

Volume 3,  
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Asma (Names)  
176 B.E.



# The C̣aravān

SOME ANSWERED  
QUESTIONS



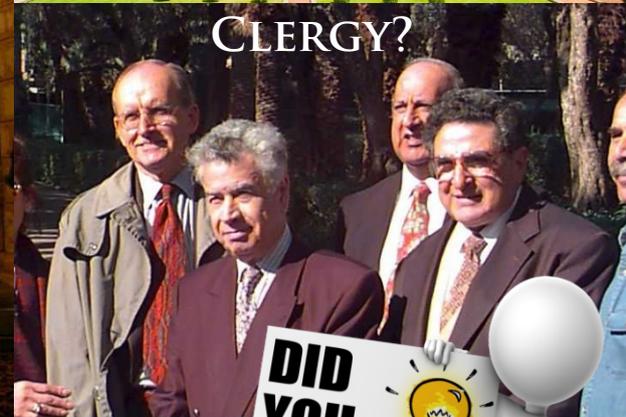
“ There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not 'Appointed' anyone to perform any special service, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is pure spiritual democracy and not a theocracy. ”

- Abdu'l-Baha

ALLEGED WILL & TESTAMENT  
OF ABDU'L BAHA – ANALYSIS



CLERGY?



DID  
YOU  
KNOW



PUBLISHED BY

THE FREE BAHAI FAITH

FOR PUBLIC CIRCULATION



## ***Thou art in truth the Knower of things unseen***

***Lauded be Thy Name, O Lord our God! Thou art in truth the Knower of things unseen. Ordain for us such good as Thine all-embracing knowledge can measure. Thou art the sovereign Lord, the Almighty, the Best-Beloved.***

***All praise be unto Thee, O Lord! We shall seek Thy grace on the appointed Day and shall put our whole reliance in Thee, Who art our Lord. Glorified art Thou, O God! Grant us that which is good and seemly that we may be able to dispense with everything but Thee. Verily, Thou art the Lord of all worlds.***

***O God! Recompense those who endure patiently in Thy days, and strengthen their hearts to walk undeviatingly in the path of Truth. Grant then, O Lord, such goodly gifts as would enable them to gain admittance into Thy blissful Paradise. Exalted art Thou, O Lord God. Let Thy heavenly blessings descend upon homes whose inmates have believed in Thee. Verily, unsurpassed art Thou in sending down divine blessings. Send forth, O God, such hosts as would render Thy faithful servants victorious. Thou dost fashion the created things through the power of Thy decree as Thou pleasest. Thou art in truth the Sovereign, the Creator, the All-Wise.***

***Say: God is indeed the Maker of all things. He giveth sustenance in plenty to whomsoever He willeth. He is the Creator, the Source of all beings, the Fashioner, the Almighty, the Maker, the All-Wise. He is the Bearer of the most excellent titles throughout the heavens and the earth and whatever lieth between them. All do His bidding, and all the dwellers of earth and heaven celebrate His praise, and unto Him shall all return.***

***- Prayer of The Bab***



# Foreword



**With** great blessings and the grace of Baha'u'llah, here's presenting the 3rd Edition of Volume 3 of the Caravan Magazine.

"They whom God hath endued with insight will readily recognize that the precepts laid down by God constitute the highest means for the maintenance of order in the world and the security of its peoples. He that turneth away from them, is accounted among the abject and foolish. We, verily, have commanded you to refuse the dictates of your evil passions and corrupt desires, and not to transgress the bounds which the Pen of the Most High hath fixed, for these are the breath of life unto all created things." -Baha'u'llah

There is only one God, the Originator of the Creation. God has revealed Himself to humanity through a series of divine Messengers - Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad, each

of whom has founded a great religion. This succession of divine teachers reflects a single historic "plan of God" for educating humanity about the Creator and for cultivating the spiritual, intellectual and moral capacities of the race. The goal has been to prepare the way for a single, global and ever-advancing civilization. Knowledge of God's will for humanity in the modern age was revealed by Baha'u'llah, who is the latest of these divine Messengers."

Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same..." - Baha'u'llah

The coming of new Messengers from God represent pivotal points in history. Each releases a fresh spiritual impulse, stimulating personal renewal and social advancement. Baha'u'llah's revelation, and the spiritual impulse accompanying it, is especially significant because it coincides with the maturation of humanity. The books, tablets and letters penned by Baha'u'llah represent today the word of God renewed.

With the latest edition of the Caravan Magazine, we take a step forward in analysing the alleged Will and Testament of the Master, where we have proven that the Will was forged, hence rejecting the authority and guardianship of Shoghi Effendi.

As we all know that Abdu'l Baha in his entire life span never groomed nor declared Shoghi as his successor. His appointment was the outcome of a devious plan forged by his

**"Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same..."**

# Foreword...

mother which manifested after the passing away of the Master.

“O people! The darkness of greed and envy obscures the light of the soul as the cloud prevents the penetration of the sun's rays.” - Baha'u'llah

We once again urge our readers to clear their hearts from malice and read our previous editions of the Caravan carefully in order to lead to a derived conclusion. If you have any feedback/suggestions/queries regarding the Will or anything about the Baha'i faith, do write to us at [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 most acceptable prayer is the one offered with the utmost spirituality and radiance; its prolongation hath not been and is not beloved by God. The more detached and the purer the prayer, the more acceptable is it in the presence of God.*

- The Bab



*These sanctified Mirrors... are, one and all, the Exponents on earth of Him Who is the central Orb of the universe, its Essence and ultimate Purpose. From Him proceed their knowledge and power; from Him is derived their sovereignty.*

- Baha'u'llah.



*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.*

- Abdu'l-Baha

# The Barrack Square



**The barrack square in Tabriz, where the Bab was executed**



# Hang on to Hope

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

-Lenora McWhorter

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# The Principles of The Free Baha'i Faith Explained

The Tenth Basic  
Baha'i Principle is:

**“A Universal  
Auxiliary Language”**

The eleventh foundation stone, the Jacinth, is somewhat like the Jasper, rose red, the universal color, the hue of the heart. A race can only understand the heart of another when it can speak the same language. - Abdu'l Baha

“In all the world there is nothing more important than to be understood by your fellow men, for upon this depends the progress of civilization itself.” - Abdu'l Baha

One of the major causes of differences today among the peoples and nations of the world is the diversity of their languages. Each nation and people have their culture history, territory and language, isolated by boundaries from a neighbouring people. Wars, misunderstandings, conflicts and disputes arise from the lack of clear understanding and communication between them. Although they belong to the same race,

the lack of a common language is the greatest barrier between them. Were a universal auxiliary language in operation they would all be considered as one.

“Only think how the International Language will facilitate intercommunication among all the nations of the earth. Half of our lives are consumed in acquiring a knowledge of language, for in this enlightened age every man who hopes to travel in Asia and Africa and Europe must learn several languages, in order that he may converse with their peoples. But no sooner does he acquire one language than another is needed. Thus, one's whole life may be passed in acquiring those languages which are a hindrance to international communication. The International Language frees humanity from all these problems.”

“Oneness of language will transform mankind into one world, remove religious misunderstandings and unite East and West in the spirit of brotherhood and love. Oneness of language will change this world from many families into one family. This auxiliary international language will gather the nations under one standard, as if the five continents of the world had become one, for then mutual interchange of thought will be possible for all. It will remove ignorance and superstition,

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

since each child of whatever race or nation can pursue his studies in science and art, needing but two languages his own and the international. The world of matter will become the expression of the world of mind. Then discoveries will be revealed, inventions will multiply, the sciences advance by leaps and bounds, the scientific culture of the earth will develop along broader lines. Then the nations will be enabled. to utilize the latest and best thought, because expressed in the International Language."

- Abdu'l Baha

The greatest means of progress between the East and West, would be to have a union of a common language. It would give the world the strongest impulse to become united for human advancement. It will upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity. It will make the earth one universal commonwealth. It will be the cause of love between the children of men and it shall cause good fellowship between the various races.

Since this principle of 'a universal auxiliary language' was proclaimed by Baha'u'llah, Basic English and a few other world languages have been invented to aid the world in a common means of understanding.

Ludovic Zamenhof, through the result of his devoted labor was the invention and widespread adoption of the language known as 'Esperanto'. Gaining the most popular support throughout the world communities, it has now stood the test of many years and has proved to be encouraging and a very satisfactory medium of international intercourse. New efforts shall always continue to establish a common means of communication between the races of men. The

unity of mankind depends upon his abilities to understand the thoughts of his brother's heart.

"The Sixth Ishraq' (Effulgence) is concord and union amongst men. Through the radiance of union have the regions of the world at all times been illumined, and the greatest of all means thereunto is the understanding of one another's writing and speech. Ere this, in our epistles, have We commanded the Trustees of the House of Justice, either to choose one of the existing tongues, or to originate a new one, and in like manner to adopt a common script, teaching these to the children in all the schools of the world, that the world may become even as one land and one home." - Baha'u'llah, Tablet of Ishraqat

It is not intended that there should be only one language. The international tongue and script is to auxiliary. National culture, literature, art, genius, are to be preserved and developed, but all people must learn at least two languages, i.e., their native tongue and the national tongue. Unity in diversity is the desired result and not uniformity. It is hoped that the world language will be spoken with enthusiasm to understand one's neighbour, many a burr and accent will enhance its beauty.

His Holiness Baha'u'llah wrote about this international language during the years of his life more than ninety years ago. He says; "That as long as an international language is not adopted, complete union between the various sections of the world will be unrealized, for we observe that misunderstanding keep people from mutual association, and these misunderstandings will not be dispelled except through an international auxiliary language".



## **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



*“Become as true brethren in the one and indivisible religion of God, free from distinction, for verily God desireth that your hearts should become mirrors unto your brethren in the Faith, so that ye find yourselves reflected in them, and they in you. This is the true Path of God, the Almighty, and He is indeed watchful over your actions.”*

**— The Bab**

*“For the tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century.”*

**— Baha'u'llah**

*“In brief, all humanity must be looked upon with love, kindness and respect; for what we behold in them are none other than the signs and traces of God Himself. All are evidences of God; therefore, how shall we be justified in debasing and belittling them, uttering anathema and preventing them from drawing near unto His mercy? This is ignorance and injustice, displeasing to God; for in His sight all are His servants.”*

**— Abdu'l Baha**



# Rejecting the Authority of Clergy in the Baha'i Faith



“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.” - Abdu'l Baha

(Reference: Diary of Ahmad Sohrab, March 21, 1913)

Clergy are formal leaders within a religion and their roles and functions may differ as per religious traditions, but usually involve presiding over specific rituals and teaching their religion's doctrines and practices. As per the Jewish tradition, a religious leader is often a Rabbi (teacher) or Hazzan (cantor). In Christianity, the specific names and roles of the clergy vary by denomination and there is a wide range of formal and informal clergy positions, including deacons, elders, priests, bishops, preachers, pastors, ministers and the Pope. In Islam, a religious leader is often known formally or informally as an imam, qadi, mufti, mullah, or ayatollah. Buddhist

clergy are often collectively referred to as the Sangha, and consist of various orders of male and female monks.

When I became a Baha'i, I was told that one major difference between the Baha'i faith and other world religions is that Baha'is have no clergy. It came to me as a surprise because clergies have some defined roles and responsibilities which they perform to keep the Baha'i connected with his religion. One of their key responsibilities is to teach the doctrines of the religion by way of preaching, conducting study classes, and organizing programs that will help spread their teachings to others. Now, if there are no clergy in the Baha'i religion then the question one might ask would be that who performs the duties and responsibilities on their behalf? The Baha'is would answer that it is an administrative body called Spiritual Assemblies who perform these duties, and on top of them is Universal House of Justice. These nine members of UHJ are infallible and collectively they have absolute authority on Baha'i faith, their decision cannot and should not be challenged by either individual or by community. To my understanding it is clergy in the form of administration, but again I came across a

# Rejecting the Authority of Clergy in the Baha'i Faith

saying of Abdul Baha about no officer and no clergy in Baha'i faith, when I questioned this and asked is there any writing or saying of Baha'u'llah or Abdu'l Baha about NSA, LSA at local and national level I was told that by such questions and thought you will become covenant breaker.

So, instead of calling them clergy, the Baha'is have called them Spiritual Assemblies?! These Assemblies are a group of people who are in charge of the Baha'i faith, who govern the affairs of the community. In addition to existing at the local level, there are National Spiritual Assemblies which look after the affairs at country level. On top of this administrative order is the Universal House of Justice, a nine-member supreme ruling body of the Baha'i Faith. They are the one who head the religion and are the final authority over the Spiritual Assemblies. By reading that, aren't you already thinking how this structure is any different to the clergy system that works in Christianity or say Jews or Moslems? Exactly! It certainly has no difference.

How is a fatwa against a Moslem issued by a Mufti any different from the UHJ excommunicating a Baha'i? If the excommunicated Moslem is not allowed to question the Mufti, where in the world does an excommunicated Baha'i stand a chance to question the UHJ?

I have been a Baha'i since past 22 years and have been actively involved in the community but have got several excommunication warnings from the NSA for all the silly reasons in the world. Once I took my wife, who is not a Baha'i, to a Ridvan celebration and there was

election of Local Spiritual Assembly and the next day I got a call from an NSA member saying since Ridvan is an Administrative gathering, non-Baha'is are not allowed. When I tried explaining her the fact that I'm trying to influence my wife to become a Baha'i and since it was a big celebration, I wanted my wife to be a part of it. I was given a final warning of excommunication and was asked to accept my fault and apologies for the same. That's not it, the LSA members started to look down at me and I was not welcomed by anyone in the community. I still do not consider this a mistake on my part and I'm fine with their behaviour.

My only concern is, again, how is the ill-behaviour of the NSA or the UHJ any different from the clergymen of the Christian or Moslems or the Jews? We Baha'is are asked to become open minded, do investigation of truth but when you actually become one and start with your reasonings, you're warned of being excommunicated and kicked out of the community. Irony isn't lost on me, yet.

I am still puzzled, if Baha'is say that there are no clergy in the Baha'i faith and this statement is supported by the saying of Abdu'l Baha, then who has designed this administrative system and from where have they got this absolute authority over the Baha'is? On one side they reject clergymen, but on the flip side they ask us to have absolute submission and obedience to the UHJ, isn't this contradictory?

*- Author's identity has been hidden on request*



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



## Part 7

### VISUAL ANALYSIS:

As it has been discussed earlier, the doubts regarding the Will and Testament, being as ancient as the Will and Testament itself has attracted many followers who take to heart the principle of 'Independent Investigation of Truth' to ponder and verify what has been put in front of them. One such follower was the Lady Ruth White, an American, who after her dissatisfaction with what was published as the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, had the same examined by the most qualified forensic expert of her time - Dr. Charles Ainsworth Mitchell. It is worthwhile to mention in detail about the personality and profound achievements of Dr. Mitchell in his field of analysis. This would help our reader understand the authenticity of his analysis of the alleged Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha.

Dr. Charles Ainsworth Mitchell (1867 - 1948) was a British chemist and forensic scientist who made a special study of the microscopic and chemical study of handwriting. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and

the Royal Society of Chemistry, and member of the Society of Public Analyst. He was editor of *The Analyst* for 25 years, president of the Medico-Legal Society for 2 years (1935-37), and vice president of the Society of Chemistry for 3 years (1937-40).

He was honoured to head the Inspection Bureau of Scotland Yard in the year 1911 and frequently served as an expert witness in Crown Courts in various capacities. In 1915, he gave his famous testimony about the invisible ink used in the case of German spy, Anton Kuepferle.

He is credited to having analysed documents and seals of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1925 and claimed to show that Mary was innocent of conspiracy to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I of England. He said that William Maitland, Mary's secretary, forged Mary's hand in the documents which led to Mary's execution.

After making a detailed analysis of the alleged Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, Dr. Mitchell pointed out some critical points. Following is the ad verbatim text of his analysis report:

# The Alleged Will of Abdul Baha - An Analysis...

## REPORT ON THE WRITING SHOWN OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ALLEGED WILL OF ABDU'L BAHA

I have made a minute examination of the writing in the photographs and photographic enlargements of the alleged will of Abdul Baha, and have compared it with the authenticated writing of Abdul Baha in a series of photographs and photographic enlargements received from Mrs. H. Lawrence White.

In the absence of an opportunity to examine the original document, any conclusions to be drawn from an examination of the photographic enlargements must necessarily be of a provisional character contingent upon the accuracy of the photographic records. Moreover, some of the facts which are taken into consideration in the scientific examination of an original document cannot be perfectly studied in a photographic reproduction, such as, for example, the ink, paper, pen strokes, and so on.

Assuming that the authenticated specimens of writing are of approximately the same period as that at which the disputed will is alleged to have been written and signed, the points which can be accurately compared in the photographic enlargements are the mode of formation of the writing, the changes in pressure, the form of individual letters, and the relationship in the size of parts of the letter to the whole.

A fact requiring explanation is the presence of apparent erasures on some of the pages of the will, namely in lines 12 and 13 of page 2, and line 13 of page 4. Without a microscopical examination of the original document it is not

possible to state whether a chemical agent has been used, but assuming there have been erasures at these points I think it probable that they were done mechanically, not chemically. The apparent erasure on page 5, line 11, may possibly be the result of an imprint from the written matter while the ink was wet.

### **The photographic reproductions of authenticated specimens of the writing of Abdul Baha were the following:**

1. Writing from the Book of the Unitarian Church, Montclair, New Jersey.
2. Writing from the Guest Bible for 1912, City Temple, London.
3. Authenticated signatures on two letters to Mrs. Stannard on a photograph, and a possible authentic signature in the possession of Mrs. Devine. There is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the signature from Mrs. Devine, since it agrees closely with the other signatures.

**The Signatures on the Envelope:** A comparison of the four signatures on the envelope of the alleged will with the four authenticated signatures reveals many striking differences in the mode of formation of the characters, as for example:

In the authentic signatures the width of these characters, compared with their height, is much greater than in the signatures on the envelope. The strokes are also much firmer in the envelope signatures than in the authenticated signatures.

In the authenticated signature the entire character is roughly 2 1/4 times the width of the open space between the uprights; in the disputed signatures the corresponding figure

# The Alleged Will of Abdul Baha - An Analysis...

is twice as great. In the authentic signatures the cusp is rounded; in the disputed signatures it is pointed. In the authenticated signatures the relationship between the depth of the gap and its breadth is as 1 : 1.4 to 1.6, whereas in the disputed signatures it is a 1 : 2.3 to 2.6. Thus, the ratio is totally different. In my opinion these differences are not consistent with the signatures upon the envelope being in the writing of the writer of the authenticated signature.

**The Body of the Will:** A comparison of the formation of the writing on the envelope with that on pages 9 and 10 of the will shows so many points of resemblance that there is no reason to doubt that they were written by the same person.

**I have also studied minutely the photographic enlargements of the writing on the other pages of the will, and have formed the following conclusions:**

Page 2, with the exception of the last two lines, agrees with Page 3.

The last two lines of Page 2 agree with Page 4.

The other pages, namely 5, 6, 7 and 8, agree in the characteristics of writing with the writing on Page 4. That is to say, the writing does not agree with the hypothesis that it was all written by one person.

The writing of Abdu'l Baha has certain distinctive features, among which are a sudden change of pressure in some of the strokes, wavering formation of some of the curves, and the formation of sharp angles in some of the characters. These characteristics are sharply indicated in the enlarged photographs of the writing in the City Temple, London, and in the Montclair

writing.

A minute comparison of the authenticated writing with the writing on every page of the alleged will, and in particular with the lines 10, 11 and 12 on page 5, has failed to detect in any part of the will the characteristics of the writing of Abdu'l Baha, as shown in the authenticated specimens.

In addition to these differences in writing habits, there are also differences in the shapes of many of the parallel characters in the body of the document compared with the authenticated writing, as in the case of the signatures mentioned above.

**[Signed] C. Ainsworth Mitchell**

As shattering as it is, this report by a renowned investigator, a forensic expert, an expert detective amongst other things, makes some of our doubts very clear while at the same time also reinforces some of the suspicions that have emerged after reading last couple of articles related to the alleged Will.

Now, based on the report of this expert, we can make the following inferences:

a) There are multiple writers with regards to the writing of the Will and the entire Will is not the Will of one writer / author. Also, the signatures seen on the envelope as well as the Will clearly appear to be bad copies of the original one.

b) This also brings us to the brink of accepting what we have feared most. The Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha may very well in fact be a forged document.



# Free Baha'i Activities



*"O ye that are invested with the Bayán! Ye should perform such deeds as would please God, your Lord, earning thereby the good-pleasure of Him Whom God shall make manifest. Turn not your religion into a means of material gain, spending your life on vanities, and inheriting thereby on the Day of Resurrection that which would displease Him Whom God shall make manifest, while ye deem that what ye do is right. If, however, ye observe piety in your Faith, God will surely nourish you from the treasuries of His heavenly grace."*

*(The Bab, in Kitab-i-Asma)*

Dear Baha'i faithful,

Allah'u'Abha!

Our deepest condolence to the Baha'i friends on the death anniversary of Sayyid Ali Mohammed Shirazi, the Bab, the forerunner and prophet of the advent of Baha'u'llah. The Bab was born on October 20th, 1819 and was martyred on July 9th, 1850. Most of our friends avoided work and arranged gathering for prayer and meditation. They narrated the stories of the Bab, his sufferings and how he was executed. Sadness and deep thoughts were visible on faces of audience as they were hearing this for the first time.

Compared to last year, this year more faithful visited orphanage and elderly care centres

and spent their time with deserted old and beautiful young souls.

With regards to the Free Baha'i Publishing Trust, there was no major progress per se, although it is still on our prior list. The Book 'Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, An Analysis' is half way there and we're aiming to complete it by the end of this year.

A wonderful article authored by a new faithful about Clergy in the Baha'i faith which has been published in this edition of the Caravan. The article highlights how the teachings of the Master has been kept aside and clergymen has been introduced in the faith in form of UHJ and Administration. We Free Baha'is follow the words of our beloved Master and thus we do not believe in any form of organized clergy, be it LSA, NSA, or UHJ. Under their clergy ship the Baha'i faith has been sinking, as their focus is not on teaching and spreading the message of Baha'u'llah. In fact, they are busy spying on individuals. Meetings are held to discuss excommunication and revoking the voting rights, all in the name of religion. We received plenty of stories from an oppressed faithful, although due to harsh language and personal attacks on a few individuals, the same

# Free Baha'i Activities

couldn't be made part of the Caravan. That reminds us to humbly request all our friends to send us their stories but make sure they don't contain harsh language. The Baha'i faith is universal and does not need you to be under the umbrella of the UHJ. As said by Lady Ruth White, "The Baha'i Movement, which Baha'u'llah founded, is a unifier of the Spirit of all religions, and the Spirit cannot be incorporated." One need to understand and follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah and come out of the clutches of administration.

We thank all our friends for their efforts and continuous support in spreading the message of Baha'u'llah.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Free Baha'i team



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

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

Kindly send us your article at [thecaravan@freebahais.org](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!



# Some Questions Answered



Dear friends, Inbox x



[info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org), [freebahais@gmail.com](mailto:freebahais@gmail.com)

Sat, May 18, 7:55 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

I am a member of the so-called "official" Baha'i faith.

I was a member 3 years late 90s and then I left.

I came back in October 2018. It's quite painful.

We wash our brains with the Ruhi course (sic) and the principles of refusal to gossip are not respected.

In addition, there is interference in the vote of the Spiritual Assembly, etc.

The Baha'i faith is not partisan either.

Some Baha'is say in recreational activities that one political union is better than another, that one politician is good and another is "bad", and "good".

In short, I can not find at all the Baha'i Faith I knew in the 90s.

Here for the sad record.

As you know, the Baha'is came to the political elections during the constitutional revolution in Iran around 1900. Personally, I do not think that one can not be involved in politics even without being a member of a party.

The Universal House of Justice, which is nothing but an illegitimate clergy and is not elected but co-opted, is partisan politics.

We have enough evidence to confirm it.

As such, I would like to ask you if it is possible to be a Baha'i free and to do politics with the political people closest to our social principles, please?

I would also like to know if you have a group in Cologne in Germany and a group in the north of France, please? Thank you in advance for your help.

Baha'i friendships

Answer:

Hi Nicolas,

Thank you for writing to us. We're sorry to hear about your feeling. Free Baha'is are free from administration, and when it comes to political issues, we follow what Baha'u'llah had instructed, i.e. to not get involved in politics.

We do not believe in the current form of UHJ, where the members are not elected rather

selected.

Can you highlight more evidence about the selection process with proof? If you want we can publish the same as Guest Article in our upcoming issue of the Caravan Magazine.

Looking forward to your reply.

Thanks & regards,

Team Free Baha'is

# Some Questions Answered

Caravan Magazzine Inbox x



Jenny [Redacted]  
to info ▾

June 15, 2019, 11:14 AM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Allah'u'Abha freinds;  
let me clerify I am not Free Baha'i, but I am subscriber of your Caravan Magzine, I love reading Carvan, it is wonderful effort in this issue I read article about Huqoqullaah, I like the point which you have explained about use of Huqoqullaah with reffrence to how Abdul Baha was spending this money among the poor.  
with regards to asking about statement of account from UHJ, you also know is not possible and no Baha;i will dare to ask that, one who will try will be shun.  
I do agree with this point that a sttement of account of Huqoqullaah should be submitted to Baha'i community to know.

Cheers

Answer:

Hi Jenny,

Thank you for writing to us, we're glad to see your message. We are also glad to know that you are one of our regular readers. Thanks much for appreciating our work.

We agree with your point that if you or any Baha'i would dare to ask the UHJ to submit the accounts for Huquq'ullah, the UHJ would certainly shun them out of the faith and declare them covenant breaker. This has been the reality of the Baha'i faith since the passing away for the Master.

Abdu'l Baha used to spend Huquq'ullah on poor and the needy and look how everything has been changed and now it is being spent on the rulers of faith, who are not even authorised to collect this money. We would suggest you to spend the Right of God on the under privileged around you and help in the upliftment of your locality. May Baha'u'llah bless you.

If you have any questions regarding the Baha'i faith, do connect with us.

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



# Some Questions Answered

Hello friends Inbox x



**Peter Steeg** [info@freebahais.org](mailto:info@freebahais.org), [freebahais@gmail.com](mailto:freebahais@gmail.com)

July 11, 2019, 8:55 AM ☆ ← ⋮

Hi,  
To the best of my knowledge, Huququlla is been used by paid officers for traveling and and conducting unnecessary meetings. It is been used on the luxury of ABM and NSA members. I had been on pilgrimage last year and have seen the lavish lifestyle of the UHJ members, but who cares? The Right of God is being used in the entertainment of these members. Btw, this year I am going to use my little Huququlla money for the betterment of needy people.

Answer:

Hello Peter,

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for writing to us. We're glad to read your reply.

Good to know that you agree with our point of view and are spending your Huququ'llah in the right cause. Now, it's time to spread the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master. We advise you to raise awareness about Huququ'llah amongst other Baha'i friends. All the Baha'is around the world should question the UHJ and stop giving them the Right of God and only then the Baha'is hard-earned money would be put to the right cause. Make sure you spend your Huququ'llah 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.

Do let us know if you have any other question/feedback/suggestions. We will be happy to help you.

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



# Know your heritage



Baha'u'llah used this kashkul (alms bowl) as a dervish during His two years sojourn in the mountains of Sulaymaniyyih, 1854 to 1856





# 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 in Oakland, California**

At the home of Mrs. Helen Goodall, an early California Baha'i. It was during those days that Mr. Yamamoto arranged for `Abdu'l-Bahá to speak before the Japanese Independent Church in Oakland.





## DID YOU KNOW?

Abdu'l Baha desired that your existence should be filled with Baha'u'llah.

Let us read the following narration by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab in the book 'Abdu'l Baha in Egypt'

In the course of His conversation with Mrs. Fraser, the Master told her that he desired that she might be filled with Baha'u'llah. She must concentrate all her ideas and thoughts around the promotion of the Word of God. Just as the cup is filled with wine, so her heart must be overflowing with the Love of the Blessed Perfection. Let her look at him. How from early morning till late in the evening he is engaged in the service of the Cause. He devotes all his time to Baha'u'llah. As she is going to India, let her one thought be Baha'u'llah. He will help her. Whenever he sends someone to serve the Cause, he prays in his behalf and God will assist him. Let her rest assured that he will be with her and she will be enabled to render great services. Let her heart be at ease and have no fear.

At another place in the same book, under the title 'An Address Delivered to the Students' it is explained how a person whose existence is filled with Baha'u'llah, for him there will be no defeat and a glorious victory will follow him.

"... In this day only those who are pure in heart are enrolled in the invincible ranks of the army of God. By this you can easily see that each one of you is a soldier and must be a courageous one, ready at any instant to give up his life for the sake of the Cause. Baha'u'llah is your Commander-in-chief, and from the invisible world he is continually reinforcing you with the powers of the Holy Spirit. Your artillery is the principles of the Cause, your cannon the love of God, your rifles the divine teachings and your defenders the angels of the Supreme Concurrence. In your hearts is the love of humanity, on your lips is the word of "Ya Baha-El-Abha," in your hands is the sword of light. Before you there is no defeat, behind you there are glorious victories, and upon all sides you are surrounded by the Confirmations of God. ..."

When one learns to love Baha'u'llah and work for his Cause, he becomes a confidant and a true friend, just like in that other kind of love. One turns to Him for guidance and blessings, and in the process finds sunshine everywhere. As we all know, love is contagious.

"My love is in thee, know it, that thou mayest find Me near unto thee." - Baha'u'llah, The Hidden Words, p.6.

# DID YOU KNOW?

When one loves another, it is expected to want to do things that will delight the loved one. In that way the emotional union is reinforced and a strong bond develops. When you love Baha'u'llah, you will be able to feel God's love for you, and in return you will show greater love to all the people God created with love.



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