

THE

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# CARAVAN

**“THE FOUNDATION  
OF THE PALACE OF  
PEACE IS THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF  
THE ONENESS OF  
MANKIND.”**

**- BAHA'U'LLAH**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DESPITE  
THE OBJECTIONS  
OF ABDU'L BAHA,  
SHOGHI WENT TO  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**

**KNOW MORE INSIDE.**







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# PRAYER



O LORD! ATTIRE MY HEAD WITH THE CROWN OF MARTYRDOM! -  
PRAYER

Magnified be Thy name, O God, the Lord of heaven! Attire my head with the crown of martyrdom, even as Thou didst attire my body with the ornament of tribulation before all that dwell in Thy land. Grant, moreover, that they whose hearts yearn over Thee may draw nigh unto the horizon of Thy grace, above which the Daystar of Thy beauty sheddeth its radiance. Ordain, also, for them what will make them rich enough to dispense with aught else except Thee, and rid them of all attachment to such as have repudiated Thy signs.

There is none other God but Thee, the Guardian, the Self-Subsisting.

-Prayer of Baha'u'llah

# FOREWORD

*“O Children of Men! Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other.” – Baha'u'llah*

Amongst the greatest dangers in this lifelong process, in this steady fine-tuning of character, are self-righteousness, domination and pride—traits which distort the entire spiritual enterprise and undermine its foundation. However, it is sad that we see after the ascension of Abdu'l Baha, there was a complete reversal within the Baha'i faith. The human traits that Baha'u'llah had come to polish and bring about a change in the society, did continue during the time of the Master, but right after his ascension, a few corrupted souls took over the faith and converted it into an organisation in order to fulfil their personal interest.

The Baha'i Administration uses the names of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha by campaigning 'some' of their principles to get the Baha'is connected with them. But in private, after a person becomes a part of their group, that person is faced with the alternative of complying with the narrow, bigoted edicts of Shoghi Effendi and the Administration, or of


being excommunicated.

There is a continuous shrinkage of faithful joining the faith across the globe and it is obviously because of one most evident reason, which is the realization that the Administration is substituting inverted principles in place of the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Whether the alleged will of Abdu'l Baha is authentic or forged, the results of the administration of Shoghi Effendi stands as an historical indictment against them. They certainly do not represent the Baha'i Religion, which had come to unite mankind under one banner and not to excommunicate them due to ambivalent reasons.

This Caravan, Shoghi Special Edition is a challenge to them to prove, if they can. Not only whether the Will of Abdu'l Baha is genuine, and the authority which they claim to derive from it is legitimate, but also whether the Administration of their assumed authority is in the spirit of the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha.

The Master warned that if those calling themselves Baha'i could not rise to the





greatness of the Baha'i principles, then other individuals and groups would gradually put the principles into practice, even if they remained unaware from whence their inspiration arose. We see evidences of this all over the world today. There is a quickening of the spirit, and a great attempt is being made toward the unification of humanity. Each one reading this magazine should feel a personal responsibility toward this greatest peace movement of modern times. Dr. David Starr Jordan, a leading ichthyologist and eugenicist of his day said:

“Abdu'l Baha will unite the East and the West, for he travels the Mystic Path with practical feet”

This is what Baha'u'llah and the Master wish us to do. They did not come to establish a religion of extraction from other religions or to form a separate group, but to awaken in us an appreciation of the truths in all religions — to merge with our fellow men, and to come into that consciousness which Baha'u'llah described 200 years ago:

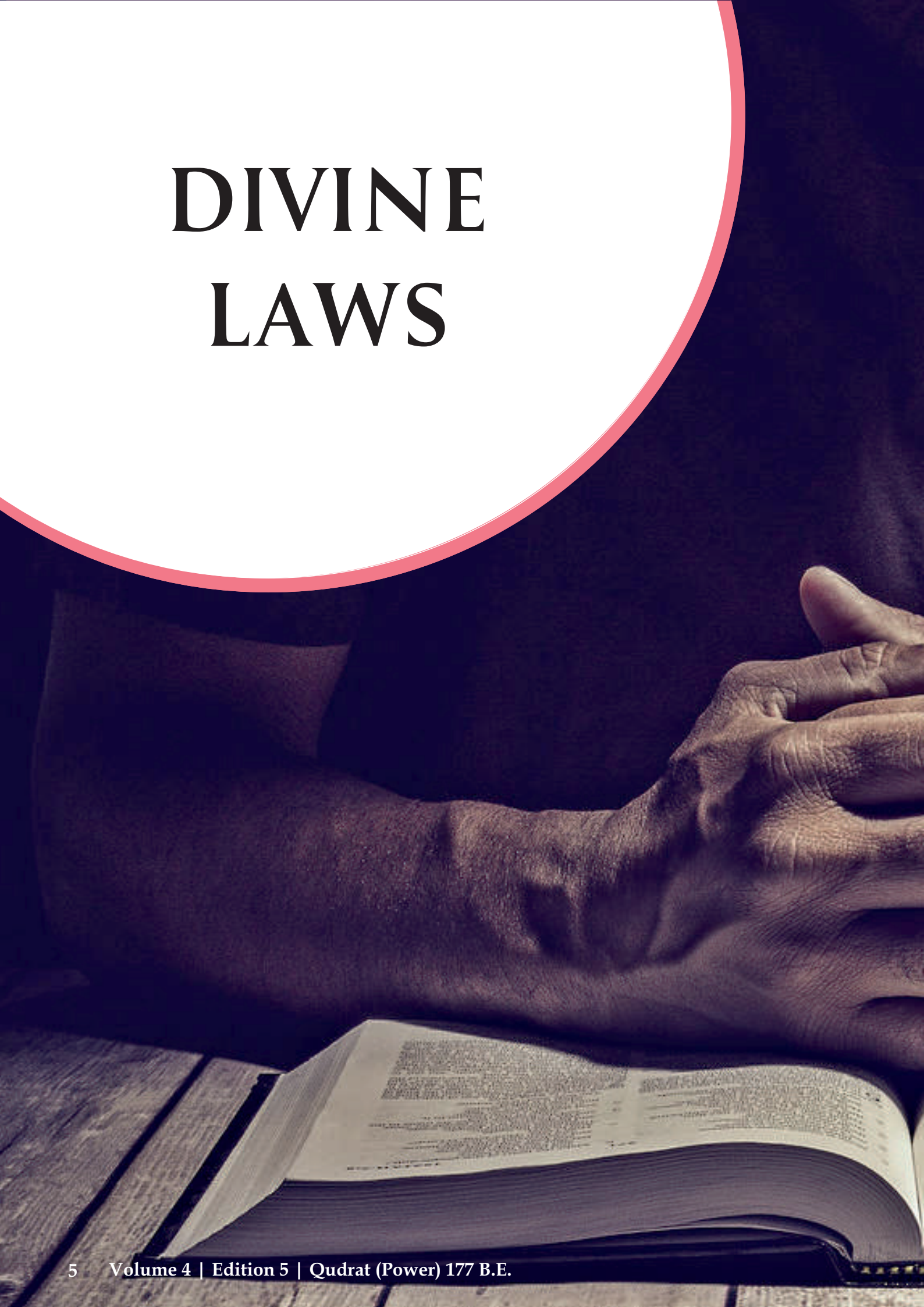
“The foundation of the 'Palace of Peace' is the consciousness of the oneness of mankind.”

With that, we would like to request you to share your thoughts about the Caravan by writing to us at [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org) and be sure to share this magazine with at least two people you know. This will lead to spread the message of Baha'u'llah. Keep sending your feedback/suggestions/queries regarding anything about the faith, and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Stay blessed,

The Free Baha'i Team

# DIVINE LAWS





In the name of Him who is the Ruler (al-hakim) over what was and what will be. Do not reckon that We have sent down the commandments to you but rather We have opened the seal of the sealed pure wine by the fingers of power and might. What was sent down from the Pen of Revelation (al-wahy) bears witness to that. Think thereon, O possessors of thoughts.

Worship (al-salat) has been ordained for you - nine prostrations (raka'at) to God Who has sent down the verses; when noon is past (al-zawal), in the morning (albukur) and in the late afternoon (al-asal). We have exempted ('afawna) (you) from the other number on account of a command in the Book of God. Indeed, He is the Powerful, the Choosing, the Commanding One. Whenever you desire to worship, turn your face towards My most holy direction (shatri), the Holy Station which God made the place of circumambulation for the angels (al-mala' al-a'la), and the direction for worship of the people of the cities of continuing eternity, and the source of command to all who are on the earths and in the heavens, and at the setting of the Sun of Reality and clear Explanation, the Resting-place (al-maqarr) which we have decreed for you. He is the Knower, the Strong One.

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



# MY VICTORY SONG

God's love sets me free.  
This is my victory song.  
His grace is sufficient for me.  
It is what keeps me strong.

For I'm no perfect man,  
And on my own cannot prevail.  
Sometimes doing the best I can,  
Even will seem to no avail.

Had my share of heartaches,  
Sometimes wondering to what end.  
Made my share of mistakes.  
Over this, I can't pretend.

The struggles may increase,  
But it's no cause for alarm.  
God's thoughts to me are of peace,  
To nurture and not to harm.



I forge on quite resolved.  
God's at work in me for the best.  
I am flawed but fiercely loved,  
And He is not finished yet.

God's perfect plan for me,  
I may not fully understand.  
But trusting, obeying, I'm grateful to be,  
Handled in His loving hand.

– Abimbola T. Alabi

# CORRESPONDENCE

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

### Part 4

By

Ruth White

March, 1932.

The third attitude toward the alleged will is the right one because it is following the course that Abdu'l Baha told us to take -- to reject any document or letters, purporting to be his, which grants any authority to anyone unless it is proved beyond the question of a doubt that they are his. Therefore, as not only did this alleged will grant Shoghi Effendi more potential authority than a king and pope combined but moreover the application of it nullifies the teachings of both

Baha'o'llah and Abdu'l Baha, all those who remain true to the Bahai Teachings must reject it as it has never been proved authentic but on contrary has already been shown to be spurious.

The papal group claimed that a successor or "Guardian" would keep the Bahais united. Far from this having proved true it has brought intense inharmony among the Bahais and chaos to the Cause. Their position is utterly unlogical.

That is why we have the astounding spectacle of this group promulgating any number of conflicting.

For instance, they purport to promulgate the principles of Baha'o'llah and of Abdu'l Baha, the foremost of which was to free all religions from sectarianism and at the same time they promulgate Shoghi's ideas of super-sectarian cult more dogmatic and narrower than any other in existence.

The attempt to pervert the Bahai Movement by subjecting it to Organization domination is a parallel to the corruption of primitive Christian by ecclesiasticism. Recently in trying





to ascertain on what authority Christianity was able to establish a papistry now light came to me on this matter. Christ said, after Peter had divined His station: "Blessed art thou, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in Heaven...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." The meaning of this verse seems to have wholly escaped Christians. Christ meant that Peter's inner guidance had revealed to him the station of Christ, and on this spiritual principle of innate knowledge would the church of Christ be built. Not on an outer church or organization confined to bricks and stones but on an inner Church founded on the right of freedom of conscience of every individual. The necessity of freedom of conscience in religion was emphasized by Baha'o'llah and Abdu'l Baha and they laid great stress on inner guidance which is another aspect of it.

But there is this satisfaction about the whole matter. The officials of the British Government took these steps in order to secure all the information possible from me and to keep this information on file for use in the future should the emergency arise, and through the data I have put at their disposal they are in a position at any time to take decisive action against Shoghi and his organization should he and his adherents ever become powerful. But they will not become powerful, as already shown his organization is rapidly decreasing in numbers, for no movement founded on fraud can succeed.

(Photostat copies of the four letters of the High Commissioner of Palestine and the two letters of Shoghi Effendi written through his secretary, have been placed on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.)

If the reader would like a more detailed history of this subject, the following books by the author, published by The TUTTLE COMPANY, RUTLAND, VERMONT are recommended:

The Bahai Religion and Its Enemy the Bahai Organization

The Alleged Will of Abdu'l Baha is Fraudulent (Pamphlet)

Abdu'l Baha and The Promised Age

Those who feel they cannot afford these books may obtain them at half price (except the pamphlet) by writing direct to the author:

Mrs. H. Lawrence White

102 White Building

Utica, New York.

(...The end...)

(Photostat copies of the four letters of the High Commissioner of Palestine and the two letters of Shoghi Effendi written through his secretary, have been placed on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.)

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# 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 evidence set forth by God can never be compared with the evidences produced by anyone of the peoples and kindreds of the earth; and beyond a shadow of doubt no evidence is set forth by God save through the One Who is appointed as His supreme Testimony. Moreover, the proof of revealed verses doth, alone and of itself, conclusively demonstrate the utter impotence of all created things on earth, for this is a proof which hath proceeded from God and shall endure until the Day of Resurrection.”

— The Bab

“The children of men are all brothers, and the prerequisites of brotherhood are manifold. Among them is that one should wish for one's brother that which one wisheth for oneself. Therefore, it behoveth him who is the recipient of an inward or outward gift or who partaketh of the bread of heaven to inform and invite his friends with the utmost love and kindness. If they respond favourably, his object is attained; otherwise he should leave them to themselves without contending with them or uttering a word that would cause the least sadness. This is the undoubted truth, and aught else is unworthy and unbecoming.”

— Baha'u'llah

"Strive with heart and soul in order to bring about union and harmony among the white and the black and prove thereby the unity of the Bahá'í world wherein distinction of color findeth no place, but where hearts only are considered. Praise be to God, the hearts of the friends are united and linked together, whether they be from the east or the west, from north or from south, whether they be German, French, Japanese, American, and whether they pertain to the white, the black, the red, the yellow or the brown race. Variations of color, of land and of race are of no importance in the Bahá'í Faith; on the contrary, Bahá'í unity overcometh them all and doeth away with all these fancies and imaginations.”

— Abdu'l Baha

# SHOGHI EFFENDI: LIFE HISTORY



## **Birth, early life and education:**

Shoghi Rabbani (Effendi) was born in Akká on the 1st of March 1897. He was a descendent of the Báb through his father, Mírzá Hádí Shírází, and of Baha'u'llah through his mother, Ziyá'iiyyih Khánum, who was the eldest daughter of Abdu'l-Bahá.

He was not particularly known to be close to his grandfather Abdu'l Baha in terms of character and behaviour. Not being interested in spiritual activities, he hardly, if ever, accompanied Abdu'l Baha in his religious activities.

For education, Shoghi was sent to The Oxford University in England and during the course of his studies he was known to show lacklustre interest in the curriculum. On the other hand, he gained a particular notoriety for enjoying the high life. Noting his particular disinterest in his very expensive education left many perplexed. When he was asked for the reason behind his lack of motivation he replied- "People study to earn their bread. Why should

one study while he already has his bread ready" (he expected to be anointed as the caretaker of Baha'i religion)

## **Marriage:**

Shoghi's marriage was fixed with his cousin Maryam, the daughter of Abdul Baha's son-in-law Mirza Jalal Shahid. However, developing cold feet Shoghi backed out and married Mary Maxwell.

His wife was the daughter of May Ellis Maxwell nee May Ellis Bolles. Mary never accepted the Last name of Shoghi Effendi till the very end maintained the Maxwell last name. She was later given the title of Ruhiyyih Khanum and Amatul Baha to make her persona more acceptable to the Baha'i communities in Asia and Africa.

## **Conversion of Funds for Private Use**

Ruth White: The subject converted funds to his own use. The Baha'i religion and its Enemy





the Baha'i Organization by Ruth White, the Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont 1929.

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

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

I discussed this with various members of the family of Abdu'l Baha, and one of the brothers-in-law said he would go to town and enquire about the matter. He returned and said there was no record of the check. When I returned to America, I asked the American Express Company to look up the receipt of the check I had sent through their office, and on the back

of it was the signature of the person who had received the cash. This person was Shoghi Rabbani [i.e. Shoghi Effendi].

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

For immediately after cashing the check he departed for Oxford, this despite the fact that

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

### **Shoghi Effendi: A world class philanderer**

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

Subhi had been an eyewitness on several counts to acts challenging common decency and on one particular occasion he states to have been challenged by the Shoghi Effendi to put his manhood to the test.

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

"One night I was with him (meaning Shoghi) and Doctor Zia Baghdadi who was the son of a famous Baha'i who practiced medicine in America and had come to visit Abdu'l-Baha in Haifa. We were hanging around in Acre and were fooling about humorously like teenagers. While we were conversing, I left the room to attend to some matters and when I returned, I observed that Doctor Zia had committed an unrighteous act... I was outraged and said: Doctor! What is this deed that you are doing?! Shoghi turned to me and said: "If you have manhood too then show it." I saw many similar acts and heard [similar] words from him many times and perceived that he must be lacking something."

Shoghi Effendi may be categorized "in the category of "hermaphrodites" in whom opposite qualities are embodied..." requiring surgical operation for adjustment.

Shoghi Effendi has "no feeling, attachment or devotion" for father, brother, sister, mother or friend. He issues orders which no sane man would give."

The Kashful-Hiyal (the Uncovering of Deceptions) by Abdul Husayn Ayati nicknamed Avarih, one-time chief Baha'i missionary says: "it is not possible to categorize him as either male or female! Neither possessing feminine kindness and charm nor having mannish wisdom and sobriety! There are attachments in these kinds of people which is hard to find out. I am not aware if you have heard of that physicians lays down a man and by some medical treatment changes him to a female and vice versa. ... I wish Shoghi had visited a physician in his youth and could be purified! That's why you don't see him having any attachment to his father or grief of his siblings; neither remembering his mother's pains to raise him nor recognizing his true friends!

He commands things that are not wise, and excuses that are far from rational. All this because of the same root problem. (Ref-Avarih's Kashf-al-Hiyal, Vol. II, 2nd impression, PP. 84-85 and P. 166; Vol., III 3rd impression, PP. 212-213)

"The command of Allah shall be executed" (a quote from Quran), forty days after Abdu'l baha died and the customary mourning period ended the days of joy began for Shoghi. Now anointed as the "Guardian" of the faith and with vast sums of money at his disposal happy times had arrived for Shoghi!

Shoghi, oh you don't know who Shoghi was!

Hundreds of students studying in Beirut with Shoghi were witness to the fact that he had no



inclination towards studies and his true passion lied in mollycoddling pretty boys and girls. Shoghi was known to spend time getting cozy with boys in dark corners of the dance floor. Ultimately, he failed in his studies and got infected with scabies which appeared on his hands forcing him to wear Chamois leather gloves and take medical treatment.

Shoghi and with that you knew who Shoghi was!

The guy who failed to get a diploma in Oxford as well as Beirut! The same Shoghi who when questioned by his classmate “why don't you pay attention to your studies?” replied: “what is studying all about? To find a piece of bread and mine is already prepared”.

And the same Shoghi who during his first and last speech in London, for an audience of 16, Miss Rosenberg stood up and said: beloved Shoghi, sit down! People have no desire to listen to you and they have fallen asleep!” This 70-year-old lady then proceeded to the lectern and spoke”. (Kashful Hiyal Vol 2 page 84-85 second edition)

Once someone saw Shoghi Effendi entering a private shower with the son of Mirza Baqir Shirazi, at the morning call to prayer (Azan) and followed them. There he witnessed what is difficult to describe. Upon confronting Shoghi he said: “The sense (eye) makes errors in sensing (seeing) and (what)you saw was an error”

### **The making of Shoghi Effendi**

It was after the death of Abdu'l Baha, that his Will was read initially only to few 'old and recognised Baha'is'. Later it was made public after a few years. In the alleged Will of Abdul Baha, Shoghi Effendi was anointed as the Guardian of the cause. The announcement of Shoghi as the Guardian came as a shock to

many Baha'is who doubted the veracity and authenticity of his appointment. This was because Abdu'l Baha never introduced Shoghi as his successor during his lifetime.

However, nobody dared to question the authenticity of the alleged Will, lest they be excommunicated, except for Lady Ruth White. Ruth White made exhaustive inquiries to ascertain the authenticity of the alleged Will, including getting its handwriting analysed by the foremost expert in forensics Dr. C.A Mitchell, who declared the document to be a forgery.

Pleading an alleged inability to administer the duties of his office and to recover from the shock caused by the death of Abdu'l Baha, Shoghi Effendi withdrew albeit temporarily from his responsibilities as a guardian and retired into solitude for an expensive swiss vacation for 8 months (using Baha'i funds) leaving the guardianship of Baha'i affairs in the hands of a few elder members of Abdul Baha's family, notionally naming with Baha'u'llah's daughter, the supreme leaf, as a titular head.

While Shoghi was away from public glare, grounds were being prepared for all Baha'is to accept him as the Guardian of the faith without question. Upon Shoghi's return to Haifa, he was declared publicly as the Guardian of the faith. He then took over the reins of the Baha'i administration, and demanded ready and explicit obedience from the servants of God, in default of which any servant of god was liable to excommunication or to summary expulsion from the faith under the flimsy pretext of disobedience. Shoghi Effendi brooked interference. His decisions were absolute and final and his words authoritative.

As the divinely-ordained guardian all faithful were decreed to obey him. Shoghi began to organise the religion into a controlled

administration in order to have a stronger grip over the Baha'is under his command. He decreed the establishment of spiritual assemblies who in turn worked for him. All activities undertaken by these assemblies worldwide were reported to Shoghi Effendi. At the same time, orders were dictated to Baha'is by Shoghi via the same channel of assemblies.

### **His Achievements of excommunicating**

After taking the post of guardianship, Shoghi soon began to misuse his power as the guardian of the faith. He began to excommunicate all those from his family who raised any form of objection or dissent against him. Shoghi systematically under various flimsy pretexts managed to excommunicate the entire family of Abdu'l Baha.

These included his sisters, brothers and cousins. He excommunicated Ruhi Effendi for travelling to America for the purpose of preaching, without seeking his permission. All of this shameless display of oppression was to ensure loyalty by fear. Since the holy family of Abdu'l Baha knew the fact that Shoghi was far removed from religion of Abdu'l Baha Shoghi found it imperative to remove them from the faith in order to clear all obstacles to his unchecked power.

### **The Death of Shoghi Effendi - The end of Guardianship**

As Shoghi was known as the mystery of God, even his death remains a mystery till date. Although there is a good amount of circumstantial evidence to show that his sudden death was in fact a murder and he was poisoned.

In the beginning of the year 1957 Shoghi Effendi's health was deteriorating and on the

advice of his doctors and his wife he agreed to go for medical treatment to England. Upon reaching London on 20th October 1957 they checked into a hotel rather than one of the many welcoming homes of the Bahais there. During this period of their stay in this hotel in London, it was reported that Shoghi Effendi was diagnosed with Influenza.

At the time the plan for the "10 years crusade" was being drawn with the consultation of John Ferraby (who was a 'hand of the cause of God' and the secretary of the NSA of England) and Hasan Balyuzi Afnan (who was a member of the NSA of England). At that moment the succession plan to Shoghi was not in place and it was unclear as to who will head the faith after him. Mary Maxwell who was present there and was aware of this fact kept tabs on the deteriorating health of Shoghi Effendi. She kept asking him if there was any pain in his body to which Shoghi replied in the negative. He kept saying that only his finger pained and he felt tired.

Mary Maxwell then proceeded to administer an unprescribed and undescribed medicine to him without the approval of his physician. That was the same night Shoghi suddenly died. Mary Maxwell then proceeded to cable the Bahais worldwide lying to them that the guardian is very sick when in fact she was the one who had already bumped him off. He was later buried at a cemetery in London.

Shoghi died childless and none from the Aghsan could ever succeed him. A philanderer with taste in men, who lived a lavish lifestyle at the cost of the money donated by the poor Bahais for his "cause", who disobeyed the teachings of his grandfather finally perished and is now resting in a poorly visited cemetery in London far-far away from the Holy Land.





**Victims of Shoghi Effend's dictatorship. Diyaiyyih (or Ziaiyyih) Khanum, Mirza Hadi Shirazi and Riaz Rabbani, the youngest brother of Shoghi Effendi**



SCAM

# SHOGHI EFFENDI : CHARITY FRAUD



# ALERT

Read on to find out how Shoghi Effendi converted charity funds to his personal use.

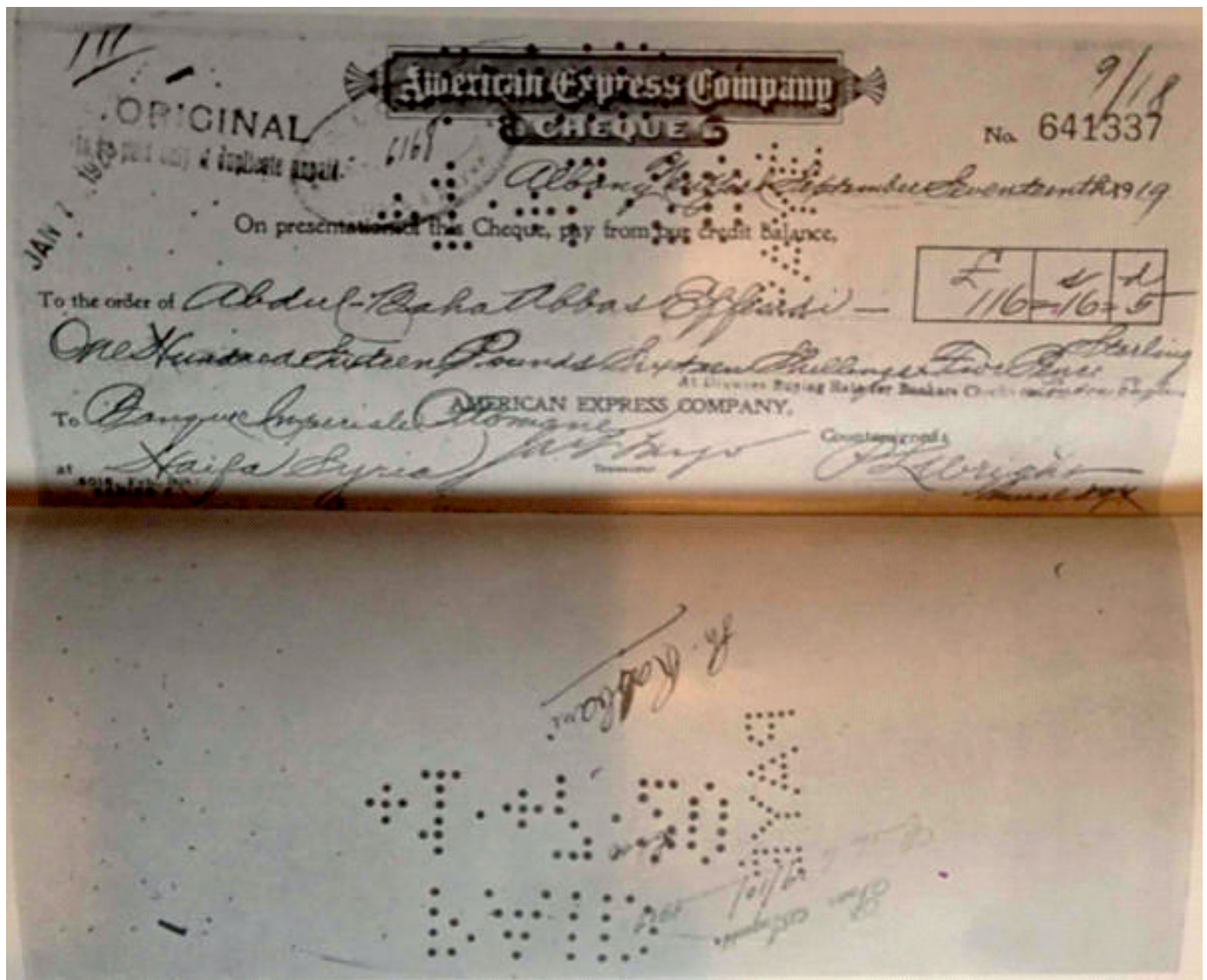
Resurfacing from 2017 from the Free Baha'i blog

As narrated by our first inspiration, Lady Ruth White in her book, "The Baha'i Religion and its Enemy The Baha'i Organization" – In the Autumn of 1919 I sent to Abdu'l Baha an American Express Company check of Five hundred dollars and asked him to apply it to some of the many charities he was dispensing.

About four months after we arrived in Haifa as the guests of Abdu'l Baha. On the day before departure I asked Abdu'l Baha if he had received the check. Without a moment's

hesitation and very emphatically he said that he had not received it. He repeated this a number of times, and seemed indignant that it had not been turned over to him.

I discussed this with various members of the family of Abdu'l Baha, and one of the brothers-in-law said he would go to town and enquire about the matter. He returned and said there were no record of the check. When I returned to America I asked the American Express Company to look up the receipt of the check I had sent through their office, and on the back of it was the signature of the person who had received the cash. This person was Shoghi Rabbani [i.e. Shoghi Effendi].



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

to go to Oxford University.

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

Do you really think Abdu'l Baha made a mistake in appointing Shoghi Effendi as the Guardian of the faith? Certainly not, rather His Will and Testament was tempered and Shoghi was never appointed as the Guardian of the faith.



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



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

Want to be a contributor for 'The Caravan'?

Interested in contributing to the Caravan Magazine by writing a guest article? Kindly send us your article at ['thecaravan@freeBahais.org'](mailto:thecaravan@freeBahais.org) and if we find your article unique, knowledgeable and interesting enough for our readers, we will surely publish it in our upcoming issue. If you have any other queries, you can write to us at ['info@freeBahais.org'](mailto:info@freeBahais.org)

Thank you!



# THE BAHAI RELIGION AND ITS ENEMY, THE BAHAI ORGANIZATION – PART 5

*(An extract from Lady Ruth White's book)*

(...continued)

## CHAPTER III

FOUR CHIEF LAWS OF BAHAI U'LLAH  
INVERTED BY SHOGHI EFFENDI – BY-  
LAWS OF THE BAHAI  
ORGANIZATION – FACTIONS – WORLD  
UNITY CONFERENCES AN INDIRECT  
ACTIVITY OF BAHAI ORGANIZATION – I  
REQUEST LEADERS OF BAHAI  
ORGANIZATION TO SEND FOR  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALLEGED WILL AND  
PROVE ITS AUTHENTICITY.

The followers of Baha'u'llah are cautioned many times that when they are in doubt about any point of his teachings, to study The Book – that is, his writings. Abdu'l Baha was never known to add entirely new laws to the teachings of Baha'u'llah. In any statement he made, he almost always referred the reader to

Baha'o'llah's teachings for verification. Yet after his death an alleged will is produced which makes new laws that change completely the Bahai teachings. These laws are not only contrary to everything that Baha'u'llah taught, but also contrary to Abdu'l Baha's own teachings.

The four chief laws that change completely the Bahai Religion are:

First, the appointment of a continual line of successors or popes for a thousand years, who are to control man's conscience.

Secondly, these successors are to be supreme dictators over the House of Justice.

This makes the state subject to the control of priest craft, and is wholly contrary to the Bahai principles, one of which was that the Houses of Justice were to be elected by universal



suffrage, and will constitute the future state.

Thirdly, the taxes that Baha'o'llah and Abdul said were to regulate the economic affairs of mankind and which were to be paid to the Houses of Justice, are to be paid to Shoghi Effendi.

Fourthly, there was to be no organization of the religion itself and no paid officials or priest craft. Yet despite this the Bahais, at the dictation of Shoghi Effendi, have incorporated the Bahai Religion, and are trying to control it through a more rigid and more bigoted priest craft than almost any other in existence. All this changes the Bahai Religion from a spiritual democracy, which Abdu'l Baha said it was, into a theocracy, which he said it was not. The following is part of the Declaration of Trust, and part of the By-Laws of the Bahai organization.

## DECLARATION OF TRUST

By the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada.

We, Allen B. McDaniel of Washington, D. C., Horace Holley of New York City, N. Y., Carl Schemer of Evanston, 111., Roy C. Wilhelm of West Englewood. N. J., Florence Morton of Worcester, Mass., Amelia Collins of Princeton, Mass., Ali-Kuli Khan of New York City, N. Y., Mountfort Mills of New York City, N. Y., and Siegfried Schopflocher of Montreal. Quebec. Canada, duly chosen by the representatives of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada at the Annual Meeting held at San Francisco, Calif., on April 29, April 30, May 1, and May 2., 1926, to be the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada, with full power to establish a Trust as hereinafter set forth, hereby declare that from this date the powers, responsibilities, rights, privileges and obligations re-posed in said National Spiritual

Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada by Baha'u'llah, Founder of the Baha'i Faith, by 'Abdu'l-Baha. Its Interpreter and Exemplar, and by Shoghi Effendi, its Guardian, shall be exercised, administered and carried on by the above-named National Spiritual Assembly and their duly qualified successors under this Declaration of Trust.

## ARTICLE II

... We declare the purposes and objects of this Trust to be to administer the affairs of the cause of Baha'o'llah for the benefit of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada according to the principles of Baha'i affiliation and administration created and established by Baha'u'llah, defined and explained by 'Abdu'l-Baha,' and amplified and applied by Shoghi Effendi and his duly constituted successor and successors under the provision of the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha.'

Other purposes and objects of this Trust are:

- b. To hold and be named as beneficiary under any trust established by law or otherwise or under any will or other testamentary instrument in connection with any gift, devise, or bequest in which a trust or trusts is or are established in any part of the world as well as in the United States and Canada; to receive gifts, devises or bequests of money or other property.
- c. All and whatsoever the several purposes and objects set forth in the written utterances of Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l- Baha' and Shoghi Effendi, under which certain jurisdiction, powers and rights are granted to National Spiritual Assemblies.

## ARTICLE IV

The Trustees, i.e., the National Spiritual Assembly, shall adopt for the conduct of the affairs entrusted to them under this Declaration of Trust, such by-laws, rules of procedure or regulations as are required to define and carry on its own administrative functions and those of the several local and other elements composing the body of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada, not inconsistent with the terms of this instrument and all in accordance with the explicit instructions given us to date by Shoghi Effendi, Guardian of the Cause of Baha'u'llah, which instructions are already known to the Baha'is of the United States and Canada and accepted by them in the government and practice of their religious affairs.

### BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

#### ARTICLE I

The National Spiritual Assembly, in the fulfilment of its sacred duties under this Trust, shall have exclusive jurisdiction and authority over all the activities and affairs of the Baha'i Cause throughout the United States and Canada, including paramount authority in the administration of this Trust. ... It shall be charged with the recognition of such local Assemblies, the scrutiny of local membership rolls, ... It shall appoint all national Baha'i committees and shall supervise the publication and distribution of Baha'i literature, the reviewing of all writings pertaining to the Baha'i Cause, the construction and administration of the Mashriqu'l Adhkar and its accessory activities, and the collection and disbursement of all funds for the carrying on of this Trust. It shall decide whether any matter lies within its own jurisdiction or within the jurisdiction of any local Spiritual

Assembly. It shall, in such cases as it considers suitable and necessary, entertain appeals from the decisions of local Spiritual Assemblies and shall have the right of final decision in all cases where the qualification of an individual or group for continued voting rights and membership in the Baha'i body is in question. It shall furthermore represent the Baha'is of the United States and Canada in all their cooperative and spiritual activities with the Baha'is of other lands, and shall constitute the sole electoral body of the United States and Canada in the formation of the Universal House of Justice provided for in the Sacred Writings of the Baha'i Cause ... In all its deliberation and action, the National Assembly shall have constantly before it as Divine guide and standard the utterance of Baha'u'llah;

"It behooveth them (i. e. Spiritual Assemblies) to be the trusted ones of the Merciful among men and to consider themselves as the guardians appointed of God for all that dwelt on earth. It is incumbent upon them to take counsel together and to have regard for the interests of the servants of God, for His sake, even as they regard their own interests, and to choose that which is meet and seemly."

#### ARTICLE II

The Baha'is of the United States and Canada, for whose benefit this Trust has been established, shall consist of all person's resident in the United States and Canada who are recognized by the National Spiritual Assembly as having fulfilled the requirements of voting membership in a local Baha'i community. To become a voting member of a Baha'i community a person shall a. Be a resident of the locality defined by the area of jurisdiction of the local Spiritual Assembly, as provided by Article VII, Section 12, of this instrument.



b. Have attained the age of 21 years.

c. Have established to the satisfaction of the local Spiritual Assembly, subject to the approval of the National Assembly, that he possesses the qualifications of Baha'i faith and practice required under the following standards: Full recognition of the station of the Forerunner (the Bab), the Author (Baha'u'llah and 'Abdul- Baha, the True Exemplar of the Baha'i Cause, unreserved acceptance of, and submission to, whatsoever has been revealed by their Pen; loyal and steadfast adherence to even, clause of Abdul-Baha's sacred Will; and close association with the spirit as well as the form of present-day Bahai administration throughout the world.

To be continued...



# MY DECLARATION TO THE FREE BAHA'IS



Allah-u-Abha my dear friends,

I had deemed you'll covenant breakers and used to ignore your newsletters which I had subscribed long back thinking that you'll are Baha'is. However, after going through your magazines and seeing your faith and belief I am sure that you'll are true believers in the covenant of Baha'u'llah.

Also, per our previous correspondence, I have gone ahead and read the books which you'll had sent me. After reading those books, I am now getting an understanding about the hypocrisy of Shoghi Effendi.

I declare my faith the Free Baha'i Faith and submit to its teaching.

Below are some points which I have taken out from the books available which you'll had sent and it made me understand that Shoghi

Effendi was not someone from the side of God. He was merely a selfish human being:

## **1. Shoghi Effendi was happy with the killing of Baha'is:**

Page 528 of book 'The Messiah of Shiraz' by Denis Martin MacEoin states:

Writing in August 1955 to the American Baha'is, Shoghi Effendi, having described the recent persecutions in Iran and the appeals made to the United Nations to intervene there, goes on to say that 'seldom, if at any time since its inception, has such a widespread publicity been accorded the infant Faith of God, now at long last emerging from an obscurity which has so long and so grievously oppressed it. . . . To the intensification of such a publicity . . . the American Baha'i Community . . . must fully and decisively contribute'.





In the following year, referring again to the Iranian persecution, he speaks of the provision of funds for the hire of 'an expert publicity agent, in order to reinforce the publicity already being received in the public press'.

## **2. Similar approach by UHJ:**

The same approach can be observed some thirty years later. In a letter written in January 1982, the Baha'i 'Universal House of Justice' notes that 'current persecution has resulted in bringing the name and character of our beloved Faith to the attention of the world as never before in its history. . . . The world's leading newspapers, followed by the local press, have presented sympathetic accounts of the Faith to millions of readers, while television and radio stations are increasingly

making the persecutions in Iran the subject of their programmes', while some months later, the same body states that 'the effect of these developments (i.e. the persecutions in Iran) is to offer such golden opportunities for teaching and further proclamation as can only lead, if vigorously and enthusiastically seized, to large scale conversion and an increasing prestige'. That such methods have not, to the knowledge of the present writer, evoked protests within the Baha'i community, is an important indication of how far the goals of publicity and conversion have now taken precedence over earlier ideals.

**3. Shoghi Effendi excommunicated almost every member of Baha'u'llah's family for his selfish motives. And for reasons which were extremely kiddish.**

#### **4. Shoghi Effendi's hunger for money:**

Under all circumstances Abdu'l Baha refused to accept money for himself or the cause he represented. When the Baha'is of this country (USA) received word of his intended visit, the sum of eighteen thousand dollars was subscribed toward the expense of his journey. He was notified of this action and a part of the money forwarded to him by cable. He cabled in answer that the funds contributed by his friends could not be accepted, returned the money and instructed them to give their offering to the poor. – Refer to A FRAUDULENT TESTAMENT By Hermann Zimmer.

In the Shoghi Era, money played a much greater role. The entire relations were turned upside down from the time of Abdu'l Baha. Shoghi had certainly made many greater trips than Abdu'l Baha, yet he never stood with his followers and always played the mysterious stranger.

But in reference to money we are acquainted with his very important sayings: "It is the sacred obligation of every conscientious and faithful servant of Baha'u'llah, who desires to see His Cause advance, to contribute freely and generously for the increase of that Fund." (Shoghi Effendi, Baha'i Administration, p. 41 f.)

"The supply of funds, in support of the National Treasury, constitutes, at the present time, the life-blood of those nascent Institutions which you are laboring to erect... I am eagerly and prayerfully awaiting the news of an unprecedented expansion in so vital an organ of the administrative Order of the Faith." (Shoghi Effendi, Messages to America, 1947, p. 5)

#### **5. The ethics and manners of Shoghi Effendi:**

When Thornton Chase, editor of the excellent

book *The Baha'i Revelation*, visited Abdu'l Baha in Akka in April 1907; thus, still before the Revolution of the Young Turks, he reported later about it, "He (Abdu'l Baha) extends love to everyone; he draws near to them: he invites them; he loves to serve them, even in little things. He demands no awe, no reverence, no separation ... no bar or restraint is there, but winsome love and attraction." (Thornton Chase, *In Galilee*, 1921, p. 30)

The minister of Community Church, New York, Dr. G. Haynes Holmes wrote about his meeting with Abdu'l Baha, "I had previously met Abdu'l Baha on the occasion of his visit to this country, had sat close to him, taken his hand, and conversed with him in most informal and friendly fashion."

The same pastor reports about his meeting with Shoghi Effendi, "I remember my astonishment when I was taken in the reception room, placed in the corner farthest removed from the door. Instructed that I must rise when Shoghi Effendi entered, and must under no circumstances approach his person. .. And here in Haifa I had to keep my distance, as though I were in the presence of some king or pope." (Sohrab, *Grandson*, 1943, p. 15f.)

#### **6. Shoghi's interest in politics:**

Let them willingly subject themselves to every just king, and to every generous ruler be good citizens. Let them obey the government and not meddle in political affairs but devote themselves to the betterment of character and behaviour and fix their gaze upon the Light of the world. – Abdu'l Baha, *Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha*, p. 318.

The above is the saying of Abdu'l Baha and his wife confesses the truth below -

*The Priceless Pearl* (London 1969) by Ruhiyyih Khanum:



"The Guardian was always keenly interested in political matters..." (p.33).

"Shoghi Effendi had the qualities of true statesmanship" (p.350).

"The Faith grew with us into something vastly different from what had existed before" (p. 437).

"Shoghi Effendi said the Cause of God would ... become a state religion and eventually the Baha'i state itself would emerge ..." (p. 440)

## **7. Finally if the Guardian Shoghi Effendi was truthful then why did he refuse to give the copy of Will and Testament to Mrs. White?**

Page 10 of 'A FRAUDULENT TESTAMENT' by Hermann Zimmer states:

On March 19, 1930 a letter was received by Shoghi from Mrs. White requesting the original document of the alleged last will of Abdu'l Baha for analysis by a handwriting expert who was familiar with Persian script. The receipt of the letter was acknowledged by Shoghi's secretary however a reply never came.

## **8. I can understand the infallibility of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha however infallibility of Shoghi is really strange for me because I have met many UHJ members and even they confirmed that Guardian is divinely inspired but he is still prone to errors as he is not infallible.**

I was shocked to read the below:

"Therefore, we might believe that he (the Guardian) will never err in the fulfilment of his functions and responsibilities in reference to the belief and can never err. Divine leadership means this, namely, to be endowed by God with Infallibility..." from Ruhiyyih Khanum.

## **9. Hypocrisy of Shoghi Effendi:**

There were three reasons for excommunicating Ruhi Effendi (Shoghi's cousin and his secretary).

Reason 1: Ruhi's sister married covenant breaker Fayzi.

Reason 2: Ruhi's marriage.

Reason 3: Ruhi failed to obtain guardian's permission for second visit to America.

Shoghi Effendi may have forgotten that he himself went for further studies to Oxford even after Abdu'l Baha said no. – For this instance, refer to book 'Abdu'l Baha's Grandson - Ruhi Effendi Afnan' by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab – 1943.

So, after reading all this I became certain that there is something wrong in the leadership of Shoghi. It made me believe that the actual belief in Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha is the only correct belief as after their death all problems and divisions started.

I now completely submit and declare my devotion to the Free Baha'i Faith.

Regards,

**Mr. R Petersen**



# WHY SHOGHI EFFENDI CANNOT BE THE LEGITIMATE GUARDIAN OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

It is now a well-known and widely accepted fact that Shoghi Effendi acquired the position of Guardianship solely based on the forged Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha and by no

other official introductions or prior appointments. The strongest evidence of the will of Abdu'l Baha (as released by Shoghi Effendi) comes from the then leading forensics expert Dr. Ainsworth Mitchel who's forte as the lead consultant for the Scotland Yard providing expert witness on issues of the written word and handwriting. He has said as part of his investigation into the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha that the document provided is a forgery. This report is widely published on the internet.

Apart from this expert opinion let us take a critical look at the supposed guardianship of Shoghi Effendi from other perspectives.

1. After the ascension of Baha'u'llah, Abdu'l Baha was widely accepted as His successor since the community at large understood Abdu'l Baha would succeed Baha'u'llah as he had in the past been introduced by Baha'u'llah as such. However, in the case of Shoghi Effendi, The Master never once in His lifetime even made a passing about Shoghi Effendi succeeding Him.

2. Quoting ad-verbatim from the alleged Will and Testament of the Master (based on whose statements Shoghi Effendi was installed as guardian), "O ye beloved of the Lord! It is incumbent upon the Guardian of the Cause of God to appoint in his own lifetime him that shall become his successor, that differences may not arise after his passing. He that is appointed must manifest in himself detachment from all worldly things, must be





the essence of purity, must show in himself the fear of God, knowledge, wisdom and learning. Thus, should the first-born of the Guardian of the Cause of God not manifest in himself the truth of the words: — “The child is the secret essence of its sire,” that is, should he not inherit of the spiritual within him (the Guardian of the Cause of God) . Firstly, if Shoghi Effendi was appointed guardian by Abdu'l Baha in this will and testament then

henceforth all instructions should be to Shoghi Effendi by direct address (second person) and not the ambiguous “Guardian of the cause of God” since all ambiguity ends with the appointment of Shoghi Effendi. Secondly, by dying childless Shoghi Effendi has shown that he was not the true guardian since if he would have been the true guardian of the cause of God then he would have been blessed with a lineage which would have

succeeded him in being guardians of the Cause of God.

3. Again, quoting ad-verbatim from the alleged Will and Testament of the Master: ...and his glorious lineage not be matched with a goodly character, then must he, (the Guardian of the Cause of God) choose another branch to succeed him. Abdu'l Baha has clearly instructed that in the unfortunate event of a suitable successor not being available from the direct lineage of the Guardian i.e. Aghsan, the Guardian should select a successor from the Afnan. One can only wonder why this very clear instruction of Abdu'l Baha were not followed.

4. The Alleged Will and Testament also specifically instructed the Guardian to establish the Universal House of Justice and commanded him (the Guardian) to be the chair- person after its establishment. Again, defying the commandments of the Master Shoghi Effendi chose to rule the Baha'i faith as dictator without opting for any consultation. Although his period of tyranny lasted for 35 years the Universal House of Justice was not formed.

5. Baha'u'llah says in Kitab-i-Aqdas that "Unto everyone hath been enjoined the writing of a will." (Aqdas #109). Shoghi Effendi not only wilfully disobeyed Abdu'l Baha but also chose to sidestep divine law by not writing a will and leaving the affairs of the Bahais in disarray after his death.

6. Shoghi Effendi, when younger, used to routinely disobey his Grandfather (Abdu'l Baha). After failing in his college at the age of twenty-four (on account of his wayward

activities), Shoghi Effendi chose to enrol himself at the Oxford University. This was despite the objections made by the Master. The Lady Ruth White has noted the following in her book (Reference: Ruth White, Abdu'l Baha's Questioned Will and Testament, p 29) regarding this unfortunate event. "In the autumn of 1919. Despite the objections of Abdu'l Baha he went. This act demonstrates that Shoghi Effendi had little consideration for the wishes of his grandfather, who was then seventy-four years of age. It also shows that he was lacking in the spiritual attributes which would have enabled him to know that it was of far more value to be with Abdu'l Baha, both spiritually and mentally, during the last two years of his life,"

7. As per Baha'i teachings, there is to be no clergy or supreme leader / unquestioned commander in the Baha'i faith. But Shoghi Effendi managed or rather ruled the faith as his personal fiefdom. Much akin to a tyrant Pope or a crazy Mollah, he excommunicated the entire family of Abdu'l Baha on frivolous pretexts, like travelling abroad without informing him or for marrying without his permission or even for attending Baha'i gatherings without informing him. While none of these innocent family members of Abdu'l Baha broke Covenant, what they did break was the ginormous ego of this tyrant "Guardian" which resulted in their excommunication. The true reason for these excommunications was Shoghi Effendis insecurity about his fragile position and his paranoia which afforded no challengers or questioners to his unchecked authority.

Seeing the above and applying it to an everyday person we might hesitate to even call such a person as a Baha'i, let alone as the "Guardian of the cause of God". We must keep in mind that Abdu'l Baha has said "if a person is to live his life treading on the



principles of the Baha'i faith without overtly declaring himself as Baha'i, he has in fact lived as Baha'i. And if a person calls himself a Baha'i all his life and has not obeyed or followed the principles of the Baha'i faith then he is not a Baha'i."

Assuming for a moment, for the sake of a healthy argument, that the will and testament of Abdu'l Baha is not forged, can anyone today justify the disobedience of Shoghi Effendi with regards to the direct commandments of Abdu'l Baha made in the said will. Did Shoghi Effendi live the life of a model Baha'i or did he choose to deliberately disobey the instructions and commandments of Abdu'l Baha and Baha'u'llah?

A little "Independent Investigation of Truth" would very easily reveal the truth.



# BLAST FROM THE PAST



## THE PROPHET OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

ABDUL BAHA, *the Servant of God* (1844-1921) was one of the outstanding figures of the East and his ideals of World Peace captured the attention of Europe and America. After 60 years of exile, he travelled in 1908 throughout Egypt, Switzerland, England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the United States and Canada and called on these nations to arise and band together so as to abolish war from the face of the earth.

Those who prayed for the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth saw in Abdul Baha one who dwelt in that kingdom consciously, creating all the while an environment which pulsated with the serenity that passes ordinary understanding.

Heeding the Supreme Voice sounding within, he conveyed to those who came in contact with him the sense of Peace. He inspired them so completely with that imminence that they were impelled to follow the truth and became assured of that indwelling Peace and of its final enthronement in the external world.

Abdul Baha's vast love for humanity compelled others to love their fellows. By virtue of the light borne in him, he led men gently toward the Path of Peace.

May, in this day of ours, *that light* shine the brighter and the *Path of Peace* become the King's Highway on which all men may walk in a New Fellowship!

(Reference: New History Magazine, Volume I, Number 1, October 1931)

# KNOW YOUR HERITAGE

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## England & Wales deaths 1837-2007 Transcription

First name(s)	SHOGHI E
Last name	RABBANI
Gender	Unknown
Birth day	-
Birth month	-
Birth year	1896
Age	61
Death quarter	4
Death year	1957
District	Marylebone
County	London
Volume	5D
Page	350
Country	England
Record set	England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007
Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Subcategory	Civil Deaths & Burials
Collections from	Great Britain, England

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URL of this page: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=bmd%2fd%2az%2f000985%2f011>

## Shoghi's death certificate as shared by a friend in Singapore

As can be noticed, the gender of Shoghi Effendi in the certificate has been mentioned as “UNKNOWN”. Looks like the talks going around of him being a eunuch/gay was correct. The person who has shared this has claimed that he has more such eye-opening documents which he would share at appropriate timings. We are eagerly looking forward to it.



# FREE BAHAI ACTIVITIES

*"Indeed all are but paupers in the face of Thy tender mercy, and lowly servants before the tokens of Thy loving-kindness. I beg of Thee, by Thy bounty, O my God, and by the outpourings of Thy mercy and bestowals, O my Lord, and by the evidence of Thy heavenly favours and grace, O my Best-Beloved, to watch over Him Whom God shall make manifest that no trace of despondency may ever touch Him."*  
(Selections from the Writings of the Bab)

Dear faithful,

Allah'u'Abha!

Let us congratulate you on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of the Bab, born on 20th October 1819. A humble and nobleman from a merchant family who lost his father in early childhood, then groomed and nurtured by his uncle. He attended the Sheikhi theology school for his preliminary studies, learnt reading and writing from Sheikh Abid, whom he respected a lot and even mentioned about him in his writings. He introduced the Babi religion, declared the arrival of the "He Whom God Shall Manifest" and short-lived after his declaration, but stood firm on his faith till his execution. We the Team Free Baha'is send our salutations to the spirit and dedication of the Bab and seek God's help to walk on his path, the path of veracity.

The current issue of The Caravan is a Shoghi Effendi Special Edition, being released on his

death anniversary. Our aim is not to devalue any personality, but to bring about the truth to the faithful in the face of articles. There were a lot of articles that were discarded by the Editorial Board keeping in mind the tonality. We could only shortlist a few good ones which also had proper references hoping our readers would like it. It is the matter of one's faith and everyone has the right to know the truth. 'Independent investigation of truth' is one of the principles of our faith.

It is now crystal clear for all Baha'is that the Will and Testament of the Master was forged, those who deny it and believe in the Guardianship of Shoghi Effendi, in our opinion are saying that because they want to protect their own chair. As the mechanism of controlling the Baha'is was introduced by Shoghi Effendi, he was the one to introduce NSA, LSA, etc. Later, following his footsteps, the UHJ introduced the concepts of ABMs, Councillors, RBC, ITC, etc. Can the UHJ show us where in the Holy Scriptures are these terms used anywhere?

Regarding the key activities to highlight, the Singaporean Baha'i community has informed that they have completed reading the Tablets of Abdu'l Baha with new friends and initiated another book, Hidden Word with them. The friends from Azerbaijan have completed their blog which will now be linked onto the Official Free Baha'is website. Presently they are translating some useful material in the

Azari language to reach out to the wider community. We wish them success in their work. Last month we had organized a webinar with a lot of friends, it was hosted by the Canadian Baha'i community. It was indeed a pleasure to connect with the Baha'i community worldwide. Some friends couldn't join due to timing and connectivity issues, but the majority of the community was present. Thanks to all those who joined and special thanks to all our respected speakers. For those who missed, our team had made a note of the key points that were discussed, find them below.

1. How to spread the teachings of Baha'u'llah to make the world a better place, where love peace and harmony will be flourished. Our aim is not to convert masses, but just let the world get the holy message of Baha'u'llah

2. Huquq'ullah - As it is an important part of the faith, it should be spent for underprivileged and towards the upliftment of the society. It should be given to the needy, and to spend it, you don't require permission from any administrative body, as it is not mentioned in any of the Baha'i scripture. Even

the Master used to distribute his share of Huquq'ullah to the poor near the Mosque where he used to go for his prayers

3. To have The Caravan, special issue on Shoghi Effendi, where friends would share their findings and provide articles about Shoghi and his Guardianship

4. As requested by the African Baha'i community for travel teachers, everyone agreed that it is not possible as of now, but it will be addressed soon.

5. Everyone agreed that it's the need of the time to have a registered Free Baha'i Publishing trust since there are multiple books lined up that are scheduled to be launched in the next year.

In the end, we would like to thank the worldwide community of the Free Baha'i for their special services to mankind. Keep up the good work, may Baha'u'llah bless you with his grace.

Warmest Baha'i regards,  
Free Baha'i Team





# SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Email 1:

Hello and Allahuabha,

Why do you people not believe in Shoghi Effendi and also in the UHJ? Infact the UHJ as a system that was introduced by Baha'u'llah and even Abdu'l Baha spoke bout it?

Cheers,

Jon

**Answer:**

Hi Jon,

Allah'u'Abha! Thanks for writing to us with your query.

Firstly, the Free Baha'is do not believe in Shoghi Effendi to be the rightful guardian as in his entire life span, the Master neither groomed nor declared him as his successor. His appointment as the successor was forged by his mother, after the death of The Master Abdu'l Baha. Free Baha'is believe that the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha is genuine, except the part of Shoghi Effendi where he has been declared as the Guardian of the faith.

If you read about the life of Abdu'l Baha, you will understand how he used to closely be



with Baha'u'llah up to the extent that he was trained by Baha'u'llah. Refer the book Baha'u'llah and the New Era, page 54 (1923 Edition), the author has mentioned that Abdu'l Baha used to help Baha'u'llah in answering questions of the visitors while in his youthful age of 15-16 yrs. If a man wishes to know God, he must find Him in the perfect mirror in the face of Baha'u'llah or Abdu'l Baha. In either of these mirrors he will see reflected the Sun of Divinity.

Regarding your query about the UHJ, the Free Baha'is certainly believe in the concept of Universal House of Justice, but not the current established Universal House of Justice, whose members are appointed and not elected. Free Baha'is believe in the true Universal House of Justice which will be established only when the Baha'is are free from the shackles of administration.

Abdu'l Baha has said, "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." (Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

Baha'u'llah says, "Deliver your souls, O people, from the bondage of self, and purify them from all attachment to anything besides Me."

When we go through the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master, we understand how the current form of UHJ is not in alignment with the Baha'i principles and teachings, and hence we do not believe in it.

Do write back if you have any more questions.

Thanks,

**Team Free Baha'i**



## Email 2:

What is wrong with Aqdas being translated by the UHJ? Is it that the translation work of Aqdas was initiated by Mr. Shoghi and later completed by the UHJ? But at the end it is a book of Baha'u'llah so what's wrong with the translation? Do you not recommend reading the translation done by the UHJ?

### Answer:

Alla'u'Abha Sophie,

Thank you for writing to us. We are glad to know about your interest in the Kitab-i-Aqdas. It is highly unfortunate that the Baha'is today are more inclined towards other books but not the original books of Baha'u'llah. Even after thousands of years, the Christians and the Muslims stay strong towards holding their original scriptures and for them it is a proud moment, but not for the Baha'is as we keep everything else close to our hearts, except the authentic teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Now coming to your question, yes, we do not recommend, in fact highly discourage people to refer the adulterated version of the Holy Book of Baha'u'llah in which things are interpreted to influence and promote the personal opinions of the UHJ.

It was clearly mentioned by Baha'u'llah that only Abdu'l Baha had the right to interpret his teachings. And we found not a single message from the Master which instructed anyone to interpret or say explain the words of Kitab-i-Aqdas, as per their personal understanding. Translation is one thing, which is allowed because with that you are spreading the message of Baha'u'llah, but along with the translation, if you are aiming at interpreting the words and adding explanation, then that

is something which is perilous for the Cause.

Abdu'l Baha has said, "One of the enemies of the Cause is he who endeavors to interpret the words of Baha'u'llah and thereby colors the meaning according to his capacity, and collects around him a following, forming a different sect, promoting his own station, and making a division in the Cause."

This is something that happened with past religions, as some of the popes and the mullahs interpret the words of God in order to deceive the common people and deviate them from the actual message of God for their personal benefits. Hope that answers the question.

Do let us know if you have any other question, and we will be more than happy to help.

Have a great day ahead!

Regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**



### Email 3:

As a Free Baha'i, are we allowed to go to a Church? If yes, why do we need a Baha'i temple if we can go to others house of worship?

#### **Answer:**

Hi Kim,

Allah'u'Abha! Thanks for your email.

That's a wonderful question and we would like to guide you on that bit seeking help from the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Let us quote here an extract from one of the sayings of the Master:

“All must abandon prejudices and must even go to each other's churches and mosques for in all these places God is worshipped....”

(Baha'u'llah and the New Era, pg. 119.)

So, the above extract clearly instructs that it is allowed, or we must say, encouraged by Abdu'l Baha to go to the places of worship of other religion. We have also stated this fact in our previous versions of The Caravan wherein we had shown how Abdu'l Baha went to the Mosques every Friday and while retuning used to give away alms to the poor kids standing outside the mosque. Hope that answers the first part of your question.

Moving on to the second part, allowing or encouraging visitation to other's houses of worship doesn't mean we shouldn't build or have our own house of worship. However, we would encourage our friends to be more focussed towards building a holistic society wherein we are concerned about the betterment of the humanity as a whole and not just focused on the Baha'i community.

Hope that answers your question. In case you

need any further clarification or have any other questions, do write back to us and we will be more than happy to help.

Have a great day!

Regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**





#### Email 4:

What must be the role of a Bahai who is living in a country where there is persecution? Am referring to the Muslim countries where to be a Bahai is a crime. I have never seen your team take any stand against the persecution happening on the Bahais in those countries, aren't you supposed to talk about it in your magazine to spread awareness?

#### Answer:

Hi,

Allah'u'Abha! Thanks for writing to us.

We feel it is certainly unfair to say that Team Free Baha'is have never taken a stand against the persecution happening on the Baha'is as we have been the most oppressed community on the face of this earth and we are trying to uncover the face of our enemies who apparently are standing in the cloak of righteous people. The persecution that is happening on some of the Baha'is today is because they are going against the law of that country.

*"In every country where any of this people reside, they must behave towards the government of that country with loyalty, honesty and truthfulness."*—Tablets of Baha'u'llah, Glad Tidings.

There are some countries wherein the government has strictly ordered the Baha'is to stop religious propagation, in spite of that the Administration has been continuously pushing the Baha'is to keep on with their propagation activities, to the level that one is going against the government. Maybe the Administration is keen on more Baha'is getting persecuted, however only they can tell

us what their intents are.

The Administration, since its inception has always been under the limelight for all its oppressive activities, be it excommunicating the people who were working hard for the Cause, or never taking any solid stand for the rights of the people of the Cause. The Administration has always been the biggest hypocrites you would ever come across, be it any religious groups anywhere in the world. They are only concerned for their own benefits and work like any other organisation where the motive is monetary benefits. If that's not the case, then what exactly do you know about the works of the Spiritual Assemblies? As per the Master, as mentioned in the book Baha'u'llah and the New Era (1927 Edition), the duties highlighted of the Spiritual Assembly is helping the poor, both Baha'is and Non-Baha'is, making arrangements for child education, etc. Where in the world do we see the Assemblies taking care of the poor and needy? Are they in any way involved in sponsoring a child's education? On the other hand, we see the Administration involved in sponsoring trips of NSA members from around the world to Haifa or are busy building Mashriqu'l Adhkar i.e. Houses of Worship in different countries. Recently we saw new images surfacing the internet wherein India is getting its second House of Worship which is hardly 650 miles away from the already existing one. Isn't it hypocrisy that you claim to be the followers of Baha'u'llah and are working against his teachings? In these hard times, do you think a country like India would have required another temple amongst 10 million other temples? How differently are the Baha'is working than the Hindus of India, if they both are working on



the same lines? What is the use of the teachings of Baha'u'llah if you are just going with the flow and doing exactly what the other religions are doing?

We would like to leave you with this thought, hope you're enlightened with the response. If you have any other question, do let us know.

Have a great day!

Regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**



# INVESTIGATION OF REALITY

“God has given man the eye of investigation by which he may see and recognize truth. He has endowed man with ears that he may hear the message of reality and conferred upon him the gift of reason by which he may discover things for himself. This is his endowment and equipment for the investigation of reality. Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain... Therefore, depend upon your own reason and judgment and adhere to the outcome of your own investigation; otherwise, you will be utterly submerged in the sea of ignorance and deprived of all the bounties of God.”

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



# DECLARATIONS

We the Free Baha'is do not believe in declarations. We believe in spreading the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and don't work for numbers. A Free Baha'i should purify himself from greed of attaining positions, and start working out of love for humanity and world peace.

Our Master has clearly stated,

"There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not appointed any one to perform any special services, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is purely a democracy, and not a theocracy."

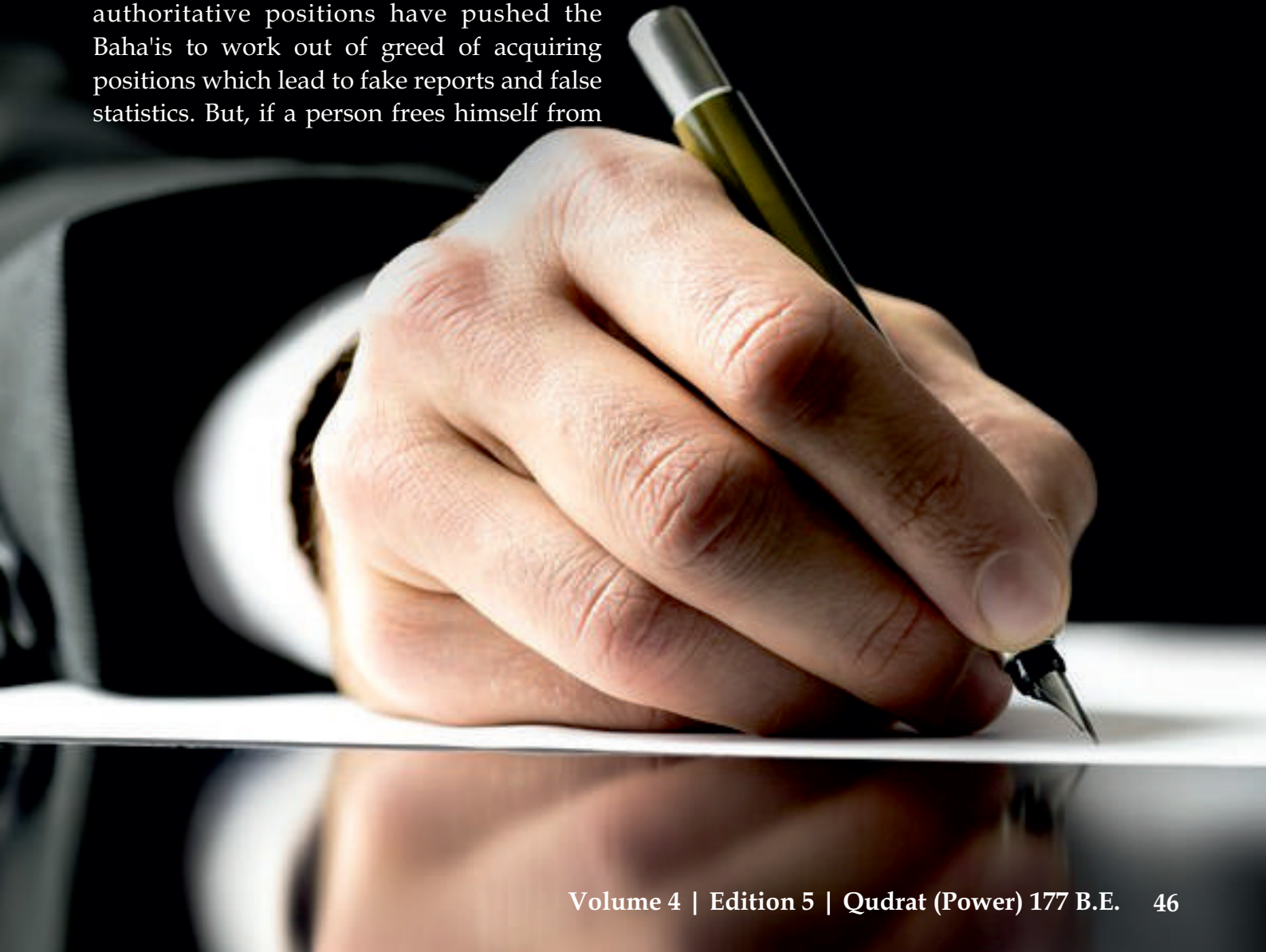
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have pushed the Baha'is to work out of greed of acquiring positions which lead to fake reports and false statistics. But, if a person frees himself from

administration, he will fulfil his duties towards Baha'u'llah and not for NSA or UHJ. Thus, he will be rewarded by Baha'u'llah for his efforts. For this reason, Free Baha'is do not believe in Officers or Office Bearers and one must be the Guardian of his own faith and action.

So, anyone who would wish to work for the faith should follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, serve the faith and promote world peace and harmony.

Why do you think the Baha'i Faith got split into various groups after the passing away of the Master? Don't you think the rule of the so-called guardian Shoghi Effendi and his Administration has played a very crucial role in the division and disunity of the Baha'is?





# DID YOU KNOW ?

In spite of failing in his college course at the age of twenty-four, Shoghi Effendi wanted to go to the Oxford University. And that too despite the objections made by the Master. Let us read what Lady Ruth White has brought in her book regarding this event.

"I also wish to give a few highlights on Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of Abdu'l Baha, who is now his alleged successor. He had failed in his college course at the age of twenty-four, and he wished to go to Oxford University, in the autumn of 1919. Despite the objections of Abdu'l Baha he went. This act demonstrates that Shoghi Effendi had little consideration for the wishes of his grandfather, who was then seventy-four years of age. It also shows that he was lacking in the spiritual attributes which would have enabled him to know that it was of far more value to be with Abdu'l Baha, both spiritually and mentally, during the last two years of his life, than any amount of academic training could possibly be. For these last two years were filled with intense activities, and spiritual confirmations, as it was just after the first world war, and the war had made people hungry for spiritual enlightenment. As a result, there flocked to the home of Abdu'l Baha a steady stream of



pilgrims from all over the earth - the poor, the wealthy, the distinguished, and frightened refugees. They came by camel, train, auto, boat, and on foot to imbibe the spiritual wisdom of Abdu'l Baha, and each day there dined at his table about forty pilgrims. This personal contact which we were privileged to have was of tremendous importance, not only because of what he said, but because of the emanation of his spirit, which transported those who were receptive into kingdoms of enlightenment and happiness. Yet Shoghi Effendi chose to be away during the last two years of Abdu'l Baha's life, and did not return for a full month after he had passed from this world.

Another significant fact to which I wish to call attention is this: If Abdu'l Baha had had any secret intention of appointing Shoghi Effendi as Guardian of the Baha'i Cause, it does not seem plausible that he would have excluded him from the entourage that accompanied him on his trip through Europe and America during 1912. Shoghi Effendi at that time was eighteen years of age and spoke and wrote English, Persian and Arabic; yet he was not included in this trip. Even after Abdu'l Baha returned to Palestine, instead of choosing Shoghi Effendi as his secretary, he chose Ahmad Sohrab, who had accompanied him to Europe and America, and who continued as his secretary for five succeeding years."

(Reference: Ruth White, *Abdu'l Baha's Questioned Will and Testament*, p 29)



# THROWBACK



1919 - Shoghi Effendi (right) with Fujita

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

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