



NOVEMBER 2022
VOLUME 6, EDITION 5, QAWL (SPEECH) 179 B.E.

THE C A R A V A N

**THE CRIMES OF
SHOGHI EFFENDI**

ARTICLE INSIDE!

**ARE FREE BAHAI'S
ENEMY OF THE FAITH?**

READ ALL ABOUT IT



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PRAYER



Now the new age is here...

Now the new age is here and creation is reborn. Humanity hath taken on new life. The autumn hath gone by, and the reviving spring is here. All things are now made new. Arts and industries have been reborn, there are new discoveries in science, and there are new inventions; even the details of human affairs, such as dress and personal effects—even weapons—all these have likewise been renewed. The laws and procedures of every government have been revised. Renewal is the order of the day.

And all this newness hath its source in the fresh outpourings of wondrous grace and favor from the Lord of the Kingdom, which have renewed the world. The people, therefore, must be set completely free from their old patterns of thought, that all their attention may be focused upon these new principles, for these are the light of this time and the very spirit of this age.

- Abdu'l Baha

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


FOREWORD

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

Baha'u'llah passed away in 1892. His son and successor, Abdu'l Baha, was imprisoned by the Turkish government until the Young Turks Revolution in 1908 and the toppling of Sultan Abdul Hamid. During his travel to Europe and the United States, Master used his newly reclaimed freedom to offer extra momentum to the Baha'i religion via his winning personality. This was the pinnacle of the Baha'i movement, with the most believers counted in both Europe and the United States. This man's regard and judgement were on display during his funeral in Haifa in 1921. According to recent sources, just a few Baha'is accompanied his casket, while hundreds of Jews, Muslims, and Christians did. He had experienced the new religion first-hand. He had captured the hearts of many followers of the other three big religions via his outstanding gift of words and behaviour

toward members of other religions.

The voyage towards the abyss followed this absolute high point in the history of the Baha'i religion. Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, Abdu'l Baha's grandson, later installed himself in Haifa as the "Guardian" using a claimed bequest of Abdu'l Baha. He rose to become the invisible power behind the Baha'i faith. If Abdu'l Baha had stated that this religion could not be confined to a single organisation, Shoghi would have created one. The soul vanished totally behind the form. One is shocked by so many comparable power-hungry concepts in the supposed legacy of Abdu'l Baha, which declared Shoghi Rabbani the "Guardian" and a type of world dictator and world pope. Not the force of a captivating personality, as Professor Browne of Cambridge discovered in Baha'u'llah or Abdu'l Baha, as Lady Blomfield subsequently described in an account of the Master's journey to London, but power in and of itself. Isn't this a very logical explanation for the excommunication of half of Abdu'l Baha's extended family in a matter of weeks in 1941? He managed the critical voices that arose



quickly with deft psychology. Within his own ranks, censorship was established during the first quarter year of his "Guardian post." Former members who wanted to awaken their brothers in faith with critical publications in accordance with one of the Baha'i religion's most important principles — "Independent investigation of truth" — were portrayed as "harmful elements," "enemies," or "crazy," even when what they said made perfect sense.

The proof is presented on the following pages of the Shoghi Special Edition, which is dedicated to the Haifan Baha'is and other Baha'is who accept Shoghi as their Guardian: a complete turnabout of the Baha'i religion has occurred through the alleged testament of Abdu'l Baha with the Guardianship and the Baha'i Administration. As absurd as that may sound, it has become a tool of power politics. As the following pages will demonstrate, the so-called "Guardian" has not only distorted Abdul Baha's testament, but he has also changed the Testament of Baha'u'llah, the Manifestation of God for our time, into something quite the contrary.

"In all the action or inaction of man, he receives power from the help of God; but the choice of good or evil belongs to the man himself." – Abdu'l Baha

We would like to encourage our readers to free their minds of hatred and thoroughly study this edition of The Caravan in order to reach a logical conclusion. We are honoured to be the faithful's voice today, and we encourage you to send us your comments, questions, and recommendations at info@freeBahais.org. We will be happy to contact you.

Stay blessed,

The Free Baha'i Team

THE WRITINGS TOLD OF A MANIFESTATION



You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise

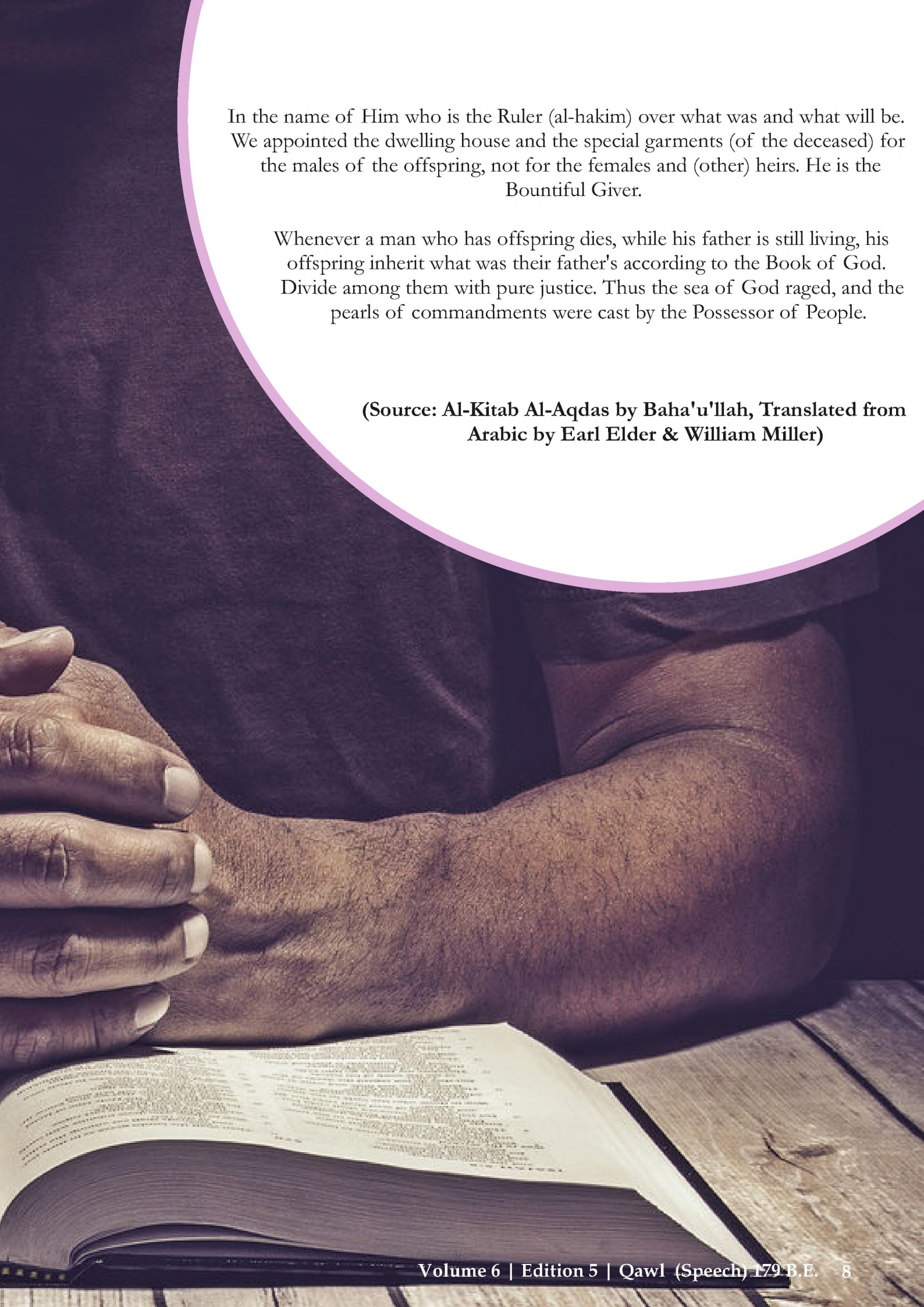
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise

I rise

I rise.

- Maya Angelou

DIVINE LAWS



In the name of Him who is the Ruler (al-hakim) over what was and what will be.
We appointed the dwelling house and the special garments (of the deceased) for
the males of the offspring, not for the females and (other) heirs. He is the
Bountiful Giver.

Whenever a man who has offspring dies, while his father is still living, his
offspring inherit what was their father's according to the Book of God.
Divide among them with pure justice. Thus the sea of God raged, and the
pearls of commandments were cast by the Possessor of People.

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

THE CRIMES OF SHOGHI EFFENDI AGAINST THE BAHAI FAITH – GUEST ARTICLE

It is now a well-known and widely accepted fact that Shoghi Effendi acquired the position of Guardianship solely based on the forged Will and Testaments of Abdu'l Baha and by no other official introductions or prior appointments. The strongest evidence of the will of Abdu'l Baha (as released by Shoghi Effendi) comes from the then leading forensics expert Dr. Ainsworth Mitchell who's forte as the lead consultant for the Scotland Yard providing expert witness on issues of the written word and handwriting. He has said as part of his investigation into the Will and Testament of Abdu'l Baha that the document provided is a forgery. This report is widely published on the internet.

Now, the question arises, is wrongly claiming the Guardianship the only crime that was committed by Shoghi Effendi, or was there more such crimes which generally people don't talk about? Let's us look at "some" of the crimes committed by Shoghi Rabbani which took the faith in another direction altogether, away from the path shown by Baha'u'llah and the Master.

1. Went against the Master - Shoghi Effendi, when younger, used to routinely disobey his Grandfather (Abdu'l Baha). After failing in his college at the age of twenty-four (on account of his wayward activities), Shoghi Effendi chose to enrol himself at the Oxford University. This was despite the objections made by the Master.

The Lady Ruth White has noted the following in her book regarding this unfortunate event. "In the autumn of 1919. Despite the objections of Abdu'l Baha he went. This act demonstrates that Shoghi Effendi had little consideration for the wishes of his grandfather, who was then seventy-four years of age. It also shows that he was lacking in the spiritual attributes which would have enabled him to know that it was of far more value to be with Abdu'l Baha, both spiritually and mentally, during the last two years of his life," (Reference: Ruth White, Abdu'l Baha's Questioned Will and Testament, p29)

2. Introduced Fascism to the faith – Shoghi Effendi brought Fascism to the Faith in such a way that it resembled a society in which a



government governed by a dictator controls people's lives and individuals are not permitted to disagree with the government. When you read about the experiences of persons who were close to the Master and working for the Cause all over the world after the Master was requested to report back to the Guardian and cease all operations. Looking at their actions, you can see that they were all committed to the Cause, conveying Baha'u'llah's teachings to the masses. Some of the Baha'is who were subjected to Shoghi Effendi's excommunication decree were Lady Ruth White and Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

3. **Copy Right the Baha'i Religion** – As unbelievable as it may seem, they attempted to copyright the Baha'i Religion, filing two lawsuits in 1941 against Mirza Ahmad Sohrab and Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler to prohibit them, or anyone else, from calling themselves Baha'is or spreading the religion unless they did so through their organisation and according to their dictates. Naturally the National Spiritual Assembly lost both suits, and they were severely reprimanded by the

judge. He made it clear to them that in this day of religious freedom, no one can copyright a religion or claim the exclusive rights to it. Mirza Sohrab and Mrs. Chanler who are the founders of The New History Society, established to spread the Baha'i teachings, did a great service to mankind, by winning these two suits. They won religious freedom for the Baha'i Movement and broke the strangle hold that the National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is had over is which had impeded its progress. (Reference: Baha'i Leads Out of the Labyrinth by Ruth White)

Abdu'l Baha says, "No one can bottle up the Baha'i Spirit. The Baha'i Spirit is the most illusive ether; it is here, it is there, it is everywhere. It is the origin and substance of the highest ideals of this and the coming ages. The Baha'i Spirit is undogmatic, super-racial, inter-social and non-partisan. "The Baha'i Religion is not an exclusive society, but a Divine congregation, the dome of which is the Infinite Heaven, and the temple of which Is the expanse of the earth."

4. Excommunicating the family of Baha'u'llah – As per Baha'i teachings, there is to be no clergy or supreme leader / unquestioned commander in the Baha'i faith. But Shoghi Effendi managed or rather ruled the faith as his personal fiefdom. Much akin to a tyrant Pope or a crazy Mollah, he excommunicated the entire family of Abdu'l Baha on frivolous pretexts, like travelling abroad without informing him or for marrying without his permission or even for attending Baha'i gatherings without informing him. While none of these innocent family members of Abdu'l Baha broke Covenant, what they did break was the ginormous ego of this tyrant "Guardian" which resulted in their excommunication. The true reason for these excommunications was Shoghi Effendi's insecurity about his fragile position and his paranoia which afforded no challengers or questioners to his unchecked authority.

5. Introduced the concept of election exactly the same as Bolshevism - The notion of election proposed by Shoghi Effendi in the Baha'i Administration was identical to Bolshevism, the communist system of administration instituted in Russia following the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. All of his techniques, as well as those of the National Spiritual Assembly, are remarkably similar to those of the Soviet government at the time.

Despite the fact that Abdu'l Baha said: "The future is bad...Nations should strive to extinguish this fire (of Bolshevism) so that it would not spread to other countries. It will soon affect other countries...for the mass of people have a Bolshevik tendency." (The Light of the World)

As quoted by Lady Ruth White in her book 'The Baha'i Religion and its Enemy the Baha'i Organization', under Chapter II, "Shoghi Effendi conducts the Baha'i elections in the

same manner, and it is more of a farce than that of the Bolsheviks. Like them he studies the roll of the Baha'is and, through a system of espionage, he knows every shade of belief among them. He selects those who lean most favourably towards him, and the voters have no more to say about who is to be elected than the Russian people have under the Soviet regime. And like the Soviet government his chief aim is to suppress man's freedom of conscience. There is no greater violation of the Baha'i teachings than this."

6. Converted charity funds for personal use – According to a famous Russian proverb, "one is not a thief till caught stealing." So, only this one episode demonstrates Shoghi's malice towards the faith in the presence of the Master. As narrated by Lady Ruth White in her book, The Baha'i Religion and its Enemy the Baha'i Organization – "In the Autumn of 1919 I sent to Abdul Baha an American Express Company check of Five hundred dollars and asked him to apply it to some of the many charities he was dispensing. About four months after we arrived in Haifa as the guests of Abdu'l Baha. On the day before departure I asked Abdu'l Baha if he had received the check. Without a moment's hesitation and very emphatically he said that he had not received it. He repeated this a number of times, and seemed indignant that it had not been turned over to him. I discussed this with various members of the family of Abdu'l Baha, and one of the brothers-in-law said he would go to town and enquire about the matter. He returned and said there were no record of the check. When I returned to America I asked the American Express Company to look up the receipt of the check I had sent through their office, and on the back of it was the signature of the person who had received the cash. This person was Shoghi Rabbani [i.e. Shoghi Effendi]. Circumstantial evidence also points to the fact that Shoghi

Effendi used the money to go to Oxford University. For immediately after cashing the check he departed for Oxford."

7. Making the Faith a bureaucratic organisation - Was the Baha'i Faith designed to be a very bureaucratic religion ruled from on high? Because of such a mind-set existing throughout the Baha'i community since the passing away of the Master, many Baha'is have been alienated from the Faith. Is this, however, the substance of the original teachings? Can anyone imagine Baha'u'llah excommunicating somebody based on some questions? Was the notion of "Independent Investigation of Truth" then a sham?

When a Baha'i expresses his opinions, the chain of excommunication begins, eventually culminating to his expulsion from the faith. Even bringing out the scripture texts in this article and striving to change the Faith in accordance with such teachings, Baha'is today would be expelled from their faith. All thanks to the 'so-called' Guardian for introducing such teachings in the faith. Indeed, Baha'is are frequently reprimanded or expelled from their religious community just for voicing thoughts that oppose those in authority in national and international organisations.

8. Not leaving behind a Will - Writing a will has been made mandatory for all Baha'is, and it is referenced in the Kitab-i-Aqdas. "Unto everyone hath been enjoined the writing of a will", Baha'u'llah writes in Kitab-i-Aqdas #109. Shoghi Effendi not only willfully defied Abdu'l Baha, but also decided to skirt divine law by failing to leave a will and left the Baha'is affairs in chaos following his death. What a great Guardian to have; if he is unconcerned about his own matters, how can he keep the Baha'is in order?

On that note, I'd want to leave you with a thought and quote Abdu'l Baha, who made such a warm welcome address on his visit to London. The Master announced that everybody who has ever heard the name Baha'u'llah and has been following his teachings is a Baha'i, even if he does not call himself a Baha'i.

"It makes no difference whether you have ever heard of Baha'u'llah or not. The man who lives the life according to the teachings of Baha'u'llah is already a Baha'i. On the other hand, a man may call himself a Baha'i for fifty years and if he does not live the life he is not a Baha'i. An ugly man may call himself handsome, but he deceives no one, and a black man may call himself white yet he deceives no one: not even himself!" (Abdu'l Baha in London, p. 106.)

Such a lovely saying! I hope this helps you see how the faith was distorted for Shoghi's personal gain and how it was used to destroy the essence of the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master.

Regards,

Mark





On June 18, 1912 a motion picture was made of Abdu'l Baha at the Brooklyn home of Howard and Mary MacNutt. This photograph of Abdu'l Baha with children is a still from that original film.

INTRODUCING

THE CARAVAN

APP!



CLERGY IN THE BAHA'I CAUSE

In answer to a question as to whether or not there would be any clergy in the Baha'i Cause?

“No. In this movement there will never be any paid ministers, no appointed clergy, no bishops, no cardinals, no popes, no ceremonies. A clergyman, assuming that he is ordained to his ministry, may think that he knows more about God than anyone else, whereas the humble man in his congregation may know more about God than he does. The sacerdotal and theological position makes a clergyman proud and haughty. But there is one thing in this Cause; some people may become greater than the rest, not through appointment, but through the purity of their hearts, their unselfish deeds, their heroic sacrifices, and their knowledge of God. Such illumined souls, like kind fathers or teachers, will guide and teach those less fortunate. They are the elder brothers of the members of the community. They do not arrogate to themselves any title or position. You will know them by their humility, their sincerity, their deeds, their severance, their knowledge, their spirituality, and their attraction.”

- Abdu'l Baha

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

INSPIRING QUOTES



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

— The Bab

“Beseech ye the One true God that He may, through the power of the hand of loving-kindness and spiritual education, purge and purify certain souls from the defilement of evil passions and corrupt desires, that they may arise and unloose their tongues for the sake of God, that perchance the evidences of injustice may be blotted out and the splendour of the light of justice may shed its radiance upon the whole world. The people are ignorant, and they stand in need of those who will expound the truth.”

— Baha'u'llah

"If a man does a great injustice to another in his life, then, after his death, his son will be despised for having had such a father and in some cases the injury might be so serious that the effect would reach to the grandson, etc., or a man may, by wrong living, fall into consumption and give that disease to his children unto the third or fourth generation. "Both physically and mentally the sins of the fathers may be visited upon the children."

— Abdu'l Baha

FREE BAHAI ACTIVITIES

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

Dear faithful Baha'is,

Allah'u'Abha!

To begin, we'd want to thank all of our dear friends for their greetings and articles for 'The Caravan' Magazine. Recently, we have received several inquiries from people all around the world requesting for Baha'i publications, so we decided to bring this up in the Caravan so that our message reaches everyone as opposed to simply replying to emails that would be seen by a single person. We are a tiny team of 15-20 persons from various corners of the world, and each one has a specific role to the Cause. We are not a well-funded organisation, and because we oppose collecting Huquq'ullah from Baha'is, we have very few resources, which are largely our personal contributions to the Cause. As a result, shipping books or magazines to our readers becomes impossible, therefore we ask that you all either download the PDF from our website or, if you prefer physical copies, take a copy as needed to make the most of your time.

We have terrible news to share with all of our readers: A close friend and an active member and the pioneer of the Free Baha'i movement in Malaysia, passed away recently. Without him, every occasion for the Malaysian Baha'i community will be different. Our heartfelt condolences go out to him and his entire family. It's just been a month since he left, yet it feels like years. We hope he is doing well and is keeping an eye on us. He was a fantastic mentor to our Malaysian friends, and everyone will miss his presence. May his soul find peace.

One of our Baha'i friends from Australia contacted us last month to tell us that the teachings of the Free Baha'i religion had inspired him and a number of his friends. They are all working together for the cause by reaching out to their friends in their neighbourhood. They hold weekly events at each other's homes for children and young adults to learn from the teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master via story telling. A lovely gesture in support of Baha'u'llah's service and the dissemination of his teachings of love, peace, and harmony. We would want to see more similar actions carried out by the faithful living in various regions of the world,

and we would like to encourage all of our readers to step forward for the cause, for the love of Baha'u'llah.

Friends from Germany are conducting dawn prayer meetings in which the entire community is invited to join. However, friends from Germany have expressed worry that people are too busy and that attendance has decreased compared to the pre-COVID era, but they are still giving it their all for the cause. Abha beauty would undoubtedly pour His blessings on the seekers.

After finishing the series based on the book 'The Baha'i Religion and its Enemy, the Baha'i Organization,' we want to launch a new series based on the book Abdu'l Baha in Egypt, penned by a well-known Baha'i scholar, Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, in our next issue. I hope our readers find it fascinating to read.

We would want to invite our brother faithful once more to write and contribute research pieces, and if we find them interesting, we will undoubtedly include them in the Caravan Magazine. Let us hope that the Baha'u'llah Caravan continues to sail across the world spreading the message of love and peace.

Let us strive together to promote Baha'u'llah's teachings and his message of human oneness.

Warmest Baha'i regards,

Free Baha'i Team





SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Email 1:

When you give names to Shoghi Effendi regarding him being wrongly taking over the position of guardianship, how can you even ignore the fact that he was the one who held the fortress of the faith after the ascension of Abdu'l Baha? It is great injustice on the personality of the Guardian if you ignore his service to the cause. What justification do you have for that?

Answer:

Hi Riz,

Allah'u'Abha!

Excellent questions, appreciate your interest on this topic. May you find the rightful path that was shown by Baha'u'llah and the Master and may you find success in your endeavors.

Regarding Shoghi Effendi, it is now a well-known and widely accepted fact that he acquired the position of Guardianship solely based on the forged Will and Testaments of Abdu'l Baha and

by no other official introductions or prior appointments. Forensics expert, Dr. Ainsworth Mitchel has said as part of his investigation into the Will and Testament that the document provided is a forgery. This report is widely published on the internet. Forging the Will is just one of the crimes of Shoghi, apart from that he has done multiple other things that make him deem unfit for the position of Guardianship. He introduced things that were against the teachings of Baha'u'llah, and took the faith on the path of destruction.

As per Baha'i teachings, there is to be no clergy or supreme leader / unquestioned commander in the Baha'i faith. But Shoghi Effendi managed or rather ruled the faith as his personal fiefdom. Much akin to a tyrant Pope or a crazy Mollah, he excommunicated the entire family of Abdu'l Baha on frivolous pretexts, like travelling abroad without informing him or for marrying without his permission or even for attending Baha'i gatherings without informing him. While none of these innocent family members of Abdu'l Baha

broke Covenant, what they did break was the ginormous ego of this tyrant "Guardian" which resulted in their excommunication. The true reason for these excommunications was Shoghi Effendi's insecurity about his fragile position and his paranoia which afforded no challengers or questioners to his unchecked authority.

Let me present to you a scenario which will help you make better decisions regarding the "so-called" Guardian. Imagine there is a gardener who throughout his life gave everything to set up a beautiful garden. He planted all the attractive plants that bore lovely flowers that made the garden look more than beautiful. He had multiple people who had different smaller roles in his garden who from time to time used to perform their tasks on the instruction of the gardener. Now, before the gardener passed away, he instructed someone who used to work closely with him, to take care of his garden. Now, the new gardener did a fabulous job and worked strictly as per the instructions of the main gardener. The new gardener not just worked hard to protect the garden, he also planted more flower bearing colorful plants which made the garden look more beautiful. Not soon after the new gardener also passed away and instructed that "everyone" should take care of the garden and should work towards its betterment. However, one fine day, a man shows up suddenly after a few years and claims that he was made incharge of the garden land and kicks out other people and declares himself to be the sole incharge of the garden. That doesn't stop there, he goes ahead and converts the garden into an amusement park saying I want more people to be attracted to the land. Now there are less flowers and more fun rides on the same land. Would you say that this guy did a fantastic job with what he did as now more people come to the amusement park?

The same is the case with Shoghi Effendi and the Baha'i faith. Shoghi did everything that was against the core Baha'i teachings and hence unfortunately, we see people turning away from the cause. Hope that answers your question.

If you have anything more to clarify or ask, feel

free to reach out to us. We will be happy to help!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



Email 2:

You people talk about humanity, love, unity... and then create discord amongst the Bahais. You have problem with Shoghi Effendi, keep it to yourself. Why do you have to announce it to public and create conflict within the Bahais? Or are you an enemy of the faith, whose entire objective is to divide the Bahais and create problems for the true followers of Bahaullah? Then don't claim to be followers of Bahaullah!! 🙄

Answer:

Hi KV,

Allah'u'Abha!

Thank you for contacting us with your inquiry. It is nice to address questions from those who are sceptical about the Free Baha'is. You are invited to continue emailing us your questions regarding the Cause, and we will gladly respond to them all.

We're glad we're distinguished within the Baha'is for talking about humanity, love, and togetherness, and let's be clear: when it comes to serving mankind, our words and deeds are in sync. We derived this knowledge from Baha'u'llah's and the Master's teachings. Their entire existence is an example for the Free Baha'is, who have always believed that all Baha'is, not only Baha'is or any specific sect within the Baha'is, should be focused on struggling for mankind. In truth, this should have been the consensus behaviour of all Baha'is, which is regrettably not the case.

If you are a Haifan Baha'i or a member of any other Baha'i group who believes in the "so-called" Guardian, please know that we are not against you. As Free Baha'is, we are opposed to the Administrative structure, which arose only as a result of Shoghi Effendi's changes to the faith. The faith was never intended to

establish an Administrative body that would govern over the whole Baha'i community during the lifetime of Baha'u'llah or the Master.

Abdu'l Baha had 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." This is the slogan of the Free Baha'i Faith: we are all responsible for spreading the word of Baha'u'llah, not just one individual or a small number of people. Baha'u'llah was opposed to priests, yet now we have 9 handpicked members of UHJ functioning as clergy and ruling over Baha'is in the same way that clergy govern over followers of other religions. First, we declare that there are no priests, ministers, rabbis, mullas, pandits, lamas, or monks among Baha'is, and then we designate other persons to fulfil the same work at the city, country, and global levels. Isn't this hypocrisy taken to a new level? Wasn't this system of UHJ, NSA, and LSA completely opposed to the cause's main teachings?!

Now, regarding your allegation that the Free Baha'is are attempting to sow discord and division among Baha'is. This is all nonsense, and if the Administration is spreading it, it demonstrates how they are unable to address our questions and have had to stoop to such pathetic claims. Does that mean if Baha'u'llah and the Master used harsh words against someone to establish their point against any injustice, their ultimate goal was to sow strife among humanity? If someone is being oppressed, one should support him, according to the precepts of the Cause. That is what we as followers of the faith doing. Abdu'l Baha has said, "Be a helper of every oppressed one, the protector of every destitute one, be ye ever mindful to serve any soul of mankind." Forget about humanity for

a moment; the tyranny perpetrated by Shoghi upon Baha'u'llah's relatives will not be forgotten. Everyone else can turn a blind eye to them, but the Free Baha'is cannot.

My question to the UHJ is this: If they sincerely follow Baha'u'llah's teachings, why can't they adopt Aqdas' teachings within the Baha'is? Why do they have to establish the Ruhi Curriculum, which is only meant to keep Baha'is occupied with everything but Baha'u'llah's teachings? If the "most holy book," Kitab-i-Aqdas, is readily available on the internet, why are Baha'is kept occupied with Ruhi books, which are so uninteresting that most people skip their Ruhi sessions and even run away from it, creating excuses? Forget about the Ruhi students; even the teachers are disinterested in presenting the subject and frequently skip pages. It appears that their primary goal is to complete the syllabus so that people may be labelled Ruhi graduates. How can something have any impact if it competes with Baha'u'llah's words? If Baha'is are separated from Kitab-i-Aqdas, they will undoubtedly depart from the main Baha'i doctrines that seem to be visible today.



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

Thanks and regards,

Team Free Baha'is

Email 3:

Dear Free Baha'i Team,

Could you perhaps explain why the Free Baha'is do not believe in the concept of administration? I've been considering joining the Free Baha'is, but I don't understand the issue with the appointment of LSA, NSA, ABM, or UHJ. What is the problem? In any case, all of the selected members serve for the Cause, not for personal gain. Finally, they are all working for Baha'u'llah. Please explain. *(The original question has been slightly modified to improve reader comprehension.)*

Answer:

Hi Shanti,

Allah'u'Abha!

Glad you're on a pursuit of accepting the true teachings of Baha'u'llah and the Master. May God help you in your endeavour.

We have been repeating this, and don't mind repeating it yet again! We, the Free Baha'is, solely follow what has been revealed to us by Baha'u'llah and the Master. Anything and everything that has been added fresh to the faith since Abdu'l Baha's ascension is unacceptable, and we are vehemently opposed to it.

We are against the Administration because we have discovered clear instructions from the Master's teachings that the Baha'is should not have any particular position in the religious activity that they conduct and that everyone should serve for the cause. "I have not appointed any officers in the faith," Abdu'l Baha has said unequivocally. These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have driven Baha'is to work for the sake of gaining positions, resulting in fraudulent reports and statistics. However, if a person

frees himself from administration, he will fulfil his obligations to Baha'u'llah rather than to an LSA, NSA, or UHJ. As a result, Baha'u'llah will reward him for our efforts. As a result, Free Baha'is do not believe in Officers or Office Bearers since it contradicts the teachings of the Cause. And, without a doubt, if something is expressly addressed, how can we who profess to be followers of the Cause fail to obey it? The Master has declared unequivocally that each person must be the Guardian of his or her own beliefs and actions. This was done to ensure that all Baha'is were the same and that no one held a particular position that made them feel superior to others. This has vanished with the introduction of these posts to the Cause.

I hope this has answered your questions. Please let us know if you have any other questions, comments, or suggestions. We will gladly help you!

Regards,

Team Free Baha'is



KNOW YOUR HERITAGE



Metal pen nib belonging to Baha'u'llah

While in jail and exile, Baha'u'llah continued to write throughout his ministry. His works, tablets, and epistles totalled more than a hundred volumes. He addressed several of them to specific people in answer to queries posed to him.



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



OBITUARY

Dear friends,

A dedicated believer who passed away to Abha Kingdom in Malaysia. and was well-known as the Knight of Baha'u'llah. His determination and sacrifice for the spread of faith remains unmatched. We are at loss of words to describe this well-natured being. He was the pioneer of faith to Brunei and Sarawak. He participated wholeheartedly in the administration but later realised the unauthentic nature of the Baha'i administration. When the administrative authorities learned about this, they tried hard to side line him and his opinion were rejected. Such pressure tactics and usual style of excommunication by administration motivated him further to work selflessly for the Cause of God without looking for any name and fame. His independent investigation of truth took a new turn. This resulted in amplifying his work towards mankind manifold. He was instrumental in propagating and protecting the faith in the areas he preached. His passing has left a huge vacuum in the community which will remain unfilled. This indeed is a big loss to the humanity. We collectively mourn the departure of our pioneer, a legend, a great supporter and contributor of the Free Baha'i faith. May his soul progress in the Abha Kingdom. Lastly, we pay our heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased for their loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this tough time.



WEBSPLORE



trident765 18d
Unitarian Baha'i

The institute process feels like a scam because the UHJ says things about it in order to get you to invest in it, and then after you invest in it you find out that what they said about it does not match up with reality. And the natural human response to being scammed is to lose trust in the scammer.

There is nothing scammy about a weekly gathering where people just sing songs about how all the religions are one. But when people are pressured to sacrifice their weekends to go door knocking because it will result in the unfoldment of organic community-building patterns of intensive growth, and then this "unfoldment" doesn't happen, they feel like they have been scammed into wasting their time. And then they lose their trust in the Baha'i community and the Baha'i Faith in general. As much as I like to bash the Baha'i administration, the root problem is really with the ordinary Baha'is themselves, because they are the ones that choose to follow the Baha'i administration and pressure their fellow Baha'i community members to invest in the fruitless institute process.



3



“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



In 1912, Abdu'l Baha spent from April to December touring North America. He is shown here (at center) with Baha'is in Lincoln Park, Chicago, in 1912.

DECLARATIONS

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

Our Master has clearly stated,

"There are no officers in this Cause. I do not and have not appointed any one to perform any special services, but I encourage everyone to engage in the service of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is purely a democracy, and not a theocracy."

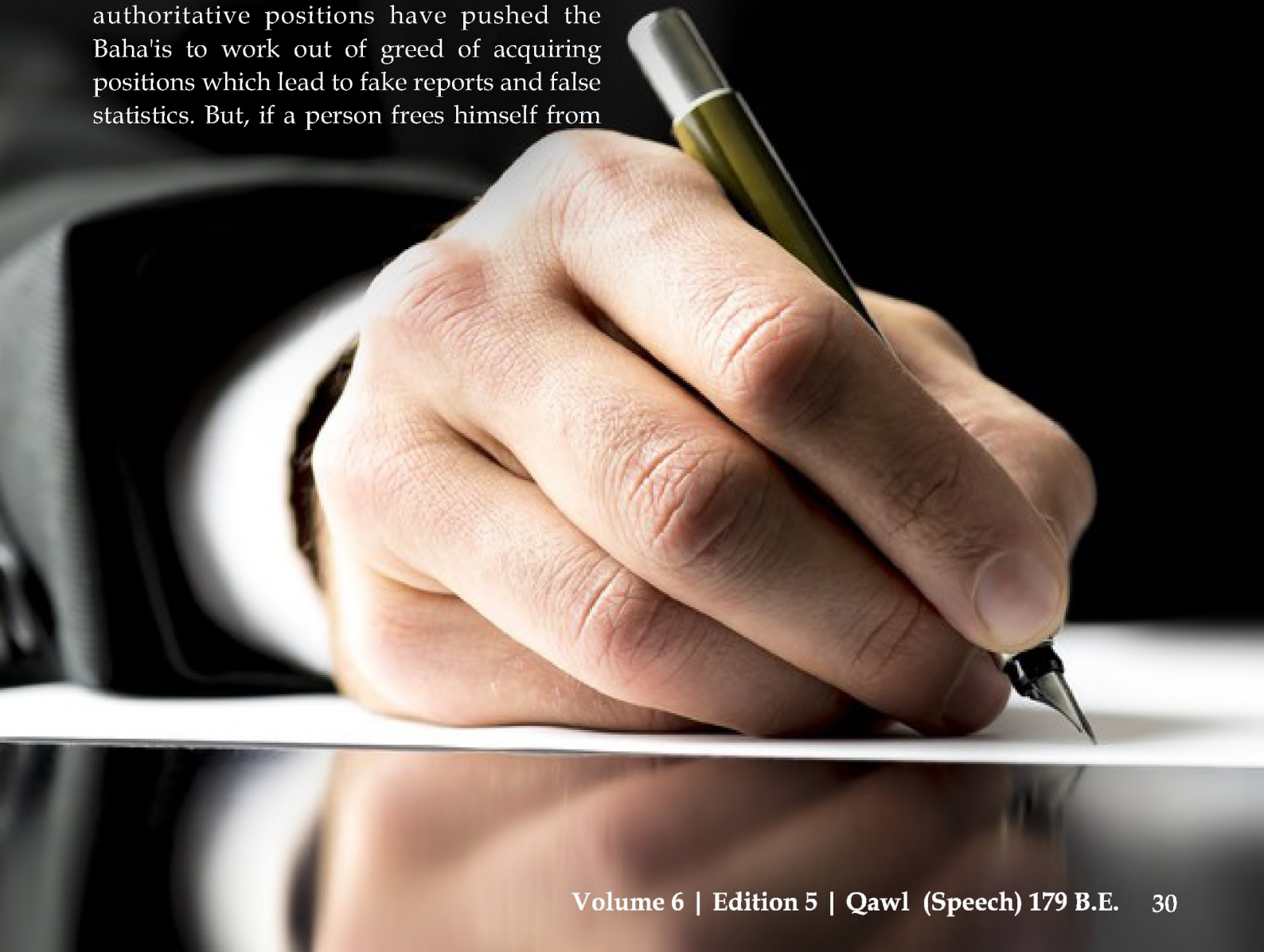
(Reference: Star of the West, Vol. 8, pg. 116)

These man-made assemblies and authoritative positions have pushed the Baha'is to work out of greed of acquiring positions which lead to fake reports and false statistics. But, if a person frees himself from

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

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

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



DID YOU KNOW ?

The beauty of the Baha'i faith is found in its service to mankind. We may learn from the lives of Baha'u'llah and the Master how they used to serve people without regard for their faith. In reality, they never even attempted to spread the Baha'i faith to them in exchange for the assistance that they provided to the poor.

Unfortunately, this was utterly altered once Shoghi Effendi came to power and wrongfully claimed the Guardianship based on a forgery of the Master's Will and Testament. Forget about humanity; even Baha'is were treated unfairly in the face of excommunication from the Cause. Not just Baha'is, but even close family members of Baha'u'llah were excommunicated and expelled from the faith. Where are Baha'u'llah's family members? One of the most significant and crucial questions that no Baha'i can or would dare to ask the Administration. Why? Because if they challenge the Administration, they will suffer the same fate as them and will definitely be expelled from the Cause.

Today, no Baha'i dares to challenge the Administration. Major concerns are left unresolved, as if they are not accountable for their acts. Issues like the demolition of the Abdu'l Baha's shrine and the use of Huquq'llah funds for superfluous costs go ignored, as they usually do!

The Baha'i faith was never founded on injustice and persecution. Baha'u'llah and the Master

envisioned a world based on humanity, with no barriers based on religion, race, gender, or caste. Everyone should love one other for the sake of humanity. A society founded on love and caring, with no discrimination or unfairness experienced by any human being. Let us consider an unusual occurrence of the Master that should serve as a wake-up call for all Baha'is. This is all that the Baha'i teachings stand for!

While Abdu'l Baha was in Dublin, He stayed at a small inn. A woman staying at the same inn tells this story:

Early one morning while she was dressing and happening to glance out of the window she saw Abdu'l Baha pacing up and down dictating to His secretary. As she watched, an old man in very dirty, ragged clothes walked past the inn. Abdu'l Baha sent His secretary to call him back.

As the man approached, Abdu'l Baha went forward to greet him. He took the poor man's hand in His and smiled into his face as though He were welcoming an old friend. He talked to him for a few minutes, trying to make the old man feel more cheerful. Finally, the man did smile a little, but it was rather sad. While Abdu'l Baha talked to him, He looked the man over. He noticed that his trousers were very torn and scarcely covered his body. He said, "We must do something about that."

The street was empty because it was very early in the morning. With a gentle laugh, Abdu'l Baha stepped into the shadow of the wall and began to fumble under His cloak. Then He stooped and His trousers fell to the ground. He pulled His cloak around Him and, turning to the old man, He handed him His trousers. "May God go with you," He said. And with that He turned to His secretary and continued dictating as if nothing unusual had happened."

I wonder what that man thought as he went his way. I like to think that this glimpse into a world in which someone cared enough for him to give him his own garb rather than that he should need, marked an epoch in his life, and transformed the "brass of this world into gold by the alchemy of the spirit," as Baha'u'llah says.

During the prison life in Akka Abdu'l Baha often gave His bed to those who had none, and He always refused to own more than one coat.

"Why should I have two," He said, "when there are so many who have none?"

...Abdu'l Baha did not tell others the way of Life without walking therein Himself. In this incident I saw reflected indeed His advice to me in the parlor of the Inn that memorable Sunday.

A few days after leaving Dublin Abdu'l Baha wrote a letter to His host in Dublin in which He stated:

"To be fruitless in the world of humanity is the manifest loss. A wise person will not attach his heart to ephemeral things: nay, rather, will he continually seek immortal life and strive to obtain eternal happiness."

Source: Stories About Abdu'l Baha | Portals to Freedom

BLAST FROM THE PAST



The STORY TELLER

THE SINNER AND THE SAINT

Long years ago in Galilee, there was a man of dissolute nature, who had consumed his all and reached the utmost bounds of folly and error. He had spent his days to no profit, and never had he tried to soothe the heart of any creature. His brain was void of understanding and filled with arrogance, and his body was fat with forbidden morsels. The skirt of his garment was stained with iniquity, and his conscience was begrimed with shamelessness like unto a smoky dwelling. Men held him in abomination like unto the year of famine, pointing to him from afar.

It is said that the Christ, on His way from the desert, passed by the temple of a Saint; and the Saint coming down from his chapel fell before Him, laying his head on the ground. The Sinner, beholding this meeting, drew near, dazzled by their presences like the moth before the candle; gazing at them earnestly, sighing and hesitant, like a poor man before a wealthy merchant. Silent and motionless, he stood, burning pleas hovering on his lips, tears rising to his eyes as to a cloud.

"I have thrown away the ready money of my precious life and have brought to my account no act of goodness. Let no living man ever resemble me, for to such would death be better far than life! He has done well who, dying in infancy, has not in age to bear the burden of ignominy! Forgive, O Creator of the World, my offenses, for if they rise with me, they will be but sad companions!"

In such tones lamenting stood the Sinner, imploring mercy from Him

who is the Merciful, hanging his head for very shame, while rivers of tears flowed upon his bosom.

Meanwhile the Saint, turning away, his brain puffed up with self-esteem, fixed a sour brow on the Sinner and exclaimed:

"Why does this ruined fellow dog our steps—ignorant and ill-omened, why does he claim kindred with us? Encompassed with fire to the very neck, his life given over to the storm of the passions, what good can come from his polluted breath? What right has such to seek the Messiah and me? May it never be that I shall fall into his fire! On the Last Day, when all men are assembled for judgment, let not my resurrection, O God, be with his!"

At this moment, an inspired Voice from the august Lord of all Perfection came through the Christ:

"Though this be a wise man and that be a fool, the invocation of each shall be accepted by Me. The one who turned his bright day to corruption has regretted it with burning tears, and whosoever comes to Me in his helplessness, him will I in no wise drive from the threshold of my Acceptance. His evil works will I remove from him, and for that which he has seen will I bring him to Paradise. Then if the other, who has been the Saint of Holiness, scorns to sit beside him in eternity, say to that other, 'Fear not that he should disgrace thee in the resurrection; for this one shall they bear to Heaven and that one shall in no manner be forced to bear him company.'"

(Reference: New History Magazine, Volume II, December, 1932)

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**PUBLISHED BY THE FREE BAHÁ'Í FAITH
IN
SINGAPORE | THAILAND | USA**



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**THE CARAVAN || REVIVED EDITION
VOLUME 6 - EDITION 5**

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