

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Universal House of Justice

**Date:** 7 October 2018

**From:** Research Department

### Titles of the Aghşán

In his email letter of 3 April 2018, ... requests verification as to whether Mírzá Badí‘u‘lláh was designated by Bahá‘u‘lláh as Ghuşn-i-Anvar (the Most Luminous Branch), and if, after the passing of Mírzá Mihdí, the title of Ghuşn-i-Aṭhar (the Purest Branch) was given by Bahá‘u‘lláh to Mírzá Dīyá‘u‘lláh. The Research Department responds as follows.

To date, we have found nothing in the writings that confirms Mírzá Badí‘u‘lláh was designated by Bahá‘u‘lláh as Ghuşn-i-Anvar. In several secondary sources, the half-brother of ‘Abdu‘l-Bahá Mírzá Badí‘u‘lláh has been called Ghuşn-i-Anvar. However, according to H. M. Balyuzi’s *‘Abdu‘l-Bahá: The Centre of the Covenant of Bahá‘u‘lláh*<sup>1</sup>, Ibráhím Khayru‘lláh applied the designation Ghuşn-i-Anvar to Mírzá Badí‘u‘lláh. Additionally, some have attributed the title to Mírzá Mihdí<sup>2</sup> and others to Mírzá Dīyá‘u‘lláh<sup>3</sup>, Badí‘u‘lláh’s full brother.

We have, similarly, found no evidence in the writings that Bahá‘u‘lláh gave the title Ghuşn-i-Aṭhar to Mírzá Dīyá‘u‘lláh after the passing of Mírzá Mihdí. Additionally, we observe that in 1910, ‘Abdu‘l-Bahá stated that the identity of Ghuşn-i-Aṭhar was Mírzá Mihdí.

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<sup>1</sup> (London: George Ronald, 1987 edition), page 87.

<sup>2</sup> Such as Nabíl-i-A‘zam who refers to Mírzá Mihdí as Ghuşn-i-Anvar in an elegy written after his martyrdom in June 1870. The poem is published in Vahíd Ra‘fatí, ed., *Yádnámiy-i-Ishráq-Khávárí* (Madrid: Fundación Nehal, 2014), page 224.

<sup>3</sup> Such as Fáḍil-i-Mázindarání, *Asráru‘l-Áṭhár*, volume 5 (Tehran: Mu‘assisiy-i-Millíyy-i-Maṭbú‘át-i-Amrí, 129 BE [1972–3]), page 411.