

THE CARAVAN

Dead addresses align Baha'i
demographics with the
US population!?

Article Inside

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PRAYER



Many a chilled heart, O my God, hath been set ablaze by the fire of Thy Cause, and many a slumberer hath been wakened by the sweetness of Thy voice. How many are the strangers who have sought shelter beneath the shadow of the tree of Thy oneness, and how numerous the thirsty ones who have panted after the fountain of Thy living waters in Thy days!

Blessed is he that hath set himself towards Thee, and hastened to attain the Dayspring of the lights of Thy face. Blessed is he who with all his affections hath turned to the Dawning-Place of Thy Revelation and the Fountainhead of Thine inspiration. Blessed is he that hath expended in Thy path what Thou didst bestow upon him through Thy bounty and favor. Blessed is he who, in his sore longing after Thee, hath cast away all else except Thyself. Blessed is he who hath enjoyed intimate communion with Thee, and rid himself of all attachment to anyone save Thee.

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by Him Who is Thy Name, Who, through the power of Thy sovereignty and might, hath risen above the horizon of His prison, to ordain for everyone what becometh Thee and beseemeth Thine exaltation.

Thy might, in truth, is equal to all things.

- Baha'u'llah

FOREWORD

“O Divine Providence! All existence is begotten by Thy bounty; deprive it not of the waters of Thy generosity, neither do Thou withhold it from the ocean of Thy mercy. I beseech Thee to aid and assist me at all times and under all conditions, and seek from the heaven of Thy grace Thine ancient favor. Thou art, in truth, the Lord of bounty, and the Sovereign of the kingdom of eternity.” – Baha’u’llah

Greetings and Allah'u'Abha, dear readers,

As we welcome you to this edition of The Caravan for the month of Izzat (Might), we reflect on some pivotal moments in the history of the Baha’i Faith, particularly Baha'u'llah's acceptance of Babism and the divine intimation that He was indeed the Promised One foretold by the Bab. These events not only marked a new dawn in the religious landscape but also solidified the foundation of a new era of spiritual enlightenment.

Baha'u'llah's recognition and acceptance of the Bab's mission were profound. It was during His time of incarceration in the Siyah-

Chal (the Black Pit) that He received the divine revelation affirming His station as the Promised One. This divine experience set the course for His ministry and the future of the Baha’i Faith, offering a new vision for humanity based on unity, justice, and peace.

However, it is with a heavy heart that we address the current state of affairs within the broader Baha’i community. Reports from our Free Baha’is in various countries have indicated a significant decline in the engagement and contributions of the faithful. This concerning trend reflects a broader disengagement, particularly among the newer generation, who are neither seen at Baha’i centres nor adhering to Baha’i teachings.

We can understand that the decline in Huququ'llah might be because Baha’is have realized that the Universal House of Justice (UHJ) is not the rightful authority to collect Huququ'llah. However, what about the other funds? This significant reduction in contributions under various headings, such as temple funds, teaching funds, and the Shrine

of Abdu'l Baha, raises serious concerns about the trust and confidence the Baha'i community has in the current administration.

This decline begs the question: Who is to be blamed for this disinterest and detachment? It seems evident that the core issue lies in the deviation from the original teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha. The rigid enforcement of Shoghi Effendi's interpretations and the overreach of the illegitimate UHJ, which has prioritized monetary gain over spiritual growth, have alienated many believers. This sad reality is a stark reminder of the consequences of straying from the authentic messages of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the Free Baha'i community remains committed to preserving the true essence of Baha'u'llah's teachings. We do not measure our success by numbers or financial contributions, but by our adherence to the spiritual principles laid down by Baha'u'llah and the Bab. Our focus is on genuine teaching and living the Faith, free from administrative manipulations and financial exploitation.

In these trying times, it is more important than ever to return to the pure and unadulterated teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha. We must strive to embody the principles of love, unity, and service to humanity, which were the cornerstones of their message. By doing so, we can rekindle the spiritual fervor and commitment that originally drew us to the Baha'i Faith.

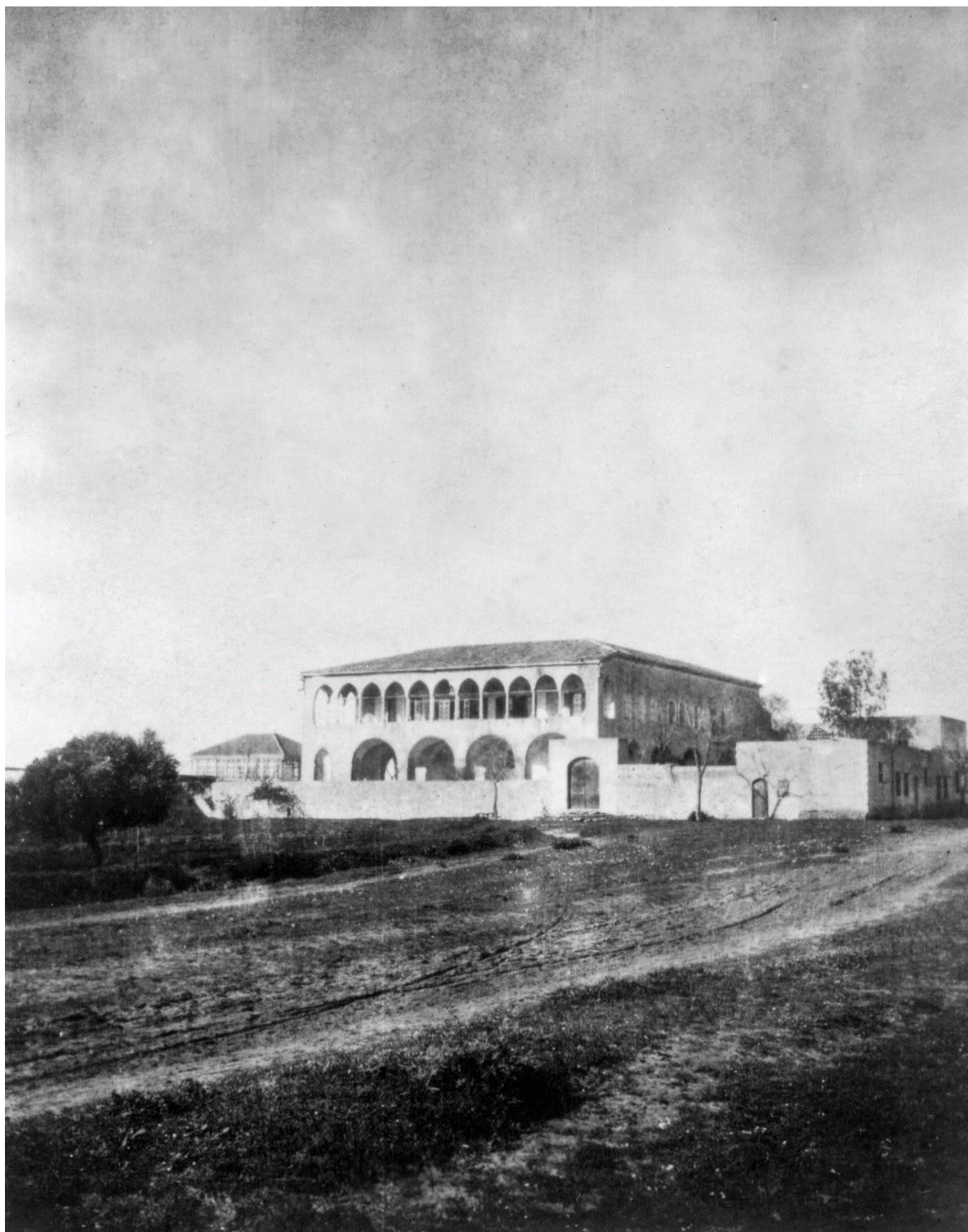
Let us work together to revive the true spirit of the Baha'i teachings and ensure that the flame of faith continues to burn brightly for generations to come.

With sincere regards and prayers for guidance,

The Editorial Team

The Caravan Magazine

Free Baha'is



Mansion of Bahji where Baha'u'llah spent the final years of His life

MISTAKE



When my hopes fade
And my dreams die.
And I find no answer
By asking why.
I just keep on trusting
And hang on to my faith.
Because God is just
He never makes mistakes.
Should the storms come
And trials I must face.
When I find no solution
I rest in God's grace.
When life seems unfair
And more than I can take.
I look up to the Father
He never makes mistakes.
God sees our struggles
And every bend in the road.
But no mistake is ever made
Cause He weighs every load.

--Lenora McWhorter

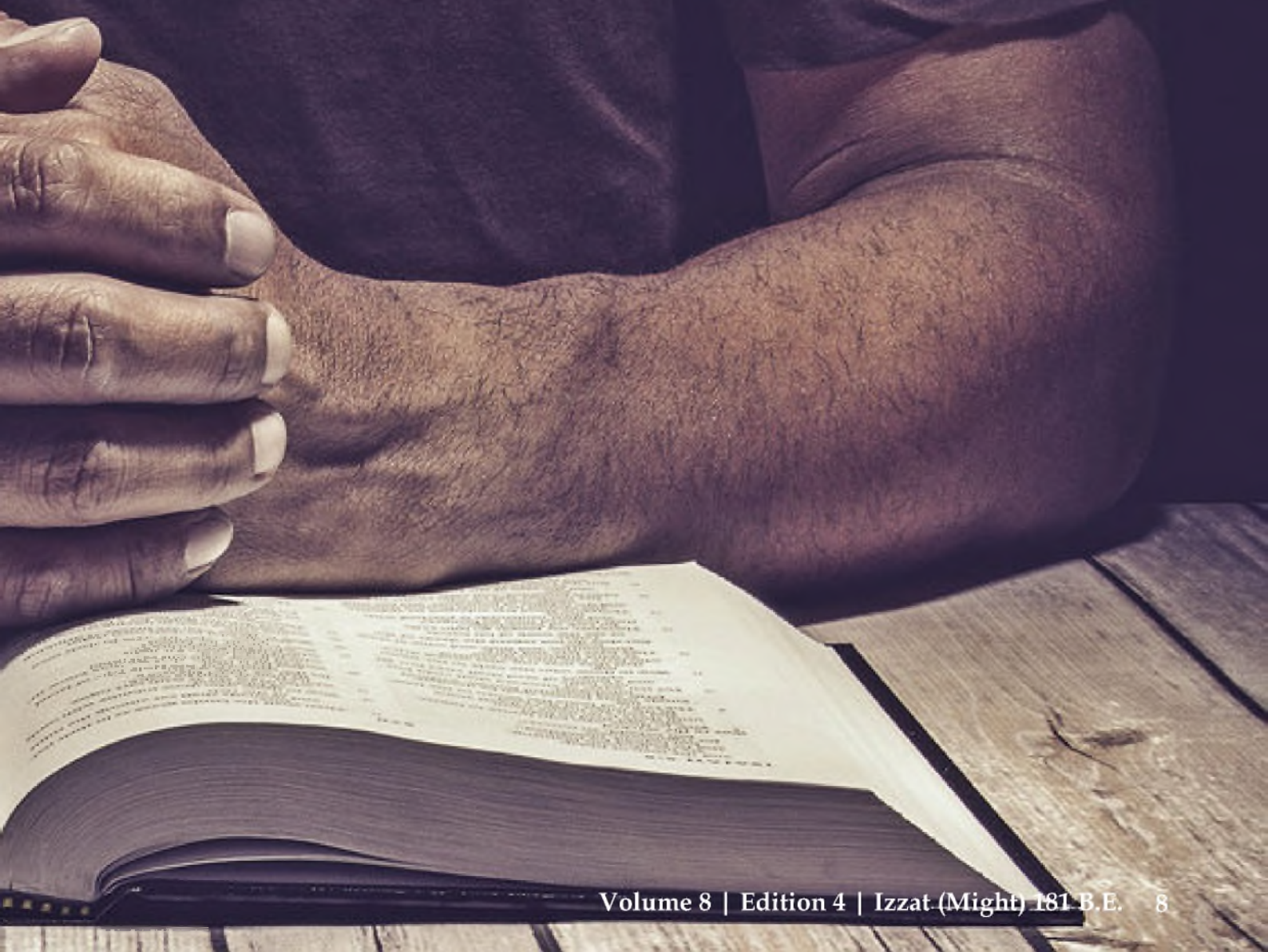
DIVINE LAWS

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

Say: Do not rejoice in what you possess at nightfall, when at sunrise another will possess it. Thus does the Knower, the Omniscient One, inform you. Say: Have you seen that your possessions remain or are loyal to you? No! By My soul, the Merciful. If only you were of the just! The days of your life pass as pass the winds. The carpet of your glory shall fold up as did that of the ancients. Think, O people! Where are your past days?

Where are the eras that have elapsed? Blessed are the days that have passed in the remembrance of God and the times spent in the remembrance of Him, the Wise One. By My life, the might of the Mighty shall not abide, nor the vanities of the rich, nor the pomp of the wicked. All shall pass away by a word from Him. He, indeed, is the Powerful, the Mighty, the Strong One. Their household goods will not benefit people. They have been careless of what benefits them. They shall be aroused and yet not find what has passed them by in the days of their Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. If they only knew, they would spend what they have, so that their names might be remembered before the Throne, are they not of the dead?

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





The Shrine of Baha'u'llah in the time of 'Abdu'l Baha



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

DEAD ADDRESSES ALIGN BAHA'I DEMOGRAPHICS WITH THE US POPULATION!?

– GUEST ARTICLE

"The words of the House of Justice are boring and no one should care for it"

"Spirituality and dedication to the faith has no bearing on one's faith and loyalty to the covenant"

Those were the paraphrased words of the administration representative who "graced" our local feast this month. As it happened, this event also served as the venue for electing national delegates. As expected from the local assembly, it featured a red-carpet reception with the typical flattery one anticipates when an administration representative visits.

However, this administration representative revealed the core of their stance when she proudly declared that the faithful no longer care about what the UHJ has to say. Mimicking boredom and acknowledging the dull response to the UHJ's words, she confidently stated that the faithful no longer care for messages from the House and avoid discussing them because they find them boring. How nice!

The members of the administration are now openly acknowledging what the faithful have known for a long time. The words of the UHJ are plain and simply irrelevant, constituting a collection of high-sounding yet meaningless words.

Next came the bigger revelation. She declared, referring to the March 2007 message of the UHJ, that those who vote are considered faithful and loyal Baha'is. Think about it for a moment. Prayers? No. Fasting? No. Reading and deepening? No. Teaching? No. But what makes you a loyal and faithful Baha'i? Voting!

This was a blow to the generational Baha'is who have dedicated their lives and resources to the faith. Some of us devoted our entire lives to the cause, and others contributed their resources. But no! According to the administration, you are considered faithful if you participate in their electoral charade. Additionally, this administration representative urged all Baha'is to reconsider their choices if they have already voted for someone loyal to the administration.



At this point, I as a Free Baha'i would add my thought – Abdu'l Baha, a central figure in the faith, never participated in voting. Should we then question his loyalty and faithfulness?

Finally, it wouldn't surprise me if the die-hard Haifan Baha'is, those who've been fervently supporting the Administration, start questioning the Master or twist his words to match the stance of the UHJ or the Administration. It appears their aim is to sidestep independent truth-seeking, a fundamental aspect of Baha'i teachings. They rally behind the Administration, branding anyone who questions them as anti-faith or even a covenant breaker.



Thankfully, our allegiance remains unwaveringly aligned with the teachings of Baha'u'llah, and we won't back down no matter what. May Baha'u'llah bless us with the strength and courage to stay true to the path he has illuminated.

CLERGY IN THE BAHA'I CAUSE

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



“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

“I was but a man like others, asleep upon My couch, when lo, the breezes of the All-Glorious were wafted over Me, and taught Me the knowledge of all that hath been. This thing is not from Me, but from One Who is Almighty and All-Knowing. And He bade Me lift up My voice between earth and heaven, and for this there befell Me what hath caused the tears of every man of understanding to flow.”

— Baha’u’llah

“Now the new age is here and creation is reborn. Humanity hath taken on new life. The autumn hath gone by, and the reviving spring is here. All things are now made new. Arts and industries have been reborn, there are new discoveries in science, and there are new inventions; even the details of human affairs, such as dress and personal effects—even weapons—all these have likewise been renewed. The laws and procedures of every government have been revised. Renewal is the order of the day. And all this newness hath its source in the fresh outpourings of wondrous grace and favor from the Lord of the Kingdom, which have renewed the world. The people, therefore, must be set completely free from their old patterns of thought, that all their attention may be focused upon these new principles, for these are the light of this time and the very spirit of this age.”

— Abdu’l Baha

FREE BAHAI ACTIVITIES

"The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct."

- Baha'u'llah

Dear Friends,

In this edition of The Caravan, we are delighted to share with you how Free Baha'is across the globe came together to commemorate the death of the Bab with reverence and dedication. Our communities in various countries, cities, and towns have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Bab through meaningful activities and gatherings.

The Free Baha'is of Thailand have made significant strides in spreading the true teachings of the Faith. Their efforts have recently influenced a group of Baha'is in Malaysia, and this connection has been growing stronger over the past few months. Despite the relatively small number of Baha'is in Malaysia—this collaboration has already borne fruit. Some Malaysian Baha'is, after being introduced to the authentic teachings of the Cause, have started to identify themselves as Free Baha'is. It is heartening to see that the Faith is blooming in new regions, inspired by

the dedication of our Thai friends.

Our team in Canada has been bolstered by new members who have embraced the teachings of Baha'u'llah and are enthusiastic about working for the Cause. This growing community, in collaboration with Baha'is in the USA, has been actively spreading awareness about Huququ'llah. Their efforts have had a significant impact: many Baha'is are now choosing to allocate their contributions directly to the needy and the poor rather than funneling their money through the Administration. This shift in practice not only empowers individual believers to make a direct difference but also diminishes the Administration's ability to misuse funds and evade financial accountability. If this awareness continues to spread, it will safeguard the community from oppression and ensure that resources are used for their intended purpose.

In addition to these efforts, Baha'is in various countries—including Azerbaijan, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, and others—have been actively engaged in raising awareness about the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Through study circles, discussion groups, and community service projects, they continue to demonstrate their wakefulness and commitment to the

principles of the Faith. These activities are not merely local efforts but are part of a global movement to revive the true spirit of Baha'u'llah's message and ensure its continued relevance and impact in today's world.

A dedicated pioneer from Thailand, who has been regularly traveling to Malaysia over the past few years, has been instrumental in inspiring a group of Baha'is to embrace the true teachings of Baha'u'llah. Through heartfelt discussions and the sharing of authentic spiritual insights, this group has found new direction in their faith journey. To further spread awareness and support others in their quest for truth, they have also established a blog that delves into these teachings, which can be accessed on the official Free Baha'is website.

It is inspiring to witness the collective efforts of Free Baha'is around the world. Whether in small towns or major cities, in well-established communities or emerging ones, our friends are making a profound difference. Each action, no matter how small, contributes to the greater good and the advancement of

Baha'u'llah's Cause. As we move forward, let us remain steadfast in our dedication and continue to work together to spread the light of the Faith to every corner of the globe.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Team Free Baha'is



INTRODUCING

THE CARAVAN

APP!



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SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Email 1:

An honest question: What cancels or annuls ablutions? Please support with bahai text. Thank you.

Answer:

Hi,

Allah'u'Abha!

The specified paragraph from the Kitab-i-Aqdas does not explicitly mention what actions or conditions annul ablutions. The passage states:

"It has been ordained that whoever professes the religion of God, the Rewarder (al-dayyan), should wash his hands every day, then his face, and sit facing toward God and say ninety-five times, 'Allahu abha' (God is most Splendid). So did the Former (fatir) of the heavenly command as He sits on the Thrones of the Names (al-asrna') with Greatness and Power. In like

manner, perform ablutions before Worship because of a command from God, the Only One, the Choosing One."

This paragraph provides specific instructions for daily ablutions and emphasizes the importance of ritual washing before worship:

Daily Washing: It is ordained that adherents of the Baha'i Faith should wash their hands and face every day. This act of cleanliness is not only physical but also has spiritual significance, symbolizing purity and readiness to engage in prayer and communion with God.

Facing Towards God: After performing the ablutions, believers are instructed to sit facing towards God. This act signifies devotion, reverence, and orientation towards the Divine presence.

Recitation of Allah'u'Abha: Believers are

instructed to recite "Allah'u'Abha" (God is most Splendid) ninety-five times. This repeated invocation serves as a form of meditation and a way to center oneself in the presence of God.

Ablutions Before Worship: The passage also stresses the importance of performing ablutions before engaging in worship. This reinforces the concept that physical cleanliness is a prerequisite for spiritual acts, aligning the physical and spiritual states.

However, the passage does not provide specific details about what might cancel or annul ablutions. The focus is on the positive actions of performing ablutions and the spiritual discipline involved.

While this passage from the Kitab-i-Aqdas emphasizes the ritual and spiritual significance of ablutions, it does not specify actions or conditions that might annul them.

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 2:

Is it permissible to beg for money in the Baha'i Faith, and how should we respond if someone asks us for money?

Answer:

Dear Friend,

In the Baha'i Faith, begging for money is explicitly forbidden. The Kitab-i-Aqdas provides clear guidance on this matter:

"It is not permissible to beg, and when one is asked (for money), it is forbidden for him to give. It has been ordained that every one earn his living. Whoever is unable to do so, let the guardians and the rich appoint for him what is sufficient. Perform the stipulations and ordinances of God. Then keep them as you keep your eyes, and be not among the losers."

This passage emphasizes several key principles:

Prohibition of Begging: Begging is not allowed within the Baha'i Faith. Every individual is encouraged to earn their living through honest work and effort. This principle underscores the value of self-reliance and the dignity of labor.

Prohibition of Giving to Beggars: It is also forbidden to give money to those who beg. This directive aligns with the broader principle of encouraging self-sufficiency and discouraging dependency.

Support for Those in Need: For those who are genuinely unable to earn a living due to circumstances beyond their control, the community has a responsibility. The guardians and the wealthy are called upon to provide sufficient support for such individuals. This reflects the Baha'i emphasis

on social justice and the importance of community support.

Adherence to Divine Ordinances: The passage concludes by urging believers to faithfully perform and uphold the ordinances of God, likening this adherence to the care one would take of their own eyes. This metaphor illustrates the importance and value of these divine instructions.

In essence, the Baha'i teachings promote a balanced approach to social welfare. While encouraging self-reliance and hard work, they also mandate community support for those who genuinely cannot support themselves. This balanced approach aims to create a society where every individual can live with dignity and security.

Warm regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 3:

If Baha'u'llah was himself the promised one, why did he accept Babism? I am a Baha'i myself, but this question has stuck in my mind. Would be great if you can answer it, please.

Answer:

Allah'u'Abha!

Your question touches on a crucial aspect of Baha'i history and theology. To understand why Baha'u'llah accepted Babism, even though He was Himself the promised one, it is essential to delve into the relationship between the Bab and Baha'u'llah and the progression of the Baha'i Faith from Babism.

1. The Bab's Mission and Baha'u'llah's Acceptance:

The Bab (Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad) declared Himself to be the Qa'im ("He Who Arises"), the Mahdi of Islamic prophecy, and the forerunner of "Him Whom God shall make manifest." The Bab's mission was to prepare the way for a new Divine Messenger who would bring a more comprehensive revelation. This concept is clearly articulated in the Baha'i Writings:

"The substance wherewith He (the Bab) hath in this day entrusted the bearers of His name is the seed of His own Self, and the bounty wherewith He hath favoured them is the same bounty as hath been lavished upon His own chosen ones." – Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah*, p. 10.

Baha'u'llah recognized the Bab as a Divine Messenger and accepted His teachings, understanding that the Bab's mission was to herald His own coming. Baha'u'llah's acceptance of Babism was a testament to the

Bab's role in the Divine Plan and His own station as the one promised by the Bab.

2. The Unfolding of Divine Revelation:

Baha'i teachings emphasize the concept of progressive revelation, where each Divine Messenger builds upon the revelations of previous Messengers. The Bab's revelation was meant to pave the way for Baha'u'llah's more complete and universal teachings. Baha'u'llah Himself explains this continuity and progression:

"The Revelation of which I am the bearer is only an affirmation of the truth that the Bab hath previously announced. That which God hath revealed in His Book is the unerring Balance established amongst men." – Baha'u'llah, *The Kitab-i-Aqdas*, para. 183.

Baha'u'llah saw the Bab's teachings as preparatory, leading humanity towards His own revelation. By accepting Babism, Baha'u'llah affirmed the legitimacy and divine origin of the Bab's mission.

3. Fulfillment of Prophecy:

The Bab explicitly prophesied the coming of "Him Whom God shall make manifest." Baha'u'llah's acceptance of the Bab's mission was an acknowledgment of this prophecy and an integral part of fulfilling it. This fulfillment is a significant aspect of Baha'i belief:

"The Báb bade His followers fix their gaze upon Him Whom God would make manifest, and declared that His Revelation was but a gateway to the supreme Revelation of His promised Successor." – Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah*, p. 24.

The Bab's prophecies and teachings set the

stage for Baha'u'llah's declaration and the establishment of the Baha'i Faith.

4. Baha'u'llah's Recognition and Declaration:

Baha'u'llah's own writings reflect His recognition of the Bab and the connection between their missions. Initially, Baha'u'llah did not openly declare His station to avoid confusion and persecution of the early believers. However, once the time was ripe, He declared His mission:

"I am the One Whom the tongue of Isaiah hath extolled, the One with Whose name, both the Torah and the Evangel were adorned." – Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 78.

Baha'u'llah's acceptance of Babism and subsequent declaration were part of a divinely ordained process designed to guide humanity through progressive stages of spiritual development.



In conclusion, Baha'u'llah's acceptance of Babism was a crucial step in the unfolding of a larger divine plan. It demonstrated the continuity of divine guidance, the legitimacy of the Bab's mission, and the progressive nature of revelation. This sequence of events allowed for the establishment of a new world order as envisioned by Baha'u'llah, fulfilling the promises of the Bab and furthering the spiritual evolution of humanity.

Hope that answers your question.

Warm regards,

Team Free Baha'is

Email 4:

Should we contribute towards the different kinds of funds introduced in the Baha'i Faith? I have stopped giving Huquq'ullah to the LSA but still contribute towards temple funds, specifically towards 'Abdu'l-Baha's shrine. However, my heart is not fully into it, and after the fire incident at the shrine, I have been slightly disheartened. There was no report shared by the UHJ on the financial loss incurred or how much more will be needed to complete the construction. It seems these funds are just a means to generate money, especially since no accounts are being submitted. What is the Free Baha'i perspective on this?

Answer:

Hi,

Allah'u'Abha,

Thank you for your heartfelt and thought-provoking question. It raises essential concerns that many Baha'is have been contemplating.

From the Free Baha'i perspective, we believe that the financial practices and the handling of contributions by the current Baha'i Administration deviate significantly from the core teachings of Baha'u'llah. Baha'u'llah emphasized transparency, integrity, and direct service to humanity. The concerns you have raised about the lack of accountability and transparency in the management of these funds are valid and echo the sentiments of many Free Baha'is worldwide.

Huquq'ullah and Transparency:

The principle of Huquq'ullah (Right of God) is indeed a profound and sacred one. However, it is meant to be observed with the highest

degree of integrity and openness. The current Administration's handling of Huquq'ullah, without providing clear and detailed accounts of how these funds are utilized, raises serious ethical and spiritual questions. As Free Baha'is, we do not support contributing Huquq'ullah to an entity that does not adhere to the transparency and accountability standards outlined by Baha'u'llah.

Temple Funds and Accountability:

Your experience with contributing to the temple funds, especially after the fire incident at 'Abdu'l-Baha's shrine, highlights a significant issue. The lack of reporting on the financial loss and the need for further contributions without clear accountability is disheartening. Baha'u'llah's teachings call for trustworthiness and openness in all matters, including financial ones. When the Administration fails to provide transparent accounts, it undermines the trust and confidence of the believers.

Redirecting Contributions:

Instead of contributing to centralized funds managed by the Administration, Free Baha'is encourage the direct use of resources for community development and humanitarian efforts. By directly supporting local initiatives and assisting those in need within your community, you are more closely aligned with the teachings of Baha'u'llah. This approach ensures that your contributions are used effectively and meaningfully, bringing tangible benefits to those around you.

The Core Teachings of Baha'u'llah:

Baha'u'llah emphasized the importance of

service to humanity, unity, and integrity. Contributions should be made with a pure heart, knowing that they will be used for the betterment of society. When the administrative body fails to uphold these principles, it is natural and appropriate for believers to seek alternative ways to fulfil their spiritual and moral obligations.

In conclusion, the Free Baha'i perspective supports your decision to reconsider your contributions to the current Baha'i Administration. Instead, focus on direct acts of charity and community service that align with the core teachings of Baha'u'llah. By doing so, you honor the true spirit of the Faith and contribute to the betterment of humanity in a meaningful and transparent manner.

Warm regards,

Team Free Baha'is



KNOW YOUR HERITAGE



Baha'u'llah's room in His house in Takur, Mazindaran, kept in its original condition.

WEBSPLORE



Cult_Buster2005 • 43d
Ex-Baha'i Unitarian Universalist

It's a clear case of fraud on the part of the Baha'i leadership. I remember when I was still a Baha'i and I settled in Haltom City, Texas. After I noted my address change to the NSA, I began receiving mailings from them and was asked to form a Baha'i "group". The mailings included a list of about ten or eleven other Baha'is that were supposed to be in the same city as me. The data indicated that most of them declared in the 1970s. I tried to contact these other Baha'is, but without success. I later concluded the names and addresses were fake.

Even in my previous city, North Richland Hills, there were three or four members of the community (out of about a dozen) that were never seen at feasts or holy day events.

Things like these were items that were on my shelf for a long time before it finally broke at the end of 2004.

... [Reply](#)   6 

Dead addresses align Baha'i demographics with the US population!?

DID YOU KNOW ?

Baha'u'llah's illustrious life and profound contributions to the Baha'i Faith are widely known, but his transformative stay in Sulaymaniyyih, a remote mountainous region in Kurdistan, is a story that not everyone knows. This period of isolation not only deepened Baha'u'llah's spiritual insights but also demonstrated how genuine character and actions can lead to acceptance and respect, even in the face of initial skepticism.

In 1854, facing intense persecution, Baha'u'llah chose to leave Baghdad and retreat into the solitude of the Sulaymaniyyih mountains. Disguised as a dervish, he lived in anonymity, far from the turmoil and oppression that had befallen him and his followers. Initially, the local inhabitants were unaware of his true identity and regarded him with suspicion. Baha'u'llah, however, remained undeterred and dedicated himself to a life of prayer, meditation, and service.

Over time, the people of Sulaymaniyyih began to notice Baha'u'llah's exceptional character and conduct. His humility, wisdom, and genuine kindness left an indelible impression on those around him. Despite the harsh conditions, Baha'u'llah displayed remarkable compassion and integrity in his interactions with the locals. Gradually, the residents sought his counsel and wisdom, drawn by his profound knowledge and serene demeanor. Stories of his insightful teachings and noble qualities spread throughout the region, transforming skepticism into admiration and respect.

By the time Baha'u'llah's true identity was revealed, he had already won the hearts of the Sulaymaniyyih community. They no longer saw him as a stranger but as a revered figure whose presence brought peace and enlightenment. His stay in Sulaymaniyyih became a testament to the power of genuine character and the universal language of love and kindness.

The journey of the Free Baha'is echoes Baha'u'llah's experience in Sulaymaniyyih. Initially met with skepticism and misunderstanding, the Free Baha'i movement has faced its share of challenges. However, by steadfastly adhering to the teachings of Baha'u'llah and embodying his principles in their actions, the Free Baha'is are gradually gaining acceptance and respect within the wider Baha'i community and beyond.

Just as Baha'u'llah's conduct and wisdom eventually won over the people of Sulaymaniyyih, the Free Baha'is' commitment to the core values of the Faith—such as justice, compassion, and humility—has started to resonate with many believers. Their focus on the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and their efforts to spread his message of unity and love are slowly fostering a renewed appreciation for the original spirit of the Baha'i Faith.

In embracing the true teachings of Baha'u'llah, the Free Baha'is are helping to ensure that his legacy of love, justice, and unity remains vibrant and impactful for generations to come.

“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!



Abdu'l-Baha with His entourage and Wendell Phillip Dodge on Riverside Drive, New York, 1912

BLAST FROM THE PAST

THE SONG OF THE CARAVAN

Words by Julie Ghanler

Music by Burt Hall

Feet on the sands,
Heavy feet, light feet,
Boot, sandal, moccasin,
Yellow feet, white feet,
Treading the desert waste,
With the gait of Kings.
Now we advance a foot,
Yes, we advance a foot,
But soon - on wings!

We, who were told
That sunlight would blind us,
We, who were trained to look
Ever behind us -
Toward the horizon's brim,
With the gait of Kings.
Now we advance a foot,
Yes, we advance a foot,
But soon - on wings!

Songs on the air,
Swung to new measures,
Gypsy and vagabond,
Caught by new pleasures,
Forward, the Caravan!
With the gait of Kings.
Now we advance a foot,
Yes, we advance a foot,
But soon - on wings!

(Musical arrangement available at the Headquarters of The Caravan,
132 East 65th Street, New York, N. Y., Price, 25c)

Reference: The Children's Caravan, April 1935

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."

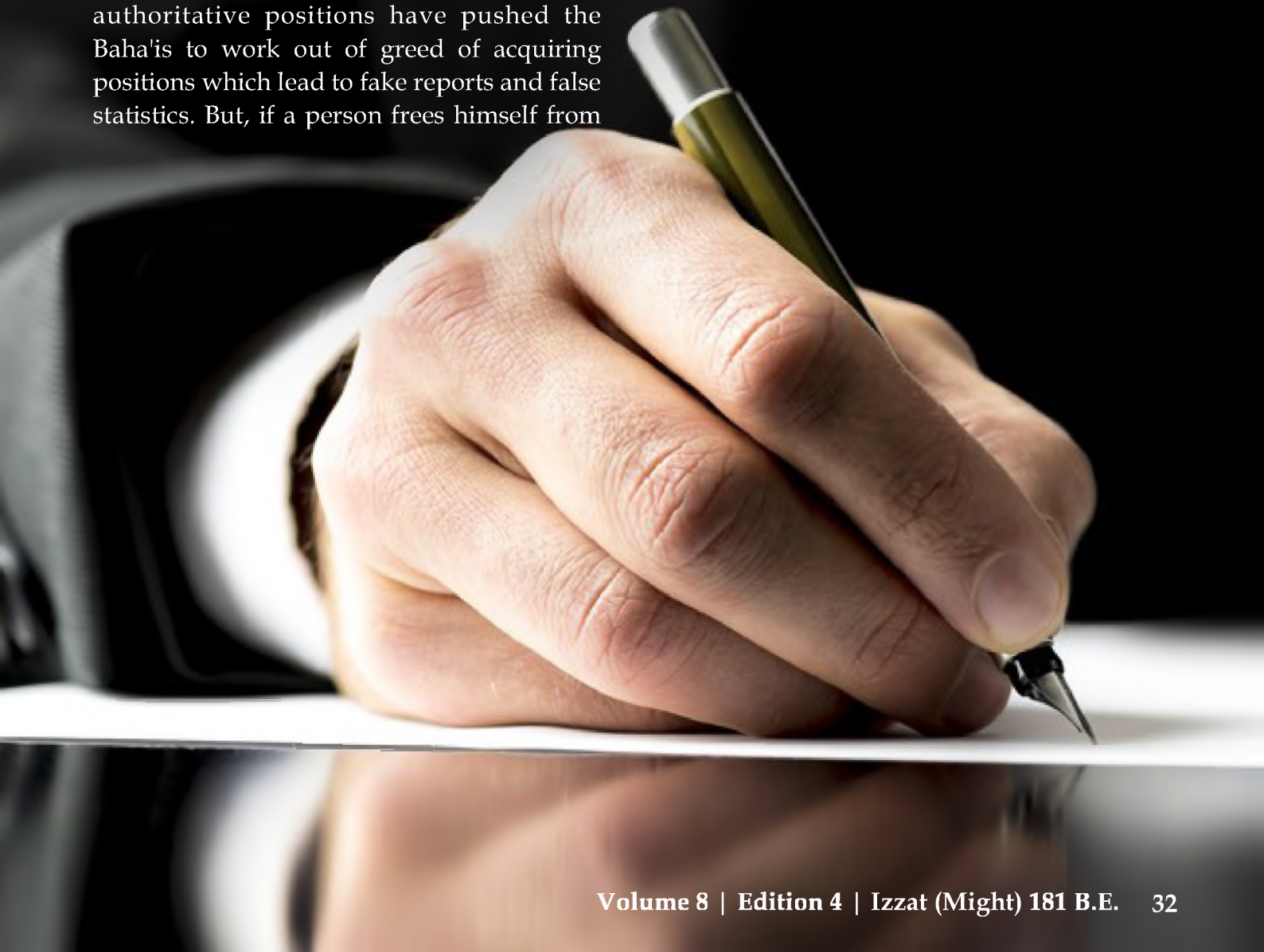
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

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?



THROWBACK



View of the mountains where Baha'u'llah stayed in Sulaymaniyyih.

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