

BAHA'I FAITH
PRAYERS, FEASTS & FASTING
HANDOUT

The Baha'i Faith (ba:'ha:i)

- a monotheistic religion. The **Bahá'í Faith** was founded by **Bahá'u'lláh** in 19th-century Persia (i.e: Iran). Baha'u'llah taught:- the human purpose is to learn to know and to love God through such methods as prayer, reflection, and being of service to humanity; emphasizing the essential oneness of humankind and of all religions, and seeking world peace. <http://www.bahai.org/>

The Universal House of Justice

Development of the Bahá'í Faith worldwide is now guided by the Universal House of Justice



Seat of the Universal House of Justice, Haifa, Israel

In His book of laws, Bahá'u'lláh instructed the Universal House of Justice to exert a positive influence on the welfare of humankind, promote education, peace and global prosperity, and safeguard human honour and the position of religion.

The Universal House of Justice moved into its permanent Seat on Mount Carmel, Haifa, in 1983.

Local Spiritual Assembly

Elected by Bahá'ís who are over 21. The affairs of the Bahá'í community are locally administered by the Local Spiritual Assembly whose nine members are elected annually; which functions as a body and makes decisions through consultation.* LSA is grounded in the Bahá'í authoritative texts, and Bahá'ís regard the LSA as divine in nature.

Part of the responsibilities of Local Spiritual Assemblies are to be: “channels of divine guidance, planners of the teaching work, developers of human resources, builders of communities, and loving shepherds of the multitudes.”

* *“Consultation bestows greater awareness...the lamp of guidance which leadeth the way, and is the bestower of understanding...; a shining light which, in a dark world, leadeth the way and guideth.”*

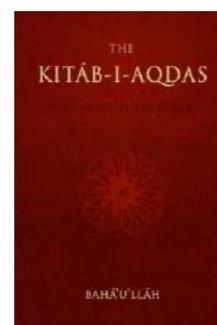
Neither welfare - nor well-being - can be attained without consultation.

Kitab-i-Aqdas

'THE MOST HOLY BOOK'

(Completed 1873)

“Think not that We have revealed unto you a mere code of laws. Nay, rather, We have unsealed the choice Wine with the fingers of might and power. To this beareth witness that which the Pen of Revelation hath revealed. Meditate upon this, O men of insight!”



Names of the Nineteen Day Months

(Attributes of God)

Calendar Dates	Bahá'í Month (transliteration)	Arabic	English Translation
Mar 21 – Apr 8	Bahá	بهاء	Splendour
Apr 9 – Apr 27	Jalál	جلال	Glory
Apr 28 – May 16	Jamál	جمال	Beauty
May 17 – Jun 4	'Azamat	عظمة	Grandeur
Jun 5 – Jun 23	Núr	نور	Light
Jun 24 – Jul 12	Rahmat	رحمة	Mercy
Jul 13 – Jul 31	Kalimát	كلمات	Words
Aug 1 – Aug 19	Kamál	كمال	Perfection
Aug 20 – Sep 7	Asmá'	اسماء	Names
Sep 8 – Sep 26	'Izzat	عزة	Might
Sep 27 – Oct 15	Mashíyyat	مشيئة	Will
Oct 16 - Nov 3	'Ilm	علم	Knowledge
Nov 4 - Nov 22	Qudrat	قدرة	Power
Nov 23 - Dec 11	Qawl	قول	Speech
Dec 12 – Dec 30	Masá'il	مسائل	Questions
Dec 31 - Jan 18	Sharaf	شرف	Honour
Jan 19 - Feb 6	Sulṭán	سلطان	Sovereignty
Feb 7 - Feb 25	Mulk	ملك	Dominion
Feb 26 - Mar 1	Ayyám-i-Há	الهاء ايام	The Days of Há (Intercalary Days)
Mar 2 - Mar 20	'Alá'	علاء	Loftiness(Month of Fasting)

The Kitáb-i-Íqán

"THE BOOK OF CERTITUDE "

(Persian: كتاب ايقان, Arabic: كتاب الإيقان)

Major theological work of Bahá'u'lláh, treatise written in the span of two days and two nights in Baghdad, 1861/62. In it, Baha'u'llah explains the underlying unity of the world's religions, describes the universality of the revelations humankind has received from the Prophets of God, explains their fundamental teachings, and elucidates allegorical passages from the New Testament and the Qur'an that have given rise to misunderstandings among religious leaders, practitioners, and the public.

Bahá'u'lláh Trans: *"Glory of God"*; (Persian: نوری حسدینعلی میرزا, Arabic: الله بهاء)

The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. Born: Tehran, Iran; Mírzá Ḥusayn-`Alí Núrí **1817 –1892**

'The Promised One' :- foretold by The Báb, & all of the Divine Messengers of the past – the *"Manifestations of God"*.

He taught that humanity is one single race and that the age has come for its unification in a global society. Bahá'u'lláh is referred to by a variety of titles; some are: the Promised One of All Ages, the Blessed Beauty, the Mystic Dove, the Divine Physician, the Prince of Peace, the Blessed Perfection, the Ancient of Days, the Judge, the Pen of Glory, the Lord of Hosts.

Imprisoned by Ottoman authorities, in Acre. In the late 1870s, while still a prisoner, He was granted some freedom to move outside of the city's walls. Died in 1892.

The Bab (bāb, bāb), (*Persian* دروازه (*Arabic* بوابة)

Bāb = trans... 'The Gate' - (leading to: "the Mahdi"; or: "to knowledge of God")



Shrine of the Báb,
Mount Carmel, Haifa,
Israel

Born Ali Mohammad in Shiraz, Iran, **1819**. Executed in Tabriz, by firing squad, **1850**.

The Báb declared that humanity stood at the threshold of a new era.

His mission, of merely six years, was to prepare the way for the coming of a Divine Messenger, Who would usher in the age of peace and justice promised in all the world's religions -- Bahá'u'lláh.

Abdu'l-Bahá :

(Arabic) meaning "Servant of the Glory "

(also known as : 'The Master')

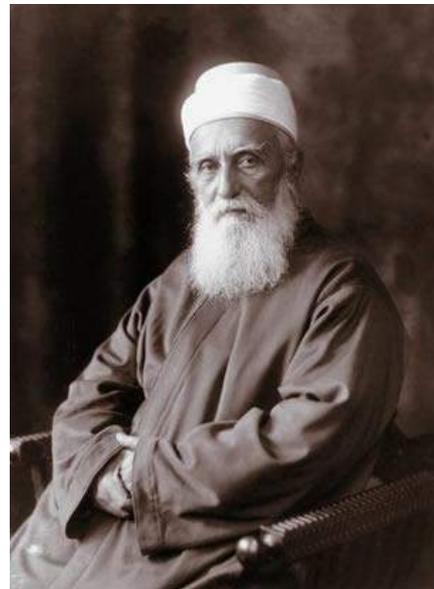
Abbas Effendi, KBE

1844 – 1921

Living embodiment and exemplar of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings.

Bahá'u'lláh's successor and chosen interpreter of His Writings, expounded upon the teachings of His Father's Faith, amplified its doctrines, and outlined the central features of its administrative institutions.

Passed away in Haifa.



Shoghi Effendi, (ie: Shoghi Rabbani) Great-grandson of Bahá'u'lláh

born in Acre, **1897–1957**

Shoghi, (Arabic): first name, meaning: "the one who longs";

Effendi, Turkish meaning: "sir". *Rabbání* = personal surname. (trans: - "divine")

Studied English, Oxford. Appointed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His will (1921), as the **Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith**.

For 36 years, with extraordinary foresight, wisdom and devotion, Shoghi Effendi systematically nurtured the development, deepened the understanding, and strengthened the unity of the Bahá'í community, as it increasingly grew to reflect the diversity of the entire human race. Died of influenza, in London.



New Southgate Cemetery, London

PRINCIPLES OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH

- the oneness of God and religion,
 - the oneness of humanity and freedom from prejudice,
 - the inherent nobility of the human being,
 - the progressive revelation of religious truth,
 - the development of spiritual qualities,
 - the integration of worship and service,
 - the fundamental equality of the sexes,
 - the harmony between religion and science,
 - the centrality of justice to all human endeavours,
 - the importance of education, and
 - the dynamics of the relationships that are to bind together individuals, communities, and institutions as humanity advances towards its collective maturity.
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*“O ye children of men!
The fundamental purpose
animating the Faith of God
and His Religion
is to safeguard the interests
and promote the unity of the human race,
and to foster the spirit of love
and fellowship amongst men...”*

— Bahá'u'lláh