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AN OPEN LETTER
TO THE
UNIVERSAL HOUSE
OF JUSTICE

ARTICLE INSIDE!

RULES OF INHERITANCE
AS PER THE KITAB-I-AQDAS

READ ALL ABOUT IT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Prayer of Abdu'l Baha
2. Foreword
3. Poem – The Writings told of a Manifestation
4. Divine Laws - Laws of Inheritance
5. An Open Letter to the Universal House of Justice – Guest Article
6. Clergy in the Baha'i Cause
7. The Baha'i Religion and its enemy the Baha'i Organization - Part 15
8. Picture: Abdu'l Baha in Chicago
9. Free Baha'i Activities
10. Inspiring Quotes
11. Some Questions Answered
12. Investigation of Reality
13. Know your Heritage
14. Introducing The Caravan App!
15. Websplore
16. Throwback
17. Blast from the Past
18. Did you know?
19. Declarations

PRAYER



The Sun of Truth hath risen...

O peoples of the world! The Sun of Truth hath risen to illumine the whole earth, and to spiritualize the community of man. Laudable are the results and the fruits thereof, abundant the holy evidences deriving from this grace. This is mercy unalloyed and purest bounty; it is light for the world and all its peoples; it is harmony and fellowship, and love and solidarity; indeed, it is compassion and unity, and the end of foreignness; it is the being at one, in complete dignity and freedom, with all on earth.

[Baha'u'llah] saith: “Ye are all the fruits of one tree, the leaves of one branch.” Thus hath He likened this world of being to a single tree, and all its peoples to the leaves thereof, and the blossoms and fruits. It is needful for the bough to blossom, and leaf and fruit to flourish, and upon the interconnection of all parts of the world-tree, dependeth the flourishing of leaf and blossom, and the sweetness of the fruit.

For this reason, must all human beings powerfully sustain one another and seek for everlasting life; and for this reason must the lovers of God in this contingent

world become the mercies and the blessings sent forth by that clement King of the seen and unseen realms. Let them purify their sight and behold all humankind as leaves and blossoms and fruits of the tree of being. Let them at all times concern themselves with doing a kindly thing for one of their fellows, offering to someone love, consideration, thoughtful help. Let them see no one as their enemy, or as wishing them ill, but think of all humankind as their friends; regarding the alien as an intimate, the stranger as a companion, staying free of prejudice, drawing no lines.

- Abdu'l Baha

(Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, pp. 1-2)

FOREWORD

Every faith rejoices over the birth of its founder, but Baha'is across the world double that delight by observing the Twin Holy Days. Baha'is commemorate the birthdays of the Bab and Baha'u'llah, the two manifestation of God linked with the Baha'i revelation, one after the other. Baha'is believe that the Bab, whose name means "the gate," heralded in a new era of fulfilment and growth for all humanity. The Bab's principal objective, to announce the advent of a divinely inspired spiritual educator whom he referred to as "He Whom God shall make apparent," would clear the way for the arrival of a new God's messenger. The Bab, like John the Baptist, warned his eager followers to brace themselves for the arrival of the new prophet. He also foretold the arrival of a new period in human history, one that would see the rise of a just, united, and peaceful global civilisation. Despite the fact that the Bab's ministry lasted only six years until his murder by a terrified regime, it laid down the foundation for the arrival of Baha'u'llah.

The Baha'is refer to these Holy Days as "twins" because, according to the Muslim calendar in

use at the time the Bab and Baha'u'llah were born, their birthdays fell on consecutive days – the Bab's on the first day of the month of Muharram and Baha'u'llah's on the second day of the same month. These twin holy days, when Baha'is meet to worship, read from the Baha'i literature, sing and dance, and rejoice, are filled with joy and significance for Baha'is all around the world. Baha'u'llah asked the Baha'is to celebrate feasts of unity, joy, and commemoration on each of these two special days, placing them second only in importance in the Baha'i calendar to the two "Most Great Festivals" – the Declaration of Baha'u'llah in the garden of Ridvan in 1863 and the Declaration of the Bab in Shiraz in 1844.

On the occasion of the "Twin Celebration," we are delighted to introduce our new Edition, which honors both the holy personalities - The Bab and Baha'u'llah. We continue our series of essays with great joy, beginning with the final excerpt from the book "The Baha'i Religion and Its Enemy, The Baha'i Organization," followed by the Laws from Kitab-i-Aqdas and other Guest Articles, as well as important questions answered under the "Some



Questions Answered" series. We once again ask our readers to free their minds of hate and thoroughly study the Caravan in order to reach a logical conclusion.

"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 are delighted to serve as the faithful's voice today, and we urge that you continue to give us your comments, questions, and suggestions at info@freeBahais.org. We will be delighted to contact you.

Stay blessed,

The Free Baha'i Team

THE WRITINGS TOLD OF A MANIFESTATION



The Writings told of a Manifestation
Who would rise to His great station
Like a sun lifting into the sky
With joy the children would cry
For near and yonder
Many things were told
By young and by old
That day was the king of days
For all of the sun's rays,
were shining upon that spot
that we must forget not
For this was the day of a birth
Now celebrated around the earth
The day we said Allah'u'Abha
To the great Manifestation, Baha'u'llah
World-embracing vision
Was the reason for His mission
Peace, love and unity
For the world's immunity
Equality of men and women
Were of teachings we were given
Universal education
For everyone in every nation
And there is so much more
So come in through the door
And listen to our story
Of great great glory

- A poem by an 11 year-old child

DIVINE LAWS

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

Whoever dies having no offspring, his rights return to the House of Justice (bayt al-'adl) in order that the Stewards of the Merciful (umana' al-rahman) may spend it on orphans and widows, and on what benefits the multitude of people. This, that they may thank their Lord, the Forgiving, the Mighty One.

Whoever has offspring but does not have anyone else of those stipulated in the Book-two-thirds of what he leaves goes to his offspring and one-third to the House of Justice. Thus ruled the Self-Sufficient One, who is exalted with Greatness and Majesty.

Whoever has no children but has relatives, sons and daughters of a brother or sister, they are to have two-thirds. Otherwise the inheritance goes to paternal and maternal uncles and paternal and maternal aunts; after them to their sons and daughters. The third goes to the Resting-place (House) of Justice (maqarral-'adl). This is because of a command in the Book from God, the Possessor of Persons.

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

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UHJ – GUEST ARTICLE

This article is in reference to the letters sent by UHJ - An unauthorised and self-proclaimed administrative body. As we have time and again put light on the fact that the Baha'i administration is the biggest enemy of the Baha'i cause and is the root cause of obedient servants of Baha'u'llah leaving the faith.

We have reviewed the letters of UHJ sent during 2022 and would like to point out their clear lies and how they are playing around with the emotions of the sincere followers.

Below are some of the points:

» The UHJ in their letters hype about the Ruhi institute and their teachings. Can UHJ give an exact number as to how many converts they have found in this process?

» Who has approved this institute and the study materials being taught to the children or youngsters. Are they the teachings of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha or are they the forged and misinterpreted teachings?

» UHJ claims to have made a global plan to attract more seekers (basically found new converts), is this a plan only on paper or will actually be implemented. Because there is no significant increase in the number of Baha'is globally.

» I won't shy away from saying that the Ruhi institute is just another flop show by the

administration.

» When UHJ writes a letter to the 'Continental Board of Counsellors' (3rd Jan 22), they show regret for cancelling the meeting that was supposed to happen in Haifa due to geopolitical reasons. However, when they write letter to the Baha'is very next day (4th Jan 22) they mention that 'the continental counsellors are present in Holy Land for the meeting and it is the 6th and final day of the conference.'

» The UHJ has a track record of not responding to queries raised by us (Free Baha'is) on the illegitimacy of the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha, the atrocities of Shoghi Effendi and the basis of their suffocating administrative control.

» The UHJ in reality is only enjoying on the funds, especially Huququllah that they get which is not even their legitimate right. Similar to Shoghi, they are stealing from the innocent Baha'is.

» The UHJ boasts about the fact that they have erected the last of the Continent House of Worship i.e. the House of Worship in Chile. Can they say what they have done for the poor Baha'is living in Chile?

» UHJ states that further plans are being made to establish the house of worship at

The background image shows a close-up of a fountain pen and a wax seal on a piece of paper. The pen is on the left, and the wax seal, which has a circular emblem, is on the right. The text 'OPEN LETTERS' is centered in a dark brown box at the top.

OPEN LETTERS

national and local levels. Are they really planning to do so or it is just another attempt to collect the money from Baha'is for their personal enjoyment in Haifa?

» The UHJ should give an account of the amount they have collected from the Baha'is and the amount actually spent towards the Cause. The UHJ is accountable for it and should definitely give an account for the same.

» In the Ridwan 2022 letter to the Baha'i world, the UHJ very clearly lied by saying 'As we know well and are reassured that... the followers of Baha'u'llah are committed to offering relief and support to those around them, no matter how straitened their own circumstances.' What relief has the administration offered to others and what support has been provided? Leave alone the general people, the Baha'is themselves have not been provided any relief or support by the UHJ.

» In the letter to the Baha'i world dt. 24th May 2022, the UHJ very proudly mentioned that 700 Baha'is from 169 countries have come forward to pioneer. Who has this list of 700 pioneers? They are from which location? Who is funding them? As usual, these are just mere numbers, in reality the Baha'is are pissed off

with the way they are being treated and pressurised by the administration.

» There are many Baha'is who are even scared today to speak out as they are scared that they will be removed from the faith by being pronounced as covenant breakers.

The Baha'i administration is very cleverly playing with the emotions of the innocent Baha'is by showing them a very colourful portrait which has no reality. When time comes there is no one to stand beside the Baha'is who are persecuted or mistreated.

The UHJ is just using persecution as a tool to raise hue and cry in the United Nations but is not doing anything to actually save the Baha'is, or give them refuge.

A reality check needs to be done by each and every Baha'i and they should do a thorough research of history and faith in order to understand the plotting that has happened after the death of the Master.

Regards,

Jonas S.

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)



THE BAHAI' RELIGION AND ITS ENEMY, THE BAHA'I ORGANIZATION – PART 15

(An extract from Lady Ruth White's book)

(...continued)

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BAHAI' RELIGION IS THE SPIRITUAL LAW OF RELATIVITY-ITS SPECIAL MESSAGE IS A CALL FOR US TO COME OUT OF THE TRIBAL STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

I do not like to close this book on a negative note. I will therefore give summary of the Baha'i Religion part of which is from my first book. "Abdul Baha and The Promised Age."

This world is a university for the training of the soul.

The educators in this university must have a power above human power.

These educators are the Manifestations of God, Zoroaster, Moses, Christ, Mohammed.

Their knowledge is innate, not acquired.

Each of these founders of religion taught the same essential truths the oneness of God – the immortality of the soul-and the brotherhood of man. But their non-essential laws differed to suit the capacity of the race.

When the race was in its infancy spiritually it was natural that each tribe should imagine that its gods were the greatest. After centuries had elapsed, man gradually evolved from this tribal conception of his gods into a realization that there was but one God, and He a universal one, whose bounties rained impartially down on all mankind.

This change of belief was accomplished by

Zoroaster, Moses, Christ, and Mohammed; for God taught through these Manifestations to different races, each of which was in different stages of development, the same fundamental truths. But as the world was not united materially, and intercommunication had not yet been established, the adherents of each of these religions began to fall into the same error concerning their Manifestation that the primitive races had fallen into concerning their gods. That is, each believed its Manifestation to be the only Savior of mankind with the result that today there is as much antagonism between the Parsees, the Jews, the Christians, and the Moslems as there was between primitive races when each tribe believed it had a special God who favored them above all others. In primitive times it was a special God who favored each tribe. Today it is a special Manifestation of God who favors each nation and race; that is the only difference.

Each succeeding Manifestation abrogates some laws and also adds new laws to the root of the old religion. For instance, in early days, God revealed, through Moses, laws which later were abrogated by Christ, such as polygamy, slavery, divorce, except for one reason, also the cutting off of the hand of a man for stealing. If this latter law were carried into effect today we would think it wicked and revolting, yet this law of "eye for eye," "tooth for tooth," was revealed to Moses by God and was right for that period. But it became wrong when the race attained to a greater spiritual capacity. Therefore, Christ substituted the law of non-resistance for that of retaliation. But as people do not practice it, world wars result.

The essentials of Mohammed's teachings likewise are identical with Christ's teachings, and the teachings of Moses. But here again as the local laws are different, the Christians are biased against the Moslems. For instance, Baha'is have often been asked: "How can Mohammed's teachings be reconciled with

Christ's teachings, for Mohammed sanctioned four wives and Christ only one." We have the answer to this in Christ's own reply to the Jews when they asked him the following question involving a similar principle:

"Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?"

"And he answered and said unto them, what did Moses command you?"

"And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote this percept."

Christ meant, by this that the Manifestations of God never give laws too far beyond the ethical development of the people. That is to say that although it was alright for Moses to allow men to change their wives practically as often as they wanted to by sanctioning easy divorce, yet it only because they had not developed sufficiently at that time, to ensure a stricter law being enacted. Therefore, although Christ abrogated this law for the people of his time, yet he did not condemn Moses for giving it to a people less highly developed.

This applies also to Mohammed's sanction of four wives. The Arabs, to whom Mohammed revealed his religion, were a race of idol worships in the lowest stage of degradation. A man could have nine wives, and all kinds of atrocities were practiced among them, even to the extent of burying alive their female children Mohammed came he abolished polytheism and the worshiping of idols; he taught the oneness of the immortality of the soul, the brotherhood of man, and these things which Christ said comprised the whole of religion, for they are the fundamentals of all religions. But the local laws were given in accordance with the development of each race, hence Mohammed permitted four wives. If Mohammed, like Moses, had given laws that were too severe, or too far in advance of the

development of the people, they would never have been accepted. The race would have remained idol-worshippers, and they would have missed the essentials of religion. Mohammed raised the Arabs to such a high arc of development, that while the Christians, during the dark ages, were burning and torturing the men of science, the Moslems were fostering the arts and sciences.

Mohammed's teachings can no more be judged as Islam stands today than Christ's teachings can be judged by the Christians of the dark ages, or by those of today who have just waged the greatest war in history among themselves. For all religions are now in the winter of their dispensation. If Mohammed had appeared before Christ, Christ would have acknowledged him the same as he did Moses. So we see that some of the local laws that are right in one age, for one type of people, become wrong in another age for other more highly developed types.

In order to understand the Baha'i Religion, we must adopt the relativistic point of view. For the Baha'i Religion is the essence of the spiritual law of relativity.

As Abdul Baha says:

The sin of Adam is relative to his position....
The good deeds of the faithful are the sins of the Near Ones.

What would be considered a good life in a race, or an individual, in the early history of mankind, would be considered a wicked one in a later age.

To illustrate further what is meant by the spiritual law of relativity. According, to Abdul Baha the position of the adherents of all the former religions is this: They are worshipping the sun from the point at which it arose during one season, and refuse to recognize the same sun when it arose at another point during another season.

Viewed in this relative way we shall understand that though the teachings of each of the Manifestations of God may seem conflicting in some respects, yet they are no more conflicting than the different lessons that are given to children, by different teachers, each of whom modifies, or extends, the lessons according to the age and the development of the pupil. But the goal of all the teachers is the same – that is. they wish to educate the child. The Manifestations of God have done exactly the same with the race. They have modified, or extended, their lessons according to the development of the people whom they taught. But the object of all of them was the same – to educate mankind spiritually.

Although the Parsees call their savior Zoroaster, the Jews call him Moses, the Christians call him Christ, the Moslems call him Mohammed, yet he is the same Light that has illumined the world at different periods in these different Lamps or Personalities. But the Light is always the same. That is why Christ said: "Verily, verily before Abraham was I am."

But the chief reason for the lack of religious unity in the world today is because the adherents of each of the world religions – Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islamism – have interpreted the symbolisms in their Sacred Books in a literal manner. And because of this the adherents of each of these religions believe that their Manifestation of God is the only Savior Whom God has sent to earth. It is true that Christ said he was the only door, and that he was the only begotten Son of God. But he did not mean this in a physical sense. He was referring to the Light within him!

Each Manifestation of God at the time he appears is the only door for that race and period until the next Manifestation appears. That is why Zoroaster, Moses, Christ, and Mohammed have each insisted that they were the only door (or used some expression that

meant the same thing). For instance, the Moslems interpret: "Mohammed ... is the Apostle of God, and the seal of the Prophets . . ." as meaning that there were to be no other Manifestations of God after him. But what he meant was that he was the last up to that time, and therefore the only door for the Arabs of that period and until the next Manifestation of God appeared.

It seems incredible that during the early Christian era when the Jews, the Christians, and the Moslems were fighting side by side to inculcate into the Greeks the belief in the oneness of God, yet they were fighting one another because they did not perceive, nor believe in, the oneness of their Manifestations. One of the chief aims of the Baha'i Religion is to help people to a better understanding of the original purity of each religion and to unite them all in one great religion. The adherents of each religion would no doubt acquiesce to this, provided their religion was the one to be adopted, for everyone naturally thinks his religion the only true one. Each could give a very good reason why his should be the one to be adopted. Zoroastrians might put forth the argument that as their religion taught the oneness of God, and the immortality of the soul, long before others came into existence, therefore the religion of the world should be Zoroastrianism. The Jews would doubtless say that as they are God's chosen people, and that they were teaching the oneness of God when most of the world were idol-worshippers and polytheists, therefore, Judaism should prevail. The Buddhists might claim that their abstinence from meat eating should make their religion the most eligible. The Christians could no doubt claim that as they not only teach the oneness of God and brotherhood of man. but that wherever Christianity is established, that country reaches a higher state of civilization than any other country, therefore Christianity should prevail. The Moslems might equally claim that as they also teach the oneness of God and the

immortality of the soul, and as their religion is a later revelation than any of the others, therefore Islamism should be the world religion.

It is doubtful if the adherents of any of the great world religions would ever consent to see their religion absorbed by another one, any more than if in trying to establish a universal language one country would consent to give up its native tongue and adopt that of another. But each one would doubtless consent to the adoption of a universal language provided its language were the one to be adopted, for everyone naturally thinks his language, like his religion, is the best. No Frenchman would consent to give up French for German, and vice versa; but they would no doubt consent to the adoption of a universal language something like Esperanto (only more perfect), especially if it could be demonstrated that though this language was apparently different from all the others yet the root of it had been derived from each. In such an event everyone would feel that it was as much the language of his country as of any other. It would be common ground on which all the people of the world could meet without arousing the jealousy of one another. This is exactly the relation that the Baha'i Religion bears to all the other religions. It is not an attempt to supersede the existing religions, but to augment and unite all that is best in each of them.

All the great world religions are the letters of God's alphabet. It was necessary for the Manifestations of God to teach the different races the alphabet of spiritual knowledge first, because they had not yet attained to the capacity of reading. It would, therefore, be as impossible to eradicate, or absorb, the existing religions, as it would be to eradicate the letters of the alphabet. The Baha'i Religion is the unifying factor which shows people how to combine them and spell unity, understanding, love, and brotherhood, among all the

religions, races, and nations, where there is now misunderstanding, quarrelling, and inharmony. Instead of the one-sided training that the converts to each of the other religions receive, a Baha'i is taught to appreciate the greatness and beauty of all religions, and counselled to read, with unbiased mind, the religious works of all the Manifestations of God. He becomes a better Christian, or a better Mohammedan, or a better Jew, than he ever could have been while trying to follow the dogmas and superstitions that all religions have drifted into.

In writing about the Baha'is in India and Burma, Mr. Sprague speaks of the efforts of an army missionary there to convert a Jewish soldier to Christianity. When the soldier accepted the Baha'i Faith instead, he became very angry. The soldier said to Mr. Sprague, after he had become a Baha'i:

I wonder why this man, who has tried so hard to make me believe in Christ, is so angry now that I do believe in Him.*

The missionary was trying to convert the Jew to a Christianity mixed with confusing dogmas, while the Baha'i converted him to the Christianity of Christ; for the Baha'i Religion teaches the adherents of each religion to go to the source, and to judge the other religions as they were taught by the Founders, and not as they are represented by the different churches of today. Also to take into consideration the period, and people, whom they taught, and to consider the fact whether the Founder of each religion raised the people to a higher standard than they had attained to prior to his advent.

*A Year with the Baha'is in India and Burma.

As people have reached a higher arc of civilization today than in the time of Christ, therefore the problems, both religious and economic, are again different. Christ did not deal with questions that had never arisen. For example, two thousand years ago one person could not have instructed another how to run an automobile, simply because the automobile

had not been invented. Likewise, Christ did not teach people who were in the A.B.C. of material development the same things that a Manifestation of God would teach them in a much more complex civilization. In the time of Christ, the material civilization, which has since united the world outwardly, had not come into existence, and it would have been premature to have attempted to unite it spiritually. Likewise, religion at that time had not come into existence for the whole race. We know that when Christ, and later Mohammed, appeared there were comparatively no religions to unite. Therefore, no previous Manifestation taught the oneness of all religions any more than a teacher would attempt to make a child do long division before he could add. Not until the fundamentals of all religions had been taught to the furthestmost ends of the earth, and the adherents of each began to believe that their religion was the only true one, could the question of antagonism have arisen between them, and thus an attempt to unite them would have been premature.

Many people have asked: "If all religions are the same in their fundamentals, and are true revelations from God, why should we trouble about a new religion?"

The answer is the same as it would have been if in the time of Christ this question had been asked regarding Christianity and Judaism; or the same as if a child were to ask why he should go on to the next stage of learning. Therefore, when Christians ask: Are not Christ's teachings perfect? The answer is: Yes, they are perfect, but they are not all the perfection that is ever to be given for all time.

The Founders of each religion taught the Truth, but they revealed only as much as the people in each age could assimilate. If we read the Sacred Books of each religion, we can see that this is true. Christ said: I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him

must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, he saw it, and was glad.

Then said the Jews unto him. Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto YOU before Abraham was, I am.

Jesus was referring to his Light that existed before Abraham and not to his personality, or the lamp, as the Jews thought. If we are worshiping the Light, and not the Lamp, then we shall not make the same kind of a mistake that the Jews made when they confused the personality of Jesus with the Spirit. The personalities of the Saviors differ, but the Light is One.

Mohammed said: We prophets were sent to talk to the people according to the measure of their minds.

In the Bhagavad-Gita it is said:

For whensoever, O son of Bharata, there is decay of righteousness, and a rising up of unrighteousness, then I create myself, for the protecting of the good, and for the destroying of evil doers, and for the establishing of righteousness, I arise from age to age.

Today Baha'o'llah says:

Verily we revealed according to thy capacity and perception, not according to My State and Reality.

The Baha'i Religion is the spiritual law of relativity. One of its objects is to educate mankind out of his tribal or clan consciousness into the universal consciousness. Just as the primitive races were educated out of different tribal stages of development, so too does the Baha'i Religion seek to educate mankind out of a stage, though less obviously tribal, yet is even more menacing to the peace of the world. The modern-day tribes, or organizations, wall their votaries in by their policies, and make as many divisions among mankind as those

which obtained among the primitive races. To the extent that we encase ourselves in these walls, to just that extent do we lose all possibility of seeing things in a universal way. Nor are the members of the Baha'i organization any exception. For they are functioning in the tribal or clan consciousness, and at the same time trying to promulgate a religion of the universal consciousness. This universal consciousness is analogous to the view point of the aerial mariner, who, when he reaches a certain height, sees each little walled-in garden and house freed from divisions of every kind. Abdul Baha expresses this thought in the following:

“If you desire to love God, love thy fellowmen. In them you can see the image and likeness of God. If you are eager to serve God. serve mankind. Renounce the self in the Self of God. When the aerial mariner steers his airship skyward, little by little the inharmony and incongruity of the world of matter are lost, and before his astonished vision he sees widespread the wonderful panorama of God's creation. Likewise, when the student of the Path of Reality has attained to the loftiest summit of Divine Love, he will not look upon the ugliness and misery of mankind he will not observe any different he will not see any racial and patriotic differences but he will look upon humanity with the glorified vision of a seer and a prophet. Let us all strive that we may attain to this highest pinnacle of ideal and spiritual life.”

---THE END---





During his visits to Chicago, Abdu'l Baha made a practice of walking through the lawns and woodlands of Lincoln Park, which ran northward from the hotel for a mile and a half along the western coast of Lake Michigan.

FREE BAHAI ACTIVITIES

“All Feasts have attained their consummation in the two Most Great Festivals, and in the two other Festivals that fall on the twin days... Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the Ordainer, the Omniscient.” – Baha'u'llah

Dear Friends,

Allah'u'Abha!

A month after the publication of this magazine, devout Baha'is from all over the world will be commemorating the birth anniversaries of the Bab and Baha'u'llah. As Free Baha'is, it is our responsibility to study the noble personalities and to follow their pure message if we are to express our heartfelt thanks for what they have given us in the shape of the Baha'i Faith.

The last two months have been particularly busy for the free Baha'i community globally, on account of a dramatic scale up of activities due to the lifting of the Pandemic era restrictions in key locations worldwide. In comparison to the pre-COVID era, more believers attended orphanages and senior care centers this year, spending time with abandoned old and lovely young souls. Following in the footsteps of Abdu'l Baha, many friends have been working for the good

of mankind and taking initiatives to assist individuals impacted by COVID. We recommended our friends to take extra care of anyone who has lost their job or the breadwinner of the family as a result of COVID and now has no one to look after them. This is the finest moment to express your love and concern for them and gain Baha'u'llah's blessings. Volunteering your time is an excellent method to help others around you. Check in on your neighbors and family members, especially those who live alone, are old, have health or mobility challenges, or are responsible for children. Schedule frequent contact with these people to let them know they are not alone. Practice being patient, compassionate, and aware. Encourage others to follow suit! With each step you take to assist mankind, you will undoubtedly get closer to Baha'u'llah and the master. May we all be gifted with the chance to strive for the betterment of mankind and get closer to following in the footsteps of our great leaders.

Friends sending in articles from across the globe generally highlight how the Master's teachings have been set aside and priests have been incorporated into the faith in the shape of UHJ and Administration. We Free Baha'is believe in the teachings of our dear Master and

hence reject any type of organized clergy, whether LSA, NSA, or UHJ. The Baha'i religion has been sinking under their clerical ship because their concentration is not on teaching and spreading the teachings of Baha'u'llah. They are, in fact, busily spying on individuals. Meetings are convened in the guise of religion to consider excommunication and the revocation of voting privileges. We received other testimonies from suffering devout Baha'is, but owing to strong language and personal assaults on people, we were unable to include them in the Caravan.

Some friends have expressed worry that their anti-administration essays are not being published in the Magazine. We are delighted that you all share our passion for the real word of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha. However, we are currently attempting to avoid using harsh language in our magazine and would also welcome stories that are backed up with good references to guarantee that everything we send out to our readers is real and from reliable sources. This is in order to ensure that the Caravan of Baha'u'llah remains a magazine which conveys the truth with integrity. So, if you want your articles to be published in our magazine, make sure you don't use harsh language and that all of your views are supported by appropriate references. But, on that topic, we want to appreciate everyone who is helping to make this Caravan a success, because it would have been impossible to get this far and continue to provide all of the great stuff year after year

without your assistance. May you all be very successful. Amen!

We hope to see some events taking place during the approaching twin commemoration to promote the message of the Bab and Baha'u'llah throughout the wider community. Reading words from our leaders will draw people closer to their teachings and instil a sense of love in their hearts for them. Allow new friends to come forward and join in such events; youth should be made the faces of such initiatives because they represent our community's future. We want to hear some excellent news from all of our friends; please keep them coming to our official id.

We appreciate all of our friends for their continued efforts and assistance in propagating Baha'u'llah's word.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Free Baha'i Team



INSPIRING QUOTES



“Verily, the One True God beareth Me witness that in this Day I am the true mystic Fane of God, and the Essence of all good. He who doeth good unto Me, it is as if he doeth good unto God, His angels and the entire company of His loved ones.”

— **The Bab**

“The Revelation which, from time immemorial, hath been acclaimed as the Purpose and Promise of all the Prophets of God, and the most cherished Desire of His Messengers, hath now, by virtue of the pervasive Will of the Almighty and at His irresistible bidding, been revealed unto men. The advent of such a Revelation hath been heralded in all the sacred Scriptures.”

— **Baha'u'llah**

" The lights of God are resplendent. The blessed Epistles are spreading. The blessed teachings are promulgated throughout the East and the West. Soon you will see that the heavenly Words have established the oneness of the world of humanity. The banner of the Most Great Peace has been unfurled, and the great community is appearing.”

— **Abdu'l Baha**



SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Email 1:

I was a Muslim until 2014 and then through a friend got introduced to the Bahai religion and now I follow both the teachings. My question is, keeping of beard is obligatory as per Muslims but I think it is not allowed as per Baha'is. So confused if I should keep it or not. Can you pls help?

Answer:

Hi Ridwan,

Trust you're keeping well.

Let me take help from the laws of Baha'u'llah to answer your question. As per Kitab-i-Aqdas, the mandatory law of keeping beard for the people of the past nation has been lifted.

“It is unlawful for you to carry arms except in time of necessity. The wearing of silk is made permissible for you. God has lifted from you the commandment restricting clothing and beards, as a favour from Him. He is, indeed, the Knower, the Commander.” - (Extract from Kitab-i-Aqdas)

So it plainly states that God has removed the prohibition restricting beards. However, it does

not state that it is forbidden, therefore it is entirely up to you. If you want to preserve it because it has been deemed required by Muhammadan law, you are free to do so. According to Baha'u'llah's teachings, persons from all walks of life, all religions, creeds, and communities are welcome to join and can follow their teachings alongside Baha'u'llah's teachings. Your sole intend should be to get closer to your Lord, the focus on the means to get there should be miniscule.

“If one possesses the love of God, everything that he undertakes is useful, but if the undertaking is without the love of God, then it is hurtful and the cause of veiling one's self from the Lord of the Kingdom. But with the love of God every bitterness is changed into sweetness and every gift becometh precious.” - Abdu'l Baha (Bahá'í World Faith, p. 366)

Hope that answers your question. Do write back in case of any further queries.

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is

Email 2:

Was Baha'u'llah superior to the Bab? Just asking as I was thinking about the role of Baha'u'llah was greater than that of Bab. Tell me if I'm wrong, but I think Bab's just a forerunner to Baha'u'llah and Baha'u'llah is the Manifestation of God and his teachings would be followed for a longer duration?

Answer:

Hi Susane,

Allah'u'Abha!

It's fantastic to hear from you after such a long time; I hope you and your family are doing well.

I believe that's another lovely inquiry from you, and we hope your response will be useful to many other Baha'is as well.

Baha'u'llah's teachings emphasized the elimination of biases and the treatment of all persons with love and kindness. As Baha'is, it is our duty to dispel myths such as Baha'u'llah being the supreme messenger of God for this age, and that his teachings supersede those of previous prophets and messengers, and that the teachings of all previous Prophets are outdated, and that because Baha'u'llah is the current Prophet, he is the greatest of them all.

To be clear, the Baha'i teachings state unequivocally that the essential spiritual teachings of all divine teachers are the same. We may go to the Master for an intriguing remark that explains this.

"The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every

ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past." – Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p.29.

The fundamental aim of all religions is to rejuvenate the hearts and souls of all humans on the globe. All ancient faiths' founders and prophets arrived at various points in history and in the evolution of humanity to give essential spiritual and social guidance. They may have used different methods and phrases, but they always summoned the people to God. As a result, nowhere in the teachings of Baha'u'llah will one find him claiming to be superior to any of the previous Prophets. That should address your question.

Please contact us if you have any more questions.

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 3:

Which is the best bahai book to read today?
Any recommendations?

Answer:

Hi Brand,

Allah'u'Abha!

Hope you're doing well and staying safe.

We advise our readers to always get authentic Baha'i books rather than those from Baha'u'llah's supporters.

Only works written by the three fundamental personalities of the faith, namely the Bab, Baha'u'llah, and Abdu'l Baha, are considered authoritative.

Kitab-i-Aqdas is the most sacred book for a reason, and it should be the first book a Baha'i reads. If a Baha'i studies and understands all of the rules in Kitab-i-Aqdas, it will be simpler for him or her to live a life consistent with Baha'u'llah's teachings. The second would be Kitab-i-Iqan, which was also written by Baha'u'llah personally.

After being acquainted with those texts, one should go on to 'Some Answered Questions,' a book written by Abdu'l Baha. We then have an identical one called 'Paris Talks,' in which the Master addresses many frequent questions concerning faith, science, and other topics, giving the reader a solid picture of what the faith stands for. We also have a book called Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, which should be an intriguing read.

We also have a book produced by The Bab called Selections From Writings of Bab, which should be kept available, and we propose that all Baha'is have a copy of this book at home and refer to it on a regular basis.

After reading those works, readers can go on to an intriguing collection published by Lady Ruth White and Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, which can also be accessible on our website. Books such as 'The Bahai Religion and its Enemy, the Baha'i Organization' and 'Abdul Baha's Questioned Will and Testament' by Lady Ruth White, and 'Broken Silence' and 'Abdul Baha's Grandson' by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab are among the most intriguing books that every Baha'i should read.

I hope this was useful. If you have any more queries, please contact us.

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is





INVESTIGATION OF REALITY

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

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

KNOW YOUR HERITAGE

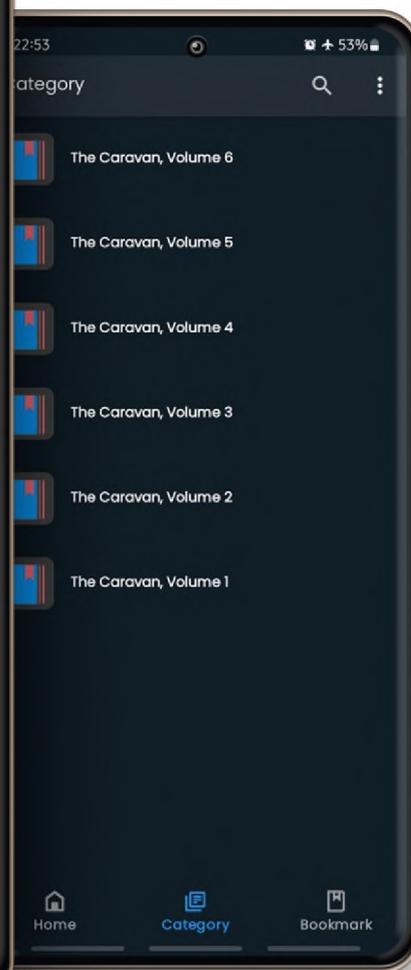
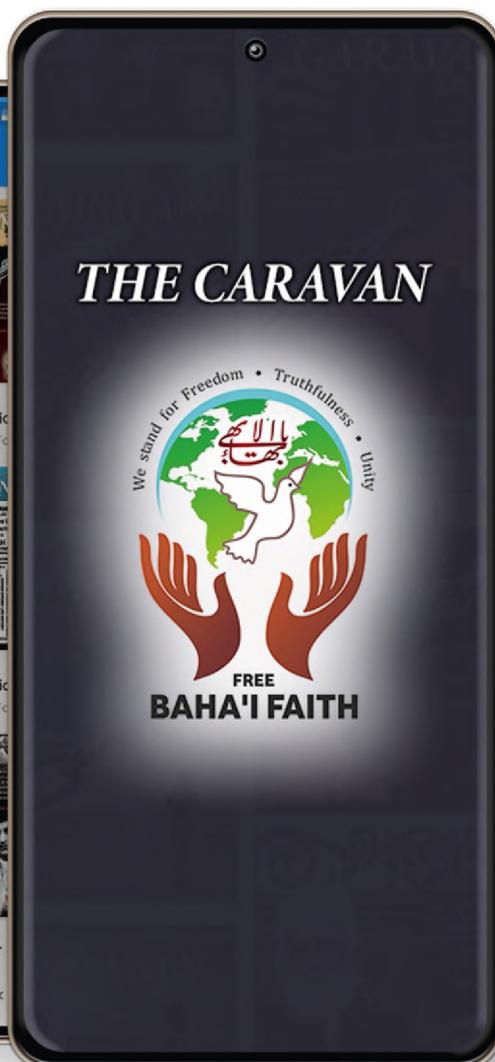
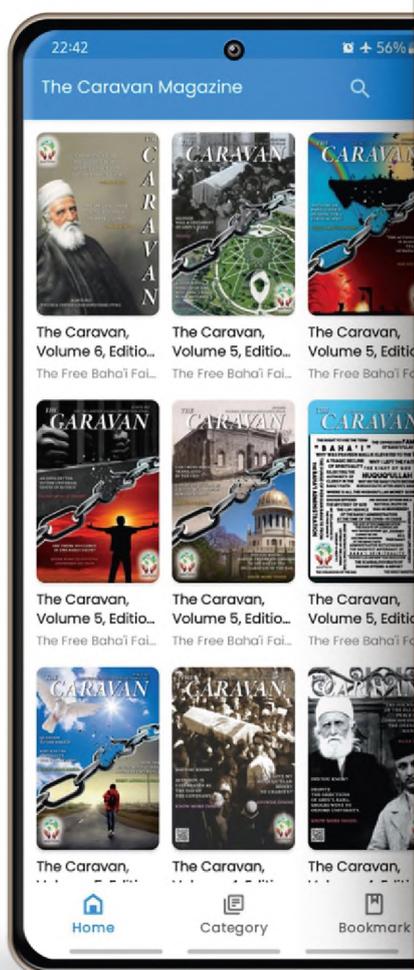


Abdu'l Baha's Giveh (light cotton summer shoes)

INTRODUCING

THE CARAVAN

APP!



WEBSPLORE

Why don't private Baha'i individuals purchase Baha'i centers, when the Baha'i administration tried to sell them?

submitted 9 hours ago by trident765

A couple of years ago there was a mass wave of selling of the Baha'i centers, at least in the US. The Auxiliary Board Members would pressure the LSAs to sell their Baha'i centers, often for very cheap, and since Baha'is believe ABMs are holy beings, they did as they requested.

Has it ever happened that a rich Baha'i buys a Baha'i center from the LSA when they do this, and start hosting his own activities there? It would be great if there was more private ownership of Baha'i centers.

[comment](#) [share](#) [save](#) [hide](#) [report](#)

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



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

Want to be a contributor for The Caravan?

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

Thank you!

THROWBACK



Abdu'l Baha laying the cornerstone of the Mother Temple of the West.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

WAR

By FELICIEN CHALLAYE

Professor of Philosophy at the Sorbonne, Author of "The Heart of Japan" and "Art and Beauty."

LEONARDO DE VINCI, genial artist and profound thinker—one of the greatest men that history presents, said: "War is the most bestial of all blunders."

Now the word bestial taken literally would be an unjust term for use in reference to the animal species; for animals, although they fight for life individually, do not, except in rare cases, conduct wars. Generally speaking, they are not sufficiently bestial to gather in groups so as to torture and massacre each other.

The only animal sufficiently senseless to consecrate his mind to the invention of methods of mutilation and destruction and his energies to the utilization of these instruments to the detriment of his own kind, and of himself, is Man.

As century after century has perfected the art of mutilating and of destroying, so century after century has

revealed more and more clearly the absurdity of war.

Let us rehearse the last massacre, that of 1914-1918, so as to realize its odious stupidity.

RESULTS:

More than 10 million soldiers killed.

Three million lost, which may be added to the figure of casualties.

More than 16 million wounded.

Material destruction beyond the possibility of measurement.

War budget, evaluated by technicians, at the formidable sum of 1,800 billions of gold francs (360 billions dollars) — a squandering of money, which, had it been spent on peace activities, would have assured a comfortable existence to all the families of all the warring nations.

And what a total of misery this imposing figure includes, both during and following the war!

Suffering of combatants, between

(Reference: Out of the Mail Box, The Children's Caravan Magazine, January 1935)

battles: staggering along the roads, crushed under their burdens, sweating from heat, shivering from cold; crouching in the mud of the trenches, in the rain, in the snow, alongside of dead bodies, among rats, insects; living with beasts the lives of the most wretched of beasts.

Suffering of combatants in battle: their bodies torn by bullets, by exploding shells, or burned by liquid fire; their lungs choked by gas, their limbs blown off—hanging.

Suffering of prisoners.

Permanent suffering of the mutilated, of the amputated, of the disfigured, the gassed, the blind (there are men who have been left without jaws—only an enormous vacancy in the lower part of the face; others with neither arms nor legs—only living trunks).

Suffering of non-combatants, of parents, of wives who loved their husbands; all waiting, fearing, at the morning, during the day, every day, for four years, the ghastly news which generally came—and these dragging along ever since, solitary lives without joy.

Suffering of orphans.

Suffering of those financially ruined, —while a few artfully enriched themselves out of their loss; unemployment, the fearful lot of an immense proportion.

If war were to begin again, the belligerents would have new tools at their disposal, infinitely more efficacious than those of the past: incendiary bombs with the potentiality of burning within a short space of time, cities and villages; gasses which would produce blindness; which would smother immediately or asphyxiate slowly; which would destroy whatever life were in its path.

Another war would be the simultaneous destruction of combatants and non-combatants—old men, women, children. *It would be the destruction of civilization.* Another war would be the *extermination of, if not the entire race, at least its more evolved groups.*

If it be true that it is Man who gives reason to this planet—Man, creator of art, of science, of thoughts philosophic and religious,—the possible war would annihilate all values which give significance to life; it would rob the world of its right to subsist.

War is not a relative evil, an evil among other evils. It is the evil “par excellence,” the worst evil, *the absolute evil.*

Let us not resign ourselves to once more endure the absurdity of war. Let us rather bend every effort, so that we may realize at last a new order of life, freed from war and consequently from misery: a society of Definite Peace and of Universal Brotherhood.

DID YOU KNOW ?

By most measures, November 1817 was a decidedly ho-hum month in world history. On November 5, the Third Anglo-Maratha War broke out between the British and Indians at the Battle of Khadki. On November 20, the first Seminole War began in the American state of Florida. Historical almanacs show the parade of 19th century thinkers and doers marching on and a subtle passing from a world of crushing conventionality (Jane Austen died that year) to a world of intense questioning and social and philosophical mischief (Henry David Thoreau and Frederick Douglass were born that year).

But on November 12, 1817 something happened that in time will make all the wars, rises and falls of empires, and even sweeping social and philosophical movements pale by comparison. On that Wednesday, a baby was born in Tehran, a baby Who would grow up to upset the equilibrium of the whole world, indeed whose life would mark the culmination of an age 6,000 years long — our entire known history — and launch us into a turbulent modernity and then into the long-promised but elusive Kingdom of God on Earth.

The baby was named Husayn. As a youth He would show all the hallmarks present in other Messengers of God — peaceful, happy, wise beyond His years, in fact, so wise that despite His complete lack of theological training the most learned of the clergy could teach Him nothing, but

only learn from Him instead.

In adulthood, He, like the Buddha, rejected the princely existence that was His inheritance, instead choosing to serve the poor. He recognized the reality of a new prophet and became His leading apostle. When that prophet was martyred, He fearlessly led the believers on and eventually was confirmed as the One whom that prophet had heralded — the promised one of all religions and the great uniter and educator of the world.

Of course, these years later, only a relative handful of people — about one in 1,000 people on earth — know this date as special. One online source lists November 12, 1817, as the birthdate of Baha'u'llah, with the accurate but underwhelming descriptor: “Persian spiritual figure.” And this nonchalance, of course, fulfills prophecy just as everything else in His life did — that when the spirit of Christ returns He will come as a “thief in the night,” as Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. The Manifestation of God never fulfills the expectations of the day, but He winds up vastly outstripping those limited expectations in hindsight, revolutionizing life itself.

Birthdays remind us of gifts. Life itself is a gift from God, and among God's innumerable gifts to humanity we can also count intelligence, beauty, the capacity to feel joy. Religions of the world chronicle other divine gifts to humanity, such as the rainbow at the end of Noah's flood signifying God's covenant and promise to humanity, the clay tablets listing the Ten Commandments, the cross, symbolizing a new covenant with humankind brought by Jesus Christ, and the Koran, embodying yet another.

In Baha'u'llah (whose birthday is celebrated worldwide each year according to the Baha'i calendar and the movements of the moon) can there be any doubt that God has sent his greatest gift of all time to humanity? To use a cliché, if ever there were a “gift that kept on giving,” it is Baha'u'llah. Indeed, we are told the gift of Baha'i civilization will keep on giving for 500,000 years.

The birth of a person also forces us to contemplate whether it is really possible for a single person, no matter how great, to be “the hinge of history”? Is it actually possible for one person to change everything?

Nature itself provides an emphatic and moving answer to this question: yes. In the act of creating of a human, it is not necessary that all the cells involved make an equal contribution. Indeed, all it takes is one sperm cell out of the millions to fertilize the egg, triggering a chain reaction that brings into being, as if by a miracle, a new entity with potentialities that only heaven can know.

So it is with the Manifestation of God and with civilization — that new body of humanity that is reborn in each new age. And with Baha'u'llah we are not simply born into a new age within the Cycle of Prophecy, but by God's grace are passing beyond that age of infancy, through our current adolescence, and before long into maturity, an age in which we will finally see the potential of humanity realized in a civilization that would surely stun us if we could see it now fully formed.

Leo Tolstoy, among the foremost intellects of the 19th century, whose life span was offset from Baha'u'llah's by only about a decade, may have put it best when he wrote:

We spend our lives trying to unlock the mystery of the universe, but there was a Turkish prisoner, Baha'u'llah, in Akka, Palestine, who had the key... Baha'u'llah's teachings now present us with the highest and purest form of religious teaching... Very profound, I know of no other so profound.

(Courtesy: Avrel Seale)

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."

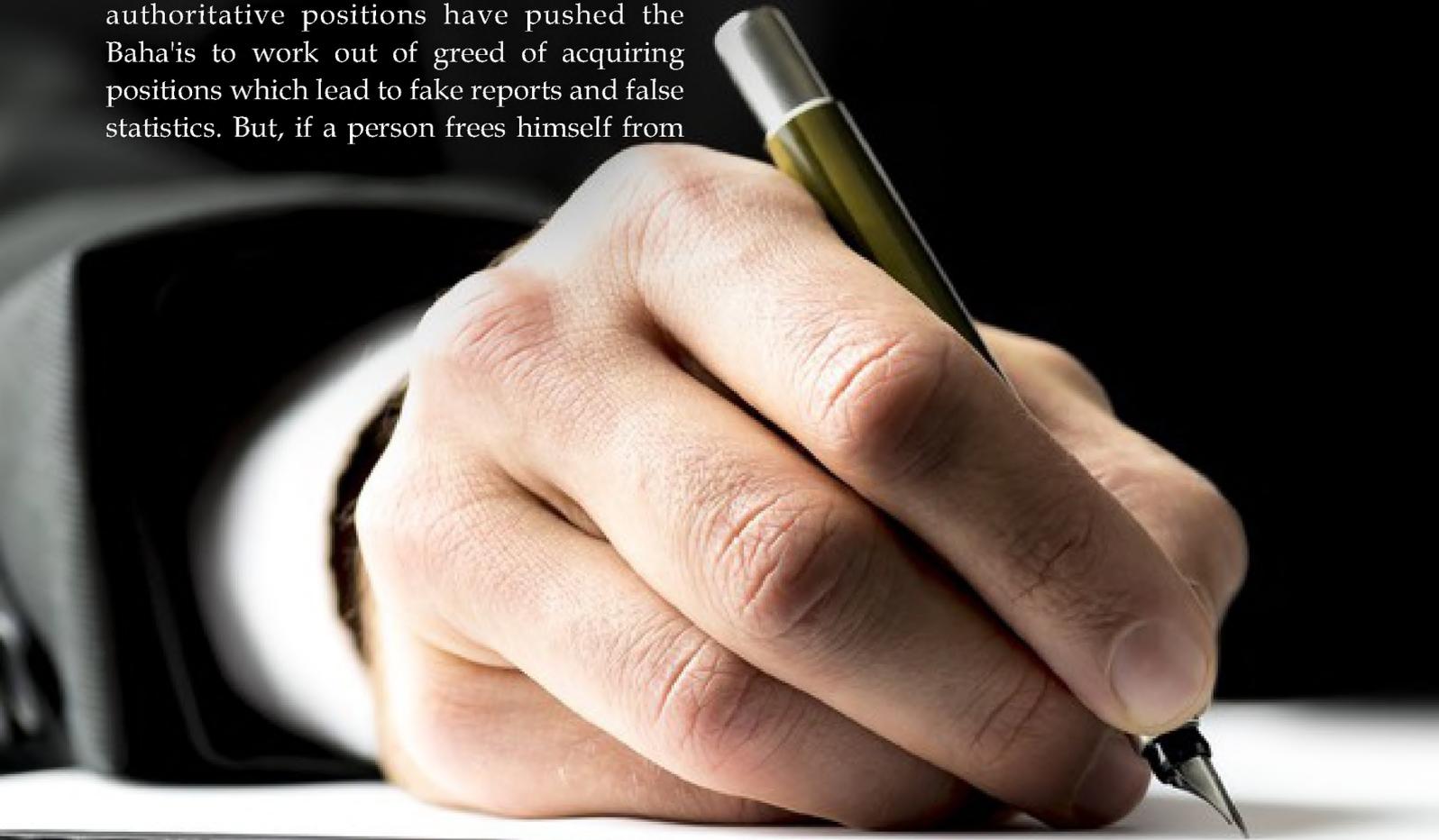
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

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?



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