

MEMORANDUM

To: The Universal House of Justice

Date: 22 April 2020

From: Research Department

The Long Healing Prayer

In his email letter of 28 August 2019, Dr. Ramine Yazhari requests information about the revelation of the Long Healing Prayer, enquires about the reason for the difference between its published original-language texts in various sources, and asks about the phrase “I call on Thee” in the English translation of two of its verses. The Research Department responds as follows.

We note that the Long Healing Prayer was apparently revealed as it is, that is, it is not part of a longer Tablet. The identity of the recipient and the date of its revelation remain unknown, and we have no information about its use during the time of Bahá'u'lláh. The most authentic version of the Long Healing Prayer that has been identified is in the handwriting of Zaynu'l-Muqarrabín, and it is this version that served as the basis of the current authorized English translation. The Arabic text of the Long Healing Prayer is published in *Nafahát-i-Faql: Athár-i-Muqaddasiy-i-Bahá'í*, volume 2 (Dundas: Mu'assisiy-i-Ma'árif-i-Bahá'í bi-Lisán-i-Fársí, 1988), pages 17–21, available online at reference.bahai.org/fa/t/c/NF2/nf2-19.html. Preparing authorized translations involves a painstaking process that requires careful review and much consultation. In addition, the English translation of the Long Healing Prayer was prepared in such a way as to harmonize with the lexicon and style of Shoghi Effendi's translations. We are not aware of a specific reason for the rendering of the Arabic word “yá” that prefaces the vocative phrases translated as “I call on Thee O Manifest yet Hidden” and “I call on Thee O Thou Who slayest the Lovers” as “I call on Thee” in English. While “I call on Thee” could have been left out, its inclusion in the translation is also accurate since an invocation is implicit in the word “yá”.