “He is not to be treated as a mere child,” His schoolmaster had told them, “He, verily, stands in no need of teachers such as I.”

## The Mission of the Bab

Born in Shiraz, a city in southern Iran, on 20 October 1819, the Bab was the symbolic gate between past ages of prophecy and a new age of fulfilment for humanity. His primary purpose was to awaken the people to the fact that a new period in human history had begun, one which would witness the unification of the entire human race and the emergence of a world civilization of spiritual and material prosperity. This great day would be established through the influence of a divinely inspired Educator, whom the Bab referred to as “He Whom God shall make manifest.” It was His own mission, the Bab declared, to herald the coming of this promised Manifestation of God. The Bab explained that the new Manifestation would

usher in an age of peace and justice that was the hope of every longing heart and the promise of every religion. The Bab instructed His followers to spread this message throughout the country and to prepare people for this long-awaited day.

The Bab's message aroused hope and excitement among people from every walk of life. Although a number of prominent Muslim clerics accepted the Bab, many others felt insecure and threatened by His growing influence and feared their entrenched positions of privilege and authority would be threatened by the empowerment of the people. They denounced the Bab's teachings as heretical and set out to destroy Him and His followers. Controversy raged in mosques and schools, in streets and bazaars throughout the land.

As a result, the Bab was banished – from city to city, from prison to prison. But none of the plans His enemies devised could prevent His influence from spreading. In every place He was sent, His grace and the magnetic attraction of His personality won the admiration of civic leaders and townspeople. Callous prison governors and soldiers guarding Him became His followers. Each time, believing they were extinguishing the flame of His influence, the authorities merely added fuel to His life-giving light. In time, the Bab's popularity grew to such an extent that some prominent clergymen appealed to the government to have Him executed. The Babis, shut off from their leader, boldly defended themselves against the full force of the state, which was summoned for their destruction. Thousands of His followers – men, women and children – suffered cruel and brutal deaths.

# The Bab – Herald of the Baha'i Faith



## The Execution of the Bab

In 1850, Mirza Taqi Khan (Grand Vizier of Nasiri'd-Din Shah) ordered the Bab's execution. When the guards came to take Him on the day of His execution, 9 July, the Bab told them that no "earthly power" could silence Him until He had finished all that He had to say. Thousands crowded the rooftops that overlooked the barracks square in Tabriz where the Bab was to be executed by a firing squad. In the intense heat of the noonday sun, He was suspended by ropes against a wall of the barracks, along with a young follower. A regiment of 750 soldiers opened fire in three successive volleys. When the smoke and dust of the gunpowder cleared, the Bab had vanished from sight. Only His companion remained, alive and unscathed, standing beside the wall on which they had been suspended. The ropes by which they had been hung alone were severed. After a search, the Bab was found back in His cell, continuing the conversation with His secretary that had been earlier interrupted.



Barracks square in Tabriz where the Bab was executed.

"Now you may proceed to fulfil your intention," the Bab told His captors. Again, He was brought out for execution. After the first regiment refused to fire, another was assembled and ordered to shoot. This time the bodies of the Bab and His young follower were shattered. A whirlwind of dust engulfed the city, blotting out the light of the sun until nightfall.



Shrine of the Bab – Haifa, Israel

In 1909, after being hidden away for more than half a century, the Bab's remains were finally interred on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. Today, entombed in an exquisite golden-domed Shrine, encompassed by spectacular terraced gardens and fountains, the Bab rests in conspicuous glory, a symbol of the triumph of the Cause that He heralded over the fiercest of opposition. Throughout the world, millions recognize the Bab as the divinely inspired Herald of the Baha'i Faith and turn reverently to His Writings to discover the "resplendent Light of God."

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

# Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered?



(We have got this brief extract from the book *Nasheb Wa Faraz*, chapter 5 for the perusal of our readers. The same has been translated from Arabic by one of our friends based out of Middle East. We're sure you will find it beneficial).

Shoghi Effendi did not accept making any changes to the content of the 10-year plan, or to change the members of the International Baha'i Council, or to change its appointed Chairman (Mason Remey); and had referred in his tablet no. 101 to the statement of Abdu'l Baha, indicating, "To the people of righteous (i.e. the Baha'is)"

The continent of America is the center of the lights of spiritual insight and the country of the appearance of the secrets, the source of the virtuous people, and the place of gathering of the free people.

Therefore, John Ferraby, Hasan Afnan Balyuzi, and Ruhiyah Maxwell (who was suffering from the infertility complex, and at the same time was very angry with the appointment of Mason Remey, an old man as the president of the embryonic International

Baha'i Council. Since Shoghi Effendi did not agree to take their pressure of changing the President, these people surreptitiously poisoned the him.

On Sunday, Oct 27th of 1957, the effects of the poison appeared, and the fingers of his joints started aching. Ruhiyah Khanum asked Shoghi if he was facing any other difficulty and pain, to which he replied, 'No! Just feel pain in my fingers that are contracted.' Then added, 'I am very tired; very tired!'

That night, Shoghi Effendi had fever. The next day his fever went up to 39C. While the members of the Britain NSA and other agencies of the UK, two Hands of the Cause, their ABMs, the prominent Physicians, high qualified hospitals, and enough money were available, Ruhiyah Khanum just contacted an unknown medicine doctor, who without visiting the patient wrote a prescription.

The physician, in the evening, after his work at the hospital went to see Shoghi Effendi. After examination, he informed that both Shoghi Rabbani and Ruhiyah were suffering from the critical Asiatic flu. Nevertheless, they did



# Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered?



not convene any medical council, nor acknowledged the Baha'i World Center. They also did not inform the NSA of UK, and did not ask any consultation from the Baha'i specialized physicians in London.

Came next Tuesday, when Ruhiyyah Khanum became so well that the doctor let her go out for an important case (though the important case was never known!) Since after the flu, Shoghi was affected by pneumonia, the doctor, after visiting him, gave an explanatory report about his medical condition to Ruhiyyah Khanum.

Shoghi Effendi, according to his initial program, was interested to leave London for Haifa, but the doctor opposed him. Ruhiyyah Khanum, who was the liaison officer between the Guardian and the Baha'i International Council, did not inform the Council about the situation and the changes. Again, John Ferraby, who was both, a Hand of the Cause and the Secretary of the NSA of the UK, and Hasan Balyuzi (Afnan) who was a Hand and a member of the NSA, did not inform the National Baha'i Organization, the Baha'i medical committee, and the Baha'i physicians from the case; and refused to acknowledge the sickness of the Guardian and thus prevented the formation of the Medical Consultation Council.

On Saturday morning, the 2nd of November, as Shoghi Effendi found himself in a constrained situation, hopelessly requested Ruhiyyah Khanum to give him the 10-year Plan, so that he may complete it before his death!

Ruhiyyah Khanum decided to prevent him, but he said, 'No, I should complete it! Because

it has occupied my thoughts, and I should finish it. Today, I received 1-2 more names by post, that should be added to the program, and finalise it!' During the completion of the program he said, 'It seems that this case is killing me. How can I complete it?'

On that day, after finishing his work, the beloved Guardian looked very tired. For lunch, he could just eat one spoon food; and he couldn't eat anything for dinner. The manner of his talking on that evening indicated his severe depression. He was very sad and depressed. His talking was so emotional that even those who participated in those wicked deeds, became anxious and heartbroken!

In the evening, the doctor came and visited Shoghi Effendi. He informed that Shoghi would be able to leave for Haifa on Tuesday. The next day was a Sunday, being an off for the doctor, he said that it will be unnecessary to come and visit Shoghi. By hearing that Ruhiyyah Khanum became upset and shameful, because of her cooperation in those sinful deeds.

In the morning of the Sunday, November 3, she knocked at the door of Shoghi Effendi and as she heard no answer, she went in. She saw him asleep on his left side, while his eyes were open, as if he was looking at the entering people. His left hand was on his right shoulder, while his right hand was on his left hand. His eyes were open, and his stomach and intestine were blown up.

Ruhiyyah Khanum contacted the doctor, and after getting assurance that Shoghi has passed away, she telephoned the Hands of the Cause, Hasan Balyuzi, and John Ferraby (who were her cooperators) and informed about Shoghi's

# Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered?



ascension. John Ferraby asked her to be calm and patient until his coming!

After their arrival, they released the doctor they first consulted. Then, they sutured the intestine of Shoghi Effendi and then closed the door of his room. A telegram was prepared, with the signature of Ruhiyyah Khanum, and sent to Haifa on Monday:

"The Guardian of the Cause is seriously affected by the Asian flu. Tell Leroy (Ioas) to inform all the national assemblies, and the Friends to pray and request for the protection of the Cause. Ruhiyyah."

Then, the Hand of the Cause, Ugo Giachery, was contacted by telephone, in Rome. He entered London at 20:00 the same day. They decided to declare the death of Shoghi Effendi via Radio. Ruhiyyah Khanum was asked to neglect her previous telegram, and by sending a new telegram, acknowledges the ascension as below:

"Shoghi Effendi, the beloved of the hearts of the Baha'is, and the sacred deposit of Abdul-Baha, was ascended as a result of his affection to the Asian flu, and heart attack while fallen asleep. Repeat to the Friends to be firm and patient, and follow the institution of the Hands of the Cause, which was developed under his auspices, and has recently been consolidated by him. Only the unity of the hearts and the unity of the aim may witness the steadfastness of all the Baha'i National Assemblies and the Friends towards the Guardian, who sacrificed his all life for the service of the Cause of God. Ruhiyyah."

Authored by,

Major Yadullah Thabit Rasekh,





# Shoghi Effendi – The Mystery of God



Born in Akka, Shoghi Effendi was related to The Bab through his father, Mirza Hadi Shirazi, and to Baha'u'llah through his mother, Ziya'iyiyh Khanum, the eldest daughter of Abdu'l Baha. He was born, according to Baha'i sources, on March 3, 1896, after Baha'u'llah's death in 1892. Shoghi Effendi was to marry his cousin Maryam, daughter of Sir Abbas Effendi's son-in-law Mirza Jalal Shahid. Shoghi backed out and married Mary Maxwell. Subject to verification she was the daughter of May Ellis Maxwell, once May Ellis Bolles. Her husband was a comedian. He was not a Baha'i. After marriage she transferred her residence to Montreal. (Refer: *God passes by*, P. 237 - 239)

She never accepted the family name of Shoghi Effendi and always maintained her family name as 'Maxwell' but the followers gave her the title of Ruhiyeh Khanum and Amatul Baha.

## The Surname 'Rabbani'

According to Mirza Muhammad Ali's sources, to distinguish the issues of one Afnan from those other Afnan, Sir Abbas Effendi gave the surname of Rabbani to children of Mirza Hadi Afnan.

Shoghi Rabbani retained this surname until his appointment as the Guardian of the Baha'i

Cause under Sir Abbas Effendi's Will and Testament in which he was designated as Shoghi Effendi. Effendi means Mister. (Refer: *The Baha'i World, 1926-1928, Vol. II, P. 84*)

## Conversion of Funds for Private Use

Refer the incident bought by Lady Ruth White under 'The subject converted funds to his own use' in her book *The Baha'i religion and its Enemy the Baha'i Organization*, the Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont 1929.

Lady Ruth White says: "In the Autumn of 1919, I sent to Abdu'l Baha [i.e. Sir Abbas Effendi] an American Express Company check of Five hundred dollars and asked him to apply it to some of the many charities he was dispensing.

About four months after we arrived in Haifa as the guests of Abdu'l Baha. On the day before departure I asked Abdu'l Baha if he had received the check. Without a moment's hesitation and very emphatically he said that he had not received it. He repeated this a number of times, and seemed indignant that it had not been turned over to him.

I discussed this with various members of the family of Abdu'l Baha, and one of the brothers-in-law said he would go to town and enquire about the matter. He returned and

# Shoghi Effendi – The Mystery of God



said there was no record of the check. When I returned to America I asked the American Express Company to look up the receipt of the check I had sent through their office, and on the back of it was the signature of the person who had received the cash. This person was Shoghi Rabbani [i.e. Shoghi Effendi].

I asked the American Express Company to Photostat this check for me, which they did. Here then is proof positive that Shoghi Effendi cashed out the check and also proof that the son-in-law [presumably Mirza Muhsin Afnan] who purported to enquire of the check did not do it at all. Otherwise, he would have ascertained in a few minutes from the office of the American Express Company at Haifa that the check had been cashed by Sh. Rabbani, as I had given the son-in-law the whole information, the date of sending, the name of sender, etc. All of which shows that there was collusion between the son-in-law and Shoghi Effendi. Circumstantial evidence also points to the fact that Shoghi Effendi used the money to go to Oxford University.

For immediately after cashing the check he departed for Oxford, this despite the fact that Abdu'l Baha did not wish him to go. Some may naturally ask: How could Shoghi Effendi have cashed the check unless he had authority to do so. This he may have had. Yet the fact remain that the proceeds were never turned over to Abdu'l Baha. My readers may, therefore, draw their own conclusions."

## The Making of Shoghi Effendi

At the time of the passing of Sir Abbas Effendi in 1921, the only members of the Baha's family, unaffected by Sir Abbas Effendi's clutches, and were in good books were Sir Abbas Effendi's full sister Sultan or Bahiyyih

Khanum, surnamed the supreme leaf (Varaqiy-i-Ulya), Sir Abbas Effendi's wife lady Munirih Khanum, Sir Abbas Effendi's four daughters, Sir Effendi's four sons-in-law.

It was in such circumstance that after the death of Sir Abbas Effendi, his will came to public in which Shoghi Effendi was inducted into office as Guardian of the cause under the terms of Sir Abbas Effendi's Will and Testament, for which no probate was taken out. Apparently, an irregularity which set people wondering whether the Will and Testament is real?

During his life span, Sir Abbas Effendi had never declared him as his successor, since as per the Will and Testament of Baha'u'llah, Mohammed Ali Effendi was supposed to take the chair of guardianship after Sir Abbas Effendi.

Pleading inability to enter upon the duties of his office forthwith to recover from the shock caused by the death of Sir Abbas Effendi, Shoghi Effendi withdrew his hand from the things, retired into solitude for a number of years, and left the actual handling of the Baha'i affair in the hands of the elderly members of the Sir Abbas Effendi's family with Baha's daughter, the supreme leaf as a titular head, who served as a mere rubber-stamp, master minded by Sir Abbas Effendi's wife lady Munirih, "the she of Isfahan".

Shoghi Effendi came out of his retirement, took over the reins of the Baha'i Administration, and demanded ready and implicit obedience from the servants of God, in default of which any servant of God was liable to excommunication or summary expulsion from the faith under same pretence and pretext. Shoghi Effendi brooked

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interference. His decisions were absolute and final and his words authoritative. As the divinely-ordained guardian all the faithful must obey him.

## Shoghi Effendi - The Play Boy

Subhi's Payam-i Pidar, PP. 143-146: mentioned that Shoghi Effendi to be a frequenter of men of magnificent physique and virility, a pervert who craved to be consorted with, a hermaphrodite requiring surgical operation to determine his sex.

Subhi have been an eyewitness on several occasions to performance of such indecent acts and on one particular occasion he states to have been challenged by the Shoghi Effendi to put his manhood to the test.

“Shoghi Effendi was possessed of peculiar nature and habit which cannot be properly described; his manly disposition was inconsiderable; he was continually desirous of cultivating friendship, and associations, with robust men and youth!”

“Shoghi Effendi, Dr. Ziya Baghdadi and Subhi set up a party at night at Acre at which jokes were cracked. Subhi absented himself from the room on business. On return he found the couple in compromising circumstances, with Dr. Ziya Baghdadi having committed an indecent act.” ... Taken aback, Subhi said: “Doctor! What is this business you have been doing?” Shoghi Effendi turned the face toward Subhi and said: “If you are also a man, prove yourself a male!!”

“I have heard such remarks from, and have witnessed such scenes of, Shoghi Effendi on several occasions.”

Shoghi Effendi may be categorized “in the

category of 'hermaphrodites' in whom opposite qualities are embodied....” requiring surgical operation for adjustment.

Shoghi Effendi has “no feeling, attachment or devotion” for father, Brother, Sister, mother or friend. He issues orders which no sane man would give.”

The Kashf-ul-Hiyal (the Uncovering of Deceptions) by Abdul Husayn Ayati nicknamed Avarih, one-time chief Baha'i missionary says,

“it is not possible to categorize him as either male or female! Neither possessing feminine kindness and charm nor having mannish wisdom and sobriety! There are attachments in these kinds of people which is hard to find out. I am not aware if you have heard of that physicians lays down a man and by some medical treatment changes him to a female and vice versa. ... I wish Shoghi had visited a physician in his youth and could be purified! That's why you don't see him having any attachment to his father or grief of his siblings; neither remembering his mother's pains to raise him nor recognizing his true friends! He commands things that are not wise, and excuses that are far from rational. All this because of the same root problem.” (Refer: Awara's Kashf-ul-Hiyal, Vol. II, 2nd impression, PP. 84-85 and P. 166; Vol., III 3rd impression, PP. 212-213)

“The command of Allah shall be executed” (a quote from Quran), forty days after Abdu'l Baha was passed, mourning time was over, and grooming and happy time had arrived for Shoghi! And Shoghi, you don't know who Shoghi was! The same Shoghi who if all accusations before his adolescence (with all proofs and evidences!) are wrong, those after

# Shoghi Effendi – The Mystery of God



his adolescence are true! Because hundreds of students who were studying in Beirut are witness that he was not inclined towards his studies and his only passion was to sell theatre / movie tickets. Finally, and because of all these intends, he failed in his studies and scabies appeared on his hands, so he was wearing Chamois leather gloves and treating them for a while!

Shoghi and with that you knew who Shoghi was! The guy who failed to get a diploma in Oxford as well as Beirut! The same Shoghi who his classmate asked him why don't you pay attention to your studies and he replied: "What is studying all about? To find a piece of bread and mine is already prepared." And the

same Shoghi who during his first and last speech in London, for an audience of 16, Miss Rosenberg stood up and said: Beloved Shoghi, sit down! People have no desire to listen to you and they have fallen asleep!" this old lady of 70 years, took the dice from hand of Shoghi and spoke". (Refer: Kashf-ul Hiyal, Vol 2, page 84-85, Second Edition)



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# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



Here we would like to bring the facts about Shoghi Effendi's cruelty towards the Holy family of Abdu'l Baha, as he became Guardian of faith by will and testaments of Abdu'l Baha, he turned dictator and started ex-communicating the holy family of Baha'u'llah, the grand children who served the faith in Europe and America. Readers might be wondering why he has ex-communicated the entire grandchildren of Abdu'l Baha, what was that heinous crime which they committed, that Guardian has to take such drastic step to ex-communicate them, not only this even he ordered that if someone asked about their well-being will also come under wrath of Guardian. First let us list the Noble family members of and Grand Children of Abdu'l Baha.

## Abdu'l Baha had four Daughters

1. Diyaiyyih Khanum
2. Touba Khanum
3. Ruha Khanum
4. Munawar Khanum

1. Diyaiyyih Khanum, married to Mirza Hadi Afnan

*Children from this marriage:*

- Shoghi Effendi Rabbani
- Ruhangiz Khanum
- Mehrangiz Khanum
- Husayn Effendi Rabbani
- Riyad Effendi Rabbani

2. Touba Khanum Married Mirza Muhsin Afnan

*Children from this marriage:*

- Ruhi Effendi Afnan
- Soraya Khanum
- Soheil Effendi Afnan
- Fuad Effendi Afnan

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



3. Rouha Khanum, married to Mirza Jalal Effendi Shahid

*Children from this marriage:*

- Maryam Khanum
- Munib Effendi
- Zahra Khanum
- Hassan Effendi.

4. Munavvar Khanum married to Ahmad Effendi Yazdi.

No Issue.

## Direct Excommunication

- Ruhi Effendi Afnan: Grandson of Abdu'l Baha
- Zahra Khanum: Granddaughter of Abdu'l Baha and wife of Ruhi Afnan
- Soraya Khanum: Granddaughter of Abdu'l Baha and wife of Fayzi Effendi
- Foad Effendi Afnan: Grandson of Abdu'l Baha
- Mehrangiz: Granddaughter of Abdu'l Baha and Sister of Shoghi Effendi
- Fayzi Effendi: Grandson of Baha'u'llah
- Toubra Khanum: second daughter of Abdu'l Baha
- Ruha Khanum: Third daughter of Abdu'l Baha
- Mirza Jalal Shahid: Husband of Ruha Khanum

• Furughiyyih Khanum: Daughter of Baha'u'llah

• Agha Sayyed Ali Afnan: Husband of Furughiyyih Khanum

Let us examine the cause and effects of these excommunications from the Book of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab "ABDU'L BAHA'S GRANDSONS"

Mirza Ahmad Sohrab was confident secretary of Abdu'l Baha for many years he was well versed in Baha'i teachings and trusted lieutenant, he was sent to teach and propagate faith to America, there are numerous tablets of Abdu'l Baha in respect of Mira Ahmed Sohrab after the sad demise of Abdu'l Baha when Shoghi took the charge of Baha'i administration he quickly realize popularity and influence of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, he side-lined him, Mirza Ahmad Sohrab wrote many books for faith, when he saw Shoghi is excommunicating the entire family of Abdu'l Baha he wrote a Book "Abdu'l Baha's Grandsons" in which he raised his voice for the oppressed souls of Abdu'l Baha's Grandsons.

## Page 24-26

### The year of Disgrace

The law of excommunication puts an absolute ban on those who are expelled from the Faith. The families of these persons and their fellow-believers must leave the ostracized individuals alone. They must neither communicate nor associate with them. They must break all ties of friendship and of humanity even; for, if they deviate one hair's breath from this law, they themselves fall into the same ditch.

Thus, as time goes on, the numbers of the



# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



excommunicated increases;

## RUHI EFFENDI AFNAN

For a few are generally to be found, here and there, who are willing to risk ease and safety in order to follow their generous impulses. Such evidently was the case in the instance of Touba Khanum; it probably is the case in the instance of Rouha Khanum. However, in the instance of Ziayyeh Khanum, the Guardian cables that his parents strongly condemn Mehr-Angiz's action. Thus, Shoghi Effendi's father and mother have been forced to publicly denounce and repudiate their own daughter. Hereafter, they must be as strangers to her. They can never approach her in her hours of trouble or illness. They will never hold their grandchildren in their arms. Such is the Baha'i Cause in this year of disgrace – 1942.

## A Fact Beyond Realization

I intend to take up the matter, treating it in connection with historical data and in the light of reason; and, in order to simplify the subject as far as possible, I will centre my thoughts on the personality of Ruhi Effendi Afnan. His excommunication and the reasons given for it tell the story of all the rest.

Ruhi Effendi Afnan has twice visited the United States; he has lectured before numerous Baha'i gatherings and outside groups; his articles on the Baha'i Cause are published in Baha'i publications and the records of his loyal services to the Guardian and the Baha'i organization are spread on the pages of Baha'i News. Knowing full well that he has not deserved the treatment accorded him at the hands of his cousin, Shoghi Effendi, I am taking it upon myself to vindicate him, as far as I am able.

Having experienced excommunication together with the ostracism of all those who are associated with me, I naturally sympathize with other excommunicated persons. However, this is not the reason that impels me to raise a voice of protest at this juncture.

During eight years, I was fed, clothed and educated by Abdu'l Baha. Throughout that time, the Master's daughters were most gracious to me and I carry in my memory lively tokens of their kindness. I associated most intimately with their children, and vividly remember the ardent respect of these young ones for their grandfather, and their devotion to him. I hold each and all of them in high regard.

I never objected to my own excommunication, nor did I take it at all seriously; but the excommunication of the very family of Abdu'l Baha has shaken my being to its foundations. I am amazed and indignant. I am outraged and horror-stricken. The fact that Shoghi Effendi has dared to expel from his own household these souls, in whose bodies run the blood and life of Abdu'l Baha, is beyond realization. The reasons given for their Excommunication are childish to the extreme, having nothing to do with their faith and love for the Baha'i Cause.

In the writing of this book, I have not had the opportunity of consulting with any of the members of Abdu'l Baha's family. It is certain that none of them would consult with me. Thus, I have asked permission of no one, and am alone responsible for every word appearing here. My own conscience is my sole guide.

Another reason for my taking up the pen in this regard is that a number of Baha'is have

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



written to me on this subject. To put it very mildly, they are disillusioned, shocked and confused. They cannot square the actions of the Guardian with his role in life. They are wondering what precipice is around the corner; toward what swamp of despair the Baha'i Cause is being driven. They are anxiously asking if there may possibly be a modern rational explanation for these medieval and irrational procedures.

We will therefore face the issue: and, as a first step, will examine the Bulls of Excommunication as presented in the up-to-date guise of the cablegram.

Text of Cablegrams (Cablegram received November 10, 1941)

Ruhi's sister married covenant-breaker Feyzi, whose mother joined and supported arch-enemy Muhammad Ali and whose father Abdu'l Baha denounced openly and repeatedly as His deadly enemy. Ruhi's family concurred, inform all believers (that) all manner (of) communication (with) excommunicated family (is) forbidden.

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbani

(Cablegram received November 10, 1941)

(The) flagrant disloyalty (of) Ruhi's family compels me (to) disclose information so long (and) patiently withheld (from) American believers concerning his failure (to) obtain my approval (of) his second visit (to) America. His Subsequent conduct regarding his marriage which I refrained from revealing (to) anyone except your Assembly, as well as Foad's departure (to) England without my knowledge, should now be made known (to) believers. Confident (of) Unshakable steadfastness (of) exemplary American Baha'i

Community-

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbani

Answer sent on November 17th by the National Spiritual Assembly:

Informing friends (of your) message (about) Ruhi's family. Assure complete obedience protection unity (of) sacred Faith.

(Cablegram received on November 21, 1941)

My confidence (in) immovable steadfastness (and) unstinted loyalty (of) American believers (is) reinforced.

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbani. — Baha'i News; December, 1941, No 149, pp. 1-2

From Page 11

## PROTEST

### Against the Excommunication of Members of Baha'u'llah's Family

signed by Leaders of Religion and Educators

May 1942

In these days when the principles of humanity are threatened on all sides, there is urgent need for men and women of good faith and purpose to band together for the upholding of the common rights of man, within their own communities and religions and within the communities and religions of others.

It is with this thought in mind that the undersigned consider conditions within a minority group, namely the Baha'i Cause, and make passionate protest against the recent excommunication by Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, Guardian of the Cause, of certain members of

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



Baha'u'llah's family. Excommunication, as we take it, is an order for severance of ties between the excommunicated and their fellow-members in Faith. It is an un-Christ-like act which, although practised in medieval ages by religious authorities, is now totally condemned by enlightened persons of every rank and profession.

Therefore, we go on record, at this hour when the Four Freedoms enunciated by the President of the United States are ringing around the earth, endorsing whole-heartedly and without qualifications whatsoever a sentence from Mr Roosevelt's historic speech before Congress, delivered in January 1941:

“The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world.”

On the basis of this principle we insist that, in the New World Order which all of us picture and strive for, the irreligious practice of excommunication be set aside forever and replaced by the practice of Love and Tolerance as set forth throughout the ages by Christ and the great company of prophets, seers and spiritual teachers.

We urge men and women of all Faiths to consistently oppose, and to refuse to recognize, any and all exclusion acts within their religion, and under all circumstances to keep open the doors of their temples and hearts to their fellow-believers and to their fellows of every race, creed and colour.

Signed by:

Mr. David P. Berenberg, Author: A Worker's World; Educator, Lecturer

Kedarnath DasGupta, Author: Essence of

Religions and Founder of World Fellowship of Faiths

Dr. Georgia Dunn, Professor of Psychology, Hunter College, New York

Mr. William Floyd, Editor: Arbitrator; Author, Educator

Archbishop William H. Francis of the Old Catholic Church

Miss Frances Grant, President of Pan-American Women Association, New York

Mr. Jacob Greenwald, Counsellor-at-Law, New York

Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Minister of Community Church, New York

Mr. Gordon S. P. Kleeberg, Counsellor-at-Law, New York

Commander R. E. Lambert, U. S. N. R.; Editor: Sourcebook

Rev. Leon Rosser Land, Minister of Bronx Free Fellowship, New York,

Dr. John Rowland Lathrop, Minister of Church of the Saviour, Brooklyn, New York

Mr. William Pickens, Director of Branches, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Haridas T- Muzumdar, Author: The United Nations of the World; Lecturer, Sociologist

Mr. John J. O'Neill, Science Editor, New York

Herald-Tribune Rev. A. J. Muste, Secretary, The Fellowship of Reconciliation, New York

The Key. Dr. Charles Francis Potter, Author: The Story of Religion;

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



Founder and Leader of The First Humanist Society of New York

Miss Lisa Sergio, Radio Commentator

Dr. Krishnalal Shridharani, Author: My India, My America;

Lecturer Dr. Anup Singh, Editor: India Today; Author: Nehru, the Rising Star of India

Dr. George Maychin Stockdale, Minister of Church of Christ in America, Methodist Branch,

Clinton, N. Y. Dr. Eliot White, Clergyman, Writer, Lecturer

## **PROTEST Comment and Some Notable Letters**

In the Old World, we were not our brother's keeper; but were of the cautious type, looking for our own interests and letting others shift for themselves. In the New World that is to be, we shall recognize the fact that all of us are part of the human organism and will boldly apply ourselves to the task of keeping that organism in good shape. The averted eyes, the careful picking of one's way on the other side of the road will no longer be the acceptable attitude; but the straight look and the helping hand will be the characteristic of a new citizenry, everywhere in the world.

Of such an order are the distinguished educators who have condemned the action of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, Guardian of the Baha'i Cause, taken against several members of Baha'u'llah's family. Excommunication, to their minds, has no place in modern society; intolerance, exclusion and cruelty has no place in any society, and so they have condemned this deed and gone on record in a Protest that will make a landmark in religious

history. The Protestant Minister, the Catholic Bishop, the Jewish Rabbi, the Hindu, the Sikh have arisen together to protect the Baha'i – their brother before God and man. So have the boundary lines grown thin under the penetrating warmth of the Religion of Love.

Dr. George Maychin Stockdale, Minister of Church of Christ in America, Methodist Branch, Clinton New York, in a letter dated March 25, 1942 writes to us that their Young Men's Class studied Baha'ism the previous week and is to consider Shoghi Effendi's excommunications the following Sunday. Dr. Stockdale states that he is ready to do anything "to help banish this ancient barbarism of excommunication from off this earth" and has actually communicated directly with the Guardian on this subject. He encloses a copy of his letter, which we herewith reproduce:

### *CHURCH OF CHRIST IN AMERICA*

*Methodist Branch George Maychin Stockdale, Minister*

Clinton, New York, March 25, 1942.

Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, Guardian of the Baha'i Cause, Persian Colony, Haifa, Palestine. Dear Guardian of the Baha'i Cause,

Your Christ like Grandfather, Abdul Baha, when asked on one occasion, "What is a Baha'i?" replied,

*"TO BE A BAHAI SIMPLY MEANS TO LOVE ALL THE WORLD: TO LOVE HUMANITY AND TRY TO SERVE IT; TO WORK FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD."*

(J. E. Esslemont, "Baha'u'llah and the New Era," page 70.)

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the children of Abdu'l Baha



I would like to make the above my own definition of what it is to be a Christian. On this definition the Hindu Gandhi and the Buddhist Das Gupta are both Christians and Baha'is, as well as true Hindus and Buddhists respectively. Some of my Baha'i friends do me more honour than I deserve by telling me that I am a Baha'i, although I am just trying to be a Christian.

If we agree on the above, and I hope we do, it is the more amazing to get word of what are called, and seem to be, your excommunications of Ruhi Effendi Afnan, your\* cousin; his wife; your sister and others.

What troubles me, my dear Sir, is the method employed. If we love all humans, and the Love of God cannot dwell in us unless we do, how can we use any other than Love and Persuasion as our means of seeking change of mind and heart in those we deem wrong? Can excommunication be a method of Love?

Now far be it from us to prematurely make up our minds in this controversy. We would hear your side. Sir. Yet we assure you that even if you should submit proof positive of the commission of the more heinous crimes by any or all of the excommunicated, (which I am sure you wouldn't,) still would we say that the WAY of LOVE demands we retain community with the vilest of sinners. THEY NEED LOVE EVEN MORE THAN NINETY and NINE SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMED SOULS, in whom GOD (LOVE) DWELLS. That seems dear to me from both the teachings of Christ and of Baha'u'llah, interpreted too, by Paul and Abdu'l Baha respectively.

It troubles me too that it is reported that you are not too sure amid this world madness just what loyalty we owe to God and what to the

state. We are blessed beyond many here in America, as in Britain, in that the Draft Law here specifically makes room for us pacifists, who could not disobey God at the command of man, no matter what the consequences. We know you have the cares of a world gone mad in suicidal slaughter on your mind and heart. Yet it would be heartening to have from you a word, clear as crystal, that Baha'ism officially "although making no attempt to bind the consciences of its individual members, will NOT OFFICIALLY ENDORSE, SUPPORT OR PARTICIPATE IN WAR." I have slipped into the exact words of our Methodist Branch of the Christian Church, with which I agree one hundred percent.

Yours, strong in the Faith that LOVE (GOD) alone can win,

(Signed) George May chin Stock dale

Shoghi Effendi did not reply to any of these protests.





# Why did the Baha'i Faith become Bureaucratic after Abdu'l Baha ?



Is the Baha'i Faith supposed to be a highly bureaucratic religion, with heavy-handed top down control? Many Baha'is become alienated from the Faith today because of such a spirit prevailing within the Baha'i community. But, is this the essence of the original teachings?

The moment a Baha'i presents his views, the chain of excommunication kicks in, ultimately leading to his ouster from the faith. Baha'is today would be excommunicated from their religion even for pointing out the scriptural passages in this article and seeking to reform the Faith according to such teachings. In fact, Baha'is are often disciplined or pushed out of their religious community simply for expressing ideas that conflict with the viewpoints of those bureaucrats who hold power in the national and international organizations.

Abdu'l Baha said the following at a church in New York City: "This is a goodly temple and congregation, for – praise be to God! – this is

a house of worship wherein conscientious opinion has free sway. Every religion and every religious aspiration may be freely voiced and expressed here. Just as in the world of politics there is need for free thought, likewise in the world of religion there should be the right of unrestricted individual belief. Consider what a vast difference exists between modern democracy and the old forms of despotism. Under an autocratic government, the opinions of men are not free, and development is stifled, whereas in democracy, because thought and speech are not restricted, the greatest progress is witnessed. It is likewise true in the world of religion. When freedom of conscience, liberty of thought and right of speech prevail – that is to say, when every man according to his own idealization may give expression to his beliefs – development and growth are inevitable." **Abdu'l Baha** (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p.197.)

Now the question is, to be a Baha'i does a person necessarily should accept a certain religious organization? Consider what

# Respect of Shoghi Effendi towards the childrens of Abdu'l Baha



Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha have to say. They, after all, are the true sources of spiritual authority and we should take what they say more seriously than the viewpoints of bureaucratic administrators.

“Every receptive soul who hath in this Day inhaled the fragrance of His garment and hath, with a pure heart, set his face towards the All-Glorious Horizon is reckoned among the people of Baha in the Crimson Book.”

**Baha'u'llah** (Book of the Covenant. Published in Tablets, p. 220.)

“It makes no difference whether you have ever heard of Baha'u'llah or not. 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!” (Abdu'l Baha in London, p. 106.)



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

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

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

If you have any other queries, you can write to us at [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org)  
Thank you!



# Free Baha'i Activities



*"There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation in His Day, to hear His verses and believe in them, to attain His presence, which is naught but the presence of God, to sail upon the sea of the heavenly kingdom of His good-pleasure, and to partake of the choice fruits of the paradise of His divine Oneness." – The Bab,*

*(Selections from the Writings of The Báb")*

Dear Baha'i faithful;

Allah'u'Abha

We would like to congratulate our beloved faithful on the 200th birth anniversary of the Bab which was on the 20th October. The Bab, the Gate and forerunner and prophesier of the advent of Baha'u'llah, who sacrificed his life for making ground for the coming of "Whom God Shall Manifest". As again, we would like to thank Baha'i faithful for informing us about their program in their respective countries. As informed earlier, we have decided that faithful will visit the under privileged and celebrate with them, instead of organizing big parties and wasting Baha'is hard-earned monies. The rightful owner of Huquq'ullah are under privileged, as shown by our beloved Master.

We thank the Baha'i community for sending lot of guest articles for The Caravan. For this magazine issue we have received a huge number of articles on Shoghi Effendi, however for the purpose of brevity we could only publish a select few. However, we do intend publishing them in the upcoming editions.

Since the primary focus of this issue is Shoghi Effendi, our editorial board has decided to continue our 'Will and Testament - An Analysis' series in the next magazine.

We thank all our readers who have been taking great interest and appreciating our work on the Will of the Master. Keep sending your questions and we will be happy to help you with your doubts.

A chapter from a wonderful Arabic Book 'Nasheb Wa Faraz' was submitted by an Arab Baha'i, which is an excellent piece of work and as promised by the writer, he will be sending more such work on similar lines which will be an eye opener for the Baha'is today.

After working for weeks on our very first book, 'The Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha - An Analysis' is ready for Editor / Internal Assessment and soon it will be printed under the Free Baha'i Publishing Trust. We have been informed by another Baha'i author that he is writing a book on Shoghi Effendi which will hopefully be the second book under our publication.

We have another glad news coming from the Middle East as an Arab Baha'i has started a Free Baha'i blog dedicated to the ME, on which he will put up interesting and eye-opening articles from Arabic books.

We once again congratulate all Baha'is on the 200th birth anniversary of the Bab.

Warmest Baha'i regards

Free Baha'i Team





# Some Questions Answered



Hello Fools!!!! Inbox x



David White <white.david@freebahais.org>  
to info

February 21, 2017, 6:57 PM



On what grounds do you BUNCH OF FOOLS reject the Will and Testament of the Master when the majority Baha'i community accept it to be authentic????!!!! you consider it to be fake and still claim yourself to be a Baha'i????? stop being a false claimant. you guys are NOT BAHAI'S but COVENANT BREAKERS!!!!

Answer:

Hello David,

Allah'u'Abha!

We appreciate your email and the efforts taken for writing to us asking for your query. Lady Ruth White, the first inspiration of the Free Baha'i faith through divine guidance challenged the authenticity of the Will and Testament of the Master and hired Dr. Charles Ainsworth Mitchell, a British chemist and forensic scientist who made a special study of the microscopic and chemical study of handwriting. His report concluded in agreement with Lady Ruth, that the document was a forgery. Would request you to kindly view the Handwriting Analysis Report of the Alleged Will on our official website - [www.freebahais.org](http://www.freebahais.org). Stay tuned for we plan to publish our work of thorough analysis of the Will in The Caravan's upcoming edition and we're certain it will be of your interest.

If you have any other questions you can get in touch with our team at [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org). We will be happy to help you. Although we expect a courteous mail next time.

Humbly,

Team Free Baha'is

# Some Questions Answered



Allah'u'abha Inbox x



**Devan** ...  
to info ▾

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

Answer:

Allah'u'abha!

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

Regarding successorship between Mirza Muhammad Ali and Abdu'l Baha, they both were given the authority by Baha'u'llah although after His passing away, Mirza Muhammad Ali was declared Covenant Breaker by the Master. We believe it was all in the likelihood of the faith.

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

We the Free Baha'is follow only Baha'u'llah and the Master and follow the pristine message and try to work for the sake of

humanity and world peace. Baha'u'llah and the Master always believed in giving the power to common people and disregard denomination by leaders and clergymen. The Master has clearly declared - "There are no officers in this cause! ..." The Baha'i faith was always about service to humanity and never about rule and leadership of one or a few conmen who have now destroyed the essence of the faith.

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

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

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

Thank you,

Team Free Baha'is

# Some Questions Answered



Freee Baha'i Query Inbox x



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Hello sir,

I am a Baha'i since last 28 years and i living in [redacted]. I came across your website and was studying about the Freee Baha'is sect. I understand you do not believe in Shoghi Effendi and UHJ and follow Ruth White and Ahmad Sorab.

I am interested in the Free Baha'i faith but when I mentioned about it in front of my other Baha'i friends, a friend told me that you guys are segregated around the world, very few in numbers and are also excommunicated from the faith. Can you please tell me how many Baha'is are associated with the Free baha'i faith and what is your standing around the world?

Please reply soon.

Thank you,

Oxana [redacted]

Answer:

Allah'u'Abha, Oxana!

We're glad to receive your email. Thank you for writing to us.

Firstly, the Free Baha'is do not follow the teachings of Lady Ruth White or Mirza Ahmad Sohrab. We believe in the correct, untainted message of Baha'u'llah and the Master. We do not believe in the Guardianship of Shoghi Effendi due to obvious reasons. Also, the Free Baha'is believe in the concept of UHJ, but not the current established one, whose members are appointed and not elected. We believe that the true UHJ will be established only when the Baha'is become free from the shackles of administration and follow the pristine message of Baha'u'llah. Abdu'l Baha was against organizing the religion and wanted all Baha'is to work for the cause wholeheartedly. However, the current form of UHJ is functioning exactly reverse. They have made people work towards gaining authority. Unfortunately, all this started right after the

passing away of the Master and as soon as the so-called Guardian Shoghi Effendi came to power.

Regarding your other question, the Free Baha'is are located worldwide at different locations. As of now, the Free Baha'is are majorly located in the USA, UK, Singapore, Thailand, Germany, Russia, Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Iran, Sri Lanka, India, and Bangladesh. But, since we do not believe in Administration and signing of cards, we do not keep record of the total number of Free Baha'is.

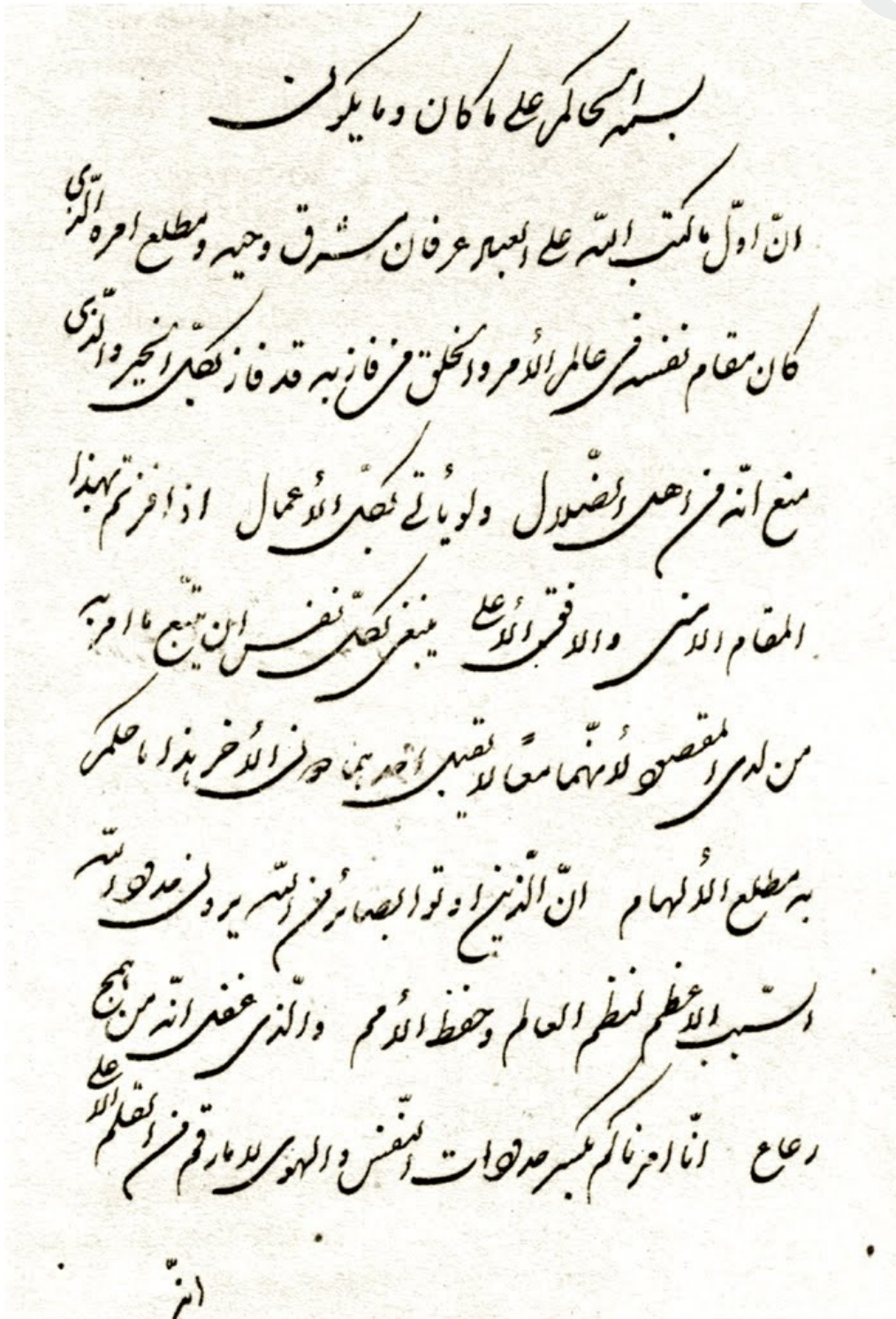
Anyway, we would advise all Baha'is to spread the message of love and bind people together with the pristine message of Baha'u'llah and make sure the followers of Baha'u'llah are united towards the cause and promote world peace and harmony.

Do write back in case you have any queries/feedback/suggestions.

Humbly,

Team Free Baha'is

# Know your heritage



The first page of the Kitab-i-Aqdas in the handwriting of Abdul-Baha



# 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?



# Investigation of Reality

Abdu'l Baha has said,

“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



# THROWBACK



## June 29, 1912 - Abdu'l-Baha at the Unity Feast in West Englewood, New Jersey

Abdu'l Baha turns to look on the grounds of Roy Wilhelm's property at the outdoor Unity Feast in West Englewood (now Teaneck), New Jersey.

A group of men & women can be seen in the background.

# THROWBACK



“Shoghi Effendi was possessed of peculiar nature and habit which cannot be properly described; his manly disposition was inconsiderable; he was continually desirous of cultivating friendship, and associations, with robust men and youth!” - **Mirza Subhi**

(Reference: Payam-i Pidar, PP. 143-146)







# DID YOU KNOW?

The concept of election in the Baha'i Administration which was introduced by Shoghi Effendi was exactly the same as Bolshevism, the communist form of government adopted in Russia following the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. All his tactics and those of the members of the National Spiritual Assembly are very much akin to those of the Soviet government of that time.

Let us read the following passage, as quoted by Lady Ruth White in her book 'The Baha'i Religion and its Enemy the Baha'i Organization', under Chapter II.

During 1926, when I visited the Baha'i Assemblies in all the large cities, on my way to California, I perceived that so subtly had a transition been made from the original principles of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha that the teachings had become completely inverted with few of the Baha'is realizing this. In fact, I saw scarcely a trace of the Baha'i teachings evidenced anywhere. To be sure I heard much talk about universal peace and the brotherhood of man, and many other principles that are commonly talked about by the votaries of dozens of sects and reforms today. But talk about these principles is worse than ineffectual when people act in a narrow sectarian way, as the Baha'is were, and are

doing, in violation of the universal principles of the Baha'i Religion.

From everything I observed I knew that Shoghi Effendi had made a very careful study of Bolshevism, not in order to combat it, as Abdu'l Baha said we should do, but in order to imitate its methods, and apply them to the Administration of the Baha'i Organization. This despite the fact that Abdu'l Baha said:

“The future is bad...Nations should strive to extinguish this fire (of Bolshevism) so that it would not spread to other countries. It will soon affect other countries...for the mass of people have a Bolshevik tendency.” (The Light of the World)

I happened to mention this in one of my talks. After the lecture I was approached by one of the members of the Assembly and informed that Shoghi Effendi had forbidden this to be mentioned – that everything of a political nature must be eliminated from discussions. Naturally, he would require such restrictions, as his tactics and those of the members of the National Spiritual Assembly are very much akin to those of the Soviet government today. In the New York Sunday Herald of March 17, 1929, there appeared an article by E. A. Ashmead-Bartlett, C.B.E., who left Russia

# DID YOU KNOW?



only six weeks ago. He was formerly a member of parliament on political, economic and military conditions in Russia. He shows how nine people are keeping 140,000,000 people in subjection, and the method that they use in election is so identical with that which Shoghi Effendi has imitated, hoping that he, too, may in time become a dictator on the same colossal scale, that I here quote it in part:

“But in reality, changes in the Politique Bureau are only brought about by the members themselves. They name their own list of candidates and the delegates vote as they are told. No opposition group would dare put up candidates of its own choice...”

“The Politique Bureau now consists of nine persons, who form the Supreme Governing Executive ...” “The latter's duties are considered very important and consist of studying the rolls of all those employed on local Soviets or in factories to find out if they are strict Communist....”

“When issues have to be voted on, the procedure is simple and effective. The chairman reads out the motion and then demands those who are against it to raise their hands. The delegates know too well what will happen to them if they oppose a motion once it has been adopted by the platform and sit in silence.” “When the government has had enough of these meetings, which are liable to drag on interminably, all it has to do is to close the restaurant and then the delegates are very pleased to clear out of Moscow. The whole farce is a magnificent piece of stage management to make the delegates—and the people they represent—believe they really have a say in the councils of the country. In

reality they have none.”

“It is easy to understand how all the real power in a government thus organized lies in the hands of the party chiefs, who control the machine. Stalin is to-day the master mind and possesses a supreme knowledge of the party organization owing to the many years he spent as secretary under Lenine. No change of policy can be brought about without the consent of the “Big Nine” and any proposals they make are automatically indorsed by the All Union Congress of Soviets.”

Shoghi Effendi conducts the Baha'i elections in the same manner, and it is more of a farce than that of the Bolsheviks. Like them he studies the roll of the Baha'is and, through a system of espionage, he knows every shade of belief among them. He selects those who lean most favourably towards him, and the voters have no more to say about who is to be elected than the Russian people have under the Soviet regime. And like the Soviet government his chief aim is to suppress man's freedom of conscience. There is no greater violation of the Baha'i teachings than this. The following excerpts from the writings of Baha'u'llah and of Abdu'l Baha show the necessity of man's exercising his freedom of conscience:

“Since men differ in their degree of knowledge, if two persons should be found to possess different viewpoints as regards the degree and station of the Manifestation of God, both are acceptable before God, for, in accord with the blessed verse: 'Verily, we have created souls different in degrees;' God has created men different in understanding and diverse in manners. But if those having two points of view engage in conflict and strife

# DID YOU KNOW?



while expressing their views, both of them are rejected. For, by knowing the Manifestation of God it is intended to unify the hearts, cultivate souls and to teach the truth of God, whereas, conflict and strife of two persons with two different points of view would do harm to the Cause of God ..." (Baha'u'llah in *The Brilliant Proof*, page 28 by Mirza Abul Fadl)

In the following talk given by Abdu'l Baha in 1912 he further elucidates this subject:

"..... know ye that God has created in man the power of reason whereby man is enabled to investigate reality . . . He has endowed him with mind or the faculty of reasoning by the exercise of which he is to investigate and discover the truth; and that which he finds real and true, he must accept...He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul. He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently, and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality. The greatest cause of bereavement and disheartening in the world of humanity is ignorance, based upon blind imitation. It is due to this battle prevail; from this cause hatred and animosity arise continually among mankind..."

"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."

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

(*The Promulgation of Universal Truth*, Discourses Abdu'l Baha; pages 285-287-288)



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[www.freebahais.org](http://www.freebahais.org) | | [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org)

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