



*CANVASSING AT THE
NSA ELECTION IN 1968,
AS A RESULT OF WHICH
THE UHJ WAS DISSOLVED*

- DETAILS INSIDE

*ARE DRUGS ALLOWED
IN THE TEACHINGS
OF BAHU'U'LLAH?*

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PRAYER



Praised be Thou, O my God, that Thou hast ordained Naw-Ruz!

Praised be Thou, O my God, that Thou hast ordained Naw-Ruz as a festival unto those who have observed the Fast for love of Thee and abstained from all that is abhorrent unto thee. Grant, O my Lord, that the fire of Thy love and the heat produced by the Fast enjoined by Thee may inflame them in Thy Cause, and make them to be occupied with Thy praise and with remembrance of Thee.

Since thou hast adorned them, O my Lord, with the ornament of the Fast prescribed by Thee, do Thou adorn them also with the ornament of Thine acceptance, through Thy grace and bountiful favor. For the doings of men are all dependent upon Thy good-pleasure, and are conditioned by Thy behest. Shouldst Thou regard him who hath broken the Fast as one who hath observed it, such a man would be reckoned among them who from eternity had been keeping the Fast. And shouldst Thou decree that he who hath observed the Fast hath broken it, that person would be numbered with such as have caused the Robe of Thy Revelation to be stained with dust, and been far removed from the crystal waters of this living Fountain.

Thou art He through Whom the ensign “Praiseworthy art Thou in Thy works” hath been lifted up, and the standard “Obeyed art Thou in Thy behest” hath been unfurled. Make known this Thy station, O my God, unto Thy servants, that they

may be made aware that the excellence of all things is dependent upon Thy bidding and Thy word, and the virtue of every act is conditioned by Thy leave and the good pleasure of Thy will, and may recognize that the reins of men's doings are within the grasp of Thine acceptance and Thy commandment. Make this known unto them, that nothing whatsoever may shut them out from Thy Beauty, in these days whereon the Christ exclaimeth: "All dominion is Thine, O Thou the Begetter of the Spirit (Jesus)"; and Thy Friend (Muhammad) crieth out: "Glory be to Thee, O Thou the Best-Beloved, for that Thou hast uncovered Thy Beauty, and written down for Thy chosen ones what will cause them to attain unto the seat of the revelation of Thy Most Great Name, through which all the peoples have lamented except such as have detached themselves from all else except Thee, and set themselves towards Him Who is the Revealer of Thyself and the Manifestation of Thine attributes."

He Who is Thy Branch and all Thy company, O my Lord, have broken this day their fast, after having observed it within the precincts of Thy court, and in their eagerness to please Thee. Do Thou ordain for Him, and for them, and for all such as have entered Thy presence in those days all the good Thou didst destine in Thy Book. Supply them, then, with that which will profit them, in both this life and in the life beyond.

Thou, in truth, art the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

-Prayer of Baha'u'llah

FOREWORD

“Happy the one who entereth upon the first day of the month of Bahá, the day which God hath consecrated to this Great Name. And blessed be he who evidenceth on this day the bounties that God hath bestowed upon him; he, verily, is of those who show forth thanks to God through actions betokening the Lord's munificence which hath encompassed all the worlds. Say: This day, verily, is the crown of all the months and the source thereof, the day on which the breath of life is wafted over all created things. Great is the blessedness of him who greeteth it with radiance and joy. We testify that he is, in truth, among those who are blissful.” – Baha'u'llah

Team Caravan wishes a happy and joyous Naw-Ruz to all the readers! Naw-Ruz marks the completion of the 19-day Baha'i Fast and the start of a new year according to the Baha'i calendar for Baha'is all over the world. It is observed on the day of the Northern Hemisphere's spring equinox, with Tehran, Iran's capital and Baha'u'llah's birthplace, serving as the focal point. The Baha'is celebrate Naw-Ruz, which means 'New Day,' and falls between the 20th and 22nd of March. It's a day of fresh start, of hope and transformation.

To start a new year, one must experiment with numerous techniques to break old patterns and make a significant shift. It should be a transition from what we previously thought, a shift from popular belief to truth. Baha'u'llah preached a transformation of heart rather than religious conversion. And transformation will only be possible if you adhere to Baha'u'llah's and the Master's pure word. The message should be free of bias and self-interpretation, unlike what Shoghi did following the Master's ascension. Shoghi, the purported Guardian, not only wrongfully assumed the Guardianship, but also changed Baha'u'llah's teachings to suit his own interests. Following Shoghi's lead, even the current version of UHJ has always attempted to distort Baha'u'llah's pure word for their own personal gain. The consequences of these changes may now be seen throughout the Baha'i world, with even Baha'is refusing to follow the Baha'i principles. How many Baha'is have you encountered while reading the Kitab-i-Aqdas? How many of them are familiar with the Kitab-i-Iqan? These two volumes were intended to be the Baha'is' "Bible" or "Koran," but are we even half-aware

of what these books have to say to us? The UHJ wants us to be educated in such a way that we only read and obey what they say, and that we avoid reading and following the original Baha'i texts since they teach us things that are contrary to the Administration's interests. It is a terrible truth of today's Baha'is, but sadly, most Baha'is are not even troubled to think about it, and that is because we have been educated in this manner.

They've been taught not to challenge authority. It is difficult to question authority, but it is necessary. Let us push ourselves to examine every response as we begin a new year. Instead of being confrontational, the greatest strategy is to be nice and interested. You may make your case and be adamant about the fact that anything is off-kilter. That is how you intend to be among Baha'u'llah's and the Master's real followers. "Therefore, ye friends of God! Appreciate ye the value of this time and be ye engaged in the sowing of the seeds, so that you may find the heavenly blessing and the lordly bestowal...." Abdu'l Baha

We are proud of the fact that Free Baha'is have always stood up to authority, fought hard against those in power, and have never given up in the face of injustice in the name of the Cause. Lady Ruth White, the founder of the Free Baha'is, received Baha'u'llah's teachings at the Master's hands and only abandoned Christianity after doubting the authority. She was more Christian than any other Baha'i, even after becoming a Baha'i, since she believed in the authentic Jesus and his real teachings, which are present in the Baha'i faith. It has never been simple, and it will never be easy, but you must confront your own problems in order to attain the most genuine belief. May Baha'u'llah grant us with

the strength to persevere in our work and guide us to where he has always desired the Baha'is to be.

On the occasion of Naw-Ruz, we are delighted to present this new edition, which continues our series of articles, with the first being the Laws from Kitab-i-Aqdas, followed by an excerpt from the book 'The Baha'i Religion and Its Enemy, The Baha'i Organization.' These two parts are in addition to Blast from the Past, Throwback, Did You Know, Guest Articles, and Know Your Heritage, which are all standard sections. We are ecstatic to be a voice for the faithful today, and we encourage you to continue to send us your thoughts, suggestions, and questions about the religion at info@freebahais.org, and we will be pleased to respond. Wishing you a wonderful Naw-Ruz once more.

Stay blessed,

The Free Baha'i Team

STAND IN FAITH



Stand in faith
Even when you can't see your way

Stand in faith
Even when you feel like you can't face another day

Stand in faith
Even when the tears want to flow from your eyes

Stand in faith
Knowing that our God will always provide

Stand in faith
Even when you feel that all hope is gone

Stand in faith
Knowing that He is always there for you to lean on

Stand in faith
Even when you feel like giving up

Stand in faith
Because He is there ... saying, "Just look up"

Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel so all alone

Stand in faith
Hold on and be strong, for He is still on the throne

Stand in faith
Even when it's hard to believe

Stand in faith
Knowing that He can change your situation, suddenly

Stand in faith
Even in those times you feel it's hard to pray

Stand in faith
And believe that He has already made the way
Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

So stand in faith
Because you already have the victory!

– Johnnye V. Chandler

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)

DIVINE LAWS

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

O Pen of the Most High, say: O multitudes of creation (al-insha'), we have ordained the Fast for you, certain limited days. After the completion of them we have made al-Nayruz (Nawruz) a feast for you. [Note 3] Thus has the Sun of Explanation shone from the horizon of the Book from before the presence of the Possessor of the Place of Beginning and Return. And place prior to the month of fasting the (intercalary) days which are in excess of the months. We have, indeed, made them manifestations of al-ha' among the nights and days. Therefore these five days are not included in the year and the months. It is fitting, then, that in them the People of Baha' (Splendour) feed themselves and their relatives, then the poor and poverty-stricken. They must exalt, magnify, praise, and glorify their Lord with joy and gladness. And whenever the days of giving [Note 3] are completed, before the refraining (from food) let them enter upon the fast. So has the Master of Mankind (mawla al- anam) commanded. This does not cause difficulty for the one who is on a journey, for the ill, for the pregnant woman, or the one who is nursing. God has exempted them as a Grace on His part. He is the Mighty One, the Free Giver.

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

CANVASSING AT THE NSA ELECTION IN 1968, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THE UHJ DISSOLVED THE NSA AND REQUESTED A NEW ELECTION – GUEST ARTICLE

The process of Baha'i elections, as we all know, is completely different from the methodology and practices of elections in other political systems. At least, it is what the Baha'i authorities usually explain. The Baha'i Guardian has stated that if politicians' election methods are followed, misunderstandings and divisions would occur, turmoil and confusion will result, mischief will prevail, and God's confirmations will be shut off from that Baha'i community. Given these dire warnings, wouldn't a devout Baha'i go to great lengths to ensure that the purity and spiritual integrity of Baha'i elections be preserved? But, regrettably, we view things differently. Although we see these things occurring in the Baha'i community with every year with every other election, the only difference is that measures are done just once in a while.

Former counsellor explained that somewhere in early 70's there was a huge canvassing in NSA election. UHJ wrote to counsellors that they should, decide on the problem right away. Because of the gravity of the situation, it was decided that all of the Counsellors should travel to India. The five Counselors met with India's National Spiritual Assembly to assess the tragedy's impact and organize the next Convention's convocation.

The news was then relayed to the public, culminating in the announcement of the

Supreme Body's penalty against Dr. Bhargava, Mr. Vadji, Mr. Lad, and Mr. Tripathy. It was the clear instruction from the Supreme Body that the reasons for reconvoation of the National Convention and the re–election of the NSA should be defined and the delegates to the Convention should be told of the sanctions imposed on them. Mr. Rahmani and Dr. Salmanpour also joined the meeting and the matter was fully explained after the inspection was done. It was wrote to the Supreme Body that indeed there was 'corruption' and 'collision' of monetary machinations in India, it has a direct link to Mr. Vadji and his utter humiliation.

The absent delegates' ballots were one of the major elements publicly recognized by NSA members. The Centre of canvassing is the area where the majority of delegates are illiterate, either completely or partially. Traveling instructors are frequently hired to accept ballots, and it is here that electioneering, canvassing, and other nefarious activities take place. If a lot of delegates from the south of India want to attend the Convention, they will have to travel three days by train to New Delhi, necessitating at least a week to travel and remain in Delhi. For laborers, growers, and low-wage staff, this is exorbitant. Despite the fact that the NSA covers all expenses and lodging, the delegates from the South will have a difficult time attending the



ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Convention. Bhopal and Gwalior are home to the majority of the delegates. They are greeted by visiting teachers. Unfortunately, there are a few illiterates within this group. Electioneering's multifaceted ramifications may clearly be sensed in various areas. It was also thought that Mr. Lad would initiate entangling activities and contemplate to gain accomplice in his vesture. And Dr. Bhargava would recede presently but finally he would join Mr. Lad, and create ge trouble particularly in regions of such as Bihar and Gwalior. It was also said that looking at the potential of these two members there should be consideration and tact, so that these members do not react. So where was the spirit of Bahai Election it shows "Mighty wins the Race."

The same practices are still rampant but with the knowledge of the Supreme Body who sees that if the desired members are elected on the NSA they overlook it but if undesired elements are elected then they ask for his resignation citing malpractices.

Mr. Oliya was being elected on NSA for many years with all the above-mentioned malpractices but still he was allowed to

continue but Dr. Ahmed Ansari was undesired member so was asked to quit.

Mrs. Farideh Vahidi and Dr. Moghbelpour were undesired member and hence were too asked to quit.

It should be mentioned that the preceding occurrence occurred about 50 years ago, and no such action has been taken since then. If you ask any Baha'i, they will tell you that similar things are still happening around them throughout the election season, but no one is doing anything about it. When you observe certain inexperienced or immature Baha'is participate in electioneering, whether publicly or surreptitiously, it is job of the Counsellor present to stand up and aid in the eradication of such inclinations and the purification of the Baha'i community from such bad influences. Rather than being drawn to mimic them, you should resolve to help in the eradication of such inclinations and the purifying of the Baha'i community from such bad influences by right administrative means. Only then will we be able to cleanse our system of such atrocities as Baha'is.

-Former Member of NSA OF INDIA



THE BAHAI RELIGION AND ITS ENEMY, THE BAHA'I ORGANIZATION – PART 12

(An extract from Lady Ruth White's book)

(...continued)

(PART TWO)

HE IS GOD

O my Lord, my heart's Desire, Thou Whom I ever invoke, Thou Who are my Aider and my Shelter, my Helper and my Refuge! Thou seest me submerged in an ocean of calamities that overwhelm the soul, of afflictions that oppress the heart, of woes that disperse Thy gathering, of ills and pains that scatter Thy flock. Sore trials have compassed me round arid perils have from all sides beset me. Thou seest me immersed in a sea of unsurpassed tribulation, sunk into a fathomless abyss, afflicted by mine enemies and consumed with the flame of their hate, enkindled by my kinsman with whom Thou didst make Thy strong Covenant and Thy firm Testament, wherein Thou biddest them turn their hearts to this wronged one, to

keep away from me the foolish, the unjust, and refer unto this lonely one all that about which they differ in Thy Holy Book, so that the Truth may be revealed unto them, their doubts may be dispelled and Thy manifest Signs be spread abroad.

Yet now Thou seest them, O Lord, My God! with Thine eye that sleepeth not, how that they have broken Thy Covenant and turned their backs thereon, how with hate and rebelliousness they have erred from Thy Testament and have arisen intent upon malice.

Adversities have waxed still more severe as they rose with unbearable cruelty to overpower and crush me, as they scattered far and wide their scrolls of doubt and in utter falsehood hurled their calumnies upon me. Not content with this, their Chief, O my God, hath dared to interpolate Thy Book, to

fraudulently alter "Thy decisive Holy Text and falsify that which hath been revealed by Thy All Glorious Pen. He did also maliciously insert that which Thou didst reveal for the one that hath wrought the most glaring cruelty upon Thee, disbelieved in Thee and denied Thy wondrous Signs, into what Thou didst reveal for this servant of Thine that hath been wronged in this world. All this he did that, he might beguile the souls of men and breathe his evil whisperings into the hearts of Thy devoted ones. Thereunto did their second Chief testify, confessing it in his own handwriting setting thereupon his seal and spreading it throughout all regions. O my God! Could there be a more grievous injustice than this? And still they rested not, but further strove with stubbornness, falsehood and slander, with scorn and calumny to stir up sedition in the midst of the government of this land and elsewhere, causing them to deem me a sower of sedition and filling the minds with things that the ear abhorreth to hear. The government was thus alarmed, fear fell upon the Sovereign, and the suspicion of the nobility was aroused. Minds were troubled, affairs were upset, souls were perturbed. the fire of anguish and sorrow was kindled within tile breasts, the Holy leaves (of the Household) were convulsed and shaken, their eyes rained with tears, their sighs and lamentations were raised and their hearts burned within them as they bewailed this wronged servant of Thine, fallen a victim into the hands of these, his kindred, nay. his very enemies.

Lord! Thou seest all things weeping me and my kindred rejoicing in my woes. By Thy Glory O my God Even amongst nine enemies, some have lamented my troubles and my distress, and of the envious ones a number have shed tears because of my cares, my exile and my afflictions. They did this because they found naught in me but affection and care and witnessed naught but kindness and mercy. As they saw me swept into the flood of tribulation and adversity and exposed even as

a target to the arrows of fate, their hearts were moved with compassion, tears came to their eyes and they testified declaring: - "The lord is our witness naught have we seen from him but faithfulness, generosity and extreme compassion. "The Covenant breakers, foreboders of evil, however, waxed fiercer in their rancour, rejoiced as I fell a victim to the most grievous ordeal, bestirred themselves against, me and made merry over the heartrending happenings around me. I call upon Thee, O Lord my God! with my tongue and with all my heart, not to requite them for their cruelty and their wrong-doings, their craft and their mischief, for they are foolish and ignoble and know not what they do. They discern not good from evil, neither do they distinguish right from wrong, nor justice from injustice. They follow their own desires and walk in the footsteps of the most imperfect and foolish amongst them.

O my Lord! Have mercy upon them, shield them from all afflictions in these troubled times and grant that all trials and hardships may be the lot of this Thy servant that hath fallen into this darksome pit. Single me out for every woe and make me a sacrifice for all Thy loved ones. O Lord Most High! May my soul, my life, my being, my spirit, my all be offered up for them. O God, my God! Lowly, suppliant and fallen upon my face, I beseech Thee with all the ardour of my invocation to pardon whosoever hath hurt me, forgive him that hath conspired against me and offended me, and wash away the misdeeds of them that have wrought injustice upon me. Vouchsafe unto them Thy goodly gifts, give them joy, relieve them from sorrow, grant them peace and prosperity, give them Thy bliss and pour upon them Thy bounty.

Thou art the Powerful, the Gracious, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting!

O dearly beloved friends! I am now in very great danger and the hope of even an hour's life is lost to me. I am thus constrained to write these lines for the protection of the Cause of

God, the preservation of His Law, the safeguarding of His Word, and the safety of His Teachings. By the Ancient Beauty! This wronged one hath in no wise borne nor doth he bears a grudge against any one; toward none doth he entertains any ill feeling and uttereth no word saves for the good of the world. My supreme obligation, however, of necessity, prompteth me to guard and preserve the Cause of God.

Thus, with the greatest regret, I counsel you saying: — “Guard ye the Cause of God, protect His law and have the utmost fear of discord. This is the foundation of the belief of the people of Baha (may my life be offered up for them). “His Holiness, the Exalted One (The Bab) is the manifestation of the Unity and Oneness of God and the Forerunner of the Ancient Beauty. His Holiness the Abha Beauty, (may my life be a sacrifice for His steadfast friends) is the Supreme Manifestation of God and the Dayspring of His Most Divine Essence. All others are servants unto Him and do his bidding.” Unto the Most Holy Book everyone must turn and all that is not expressly recorded therein must be referred to the Universal House of Justice. That which this body, whether unanimously or by a majority doth carry, that is verily the Truth and the Purpose of God himself. Whoso doth deviate therefrom is verily of them that love discord, hath shown forth malice and turned away from the Lord of the Covenant. By this House is meant that Universal House of Justice which is to be elected from all countries, that is from those parts in the East and West where the loved ones are to be found, after the manner of the customary elections in Western countries such as those of England. It is incumbent upon these members (of the Universal House of Justice) to gather in a certain place and deliberate upon all problems which have caused difference, questions that are obscure and matters that are not expressly recorded in the Book. Whatsoever they decide has the same effect as the Text itself. And inasmuch as this House of Justice hath power to enact laws that are not

expressly recorded in the Book and bear upon daily transactions, so also it hath power to repeal the same. Thus, for example, the House of Justice enacteth today a certain law and enforceth it, and a hundred years hence, circumstances having profoundly changed and the conditions having altered, another House of Justice will then have power, according to the exigencies of the time, to alter that law. This it can do because that law formeth no part of the Divine Explicit Text. The House of Justice is both the Initiator and the Abrogator of its own laws.

And now, one of the greatest and most fundamental principles of the Cause of God is to shun and avoid entirely the Covenant-breakers, for they will utterly destroy the Cause of God, exterminate His Law and render of no account all efforts exerted in the past. O friends! It behooveth you to call to mind with tenderness the trials of His Holiness, the exalted One and show your fidelity to the Ever-Blest Beauty. The utmost endeavour must be exerted lest all these woes, trials and afflictions, all this pure and sacred blood that hath been shed so profusely in the Path of God, may prove to be in vain. Ye know well what the hands of the Centre of Sedition, Mirza Muhammed Ali, and his associates have wrought. Among his doings, one of them is the corruption of the Sacred Text whereof ye are all aware, the Lord be praised, and know that it is evident, proven and confirmed by the testimony of his brother, Mirza Badi'u'llah whose confession is written in his Own Handwriting, Beareth His Seal is Printed and Spread abroad. This is but one of his misdeeds. Can a transgression be imagined more glaring than this, the interpolation of the Holy Text? Nay, by the righteousness of the Lord! His transgressions are writ and recorded in a leaflet by itself. Please God, ye will persue it.

In short, according to the explicit Divine Text, the least transgression shall make of this man a fallen creature, and what transgression is more grievous than attempting to destroy the

Divine Edifice, breaking the covenant, erring from the testament, falsifying the Holy Text, sowing the seeds of doubt, caluminating Abdu'l- Baha, advancing claims for which God hath sent down no warrant, kindling mischief and striving to shed the very blood of Abdu'l-Baha, and many other things whereof ye are all aware! It is thus evident that should this man succeed in bringing disruption into the Cause of God, he will utterly destroy and exterminate it. Beware lest ye approach this man, for to approach him is worse than approaching fire.

Gracious God! After Mirza Badi'u'llah had declared in his own handwriting that this man (Muhammad Ali) had broken the Covenant and had proclaimed his falsification of the Holy Text, he realized that to return to the True Faith and pay allegiance to the Covenant and Testament would in no wise promote his selfish desires. He thus repented and regretted the thing he had done and attempted privily to gather in his printed confessions plotted darkly with the Centre of Sedition against me and informed him daily of all the happenings within my household. He has even taken a leading part in the mischievous deeds that have of late been committed. Praise be to God, affairs recovered their former stability and the loved ones obtained partial peace. But ever since the day he entered again into our midst, he began afresh to sow the seeds of sore sedition. Some of his machinations and intrigues will be recorded in a separate leaflet.

My purpose is, however, to show that it is incumbent upon the friends that are fast and firm in the Covenant and Testament to be ever wakeful lest after this wronged one is gone this alert and active worker of mischief may cause disruption, privily sow the seeds of doubt and sedition and utterly root out the Cause of God. A thousand times shun his company. Take heed and be on your guard. Watch and examine; should anyone openly or privily, have the least connection with him cast him out from your midst, for he will surely cause disruption and mischief.

O ye beloved of the Lord! Strive with all your heart to shield the Cause of God from the onslaught of the insincere, for souls such as these cause the straight to become crooked and all benevolent efforts to produce contrary results.

O God my God! I call Thee, Thy Prophets and Thy Messenger, Thy Saints and Thy Holy Ones, to witness that I have declared conclusively Thy Proofs unto Thy loved ones and set forth clearly all things unto them, that they may watch over Thy faith, guard Thy Straight Path and protect Thy Resplendent Law. Thou art verily, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

To be continued...





1912 - Abdu'l Baha in Lincoln Park, Chicago.

INSPIRING QUOTES



“Rid thou thyself of all attachments to aught except God, enrich thyself in God by dispensing with all else besides Him, and recite this prayer:
Say: God sufficeth all things above all things, and nothing in the heavens or in the earth or in whatever lieth between them but God, thy Lord, sufficeth. Verily, He is in Himself the Knower, the Sustainer, the Omnipotent.”

— The Bab

“The door of the knowledge of the Ancient of Days being thus closed in the face of all beings, the Source of infinite grace...hath caused those luminous Gems of Holiness to appear out of the realm of the spirit, in the noble form of the human temple, and be made manifest unto all men, that they may impart unto the world the mysteries of the unchangeable Being, and tell of the subtleties of His imperishable Essence.”

— 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

Happy the one who entereth upon the first day of the month of Bahá, the day which God hath consecrated to this Great Name. And blessed be he who evidenceth on this day the bounties that God hath bestowed upon him; he, verily, is of those who show forth thanks to God through actions betokening the Lord's munificence which hath encompassed all the worlds. Say: This day, verily, is the crown of all the months and the source thereof, the day on which the breath of life is wafted over all created things. Great is the blessedness of him who greeteth it with radiance and joy. We testify that he is, in truth, among those who are blissful.

Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 59

Dear Friends,

Allah'u'abha

The month of fasting has given all of us a very much needed spiritual boost. We all welcome the new year with a new set of religious and spiritual goals of self-upliftment. Past few

days have been very disturbing with regards to the global peace. We however keep praying for the welfare for the entire mankind and urge everyone to hold tight to the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha. Whatever the geo-political differences maybe, but we entire mankind are one nation and every human is its citizen.

We have received news from different part of the world about believers inviting their neighbours during fast-breaking. They utilised this opportunity to initiate their conversation about their beliefs. Friends also shared their ideas of how this occasion helped them get involved with their neighbouring families. This went further into explaining the Baha'i beliefs. All this is possible only with spiritual power bestowed by the fasting.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said "Fasting is the cause of awakening man. The heart becomes tender and the spirituality of man increases. This is produced by the fact that man's thoughts will

be confined to the commemoration of God, and through this awakening and stimulation surely ideal advancements follow. This material fast is an outer token of the spiritual fast; it is a symbol of self-restraint, the withholding of oneself from all appetites of the self, taking on the characteristics of the spirit, being carried away by the breathings of heaven and catching fire from the love of God."

Even though outwardly the Fast is difficult and toilsome, yet inwardly it is bounty and tranquillity. Purification and training are conditioned and dependent only on such rigorous exercises as are in accord with the Book of God and sanctioned by Divine law, not those which the deluded have inflicted upon the people. Whatsoever God hath revealed is beloved of the soul. We beseech Him that He may graciously assist us to do that which is pleasing and acceptable unto Him.

-Bahá'u'lláh, The Importance of Obligatory Prayer and Fasting, XVI

Friends have been also preparing for Navruz celebration as per the prevailing conditions in their own localities. Friends from Australia, USA, Angola shared their plans of conducting small gatherings on the occasion of Navruz inviting wider community to introduce them with Baha'i New Year celebrations. Middle

east which does not have so conducive atmosphere to conduct such gatherings have their plans to invite eminent speakers and dignitaries on a virtual platform with a theme to speak on the need of a religion that unites entire mankind. Our efforts must be in sync with the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha. We must persist in our efforts to lead the world towards unity and peace. We must also pray for others to be blessed with the Divine Words in order to make this world a better place. Lastly we pray for the safety for everyone and urge everyone to pray and work towards safety of others.

Warm Baha'i greetings

Team Free Baha'i



BLAST FROM THE PAST

MEMORIES

When during the year 1913 Abdul Baha spent a few months in Paris I was in his service as secretary and interpreter and this second visit brought to my mind treasured memories of the past. Here Abdul Baha had given countless talks both public and private, and here he had gathered about him a group of devoted souls who will always be associated with those early days. I had the privilege of meeting some of them again and found that their concentration on the Cause had not wavered during the intervening years. This is indeed a fire, which when definitely caught, will burn forever.

I gave two talks at Mrs. Chanler's delightful Apartment at 77 Rue des Saints Peres. The drawing room on the top floor overlooks all of Paris and the historic Monuments dotted here and there stand out in relief among the grey roofs. Toward the West one sees the Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides, and the Sacré Coeur, toward the East the more ancient structures of Nôtre Dame, Saint Sulpice and Saint Germain des Près. The scene is always entrancing through the varied colored hues of the day and evening, and the sky is laid around like a panorama in which one may read the secrets of ones' own heart. This is a setting which would inspire almost any one, and I did my best as your representative, to give a satisfactory account of the Ideals for which our Society is working in New York, and of the obligation which we feel of spreading them throughout the world.

(Reference: The New History Magazine, October 1931)



SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Email 1:

What is the ruling for someone who is involved in drugs, as per the Baha'is law? Are drugs allowed in the teachings of Baha'u'llah?

Answer

Hi Neel,

Allah'u'Abha!

Trust you're doing great. We are glad to see you writing back.

As per the teachings of Baha'u'llah, we can find rules regarding smoking of opium, explicitly. According to his teachings, individuals stuck in the cycle of substance abuse can lose personal accountability, freedom, a sense of purpose, a sense of self-worth, and spiritual orientation, and become disconnected from their family, and hence one

should avoid getting into any such habits.

Kitab-i-Aqdas states, "The smoking of opium has been prohibited to you. We have strictly forbidden this to you in the Book. Whoever smokes (it) is not one of us. Fear God, O people of intelligence. By My Most Great, Most Holy, High, and Most Splendid Name!"

According to the Master, "As to opium, it is foul and accursed. God protect us from the punishment He inflicteth on the user. According to the explicit Text of the Most Holy Book, it is forbidden, and its use is utterly condemned. Reason showeth that smoking opium is a kind of insanity, and experience attesteth that the user is completely cut off from the human kingdom. May God protect all against the perpetration of an act so hideous as this, an act which layeth in ruins the very foundation of what it is to be human, and which causeth the user to be dispossessed for ever and ever."

Hence, looking into the reason mentioned regarding opium, one must stay away from such habits. However, it should be noted that the above prohibition against taking certain classes of drugs does not forbid their use when prescribed by qualified physicians as part of a medical treatment.

Hope that helps, if you have any more questions, feel free to write back.

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 2:

I heard somewhere about there being a mention somewhere in the Writings of a “unity position”, which is sitting cross-legged on the ground, known in Hinduism as the lotus position. If you know of such a mention, please share.

Answer

Hi John,

Allah’u’Abha!

Trust you’re doing great. Thanks for writing to us with your question.

As per Kitab-i-Aqdas, the Arabic expression “haykalu’t-tawhíd”, is translated as “cross-legged”, means the posture of unity. It is by tradition signified as a cross-legged position. Besides this, Baha'u'llah also speaks of specific postures in which the recital of verses is recommended. If the obligatory prayer is missed, for example, the believer is to prostrate and repeat either: subhana llahi dhi l-azamati wa l-ijlali wa l-mawhibati wa l-afdal (Translation: "Praised be God, the Lord of Might and Majesty, of Grace and Bounty") or simply subhana llah (Translation: "Praised be God").

After this both men and women are to sit cross-legged in the posture which he refers to as the "Temple of Unity" (haykal at-tawhid) and repeat eighteen times: subhana llah dhi l-mulki wa l-malakut (Translation: "Praised be God, the Lord of the kingdoms of earth and heaven"). The posture of haykal at-tawhid is a simple cross-legged sitting position popular in Sufi practice. Another traditional posture of Islam referred to in the Baha'i writings is quud

(literally, sitting), which is identical to the 'sitting on one's heels' posture of Zen Buddhism. The quud posture is most commonly used when reciting those sections of the Baha'i long obligatory prayer that call for the sitting position.

Hope that helps, if you have any more questions, feel free to write back.

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 3:

So we are told not to be politicians. Does that message go to everyone or just Bahais? If it is just to the Bahais, don't God want everyone to be Bahais? If everyone becomes Bahais or if the message goes out to everyone at earth what political system are we suppose to use then? The same administrative system the Bahais use or does He expect us to figure out something new?

Answer

Hi Leah,

Allah'u'Abha!

Hope you're doing good. Thanks for reaching out to us, we are glad to see your email.

As per the Baha'i Laws, participation in politics which lead to sedition is strictly prohibited. However, Kitab-i-Aqdas says, one should obey the laws of the country he resides in. Your other part of the question regarding political system that Baha'is would follow when the entire world would become a Baha'i – it will follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the laws of Kitab-i-Aqdas would be established around the world through the Universal House of Justice. But one must note that it would certainly be not the current established Universal House of Justice, whose members are appointed and not elected. We as Free Baha'is believe in the true Universal House of Justice which will be established only when the Baha'is are free from the shackles of administration. Imagine a new world order which follows the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master, and it is free from all discriminations and prejudices. We are all required to work hard to attain world peace

by following the commandments of Baha'u'llah, with which he was raised. Abdu'l Baha has said, "I have not appointed any officer in the faith." Each and every Baha'i is the Guardian of his own faith, and responsible for spreading the message of Baha'u'llah. One should spread the message of love and peace, eliminate prejudice, and pray to Baha'u'llah for establishing the true Universal House of Justice.

The Master said in Boston, "The Baha'is must not engage in political movements which lead to sedition. They must interest themselves in movements which conduce to law and order. In Persia at the present time the Baha'is have no part in the revolutionary upheavals which have terminated in lawlessness and rebellion. Nevertheless, a Baha'i may hold a political office and be interested in politics of the right type. Ministers, state officials and governor-generals in Persia are Baha'is, and there are many other Baha'is holding governmental positions; but nowhere throughout the world should the followers of Baha'u'llah be engaged in seditious movements. For example, if there should be an uprising here in America having for its purpose the establishment of a despotic government, the Baha'is should not be connected with it."

Hope that helps, if you have any more questions, feel free to write back.

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is

“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!

DID YOU KNOW ?

MASON REMEY CRITICIZED SHOGHI EFFENDI CALLING HIM A SICK SOUL

Mason Remey criticizing Shoghi Effendi had said Shoghi Effendi was a very “confused and “sick soul” he was “ego maniac”. He flaunted and disobeyed the laws of the Aqdas and created all this confusion himself and that he (Shoghi Effendi) was guardian of the Babi religion and was not the guardian of the Baha'i faith. Speaking of his administration as a Babi, rather than Baha'i, administration.

Remey became intrigued, particularly, by two passages from Shoghi Effendi's, *The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah*.

The first one was Shoghi Effendi's announcement that “upon the 23rd of May of this auspicious year [1934], the Baha'i World will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Faith of Baha'u'llah.” The 90 years would be from 1844, when the Bab declared his mission.

The sacred and youthful branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, as well as the Universal House of Justice to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abha

Beauty, under the shelter and unerring guidance of the Exalted One (the Bab) (may my life be offered up for them both) whatsoever they decide is of God. (Shoghi Effendi, *The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah*, p. 57)

Remey reasoned from these passages that Shoghi Effendi had built his administration around the Babi religion, since (according to Remey) the Babi and Baha'i faiths are distinct:

The Babi Dispensation was but 19 years and was ended and completed with the Declaration of Baha'u'llah in 1863 in the Garden of Ridvan at Baghdad.

The Babi Faith and the Baha'i Faith are two distinct and different religions — this was not made clear in the forming of the Administration of the Faith that was formed about the Babi Religion instead of the Baha'i Faith. In other words... The first Guardian of the Faith so construed the Master Abdu'l Baha's Will and Testament that he formed his Administration upon the Babi Faith and not upon the Baha'i Faith.

(The Guardian's Letter, Vol. 1, No. 2 [December, 1966], p. 1; the ellipsis after "In other words" appears in the letter.)

Because Shoghi Effendi had "so construed" 'Abdu'l-Baha's will and testament, Mason Remey believed something had to be done to correct matters. Hence, his formation of the Abha World Faith: This mistake (Shoghi Effendi's building his administration upon the Babi religion] has caused so much confusion and misunderstanding and trouble that the only thing for the second Guardian to do, to set matters aright, is to discard all which Shoghi Effendi did and to institute a New Faith which shall be the Orthodox Faith under the Holy Name of ABHA in order to carry out the conditions that will lead to the establishment of the TRUE Baha'i Faith (of Baha'u'llah) which Faith has not yet been established in the world. (Ibid)

Four paragraphs later in the same letter:

In my general letter to the Baha'i World, both Pro and Sans Guardian, of January 1967 | explain at length how the First Guardian Shoghi Effendi built his Administration about the Babi Faith and not about the Baha'i Faith. Shoghi Effendi was a very confused soul. He was an ego maniac. He flaunted and disobeyed the laws of the Aqdas and created all this confusion himself. Therefore, the only thing for me to do has been to explain the condition in my letters to the Friends telling them frankly that the first step is to wipe out and to efface everything that Shoghi Effendi did and then to inaugurate a new Faith based upon the teachings of Baha'u'llah (and not upon the Bab).

(Remey letter to James Meyer, July 18, 1967)

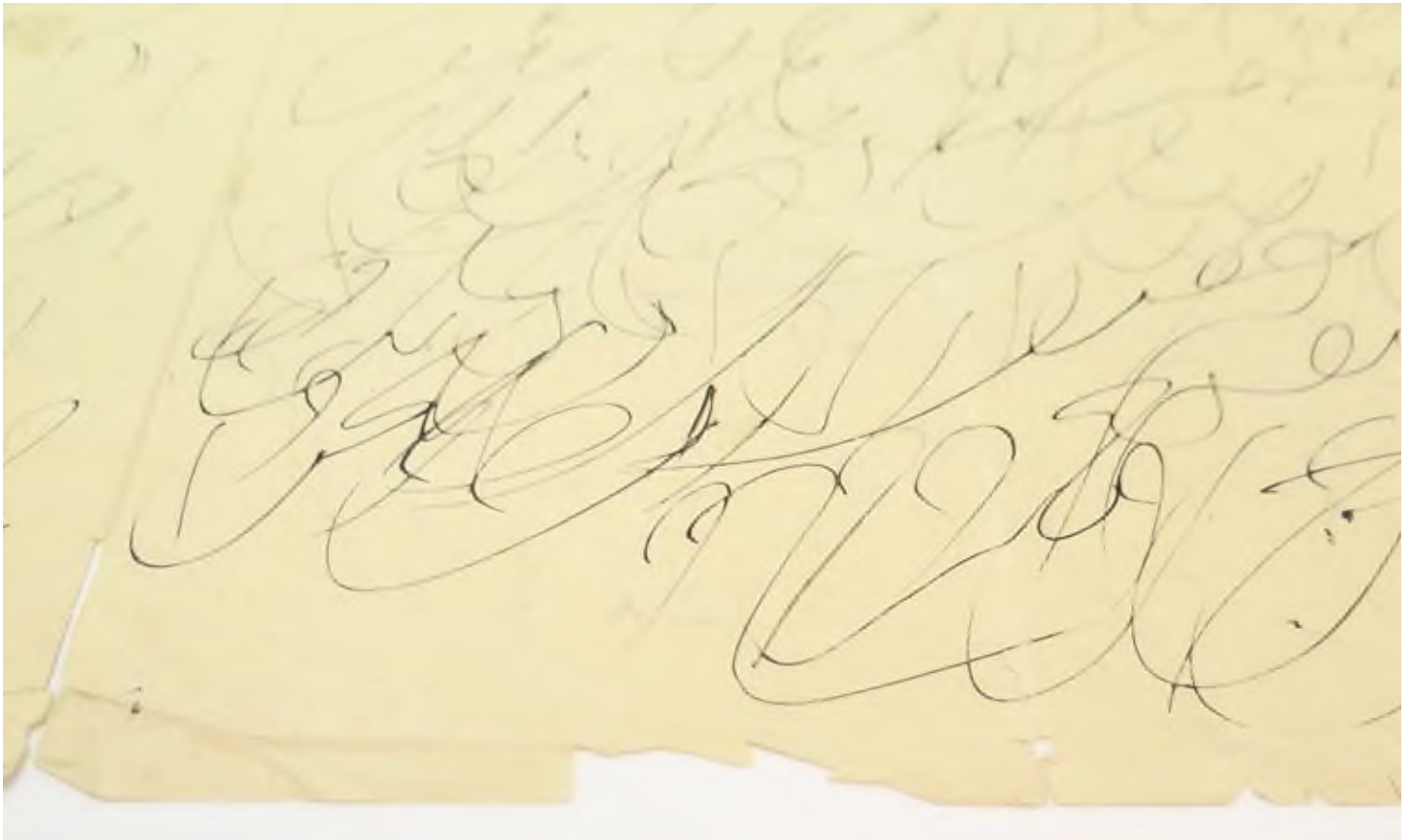


INVESTIGATION OF REALITY

“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



Revelation writing of Baha'u'llah's Tajalliyat, by Mirza Aqa Jan

WEBSPLORE

 **r/FreeSpeechBahai** · Posted by [u/trident765](#) 2 months ago



Worshipping human institutions is idolatry

Those who call the UHJ infallible are committing the sin of idolatry, which is a very grave sin. Turn to God and repent of your idolatry! All things make mistakes, including the UHJ. Only God is infallible. And God speaks only through his manifestations, and not through any institution, and not through Abdul Baha either. The members of the UHJ do not "feel God's presence" like Adib Taherzadeh claims, at least not more than any ordinary person does. There is absolutely nothing wrong with saying the UHJ did something wrong. To say otherwise is to join partners with God.

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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."

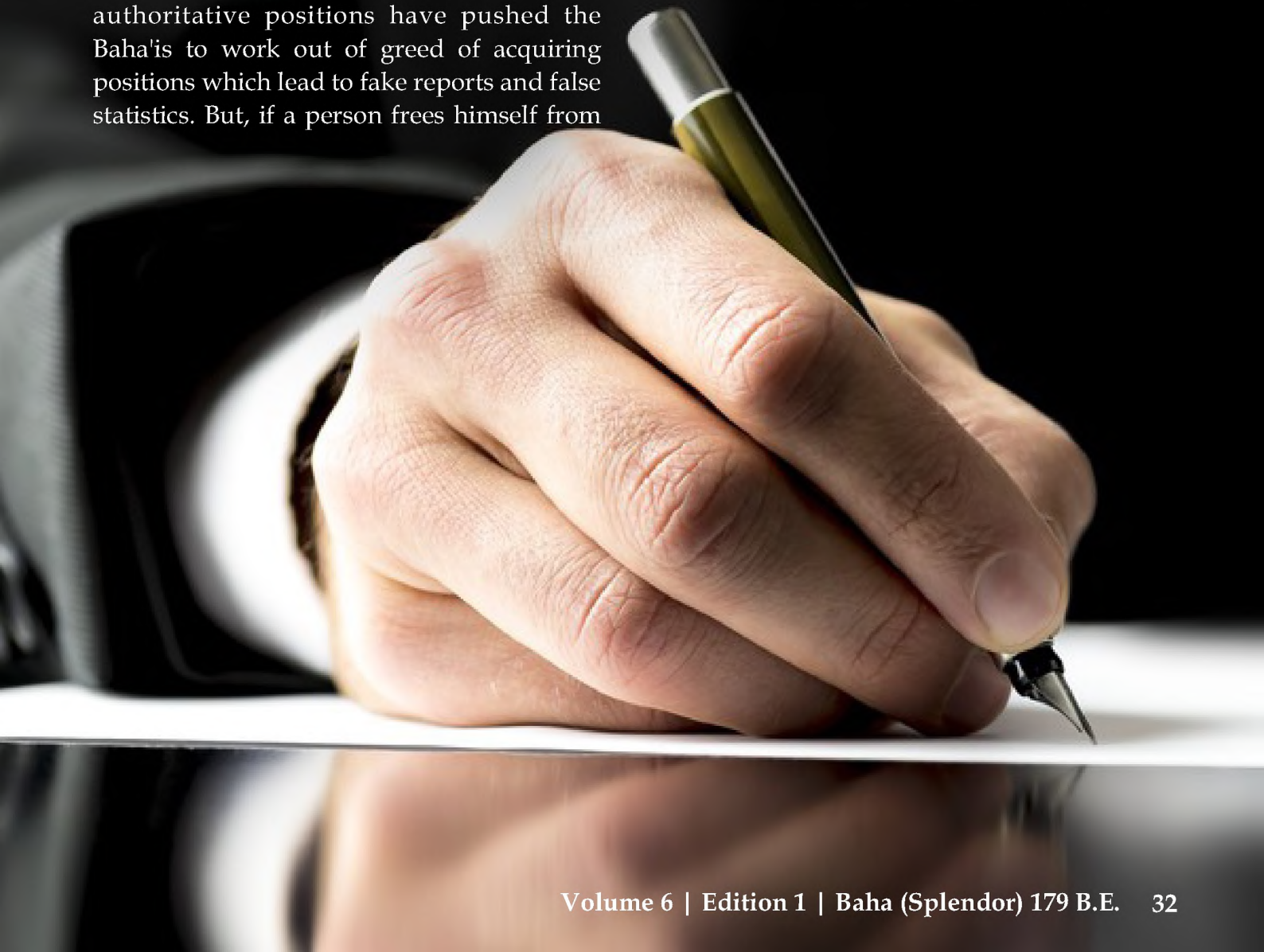
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

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?



THROWBACK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1912.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

40 Years in Jail Brings Wisdom Abdul Baha Urges World Peace

Famous Oriental Philosopher
Will Visit San Francisco to
Spread Doctrine.

ABDUL BAHÁ

Abdul Baha, after being in prison for forty years, is on his way to San Francisco to preach the faith he learned to follow during his confinement.

Abdul Baha is the son of Baha Ollah, the founder of Bahaism, which is, in brief, the doctrine of universal peace. He will remain here for two weeks or more, urging the peoples of the world to peace and brotherhood.

Abdul Baha was imprisoned with his father at Baghdad for preaching the religion of the Dawn of a New Day. From Baghdad, Baha Ollah was removed to Akka or Acre and there with his son, Abdul Baha, who is about to visit this city, he issued pamphlets, known as tablets, announcing the faith of Bahaism.

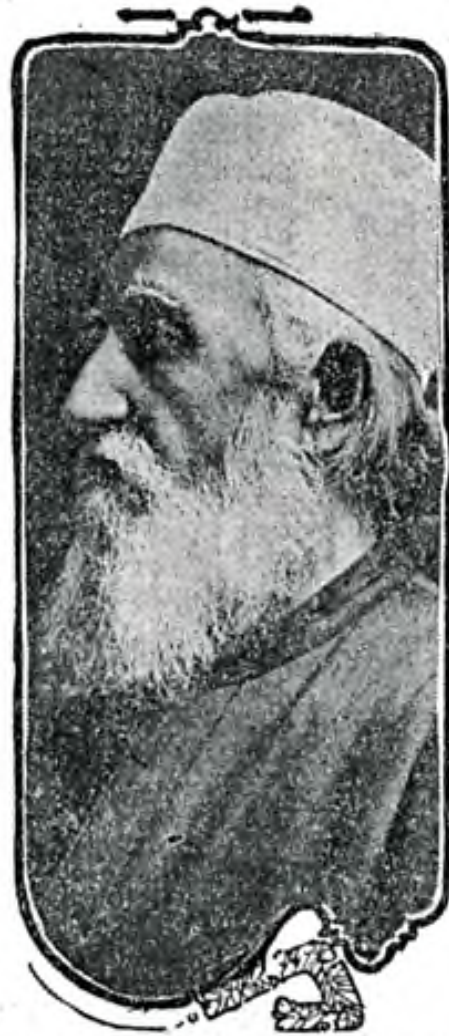
In 1904 the father died in prison calling upon the world to listen to the message of his son. With the revolution of the young Turks in 1908, Abdul Baha was released from prison and emerged into the world after having been hidden in dark dungeons for more than forty years.

He went to Egypt and Europe and was received with open arms by the wise men of the west, who allowed him to preach and teach after his own manner.

His mission has lasted in the open world for four years. He has now fifteen million followers known as Bahaists.

Abdul Baha speaks with the tongue of prophecy, though he resents being called a prophet, since he claims that what he has to say is of what there is and not what there shall be. He is a philosopher of wisdom gained not from books but from a life of solitude, during which his only literature has been the Bible, and his father's works. But Abdul is a scholar of amazing culture. He speaks like a fountain of wisdom.

He has the insight of Omar Khayyam, combined with the optimism of the Christian belief. He offers something more than a worldly hope men set their hearts upon. He offers a reality of life that comes only through peace of mind. This he declares is the first step towards peace of nations, though he fears that at present the nations



of the world are striving at peace in the midst of discord.

Abdul Baha is now in Denver on his way West. He will arrive in San Francisco this week and various pulpits in the city will be lent to him to preach from. He preaches from all kinds of pulpits and it makes no difference to him, or to the people he preaches to the denomination of the church where he takes his stand.

1912 - Abdu'l Baha's message of peace in a newspaper

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