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**"FASTING IS CONDUCTIVE  
TO SPIRITUAL AWARENESS."  
- ABDU'L BAHA**

**QUOTE INSIDE**

**THE GRANDEST,  
MOST DESPISED SCAM**

**ARTICLE INSIDE!**



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# PRAYER



Praise be to Him Who hath rent the dark asunder, hath blotted out the night, hath drawn aside the coverings and torn away the veils; Whose light thereupon shone out, Whose signs and tokens were spread abroad, and His mysteries laid bare. Then did His clouds part and loaded down the earth with His bounties and bestowals, and made all things sweet with rain, and caused the fresh greenery of knowledge and the hyacinths of certitude to spring forth and to shake and tremble for joy, till the whole world was scented with the fragrance of His holiness.

Salutations and praise, blessings and glory be upon those divine realities, those sacred windflowers that have come forth out of this supreme bestowal, this flooding grace that hath roared like a clashing sea of gifts and bounties, tossing its waves to the high heavens.

- Abdu'l Baha

(Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha)

# FOREWORD

*“Be calm, be strong, be grateful, and become a lamp full of light, that the darkness of sorrows be annihilated, and that the sun of everlasting joy arise from the dawning-place of heart and soul, shining brightly.” – Abdu'l Baha*

Everybody needed the holidays as it brings with it a chance for each of us to reflect on the year that had been turbulent, take stock, and perhaps sink a strong drink. 2022 was thankfully a year full of excitement for most of us mainly because the COVID uncertainties did not affect our plans. We all got back in action, working for the Cause and spreading the message of humanity and oneness. Baha'u'llah granted us the endurance we required to get through the trying moments of 2020-21. I sincerely hope that we never experience such tough moments in our life. With that, I would like to wish each and every one of our readers a successful 2023 and pray for Baha'u'llah's blessings and joy to be upon you both now and in the days to come.

The hundredth anniversary of Abdu'l Baha's passing was a noteworthy occasion that was honoured by millions of Baha'is in

communities throughout the globe last year. The Holy Land is where Abdu'l Baha passed away on November 28, 1921. His life and achievements are being honoured globally during the anniversary period. Around one in the morning, Abdu'l Baha passed away in Haifa. On the anniversary of His passing, Baha'is mark a Holy Day. His death's significance was covered by news organisations all around the world. Jews, Christians, Muslims, as well as a large number of his American, European, and other acquaintances, attended his funeral in Haifa together with almost ten thousand other individuals. He liked to go to the mosque in Haifa, Israel, for prayers, thus his casket was brought there. He never made a distinction between Muslims, Jews, or Christians since he believed in harmony with all groups.

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

“The divine Manifestations of God had a

universal and all-inclusive conception. They endeavored for the sake of everyone's life and engaged in the service of universal education. The area of their aims was not limited – nay, rather, it was wide and all-inclusive.”

“Love is the most great 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

Following in his footsteps, Free Baha'is today continue to strive tirelessly for humanity's benefit and the welfare of society as a whole. The Baha'i community has continued to receive guidance from Abdu'l Baha's writings even after He passed away. He wrote reams of letters explaining various aspects of the Baha'i teachings, promoting the dissemination of Baha'i principles, and directing early educational, social, and economic initiatives.

I'd like to welcome you back to The Caravan magazine's final issue of this series. First and foremost, we are happy that you like the magazine and appreciate the effort that went into it. I must also add that it would not have been possible without all of our readers' cooperation and support, as it is only with your aid that we can continue to make little attempts to disseminate the word of Baha'u'llah.

The Kitab-i-Aqdas laws, Blast from the Past, Did You Know, Guest Articles, and other ongoing series that you all have expressed a great deal of interest in will all be continued in this magazine. If any of our readers have fresh ideas for adding a new content topic to the magazine, please share them with us; we'll

surely include them in the future issues.

Please feel free to write to us with any more recommendations, comments, or inquiries, and we will get back to you! Keep yourself well and happy till then!

Stay blessed,

**The Free Baha'i Team**

# GOD SEES US ALL THE SAME



There's a girl crying alone in her room,  
Wishing she could disappear from this cursed earth.  
Dragging a razor blade across her scarred wrist,  
She fails to see how much she is worth.

There's a boy that dreams each night,  
Hoping to muster the courage to talk to his crush.  
He's too afraid of all the judging and name calling to approach him,  
But those people lack to remember he's human just as much.

There's a man driving home from work,  
Praying his wife hasn't discovered his lies.  
Covering up that one night he made a mistake,  
He has forgotten we all live under the same sky.

There's a woman sitting in a bar,  
Thinking of all the times she's been there before.  
She's wondering if she'll ever be truly loved by someone,  
But what she doesn't realize is she's worth so much more.

There's a God watching over all of them,  
Watching them with unconditional love and pride.  
Waiting with open arms to welcome them home,  
He's hoping they find they are loved for what's inside.

- Ella Phillips



**April 24, 1912 - It was the privilege of the Baha'i children of Washington to have Abdu'l Baha at their meeting. He gave them the most helpful message, sweetened their little mouths with candy and blessed them with these words: "Praise be to God! These children are like a bouquet of roses in their utmost beauty, delicacy and sweetness."**

# **DIVINE LAWS**

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

If weak (minor) offspring are left behind, their wealth is to be given to a guardian to trade with until they reach maturity, or to a company. Appoint to the guardian a proper amount from what he has made by trading and gain.

All this is to be paid after God receives His rights and the debts are paid, if there are any, as well as providing the things necessary for the shroud, the burial, and the carrying (of the body) with honour and glory. So ruled the Possessor of the Beginning and the Return.

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

# THE GRANDEST, MOST DESPISED SCAM – GUEST ARTICLE

The most challenging frauds to thwart, according to experts, are those that aim to use your own religion against you out of all the ways scammers might steal your money. They prey on people who have something in common, usually a shared religion. This fraud losses are estimated to reach in the billions of dollars annually, despite the fact that figures are difficult to find due to the schemes' extreme prevalence. A common scam among Haifan Baha'is is huquq'ullah, in which the con artist takes significant sums of money from the faithful without providing any documentation of the money taken or an accounting of the expenses incurred. This has been going on since Huquq'ullah was founded in 1963, but regrettably no one has brought it up or requested accounts from the UHJ. With the exception of the Free Baha'is, who have repeatedly followed up with the UHJ on this topic without success.

Huquq'ullah is a voluntary wealth tax paid by Baha'is to assist the work of the faith. According to the Haifan Baha'is – the largest domination amongst the different Baha'i sects, the UHJ has presided over the faith since 1963 and thus collect all the Huquq'ullah money

from the community.

According to Baha'u'llah's teachings, making the Huquq'ullah contribution is regarded as a means of purifying one's income. It should be highlighted that Huquq'ullah is not intended to be a gift but rather God's request for assistance in advancing the needs of all people.

In the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Baha'u'llah introduced the concept of "Huquq'ullah," which is distinct from the general Baha'i funds that the UHJ or NSA/LSA separately collect under various headings. Let us dissect the law of Huquq'ullah from Kitab-i-Aqdas below.

“If anyone possesses a hundred mithqals of gold, nineteen mithqals of them are for God, the Maker of earth and heaven. Beware, O people, lest you deny yourselves this great favour. We have commanded you to do this although We can do without you and without all who are in the heavens and the earths. In that, there are wise and useful things of which no one has acquired knowledge except God, the Omniscient, the Knower. Say: By that command God desired the purification of your wealth and your drawing near to those



HUQUQU'LLAH

stations which are only attained by those whom God wills. Indeed, He is the Generous, Almighty Giver of Grace. O People, do not be dishonest in the duties owed to God; do not spend (God's money) except by His permission. Thus is the matter decided in the Tablets and in this Powerful Tablet. Whoever cheats God is cheated by Justice, but when one does what he is commanded there descends upon him a blessing from the heaven of giving, from his Lord, the Bountiful, the Giver, the Eternal Bestower. He desires for you that which you do not know to-day. The People shall know it whenever spirits soar and the rich carpets of joy are folded up. Thus, does he who has a Preserved Tablet remind you."

We can extract three important points regarding Huquq'ullah from the above para:

1. Huquq'ullah is 19% on your savings
2. It has been made mandatory so that one's wealth gets purified
3. It has to be spent with the permission of God

Therefore, we might conclude that Huquq'ullah is being paid by all Baha'is. What

would be the amount that the UHJ collects in a year, given that the UHJ doesn't disclose any reports of the entire collection it makes through Huququ'llah? According to the Globe Religion Database, there were 8,531,050 Baha'is in the world as of 2020. So, if we consider that each Baha'i contributes bare minimum 100 dollars (on an average) in a year towards Huquq'llah, even then the total would come to \$853,105,000 worldwide. But one should also understand the fact that within the Baha'i community, there are various funds that are established at the local, national, continental and international levels to which its members may alone contribute.

1. Local Fund - It aids with the Local Spiritual Assembly's work and the management of the community's affairs.
2. National Fund - The activity of the National Spiritual Assembly is supported by this fund.
3. International Fund - All the UHJ's work is maintained by this fund. It is employed, among other things, to support the worldwide operations of the Baha'i community and the Baha'i World Center. Every nation, big or

small, is urged to contribute a donation to the UHJ. This is in addition to what the NSA contributes towards the UHJ already.

4. Continental Fund - This fund assists the International Teaching Center, the Continental Boards of Counselors, the Auxiliary Boards, and their assistants in their task of propagation and preservation. One should note that UHJ's major task of ITC and propagation is taken care of through this fund, but still UHJ has to collect another fund under a separate head.

5. Regional fund - This fund is to provide funding for the work of the new Regional Councils. A small contribution for feast given by everyone.

6. Fund for the Shrine of the Master - This is a brand-new fund that was established following the tragic fire at the Abdu'l Baha Shrine. Everyone had previously been encouraged to donate to the Shrine, but since the accident, there has been a lot more pressure on Baha'is to do so.

In addition to the Huquq'ullah, the UHJ also raises money under the other headings indicated above, and the majority of Baha'is are required to donate because they are explicitly asked to place their donations in the collection box. So, one must put something in the box in order to avoid shame, correct?

Imagine the sum collected by the UHJ and its other administrative bodies in the name of religion. And icing on the cake is that the Haifan Baha'is are tax exempt in Israel, which means that all of their earnings have been declared tax-free. Being tax-exempt means that no federal, state, or municipal taxes are applied to any of their transactions. In the name of belief and tradition, this may be referred to as an organised swindle.

The UHJ and its sister bodies could be asked to provide an annual report or some other type of accounting statement as a way to keep things

simple and prevent confusion among Baha'is. After all, they are all responsible to the community because the money raised comes from the contributions of the faithful, who have a right to know how much was raised and how it was spent. Let's unite in our opposition to this apparent fraud activity and put an end to the mistrust that exists between the UHJ, ourselves, and other Baha'is worldwide. Will you continue to ask the UHJ questions regarding Huquq'illah? We will.



**INTRODUCING**

# **THE CARAVAN**

**APP!**



# 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



“As to those who have debarred themselves from the Revelation of God, they have indeed failed to understand the significance of a single letter of the Qurn, nor have they obtained the slightest notion of the Faith of Islm, otherwise they would not have turned away from God, Who hath brought them into being, Who hath nurtured them, hath caused them to die and hath proffered life unto them, by clinging to parts of their religion, thinking that they are doing righteous work for the sake of God.”

— **The Bab**

“The All-Knowing Physician hath His finger on the pulse of mankind. He perceiveth the disease, and prescribeth, in His unerring wisdom, the remedy. Every age hath its own problem, and every soul its particular aspiration. The remedy the world needeth in its present-day afflictions can never be the same as that which a subsequent age may require. Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and centre your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.”

— **Baha'u'llah**

" ...It is certain and indisputable that the creator of man is not like man himself, because a powerless being cannot create another being, and an active creator must possess all perfections to produce his handiwork... Thus, the contingent world is the source of deficiencies and God is the source of perfection. The very deficiencies of the contingent world testify to God's perfections.”

— **Abdu'l Baha**

# FREE BAHAI ACTIVITIES

*“Thou art the God of power, of glory and bounty. No God is there beside Thee, the Supreme Ruler, the All-Glorious, the Omniscient.” (Baha'u'llah)*

Dear friends,

Allah' u' abha

28th November is marked as the death anniversary of our Master Abdul Baha. This date is marked as a day of honour for many people across the communities and that's because Abdul Baha visited Mosques, Churches and other religious places too. He mingled and invited people of all religious denominations to the world of love and peace. We must also strive to tread on this noble path shown by our Master. As we move in to 2023 afresh , we recollect the pleasant memories of our efforts in the past one year. We gratefully remember the tireless efforts that our friends across the globe have put in spreading the Word of God. And we clearly see the results as to how the love for knowing the truth and independent investigation has been well-received. In this new year as well, we make resolutions to dedicate our entire existence for the well-being of humanity and the Cause of God. We must strive hard and increase our

efforts in spreading the unadulterated version of the words of Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha. As a part of new year celebrations, friends have informed us that they began their programs with the words of Abdul Baha and Baha'u'llah. Such celebrations across various parts of the world were to remind us of the fact that our existence is spiritual in nature and not just worldly. Soon we will have the month of Ala- the Nineteen days of Baha'i fasting. This fasting is intended to bring us closer to God. Fasting is essentially a period of meditation and prayer, of spiritual recuperation, during which the believer must strive to make the necessary readjustments in his inner life, and to refresh and reinvigorate the spiritual forces latent in his soul. Its significance and purpose are, therefore, fundamentally spiritual in character. Fasting is symbolic, and a reminder of abstinence from selfish and carnal desires. Fasting is also said to improve well-being, increase mindfulness, establish discipline, and create structure in our daily lives.

“Fasting is conducive to spiritual awareness. One's heart grows more tender, one's spirituality is increased, and as a result one thought become purely focussed on the remembrance of God. Such awareness and awakening leads inexorably to spiritual

progress” -Abdul Baha

We must intend to utilise the spirituality and blessings gained by fasting, in the way of pushing ourselves towards spreading love and peace through the Divine Words. Friends have shared with us some interesting ideas and plans they have for the upcoming Baha’i New year i.e Naw-ruz celebration. It is heartwarming to see how friends look at such celebrations as a means to reach wider community by inviting their friends, colleagues, neighbours to participate in such joyous environment. During this part of the year, Asian subcontinent experiences winter spells. We have news from friends from the Asian countries wherein they take it upon themselves to provide warm clothes and shelter to the poor and unfortunate ones. Free meal services are also a part of these shelter houses. And what a great fortune it is, to serve the humanity. Lastly we pray to Baha’u’llah to bless all of us this year with good health and peaceful co-existence.



With Warm Baha’i greetings,

**Team Free Baha’i**





# SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## Email 1:

Do Baha'is hold a belief in the trinity? Where can I find out more about the beliefs of the Baha'is towards Christianity?

### Answer:

Hi Ray,

Allah'u'Abha!

Appreciate your interest on learning more about our beliefs. May you find success in finding the rightful path shown by Baha'u'llah.

Regarding trinity, or other concepts of the Christians, Abdu'l Baha has covered most of it in his book *Some Answered Questions*. Let me share his response here so you get a clear understanding on the topic.

Question. — What is the meaning of the Trinity, of the Three Persons in One?

Answer. — "*The Divine Reality, which is purified*

*and sanctified from the understanding of human beings and which can never be imagined by the people of wisdom and of intelligence, is exempt from all conception. That Lordly Reality admits of no division; for division and multiplicity are properties of creatures which are contingent existences, and not accidents which happen to the self-existent.*

*The Divine Reality is sanctified from singleness, then how much more from plurality. The descent of that Lordly Reality into conditions and degrees would be equivalent to imperfection and contrary to perfection, and is, therefore, absolutely impossible. It perpetually has been, and is, in the exaltation of holiness and sanctity. All that is mentioned of the Manifestations and Dawning-places of God signifies the divine reflection, and not a descent into the conditions of existence.*

*God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror. All the creatures are evident signs of*

God, like the earthly beings upon all of which the rays of the sun shine. But upon the plains, the mountains, the trees and fruits, only a portion of the light shines, through which they become visible, and are reared, and attain to the object of their existence, while the Perfect Man\* is in the condition of a clear mirror in which the Sun of Reality becomes visible and manifest with all its qualities and perfections. So the Reality of Christ was a clear and polished mirror of the greatest purity and fineness. The Sun of Reality, the Essence of Divinity, reflected itself in this mirror and manifested its light and heat in it; but from the exaltation of its holiness, and the heaven of its sanctity, the Sun did not descend to dwell and abide in the mirror. No, it continues to subsist in its exaltation and sublimity, while appearing and becoming manifest in the mirror in beauty and perfection.

Now if we say that we have seen the Sun in two mirrors – one the Christ and one the Holy Spirit – that is to say, that we have seen three Suns, one in heaven and the two others on the earth, we speak truly. And if we say that there is one Sun, and it is pure singleness, and has no partner and equal, we again speak truly.

The epitome of the discourse is that the Reality of Christ was a clear mirror, and the Sun of Reality – that is to say, the Essence of Oneness, with its infinite perfections and attributes – became visible in the mirror. The meaning is not that the Sun, which is the Essence of the Divinity, became divided and multiplied – for the Sun is one – but it appeared in the mirror.

This is why Christ said, “The Father is in the Son,” meaning that the Sun is visible and manifest in this mirror. The Holy Spirit is the Bounty of God which becomes visible and evident in the Reality of Christ. The Sonship station is the heart of Christ, and the Holy Spirit is the station of the spirit of Christ. Hence it has become certain and proved that the Essence of Divinity is absolutely unique and has no equal, no likeness, no equivalent.

This is the signification of the Three Persons of the Trinity. If it were otherwise, the foundations of the Religion of God would rest upon an illogical proposition which the mind could never conceive, and how can the mind be forced to believe a thing which it cannot conceive? A thing cannot be grasped by the intelligence except when it is clothed in an intelligible

form; otherwise, it is but an effort of the imagination.

It has now become clear, from this explanation, what is the meaning of the Three Persons of the Trinity. The Oneness of God is also proved.”

If you have anything more to clarify or ask, feel free to reach out to us. We will be happy to help!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



## Email 2:

If writing a will is mandatory, what is the correct time to write it? Any specific age or time has been mentioned? Im in my 40s, so would you advise me to write a will or should I wait?

### Answer:

Hi Mona,

Allah'u'Abha!

We appreciate your letter and your question. We are pleased that the Baha'is are now becoming more involved in the details of their faith and not only observing it ostensibly.

There is no exact age indicated in Baha'u'llah's order from the Kitab-i-Aqdas, but it does state that everyone must follow it. Let's examine the quotation to see what he is attempting to convey in his book.

“The writing of a will has been made incumbent on everyone. (In writing his will) one must adorn the top of the page with the Most Great Name and confess his faith in the Unity of God, in the Appearance of His Manifestation, [note 2] and mention whatever of good he wants (to remember) in order that he may bear witness to Him in the worlds of Command and Creation. Thus, he will have a treasure with his Lord, the Faithful Keeper.”

Therefore, it has been made obvious that "everyone" must do it. So, if you're in your 40s, make sure your will is ready and choose someone to be your legal representative so they can read it after your death.

Hope that answers your question. If you still have doubts, feel free to write back to us.

Thanks and regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**



### **Email 3:**

Hello,

I am interested in joining the Baha'i faith and following the teachings but I am not interested in the mainstream organisation that I find online, as it looks like the cross between a woke political organisation and a cult!

How do I declare myself a Free Baha'i? Please tell me where to start.

Thanks so much

### **Answer:**

Hi Laura,

Thank you for writing to us. We Free Baha'is do not believe in declaration or signing of cards. It is good to know that you have been attracted towards the teachings of Baha'u'llah, it will be great if you write to us about your journey and what made you accept the Free Baha'i faith. If you agree we can publish your story in the upcoming Caravan magazine.

Do go through our website, read all the content available here: <http://freebahais.org/bahai-books/> and if you have any queries do write us back.

Have a great day ahead!

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

# KNOW YOUR HERITAGE



Pocket watch, watch cord and fob belonging to Baha'u'llah.

# WEBSPLORE

 SuccessfulCorner2512 1mo

Masses of people believing in falsehoods has been the norm since the beginning of recorded human history, so we can't rule out millions of visitors someday!

  Reply  1 

 Seeker\_Alpha1701 OP · 1mo  
exBaha'i atheist

The whole point of the many construction projects at the Baha'i World Center, as well as the various Baha'i Houses of Worship being built around the world, is to cast the ILLUSION that the worldwide Baha'i community is growing rapidly.....but there is NO actual evidence of that. The only way growth can be proven is by the Universal House of Justice and the various National Spiritual Assemblies conducting a worldwide census of Baha'is in the world. That has never been done.....and I suspect it will never be done because that would ruin the credibility of the Baha'i leadership.

   1 

 MirzaJan 1mo

The only way growth can be proven is by the Universal House of Justice and the various National Spiritual Assemblies conducting a worldwide census of Baha'is in the world.

We can get some Idea from the Annual Reports of every country.

According to Hooper Dunbar, the former member of the UHJ, the growth has slowed down...

<https://youtu.be/u-v7hKI29ok?t=20s>

*“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!

# THROWBACK



**January 1913 - Abdu'l Baha with a group of Egyptian, Turkish, Indian and British friends in a mosque's courtyard in Woking, England**

# 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."

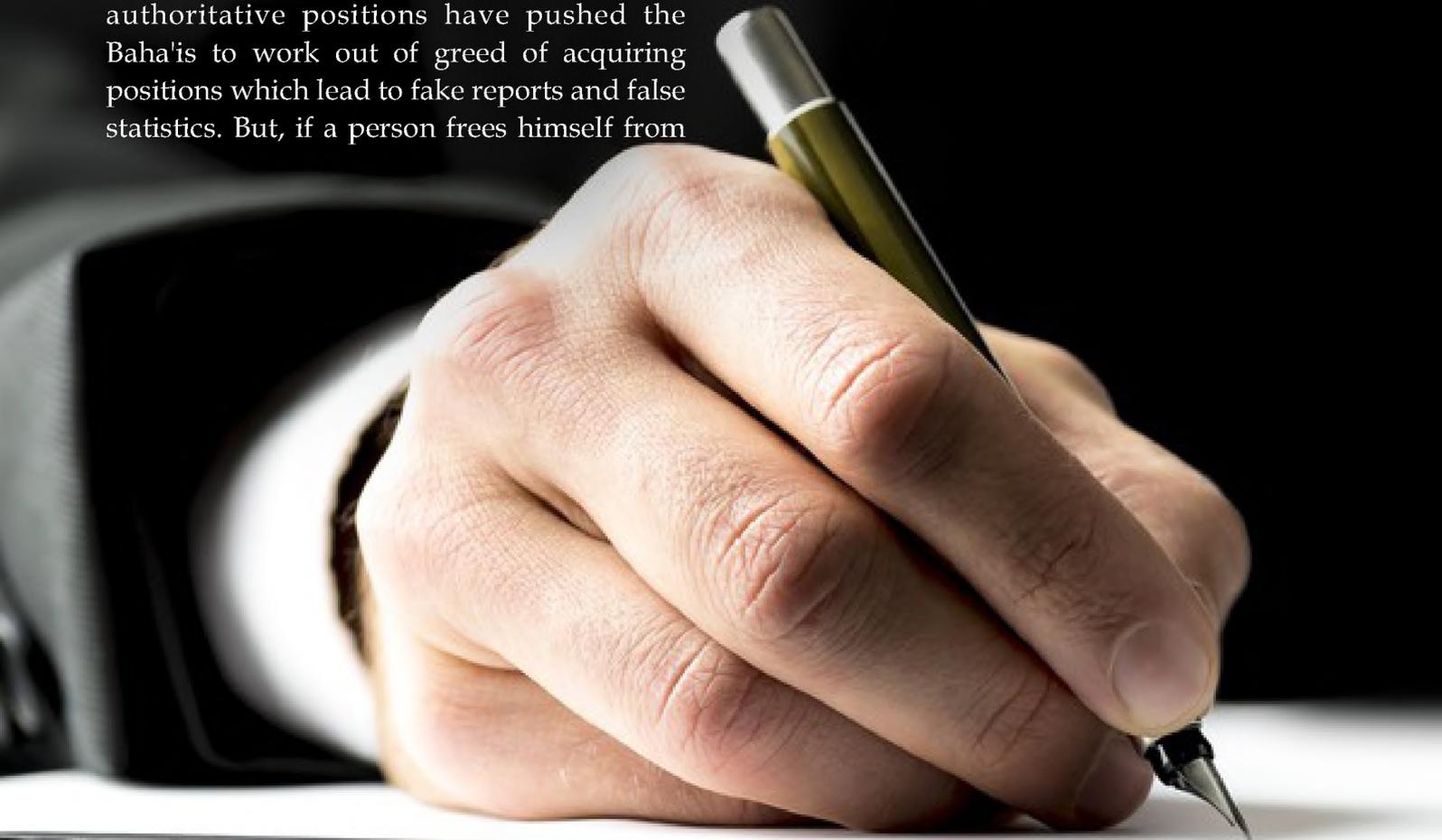
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

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 ?

The love of mankind is the true contribution to the Baha'i Cause.

At the Annual Baha'i Convention held in Chicago in 1923 Jinab-i-Fadil told the following story: A woman went to Abdu'l Baha, received His teachings and blessings, and asked for a special work. Abdu'l Baha said, 'Spread the law of love. Live in accord with love, reciprocity and cooperation.'

She answered, 'I want something special. All Baha'is are asked to do this.' Abdu'l Baha answered, 'Very well. Come tomorrow morning, when you are about to leave, and I will give you the special work.'

She was very happy all that day and night, in anticipation. The next day Abdu'l Baha said to her, 'I am going to give you my son that you may educate him physically, mentally and spiritually.'

She was surprised, and was made happy at this. But her surprise gave way to wonder when she reflected that Abdu'l Baha had no son. What could He mean? Abdu'l Baha asked, 'Do you know this son of mine?'

Then He told her: In her city there had lived a man, her worst enemy. He had died leaving a son, who no one to take care of him: this was now her task. When she heard this, she was overwhelmed. She was spiritually reborn. She wept and said, 'My Master, I now know what the Baha'i Cause means.'

Source: Honnold, Annamarie, *Vignettes from the Life of Abdu'l Baha*, p. 106

# 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)

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