



# Will and Testament

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*In the Name of God, the Glory of the All-Glorious!*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being of sound mind, have willingly and freely entered into this Will and Testament.

*This supersedes any and all past Wills. All previous wills associated to me are hereby rendered null and void by this will.*

**He is the Glory of the All-Glorious!**

***IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE!***

“PRAISE BE to God Who hath made being to come forth from nothingness; graven upon the tablet of man a measure of the mysteries of His eternity; taught him from the storehouse of divine utterance that which he knew not; made him a perspicuous book unto such as have believed and surrendered their souls; given him to behold, in this dark and ruinous age, a new creation within all things; and caused him to speak forth, from the midmost heart of eternity, and in a new and wondrous voice, embodied in the most excellent Temple. And all to this end: that every man may testify, in himself and by himself, before the Seat of the revelation of his Lord, that there is none other God but Him; and that all may reach that summit of realities where none shall contemplate anything but that he shall perceive God therein. This is the vision of the splendours which have been deposited within the realities of

all things; for otherwise He, exalted be His glory, is entirely sanctified above being seen or witnessed: ‘No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision; He is the Subtile, the All-Perceiving.’ ”

- Baha’u’llah, (*The Seven Valleys*, Baha’i Publishing Trust)

***Verily, from God hath come all things and to Him shall they return.***

I testify that this is the Day of God, when all the promises and prophesies of the divinely revealed Prophets and Messengers have been fulfilled. The earth is but His handful, the stars have fallen, the moon has been darkened and the sun gives no light. The sun and the moon have been joined together and the heavens have been rolled up. All eyes stair up with terror save those that God has preserved by His grace. The new sun has arisen above the horizon of revelation, and the earth shines with the Light of her Lord. The sun of science and technology have risen in the West, as promised in the Book that leaves nothing out, be it green or sere. His Throne is upon the waters, the morning star has been darkened; the seas of idle fancies have boiled and been parted by His mighty, irresistible Arm, while the hosts of the suspicious have been drowned therein. The Crimson Ark of His Covenant plows the sea of light. *There is a new heaven and new earth*, for the former things have passed away. The mountains have become as carded wool, and the high and low places have been made to disappear. The Jews have returned to their homeland by permission of God, as it says in the glorious Qur’an, “*And we said to the children of Israel after him, ‘Dwell in the land, then, when the final and last promise comes near We shall bring you altogether as a mixed crowd.’*” (17:104). And He says—exalted is He above all things but Himself!—*“Verily, We have caused every soul to expire by virtue of Our irresistible and all-subduing sovereignty. We have then called into being a new creation, as a token of Our grace unto men. I am, verily, the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days.”* (Ridwan Tablet, *Gleanings from the Writings of Baha’u’llah*, pp. 29-30 Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

And I testify to the truth of all the wondrous Verses and works of Bahá’u’lláh, that through His testimony the testimony of God is completed and perfected for us. And that when it pleases His Highness, He shall yet again, after the passage of 1,000 years from this declaration of Messengership, renew the Promise and Covenant made with His creation, through the revelation of Messengers from among the peoples of ages yet to come, for warning and judgment, until the end that knoweth no end. By authority of God, Baha’u’llah recreated all things when He entered the Ridwan Garden, situated on the Tigris River in Baghdad, the “*Abode of Peace*”. “*And God calleth to the Abode of Peace, and guideth whomsoever He willeth onto the Straight Path.*” (Qur’an, 25:10)

And I further testify to the undoubted truth of the Will and Testament of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh, signifying that the Most Great Branch, Abdu'l-Baha Abbas, is the Center of God's Covenant, the Mystery of God, Who accepted the revelation of Baha'u'llah on behalf of all mankind, that He is the Perfect Exemplar, and only chosen Interpreter of His Father's Revelation. I testify to my full acceptance of Abdu'l-Bahá's Will and Testament, and to the Guardianship of Shoghi Effendi, and to authority of the Hands of the Cause, even as it says in the divine Qur'an. "*And with hands did We construct the heavens.*" (Qur'an 51:47); to the undoubted authority of the Administrative Order of the Baha'i Faith, and that by virtue of the inviolable Covenant of God that this is "*the day that shall not be followed by night*" since the Seat of the Universal House of Justice has been established upon the Mountain of God, Mount Carmel. Bahá'u'lláh has been sent by God to judge all peoples, to cast out the hypocrites from His Vineyard, those who joined partners with God and assumed for themselves an independent existence; who wrongly seized authority therein, and that He is come to reward the pure in heart. "*And We wished to show Our favor to those who were brought low in the land, and to make them rulers, and to make them Our heirs.*" (Qur'an 28:5). Not until the expiration of a full thousand years shall another independent Manifestation of God, endued with constancy, and revealing the laws of God for that day shall one appear again.

Verily, God shall not be asked of His doings but we shall be asked of ours, and He is the beginning and end of all things, and to Him shall we all return for judgment and mercy. I ask forgiveness of God for any deeds or words of mine that caused hurt or sadness to any heart. God is He Who can wash all sense of hurt and sadness out from the hearts and restore them to peace and tranquility, worshiping Him alone.

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I ask the one true God to aid me in the disposition of whatever goods and possessions he has allowed me to acquire in this brief life. I further testify that He is the best of those who distribute the goods of this world and the bestowals in the next.

### **Statement of the Living Will, and the interment of my body.**

- 1. If I come to be comatose, with no reasonable hope of being returned to functionality once again, or in a vegetative state, then do not keep me alive to drain the pockets of my relatives and fatten the coffers of the medical establishment. Be resigned to God's will and let me pass on to the next life without further investment in keeping the body functioning any longer.*

- 2. Preparation and interment of the body.** When I have died observe all of

the following requirements, if possible, as follows.

All Baha'i laws regarding preparation of the deceased's body must be followed. That is:

- a. The body is to be washed with unused soap and then wrapped in five sheets of pure silk with no adornment, or with pure cotton.
- b. Cremation is prohibited. In those places where cremation is a requirement, allow the body to remain intact for some duration before cremation, hopefully, at least two weeks from the time of death.
- c. Embalming is prohibited.
- d. No open casket viewing.
- e. Remove all jewelry, rings, etc.
- f. *Obtain the Baha'i Burial Ring and place it upon my ring finger.* This ring, available at most Baha'i Bookstores or online outlets, should be of gold if possible, otherwise silver. However, if prices of gold and platinum remain inverted as now, when platinum is less costly than gold, then platinum is preferable to silver if gold is otherwise unattainable or restricted in this use.
- h. The writing on the burial ring should be in Arabic, and, rendered into English, should say, "*I came forth from God and return unto Him, detached from all else save Him, holding fast to His Name, the Merciful, the Compassionate.*" This ring with the Arabic inscription is available at Baha'i outlets or local Baha'i Bookstores.
- i. Take care to check Provincial burial laws regarding gold being buried with the deceased and use the correct burial ring for that case. Some places, for example, no gold may be interred with the body; even gold teeth must be removed before burial. These laws remain from when grave robbing was a problem.
- j. Bury me as soon as possible after death, subject to point b., above.
- k. *Inter the body within one hour's traveling distance from the township wherein death occurred.* The method of transportation is not specified, only that burial be no farther from the place of death than one hour in travel time. The place of death being that township or incorporated jurisdiction; from the borders of that place one hour's traveling to the place of interment is allowed. The method of travel is not specified, only that travel time be within one hour's traveling time, regardless of what mode of travel is used.

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## Distribution of My Worldly Goods and Assets

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So have I willed my goods and assets to be distributed among those remembered herein; I ask forgiveness of God for any shortcomings there may be in how I have decided how the goods have been assigned. And surely, God is the best of those who distribute.

*“O My servants! Sorrow not if, in these days and on this earthly plane, things contrary to your wishes have been ordained and manifested by God, for days of blissful joy, of heavenly delight, are assuredly in store for you. Worlds, holy and spiritually glorious, will be unveiled to your eyes. You are destined by Him, in this world and hereafter, to partake of their benefits, to share in their joys, and to obtain a portion of their sustaining grace. To each and every one of them you will, no doubt, attain.”*

- Baha'u'llah, (*Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah*, p. 329, Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

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