

Volume 3,
Edition 5,
Sharaf (Honour)
176 B.E.



The Caravan

“

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”



THE PRINCIPLES OF
THE FREE BAHAI FAITH



CLERGY

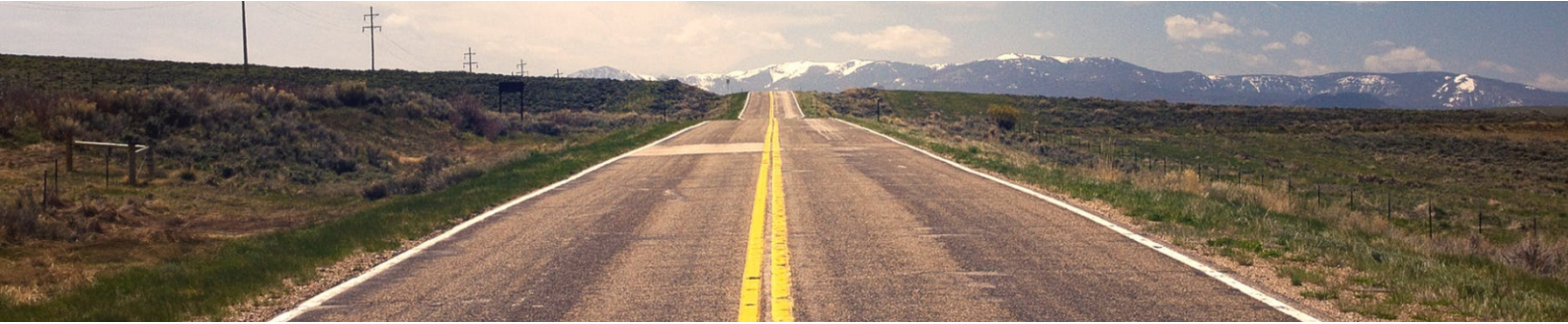


ALLEGED WILL & TESTAMENT OF ABDU'L BAHÁ
- ANALYSIS PART 8



PUBLISHED BY
THE FREE BAHAI FAITH
FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?



O God, and the God of all Names...

God and the God of all Names, and the Maker of the heavens! I entreat Thee by Thy Name through which He Who is the Dayspring of Thy might and the Dawning-Place of Thy power hath been manifested, through which every solid thing hath been made to flow, and every dead corpse hath been quickened, and every moving spirit confirmed—I entreat Thee to enable me to rid myself of all attachment to any one but Thee, and to serve Thy Cause, and to wish what Thou didst wish through the power of Thy sovereignty, and to perform what is the good pleasure of Thy will.

I beseech Thee, moreover, O my God, to ordain for me what will make me rich enough to dispense with any one save Thee. Thou seest me, O my God, with my face turned towards Thee, and my hands clinging to the cord of Thy grace. Send down upon me Thy mercy, and write down for me what Thou hast written down for Thy chosen ones. Powerful art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. No God is there but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful.

Prayer of Baha'u'llah



Foreword



Firmly yet modestly the Free Baha'i Faith steps upon the arena of service. With clear faith in the destiny of humanity it lifts its voice on behalf of a new vision, a new technique of life, a new understanding between man and nature and vice versa. It calls upon the wise men and women of this generation to free them from the ideas of the past and dream such dream, think such thoughts, live such lives and act such deed, as to prepare valuable materials for the writing of the Caravan – a Caravan for the future race.

The work of the Free Baha'i Faith is that of preparation and not of completion; that of seed scattering and not of fruit gathering. It places itself at the service of mankind, irrespective of race and religion. It strives to shape opinions – enlightened and nonpartisan opinion. It champions the cause of human brotherhood, racial justice and universal peace. It claims nothing for itself; it desires all things that are for the progress of the world and

for the improvement of the conditions of men.

The Caravan platform is the earth. Its policy is international cooperation. Its pages are dedicated to the cause of freedom and truth. The Caravan sets for itself an enviable goal, and as we asserted in the beginning it will march toward that goal firmly yet modestly, not deviating as far as human judgment allows, from its chosen path.

At the present time the size of the Caravan is small and its voice weak, but we believe in development. Who knows? Someday its size may become large and its voice encircle the globe. We call upon you, members and friends of the Free Baha'is to help us in every way to build a mighty and durable organ, by means of which the light of liberty and right may be distributed to all parts of the globe and heaven be established in the hearts of men.

For inspiration let us call on God!

For assistance let us turn to man!

Neither of the two shall fail us!

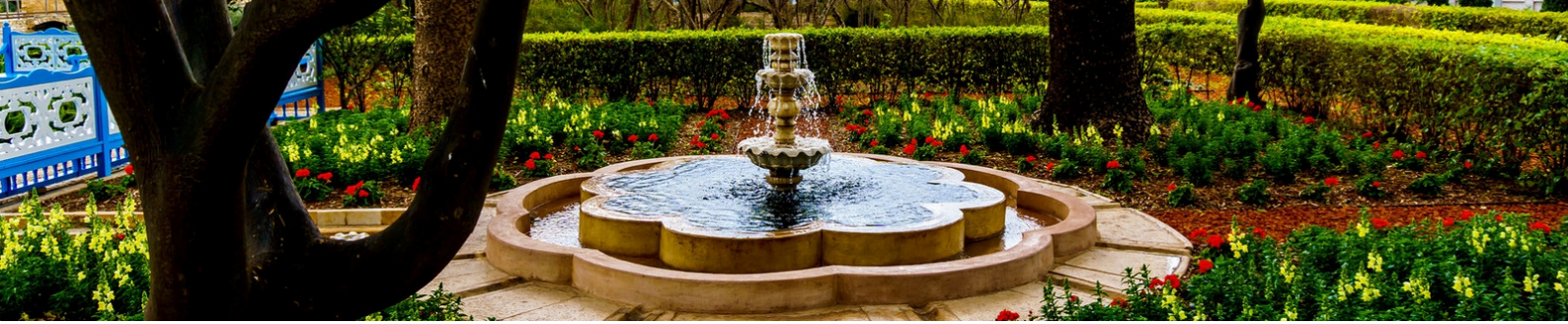
Of this we are certain!

If you have any feedback/suggestions/queries regarding anything about the Free Baha'i faith, do write to us at info@freebahais.org, and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Thank you!

The Free Baha'i Team

**For inspiration let us call on God!
For assistance let us turn to man!
Neither of the two shall fail us!**



Broken Pieces

If you are broken by life trials
and weary from life's defeats.
If you have been badly battered
and have no joy or peace.
Give God your broken pieces
so He will mold them back in place.
He can make them better than before
with a touch of His sweet grace.
If your dreams have been shattered
after much struggle and pain.
Even if your life seems hopeless
God can restore you again.
God can take broken pieces
and He can make them whole.
It matters not how badly broken
God has the power to restore.
So we are never without hope
no matter the shape we are in.
God can take our fragmented lives
and put them together again.
So if you're broken beyond measure
and you don't know what to do.
God specializes in broken things
so His glory can shine through.

--Lenora McWhorter

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The Principles of The Free Baha'i Faith Explained

The Second Basic
Baha'i Principle is:

**“Independent, Unfettered
Investigation of the Truth”**

“All must be free to seek out truth in their own way. The second foundation stone, the sapphire, is a clear blue, “true blue,” and the color of faith, inspiration, loyalty and truth. Man must be free to soar in this “Dome of heavens blue truth,” and see it with his own eyes.” – Abdu'l Baha

Truth is the object of search among the principles of finding and gaining new knowledge about the existence of ourselves. Without the gained knowledge, we are but in darkness, unlearned, uncaring and an unimportant animal of creation. However, when mankind is stimulated to even investigate the simplest of items, radiant brilliance of truth of science, religion, knowledge of all things is opened to his understanding. The complex patterns of the intellect, the mind in its functioning capacity, has the ability to comprehend both concrete

and abstract thought patterns. Animals think in only terms of concrete visible patterns, while the whole of humanity has both the concrete and abstract thought patterns of tangible physical things as well as the unseen comprehension of intangible thoughts.

To be able to achieve the collected findings of investigated truth, we first must clear our thoughts of traditional concepts unsubstantiated by proofs. Secondly, we have to arise above the prejudices of cultural superstition and small insignificant and trivial notions. Possessing an open receptive mind is essential for positive and untarnished investigation. If we allow our thoughts to prematurely establish our concepts, that we are the only one right and everyone else can only be wrong, we then set before our investigation an obstacle to great to overcome. Truth is of one source, foundation and origin. To achieve to the pathway of truth, we must be in unity, which is essential if we are to find the awaiting truth.

Truth is one, of one accord, and cannot contradict another truth, for being of the same origin, truth is always of the same radiant vibration. A rose is beautiful and the same, no matter which garden it may bloom in. A star, shining forth constantly in the same radiance,

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



whether from the East or Western horizon, is the same, never is its light opposed to the nature of its reality. In like manner, truth is of one nature and accord, no matter where it is found, or where it may achieve a radiant attraction to any individual.

We must find ourselves willing to clear away all that we have previously learned. Preventing traditional obstacles to clog our steps on the way to truth. We must not allow our love for any one religion or any one personality to blind our eyes and to cloud our thoughts, or we would become fettered by mere superstitions. When we become freed from all these bonds and begin seeking with liberated minds, then shall we be able to arrive at our goal, the radiant light of truth.

“God Himself does not compel the soul to become spiritual. The exercise of the free human will is necessary.” – Baha'u'llah

The investigation of truth is not binding upon mankind, rather, it is of a free will of the individual to pursue. For each individual should see and realize for himself the necessary truth manifested in the human temple. God has gifted mankind with the purest gift, the intellect. With such a tool, mankind may discover the realities of his existence, the essence of his creation, its purpose and meaning. The Prophets called onto mankind to open their eyes, not shut them, to use their reason and not to suppress it. “It is clear seeing and free thinking, not servile credulity, that will enable them to penetrate the clouds of prejudice, to shake off the fetters of blind imitation, and attain to the realization of the truth of a new Revelation.”

Mankind should become used to using all the faculties God has so gloriously given to humanity for the acquisition of truth.

It is essential that individuals should become capable of discerning the true from the false, right from wrong, and of seeing things in their true proportions. Be wary of sayings and purposed truths without valid proofs and sufficient evidence to their credibility. If a heart of the seeker is pure, and their mind is free and escapes the worldly prejudices, the true and earnest seeker will not fail to recognize the divine glory in whatever temple it may become manifested.

“O ye sons of intelligence! The thin eyelid prevents the eye from seeing the world and what is contained therein. Then think of the result when the curtain of greed over the sight of the heart! O people! The darkness of greed and envy obscures the light of the soul as the cloud prevents the penetration of the sun's rays.” – Baha'u'llah

The use of the intellect is the fundamental tool and foundation to search after truth and knowledge. A pure heart and free will to search, to investigate, is the very foundation of an independent Search for Truth. Let it swell in the hearts of all mankind. Once truth is found, then unity can be achieved in its total essence.



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

“Thy letter hath been perused. Were the truth of this Revelation to be fully demonstrated with elaborate proofs, all the scrolls that exist in the heaven and on the earth would be insufficient to contain them.”

- The Bab

“I swear by God, O esteemed and honored friend! Shouldst thou ponder these words in thine heart, thou wilt of a certainty find the doors of divine wisdom and infinite knowledge flung open before thy face.”

- Baha'u'llah

“Love is the greatest law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms.”

- Abdu'l Baha



Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator



The Life of Baha'u'llah

April of 1863 is marked in the history as a dark period as the men and women, young and old, from all walks of life, gathered on the thoroughfare leading to the banks of the River Tigris in Baghdad to bid a tearful farewell to the One Who had become their friend, their comforter and their guide.

Mirza Husayn Ali—known as Baha'u'llah—was being banished from their midst. Being a prominent and an ardent follower of Bab, he worked very hard such that his teachings had spread through Persia over 2 decades. His sacrifice ended in exile.

But despair would soon be transformed into hope: Before leaving the environs of Baghdad, Baha'u'llah would announce to His companions what many of them had already suspected—that He was the great Divine Educator heralded by the Bab, the initiator of a new era in history in which the tyrannies and injustices of the past would give way to a world of peace and justice: an embodiment of the principle of the oneness of humankind.

The “Divine Springtime,” He would unequivocally proclaim, had arrived.

Early life

He was born in Tehran, Iran on 12 November, 1817. Mirza Husayn Ali enjoyed all the advantages conferred by noble birth. From a very early age, He displayed extraordinary knowledge and wisdom.

As a young man, rather than pursuing a career in government service like His father, Mirza Husayn Ali chose to devote His energies to the care of the poor. He showed no interest in seeking position or prominence. He led a very humble life.

After accepting Bab, the life of Mirza Husayn changed entirely. Although They never met in person, from the moment Mirza Husayn Ali heard of the Bab's message, He declared His wholehearted belief in it and put all of His energy and influence into promoting it. His service to poor ones was now embalmed with the spirituality and God wariness.

Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator



In 1848, a significant gathering of the Bab's followers took place in a village in the northeast of Iran named Badasht. Mirza Husayn Ali played a key role in the proceedings of Badasht, which attested the independent character of the new religion. From this time onwards, Mirza Husayn Ali was known as Baha'u'llah, meaning the "Glory of God" in Arabic.

As the community of the Bab's followers grew, it also provoked the fierce opposition from the regime. Thousands and thousands of Bab's followers were subjected to the most cruel and barbaric treatment by the regime, and many of them were put to death. When three hundred Babis sought refuge in a deserted shrine called the fort of Shaykh Tabarsi, Baha'u'llah set out to join other Babis, but He was prevented from reaching His destination.

In 1850, the Bab was publicly executed in Tabriz. Majority of the Bab's leading supporters were killed, and it soon became evident that Baha'u'llah was the only One to Whom the remaining Babis could turn. His level of spirituality and leadership was palpable.

Revelation

In 1852, Baha'u'llah was falsely charged in an attempt on the life of Nasiri'd Din Shah, the King of Iran. When the warrant was issued, He Himself set out to face His accusers, this astonished those who were charged with arresting Him. They conducted Him, barefoot and in chains, through teeming streets to a notorious subterranean dungeon of Siyah Chal, known as the "Black Pit."

The dungeon was pitch dark and had once been the reservoir for a public bath. Within its walls, prisoners languished in the cold and unhealthy air, stinky smell clamped together by an unbearably heavy chain that left its mark on Baha'u'llah's body for the rest of His life.

It was in these difficult circumstances that the rarest and most cherished of the events was once again played out: a mortal man, outwardly human in every respect, was chosen by God to bring to humanity a new message.

This experience of Divine Revelation, touched on only indirectly in surviving accounts of the lives of Moses, Christ, and Muhammad, is illustrated in Baha'u'llah's own words: "During the days I lay in the prison of Tihiran, though the galling weight of the chains and the stench-filled air allowed Me but little sleep, still in those infrequent moments of slumber I felt as if something flowed from the crown of My head over My breast, even as a mighty torrent that precipitateth itself upon the earth from the summit of a lofty mountain...At such moments My tongue recited what no man could bear to hear."

Exile to Baghdad

After four months of intense sufferings and torture, Baha'u'llah—now ill and utterly exhausted—was released from the prison and exiled forever from His native Iran. He and his family were sent to Baghdad. There, the remaining followers of the Bab increasingly turned to Baha'u'llah for moral and spiritual guidance. The nobility of His character, the wisdom of His counsel, the humility he

Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator



displayed, the kindness that He showered upon all and the increasing evidences of superhuman greatness in Him, revived the downtrodden community.

As Baha'u'llah emerged as the leader of the community of the Bab's followers, it aroused intense jealousy from Mirza Yahya, His ambitious, younger half-brother. Mirza Yahya made several shameless efforts to defame & slander Baha'u'llah's character and sow seeds of suspicion and doubt among His companions. In order to avoid tension due to this, Baha'u'llah retired to the mountains of

Kurdistan, where He remained for two years, reflecting on His divine purpose of spreading the message. In the mountains of Sulaymáníyyih during these 2 years, Baha'u'llah continued his mission and sowed the seeds of Baha'i faith which is evident today in the form of believers in Sulaymáníyyih. This period of His life resembled of Moses' withdrawal to Mount Sinai, Christ's days in the wilderness, and Muhammad's retreat in the Arabian hills.

Yet even in this remote region, Baha'u'llah's fame spread very rampantly. People heard



House of Baha'u'llah in Baghdad

Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator



that a man of extraordinary wisdom and eloquence was to be found there. When such stories reached Baghdad, the Babís, guessing Baha'u'llah's identity, dispatched a mission to implore Him to return.

Residing once more in Baghdad, Baha'u'llah reinvigorated the Bab's followers; the stature of the community grew and His reputation spread ever further. He composed three of His most renowned works at this time—the Hidden Words, the Seven Valleys and the Book of Certitude (Kitab-i-Iqán). While Baha'u'llah's writings alluded to His station, it was not yet the time for a public announcement.

As Baha'u'llah's fame spread, it was obvious that the envy and malice of some of the clergy was rekindled. Representations were made to the Shah of Iran to ask the Ottoman Sultan to remove Baha'u'llah further from the Iranian border. A second banishment was decreed.

At the end of April 1863, shortly before leaving the environs of Baghdad for Istanbul (known as Constantinople in the English language of the time), Baha'u'llah and His companions resided for twelve days in a garden which He named Ridvan, meaning "Paradise". On the banks of the River Tigris, Baha'u'llah declared Himself to be the One heralded by the Bab—God's Messenger to the age of humanity's collective maturity, foretold in all the world's scriptures. Thousands of His lovers and admirers gathered in Ridvan and met Him. They heard the message of God from the Man of God Himself.

Further banishments

Three months after departing Baghdad,

Baha'u'llah and His fellow exiles reached Constantinople. They remained there for just four months before a further banishment took them to Edirne (Adrianople), a gruelling journey undertaken during the coldest of winters. In Adrianople, their accommodation failed to protect them from the bitter temperatures.

Baha'u'llah referred to Adrianople as the "remote prison." Yet despite the inhospitable conditions under which the exiles were forced to live, inspired verses continued to flow from Baha'u'llah's pen, and His message reached as far away as Egypt and India.

During this period Mirza Yahya, the jealous half-brother of Baha'u'llah, contrived to poison Him. This tragic episode left Baha'u'llah with a tremor that showed in His handwriting to the end of His life.

Beginning in September 1867, Baha'u'llah wrote a series of letters to the leaders and rulers of various nations inviting them to the message of God. In these prescient writings, He openly proclaimed His station, speaking of the dawn of a new age. But first, He warned, there would be catastrophic upheavals in the world's political and social order. He summoned the world's leaders to uphold justice and called upon them to convene an assembly where they would meet and put an end to war. He said that only by acting collectively, could a lasting peace be established. His warnings fell upon deaf ears.

Continued agitation from Baha'u'llah's detractors caused the Ottoman government to banish Him one final time, to its most notorious penal colony. Arriving in the Mediterranean prison city of 'Akká on 31

Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator



August 1868, Baha'u'llah was to spend the rest of His life in the fortified city and its environs.

Confined to a prison for more than two years, He and His companions were later moved to a cramped house within the city's walls. Little by little, the moral character of the Baha'is—particularly Baha'u'llah's eldest son, Abdu'l Baha—softened the hearts of their jailers, and penetrated the bigotry and indifference of Akka's residents. As in Baghdad and Adrianople, the nobility of Baha'u'llah's character gradually won the admiration of the community at large, including some of its leaders.

In Akka, Baha'u'llah revealed His most important work, the Kitab-i-Aqdas (the Most Holy Book), in which He outlined the essential

laws and principles of His Faith, and established the foundations for a global administrative order.

Final years

In the late 1870s, Baha'u'llah—while still a prisoner—was granted some freedom to move outside of the city's walls, allowing His followers to meet with Him in relative peace. In April 1890, Professor Edward Granville Browne of Cambridge University met Baha'u'llah at the mansion near Akka where He had taken up residence. Prof Browne made notes of his discussion with Baha'u'llah.

Browne wrote of their meeting: “The face of Him on Whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power



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

Baha'u'llah – The Divine Educator

and authority sat on that ample brow...No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before one who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain.”

Baha'u'llah passed away on 29 May, 1892. In His will, He designated Abdu'l Baha as His successor and Head of the Baha'i Faith — the first time in history that the Founder of a world religion had named his successor in a written irrefutable text. This choice of a successor is a central provision of what is known as the “Covenant of Baha'u'llah,” enabling the Baha'i community to remain united for all time. Abdu'l Baha is thus known as the Centre of the Covenant.





Baha'u'llah



Baha'u'llah's kindness towards an elderly woman in Baghdad

Every day Baha'u'llah walked to the coffeehouses near the bridge of the boats [in Baghdad]. Each day an elderly woman stood alongside the road and waited for Him to pass. She was poor and lived in a broken-down house. Baha'u'llah stopped each day and spoke kindly to the woman. He would inquire after her health, then give her a little money.

Each day the elderly woman would kiss Baha'u'llah's hands to show her thanks, but sometimes she wanted to kiss His face. She was rather short and could not quite reach, so Baha'u'llah would bend down to let her kiss Him on the cheek 'She knows that I like her,' Baha'u'llah would tell His companions, 'that is why she likes Me.'

Baha'u'llah: King of Glory, p. 151



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



Part 2

Mason Remey's opinion on the death of Shoghi Effendi

To summarize the event and prove the truth, I would just quote the testimony of one of the observers - Mason Remey - who was present there.

"Shoghi Effendi ascended in a strange situation and under surprising circumstances. For this reason, Ruhiyyih Khanum refused to disclose the facts of his death, and did not want the believers to know those terrible facts of that event. Trying to avoid the awareness of the Baha'i world community from the actual description of the death of Shoghi, she prepared an article with contribution of John Ferraby in London, which was full of fabricated and false subjects.

The article was published and distributed in a limited copy; and perhaps the Iranian Friends were not fully aware of its contents. Thus, the true account of the holy ascension is as follows:

Shoghi Effendi used to sleep alone in his room. He had slept alone that night and the

bedroom was locked from the inside. During the night Ruhiyyih Khanum went to the bedroom of Guardian and knocked it, but there was no reply. So, she called the hotel staff and they opened the door. In the morning of the third of November, the physician who was called in, announced that he had died a few hours earlier.

John Ferraby was immediately notified (He was in Rome at the time). They informed the Baha'i community worldwide by a telegram that Guardian is suffering from an Asian flu. Subsequently the next telegram informed that He has ascended... Suddenly, one of the believers informed me by phone that the bitter incident had taken place, and that he would soon come to meet me and to speak in person. I was aware what a great tribulation had occurred, and so I asked him to visit me.

The next day we, along with a number of Friends, flew to London for the funeral ceremony of the Holy Corpse. In 1910, when I was in the presence of that unique Guardian in Haifa, He referred to me at the time, and foretold that terrible event, which would have

Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered? - Part 2



great and worldwide implications, but gave no exact time about it. I told a number of believers about that, but those prophecies were long before the dream that came to me. Shortly before his ascension, Shoghi Effendi had ordered that the Friends should not embalm the ascended Friends, and use such materials on their bodies.

In the event of such a great and bitter incident, it is a norm to take final medical examinations of the corpse before burying it. But they separated the viscera of the body of the Guardian, and put it in the shroud for a few days; so, it was completely rotten and His holy body had become very dangerous and intolerable, so that no one could recognize him. It was then when we arrived in London. The Holy Corpse was then placed in a bronze and lead box to avoid further damage to it! While no one was aware of the events that had taken place, and the only report Ruhiyyih Khanum gave was during putting the Holy Corpse in the lead box, which was filled with flowers, and she stated that everything was fragrant.

While I take such a step and write this, I am deeply influenced and motivated, but since Ruhiyyih Khanum has bought the sacred places, contrary to the dignity of the Cause, and committed such acts, it might be necessary to file the case of the death of the Guardian in a competent court, and the outcome may help to solve the problem of purchasing the sacred places.” - (C. M. Remey)

Ruhiyyih Maxwell's Conspiracy

Dear Friends!

Dear Baha'i brothers and sisters!

Do not think that I have special bias and intention, or I want to grab all my hardships and services. Rather, I want to make it clear that we and you have been attacked by some bloodthirsty wolves, and have been betrayed, deceived, and miserable by treacherous criminals, in the name of religion and Faith.

Given that Ruhiyyih Khanum was aware of the details of the ten-year plan, and knew the importance and position of the International Baha'i Council to the Guardian, and also knew that after the ascension of the Holy Guardian, the whole authority of the Bahá'í Faith should be given to it; and since she knew that the head of that council had been appointed by the Guardian, according to the principle of inheritance; and that the said head of the international council was the destined Guardian, that his status and quality should gradually be revealed to the Baha'is ; and she herself would be excluded and lose her position as the liason between the Guardian and the International Council.

So, she decided to suspend and deviate the most important Baha'i organizational body, and the important developmental stage of the Baha'i evolution by collusion, and shifted the whole power and authority to the steward Hands of the Cause, who did not have the slightest authority in the Baha'i administration according to the Abdul-Baha's Testament and the holy Tablets and Commandments. By this, she struck down the Tablets and the Holy Testament of Abdul-Baha, and in particular, destroyed the 36-year-old efforts of Shoghi Effendi and provisions of the ten-year plan.

Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered? - Part 2



In order to prevent the delivery of the Holy corpse to Haifa, she directly telephoned and lured Albert Mulshagel, the Hand of the Cause, on next Tuesday morning, giving him the responsibility of burial procedure; while he was overwhelmingly ignorant about the Islamic and Baha'i conditions and procedures of corpse burial. Without convening a medical council or inviting the Baha'i international body to receive their opinion about the ascension of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, they performed the burial ceremony on Thursday, at 2 pm, then put the deformed and broken Holy corpse in a lead box, and placed it in another bronze box, weighing totally about half a ton! They did not observe the command of the Holy Book regarding bury of the Corpse in a crystal, stone, or wooden box (Verse 293). Moreover, in carrying the corpse that the burial place should be no more than an hour away, they disobeyed the command of the Holy Book either. She followed the easiest way which recommends:

Just listen to eating and drinking! And forget about wasting the bounties!

No one had any objection to those acts. Then, November 9, which was Saturday, was considered to bury the Holy Corpse, and the following telegram was sent to all the National Spiritual Assemblies:

The beloved Guardian of the Cause of God ascended yesterday, due to the Asian flu. I request the Hands of the Cause, the national assemblies, and the Auxiliary Board members to take shelter the Friends and help them in facing of this great calamity. A funeral ceremony will be held in London on Saturday. The dear Hands, members of the national assemblies, and auxiliary board members are

invited to attend. Any press release should state that the Hands of the Cause will soon gather in Haifa and will inform the Baha'i community about the future plans. It is emphasized that the memorial meetings to be convened on Saturday. Ruhiyyih"

Again, in this telegram message, there is no mention of the International Baha'i Council appointed by Shoghi Rabbani, as the Special and Referred Center, which was the first and most important body in the 500,000-year-old Baha'i Course. During all that time the directors of the play were John Ferraby and his wife, and Hasan Afnan Balyouzi, who were in London and controlled the situation precisely by the phone.

Given that the Hands were not an independent body in the Baha'i Administration, and even their activities of protection and propagation should have been done under the direct supervision of the Guardian, but we find that Ruhiyyih Maxwell, despite the Baha'i teachings, left the management of the Baha'i affairs to the Hands, something that was beyond her competence.

Shoghi had repeatedly warned that the activities of the Hands has to be under the supervision of the Guardian of the Cause of God, including in His telegram of April 6, 1954, concerning the Hands' duties: "They are destined to fulfil their two sacred duties, namely the protection and propagation of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh under the auspices of the Guardian (Wali Amrullah), "and it is mentioned in the Master's Will & Testament," All – the Hands- must be in his favor, and under his authority ... this congregation of Hands is under the authority of the Guardian

Did Shoghi Effendi die a natural death or was he murdered? - Part 2



(Wali Amirullah), "and without the Guardian, they are unfruitful and useless members of the Cause. However, after the funeral and covering the facts of the matter, the Hands assembled in Haifa on November 25, 1957, 26 Hands were present, and issued a proclamation, expressly acknowledging:

"... Shoghi Effendi has laid the foundation of Bahá'u'lláh's World Order by virtue of his appointment of the Hands, and also the appointment of the Baha'i International Community, an institution that should finally lead to Universal House of Justice". Then they emphasized "... the Baha'i International Council designated by the Guardian and informed by His blessed Tablet to the Baha'i world about it, that over the course of time, it will transform into Universal House of Justice; the High Commission which in the words of Abdul-Baha, as per his Will & Testament, is gifted as "Immune from any error" and "God has made it the origin of all the goods and safe from all the errors". So, He will bring His purpose to the stage of fulfilment."



(Notes and Memories by Yadullah Thabit Rasikh – Nashebo Faraz, Chapter 5)



THE ALLEGED WILL OF ABDU'L BAHA – AN ANALYSIS

Concluding - Part 1

"Falsification of historical sources of every kind are in abundance in medieval and modern times."

(Roessler/Franz, Sachwörterbuch zur Deutschen Geschichte, 1958, Artikel Fälschungen, p. 255.)

Over the course of history, it is very evident that The Wills and testaments of Various important figures have been tampered with to draw and illegal and illicit benefit to a phony benefactor or to add new benefactors from the concessions or estates which are to be divided by the said will and testament.

Also, the same has been oft doubted about the will and testament of Abdu'l Baha, because the will not only encompassed materialistic property like most wills and testaments but this will also spelt out who the supposed successor (read guardian) in leading the faith would be. This idea of tampering a document which spells out the succession in spiritual matters of the Baha'i Faith can be very appealing to the enemies of the faith, who have to pull through one trick and destroy all that remains in the Faith.

With regards to those who have identified errors in the Will and testament of the master

there is a categorization into 2 categories. While there is one category of researchers who are of the view that the entire will is a fabrication by Shoghi Effendi, there is a second group, a more dominant one amongst the doubters, who regard the will to be filled with alterations and insertions by unknown persons.

Being an investigator of truth, it is quintessential for any person to always take into account a very balanced picture and consider both sides of the argument before arriving at a conclusion.

The view of the Heterodox Baha'i Faith with regards to the allegations on the will and testament of Abdu'l Baha are worth mentioning at this juncture. Amongst the answers given by them to those who doubt the authenticity of the Will is that the document remained unchallenged by most believers at the time, amongst others.

For purposes of clear discussion we will enumerate and answer the most commonly given assertion separately.

Assertion 1 : Majority accepted it without hesitation

Reply : The judgment of the majority is not the basis for establishment of god's will. If the majority was to be followed then why has the

The Alleged Will of Abdul Baha

- An Analysis...



master Abdu'l Baha ordered for an independent Investigation of truth. Also extrapolating this logic , today the message of Baha'u'llah is accepted by 5 million believers out of a world population of 6 billion which means that 99.9% of the world population does not accept the message of Baha'u'llah . Does this mean that they are correct ?

Assertion 2 : Even people who were thrown out of the faith accepted it as genuine ?

Reply : As a researcher this was one of the strangest assertions that I have come across. How can one claim that "Silence is acceptance"? This assertion is one that is of grave nature. The argument propounds that non action against an event makes you an acceptor of the same. How strange ? This logic is a direct slap on the face of silent dissent around the world. Does the silence of an oppressed believer in Iran, make him accepting of the oppressive policies of the regime there? . And how ridiculous is it for the Heterodox Baha'is to take support on the word (or inaction) of covenant breakers in context to the faith, while supporting their arguments.

Assertion 3 : Dr Mitchell, whose report is heavily relied upon was not having any knowledge of Persian or Arabic

Reply : While it is true that Dr Mitchell was not literate in the languages of Arabic and Persian it is also very much true that analysis of handwriting is done through physical observations like pen stroke, pressure, curves, density etc and not through reading and grammar. This argument is in my opinion only to pull a fast one against any person involved in an independent investigation of truth. There is not enough space here to populate the entire discussion regarding Dr. Mitchell (Dr. Fredrick Glaysher on his blog discussed it in details), it is sufficient to mention about Dr Mitchell that he was the Head of the Forensics at Scotland Yard !!

Assertion 4 : Doubting the Will and testament is the job of a lone wolf (Ruth white) and not supported by anyone else.

Reply : Does who pick fingers on the seekers of truth because they are less in numbers tend to forget that our lord Baha'u'llah was also at one time alone in his pursuit . The fountainhead of truth maybe from one source but this does not make the origin of truth as falsehood. While Ruth white may have been alone in doubting and subsequently exposing the falsehood after the demise of the master, but her findings and exposes have inspired and affected many after her.

Such assertions and statements are the staple of the Administration Blinded Baha'is who will always try and deviate the discussion from its moot point. If a believer is to ask a question about the authenticity of the Will, they will try and move the discussion to Ruth White. The supposed Counsellors of the Administration Baha'is have till date not been able to reply to the questions raised regarding the Will and Testament of the Master. They will always push the discussion to some of the other peripheral topic which is nothing but an escaping tactic from answering the truth.

Before closing this topic for this edition of the magazine, here is some food for thought for our dear readers

- Never once in his entire life had Abdu'l Baha even mentioned Shoghi Effendi as His successor
- The usual process of grooming the successor also never took place, as had happened with Abdu'l Baha and Baha'u'llah
- Except for the disputed will and testament of Abdu'l Baha, no other document, tablet or private report that the master ever spoke about a successor, much less appointing Shoghi Effendi as His successor.



Free Baha'i Activities



"I testify, O my Lord, that Thou hast enjoined upon men to honor their guest, and he that hath ascended unto Thee hath verily reached Thee and attained Thy Presence. Deal with him then according to Thy grace and bounty! By Thy glory, I know of a certainty that Thou wilt not withhold Thyself from that which Thou hast commanded Thy servants, nor wilt Thou deprive him that hath clung to the cord of Thy bounty and hath ascended to the Dayspring of Thy wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the One, the Single, the Powerful, the Omniscient, the Bountiful" (Baha'u'llah)

Dear Baha'i faithful;

Allah'u'Abha!

Last month we had celebrated the 200th birthday of The Bab with great joy. We have received plenty of messages from the Baha'is around the globe and we are really thankful to all those who cared to share their greetings with us. We, the Free Baha'is, celebrated The Bab's 200th birthday by attending prayers and having devotional meetings focusing on his sacrifices. As always, the friends in Canada and the USA visited orphanage and old age home-sharing sweets and gifts with them. Some of the friends in Singapore invited their neighbours and friends and had rounds of prayers with them and narrated the incident

of the Bab and Baha'u'llah. Thailand friends had organized dawn prayers at the shore and remembered the sacrifice made by the Bab. Others countries, where we have less population of Baha'i friends, had a get-together with families in which they discussed how to spread the teachings of Baha'u'llah in their respective localities.

Friends from the Middle East wanted to book a Ballroom to celebrate the 200th birthday celebration, for which they requested for our permission. However, our response was the same as always – i.e. there is no permission required from us as we are no authority on the Baha'is. The friends are allowed to celebrate the way they wish, just making sure it doesn't lead to driving away from the teachings of Baha'u'llah. As a suggestion, we advised them not to spend huge monies on booking hotels, instead spend organize the program at someone's house and the difference amount can be spent on needy. We are glad they followed our advice and emailed us back thanking much and informing that they gave away that amount to one of the charitable organizations in Africa. We would like to give them glad tidings for following the teachings of Baha'u'llah as the idea of spending monies of the lesser privileged and the needy people were taught to us by the Master.

An important announcement for all our

Free Baha'i Activities



friends – We would request all our friends to not send us the Minutes of the Meeting as it is of no use to us. The aim and objective of the Baha'i faith are to spread the love and peace and work for the sake of humanity. We understand that the friends like to inform us about the activities in their respective areas, however, it would be great if you briefly write to us about programs held, rather than sending it in the format of a Minutes. As there is no Administration, such reports are of no use.

Friends, this month we had also celebrated the birthday of Baha'u'llah. He was born on November 12th 1817 in the noble family of Persia. In his early childhood he received limited education from his teachers, he learnt horsemanship and was known as a fine horseman. In 1844, just 3 months after the Bab's declaration, he heard about the Bab and at the age of 27, he became his follower. Two years after the Bab's death, Baha'u'llah was imprisoned in Tehran accused of an attempt

on the life of King of Persia. While in prison, Baha'u'llah had a vision in which he saw the Most Great Spirit in the form of a heavenly maiden who asked him to begin his prophetic mission.

We would like to thank all our readers and active supporters who help us in spreading the word of Caravan far and wide. And all those who send us their precious articles - Would request you all to convey your points in a polite manner. Avoid using offensive words or unfortunately, your content won't be made part of the Caravan Magazine.

Looking forward to your continuous support and encouragement. Keep them coming. May Baha'u'llah bless you all.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Team Free Baha'i Faith

Want to be a contributor for The Caravan Magazine?

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

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

If you have any other queries, you can write to us at info@freebahais.org
Thank you!

Some Questions Answered



Magazine Inbox x



Diane 100% (100%)
to Free ▾

6:44 PM ☆ ↩ ⋮

Dear Free Bahais,

I have read your articles about Huququ'llah to be given as charity. If Huququ'llah is paid for charity then whom shall we be accountable to and whom shall we inform that we have paid this much amount as Huququ'llah.

Reply soon.

Kind Regards,
D

Answer:

Allah'u'abha!

Thank you for your email, Diane. We appreciate your acknowledgement and are glad that you are a regular reader of our magazine.

Regarding your query, if you have read our previous articles on Huququ'llah you would have understood the fact that the teachings of Baha'u'llah always was to be concerned about humanity and not just the Baha'is. The concept of Huququ'llah was never to collect money and spend it on our own selves. The current form of UHJ is spending the hard-earned money of the faithful on sponsoring unwanted expenses, the best part being – no one is held liable for such expense. If we held UHJ responsible and ask them to submit a balance sheet, no unwanted expenses will be incurred out of Huququ'llah. We can then put all these monies to the right cause – for the welfare of humankind, to promote education, peace and global prosperity, to safeguard

human honour and the position of religion and to spread the message of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Regarding accountability, after the passing away of the Master, his Will and Testament stated that it must be done through the 'Guardian' of the Cause of God. Now the question arises, who is the Guardian of the Baha'i faith today? And if there is no Guardian, who gave the authority to the UHJ to collect Huququ'llah in the absence of the Guardian? Since there is no living Guardian in the cause, we should make sure our Huququ'llah should be spent in the right cause following the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Do feel free to write back in case you have any more questions. Keep in touch!

Thank you,

Team Free Baha'is

Some Questions Answered



Meeting with Free Bahais/Joining Free Bahais

Inbox x



Kevin to info

20-7-2019 (Sun 3:00pm) ☆ ↩ ⋮

Hi, I'm a Kiwi/NZer. are there any Free Bahais in NZ I could meet/fellowship with. I would like to participate once more in a Bahai community but I think I'm persona non grata with UHJ-ist Bahai Faith, I was a 'member' of the 'UHJ'-controlled Bahai Faith, but I left 10 years ago or so because of the authoritarianism/groupthink & I'm possibly considered as a Covenant-Breaker. I sent a four-page letter of resignation of my membership listing/outlining comprehensively my critiques/criticisms of the organisation.

I will be going back over to Australia late-December or early January so where could I meet up with Free Bahais there?

Answer:

Hi Kevin,

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for writing to us. We appreciate your efforts.

We are not sure if there are any Free Baha'is based in NZ, at least not that we are aware of. We would request you to share your resignation letter and your story so we can publish it in the next edition of the Caravan. It will certainly be an eye opening for other Baha'is who are caught under the shackles of Administration.



Do write back to us soon. Looking forward to your reply.

Thanks and Regards,

Team Free Baha'is

Some Questions Answered



Kevin 12/12/2019
to Free ▾

12/12/2019 10:00 ☆ ↩ ⋮

Sorry, it was years ago, I did it as a handwritten letter which I didn't make a copy of. The key thing though was that the LSA/NSA didn't make a single response to me & the letter. No attempt by LSA to change my mind/dissuade me. No response either from NSA. No ABM for Protection or Propagation to counsel me. In short it seems in effect they went straight to the shunning/ostracisation without either a formal acceptance of my resignation as far as know or a denunciation/ disavowal of me as a "Covenant-Breaker". I don't know how plugged in you are/were to what was going on in NZ several years back, but the key reason I left was because of how the international HQ & their cowardly lackies in NSA & in the Dunedin LSA acted towards Alison & Steve Marshall. The UHJ/NSA wrecked the Dunedin Community. At time community was thriving about 110 people, with quite a lot of discussion with a bit of tension between conservatives & liberals but still unified. After Alison's disenrollment that broke down with about 18 actively supporting Marshalls for a while. Over a dozen as far as I know actively resigned at time or a little bit later while many others like a good friend/uncle's friend & my uncle just dropped out. Last I heard only about 47 Baha'is left in Dunedin. UHJ/NSA pulled a magic rabbit out of the hat & just adopted a new category "Disenrolled" which they first used on Cole in USA? Then on the Canadian Sci-Fi writer, then On Alison. No formal declaration of Covenant-Breaking, no due process, no counselling, no chance to defend yourself before the whole community ...just you're no longer a "card-carrying" member (very cadre-communist/cultic) so therefore can't participate in "community's affairs/can't vote, can't be elected. Any dissent ...disenrolled! I have the feeling that might be what did to me even if they made no formal acknowledgement of that.

Hi Kevin,

Thank you for your response.

We are sorry to hear about your story. So many Baha'is today are victims of the Administration which is a commonly known fact. We are glad to inform you that we, the Free Baha'is, do not believe in Administration. For us the teaching of Baha'u'llah is important. We follow Master's guidelines, as he has mentioned that, "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 comen 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 a w a y f r o m i t -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2U_t0xWMzA

Are you still Baha'i or have you left the faith

completely? Do let us know. And if you have any questions, do write to us back and we will be happy to help.

Humbly,

Team Free Baha'is



Some Questions Answered



Caravan magazine Inbox x



Free Bahais
to all the friends

Nov 10, 2016, 6:20 PM



Good day,

Check out this attached magazine. It has some interesting content about the Guardian, hope you like it.

@Free Bahais - I have marked my friends on this mail. Can you subscribe them to the broadcast list?

Thanks and regards

Answer:

Hello Robby,

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for your email. We really appreciate your efforts in taking out time and introducing our magazine to your friends. We will certainly add your friends to our mailing list. Although would be great if they can manually sign up to our magazine through our website - <http://freebahais.org/>

Looks like you all are Baha'is, although we do not want to send our material to someone who is not interested in receiving it. If your friends are interested, would be great if they can at least reply to this email showing interest and we will make them a part of our subscribers list.

Also, if you and your friends are interested in the Free Baha'i Faith, would request you to kindly go through our website, read all the available materials and write back to us in case you have any questions.

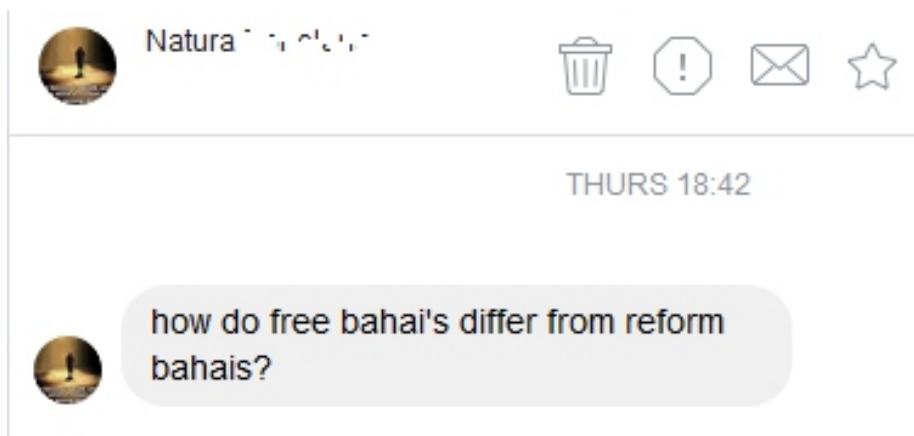
Looking forward to your individual emails.

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Some Questions Answered



Answer:

Hi Natura,

Free Baha'is follow the pristine teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha. We are not aware about the teachings of the Reform Baha'is, so can't comment on that. With regards to the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, you can source the study materials from our website - <http://freebahais.org/>

If you have any questions regarding the Free Baha'i Faith, do feel free to reach out to us on info@freebahais.org and we will be happy to help you.

Thanks,

Team Free Baha'is





Blast from the Past

**THE
NEW HISTORIAN**

*"A new history is being written by the pioneers of a new race,
The New Historian offers itself for the full expression of this spirit."*

VOLUME I. NOVEMBER 1931 NUMBER 2

Published Monthly by The New History Foundation, 132 E. 65th St., New York.
Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, *Editor*
Associate Editors: Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler and Alphonse Tonietti

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With immense pleasure we take pride in announcing the new section 'Blast from the Past' under which we will repurpose content from the New History Magazine from 1931.

Blast from the Past



MAJOR TUDOR-POLE

One morning I was walking along St. James Street when a sign on which a familiar name was written drew my attention. The name was that of Major Tudor-Pole. I wondered whether this was the man who years ago had entertained Abdul Baha in his house in Clifton and who later as an officer in the British Army in Palestine had been able to keep in touch with "the Master" and help the Cause in various ways.

In order to learn the truth I walked up the steps and learned that he was the very man. I had an exhilarating talk with him and found him still to be the same enthusiastic believer in this universal Movement. I had not seen him since the year 1919 when just after the World War Abdul Baha had sent me on a mission to America and he had helped me to get out of Palestine in an extraordinary way.

He wanted to know what I was doing, and I told him about the formation of the New History Society and its objectives. He was pleased to know that the work of Peace and Brotherhood is not interrupted and that the ensign lifted by Abdul Baha is waving in the sky.

(Reference: The New Historian, Volume 1, October, 1931)

Know your heritage



A Tablet in Baha'u'llah's own handwriting after He was poisoned by His half-brother



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 - 1957



Dated : The 7th of May, 1957.

Dear Hermann,

Thank you for your kind letter dated April 11, 1957

It gives me great pleasure to tell you that I have been very successful in associating myself with Meher Baba with the aim of propagating the teachings of Bahau'llah amongst his followers.

The teachings of Meher Baba are very similar to that of Bahau'llah and of Abdul Baha.

Enclosed herewith is a recent photograph of myself and Meher Baba standing together at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Under a separate cover, I am sending to you a copy of my book, "The Wisdom of Meher Baba." Do give it a read. You will relate with my thoughts about Meher Baba.

Do keep me posted about the progress of the Cause in Germany. If I can do anything further to assist you, please call upon me as I shall be only too happy to help you in any way I can

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Ruth White

The above scanned transcript is of a letter sent by Lady Ruth White to Mr. Hermann Zimmer dated 7th May 1957 talking about how the Lady was working towards spreading the Cause in different parts of the world. Lady Ruth White will always be an epitome of teaching the Baha'i Cause. Her selfless work for the Cause without any ulterior motive will always be cherished by the Free Baha'is.



DID YOU KNOW?

A gentleman who had spent many years in India, asked by what means and what kind of organization Abdu'l Baha intended to spread his teachings. The answer was: "Our organization is the love of God, the knowledge of the Almighty, the descent of the breaths of the Holy Spirit, the outflow of the spiritual life; our capital is good deeds, merciful attributes, heavenly characteristics, and divine ethics."

(Diary of Ahmad Sohrab; December 30, 1912)

Baha'u'llah has greatly emphasized on the point that in this day and age we are not allowed to see through the eyes of clergy, popes, or successors. Let us read the following to understand his view.

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

(The Book of Ighan; page 10)

"...Among the veils of glory are the religious doctors of the age, and the theologians of the time of a Manifestation, who do not submit to

the Command of God, on account of their lack of understanding and their devotion and love for outward leadership . . . As the people have taken them in place of God for their masters, they await acceptance or rejection (of the Truth) by these supporting props; for they have no sight, hearing or heart of their own to distinguish and discriminate between truth and falsehood.

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

(The Book of Ighan; page 117)

Now, our question to the Baha'is – What do we have to say about the 9 elected members of the current form of UHJ who are functioning without an active Guardian and are ruling over the Baha'is and have taken the Cause away from the teachings of Baha'u'llah? Do write to us with your answers on info@freebahais.org, we would love to know your thoughts on this topic. Best answers will be made part of our next magazine. Looking forward.

Disclaimer:

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PUBLISHED BY THE FREE BAHA'I FAITH
IN
SINGAPORE | THAILAND | USA

www.freebahais.org || info@freebahais.org

THE CARAVAN || REVIVED EDITION : VOLUME 3