

C O P Y

TABLET OF ABDU'L-BAHA TO SHOGLI EFFENDI

First tablet revealed for Shoghi Effendi, when he was five years old, in Abdu'l-Baha's handwriting.

He is God!

O Shoghi! I have no time to talk. Do not bother Us. You said "write". I have written. What else can be done? Now is not the time for reading and writing. It is the time for jumping and around and chanting "O my God!" Memorize the prayers of the Blessed Beauty (Baha'u'llah) and chant for Me that I may hear. Otherwise there is no other time for anything else.

(signed) E.E.

Translated by Dr. Zia M. Bagdadi, from photographic copy of original, Sept. 16, 1932, Chicago, Ill.

copied from typed copy of Nina Matthesen.

Excerpts from Dr. Bagdadi's letters:

Shoghi Effendi's first Tablet was an answer to some of his last letters that he had written in my room. I have seen these letters and even in one of them were two poetic verses in Arabic which I had had composed in praise of Abdu'l-Baha. Shoghi Effendi, though only five years of age, wanted to know why he would not get a chance at that age to learn higher sciences, arts, etc.

On receiving and learning the contents of this Tablet, Shoghi Effendi at once memorized a number of Baha'u'llah's prayers and began to chant them so loudly that the whole neighborhood could hear his voice. His parents and other members of the Holy Family asked him to lower his voice. "The Master wrote to me to chant that He may hear me. I am doing my best." And he kept on chanting at the top of his voice for many hours each day. Finally, his parents begged the Master to stop him, but He told them to let him alone.

You have asked me to translate the enclosed photographic copy of the original and first Tablet of Shoghi Effendi, written with 'Abdul-Baha's own handwriting. Also, to write a few lines of any explanation connected with it.

Briefly, even in his early childhood Shoghi Effendi displayed wonderful qualities, qualities impossible to be found in other children.

For example, on one of his early visits at our home in Beirut, near Acca, with his parents, the Greatest Holy Leaf and most of the Holy Family, when he was only about 5 or 6 years of age, you would find him most of the time in my room, studying the pictures in my medical books and asking questions. Once he demanded I should explain the subject of anatomy and physiology in actual dissection. He wanted to see the organs and their relations to each other. He was not satis-

fied by seeing the pictures. His hunger for knowledge; his persistence and insistence to see the real, not only the pictures; his pleading for full understanding; his irresistible beauty and the radiance of his soul, touched my heart and I promised to demonstrate to him what he had asked.

On the following morning, before leaving the house for my medical school, I asked Khosro, one of the servants of the Holy Family, to take my shot gun and get me one of the wild animals. On that same afternoon when I arrived at home, I found the victim, which in medical terms we call 'subject;' a big wild cat.

I got my dissecting knife and forceps ready. Shoghi Effendi, Moever Khamum and Khosro watched and listened with perfect courage and silence. When the operation and all explanations were over, and while I was questioning myself whether or not after going through that trouble, that little child had any idea what it was all about; then lo, to my utter astonishment and bewilderment he, Shoghi Effendi, began to repeat word by word all that I had said re the anatomy and physiology of the vital organs. Then I said to myself, "This is not an ordinary child, verily this is a precious and darling angel."

In addition to his great capacity for knowledge, Shoghi Effendi displayed many other divine qualities. As an example his heart was so tender and his nature so sweet that every time he had offended any of his playmates, though he never did that unless they were cheating or plating, he would not go to sleep before he embraced his sad chum and left him happy. Not only that, but he always used to urge his little companions to make up with each other before retiring.

Another quality he had was promptness, always on time. In those days all the children of the Holy Household had to get together after arising from sleep every morning and spend the first hour of the day in the Master's room. Ther Zeebat and her sister were the ones to chant, then to prepare the tea and serve it from the Russian brass samovar, and all ate their breakfast in that sacred presence; breakfast consisted of a piece of whole wheat bread, a piece of cheese and tea from little crystal glasses. Shoghi Effendi was always the first to get up early in the morning and be on time only after receiving just one good whipping from no other than the Master's own hand.

Shoghi Effendi's handsome face, the wonderful rapidity of his utterances and writings, his determination, patience and endurance, and his love for mankind, would certainly remind me of 'Abdul-Baha and the Bab, and, of course, the most blessed Tree that produced him, Baha'u'llah.

Copy: John and Eleanor Conkling - Provo, Utah 6/12/58

Allah'u' Abha: Richard Chase 6/21/58