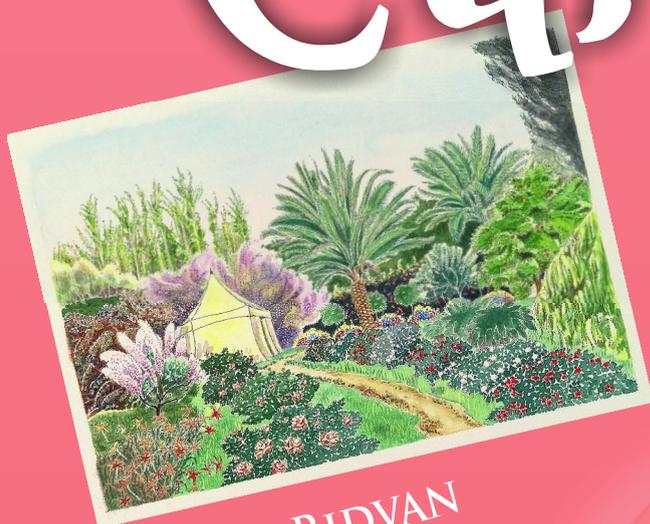


Volume 3,  
Edition 1  
**Ridvan** Edition  
176 B.E.



# The C̣aravān



RIDVAN

“ There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not 'Appointed' anyone to perform any special service, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is pure spiritual democracy and not a theocracy. ”  
- Abdu'l-Baha

CLERGY!?

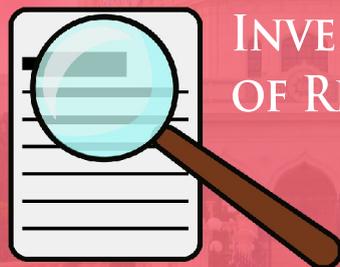
PRAYER OF THE BAB

INVESTIGATION  
OF REALITY

QUESTIONS ANSWERED



QUOTATIONS



PUBLISHED BY

**THE FREE BAHAI' FAITH**

FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION



## **I have risen this morning...**

***I have risen this morning by Thy  
grace, O my God, and left my home  
trusting wholly in Thee,***

***and committing myself to Thy care.  
Send down, then, upon me, out of the  
heaven of Thy mercy, a blessing from Thy  
side,***

***and enable me to return home in  
safety even as Thou didst enable me to set  
out under Thy protection with my  
thoughts fixed steadfastly upon Thee.***

***There is none other God but Thee, the  
One, the Incomparable, the All-Knowing,  
the All-Wise.***

**- Prayer of Baha'u'llah**



# Foreword



**With** great honour and servitude towards Baha'u'llah, we, the Free Baha'i Team present to you the Ridvan Edition, the 1st in the series of Volume 3 of the Caravan Magazine. The holy days of Ridvan (paradise in Arabic) re-establishes the power of the Manifestation of God to create good from evil, bring forth light from darkness, and win triumph from seeming subjugation.

"Verily, all created things were immersed in the sea of purification when, on that first day of Ridván, We shed upon the whole of creation the splendours of Our most excellent Names and Our most exalted Attributes." (Kitab-i-Aqdas) Baha'is around the world will celebrate Ridvan, the King of Festivals and the holiest 12 days of the Baha'i year. The celebrations honor the commencement of the Baha'i Faith in 1863, in a beautiful rose garden

filled with the songs of nightingales on an island in the middle of the Tigris River. Called the Garden of Ridvan (pronounced as Rez-Vahn), which means "paradise," this flowering, fragrant, birdsong-filled spot witnessed the birth of the world's newest independent religion during these twelve days, 156 years ago. On this island near the ancient city of Baghdad, the Ridvan garden marks the exact place where Baha'u'llah first declared his mission and inaugurated the Baha'i Faith.

In the holy remembrance of Ridvan, we dedicate this special edition to Baha'u'llah and seek his special blessings to take the Caravan ahead and work towards spreading his pristine message far-and-wide.

Moving forward with our series of analysing the alleged Will and Testament of the Abdu'l Baha. In this magazine we have proved through linguistic analysis that the Will was tainted. Shoghi Effendi became the Guardian of the Baha'i faith, even though he was not once nominated by the Master to take charge of the faith. The appointment of Shoghi came as a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, owing to the fact that the Master never hinted about appointing a successor. On the contrary, he said that after him the control of the Baha'i cause would go in the hands of the 'Houses of Justice'. In his own words, published in the official organ of the Baha'i organisation, 'The

**"...on that first day of Ridván, We shed upon the whole of creation the splendours of Our most excellent Names"**

# Foreword...

Star of the West', November 23, 1913; page 238:

"... Baha'u'llah was the the promised one of His Holiness The Bab. His Holiness Baha'u'llah covenanted not that I (Abdu'l Baha) am the promised One, but that Abdu'l Baha is the Expounder of the Book and the Center of His Covenant, and that the promised One of Baha'u'llah will appear after one thousand or thousands of years. .... In case of differences Abdu'l Baha must be consulted. .... After Abdu'l Baha whenever the Universal House of Justice is organised, it will ward off differences."

It is inconceivable that Abdu'l Baha would have appointed Shoghi Effendi as his successor through his Will. The same Shoghi who as soon as took over the reign of the Baha'i faith, converted it into a kingdom of unprecedented aggression. The oppression which started with the family of Baha'u'llah, ended on the true servants and companions of Abdu'l Baha and a huge number were ruthlessly excommunicated from the faith. All you need is a clear heart and an open mind to understand the role of Shoghi, as the successor endowed with all the powers of a pope, in destroying the Baha'i religion. Such powerful and devastating was this wind of oppression led by Shoghi that it's repercussions can be felt even today. Oppression on the true followers of Baha'u'llah continues even today in the form of shunning and excommunication by the administrative order i.e UHJ. Sadly all this is being done under the banner of same Baha'u'llah whose sheer purpose was peace, love, harmony and unity of mankind in this

hatred-filled world.

We wish our reader a Happy Ridvan and urge them to read our magazine wisely to derive a fair conclusion. If you have any feedback/suggestions/queries, kindly mail it to [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org), and we will be happy to get in touch with you.

Thank you!

The Free Baha'i Team

# The Garden Of Ridvan



Entrance to the *Garden of Ridvan* where *Baha'u'llah* declared His Mission in 1863



# Life is an Opportunity



Life is an opportunity, seize the day, live each day to the fullest.  
Life is not a project, but a journey to be enjoyed.

Life is a gift, accept it, enjoy it, and be happy with it.  
Life is a challenge, but challenges can always be overcome.

Life is to be lived, not to be dreamed.  
Life is a wonder, if you sit back and be thankful.

Life is a decision each of us makes, to be happy or sad.  
Life is a time for new beginnings and endings.

Life is a balance, take time for play not just work.  
Life is a joy for those who are optimistic.

Life is a bundle of possibilities if you just look for them.  
Life is meant to do, not to regret.  
Life is not a bed of roses, but life is what you make it.

--Catherine Pulsifer

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# The Principles of The Free Baha'i Faith Explained



The Eighth Basic  
Baha'i Principle is:

**“Universal Compulsory  
Education.”**

The ninth foundation stone, the Topaz, the glory of the sun, is symbolical of the light of knowledge and the glory of wisdom, which universal education will establish in the world when the golden Topaz, the light of the teachings of Baha'u'llah, is understood and lived.

Education is one of the most important factors in the evolution of humanity. Only one department of life is more potent, and that is religion. In epochs characterized by religious zeal and piety, religion and education work hand in hand. Together they constitute a single unifying, inspirational, guiding force which coordinates all human thought and expression within a traditionally accepted pattern. In such periods education serves what is in reality its most basic purpose, the training of character.

Education not change characters, which are all different, but it assists them to develop to their utmost capacity.

“The Prophets also acknowledge this opinion, to with That education hath a great effect upon the human race, but they declare that minds and comprehensions are originally different. And this matter is self-evident; it cannot be refuted. we see that certain children of the same age, nativity and from the same household, under the tutor ship of one teacher, differ in their minds and comprehension's. No matter how much the shell is polished, it can never become the radiant pearl. The balance stone will not become the world illumining gem.... That is to say, training doth not change the Human substance, but it produces a marvellous effect. By this effective power all that is registered, in latency, of virtues and capacities in the human reality will be revealed. It is for this reason that, in this new cycle, education and training are recorded in the Books of God as obligatory and not voluntary.” - **Abdu'l Baha**

Modern civilization has been stirred to its depths by this new principle. Compulsory education for children, and the extension of education facilities for adults, have become a new primary policy of government.

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

Nations which deliberately seek to restrict the independence of mind and spirit among their citizens, by that very policy have aroused revolution within and suspicion and fear outside their boundaries. Baha'u'llah had two great world aims, to build up a spiritually regenerate humanity, and to establish a functionally united world. To both aims education is intrinsic.

Baha'u'llah gave great prominence to education in delineating the structure of the future World Society. It is chiefly through educative influences that we must build up an ideology and loyalty consecrated to the goal of world peace. Only through education of youth and adult can the adverse and chaotic elements which now compose human society be guided and fused into that dynamically functioning world unity which we now have come to believe is the keystone of the arch of human progress.

**“Man is the supreme Talisman. Lack of a proper education hath, however, deprived him of that which he doth inherently possess.” - Baha'u'llah**

Literacy is only the barest foundations for education, not education itself. First and foremost, as a means towards world unity and world-federation, youth must be trained in wider and nobler values than at present.

The loyalties to family, tribe, clan, and nation which have gradually evolved in human society are not enough to satisfy the wider horizons and needs of today.

There must be a new and more universal loyalty to mankind itself, a “one-world” zeal and dedication. Loves of family, of clan, of nation are praiseworthy and will continue to hold their legitimate place in the social pattern. But unless and until a greater love is bred in humans, love of one's world, a United Nations cannot successfully function.

Conversely, it may be stated that no system of education in the future will satisfactorily spiritualize its curriculum until it is able to harmonize religion with science. Baha'u'llah made it one of the major principles of the New World Order. He envisaged, this harmonization taking place, and the spiritual factors of human existence being taught in a scientific way.

A deep respect for law will be engendered in each citizen by inculcation of spiritual values. In fact, law itself rests ultimately upon spiritual foundations. Had we no spiritual training we should be unaware of Justice, Mercy and Wisdom. Our juvenile delinquency problem, our divorce problem, our crime problem, all witness the lack of stress in spiritual character building in our educational systems. Through education by such spiritual training, a character would be formed more capable of meeting the strains and temptations of life.

Becoming more resolute in enterprise, more fertile in creative imagination, more responsible to the calls of duty, more worthy and capable as a true citizen of world democracy.

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

We must promote worldly, by every means within our power, the material as well as spiritual enlightenment of the youth. The means for the education of children, to provide the best means for their progress and development, is incumbent upon the world of mankind. It becomes not only progress towards world unity but is the brightest outlook for the future generations of children. They shall possess a common knowledge of all things, illiteracy shall disappear, moral and spiritual worthiness strengthened, and oneness achieved through the education of all.



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

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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!



## **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

“It is better to guide one soul than to possess all that is on earth, for as long as that guided soul is under the shadow of the Tree of Divine Unity, he and the one who hath guided him will both be recipients of God's tender mercy, whereas possession of earthly things will cease at the time of death. The path to guidance is one of love and compassion, not of force and coercion. This hath been God's method in the past, and shall continue to be in the future!”

- **The Bab**

“I am the Sun of Wisdom and the Ocean of Knowledge. I cheer the faint and revive the dead. I am the guiding Light that illumineth the way. I am the royal Falcon on the arm of the Almighty. I unfold the drooping wings of every broken bird and start it on its flight.”

- **Baha'u'llah**

“The intellect is good but until it has become the servant of the heart, it is of little avail.”

- **Abdu'l Baha**



# Where is all the Huququ'llah money going?



## A continuation...

Further to the last article published in the 6th Edition of Vol. 2 of The Caravan Magazine regarding Huququ'llah, I would like to put some more light on the said topic. Huququ'llah, as we all know means “the right of God” and the collected sum is used against the socio-economic developments, or other similar philanthropic purposes. During the lifetime of Baha'u'llah, the amount accumulated was received directly by him, and following his death, to Abdu'l Baha. After the passing away of the Master, his Will and Testament stated that it must be done through the 'Guardian' of the Cause of God.

Now the question arises, who is the Guardian of the Baha'i faith today? And if there is no Guardian, who gave the authority to the UHJ to collect Huququ'llah in the absence of the Guardian? Well, if they consider themselves to be the self-proclaimed authority to collect Huququ'llah, don't you think it should be their moral responsibility to maintain the records of the sum received and share

monthly or at least yearly accounts, maybe at the Ridvan, which can be scrutinized by all the Baha'is?

It is the right of every Baha'i to know where their 19% of the savings of their hard-earned monies are being used. My question to all the Baha'is is, why the current form of UHJ free to collect the sum, spend it at their own free will, without being liable for any questioning or enquiry? If we assume that there is a total of 8 million Baha'is today and even if we take out an estimate of each Baha'i accumulating just \$200 as Huququ'llah, the total sum reaches to 1.6 billion dollars. Where are all these monies going, from past so many years? Does even the UHJ has answer to that question? Who should be held responsible and questioned to present a Balance Sheet with a comprehensive accounting of Huququ'llah for all these years?

Imagine if we get a month-to-month breakdown of all the income and the expenses incurred from the UHJ, the functionality of the organisation will change drastically. No unwanted expenses will be incurred out of Huququ'llah and we can put all these monies to the right cause. Although the Baha'i religion is not an organisation, but since Shoghi Effendi and his allies have converted it into

# Where is all the Huququ'llah money going ?...

one, why not make it work like a proper organisation? It is high time that the UHJ clarifies its accounts and publish its Annual Balance Sheet (Incomes/Expenditures) for the perusal of the Baha'is.

Let's question the authority and only then our hard-earned money will be put to use in the right cause - that is - for the welfare of humankind, to promote education, peace and global prosperity, to safeguard human honour and the position of religion and to spread the message of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

I would appreciate the position of the Free Baha'is here, as they are against collecting Huququ'llah and instead promote its usage for the betterment of the society, the humankind. I remember last year when I had emailed the Free Baha'i Team asking about sending the Huququ'llah sum to their team as they are doing a fabulous job of spreading the teachings of Baha'u'llah, they did not accept the offer and asked me to donate the same to an orphanage instead. I feel so proud to be associated with such people who are working towards spreading the true message of Baha'u'llah and are his sincere servants. The young people associated with the Free Baha'is, with their abundant energy and relative freedom, play a leading role in spreading the Baha'i religion around the world. Way to go!

--Gonzalo, Florida

*"Women and men always will be equal in the sight of God."*

(Baha'u'llah)



*"Let deeds not words be your adorning."*

(Abdu'l Baha)



*"When I'm sad, I always pray!"*

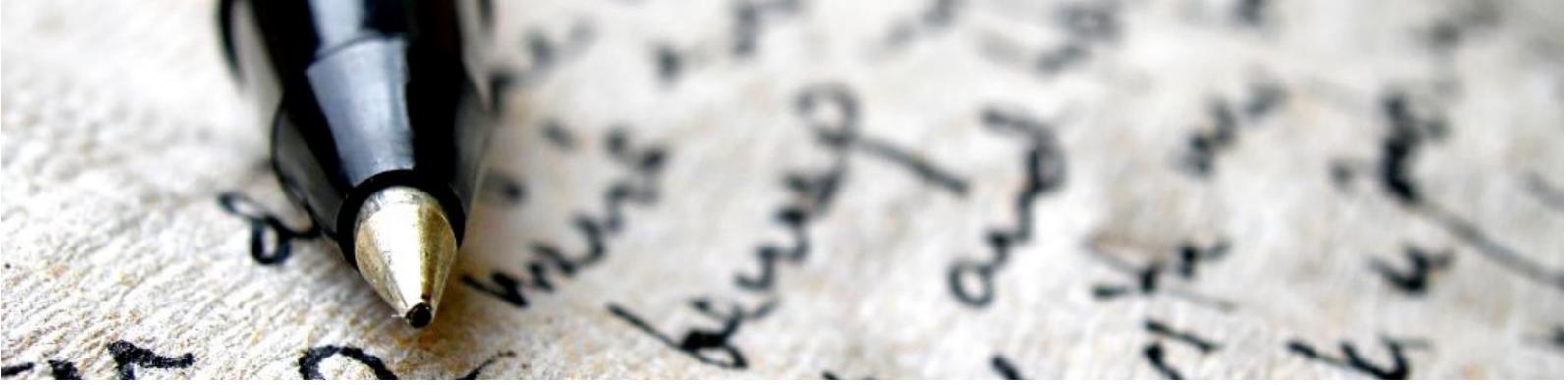
(Abdu'l Baha)



*"Ye are all the leaves of one tree and the drops of one ocean."*

(Abdu'l Baha)





# THE ALLEDGED WILL OF ABDU'L BAHA – AN ANALYSIS



## Part 5

In the year 1863 April, in the garden of Ridvan at Baghdad, people gathered to know about the Baha'i faith from Baha'u'llah himself. And many of those realising the truth accepted this Divine message. This acceptance of Divine message was associated with the 'Independent Investigation of Truth'. The same independent investigation remains valid even today for the followers of Baha'u'llah. It is the religious duty of each and every Baha'i today to continue following the same path shown by Baha'u'llah in order to seek Divine pleasure. In confirmation with this religious responsibility, we began our investigation of the alleged Will of Abdu'l Baha. Having done the contextual analysis of the alleged Will in our last Edition, as promised, we herewith present its linguistic analysis for the perusal of our friends and faithful.

Each writer/author often has a very particular and exclusive style of writing or narrating content. This style is often identified as the flair of the author and his works are identified

and recognized from it. Most often it is not the author people fall in love with, but it is the work or his words and his flair which they admire. All this is the basis of identification of an author or for lack of better words the fingerprint of the author. Throughout history there have been a number of historically important parts and pieces of literature which have been anonymous or nameless. However, it is by recognizing the style of narration and choice of words that the attributes for unnamed works is given to specific writers.

Amongst one of the most eloquent composers of narratives of his time was Abdu'l Baha. Wherever he went and whatever words he used became an epitome of high wisdom and such was his flair that he earned praise from even his critics.

Coming back to our discussion regarding analyzing the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, it is quite prudent that in order to quell our doubts and dispel rumours about the authenticity of the document we shall also pass it through our test of linguistics or for easier understanding compare it with other works of the master.

At the very start, we first have to list the characteristics of the texts of Abdu'l Baha.

# The Alleged Will of Abdu'l Baha - An Analysis...

After going through numerous texts attributed to the Master, we can safely summarize the traits of his style of narration which according to us are as follows:

1. Soft
2. Eloquent
3. Slow
4. Flowing words and continuity
5. Grace and majesty
6. Excessive usage of titles and honorifics

It would be very difficult and time consuming to list out the verses and sentences used to conclude the above. However, we believe that the 6 traits listed above are quite encompassing the style of Abdu'l Baha's narration and reflects evenly his flair.

This is the point where the matter becomes rather serious. Leaving aside all our conclusions that we have come to in the last sections of contextual analysis, again we face a very heavy result here.

The alleged Will and Testament of our master quite badly fails along the linguistic test. While it would be unfair to say that the entire will fails the test, it can safely be said that most parts of the will, infact the parts which matter the most to the faithful fails the compatibility test. Or to put it in better words, the text and choice of words used in the will and testament of Abdu'l Baha don't match the words and style of narration in his other works.

For some, this linguistic test is the most important test to verify the authenticity to the works of art. It is similar to Leonardo Da Vinci having a particular style of painting. His paintings will always be verified not by what his children or successors swear to, nor to what signature the painting bears, but to the style and flair of his other paintings.

Over the years, since the passing away of our master and the declaration of what we know today as his Will, there have been several people who have raised doubts regarding the authenticity of the Will based on the very same linguistic analysis and have concluded with either of the 2 scenarios:

1. The entire Will is a forgery.
2. The Will is authentic, however, there are evidence of tampering.

For a person with fair amount of reasoning both these scenarios are quite terrifying because it is a very serious charge. Such an allegation naturally brings forth the question or as some would put it the burning question:

Who would want to tamper with the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha?

OR

Who has made these alterations in the Will and Testament?

Historically these questions have troubled a good lot of people, who have done some valuable research with regards to these tampering and have come forward with flabbergasting results.

# The Alleged Will of Abdu’l Baha - An Analysis...

Interestingly, comparison has been made between the parts of the alleged Will and the passages from the writings of persons suspected to have tampered the Will of the Master. Profound linguistic similarities have been found in such comparison which further strengthens the suspicion of manipulation of the Will. In the following edition, we shall be presenting to you the actual comparison of the parts of the alleged Will and the passages of others writing.

We are sure our readers would be eager to know the suspense of whose passages were compared with the parts of the alleged Will.

Stay tuned for the suspense to unravel.



*"Seize thy chance, for it will  
come to thee no more."*

(Baha’u’llah)



*"This is one globe, one land,  
one country."*

(Abdu’l Baha)



*"God will answer anyone!"*

(Abdu’l Baha)



*"The remembrance of Thee is a  
medicine to the hearts"*

(Baha’u’llah)





# Free Baha'i Activities



*"Verily, all created things were immersed in the sea of purification when, on that first day of Ridvan, We shed upon the whole of creation the splendours of Our most excellent Names and Our most exalted Attributes."*

(Kitab-i-Aqdas)

Dear Baha'i faithful,

Allah'u'Abha!

Last month was quite busy as we Baha'is completed our fasting month. We have received plenty of greetings for Naw'Ruz, we thank all our friends for making this festival a blessed one. We also got a message from Canada that friends visited the United States and celebrated Naw'Ruz with elderly people staying in home shelters and distributed sweets and spent their time with old people.

We would like to give warmest greetings on the auspicious occasion of Ridvan. As a Baha'i, we all know the importance of this auspicious day. April 21st is when Baha'u'llah openly declared his Prophetic mission to the entire mankind in the garden of Ridvan. For twelve days Baha'u'llah stayed in the garden, and spent each day with utmost joy, walking majestically in the flower-lined avenues and amongst the trees. A lot of friends living in and around Baghdad would come during the day and return home at night, spending some

time with Baha'u'llah, while others were engaged in the service to the faith.

In our last magazine, there was a Guest Article in which the author highlighted his concern about the selling of a Baha'i centre to the LGBT group, objections were raised by a friend who felt that the article was offensive. Guest articles are solely from our guest writers who express their anguish and anger on the Baha'i Administration. Many of the articles which are found offensive are not made part of the magazine, although some are published as it is without any edits for our readers to get a gist of what the author is trying to convey.

Friends in Australia have completed the study of 'Tablets of Baha'u'llah and have informed us that it is quite effective and heart touching. They have now commenced with "Some Questions Answered". The friends from Singapore have sent a message that they will be starting with the study of the 'Tablets of Baha'u'llah from Ridvan, this year.

Most of our Baha'i friends informed that they are spending Huquq'ullah money on the orphanage and shelter homes, which is exactly what Abdu'l Baha did. We are receiving emails from some friends who want us to collect Huquq'ullah and use it in the

# Free Baha'i Activities...

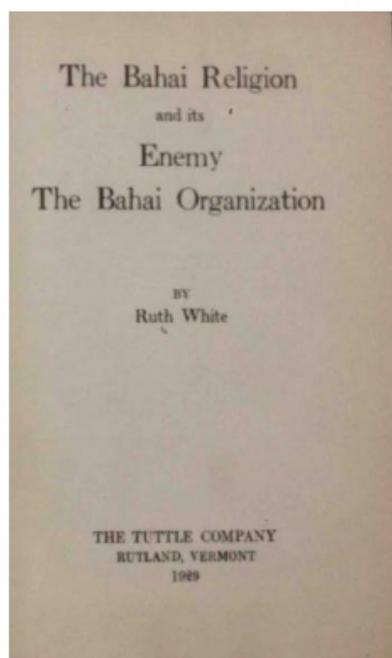
Baha'i cause. We humbly thank them but we do not have the rightful authority to collect Huquq'ullah, as it is the right of the Master. Since there is no one from the family of Baha'u'llah remaining on the Cause, we have been spending our Huquq'ullah on the underprivileged, keeping the legacy of the Master alive. Also, there is nothing mentioned in the writings of Baha'u'llah and the Master where they have allowed the Huquq'ullah to be paid to the UHJ, for they are spending it on their personal interest, without furnishing any accounting to the Baha'is. We're glad that more and more Baha'is have realised this point and are becoming aware of the failure of the UHJ with regards to the same and spreading the teachings of Baha'u'llah as per. Thank you for supporting us and spreading the true message of the Cause.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

**Team Free Baha'i**

## New Book on the Website

[The Bahai Religion and its enemy the Baha'i Organization by Ruth White](#)





# Some Questions Answered



Information Inbox x



applean3@gmail.com  
to info ▾

Thu, Mar 7, 6:31 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Would someone from Free Bahá'is contact me. I sent a request a few days ago and received a response from the Baha'i Faith. Is that group and the Free Bahá'is the same?  
Thank you

Sent from my iPad

## Answer:

Hi,

Thank you for your email. We are sorry for the late reply, your email went in junk. We have now replied to your earlier email.

Regarding your query if the Free Baha'i Faith is same as the mainstream Baha'i sect - The answer is NO! We the Free Baha'is believe in the Bab, Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, although we do not believe in Shoghi Effendi to be the Guardian of the Faith. Abdu'l Baha, in his entire life span, had neither groomed nor declared Shoghi as his successor. His appointment as the successor was forged by his mother, after the death of the Master. We also do not believe in the current form of UHJ which is run under the shackles of Administration.

So, the Free Baha'is follow the pristine message of Baha'u'llah and do not follow any Administration. Anyone who follows the teachings of Baha'u'llah in its essence is a Free Baha'i, even if he/she doesn't declare it in front of anyone. One's belief is for Baha'u'llah alone and no one has the right to question, is what we believe in.

To know more about the believes of the Free B a h a ' i s , v i s i t : <http://freebahais.org/about/faq/>

If you have any further questions, feel free to write back to us.

Regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**

# Some Questions Answered...

Question from recent issue. Inbox x



**Rplahti** [@rplahti@freebaha.com](#)

Tue, Mar 12, 6:36 AM



to info ▾

Greetings,

In the most recent issue of the Free Bahai, you included a letter from Amin Mohajer of Malaysia condemning the sale of a former Bahai center to become a LGBTQ community center. The letter stated Bahaulah condemned homosexuality outright (though it would appear He referred to pederasty, and not to what we know as the current experience of LGBTQ people), and that the building would be used for immoral acts. A LGBTQ community center is used for organizing and educational efforts fighting for equal rights and social betterment -not orgies!

Rather than focusing on the hypocrisy of the Administration making money from a whole section of humanity which it condemns, the writer focused on "holy ground" being somehow desecrated by people fighting for equality.

My question is: by including this letter in the journal, without comment, can I assume the editorial team agrees with the writer's position? Your response can help me to determine if I continue reading your publication.

Thank you for your response,  
Ron Lahti

## Answer:

Hi Ron,

Thank you for writing to us, we are glad to receive your email.

As has been stated in our magazine, the views and opinions expressed in all our Guest Articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Free Baha'is. We do understand that the property could be used for a good purpose, although nothing can be as good as spreading the faith and the teachings of Baha'u'llah. We believe the UHJ shouldn't have gone to the extent of selling off our centers, which are used for devotional activities, to a group who are working against the teachings of the Baha'i faith.

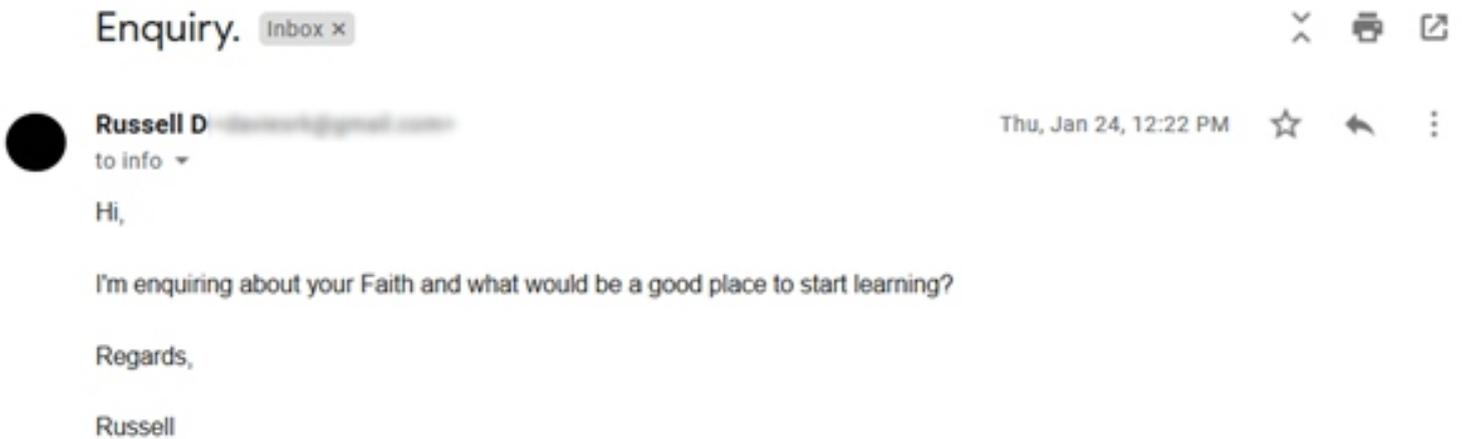
Anyway, we are not in complete agreement with what the author has said in reference to that article, and we reiterate that all future Guest Articles does not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Free Baha'i faith. Just so you know, lately we have been receiving a lot of emails with articles/questions to be published in our magazine, but we avoid publishing them in order to avoid hurting the sentiments of our friends and faithful.

Let us know if you still have any queries or have any suggestions with regards to The Caravan Magazine. Your suggestions are always welcomed and will be appreciated.

Regards,

**Team Free Baha'is**

# Some Questions Answered...



## Answer:

Hello Russell,

Allah'u'Abha!

Firstly, we would like to ask you if you're a Baha'i already? If not, where did you learn about the Free Baha'i Faith?

Regarding your question, to learn about the Free Baha'i Faith you can visit our website here: <http://freebahais.org/> Do go through our entire website, you will find a lot of source materials to read and understand our beliefs. If you have any questions, feel free to write to us at [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org) and we will be happy to assist you.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is

A screenshot of the official website of the Free Baha'i Faith. The header features the logo "FREE BAHAI FAITH" and a quote from 'Abdu'l-Baha: "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." The main content area includes a navigation menu (HOME, OUR BELIEFS, HISTORY, EARLY BAHAI'S, BOOKS, JOIN US, THE CARAVAN MAGAZINE, OUR BLOG) and an article titled "A Brief History Of The Faith". The article is divided into sections: "A - Shaykh Ahmad al-Akha'i and Sayyid Kazim an-Rashti", "B - The Bab", and "C - Baha'u'llah". A video player for "Analysis of the Will of 'Abdu'l-Baha" is visible on the right. At the bottom right, there is a promotional banner for "The CARAVAN" magazine, Vol. 2, Edition 7.



# Know your heritage



One of the chains placed around Baha'u'llah's neck  
in the Siyah-Chal (Black Pit) of Tehran.





# Declarations



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

Our Master has clearly stated, "There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not appointed any one to perform any special services, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is purely a democracy, and not a theocracy." (Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have pushed the Baha'is to work out of greed of acquiring positions which lead to fake reports and false

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

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

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



# Investigation of Reality



Abdu'l Baha has said,

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

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



# THROWBACK - 1912



**1912: Abdu'l Baha arrived in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Sunday afternoon, September 15**

He was taken to the Baha'i Hall, where he had a meeting with the Kenosha Baha'is. He spoke on Baha'u'llah's imprisonment and blessed the children. He was seated in the ceremonial chair which, at Baha'i meetings, had always been left empty in his honor.





## Did you know?



Years 1843 - 1844 were a time of great expectation worldwide. Around the world, believers of different faiths - Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Americans, Indians - all, expected the coming of a great world teacher. Many Christians expected the return of Christ, and these very years - 1843 - 1844 - were a time of great expectation. Bible scholars studying independently in different parts of the world had arrived at the same exciting conclusion: This was the time promised for the return of the Christ!

"Now is the hour!" was announced from pulpits in Europe, the America, Asia, Africa, and Australia. "Christ may come at any moment," was the message. "Watch, therefore, and pray." The message of Christ's return and the coming of the judgment hour was written in pamphlets and reported in the press. More than a thousand ministers in Great Britain and America alone preached the news. One of these was the eloquent evangelist Harriet Livermore [1], who not only preached throughout the United States, but also at the seat of power - the House of

Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Livermore, who was the daughter of a former Congressman, had persuaded the Speaker of the House to allow her to address Congress on more than one occasion. Increasingly her attention had become more focused on her belief in the imminent return of Christ. In 1843, from the Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives, she shared her passion with an estimated crowd of a thousand - so many that the doors were left open for spectators, who lined up outside the hall and into the street. Harriet Livermore herself would travel five times to Jerusalem, for it was there, she felt, that Christ would appear.

Even so, the greater number of Christians in all these places did not take the message seriously. Most of those who heard the passionate speeches listened with tolerance, then went about their business. Yet the dedicated and faithful prepared for the Great Event, each in his own way. Many shopkeepers sold their merchandise at reduced prices or gave it away in acts of charity. People sold their possessions to pay

# Did you Know? ...

off their debts. There were farmers who decided not to plant crops, for they did not expect to see a harvest time.

Some people confessed to crimes they had committed. A woman confessed to murder and wanted to stand trial. A man sent \$120 to an insurance company with the note, "Lord is at hand. This was unlawfully taken from you and I ask forgiveness, for the Lord has given me much."

In the last days before Christ's predicted return, many of the sincere left their jobs and devoted their full energies to spiritual preparation for the time at hand. Some attempted to persuade others to prepare as well, for many were convinced that Christ's return would mean the end of the world.

*(Druzelle Cederquist, The Story of Baha'u'llah, Promised One of All Religions)*



*"Be sincerely kind, not in appearance only."*

(Abdu'l Baha)



*"God has never created an evil spirit."*

(Abdu'l Baha)



*"When I'm sad, I always pray!"*

(Abdu'l Baha)



*"The best way to thank God is to love one another."*

(Abdu'l Baha)



# Ridvan greetings from Australian Prime Minister



PRIME MINISTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

### RIDVÁN 2019

I am delighted to send my best wishes to everyone participating in the annual Festival of Ridván, a significant moment for all Bahá'ís commemorating the prophet Bahá'u'lláh and his declaration of the sacred mission.

As you gather at this special time, I hope everyone may find fulfilment in these celebrations, rendered especially meaningful this year as they coincide with the bicentenary of the Birth of the Báb, the Herald of your faith.

As Australians, we are fortunate to live in a land that is home to a diversity of faiths, where we are free to share in and learn from the observances of other cultures. Our shared commitment to mutual respect is an enduring source of harmony and national well-being.

I thank the Bahá'í community for your commitment to these aims, and for serving the cause of friendship, peace and dialogue.

Through such values, our community will only grow in acceptance and understanding as we continue along the journey that has made us one of the most successful multicultural nations in the world.

With these thoughts in mind, and in a warm spirit of friendship, I once again offer my best wishes on the occasion of the Festival of Ridván.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison'.

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

2 April 2019

# RIDVAN GARDEN, ISRAEL



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