

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

10 February 2022

Transmitted by email: ...

Mr. ...

Dear Bahá'í Friend,

The Universal House of Justice has received your email letter of 17 June 2020, in which you ask how to reconcile a Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh that appears to permit certain alteration of wording in revealed prayers with the subsequent guidance of the Guardian that did not allow the text of prayers to be changed. We have been asked to convey the following and regret the delay in our reply, on account of the pressure of work at the Bahá'í World Centre.

Shoghi Effendi has made it clear that the changing of pronouns in Bahá'í prayers is not permitted, and the friends should not deviate from what has been revealed. Yet, as you have recognized, there exists a Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh, addressed to Varqá, that clearly states that it would not be accounted corruption of the Holy Text if the phrase in a prayer revealed by Him reading “and cause him ...” is read as “and cause me ...”. Since there is nothing in the Tablet revealed by Bahá'u'lláh specifying whether the permission granted by Him applies to public use of His prayers, and since the letters written on behalf of the Guardian do not provide any further elucidation on the passage written by Bahá'u'lláh, the House of Justice has come to the conclusion, in the light of the guidance given by the Guardian, that the specific permission granted by Bahá'u'lláh should be applied only when the prayer is recited in private and only by changing the third person to the first, where appropriate.

Rest assured of the prayers of the House of Justice in the Holy Shrines that you and your family may be the recipients of the bestowals of the Ancient Beauty.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat