The following is from notes taken by Mrs Anna Grossman and Miss Else Grossman while in the presence of Shoghi Effendi in Haifa in April 1937. They translated them into German and then when I was in Germany, translated them again into English from which I took them down. Agnes B. Alexander. [[1]](#footnote-1)

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We cannot affiliate with any party. No program of any party can agree entirely with the Bahá’í principles. New Commonwealth (an English society)[[2]](#footnote-2) is very near the Cause nevertheless the Bahá’ís should not become members.

The NSA has to decide about joining movements such as Esperanto and the NSA must study their progress and the condition of membership, an after that the NSA must decide.

The Guardian interprets only, not legislates. The UHJ legislates but has no right to interpret. Both must work [together] otherwise the Cause would be paralyzed. It would be impossible for the UHJ and the Guardian not to be in harmony. Both are divinely guided and therefore could not be not in harmony. Two things must be observed, divine guidance and the separation [of] their functions. Separation in function without divine guidance would be dangerous. If one principle overlaps another then chaos results. Imagine the importance of divine guidance. The individual believer may get guidance direct from Bahá’u’lláh. The individual attracts inspiration, but to the UHJ and the Guardian inspiration is given by Bahá’u’lláh. The individual cannot be sure whether the inspiration is true or not, therefore he has no right to force his ideas on another and especially not to the Administration [and] Institutions, but the Guardian and the UHJ are sure of their inspiration.

We may pray to God but it is better to pray to Bahá’u’lláh or the Báb. We may also pray to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá or to the Greatest Holy Leaf, or even ask a friend of ours that they may ask Bahá’u’lláh to help us. If we pray it is necessary to have the right perception, that is, we should understand their stations.

“The final revelation is God Himself. There can never be a final revelation.” Because the world of God and the world of the Manifestation can never be mixed. There will be no decline as there has been [with] other Manifestations, even this is a culmination. The spiritual forces released by Bahá’u’lláh will be [here] for 500,000 years. His laws are for the coming 1,000 years, then a new Manifestation under the shadow of Bahá’u’lláh will either take the laws, change them, or abrogate then. Since the beginning of mankind all has developed to this time of maturity when the whole world will be united.

The lesser and greater Prophets are the same in their reality, but not in their station.

If the friends are teaching they should mention that mankind has reached the stage of maturity because this shows the greatness of this revelation.

If anyone wants to retire from the Cause, that the Cause may not suffer through him, then the Assembly might investigate the matter, and if it is not necessary for him to retire, then the Assembly must try to guide him, but if he insists we cannot hold him back.

The Guardian must watch over the decisions of the UHJ. He cannot change them but he must be sure that the UHJ is doing the right thing.

The Administration is the germ and pattern for the World Order. Not democratically; not autocratically. The NSA is the source for the life of the Bahá’í Community of a country.

Each race has faults—the Jews may even have more faults than others.

In the teachings America is the arm, Germany the brain. The arm is very important because it sometimes lifts very heavy weights and the Americans have already opened many doors.

Germany is now, as the whole world, in the state of evolution, and in the future will progress culturally, politically and spiritually.

As the United States of America has opened to the Cause the whole American continent, Germany will become the center of Europe and open in the south the Balkans; the northern countries, Russia; and in the west, France; to the Cause.

Mr Benke[[3]](#footnote-3) who died in Sofia was the first German martyr. He was the first German Bahá’í to establish the Cause in another country.

Crises are a signs of growth. Each growth develops new crises and enemies. These bring new growth. It can be compared with the human body. Therefore we should not avoid crises, only those due to our own fault. For this reason we should always welcome difficulties. The friends should bring their problems before the NSA.

The Shrine [of the Báb] lies in the center of Mt. Carmel, and Haifa lies in the center of the world, geographically, spiritually and through the UHJ, which will have its permanent center in Haifa, administratively. The tomb of Bahá’u’lláh is consciously and unconsciously the spiritual power center for the world.

I hope that in Germany there will be Bahá’í congresses for Europe, [and] in middle Germany. The Catholics (in Germany) come now because they have suffered.

The Egyptian Courts have proved that the Bahá’í [Faith] is an independent faith with its own laws, prayers, pilgrimage, etc., and therefore the Bahá’ís cannot remain Muslims and the same will happen with the Christian churches. The date is not fixed; it depends on our development. (He asked if in Germany there were Bahá’ís who still belonged to the church.) He said, it is tradition when they still belong to the church. The friends should avoid always the dead form but have a living perception …. The friends can visit the churches but not belong to them. The Bahá’í Faith is something entirely different from any religion before. It is different from Christianity. Here in Haifa the powerful Christian missions have joined against the Faith. The Master said that all Christian sects would join in enmity against the Faith. The Catholic Church will strongly attack the Faith. This then will be the end as it was in the Caliphate and the Sultanate … (Bahá’u’lláh was three times banished).

The nations will remain and not be dissolved. They will become a union similar to the United States. The nations will become independent but not [have] unlimited independence.

The Administration is the stronghold for the Faith and the friends to protect them against the attacks from the enemies from without.

The Guardian emphasized that the Bahá’ís should keep the Bahá’í Feast. He said this after his question: “Do the friends in Germany still keep Easter, Christ, etc.?”

There is no higher development than unity. For 500,000 years the name of Bahá’u’lláh will not disappear. During the 500,000 years there will come many prophets who will again and again change the laws. They will also be attacked but not as fiercely as in the beginning of this cycle … and the worst of all evils, war, will disappear forever.

Since the beginning of this planet there has not been a Universal Manifestation and no universal cycle. All the Manifestations we know and also those of whom we do not yet know the names, belong to this cycle. (The Revelation of Adam may have been 6,000 years ago.)

Muḥammad ‘Alí was really chosen as the successor of ‘Abdu’l-Baha, and if he had not opposed Him, he would have become, after the Master’s death, His successor, and after Him the male line of his family. (In [the] Book of the Covenant) ‘Abdu’l-Baha once asked him why he opposed Him. He said because he didn’t know whether he would survive Him.

Gabriel in the Qur’án means the Holy Spirit and in the teachings he is the creative spirit—the rays of the sun, the union between the Manifestation and God.

The individuality continues in the next life.

The Bahá’ís should be grateful to the British government for their services rendered the Cause. The British government recognizes the Bahá’í religion as an independent religion. The Bahá’í marriage certificate is officially recognized.

The principle of moderation is everywhere in the teachings and even in the religion.

The Qur’án should be valued higher than the Bible because it is divinely inspired. The Bible contains many historical parts and even the Gospels are not authentic and do not accord with each other. The Qur’án requires monogamy.

The NSA, i.e. the Trustee. The [Bahá’í] community owns the Bahá’í property but the authority is the Trustee.

It was possible for the British government to grant the Bahá’í property from taxation because they [the Bahá’ís] assured them that they would not sell, let or build on it.

The Jewish race will be changed because it is in the centre of the Cause. World Order is identified with the Kingdom of God.

Queen Marie recognized Bahá’u’lláh as the Father. She and her daughter Ileana ordered in a Bookshop in England all available Bahá’í literature.

Peace depends on unity and unity on this Revelation, therefore the Administration is the pattern for the World Order.

The leaser peace will be established by the nations. The Bahá’í nations will then establish the Most Great Peace.

The Guardianship will last until the new Manifestation, which is a thousand years. There are three leading National Houses today: America for the Americans, Germany for Europe, and Persia for the East.

The Bahá’ís cannot be Freemasons. The principle of secrecy cannot be united with the Bahá’í principles.

The Seven Valleys[[4]](#footnote-4) revealed the mystical aspect of the Cause and the “Book of Laws”[[5]](#footnote-5) the aspects of law.

The soul of man has a beginning but no ending. Creation has no beginning and no end. The greater Covenant God made with the Manifestations. The lesser Bahá’u’lláh established with mankind.

One can declare oneself as a Bahá’í without considering age, but cannot vote.

All prophets have been tried.[[6]](#footnote-6) The mysterious power first creates difference and later on unity. The [Bahá’í] Temple is the symbol of Bahá’í civilization. The administration is like an infant at present. The UHJ will perfect the administration. Every idea must be incarnated in an institution, otherwise it would not produce its full effect.

No Manifestation before Bahá’u’lláh and the Báb said, “I am God”.

Spiritually dead means not condemned.

Virtue and recognition of the Manifestation is expected of every man and woman in this world. Bahá’u’lláh has proclaimed His Mission before all in the world.

The “ark of Noah” is the administration Order. The great flood is symbolic.

This is the final revelation for this planet. We cannot think of anything greater than the unity of the planet. The Master said the cosmos is infinite, the world of being is infinite, [there are] always greater combinations. Every new combination needs a new revelation, so revelation cannot be final.

The coming of the Father means the culmination of a cycle, not a final revelation, [and] not that God has become flesh.

The Cause will deal with the governments and shake them and then absorb them.

Sadratu’l-Muntahá. It is a symbol, a tree to direct one in the desert and beyond that tree there is nothing. It symbolizes the Manifestation who shows us the way and the last point beyond which is nothing.

Bahá’í property in Palestine is valued at $1,000,000.

The Guardian said we should not tell the new believers immediately that they must leave the church. They should reach such a spiritual station, such a love [for] Bahá’u’lláh that they will of themselves wish to leave the church.

The Guardian said that the Japanese nation was the only one of the east that has not taken the bad side of Western civilization.

1. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma\_maxwell\_jones\_collection , prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The New Commonwealth Society was founded in 1932. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. George Adam Benke (1878–1932), a Crimean German and Bahá’í pioneer to Bulgaria. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Latest translation of the Haft-Vádí is in *The Call of the Divine Beloved*. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The first authorized English translation of al-Kitáb al-Aqdas was published in 1992 as *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas: The Most Holy Book* (the title is based on the Persian pronunciation). It is the main source of Bahá’í laws and practices and is sometimes known as “The Book of Laws”. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. … *all* [Manifestations] *have at the time of Their appearance suffered grievously*. (Bahá’u’lláh, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 92).

 *… those people of wickedness were the self-same people who in every age opposed and caviled at the Prophets and Messengers of God, till they finally caused them all to suffer martyrdom*. (Bahá’u’lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 149) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)