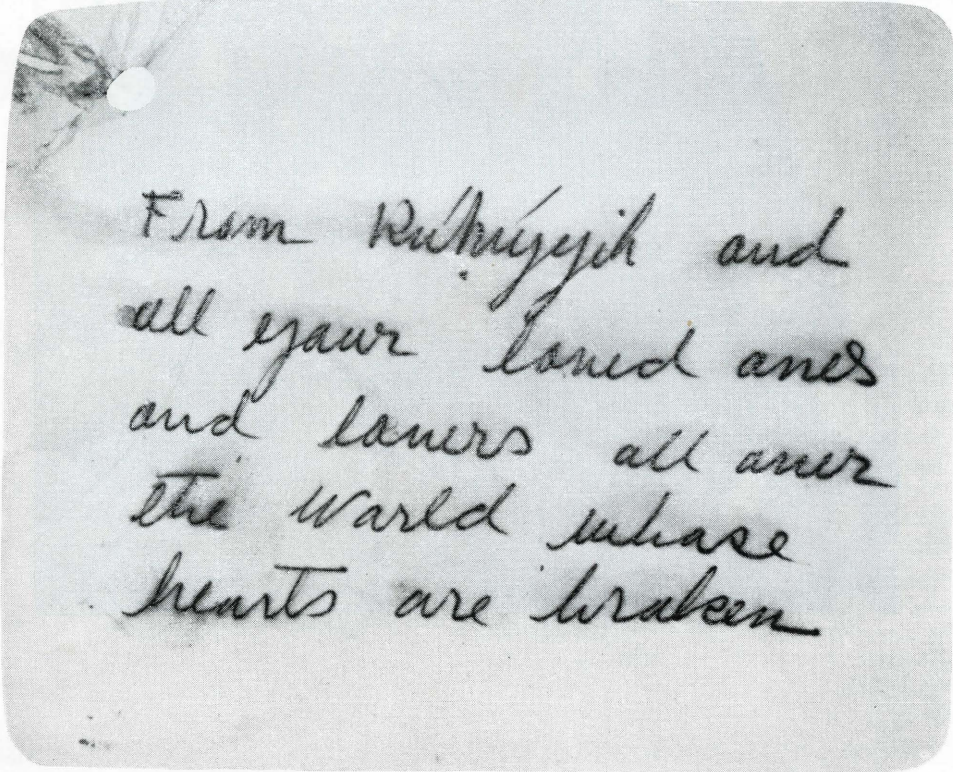


BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

SPECIAL ISSUE

In Undying Devotion To Our Beloved Guardian



From Rúhíyyih and
all eyes loved ones
and lovers all over
the world whose
hearts are broken

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... THE SHELTER OF HIS SHADE ...



Salutation and praise, blessing and glory rest upon that primal branch of the Divine and Sacred Lote-Tree, grown out, blest, tender, verdant and flourishing from the Twin Holy Trees; the most wondrous, unique and priceless pearl that doth gleam from out the twin surging seas; upon the offshoots of the Tree of Holiness, the twigs of the Celestial Tree, they that in the Day of the Great Dividing have stood fast and firm in the Covenant; upon the Hands (pillars) of the Cause of God that have diffused widely the Divine Fragrances, declared His Proofs, proclaimed His Faith, published abroad His Law, detached themselves from all things but Him, stood for righteousness in this world, and kindled the Fire of the Love of God in the very hearts and souls of His servants; upon them that have believed, rested assured, stood steadfast in His Covenant and followed the Light that after my passing shineth from the Day-spring of Divine Guidance—for behold! he is the blest and sacred bough that hath branched out from the Twin Holy Trees. Well is it with him that seeketh the shelter of his shade that shadoweth all mankind.

From the Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

PROGRAMME OF PRAYERS AND READINGS

1. Prayer for the Departed (chanted in Arabic) *Bahá'u'lláh*

2. The Hidden Words, Nos. 32 & 11 (read in English). Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, page 345 beginning '*Death proffereth . . . to . . . of all worlds*'. (read in English) *Bahá'u'lláh*

3. Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, page 341 beginning '*All praise be to God . . . to . . . the All-Compelling, the Almighty*;' and beginning '*The fierce gales . . . to . . . is based*.' (read in English) *Bahá'u'lláh*

4. The Hidden Words, Nos. 12, 14, 32 (chanted in Arabic) *Bahá'u'lláh*

5. Prayers & Meditations CXLV, page 234 (read in English) *Bahá'u'lláh*

6. Prayers & Meditations XCII, page 155 (read in English) *Bahá'u'lláh*

7. The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, first two paragraphs (read in English) '*Abdu'l-Bahá*

At the graveside

8. Prayer of Shoghi Effendi: 'Dar in Layliyi Layla' (chanted in Persian) *Shoghi Effendi*

9. Prayer '*Glory be to Thee, O God, for Thy manifestation of love to mankind . . .*' (read in English) *Bahá'u'lláh*

‘ THIS HOUR OF TRANSITION ’

Messages from the Guardian during the first days of his ministry

‘At this grave and momentous period through which the Cause of God in conformity with the Divine Wisdom is passing, it is the sacred duty of every one of us to endeavour to realise the full significance of this Hour of Transition, and then to make a supreme resolve to arise steadfastly for the fulfilment of our sacred obligations.

‘Great as is the love and paternal care which our beloved Master is extending to us from on High, and unique as is the Spirit that animates to-day His servants in the world, yet a great deal will depend upon the character and efforts of His loved ones on whom now rests the responsibility of carrying on His work gloriously after Him. How great is the need at this moment when the promised outpourings of His grace are ready to be extended to every soul, for us all to form a broad vision of the mission of the Cause to mankind, and to do all in our power to spread it throughout the world! . . . How keenly I feel at this challenging hour in the history of the Cause the need for a firm and definite determination to subordinate all our personal likings, our local interests, to the interests and requirements of the Cause of God! Now is the time to set aside, nay, to forget altogether, minor considerations regarding our internal relationships, and to present a solid united front to the world animated by no other desire but to serve and propagate His Cause.

Bahá’í Administration, pp. 17-18

‘Behold, the station to which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is now calling His loved ones from the Realm of Glory:

“It behoveth the loved ones of God to be enamoured of one another and to sacrifice themselves for their fellow-workers in the Cause. They should yearn towards one another even as the sore athirst yearneth for the Water of Life, and the lover burneth to meet his heart’s desire”.

‘Such is the sublime, the glorious position He wishes us, and all the peoples and kindreds on earth, to attain in this world; how much more to achieve unity and common understanding among ourselves, and then arise to herald with one voice the coming of the Kingdom and the salvation of mankind.’

Bahá’í Administration, p. 30

‘If we all choose to tread faithfully His path, surely the day is not far distant when our beloved Cause will have emerged from the inevitable obscurity of a young and struggling Faith into the broad daylight of universal recognition. This is our duty, our first obliga-

tion. Therein lies the secret of the success of the Cause we love so well. Therein lies the hope, the salvation of mankind. Are we fully conscious of our responsibilities? Do we realise the urgency, the sacredness, the immensity, the glory of our task?

‘I entreat you, dear friends, to continue, nay, to redouble your efforts, to keep your vision clear, your hopes undimmed, your determination unshaken, so that the power of God within us may fill the world with all its glory.’

Bahá’í Administration, pp. 60-61

‘And now as I look into the future, I hope to see the friends at all times, in every land, and of every shade of thought and character, voluntarily and joyously rallying round their local and in particular their national centres of activity, upholding and promoting their interests with complete unanimity and contentment, with perfect understanding, genuine enthusiasm, and sustained vigour. This indeed is the one joy and yearning of my life, for it is the fountain-head from which all future blessings will flow, the broad foundation upon which the security of the Divine Edifice must ultimately rest. May we not hope that now at last the dawn of a brighter day is breaking upon our beloved Cause?’

Bahá’í Administration, pp. 57-58

‘To His valiant combatants on earth, who at times may feel disheartened, our ever-victorious Commander, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, gives us the following assurance:

“O ye servants of the Sacred Threshold! The triumphant Hosts of the Celestial Concourse, arrayed and marshalled in the Realms above, stand ready and expectant to assist and assure victory to that valiant horseman who with confidence spurs on his charger into the arena of service. Well is it with that fearless warrior, who armed with the power of true Knowledge, hastens unto the field, disperses the armies of ignorance, and scatters the hosts of error, who holds aloft the Standard of Divine Guidance, and sounds the Clarion of Victory. By the righteousness of the Lord! He hath achieved a glorious triumph and obtained the true victory. . . .”

‘With such inspiring words as these are we to remain any longer unmoved and inactive? His trumpet-call resounds on every side, and summons us to service; are we to tarry and hesitate? His voice is calling aloud from every land; let us march on, unfettered and unafraid, and fulfill our glorious Destiny.’

Bahá’í Administration, pp. 37-38

SHOGHI

THE FATAL MESSAGES

November 5th from Haifa

WITH DEEP SADNESS ADVISE BELOVED GUARDIAN DESPER-
ATELY ILL ASIATIC FLU PLEASE IMMEDIATELY INFORM ALL
FRIENDS SUPPLICATE PRAYERS DIVINE PROTECTION FAITH
LEROY IOAS

November 5th from London via Haifa

SHOGHI EFFENDI BELOVED OF ALL HEARTS SACRED TRUST
GIVEN BELIEVERS BY MASTER PASSED AWAY SUDDEN HEART
ATTACK IN SLEEP FOLLOWING ASIATIC FLU STOP URGE BE-
LIEVERS REMAIN STEADFAST CLING INSTITUTION HANDS
LOVINGLY REARED RECENTLY REINFORCED EMPHASIZED BY
BELOVED GUARDIAN STOP ONLY ONENESS HEART ONENESS
PURPOSE CAN BEFITTINGLY TESTIFY LOYALTY ALL NATIONAL
ASSEMBLIES BELIEVERS DEPARTED GUARDIAN WHO SACRI-
FICED SELF UTTERLY FOR SERVICE FAITH RUHIYYIH

November 5th from London

BELOVED ALL HEARTS PRECIOUS GUARDIAN CAUSE GOD
PASSED PEACEFULLY AWAY YESTERDAY AFTER ASIATIC FLU
APPEAL HANDS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AUXILIARY BOARDS
SHELTER BELIEVERS ASSIST MEET HEARTRENDING SUPREME
TEST STOP FUNERAL OUR BELOVED SATURDAY LONDON HANDS
ASSEMBLY BOARD MEMBERS INVITED ATTEND ANY PRESS RE-
LEASE SHOULD STATE MEETING HANDS SHORTLY HAIFA WILL
MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BAHAI WORLD REGARDING FUTURE
PLANS STOP URGE HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS SATURDAY
RUHIYYIH

November 10th from London

BELOVED GUARDIAN LAID REST LONDON ACCORDING LAWS
AQDAS IN BEAUTIFUL SPOT AFTER IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY
HELD PRESENCE MULTITUDE BELIEVERS REPRESENTING OVER
TWENTYFIVE COUNTRIES EAST WEST STOP DOCTORS ASSURE
SUDDEN PASSING INVOLVED NO SUFFERING BLESSED COUN-
TENANCE BORE EXPRESSION INFINITE BEAUTY PEACE MAJESTY
STOP EIGHTEEN HANDS ASSEMBLED FUNERAL URGE NATIONAL
BODIES REQUEST ALL BELIEVERS HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS
EIGHTEENTH NOVEMBER COMMEMORATING DAYSPRING
DIVINE GUIDANCE WHO HAS LEFT US AFTER THIRTYSIX
YEARS UTTER SELFSACRIFICE CEASELESS LABOURS CONSTANT
VIGILANCE RUHIYYIH

November 12th from London

ASSURE FRIENDS BELOVED SACRED GUARDIAN BEFITTINGLY
LAID REST SURROUNDED BY LARGE REPRESENTATIVE GATHER-
ING BELIEVERS EAST WEST LIGHT OUR LIVES DEPARTED WE
MUST NOW STAND FIRM REMEMBERING PEERLESS EXAMPLE
HIS DEDICATION WORK BLESSED PERFECTION GLORIOUS VIC-
TORIES HE WON PLANS HE LONGED SEE COMPLETED STOP
ONLY REDEDICATION GREATER UNITY STEADFAST SERVICE
CAN BEFITTINGLY SHOW OUR GRIEF MAKE US ACCEPTABLE
HOLY THRESHOLD RUHIYYIH

November 17th from Haifa

DEEPLY APPRECIATED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGE
STOP HISTORY HOLY FAITH DEMONSTRATES GREATEST CAL-
AMITIES PRECEDED GREATEST VICTORIES STOP EARTHQUAKE
BELOVED GUARDIAN'S PASSING SHAKES ALL HEARTS BE-
LIEVERS LIKE CHILDREN DEPRIVED LOVING WISE FATHER
MUST NOW ATTAIN MANHOOD AND WITH MATURITY PRO-
FOUND CONSECRATION PURSUE ATTAINMENT GOALS HE SET
CLINGING HEM BAHÁ'U'LLAH'S MERCY KNOWING HIS LOVING
PROTECTION WILL NEVER FORSAKE US IF WE ARE STEADFAST
UNITED STOP TWENTYSIX HANDS VISITING MOST HOLY TOMB
MEMORIAL MEETING WILL JOIN THEIR SUPPLICATIONS WITH
THOSE BELIEVERS WORLD OVER FULFILMENT PLANS HOPES
PRECIOUS GUARDIAN WHOSE LIFE WAS SACRIFICED PATH
SERVICE RUHIYYIH

Beloved Friends,

Nine days had not yet elapsed after the interment of the sacred remains of our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, in London, when the Hands of the Cause, to the number of twenty-six, assembled at the World Centre of the Faith, in our capacity as 'Chief Stewards of the embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh', to consult together on the most tragic situation facing the Bahá'ís since the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and to take all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the highest interests of our Faith.

On November 18th the Hands conducted a Memorial Meeting at Bahjí, in the Harám-i-Aqdas surrounding the most sacred Shrine in the Bahá'í world, afterwards entering the Holy Tomb itself and prostrating ourselves in utter humility at the Sacred Threshold.

On the following morning, November 19th, nine Hands of the Cause, selected from the Holy Land, and the several continents of East and West, with Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khanum, broke the seals placed upon the beloved Guardian's safe and desk and made careful examination of their precious contents. These same Hands, rejoining the other Hands assembled in the Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahjí, certified that Shoghi Effendi had left no Will and Testament. It was likewise certified that the beloved Guardian had left no heir. The Aghsán (Branches) one and all are either dead or have been declared violators of the Covenant by the Guardian for their faithlessness to the Master's Will and Testament and their hostility to him named first Guardian in that sacred document.

The first effect of the realisation that no successor to Shoghi Effendi could have been appointed by him was to plunge the Hands of the Cause into the very abyss of despair. What must happen to the world community of his devoted followers if the Leader, the Inspirer, the Planner of all Bahá'í activities in all countries and islands of the seas could no longer fulfil his unique mission?

From this dark abyss, however, contemplation of the Guardian's own life of complete sacrifice and his peerless services gradually redeemed our anguished hearts. Shoghi Effendi himself, we know, would have been the first to remind the Hands, and the widespread body of the believers, that the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh has quickened those powers and resources of faith within mankind which will achieve the unity of the peoples and the triumph of His World Order. In this new light of understanding the company of the Hands could perceive with heightened gratitude the existence of those innumerable blessings which Shoghi Effendi had created and left as his true legacy to all Bahá'ís.

Has not the World Centre, with its sacred Shrines and institutions, been firmly established? Has not the Message been established in 254 countries and dependencies? Have not the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies, forerunners of the Universal House of Justice, been implanted in twenty-six great areas of all continents? Has not the Guardian left us not only his incomparable translations, for English-reading Bahá'ís, of the Bahá'í Sacred Literature, but also his own master-works of interpretation which disclose to us the unshatterable edifice of an evolving Bahá'í Order and world community? Has not the Guardian, building upon the enduring foundation of the Master's Tablets of the Divine Plan, created the World Crusade to guide our work until 1963?

Has not the Guardian, moreover, in his mysterious insight into the present and future needs of the Bahá'í community, called into being the International Bahá'í Council and the company of twenty-seven Hands with their Auxiliary Boards, whom in his final communication to the Bahá'ís, he designated 'Chief Stewards of the embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh'?

Such reflections cannot but, in such a world-shattering experience as all Bahá'ís have this month endured, reveal to us how strongly Shoghi Effendi has laid the foundations of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh through the appointment of Hands of the Cause and likewise the appointment of the International Bahá'í Council, the institution destined to evolve into the Universal House of Justice.

In our capacity of 'Chief Stewards of the embryonic World Commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh', we Hands of the Cause have constituted a body of nine Hands to serve at the Bahá'í World Centre. This body of nine Hands will energetically deal with the protection of the Faith whenever attacks, whether from within or outside the Bahá'í community are reported by Hands from their areas or by National or Regional Assemblies or whether they arise within the Holy Land. Correspondence will likewise be maintained with the Hands of the Cause working in the several continents. This same body will correspond with National Assemblies on matters connected with the prosecution of the objectives of the Ten Year Plan. On matters involving administrative questions this same body will assist National Assemblies by citing those passages of the Bahá'í sacred literature which direct the Assemblies to a sound solution.

As to the International Bahá'í Council, appointed by the Guardian and heralded in his communications to the Bahá'í world, that body will in the course of time finally fulfil its purpose through the formation of the Universal House of Justice, that supreme body upon

CAUSE TO THE BAHÁ'IS OF EAST AND WEST

which infallibility, as the Master's Testament assures us, is divinely conferred: *'The source of all good and freed from all error'*. The main work of the Council has been to act as the Guardian's representative in matters involving the Israeli Government and its Courts of Law.

Beloved Friends! Is not the most precious legacy bequeathed to us all by Shoghi Effendi the privilege of constancy in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and devotion in teaching His Message? This is the heartfelt plea we direct to every Bahá'í: The hour has come, as it came with the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, when true Bahá'ís will be distinguished by their firmness in the Covenant and their spiritual radiance while pressing forward the mighty work committed to every area of the world community—to every individual Bahá'í! For now our implacable opponents may, and probably will, unleash attacks, assuming in their ignorance that the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is weakened and defenceless. By consecration of spirit we are armed against all manner of assault and we hold the weapon of faith with which the triumph of the Guardian's aims and purposes is assured.

The Hands of the Cause, determined to carry out every aspect of the Guardian's expressed wishes and hopes, call upon the National Assemblies to proceed with the holding of the Inter-Continental Conferences which Shoghi Effendi has planned for 1958, and make each of them a great rallying-point of determination to achieve the tasks of the next phase of the World Crusade. We are, moreover, to keep ever before us the other tasks fixed in the Ten Year Plan as objectives to be won by 1963.

Meanwhile the entire body of the Hands assembled by the nine Hands of the World Centre will decide when and how the International Bahá'í Council is to evolve through the successive stages outlined by the Guardian, culminating in the call to election of the Universal House of Justice by the membership of all National Spiritual Assemblies.

When that divinely-ordained body comes into existence, all the conditions of the Faith can be examined anew and the measures necessary for its future operation determined in consultation with the Hands of the Cause.

'O God, my God! Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self and passion, protect them with the watchful eye of Thy loving-kindness from all rancour, hate and envy, shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy Cause and, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, make them the manifestations of Thy glorious Signs, illumine their faces with the effulgent rays shed from the Dayspring of Thy Divine Unity, gladden their hearts with the verses revealed from Thy Holy

Kingdom, strengthen their loins by Thy all-swaying power that cometh from Thy Realm of Glory. Thou art the All-bountiful, the Protector, the Almighty, the Gracious!

'O ye that stand fast in the Covenant! When the hour cometh that this wronged and broken-winged bird will have taken its flight unto the celestial concourse, when it will have hastened to the Realm of the Unseen and its mortal frame will have been either lost or hidden 'neath the dust, it is incumbent upon the Afán, that are steadfast in the Covenant of God, and have branched from the Tree of Holiness; the Hands (pillars) of the Cause of God (the glory of the Lord rest upon them), and all the friends and loved ones, one and all to bestir themselves and arise with heart and soul and in one accord, to diffuse the sweet savours of God, to teach His Cause and to promote His Faith. It behoveth them not to rest for a moment, neither to seek repose. They must disperse themselves in every land, pass by every clime and travel throughout all regions. Bestirred, without rest and steadfast to the end they must raise in every land the triumphal cry "O Thou the Glory of Glories!" (Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá), must achieve renown in the world wherever they go, must burn brightly even as a candle in every meeting and must kindle the flame of Divine love in every assembly; that the light of truth may rise resplendent in the midmost heart of the world, that throughout the East and throughout the West a vast concourse may gather under the shadow of the Word of God, that the sweet savours of holiness may be diffused, that faces may shine radiantly, hearts be filled with the Divine spirit and souls be made heavenly.

'In these days, the most important of all things is the guidance of the nations and peoples of the world. Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head corner-stone of the foundation itself. This wronged servant has spent his days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service. He rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world and the celestial strains from the Abhá Kingdom roused the East and the West. The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Bahá'!

Devotedly, in service to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh,
Bahjí, 'Akká, Israel,
November 25th, 1957.

CABLES FROM THE BRITISH N.S.A.

To The Hands of the Cause

BRITISH NSA PROFOUNDLY MOVED YOUR PROCLAMATION SHARES SMALL PART YOUR ANGUISH UPLIFTED COMFORTED YOUR STEWARDSHIP OFFERS LOVING FIRM ALLEGIANCE CONFIDENT TRIUMPH COVENANT GLORY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

To Ruhiyyih Khanum

OUR BROKEN HEARTS STILL BEAT WARMLY EVER-INCREASING LOVE AMATU'L-BAHÁ PRECIOUS TRUST BELOVED GUARDIAN.

Reply from Ruhiyyih Khanum

DEEPLY TOUCHED LOVING MESSAGE YOUR ASSEMBLY WHOSE MEMBERS ESPECIALLY DISTINGUISHED HANDS WERE SUCH WONDERFUL SUPPORT TO ME DARKEST HOURS WE ALL ENDURED TOGETHER.

And in a later letter

'Your letter of December 5th with enclosures was just received and I deeply appreciate the waves of love that I feel coming out to me from the Assembly members and the other friends there in England. How infinitely dear England has become!'

MESSAGES FROM OUR OWN HANDS

Hasan Balyuzi

'O God, my God! Be Thou not far from me, for tribulation upon tribulation hath gathered about me. O God, my God, leave me not to myself, for the extreme of adversity hath come upon me.'

This prayer was the constant companion of Bahá'u'lláh when He took the road to His second exile. This prayer echoed in our broken hearts on that mid-day of November 9th, as our unbelieving eyes rested, tear-laden, on the scene of our grief. This prayer voices our plight and our grief which is inexpressible. For the greatest calamity has overtaken us. Our world is dark; indeed the whole world is dark, for the 'Dayspring of Divine Guidance' has gone from our sight. Over eleven decades the gates of divine guidance were open, bountifully open. Now those gates are closed and the 'Divine Nightingale' is silent. What calamity could be greater, more afflictive?

Why?, our hearts cry out, and who is there to tell us why? Perhaps we did not deserve our bounty. Did we take care of Shoghi Effendi in the way the beloved Master told us to? Did we obey him with that *'instant, exact and complete obedience'* which the Master commanded us to give to him whose *'shade . . . shadoweth all mankind'*? On the contrary we brought untold sorrows to the dear heart of the beloved Guardian. We made him suffer for thirty-six long arduous years. He became our ransom and our ransom he is.

Darkness has come upon us and there is much that

we cannot see and much that we cannot know. There is much that only the future can reveal. But still through this dark night of our souls, there beams powerful and luminous as ever, the floodlight of the Guardian's guidance, and there is much that we do know.

We know that though we are unworthy, Bahá'u'lláh will not abandon His Cause. We know that with Him dawned a Day that shall not be overtaken by night. We know that the beloved Guardian has left us all that we need to carry us to the 'Most Great Jubilee', and beyond to the day where once again the gates of Divine guidance will be opened and the Universal House of Justice, ordained by Bahá'u'lláh and named by 'Abdu'l-Bahá as *'the source of all good and freed from all error'*, will come to be, and the 'Divine Ark' will, as foretold by Bahá'u'lláh in His holy *Tablet of Carmel*, sail upon the Mountain of God.

We know that as long as we abide by his wishes, and carry out his instructions, and fulfil his plans, we shall be walking in the light of his guidance.

And at this hour of supreme affliction the Covenant of God remains inviolate and triumphant. It is the first time in the whole range of world history, in the whole range of the religious experience of mankind, that a conclave of the dignitaries of a Faith have met under circumstances such as these, and have emerged without one iota of innovation or without arrogating to themselves functions and powers that were not theirs. Again it is the first time in the history of a people that

when overwhelmed by a calamity so dire, they have come forth with a faith more proved, with a unity more valid, with a devotion more dedicated.

For thirty-six years Shoghi Effendi, the 'Chosen Branch', the trust of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, carried on his shoulders the burden of the Cause, the burden of us, his unworthy servants, the burden of mankind. Now it has fallen to us to shoulder burdens such as these. Therefore, although glorious beyond all praise, it is far from easy to bear, in the immediate years ahead, the blessed Name of the Redeemer of mankind. Bereft of the Guardian, we have to face joyously and fearlessly, the hordes of the world, the forces that stand between man and his Maker. First and foremost it is the 'self' that we have to meet and to combat. If only we live the words of the Master's prayer, *'Make me as dust in the pathway of Thy loved ones'*, our victory is secure.

The sign of God, the beloved Guardian, began his Guardianship in these Isles, and here he laid down his mandate. What Divine mystery is there, we do not know. When I was saying farewell in the Pilgrim House on Mount Carmel, I was told, 'You are fortunate; you are going from one Holy Land to another Holy Land'. For indeed Britain has become a holy land, holding in her bosom, as she does, the sacred remains of Shoghi Effendi. God has blessed this community and raised it high, to have made it the custodian of his shrine. How great is the responsibility, therefore, that this community bears, and how surely must it show its gratitude in deeds! Through the decades and centuries men will come here from the four corners of the earth to pay homage to Shoghi Effendi. We, the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, will be their hosts. May we be truly worthy of this honour and this blessing.

John Ferraby

I am sure that the British believers will not allow the shock of the Guardian's passing, great though this is, to interfere in any way with the work of the Ten Year Crusade. God works in a mysterious way, and if the friends all exert themselves selflessly in the service of the Cause of God, it may well happen that they will find the power of the Covenant develops in them fresh sources of spiritual strength and wisdom that will attract even greater divine confirmation to their efforts than before. By reacting in the right way to tests such as the whole Bahá'í world is now passing through, the Bahá'ís become channels for a spiritual power that both brings victory to the Cause of God and cleanses their own hearts to make them reflect the Light of God more truly.

This is not the time for despondency or inactivity, but a time for all to show the metal of which they are made, and by their greater determination, greater self-sacrifice, and greater love for Bahá'u'lláh and for mankind, to demonstrate to the whole world that the spirit permeating the Bahá'í Community is a life-giving spirit more potent than any mankind has yet known.

The goals of the Ten Year Crusade are before us; the Guardian has given us a plan by which to achieve them; he is no doubt watching over us still and following with eager eye every victory that we win; the heavenly hosts are hovering, waiting for us to give them opportunities to achieve through us the triumph that they long for. Let us not hesitate nor falter in the path of service to our Lord, but press on regardless of obstacles, because now is the time for great deeds and great achievements.

THE PASSING OF SHOGHI EFFENDI

Ruhiyyih Khanum, in collaboration with John Ferraby, has written an account of the tragic episode which has been published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, London.

THE LONDON HOME OF THE FRIENDS

It was in the days that followed the passing of our beloved Shoghi Effendi that we realised the value of our Ḥazíratu'l-Quds. During that said time it became the focal point and centre of activity. The Hands of the Cause came and went, busy under the guidance of Amatu'l-Bahá Ruḥíyyih Khanum with all the preparations for the funeral. In the library the whole of one day Persian ladies sat sewing soft white silk for the Beloved's shroud, and velvet in the green of a Siyyid for his pall. The telephone rang constantly with messages and enquiries, with calls from half-way round the earth to ask for further news and to say that some more friends were coming as quickly as they could to mourn their Guardian.

Visitors poured in, in ever-increasing numbers, from India, Indonesia, from the United States, Canada, Africa—Hands of the Cause, N.S.A. members, Auxiliary Board members and others. The Ḥazíra welcomed them all. In these sad days it was truly a Bahá'í home, to which they all came to find Bahá'í companionship, to comfort each other, to sit and pray together. The unity of the believers was never more strongly demonstrated and sometimes we said what a wonderful gathering it was, there were so many people we had known so long by name and always wanted to meet; if only it could have been on a happier occasion!

On the morning of the funeral, Rutland Gate saw probably larger crowds than ever in its history. Nobody knows how all, or even half of them, got into the Ḥazíra to wait for their cars. There were problems of organisation to cope with, but at last the long fleet of cars, containing about three hundred people, set out to follow the beloved of our hearts on his last journey.

Many of the friends came back to the Ḥazíra after the funeral was over. We still needed each other and the meeting room was crowded that evening for a memorial devotional meeting. Towards the end word was passed round that the Hands of the Cause would meet the friends the next afternoon, Sunday. Again the meeting room was so full nobody could move and the overflow filled the staircases above and below. After a number of the Hands had spoken and several from Persia had chanted, our dear Ruḥíyyih Khanum came and talked to us, telling us of the beloved Guardian's last days here, how it was he came to be in England, and assuring us that there was no pain or suffering in the moment of his passing. She called on us all to arise and serve as never before. Then she anointed everyone with attar-of-rose which had belonged to the Guardian.

In the next few days the Ḥazíra was again and again full of people, especially on the evening of Monday, November 11th, for the commemoration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, but the big crowds lessened rapidly and

each day saw more departures, till at last we were left alone again, but changed. We had emerged as a privileged, favoured community, the community in whose capital city the First Guardian of the Cause, the Dayspring of Divine Guidance, is at rest.

DOROTHY FERRABY

IN MEMORIAM

Did we rest on the couch of heedlessness?
This trumpet-blast quick scattered our repose,
This bugle-call, that brought from far and near
The lovers to the side of their beloved,
Only to say farewell. (His mortal part
In death as radiant as in life did prove).
Was it for our sins of vague omission?
Why was it destined, that he should thus die
On alien soil, far from the mighty Shrines
Which to the Abhá Glory he had built?
Or did God bless us for our valour shown?
Did He reward us with this precious dust
For deeds that no one knows about but Him?

Yet be this as it may. We buried him
On that cold morning of an English autumn,
Made fair as summer by the roses' bloom.
And lilies-of-the-valley, violets,
Their fragrance lent to images of spring.
The sun shone as, within a Christian chapel
The service for the Guardian was held;
It kept the vigil with the multitude
Of friends without, whom not the walls would hold.
Again the sun shone down upon the pilgrims
Who slowly . . . slowly . . . walked behind the casket
That held—alas—the dearest shell on earth.
And then the heavens wept. Drops from the sky
Were mingled with the tears upon our cheeks
As we filed past the grave, to say farewell.
Great gusts of wind stirred up the fallen leaves
That by the graveside lay.
Then, one by one, we knelt
And one by one we touched with our sad brows—
O sweet, sweet privilege!—the coffin-lid . . .

Through rain and sunshine, regal, firm she stood,
That queenly figure, radiant and calm.
She, unlike lesser mortals, did not weep;
Nay, she upheld us and comforted us.
She, widowed, orphaned, with her Dayspring gone—
Yet stood erect. She knew that all was well.
And as we gazed upon her countenance
To us she did convey it: All is well!

David Solomon, aged 13.

Our beloved Guardian is dead. I cannot believe it. I, who have only been a Bahá'í for nine months, and have never set eyes on him, I did not realise how much I had come to love him, nor how much the name Shoghi Effendi was wedded to the name Guardian in my mind. Perhaps this is particularly so because of his having been the first Guardian. What love, what devotion, what utter self-sacrifice is the example of his life! He has *created* the Guardianship: how difficult for others to follow in his footsteps!

And yet we must go on—we who are left behind to carry on the work for which he burnt himself out. He would not wish us to mourn. Now is our time of testing. He has given his life in death, and we must do the same—death of all that is bad in us. We must rise with renewed ardour, devotion, and self-sacrifice to attain the goals he has promised us.

O God! That this should take place in London! What blessedness is this? What act of God is this? Truly, He doeth whatsoever He willeth!—and while we are stunned and heartbroken, yet how great is our privilege that our beloved Guardian should be laid to rest in London! Is it not strange that he who received his call to take on the Guardianship while sojourning in our country should be called to relinquish it here also?—and at two most critical stages in the development of the Faith. May the spirit released by his death and interment in London provide the stimulus we so much need. This is 1957—the year in which ‘the signs of the rise, the glory, the exaltation, the spread of the Word of God throughout the East and the West shall appear’; the beginning of the period at whose culmination ‘the Teachings of God’ will be ‘firmly established upon the earth and the Divine Light shall flood the world from the East even unto the West’.

O Shoghi Effendi! How long did you know beforehand that your end was approaching? And with what loving care for your beloved throughout the world did you keep this to yourself! What urgency, what care, what forethought, what protective measures have characterised your letters in recent months! How plain that you anticipated *something*. How little did we think it would be this!

O Rúhíyyih Khánum! What loneliness must be yours! While yet surrounded by the loving thoughts and prayers of your friends all over the world, what loneliness, what utter aloneness, must be yours! You, who must always have been alone, what emptiness must be yours now! And yet, in the midst of this bitter grief, what courage, what inspiration you have given us. Never shall I forget your face—how my heart went

out to you!—but it was you who gave *us* comfort. Your words are what he would wish us to do, and if you can say them can we not apply them and render complete submissiveness to whatever is best for the Cause of God?

And what shall I say of Saturday? Has London ever witnessed such a funeral? Surely the most highly-respected leader, the best-loved king of all time, mourned by all his countrymen, cannot have united so many hearts in such love and grief. What other international gathering could have been so utterly devoid of barriers or caused so much amazement? Passers-by stopped and *stared*. They did not merely look—they *stared*. Their wonderment was plain: Who can this be? Such a long procession, so many nationalities represented, and all mingling together without segregation, and yet we know not who it is they mourn. He is obviously important—why do we not know who it is? O wondering bystanders! You will not find it in your newspapers. The time is not ripe.

And as we went along I had a curious sense of detachment from my surroundings. This, the Cause of God, was real. The roads, the people, the shops, the traffic, all the noisy restlessness of the city, was the dream, the illusion. O heedless Londoners! Little did you know what blessedness was passing through your streets! Little did you know, and little did you care: how much more important to you was the Lord Mayor's Show! Some day you will awake, and then you will know how great was your neglect.

O Coffin-bearers! You who witnessed all, were not your hearts moved to tears and wonderment by what you saw? Have you ever assisted at a funeral like this one? What were your feelings as our Beloved received the last expressions of grief and devotion from nigh on four hundred people from both East and West? You who are used to tears, were not even you moved, to see men weep like this? Did you notice how, after a warm and sunny morning, at the very moment when the first believer collapsed in tears at the head of his coffin, the heavens also wept? Did you notice how cold it went suddenly?—and did you notice how, at the moment of the coffin being lowered into the grave the heavens wept again? And did you not marvel at what was sprinkled over the grave?—not dismal earth, but *perfume*. O heavenly fragrance! Small wonder that you have found your way so often into the writings of Bahá'u'lláh. May the fragrance of our lives be wafted through the world as you, O attar-of-rose, were borne upon the winds of heaven from that blessed spot!

Madeline Hellaby



*Hands of the Cause and other mourners at the head
of the procession following the coffin
to the grave.*