

*The Bahá'í Faith Offers*

# CONVINCING ANSWERS

*TO YOUR  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT...*

IMPENDING ATOMIC WAR

SEETHING RACIAL TENSION

CORRUPTION AND GRAFT IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS

INCREASING DIVORCE RATE

WIDESPREAD CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

ALARMING INCREASES IN MENTAL ILLNESS

ALCOHOLISM AND THE USE OF NARCOTICS

RELIGION'S FAILURE TO SOLVE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

GROWING DISTRUST BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOR

THREAT OF ATHEISM

Learn how Christian and Jew, Black and White, East and West have found peace of mind and satisfaction of soul in over 250 countries of the world.

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## P R E F A C E

The Bahá'í Faith offers convincing answers to questions about many problems afflicting mankind in what is regarded as the most turbulent period in history.

The following pages will introduce you to the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh wherein you will find these answers.

Learn how Christian and Jew, Black and White, East and West have found peace of mind and satisfaction of soul in over 250 countries of the world. Individuals from these once divided peoples are now completely unified in thriving Bahá'í communities. Castes and other man-made divisions have completely broken down as thousands arise to embrace the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Learn the secret of inner health and happiness which millions have found in the most rapidly spreading Faith in religious history.

WILLIAM B. SEARS

## DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

When Albert Einstein stated in 1950 that the “hysterical race” between East and West to fashion the hydrogen bomb might result in the “poisoning” of the atmosphere, he was echoing the words of the Founder of the Bahá’í Faith spoken a century before?

**100 YEARS AGO:** The Bahá’í Writings warned the world and its leaders that: “A strange and wonderful instrument (force) exists in the earth . . . (It) . . . has the power to change the atmosphere . . . and its infection causes destruction.”

**50 YEARS AGO:** This warning was repeated as the first Great War approached, saying: “There is in existence a stupendous force, as yet, happily, undiscovered by man. Let us supplicate God that this force be not discovered until spiritual civilization shall dominate the human mind. In the hands of men of lower material nature, this power would be able to destroy the earth.”

**50 YEARS AGO:** These very words of warning were spoken to the Japanese Ambassador to Spain, Viscount Arawaka, in whose country the first atomic bomb was to be exploded in a second and greater World War. The Bahá’í Writings clearly foretold the coming of this second world conflict because of man’s failure to heed these warnings and to adopt the measures that could prevent it.

**50 YEARS AGO:** Immediately following World War I the Bahá’í Writings foretold that the Movement of the Left would spread and have great influence, and that political confusion, financial upheavals, religious restlessness, and racial animosities would increase throughout the world until the basic principles of equity and justice as expressed in these Writings are put into effect.

When the League of Nations and the United Nations Organization were formed in order to maintain the peace of the world, their articles were an echo of the words of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith spoken a century ago.

**100 YEARS AGO:** The Bahá'í Writings record letters addressed by the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith to the kings and rulers of the world whose nations were later to be involved in both World War I and World War II, foreshadowing the impending chaos, the approaching upheavals, and universal conflagration. These letters warned of "the imperative necessity" of holding "a vast and all-embracing assemblage of men" to "consider such ways and means as will lay the foundations of the world's Great Peace." The Bahá'í Writings set forth in clear language the means by which such a peace may be achieved and maintained.

**50 YEARS AGO:** The Son of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith repeated these warnings and while visiting California in 1912, He stated that international peace was the paramount issue of that time, and expressed the hope that "the first flag of International Peace" would be upraised in that state. Thirty-three years later the United Nations Organization with its flag of international peace had its birth in San Francisco.

**100 YEARS AGO:** The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith announced that the purpose of His Teachings was to unite the religions and peoples of the world in a peaceful, peace-loving and prosperous world society. His Writings forbade such evils as human slavery. In the very year of the announcement of His Mission (1863), Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the United States of America.

**50 YEARS AGO:** The Bahá'í Writings warned the people and leaders of America that to end slavery was not enough; that grave racial conflicts would shake the nation and endanger its health and stability if the healing principle of the "oneness of the human race" as given in these Teachings were not followed faithfully and without reservation.

# INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH USUALLY ASKED  
BY PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

**QUESTION** — When did the Bahá'í Faith begin?

**ANSWER** — In 1844

**QUESTION** — Where?

**ANSWER** — In Persia (Iran)

**QUESTION** — What does the word “Bahá'í” mean?

**ANSWER** — It means a follower of Bahá'u'lláh.

**QUESTION** — Who is Bahá'u'lláh?

**ANSWER** — Bahá'u'lláh is the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

**QUESTION** — What does the name “Bahá'u'lláh” mean?

**ANSWER** — When translated into English, Bahá'u'lláh means “the Glory of God.”

Jesus of Nazareth was the name of the Founder of Christianity. He was known by the title: Christ which means the “Anointed One.”

Husayn 'Alí of Nur was the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. He was known by the title: Bahá'u'lláh which means the “Glory of God.”

**QUESTION** — What is a Bahá'í?

**ANSWER** — A Bahá'í is a person who believes in Bahá'u'lláh. Christ (*ian*) means “of Christ.”

Bahá(*i*) means “of Bahá'u'lláh.”

Therefore, a Christian is a follower of Christ, and a Bahá'í is a follower of Bahá'u'lláh.

It is that simple.

Bahá'í is pronounced: Ba-há-ee

Bahá'u'lláh is pronounced: Ba-há-ol-láh

# ANSWERS THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

Basic Bahá'í Principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh for this age:

1. The oneness of mankind.
2. Independent investigation of truth.
3. The common foundation of all religions.
4. The essential harmony of science and religion.
5. Equality of men and women.
6. Elimination of prejudice of all kinds.
7. Universal compulsory education.
8. A spiritual solution of the economic problem.
9. A universal auxiliary language.
10. Universal peace upheld by a world government.

In these pages you will learn the secret of the world-unifying force which lies behind these principles.

## MORE QUESTIONS:

What Dowager Queen said, "If ever the name of Bahá'u'lláh or 'Abdu'l-Bahá comes to your attention, do not put their writings from you. Search out their Books, and let their glorious, peace-bringing, love-creating words and lessons sink into your hearts as they have into mine." (a)

The President of what European country described the Bahá'í Faith as "one of the greatest moral and social forces in all the world . . . one of the great instruments for the final victory of the spirit and of humanity"? (b)

What great Russian author declared that the Bahá'í Faith now offers mankind "the highest and purest form of religious teaching"? (c)

ANSWERS: (a) Dowager Queen Marie of Rumania (b) Eduard Beneš of Czechoslovakia (c) Tolstoy

# BAHÁ'ÍS LIVE IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD



BAHÁ'Í CENTERS — 1957

As of 1962 Bahá'í Centers had been established in over 250 countries, islands and dependencies

## WHAT PEOPLES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH?

1. Bahá'í Houses of Worship have been built in America, Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe. Within the walls of these Temples the black, yellow, brown, red and white worship together, honoring the holy Books of all of the world's revealed religions.
2. Even more important, flourishing Bahá'í communities composed of people of all skin colors, all religious backgrounds, all national origins are working together harmoniously and lovingly, dedicating their lives to the service of humanity.
3. Former Hindus, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, Moslems, Jews and Christians, as well as former skeptics, agnostics and atheists have embraced the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.



“Has Persia, in the midst of her miseries, given birth to a religion which will go round the world?”

— *Dr. J. Estlin Carpenter, British Scholar*

### THE ANSWER IS “YES!”

Data for the map on the opposite page was prepared in 1957, and shows Bahá'í centers of activity throughout the world. Five years later, the number of Bahá'í centers in the world had almost doubled. The Bahá'í Faith is growing so rapidly that a map prepared one year is obsolete the next.

### GROWTH OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

- 1844 — Established in one country (Persia).
- 1850 — Established in two countries (Persia and Iraq). Herald of the Faith martyred.
- 1892 — Established in fifteen countries. Founder of Faith passed away in Holy Land.
- 1921 — Established in thirty-five countries. Administration of Faith begins on world scale.
- 1957 — Established throughout the world as shown by the map (opposite).
- 1962 — In addition to nearly doubling the number of centers of Bahá'í activity shown on the 1957 map, 56 national and regional assemblies representing major countries, sovereignties and dependencies have been established. In 1963 the international administrative body known as the Universal House of Justice will have been elected in the Holy Land.

“‘If these Bahá'ís ever get going, they may take the country by storm.’ So said a discerning Protestant minister as we talked one evening about America’s most ecumenical faith. . . . I have met Bahá'ís in many parts of the world. They are all cut to the same pattern: heartfelt dedication to the cause and person of Bahá'u'lláh, zeal in the advancement of their ideals. They ask no salaries, want no honor, and are literally more interested in giving than in receiving. . . . Let all who are interested in the gospel of the abundant life take heed! It may be that the Bahá'ís are coming.”

Dr. Marcus Bach, School of Religion, State University of Iowa, from *The Christian Century*

# BAHÁ'ÍS AROUND THE WORLD . . .

from Asia, Africa, the Antipodes, Europe and the Americas



**QUESTION — Is there a difference between the Bahá'í Faith and Christianity?**

**ANSWER —** Fundamentally they are one in spirit. The Word of God (Religion) is one, though the speakers are many — it is one light appearing in many lamps — one book with many chapters.

**QUESTION — What are the outward differences between Christianity and Bahá'í?**

**ANSWER —** Similar to those between Judaism and Christianity. *Outwardly* they are different in name, in founder, and time of their appearance. *Inwardly* they are identical in their purpose. Judaism, Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith are progressive stages in the unfolding of a single developing religious faith.

**QUESTION — Is the Bahá'í Faith greater than Christianity?**

**ANSWER —** No — not any more than Monday is greater than Sunday. Judaism, Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith may be compared to the days of the week — Saturday, Sunday, Monday. They are different in name, and appear one after the other, but the light they bring comes from a single source.

**QUESTION — Is Bahá'u'lláh greater than Christ?**

**ANSWER —** No. The Bahá'í writings teach that God makes no distinction between any of His Messengers. For example Moses could be compared to the sunlight of Saturday — Christ to that of Sunday — Bahá'u'lláh to that of Monday. *Outwardly* they have different names, but *inwardly* they bring the same light and life to mankind. One is not greater than the other — though the specific mission of each may differ according to the needs of the time in which he appears.

**IMPORTANT:** There is no exclusive salvation for the Bahá'í, the Christian or the Jew. God is not in competition with Himself. His revelation is orderly and progressive, and He sends His Messengers whenever mankind is in need of a fresh outpouring of His Word. Thus Moses may be likened to the *seed*; Christ to the *tree*; and Bahá'u'lláh the *fruit*. From the fruit will come the seed of succeeding cycles in which new Messengers of God will appear. Each will bring the same inward truth, but will also bring an outward or social truth which is fitted to the needs of the age in which He appears.

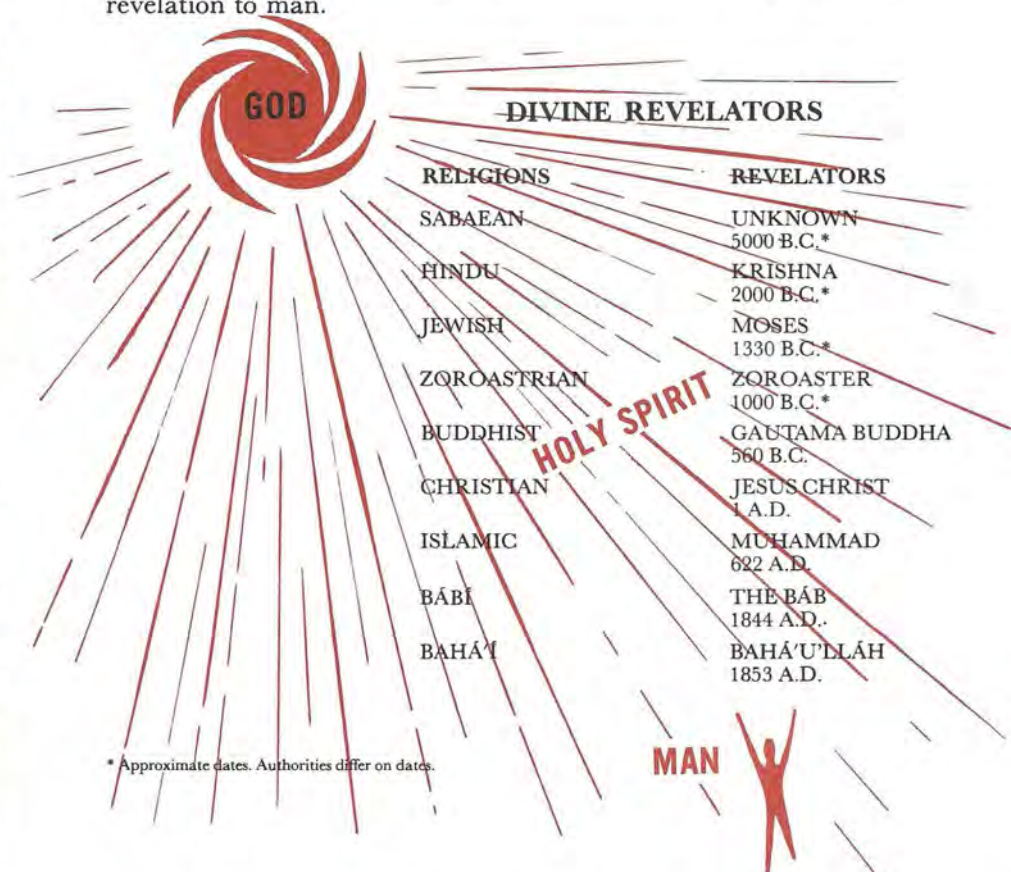
The most fundamental of all Bahá'í principles are these:

**The oneness of God**

**The oneness of His Messengers**

**The oneness of mankind**

The following illustration will help to make crystal clear the basic unity of all of the world's revealed religions, and the oneness and progressiveness of God's revelation to man.



God is like the sun. Just as the physical sun is the source of all physical light, God is the source of all spiritual light. The sun does not come down to earth to sustain life — it sends its life-giving rays.

The infinite, unknowable God does not come down to earth — He sends His Messengers. As perfect mirrors reflect the light of the sun, so His Messengers perfectly reflect the Word of God. Therefore, one Messenger is not greater than another. They are equal. For this reason, Bahá'ís have the same love and reverence for Christ that they have for Bahá'u'lláh — because They are one in spirit.

**QUESTION — Does the Bahá'í Faith offer practical solutions for present day social problems, or is it mostly for the individual?**

**ANSWER:** It is for both. The Bahá'í Faith offers a wonderful ethical code for the moral development of the individual. It also gives fundamental principles for a world-wide social plan which can rehabilitate the human race. These principles have already been tested on a planetary scale.

## **READ WHAT CHRISTIAN CLERGYMEN AND SCHOLARS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT BAHÁ'Í ETHICAL AND SOCIAL TEACHINGS—**

### **ON BAHÁ'Í ETHICAL TEACHINGS:**

“I have unusual opportunities to study the Bahá'í Faith, and while I am not a Bahá'í, I regard it as one of the noblest of the world's religions and have for many years encouraged its workers.”

— Dr. Raymond Frank Piper, Philosophy Department  
of Syracuse University, Christian Scholar

“I am so happy to know that the Christ-like Gospel of good will is growing throughout the world. You hold in your organization (Bahá'í) the key that will settle all of our difficulties, real and imaginary. May God bless, keep and prosper you.”

— Dr. George Washington Carver, Director Tuskegee  
Normal and Industrial Institute Research and  
Experiment Station, Christian Scholar

### **ON BAHÁ'Í PLAN FOR SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT:**

“... the Bahá'í Faith can offer numerous and profound benefits to mankind... Should everybody again exert his efforts towards the extension of this beneficial influence throughout the world, it will then bring about world peace and the general welfare of humanity.”

— Rev. K. T. Chung, Christian Clergyman

“I have had on my desk, and have read several times, the three extracts from Bahá'í writings on Social Regeneration. Taken together, they form an unanswerable argument and plea for the only way that the world can be made over. If we could put into effect this program, we should indeed have a new world order.”

— Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons,  
Historian and Christian Scholar

In these pages you will find the answers which had such profound effect upon the above thinkers. You will come into contact with the spirit that has infused into everyone it has won to its cause a faith, hope, and a vigor that a wayward generation has long lost, and is powerless to recover.

# AN INDEPENDENT WORLD FAITH

**QUESTION — Is the Bahá'í Faith an oriental religion?**

**ANSWER —** No. It is a world religion for all peoples.

**QUESTION — The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, was born in the East, was he not?**

**ANSWER —** Yes. He was born in the Middle East as were Moses and Christ.

**QUESTION — Is the Bahá'í Faith a sect of Islam since Bahá'u'lláh was born in Persia, a Moslem country?**

**ANSWER —** No. The Bahá'í Faith is an independent religion.

**QUESTION — Did not Bahá'u'lláh come from a Moslem background?**

**ANSWER —** Yes. But the Bahá'í Faith is no more a sect of Islam than Christianity is a sect of Judaism.

Buddha was a Hindu born among the Hindus, but His Faith, Buddhism, is an independent religion.

Christ was a Jew, born among Jews, but His Faith, Christianity, is an independent religion.

Bahá'u'lláh, in like manner, was born among the Moslems of Persia, but His Faith, the Bahá'í Faith, is an independent religion. It is not a sect of any other faith.

**QUESTION — What do scholars and historians say about this subject?**

**ANSWER —** One of the recognized authorities in the field of history and religion, Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, points out that the Bahá'í Faith "is an independent religion, on a par with Islam, Christianity, and the other recognized world religions." He adds that the Bahá'í Faith "is not a sect of some other religion, it is a separate religion, and it has the same status as other recognized religions. This opinion," he concludes, "is based both on study and on a personal acquaintance with Bahá'ís."

This view is upheld by all students and scholars who faithfully examine the Bahá'í Teachings. The State of Israel also recognizes the Bahá'í Faith as an independent religion.

**QUESTION — How do Bahá'ís raise funds for their great undertaking?**

ANSWER — All contributions are voluntary, and come only from the Bahá'ís themselves.

**QUESTION — Are there any assessments, dues, or collections?**

ANSWER — No. No collections, assessments or dues are permitted. Giving is between the believer and God alone. The Bahá'í Writings state plainly that “all contributions to the Fund are to be purely and strictly voluntary in character. It should be made clear and evident to everyone that any form of compulsion, however slight and indirect, strikes at the very root of the principle.”

**QUESTION — Can someone who is not a Bahá'í contribute to the Bahá'í Fund?**

ANSWER — No. If a person because of his great love for the Bahá'í Faith insists upon making a contribution, this money will be placed in a separate charitable fund, entirely distinct from the Bahá'í Fund itself. It will be used to carry out works of mercy among people of all faiths, classes and races. No one can contribute to the raising up of Bahá'í institutions except the Bahá'ís themselves. These institutions for the welfare and betterment of humanity are the Bahá'í gift to mankind. They wish to establish them through their own sacrifice and belief in their unending success.

**QUESTION — Can a child be born a Bahá'í?**

ANSWER — A child can be born of Bahá'í parents.

**QUESTION — Does this automatically make him a Bahá'í?**

ANSWER — No. Religion cannot be inherited like money or property. The Bahá'í Writings teach that no one should have a blind acceptance of authority. Everyone should look into matters of faith and belief with the searching eye of truth.

**QUESTION — Isn't the parent responsible for the spiritual welfare of his child?**

ANSWER — Parents should teach their children the truth about all the great religions. But every individual human being is responsible for his own soul. Sooner or later he must make up his own mind as to what he will believe, or not believe.

“The greatest gift from God to man is his intelligence.”

— Bahá'í Writings



EUROPE  
Frankfurt, Germany

## BAHÁ'Í HOUSES OF WORSHIP

"It is the first new idea in architecture since the 13th century."

— H. Van Buren Magonigle,  
Pres., Architectural League

"An artist has wrought into this building the conception of a religious League of Nations."

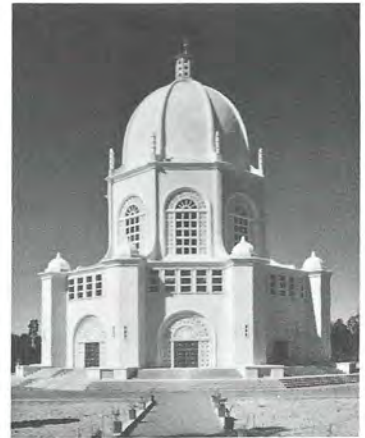
— Sherwin Cody, *New York Times*



AFRICA  
Kampala, Uganda



NORTH AMERICA  
Wilmette, Ill.



AUSTRALIA  
Sydney



# THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

According to Bahá'í Writings, Houses of Worship similar to those pictured on the opposite page must be raised up in every community throughout the world. These Temples will have their full significance only when the social institutions work hand in hand with the spiritual so that the spiritual and material aspects of the life of man can develop side by side. Thus the words of Christ's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" will become a reality and not a vague and hopeful dream.

Thus Bahá'u'lláh has directed that around these Houses of Worship shall be built the social institutions which will deal with the material welfare of humanity. These institutions will include, among others:

## **Schools and Universities**

### **Hospitals and related institutions**

### **Homes for the aged**

### **Homes for orphans**

### **Archives, libraries, hostels**

### **Administrative institutions to coordinate the efforts of all.**

The first of these social institutions — a home for the aged — has already been erected as an auxiliary to the House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois. It is through such institutions that poverty, ignorance, sickness and despair will be alleviated . . . and through which the love of God may reach all mankind.

These spiritual and cultural centers, established by the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh, will be the very cornerstone of the greatest instrument of social healing ever brought into being.

**QUESTION—What is the relationship of the Bahá'í Faith to government?**

**ANSWER —** It is one of obedience and service to the best needs of the nation.

**QUESTION — Do Bahá'ís mingle religion and politics?**

**ANSWER —** Never. It is a fundamental principle of the Bahá'í Writings that Bahá'ís should not become involved in politics.

**QUESTION — Are Bahá'ís loyal to governments of the countries wherein they reside?**

**ANSWER —** More than eighty years ago Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, set forth this cardinal principle: "In every country or government where any of this community reside, they must behave toward that government with faithfulness, trustfulness, and truthfulness."

Loyalty to government, in the Bahá'í view, is an essential spiritual and social principle. "We must obey and be the well-wishers of the government of the land . . ." "The essence of the Bahá'í spirit is that in order to establish a better social order and economic conditions there must be allegiance to the laws and principles of government. Without integrity of character in its citizens and without loyalty to government, a nation will find itself torn asunder and unable to function as an organic society. Not only do the Bahá'í teachings obligate members to be loyal to their government — they also specifically forbid them from taking any part in subversive political and social movements."

**IT WAS BECAUSE OF SUCH TEACHINGS** that Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine under the British Mandate, wrote that the Bahá'í citizens of that land were "regarded as a valuable element in the population, intelligent, orderly, well-educated, and above all, trustworthy. In government service and commercial employment they were much esteemed as being free from corruptibility."

Supreme Court Justice, William O. Douglas, in his book, *West of the Indus*, wrote: "The Bahá'ís have many businessmen among their numbers. They enjoy a fine reputation as merchants. The reason is that they maintain high ethical standards in all their dealings . . . they are scrupulous in their dealings; and as a result they grow in prestige."

An Israeli newspaper reporter told Dr. Marshall Wingfield at

United Nations Commission luncheon in the Holy Land that “the Bahá’í people are gentle and free from hate. They bless everything they touch.”

**QUESTION — Do Bahá’ís believe in prayer?**

**ANSWER —** Most certainly.

**QUESTION — To whom do Bahá’ís pray?**

**ANSWER —** To God.

**QUESTION — Do Bahá’ís have any special prayers?**

**ANSWER —** Yes. Just as Christ left the Lord’s Prayer, so Bahá’u’lláh left a rich legacy of beautiful prayers and meditations. Bahá’ís also use the prayers revealed by the Báb and by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, son of Bahá’u’lláh.

**QUESTION — Are these original documents still in existence?**

**ANSWER —** Yes. During His lifetime, Bahá’u’lláh revealed more than one hundred volumes dealing with every aspect of life, including many prayers and meditations. These are permanently preserved in the International Archives on Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land. This is the first time in religious history that the original Writings of the Founder of a religion have been so preserved.

**QUESTION — Is it necessary to use only the prayers given by Bahá’u’lláh?**

**ANSWER —** No. One can compose his own prayer as his heart and mind inspire him, if he wishes.

**QUESTION — What is the most important Bahá’í prayer?**

**ANSWER —** A man’s daily life. Bahá’u’lláh tells us that our everyday work is itself a prayer. The Bahá’í Writings say: “All effort and exertion put forth by man from the fullness of his heart is worship if it is prompted by the highest motives and the will to do service to humanity.”

One’s entire life should be a prayer. Every thought, word or deed which is devoted to the welfare of one’s fellow man is prayer in the truest sense of the word.

**QUESTION — Do Bahá’ís have churches?**

**ANSWER —** They are erecting beautiful Houses of Worship all over the world where the sacred writings of all the great religions are given a place of honor and respect. An explanation of these unique social and spiritual institutions is given on the following pages.

# BAHÁ'Í ADMINISTRATION

**QUESTION — Describe the rituals and ceremonies in the Bahá'í Faith.**

**ANSWER —** There are no rituals or ceremonies in the Bahá'í Faith.

**QUESTION — Then what are the functions of the clergy?**

**ANSWER —** There is no professional clergy or priesthood in the Bahá'í Faith.

**QUESTION — Why not?**

**ANSWER —** Bahá'u'lláh directed that no set forms or rigid patterns of worship and prayer should be followed. Worship of God should not crystallize into special ceremonies which require a special class of people to preside over them. This would result in a professional clergy, thus setting one group apart from the rest. One worships and the other follows by rote. This is forbidden in the Bahá'í Writings. In the past a professional clergy may have been beneficial and necessary, but it is no longer suited to the growth of man's spirit. Moments of prayer and meditation designed to bring hope, comfort and freedom to the soul of man should not be regimented into rigid forms which stultify his spiritual life.

**QUESTION — How is it possible for the Bahá'í Faith to spread its influence to every part of the world without the leadership of a clergy?**

**ANSWER —** It has leadership in its elected administrative bodies.

**QUESTION — Who looks after the affairs in each community if there is no clergy?**

**ANSWER —** In each community where there are nine or more adult Bahá'ís, a Local Assembly is elected each year by members of the Bahá'í community. These assemblies were provided for in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh to deal with the affairs of their respective communities — a completely new concept in the religious history of man.

**QUESTION — Who is eligible to be elected to this Assembly?**

**ANSWER —** Any member of the Bahá'í community who is over 21 years of age.

**QUESTION — What are the duties of the Assembly?**

**ANSWER —** Some of the basic responsibilities are:

To administer the affairs of the Bahá'í Faith in that community.

To protect the purity of Bahá'í teachings.

To attract others to the Faith by example of its life and stewardship.

To concern itself with the health and welfare of the members of its community.

To encourage each Bahá'í to lead a life of service which can benefit humanity.

**QUESTION — Does each Bahá'í have a voice in the affairs of his community — other than participating in the election of the Local Assembly?**

**ANSWER —** Yes. In each community a meeting of all Bahá'ís is held on the first day of each Bahá'í month. This meeting is called the "Feast." It is a "feast" in the full social and spiritual meaning of the word, and is divided into three parts:

(a) The first part consists of prayers and readings from the Sacred Scriptures. (b) The second part is a general consultation concerning the affairs of the community. Financial matters are reported and discussed. Recommendations to the Local Assembly may be voted at the Feast. Thus each Bahá'í has an active and vital part in the affairs of his community. (c) The third part of the Feast is social. It is a period of warm fellowship and friendliness.

**QUESTION — Are the affairs of the Bahá'í Faith established on a local basis only?**

**ANSWER —** No. Administration of Bahá'í affairs is handled on a local, national and international basis. However, assemblies in each local community operate under the same basic rules and procedures whether that community is Tokyo, Chicago, Nairobi, Bombay, Melbourne, Buenos Aires, or London.

**QUESTION — Who handles the national affairs of the Faith?**

**ANSWER —** They are under the direction of National or Regional Assemblies. These national bodies have been elected in 56 countries of the world, and operate in every continent.

**QUESTION — How are the international affairs of the Bahá'í Faith administered?**

**ANSWER —** At present they are under the direction of an interim body of nine which is resident at the world center of the Faith in Haifa, Israel. However, the supreme international administrative institution, the Universal House of Justice, will be elected by delegates to the International Convention to be held in the Holy Land in April, 1963.

# PROPHECIES FULFILLED

“If there has been any prophet in recent times, it is to Bahá’u’lláh that we must go. Character is the final judge. Bahá’u’lláh was a man of the highest class — that of prophets.”

— Rev. T. K. Cheyne, D.Litt., D.D.  
Oxford University

**QUESTION — Do the Bahá’ís believe that Bahá’u’lláh is the return of Christ?**

ANSWER — Yes.

**QUESTION — How do they explain this?**

ANSWER — Bahá’u’lláh is not the return of the physical person of Jesus of Nazareth. That would be contrary to all reason and science, and no thinking mind could accept it. The Bahá’í writings say that Bahá’u’lláh is the return of the same Holy Spirit which appeared in Christ. This is clearly shown in the illustration on page 9 and should never be misunderstood.

**QUESTION — Does Bahá’u’lláh fulfill prophecies from other Sacred Scriptures as well as that of Christianity?**

ANSWER — Yes. All of the great religions have spoken of a wondrous personage who would come “in the last days” to unite the world in universal brotherhood. Bahá’u’lláh fulfills these prophecies concerning the day of the “one fold and the one shepherd”. Just as Christ has come in the station of the Son, Bahá’u’lláh has come in the station of the Father. Bahá’u’lláh is:

The Tenth Avatar of Krishna of the Hindus.

The Messiah of the Jews, the Lord of Hosts.

The Sháh Bahrám of the Zoroastrians.

The Maitreye, the Buddha of world fellowship, of the Buddhists.

The Imam Husayn and Midhí of the Moslems.

The return of Christ, the Son who would come in the glory of the Father, of the Christians.

**QUESTION — What are some of the most important prophecies fulfilled by Bahá’u’lláh and the Bahá’í Faith?**

ANSWER — This exciting story would fill a large volume. It is impossible to tell it all here. We can mention a few and refer you to

other sources in the bibliography at the end of this book.

1. Prophecies concerning the time of Christ's return.

Christ gave three major promises about the time of His return. When these were fulfilled, He said, He would return. They were:

- a. When the Gospel was preached everywhere. (*Matthew 24:13-14*)
- b. When the "times of the gentiles" was fulfilled. (*Luke 21:24-27*)
- c. When the world witnessed the abomination or desolation spoken of by Daniel. (*Matthew 24:15*)

All three of these events were fulfilled by the approach of the year 1844. The story is told in historical details in the *Appendix to Release the Sun*, an account of the early history of the Bahá'í Faith, and in a full dramatic volume called, *Thief in the Night*.

2. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." (*Isaiah 35:1*)

The rocky slopes of Mt. Carmel and the desert sands of the plain of 'Akká have been transformed into green lawns, blossoming fruit trees, and gardens of different colored flowers including many varieties of roses. People come from all over the world to the Bahá'í World Center in Haifa, Israel to enjoy this spectacle of unrivalled beauty.

3. "... behold your God will come . . . he will come and save thee . . . Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord."

(*Isaiah 35:4,2*)

Bahá'u'lláh (the glory of God) walked on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, and looked down upon the plain of Sharon. He pitched His tent on that mountainside where Christ and the prophets of old walked, and declared:

"Haste thee, O Carmel, for lo, the light of the Countenance of God . . . hath been lifted upon thee . . . Rejoice, for God hath in this Day established upon thee His throne."

4. "He shall glorify me (Christ)." (*John 16:14*)

In one single volume of Bahá'í Writings there are over one hundred references to the greatness and majesty of Christ. This was a favorite theme of Bahá'u'lláh who truly glorified Christ and exalted His peerless station, saying:

"He (Christ) it is Who purified the world. Blessed is the man who, with a face beaming with light, hath turned towards Him."

CONCERNING THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH,  
READ THE STATEMENTS OF . . .

CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARS

"Many of us in the western world think of the Bahá'í Faith as one of the great contributions to the culture and sanity of the world."

— Harry A. Overstreet,  
Author and Educator

"The Bahá'í Faith has made its way . . . because it meets the needs of its day. It fits the larger outlook of our time better than the rigid exclusive older faiths."

— Rev. J. Tyssul Davis,  
in *Religion of Reconciliation*

"Indeed one may go further and assert that no one who has studied (the Bahá'í Faith) whether superficially or otherwise, would wish to question it; particularly if he approaches the subject from a liberal and unprejudiced point of view."

— Rev. J. Sparham,  
Highgate Hill Church,  
London, England

". . . the future is on the side of Bahá'í . . . as I look at Christianity with its pathetic fragmentation, I am haunted by the feeling that Jesus has a better chance to win through the universalism of Bahá'í than through the institutionalism which bears His name."

— Dr. Marshall Wingfield, D.D.,  
First Congregational Church,  
Memphis, Tenn.

"Who shall say but that just as the little company of the *Mayflower*, landing on Plymouth Rock, proved to be the small beginning of a mighty nation . . . so the little company of Bahá'ís exiled from their Persian home may yet prove to be the small beginning of the world-wide movement, the ideal germ of democracy in religion, the Universal Church of Mankind?"

— ALFRED W. MARTIN, Christian Bible Scholar,  
in *Comparative Religion and the Religion of the Future*

"The Bahá'í Movement is the greatest light that has come into the world since Jesus Christ."

— PROF. BENJAMIN JOWETT,  
Master of Balliol College, Oxford



IT'S TIME THE WHOLE WORLD  
KNEW THE STORY . . .

## BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S LETTERS TO THE KINGS

Nearly a century ago Bahá'u'lláh wrote to the Kings and Rulers of the world saying: "If ye stay not the hand of the oppressor, if ye fail to guard the rights of the downtrodden, what right have ye to vaunt yourselves among men?"

He addressed special messages to: **The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria; Louis Napoleon III of France; Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany; The Czar Alexander II of Russia; The Sultan 'Abdul-'Aziz of Turkey; Nasiri'd-Din Shah of Persia; and to Queen Victoria of Britain.**

Bahá'u'lláh directed these sovereigns to:

Reduce their armaments  
Compose their differences

Unite to end tyranny  
Deal justly with their subjects

Otherwise, Bahá'u'lláh warned that abasement would overtake them, and the "winds of affliction" would assail them on all sides, and their power would be seized from them.

Every one of the Kings to whom Bahá'u'lláh wrote were either assassinated or overthrown, and their dynasties extinguished except one . . . Queen Victoria of Britain who is said to have replied: "If this be of God, it will endure." Bahá'u'lláh foretold for her a long and successful reign. Even more significant in the light of this astonishing story, another queen, Victoria's granddaughter, Dowager Queen Marie of Rumania, became a follower of the Bahá'í Faith. Discovering Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings in the later years of her life, she told the world that these Writings had transformed her life.

Read the letters to the kings — and then compare history with Bahá'u'lláh's predictions and warnings.

Even as the Bible has prophesied:

"And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall punish the hosts of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth."  
*(Isaiah 24:21)*

## QUESTION —

### WHY SHOULD I WANT TO BECOME A BAHÁ'Í?

ANSWER — For the following reasons:

1. The Bahá'í Faith has demonstrated its power to unite people of every national background, every skin color, every class and every religious origin. Bahá'ís are doing something about their Faith — not just talking about it.
2. The Bahá'í Faith brings laws, agencies and institutions to bring lasting peace. It has already laid the foundation for peace.
3. The Bahá'í teachings bring a message of fulfillment to the promises recorded in all sacred Scripture.
4. If you are a Christian and you reject Bahá'u'lláh, you are rejecting your own holy Messenger, Christ, because Bahá'u'lláh is the same Spirit of Truth. Thus you lose not only Bahá'u'lláh, but Christ as well.
5. The Bahá'í Faith alone offers a single powerful answer to the problems mentioned in the opening pages of this booklet. The Bahá'í Writings clearly demonstrate that there is one basic cause for all these modern tragedies: Man is out of touch with God and with the Spirit. Hence, he finds himself in his present dilemma of war, crime, delinquency, mental illness, alcoholism and other evidences of immaturity. In the Bahá'í Faith is the remedy and proof that it works.
6. To the person of no formal creed or religion who looks for a better world and for a purpose in his own life, the Bahá'í Faith offers a dynamic opportunity for service. In the Faith he can join hands with his fellow believers in a great Bahá'í world community. His opportunity to serve is limited only by his own talents and capacities. We cannot serve God unless we serve humanity. If we turn our backs on our fellow man, we are turning our backs on God.

“What we choose to believe; what cause we choose to espouse is our own affair. Bahá'u'lláh expresses it thus: ‘A man’s faith is conditioned by no one but himself’ . . . We have the choice of either letting this message pass us by or of inquiring further into the claims of a Persian nobleman, who sacrificed all his possessions and endured forty years of banishment, imprisonment and torture in order that we might find Christ returned in Him in all the glory of the Father. . . . Let us not neglect to investigate the call of Bahá'u'lláh, who proclaims emphatically, that He is the ‘return’ of the Messiah of every revealed religion.”

— ERIC BOWES  
from: *Great Themes of Life*

**QUESTION — Where can I obtain more information about the Bahá'í Faith?**

**ANSWER —** Most likely there is a Bahá'í Center in your town, but if there is no listing in your telephone directory, write:

National Bahá'í Headquarters  
536 Sheridan Road  
Wilmette, Illinois

Ask for FREE literature.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Listed below are some of the basic Bahá'í books now in print. Many can be found in your local library, or obtained through the local Bahá'í Center. A catalog of current books about the Bahá'í Faith is available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 110 Linden Ave., Wilmette, Illinois.

### Sacred Writings and Basic Texts

**BAHÁ'Í WORLD FAITH** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 449 pp.

A comprehensive selection of the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. \$2.50

**GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 346 pp.

Excerpts touching on the nature of religion, the spiritual nature of man, and the transformation of human society. \$3.00

**PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 339 pp. \$3.00

**KITAB-I-IQAN, THE BOOK OF CERTITUDE** by Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 257 pp. Sets forth the grand redemptive scheme of God, revealing the oneness of religion, its continuity and evolution through successive Prophets of God. \$3.00

**HIDDEN WORDS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH, THE** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 52 pp. Brief, poetic meditations, crystal-

lizing the essence of all revealed truth. \$1.25

**DIVINE ART OF LIVING, THE** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 128 pp.

A compilation from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá dealing with the goals of spiritual development. \$1.60

**SOME ANSWERED QUESTIONS** by 'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 350 pp.

Explanations on a wide variety of spiritual and philosophic questions, with particular emphasis on Christian subjects. \$3.00

**FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD UNITY** (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 178 pp.

A selection of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's public addresses on spiritual foundations of world unity. \$2.00

**PROMISED DAY IS COME, THE** by Shoghi Effendi (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 129 pp., index.

A forceful explanation of present world-wide moral and social chaos as the result of rejecting the Prophet of God for this day. \$2.50

## Introductory Works

**ALL THINGS MADE NEW** by John Ferraby (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) Paperbound.

A reference work on the Bahá'í Faith in which the teachings on any subject can be easily located. \$2.00

**BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND THE NEW ERA** by J. E. Esslemont. (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 340 pp., index.

A standard introductory textbook, outlining the history and teachings of the Faith. \$1.25

**RELEASE THE SUN** by William Sears (Bahá'í Publishing Trust)

A moving, historical account of the mission and martyrdom of the Herald of the Bahá'í Faith. \$2.50

**PROMISE OF ALL AGES, THE** by Dr. George Townshend (Ronald) (BPT) 164 pp.

Traces the spiritual content of religion through the Dispensations of the past to culminate in the Bahá'í Faith. \$2.50

**GREAT THEMES OF LIFE** by Eric Bowes (Bahá'í Publishing Trust) 85 pp.

Familiar Bible themes and their relation to today's world. \$1.50

## REFERENCES

Quotations from the Bahá'í Writings are from the following books: *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*; *Bahá'í World Faith*; *God Passes By*; *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*; and *The Chosen Highway*.

Quotations from various writers, scholars and commentators are from a collection called "Appreciations of the Bahá'í Faith" contained in *The Bahá'í World, Vol. XII*, and various Bahá'í periodicals.