

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same parents, Thou hast destined that all belong to the same household, and in Thy holy presence all are Thy servants, and all mankind is sheltered beneath Thy Tabernacle. Thy children are gathered at Thy table of bounty and have become radiant through the light of Thy providence. O God! Thou art kind to all, Thou hast provided for all, Thou dost harbour all. Thou conferest life upon all, Thou hast endowed each humble being with ability and talent and submerged all mankind in the ocean of Thy mercy.

O Thou generous Lord! Unite Thy servants in every land, suffer the diverse religions to be in harmony, make of the nations a single nation, so that they may see each other as one family, denizens of one country. May mankind associate with perfect amity and unity.

O God! Raise the banner of the oneness of humankind. O God! Establish the Most Great Peace. O God! Weld our hearts into one heart. O Thou kind Father! Exhilarate us through the fragrances of Thy love; brighten our eyes through the light of Thy guidance; cheer our ears with the

melody of Thy Word, and shelter us in the shelter of Thy Providence.

'Abdu'l-Bahá.

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"Rest ye assured that this darkness shall be dispelled and these impenetrable clouds which have darkened the horizon shall be scattered, and the Sun of Reality shall appear in its full splendour. Its rays shall melt the icebergs of hatred and indifference which have transformed the moving sea of humanity into hard frozen immensity."

"The principles of Bahá'u'lláh, like unto the spirit, shall penetrate the dead body of the world, and the Love of God, like unto an artery, shall beat through the heart of the five continents."

"The East shall become illumined, the West perfumed, and the children of men shall enter beneath the all-embracing canopy of the oneness of the world of humanity."

'Abdu'l-Bahá.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Jesus (Luke 21. 28).

## BAHÁ'IS AND WAR

Beloved Friends;

Statements have already been made in *Bahá'í Journals* 16 and 18, and we now print the following letter, received from Shoghi Effendi before war broke out. In view of the first paragraph, we hope that every believer will understand fully the Bahá'í attitude, and be ready always, to act in accordance with it.

"His instructions on this matter, conveyed in a letter addressed to your Assembly during last November (ref. *Journal* 16, 18) were not intended for that particular occasion, but were meant for present conditions, and for any such emergency as may arise in the immediate future.

"It is still his firm conviction that the believers, while expressing their readiness to unreservedly obey any directions that the authorities may issue concerning national service in time of war, should also, and while there is yet no outbreak of hostilities, appeal to the government for exemption from active military service in a combatant capacity, stressing the fact that in doing so they are not prompted by any selfish considerations but by the sole and supreme motive of upholding the Teachings of their Faith, which make it a moral obligation for them to desist from any act that would involve them in direct warfare with their fellow-humans of any other race or nation."

"There are many other avenues through which the believers can assist in times of war by enlisting in services of a non-combatant nature—services that do not involve the direct shedding of blood—such as ambulance work, anti-

air raid precaution service, office and administrative works, and it is for such types of national service that they should volunteer."

"It is immaterial whether such activities would still expose them to dangers, either at home or in the front, since their desire is not to protect their lives, but to desist from any acts of wilful murder."

"The friends should consider it their conscientious duty, as loyal members of the Faith, to apply for such exemption, even though there may be slight prospect of their obtaining the consent and

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approval of the authorities to their petition. It is most essential that in times of such national excitement and emergency as those through which so many countries in the world are now passing that the believers should not allow themselves to be carried away by the passions agitating the masses, and act in a manner that would make them deviate from the path of wisdom and moderation, and lead them to violate, however reluctantly and indirectly, the spirit as well as the letter of the Teachings."

The National Spiritual Assembly has already conveyed to the friends the instruction concerning volunteering for national service, and it is known that several have followed it. It is inevitable that some of the friends will be called upon under the new military regulations. The N.S.A. therefore wishes all believers to observe the following procedure, when called for military service.

1. Register as required by the Government. When doing this take advantage of the Government's offer, and register as a conscientious objector.



You will then be summoned to appear before a tribunal.

2. At the Tribunal, state that you do not wish to engage in combatant service, on religious grounds. At the same time state that you are ready immediately to engage in some form of national defence which is not directly combatant. If you are already engaged in some such service, mention this.

The N.S.A. will give you a letter, stating the Bahá'í attitude, immediately you notify the secretary that you have been called up, and will have to appear before a tribunal. Send a card to the secretary direct, as well as to the N.S.A. at its emergency address. The secretary's private address is: —34B Elvaston Place, London, S.W.7. In this connection too, all believers are urged to obtain their registration cards as soon as possible. Information has already been given about this, but there is another statement in this *Journal*, under the heading, Registration.

Dear Friends; It is our sacred duty to act in obedience and unreserved loyalty to the Government of the land. On this point, the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh, the voice of the Master, and the ruling of the Guardian, are most emphatic. The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh does not countenance sedition, political intrigue, or partisan denunciation. We must keep clear of ALL political or partisan controversy. We must also, as loyal servants of Bahá'u'lláh, remain faithful to the path He has laid down for us, and which is clearly illumined by the Guardian's instruction. We may well be thankful that the opportunity is given us to serve our country and our Faith at the same time.

## REGISTRATION

The N.S.A. wishes to complete as quickly as possible the registration of all believers. Membership certificates have been printed and are being sent to local secretaries. The friends are asked to send in immediately, to their local secretary, or in the case of isolated believers, to the National Secretary, the following particulars: —Name and address; occupation; date of birth; two photographs about passport size. The forms will be filled, stamped with the seal of the National Spiritual Assembly, and one copy returned to the believer and one copy kept in the National Records. Local secretaries are asked to keep a complete record of believers in their community.

The reasons for this registration are already stated in *Bahá'í Journal* No. 18. Please co-operate and make sure that the register is complete.

## SOUTHPORT CONVENTION OF RELIGIONS

Miss Ada Williams and Mr. David Hofman represented the Faith at this Convention and report unusual interest. Mr. Hofman spoke twice on the final day of the Convention, in the morning and the evening. Miss Williams explained the Teachings to people between the lecture sessions. There was a great demand for literature and eighty-five of the small pamphlets "The Bahá'í Faith" were given out. These were not offered to the people, but were asked for in each case. A few contacts were made in Southport and it is hoped to have a meeting there later. The representative of the *Manchester Guardian* asked for a statement on the Faith, but no mention of it was made in the paper.

## TEACHING

There is no need to stress the urgency of teaching. Every believer knows it as his first and chief responsibility. We outlined a plan at the beginning of the year, and with the help of Bahá'u'lláh, we must carry it through. Here is the Guardian's message about it : —

“The Guardian wishes me, in closing, to urge your Assembly to make a special effort during this year to concentrate on furthering the teaching work in Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Brighton, Sheffield and Bournemouth, in view of the teaching opportunities that these centres, as indicated in your letter, seem to offer at present. He welcomes the recommendation made to this effect at the last Annual Convention and would urge the newly-elected N.S.A. to give this task its continued and fullest attention. However stupendous the plan now confronting your Assembly may be, you should resolutely and relentlessly endeavour to carry it through, ever confident in the promised assistance and unfailing guidance of Bahá'u'lláh.”

Now that a state of war exists, many activities are being curtailed. Teaching the Cause of God must increase and expand. Conditions are more difficult, but the work must be pursued resolutely and relentlessly. The first and most important way in which the work can be helped is by contributions to the Fund. Without means there can be no teaching outside our own homes; we have to take the message of Bahá'u'lláh to other cities; therefore we must have means. This is our part of the task, to provide the money and send the teachers; the Holy Spirit will bring results. Let us recall the Guardian's message in April, 1936 : — “There is undoubtedly no

higher call than that of bringing the Message to a world tormented and torn on every side by the forces of destructive materialism. It is for us to realise the full measure of the responsibility that has been laid upon our shoulders in this matter, and having attained full consciousness of our responsibility, to unitedly arise to contribute all we can towards its discharge.” There is no doubt of our unity; Summer School was its visible proof. Having received this priceless gift we now have to demonstrate the measure of our devotion.

## THE BAHÁ'Í FUND

The address of the Treasurer is : —

‘Lattice Windows’  
Links Road  
Seaford  
Sussex

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to ‘National Spiritual Assembly.’

## MYRON PHELPS' BOOK

The book by Myron Phelps, “Abbas Effendi, His Life and Teachings,” is now out of print, but there are a few copies among the friends. A recent message from the Guardian states that it is full of inaccuracies and should be ignored by the believers. In view of this, Spiritual Assemblies are requested to take the following action : — Remove any copies in your lending library to the reference library, and paste a note inside saying the the book is inaccurate. The Guardian's exact words are . . . “full of inaccuracies that are misleading, and for this reason should be ignored by the believers.”

## INCORPORATION

The National Spiritual Assembly is delighted to inform the friends of its Incorporation as an Unlimited Company. The Certificate is framed and hanging in the London Centre, and a copy of the Memorandum and Articles is being sent to each local Spiritual Assembly for reference by the friends. At the moment we wish to draw attention to Article 46:-

"Among the most outstanding and sacred duties incumbent upon those who have been called upon to initiate, direct and co-ordinate the affairs of the Faith as members of local Spiritual Assemblies or the National Spiritual Assembly are : —"

"To win by every means in their power the confidence and affection of those whom it is their privilege to serve; to investigate and acquaint themselves with the considered views, the prevailing sentiments and the personal convictions of those whose welfare it is their solemn obligation to promote; to purge their deliberations and the general conduct of their affairs of self-contained aloofness, the suspicion of secrecy, the stifling atmosphere of dictatorial assertiveness and of every word and deed that may savour of partiality, self-centredness and prejudice, and while retaining the sacred right of final decision in their hands, to invite discussion, ventilate grievances, welcome advice, and foster the sense of interdependence and co-partnership, of understanding and mutual confidence between themselves and all other Bahá'is."

### Legal Name

The name of the Company, as shown on its certificate is : —National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of the British Isles. All bequests or other gifts should

be made in that name. Cheques may be made payable to "National Spiritual Assembly" but in all other cases the full name must be used.

### The Guardian's Message

"The Guardian is inexpressibly delighted at the news of the completion of the N.S.A.'s incorporation certificate, and would appreciate your sending him three photostatic reproductions of the original, one of which he will arrange to be placed in the Mansion at Bahji, and the second he will include in the next issue of the *Bahá'í World*, and the third he will keep in his own files."

## EMERGENCY PLANS

As the friends have already been notified, the headquarters of the N.S.A., for the time being, are c/o Mrs. Langdon-Davies, 6 Huxham's Cross, Dartington, Totnes, Devon. All communications for the N.S.A. should be made through that address, though the secretary may be addressed personally at 34B Elvaston Place, London, S.W.7. In case letters are sent direct to the secretary, it would be well, if the matter is important, to send a duplicate copy to the emergency headquarters.

All articles of value for the Archives and communications of importance should be sent to Totnes. Contributions to the National Fund should be sent to Mrs. Brown, 'Lattice Windows,' Links Road, Seaford, Sussex.

The Publishing Trust should be addressed at 46 Bloomsbury St., W.C.1.

Local Spiritual Assemblies are asked to keep in close touch with every member of their community and to report any change of address to the N.S.A.



## **PUBLISHING TRUST**

Will librarians of Spiritual Assemblies, and all others ordering Bahá'í books, please note that they should be ordered from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, except of course in the case of individuals who buy them direct from their local Spiritual Assembly. Several orders are still coming to the London library, which have to be passed on to the Publishing Trust.

### **Prayer Book**

The new Prayer Book is now available. It is printed in two editions one with a blue cover and one with a beige. The former costs a shilling and the latter ninepence. The shilling edition contains obligatory prayers, prayers for the Fast, and the prayer for the dead; these are omitted from the ninepenny edition, with a view to making it more suitable to non-Bahá'ís.

### **"The Heart of the Gospel"**

Archdeacon Townshend's book has been published and may be obtained from the Publishing Trust, or from any bookseller. It costs 7s. 6d. The friends are urged to suggest this book to their local Public Libraries. It is published by Lindsay Drummond Ltd. The London Spiritual Assembly have arranged for believers to buy copies by paying in instalments, and the Publishing Trust is prepared to make similar terms with isolated believers.

### **"The Divine Art of Living"**

The copy of this book which was lent to the Summer School by the London Reference Library, was borrowed by one of the friends and has not been returned.

This book is very valuable so will the believer who borrowed it please return to the London Centre.

### **"Bahá'í World" Vol. VII**

A generous gift from Mr. Siegfried Schopflocher of a number of copies of this book, has enabled the N.S.A. to present one copy to each local Spiritual Assembly, as well as to a few eminent people. A few copies are available for placing in public libraries, in the reference departments, and a few can be bought at fifteen shillings per volume.

Attention is drawn to Shoghi Effendi's general letter, "The Goal of a New World Order" which is available at twopence per copy, a discount of 10% being allowed to Spiritual Assemblies or individuals who order two dozen or more at a time. This is an excellent introduction to the Faith.

## **ISOLATED BELIEVERS**

Miss Elsie Gibbs, of Manchester, has been evacuated with her school children, and is now resident c/o Mrs. Preston, San Remo, 2 Wakefield Drive, Scotforth, Lancaster.

Miss Marjorie Hofman, Hartwell, Northampton, whom many of the friends met at Summer School, is a newly enrolled believer.

Mr. Louis Rosenfield is now at 91 Cromwell Road, Redhill, Surrey.

Mrs. George has gone to Devonshire. Miss Pinchon is in Bournemouth with the intention of beginning a teaching campaign there.

## NEWS

### Torquay

The Spiritual Assembly ask the following addresses to be published, as recent visitors to Torquay have been unable to contact the friends there.

*Chairman* : Mrs. Stevens, Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe. Tel. Torquay 87589.

*Vice-Chairman* : Mrs. Ward, Kirkham, St. Alban's Road.

*Bahá'í Centre* : Room 55, Castle Chambers, Union Street. Times of meetings unsettled at present.

### Bradford

All the friends went to Leeds for a meeting on Sunday, September 3rd. Mrs. Kenworthy gave an inspiring address, and Miss Molly Brown brought a welcome from the London friends. The Spiritual Assembly is making plans to take a room in Bradford for use as a Bahá'í Centre, and in this project the National Spiritual Assembly wishes them every success, as it knows how important this matter is for the spread of the Faith in any city.

### Manchester

The secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly visited Manchester on August 27th, and found the friends in good spirits. At the meeting in the Centre there were six non-Bahá'ís, and after the address they all entered into discussion with different believers, and showed real interest.

### London

Many of the friends have left London, but the Nineteen Day Feast was held on September 8th. At the meeting

on Sunday evening there were several non-Bahá'ís and one or two newcomers. Fireside meetings are continuing. Mrs. Routh, who helped the Teaching work so much a year ago, is a welcome arrival. She brings messages of fellowship from Australia.

### America

The secretarial office of the National Spiritual Assembly is now beside the Temple. This is one more step in the construction of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, for the spiritual and administrative centres of the Faith are now together.

### Miss Martha Root

Following the Guardian's instructions, Martha Root, our heroic and saintly Bahá'í teacher, is on her way to reinforce the campaign in South America. Latest news of her is that she is in Honolulu, grievously ill. The friends will remember her in their prayers.

### Bahá'u'lláh and The New Era

This book has already been published in thirty-one languages, and an edition in Icelandic is expected soon. The International Bahá'í Bureau at Geneva is now planning a Polish edition. The Guardian offered £50, if the friends would subscribe the rest. The National Spiritual Assembly has contributed £5 through the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

The N.S.A. is meeting in London on October 7th and 8th.

### NATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The N.S.A. had made arrangements to have half a stall at the Annual Book Fair, organised by the *Sunday Times*, but owing to the outbreak of war, the Fair has been cancelled.

## MESSAGES FROM THE GUARDIAN

"The extension along sound lines and with such remarkable swiftness and harmony, of the activities in which the believers of the United Kingdom are so earnestly and devotedly engaged merits the highest praise and is a source of constant encouragement and satisfaction to me in my arduous work. They are taking a momentous step forward and are launching enterprises that will no doubt shed fresh lustre on their beloved Faith and leave a distinct mark on Bahá'í history. I will continue to pray on their behalf, and feel certain that if they persevere the Beloved will richly bless their concerted and highly meritorious efforts. Shoghi." May 31st, 1939.

"He found the annual report published in the *Journal* so encouraging that he decided to have certain sections of it translated into Persian, and sent, through the Haifa Assembly's newsletter, to different Bahá'í centres throughout the East." The Guardian's secretary, June 26th, 1939.

"The determination of the English believers to extend rapidly and systematically the range of their teaching and administrative activities is a welcome evidence of the genuineness of their faith, the nobility of their purpose and the depth of their devotion. That such a determination may yield the richest fruit is my special and constant prayer. What they have already achieved fortifies my hopes and confidence in them. They have laid a firm and unassailable basis for their future work. Per-

severence, co-ordination, fearlessness, vigour and wisdom will enable them to gradually rear on this basis the majestic structure of Bahá'u'lláh's administrative order, which in the fulness of time must yield, on the soil of their country, a harvest unexampled in its abundance and glory. May His Spirit guide and sustain them to hasten that hour and consummate that task. Your true brother Shoghi."

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"This is the day in which to speak. It is incumbent upon the people of Bahá to strive, with the utmost patience and forbearance, to guide the peoples of the world to the Most Great Horizon. Every body calleth aloud for a soul. Heavenly souls must needs quicken, with the breath of the Word of God, the dead bodies with a fresh spirit. Within every word a new spirit is hidden. Happy is the man that attaineth thereunto, and hath arisen to teach the Cause of Him Who is the King of Eternity." "Say : O servants ! The triumph of this Cause hath depended, and will continue to depend, upon the appearance of holy souls, upon the showing forth of goodly deeds, and the revelation of words of consummate wisdom." "Centre your energies in the propagation of the Faith of God. Whoso is worthy of so high a calling, let him arise and promote it. Whoso is unable, it is his duty to appoint him who will, in his stead, proclaim this Revelation, whose power hath caused the foundations of the mightiest structures to quake, every mountain to be crushed into dust, and every soul to be dumb-founded." *Bahá'u'lláh.*