

## NINE BASIC BEHAI PRINCIPLES

TAUGHT BY BEHA 'U'LLAH

1. The oneness and singleness of God.
2. The oneness of Mankind.
3. Equality of Races.
4. Equality of Men and Women.
5. Harmony of Science and Religion.
6. Religion Without Clergy.
7. Universal Language.
8. Universal Tribunal.
9. Universal Peace.

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O, my Servants!

Settle your differences peacefully, and hearken to what ye were admonished by the Supreme Pen, and follow not the extremely wicked.

Let not the world beguile you as it beguiled the people of yore.

Obey the ordinances of God and His Laws, then tread This Path which was established by God the Truth.

Those who cast aside oppression and ruthlessness, and hold fast to Piety, are regarded of the highest on the part of God, and they would be extolled by the Supreme concourse and the dwellers of this Station, which by the Name of God was sublime.

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

*From the Book of ACKDAS.*

# BEHAI

QUARTERLY

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## FOREWORD



EXTEND an apology to the beloved friends and kind readers of this periodical for my inability to publish the Fall Quarterly in 1934.

Earthly obligations prevented me from performing my greatest desire and real duty, "The Service to Mankind." Unless something unforeseen happens, I assure you of my promptness in the future.

May Ninteen Thirty-five be a year of greater progress, the awakening era of realization that we are all one in humanity, branches of one root, leaves of one tree, drops of one sea, and as such, to live in love and unity with each other and with all the people of the world, to glory not in ourself, but in our kind, and to love not only our native land, but the entire world.

Thus we will become the exponents of the great principles taught by The Eternal Tree, The Center of Divine Knowledge, our Great Master "Beha 'U'llah."

I call the attention of my good readers to the Article entitled "The Decapitation of the Seven Martyrs," which appears in this issue.

Indeed it is a testimonial which should impress upon our mind and conscience, the great tribute of the early Disciples; the noble souls and the advance believers in this movement, they who made the great sacrifice for the enlightenment and the progress of their fellow beings.

I am grateful to my dear friend, the Magyar-American Philosopher Poet, Count Gasper Bela Daruvary, for his regular contribution to this periodical. His exquisite and inspiring poems show indeed a great depth of understanding.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.



## PEACE



IS IT possible for almost two billions of people of such widely differing ideas, upbringing, religions, traditions, race, color, etc., which compose this world, to live in harmony and peace, and give justice to one another?

A study of the history of the world, of each race, of each religion, of each country, and the conquests due to the greed of the more powerful countries, would lead almost anyone to say: "No, it cannot be—it is impossible. It is against human nature itself."

Yet the Bible does promise that there will be a thousand years of peace. So far this seems as though it were but a promise, and like most promises not to be kept. But is this one like that? No, for it was made by God, and, therefore, it shall come to pass and mankind cannot prevent its fulfillment! To prove that, it is only necessary to investigate if other promises or prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled. To those students of the Bible who know the occurrences of the past hundred years, the statement is correct, and they are looking forward to seeing the Most Great Peace really established upon this earth! Prophecies in the *Old Testament, written twenty-five hundred years ago, and in the New Testament, nineteen hundred years ago, have been fulfilled to the letter, yes, to the last iota. Daniel even gives the date when this one thousand years of peace will begin.*

What is the force that will push humanity into peace—peace so perfect that it can last one thousand years? Religion is the only force strong or powerful enough to accomplish this purpose!

Religion is a much misunderstood force—misunderstood by its devotees, as well as those who stand outside and scoff. True religion is not man-made as so many like to believe, but is direct from God, and God only. Our English word shows this in its derivation: *Ligio*, meaning tie, and *re*, back; together mean, the tie that binds us back; back to what? Back to our Creator, God. The purpose of true religion is to establish peace and unity with God, and with each other.

Some will say that religion is the cause of most of our wars—how can it be, also, the cause of peace? Religion is like unto a sharp sword. If carried and used by a madman and an ignoramous, certainly, it would cause trouble; but, if used by the strong arm of a sane and wise man, it would be the weapon of protection to the human family, to

## A VOICE FROM THE EAST

*A message to the people of understanding throughout the World.*



HE Fountain head of knowledge said: "O different Creeds! Look forward unto agreement and be enlightened by the light of concord; for the sake of God assemble in a place and remove from amongst ye that which is the cause of dissension.

Whence came these rare jewels of wisdom? The speaker . . . who was He, and what was his object? Who are the different creeds, and what is it that must be removed, before mankind may hope to live in harmony?

A voice arose from the ancient fortified city of Akka, in Palestine. A voice of infinite wisdom and knowledge, patience and love for all mankind; our Master Beha 'U'llah. One who gave freely of his great understanding, with no object, save the elevation and progress of His fellowmen.

"O different creeds, which are the cause of dissension! Are they not the religious heads of the great nations, followed in kind by the heads of smaller nations? We have but to recall the events of the last World War. With our own eyes and ears, we observed and heard the enslavement, martyrdom and suffering of countless souls in all parts of this Globe, wrought in the name of the different creeds, by the religious leaders, who misguided the innocent followers and used the inspired teachings for their personal desires and aims, causing dissension amongst the people of the world, dividing the brothers of humanity, and as in the innumerable wars of the past, destroyed life and property, cities and nations.

Religious dissension is likened unto a blazing forest fire, which starts with a spark and ends, generally beyond control, destroying green and dead vegetation alike. To this the history of the world bears witness.

Altho each different creed teaches unity, accusing others of dissension and strife, if they would observe with the keen eye, and speak with the tongue of justice, they could but testify that now, as in the past ages, religious hatred is the foundation and cause of many unmentionable events.

The spiritual teachings, given to mankind through the inspired sages which are revealed for the purpose of enlightening the understanding and elevating the souls of humanity out of the mire of ignorance and superstition, became the whips of the leaders of the many creeds, whips which were used upon innocent, undeveloped and unlightened individuals, exploiting and oppressing the people who sincerely followed

them. Paying dearly with their lives and fortunes. O! Religion, what atrocious crimes have been committed in thy name!

The result is here, as we observe today; humanity enmass has rebelled against all the religious creeds, understanding them only as a medium through which the leaders receive benefit, elevating their stations in life, fulfilling their desires and giving the right to rule over the oppressed masses.

Behold! to this great principle, "Religion without Clergy." Beha 'U'llah commanded that His teachings are our leaders, and we accept them literally without interpretation. Indeed by this command He released us from the bondage of the clergy.

In these days of fast material progress, modern scientific discoveries have proven to be of great service to the inhabitants of this world, humanity with its great unlimited power of thought, has also advanced greatly, imaginations become realities, and the hidden mysteries are no longer hidden to those who understand. Yet in this age of fast progress with such advance in human development, it is pitiful to observe that the so-called intellectual people belittle their true station, that divinely endowed individuals lack confidence and self-understanding.

Free souls, yet remaining enslaved, allowing themselves and others to be caught in the meshes of religious superstition, to be ruled over by a small group of hand picked leaders. O friends and brothers, withdraw from your deluded seclusion and become your noble selves. Arise with great energy and vigor and fly in the vast and unlimited space of freedom. Think, and allow not yourself or your brothers to become entangled in the cobwebs of imagination and religious intrigue.

The aforesaid tablet of our Great Master was revealed for the elevation of all mankind, yet it behooves those of us who are endeavoring to follow His commands to be the first to eliminate the cause of dissension and all practices which are in violation of His teachings. We are in truth all members of one family and brothers in humanity. Be friendly with one another, and consider no one your enemy, especially those noble souls who traveled with you in the Valley of Knowledge, in search of truth, and received the spiritual food from the Fountainhead of Knowledge.

Should anyone be unfriendly, befriend him, and with the language of love and kindness guide him and bid him come and share with you the unlimited fruit of knowledge which you have attained.

In many of His tablets Beha 'U'llah repeatedly said that His only object in enduring untold hardships and calamities was to be able to reveal from His great understanding the way to extinguish the fires of hatred and animosity and to bring unity and harmony amongst people

of the earth. O friends: arise noble souls and fulfill His commands! Become the shining stars of the heaven of kindness and reflect as such upon all beings. Follow His footsteps, and with united efforts, using the weapons of His commands, endeavor to awaken and save your brothers in humanity from the ever renewed web of religious prejudice and its vicious corruption.

In this message I have no other motive but to awaken and elevate the thoughts of my brothers in humanity. THINK! my brothers; and may peace and happiness encompass you at all times.

GHUSNI AKBAR

January, 1935, Acre, Palestine.

MOHAMMED ALI BEHAI.

I extend my humble gratitude to the chosen son of Beha 'U'llah Ghusni Akbar for his timely contribution to this periodical. Indeed, it is a great honor to publish his instructive messages.

The world knows little of the services which this great personage has rendered to the Behai cause, as he has always avoided publicity, detested notoriety and shunned self-glory.

For the enlightenment of my readers, I shall record hereunder one of his services of which I was fortunate in being an eye witness and a participant.

In the year eighteen eighty-nine, by the command of Beha 'U'llah, he journeyed to East India for the sole purpose of publishing some of the sacred Books; India being the only Oriental country in which printing presses were available at that time.

I was commanded to join him also, though in my teens. We traveled by steamship from Haifa to Port Said, remaining there a few days with the friends; then proceeded to Aden, and from there to Bombay.

This being my first visit to the foreign lands, I was greatly impressed, especially with the customs, habits and the sincerity of the natives of India. We remained in Bombay over a year, during which time Ghusni Akbar succeeded in organizing a printing firm called "Naseri Press," and published five volumes of the teachings of Beha 'U'llah in the Persian and the Arabic languages.

After our return to Akka, copies of the said volumes were brought to the presence of Beha 'U'llah and received His approval.

Indeed, this was a great service to the cause, and deserves the gratitude of all the Behaists, for to this day, of which forty-four years have elapsed, these are the only outstanding volumes of the teachings of Beha 'U'llah ever published.

I hope to be able to present to my readers the Biography of this great personage in the near future.

EDITOR.



*This portrait was taken in Bombay, India, A. D., 1890*

*Seated the Editor*  
SHUA ULLAH BEHAI

*Standing*  
MIRZA HADI AFNAN, *who later became son-in-law of*  
HIS EXCELLENCY GHUSNI AZAM (**ABDUL BAHA**)  
*and so father of* SHOGHI EFFENDI, *of Haifa, Palestine*



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



WHAT is innate knowledge?

A. Inborn knowledge possessed by all the Sages.

Q. Did Beha 'U'llah possess innate knowledge?

A. Undoubtedly! His life teachings and His prophecies which came to pass proves His innate and divine knowledge.

Q. Who first announced this newest Atomic theory?

A. It was hinted at by Beha 'U'llah years before Science had discovered it. In the Book of Certainty, which was revealed by Beha 'U'llah in Bagdad, Mesopotamia, year 1862, He said "It has given to a drop the waves of a Sea and endowed a mote with the splendor of a Sun." In the Book of Ackdas, He said: "Think ye not that we have caused the laws to descend unto you, but rather we have opened the seal of the sealed Nectar by the finger of Might and Power. Ponder over this O thinkers."

Q. What is good and evil?

A. Everything in existence is good but can become evil through our actions. The power of speech is one of the faculties of man through which we know his innermost. Truth and lie both are considered speech and its creation was good but when misused, became evil. Fire produces heat, and it is very beneficial in our daily life, but dangerous when improperly used. Thorn is food to some animals, but may cause destruction when applied externally. Poison's Nature is destruction, but also beneficial when used properly.

Q. What is Heaven and Hell?

A. We contain both! When in the state of perfection and clear conscience, we are in Heaven, blessed with the mercy of the Creator; when in the state of imperfection and doubtful conscience, we are in Hell, a condition we have produced by our acts and deeds which are contrary to the laws of God and Nature.

Q. What was the Station of the "Bab?"

A. Elijah! The forerunner of He whom God shall manifest.

Q. What was the Station of "Beha 'U'llah"?

A. The Fulfiller! The Manifestation.

**Q. Who was the Founder of the Behai Religion?**

**A. Beha 'U'llah. Who spent forty years in revealing tablets for the enlightenment of mankind. Invited all the rulers of the World, including the Pope, to come to the Kingdom of the Father. Completed His mission on earth and departed in 1892.**

**Q. When did the news of this progressive movement reach the Occident, and by whom?**

**A. By travelers and historians beginning 1850. Hereunder, I record a few names:**

**O. H. Wright and J. Perkin, German Oriental Society, Leipzig, A. D. 1851;**

**Lady Sheil, London, A. D., 1856;**

**Robert B. M. Binning, London, A. D., 1857;**

**The Bulletine de L'Academic Imperial, St. Petersburg, A. D., 1864;**

**M. de Count de Gabinean, Paris, A. D., 1865;**

**Dr. Jacob Edward Polak, Leipsic, A. D., 1865;**

**John Ussler, London, A. D., 1865;**

**Robert Grant Watson, London, A. D., 1866;**

**Herman Hambery, Pest, A. D., 1867;**

**Baron Alfred Von Kremer, Leipzig, A. D., 1868;**

**Dr. Herman Ethe, Berlin, A. D., 1872;**

**M. D. Gilbert, Journal Asiatique, A. D., 1873;**

**John Piggot, London, A. D., 1874;**

**Lieut. Baron Max Von Phielman, London, A. D., 1875;**

**Baron Victor Rosen, St. Petersburg, A. D., 1877;**

**Lawrence Oliphant, Edinburgh and London, A. D., 1877;**

**M. Clement Huart, Paris, A. D., 1889;**

**Prof. Edward G. Browne, London, A. D., 1890.**

**Q. Who first brought this Message to the United States?**

**A. The late Dr. Ibrahim G. Kheiralla, D.A.D.D., was the first to introduce the teachings of "Beha 'U'llah," and founded the Society of Behaists in the United States of America, A. D., 1893.**



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"My outward speaketh to my innermost, and my innermost to my outward, that there is no one else, in the kingdom, besides Me. But the people are in deep ignorance. Verily, the Branches, who branched from the Tree, are My fingerposts amidst My creatures, and My fragrances between heaven and earth. Do ye see, that there is a partner or an equal to God, your Lord? By the Lord of the worlds, No! Therefore, say ye not, that which God doth not permit, fear the Merciful, and be of those who reason."

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

*From the Book of Heykel.*