

--S Y N O P S I S--

BAHA'I ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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THE DISPENSATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH
Synopsis-Pages 5-6-7

The Apostolic Age of the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'u'llah	{ Transcendental in Majesty Serene Awe Inspiring Unapproachably Glorious
	The Bab	{ Infinite in Tenderness Irrisistable in charm Unsurpassed in Heroism Matchless in dramatic and eventful life
	'Abdu'l-Bahá	{ Vibrant and Majestic in personality Reflecting station unattainable by ma: Reflecting glory and power of Manifestation of God
	Greatest Holy Leaf	{ Illustrious Deeply Spiritual Exalted Station Sublime Life Unfailing sympathy

BOOK OF ADMINISTRATION

		Authority--Book of Aqdas
		Will & Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha
		Head--Guardian of the Cause
		Formation--Elected by National Houses of Justice
	Universal House of Justice	Duties { Enacts all ordinances not found in explicit text Coordinates all Baha'i World Activities-- Legistate on ordinances in explicit text
		Authority--Will & Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha
		Formation--Elected indirectly by Local Communities
	National Houses of Justice	Duties { Execution of Ordinances of Universal House of Justice Administration of National affairs Supervision of Local affairs
Administration of the World Order of Baha'u'llah		Responsible to-- (Universal House of Justice
		Qualifi- cations { Unquestioned loyalty Selfless Devotion Well-trained mind Recognized ability Mature experience
		Authority--Book of Aqdas
		Will & Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha
		Formation--Elected directly by Local Communities
	Local Houses of Justice	Duties { Execution of Ordinances of National Houses of Justice Administration of Local affairs
		Responsible to-- (National Houses of Justice
		Qualifi- cations { Unquestioned loyalty Selfless devotion Well-trained mind Recognized ability Mature experience
	Baha'i Fund	'Cardinal 'Principle (Voluntary Contributions

WORLD ORDER OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH-further considerations
Synopsis-Pages 6-10

Distinguishing
Features of the
Bahá'í Faith

<p>• Spirit breathed by • Bahá'u'lláh in a • Divinely appointed • Visible Order</p>	{	<p>Bearing His Name Indentified with His Principles Functioning according to His Law Upon which inviolable Authority rest</p>
<p>• System of Divine • Economy containing</p>	{	<p>Laws { Patterns for future Regulations { society Principles { Instrument for estab- Institut- { lishment of Most ions { Great Peace { Agency for Unificia- { tion of thc world</p>
<p>• Safeguarded by • Divinely appointed • Succession</p>	{	<p>Guardian- { Apply principles ship and { Promulgate Laws Universal { Protect Institutions House of { Adapt Faith to Justice { progressive society</p>
<p>• Elimination of • Unwarranted • Disturbing elements</p>	{	<p>Baptism Communion Confession Asceticism Priestly dominion Elaborate ceremonials Holy war Polygamy { Rigidity and rigor of fasting etc.</p>
<p>• Immutability of • Revealed Word</p>	{	<p>Preserves Identity of Faith Guards Integrity of Faith</p>
<p>• Elasticity of • Functions gives</p>	{	<p>Expansion Adaptation</p>

GOLDEN AGE OF THE CAUSE OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
Synopsis Pages 10-12

' Fundamental ' Principles of ' all religions ' one	{ { Divine in origin { Identical in aims { Complementary in Functions { Continuous in purpose { Indispensible in value to mankind
' Oneness of ' Prophets	{ { Abide in the tabernacle { Soar in the same Heaven { Seated upon the same throne { Utter the same speeth { Proclaim the same Faith { Shed the same Light
' Prophets differ ' only in	{ Intensity of their Revelation { Comparative potency of their Light
Claims of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh	' Reason for the ' apparent differ- ' ence of Prophets { { Immaturity and unpreparedness of age { Spiritual capacity of mankind
' The Revelation ' of Bahá'u'lláh	{ { Abrogates no past Religion { Distorts no feature of { previous Religion { Belittles no values of { previous Religion { Dwarfs no Prophets of the past { Whittles down no eternal verities { Conflicts with no animating spirit { Undermines no basis of allegiance { Presentation of its Truth not eclectic { Affirmation of claims not arrogant
' Revolves around ' Fundamental ' Principle	{ Religious truth relative, { not absolute { Divine Revelation progressive, { not final
' Need of a new ' Revelation to	{ Restate Divine purpose { Reaffirm exalted standards { Revive Spiritual forces { Sound universal appeal for { concerted efforts

GOLDEN AGE OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH (Continued)
Synopsis-Pages-13-14

	<p>Station of the BAB</p>	<p>{ Fore-runner { Inspired Annunciator { Independent Manifestation of God { Endowed with great potency { Affirmed by Bahá'u'lláh { Attested by Will & Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá</p>
	<p>Greatness of the Bab's preliminary Manifestation</p>	<p>{ Knowledge is 27 Letters { Former prophets revealed 2 letters { The Bab revealed remaining 25 Letters</p>
<p>Evidences of Uniqueness of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation</p>	<p>Greatness of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation attest- ed to by the Bab</p>	<p>{ Potentiality superior to combined forces of all who followed the Bab { No word of the Bab adequately describes Him { No reference in Bayan does justice to His Cause { Would have disowned Babís who denied Him { Would have embraced those of other Faiths who believed in Him</p>
	<p>Greatness of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation attest- ed to by Shoghi Effendi</p>	<p>{ Closeness of { Towering grandeur Revelation { infinite possibil- Prevents { itics Estimate of { Transcendent Beauty</p>
	<p>Shoghi Effendi's Appeal to Believers</p>	<p>{ Strive to abstain from { Thoughts { dimming brilliance or { Words { injuring growth by { deeds</p>

Environment of its birthplace (Persia)	{ Unstrained fanaticism Crass ignorance Unbridled cruelty, corruptions hatreds, prejudices Enmity of government Church and people
Station of Persian Believers and martyrs	{ Heroes { Sealing with life-blood triumphs of Faith Paving way for approaching victory of Faith Planting seed of Divinely appointed administration
Station of American believers	{ Spiritual descendants and Champion builders of the organic Structure
Proofs of America's Faith	{ Spontaneous loyalty to 'Abdu'l-Baha's wishes Generosity to Persian believers Resistance to attacks of enemies Declaration of Trust and By-Laws Intervention on behalf of Russian believers Moral support to Egyptian fellow-disciples Services of pioneer teachers Building of the Temple
Ninety years Progress of the World Order of Baha'u'llah	
Potentialities tested or worth determined by	{ Purity of its Precepts Sublimity of its standards Integrity of its laws Reasonableness of its claims Comprehensiveness of its scope Universality of its program Flexibility of its institutions Lives of its founders Heroism of its martyrs Transforming power of its influence
Present International Status	{ Consolidated Baha'i Institutions in forty countries of the world. Dissemination of Baha'i literature in 25 widely spoken languages Verbal and written testimonies obtained from { Royalty Governmental institutions International tribunals Ecclesiastical dignitaries
	{ Erection of Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in { America Russia Persia
	{ Source of power { Fed by hidden Springs of Celestial Power Propagates itself by ways mysterious

AMERICA AND THE MOST GREAT PEACE
Synopsis Page 12

Periods of
America's
progress

' Slow steady growth culminating
' in pilgrimages to the Shrine of
' First Decade' Baha'u'llah, firing souls with
' 1893-1903 ' love and zeal.

' Pioneers of Faith, cleansed and
' energized by tests and trials,
' Second Decade' unweakened by opposition culmin-
' 1903-1913 ' ating in the visit of 'Abdu'l-Baha
' to America.

' Quiet uninterrupted consolidation
' resulting in birth of Divinely
' Third Decade' appointed Administration, giving
' 1913-1923 ' poise and stability.

' Further internal development and
' expansion of international activities.
' Fourth Decade' Completion of superstructure of
' 1923-1933 ' Mashriq'u'l-Adhkâr, giving vision
' unobscured by internal disorder
' or international commotion.

Evidences of
power of
organic Bahā'i
Institutions

'	Vitality exhibited by organic institutions	
'	Obstacles surmounted by administrators	
'	Enthusiasm of itinerant teachers	
'	Self-sacrifice of champion-builders	
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'		
'		' Breadth of vision
'		' Confident hope
'		' Creative joy
'	Stalwart defenders	' Inward peace
'	manifest	' Uncompromising integrity
'		' Exemplary discipline
'		' Unyielding unity and solidarity
'		'
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'		
'	Spirit capable	' cleansed from
'	of fusing into	' diversified elements
'	own structure	' all forms of
'		' prejudice
'		'
'		'

