

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE  
HAIFA, ISRAEL

*TO THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE WORLD*

April 1964.

Dearly loved Friends,

The divinely propelled process, described in such awe-inspiring words by our beloved Guardian, which began six thousand years ago at the dawn of the Adamic cycle and which is destined to culminate in "the stage at which the light of God's triumphant Faith shining in all its power and glory will have suffused and enveloped the entire planet," is now entering its tenth and last part.

The Ten Year Crusade, so recently consummated in a blaze of victory and rejoicing, constituted the entire ninth part of this process. It saw the Cause of God leap forward in one mighty decade-long effort to the point at which the foundations of its Administrative Order were laid throughout the world, thus preparing the way for that awakening of the masses which must characterize the future progress of the Faith.

From the beginning of this Dispensation the most urgent summons of the Word of God, voiced successively by the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, has been to teach the Cause. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in His own words, "spent His days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service." Shoghi Effendi, discharging the sacred mission laid upon him, raised the Administrative Order of the Faith, already enshrined within the Sacred Writings, and forged it into a teaching instrument to accomplish through a succession of plans, national, international and global, the entire Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and he clearly foresaw in the "tremendously long" tenth part of the process already referred to, a series of plans to be launched by the Universal House of Justice, extending over "successive epochs of both the Formative and Golden Ages of the Faith."

The first of these plans is now before us. Opening at Ridván 1964, while the memories of the glorious Jubilee of 1963 still surge within our hearts, it must, during its nine year course, witness a huge expansion of the Cause of God and universal participation by all believers in the life of that Cause.

At the World Centre of the Faith the tasks of the Plan include publication of a synopsis and codification of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Most Holy Book; formulation of the Constitution of the Universal House of Justice; development of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause of God, in consultation with the body of the Hands of the Cause, with a view to the extension into the future of its appointed functions of protection and propagation; continued collation and classification of the Bahá'í Sacred Scriptures as well as of the writings of Shoghi Effendi; continued efforts directed towards the emancipation of the Faith from the fetters of religious orthodoxy and its recognition as an independent religion; the preparation of a plan for the befitting development and beautification of the entire area of Bahá'í property surrounding the Holy Shrines; extension of the existing gardens on Mount Carmel; development of the relationship between the Bahá'í Community and the United Nations; the holding of Oceanic and Inter-Continental Conferences; the co-ordination of world wide plans to commemorate, in 1967/68, the centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's Proclamation to the kings and rulers which centred round His revelation of the Súriy-i-Mulúk in Adrianople.

In the world community the Plan involves the opening of seventy virgin territories and the resettlement of twenty-four; the raising of the number of National Spiritual Assemblies, the pillars sustaining the Universal House of



Justice, to one hundred and eight, nine times the number which embarked on the first historic World Crusade in 1953 ; increasing the number of Local Spiritual Assemblies to over thirteen thousand seven hundred, scattered throughout the territories and islands of the world, at least one thousand seven hundred of them to be incorporated ; the raising of the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside to over fifty-four thousand ; the building of two more Mashriqu'l-Adhikárs, one in Asia and one in Latin America ; the acquisition of thirty-two Teaching Institutes, fifty-two national Hazíratu'l-Quds, fifty-four national Endowments, and sites for sixty-two future Temples ; wide extension of recognition by civil authorities of the Bahá'í Holy Days and Bahá'í Marriage Certificates ; the translation of literature into one hundred and thirty-three more languages, and its enrichment in major languages into which translations have already been made ; the establishment of four new Bahá'í Publishing Trusts, and a vast increase in the financial resources of the Faith.

The healthy development of the Cause requires that this great expansion be accompanied by the dedicated effort of every believer in teaching, in living the Bahá'í life, in contributing to the Fund, and particularly in the persistent effort to understand more and more the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation. In the words of our beloved Guardian, "One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh."

Expansion and universal participation are the twin objectives of this initial phase of the second epoch of the Divine Plan, and all the goals assigned to the sixty-nine National Communities are contributory to them. The process of co-operation between National Spiritual Assemblies, already initiated by the beloved Guardian, will, during the course of this Plan, apply to over two hundred specific projects and will further strengthen this process which may well assume great importance in future stages of the Formative Age.

Once more, dear friends, we enter the battle but with an incomparably greater array than that which embarked upon the World Crusade in 1953. To that small force of twelve national communities, now veteran campaigners, have been added fifty-seven new legions, each under the

generalship of a National Spiritual Assembly, each destined to become a veteran of this and future campaigns. That Crusade began with slightly more than six hundred Local Spiritual Assemblies, the greater part of which were situated in Persia, North America and Europe; the home fronts now comprise nearly four thousand six hundred Local Spiritual Assemblies scattered throughout the continents and islands of the world. We begin this Plan with a tremendous momentum, exemplified by the addition, since last Rídván, of over four thousand new centres and thirteen National Spiritual Assemblies, and by the beginning, in several countries, of that entry by troops into the Cause of God prophesied by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and so eagerly anticipated by Him.

The Standard Bearers of this Nine Year Plan are those same divinely appointed, tried and victorious souls who bore the standard of the World Crusade, the Hands of the Cause of God, whose advice and consultation have been invaluable in the working out of this Nine Year Plan. Supported by their "deputies, assistants and advisers," the members of the Auxiliary Boards, they will inspire and protect the army of God, lead through every breach to the limit of available resources and sustain those communities struggling over intractable or stony ground, so that by 1973 the celebrations befitting the centenary of the Revelation of the Most Holy Book may be undertaken by a victorious, firmly established, organically united world community, dedicated to the service of God and the final triumph of His Cause.

Therefore let each of the sixty-nine communities seize its tasks, at once consider how best to accomplish them within the allotted span, raise its band of pioneers, consecrate itself to unremitting labour and set out on its mission. Now is the golden opportunity. For whatever convulsions the waywardness of a godless and materialistic age may yet precipitate in the world, however grievous may be the effects of the rolling up of the present order on the plans and efforts of the Community of the Most Great Name, we must seize the opportunities of the hour and go forward confident that all things are within His mighty grasp and that, if we but play our part, total and unconditional victory will inevitably be ours.

*(Signed and Sealed)*

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.



# THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE  
HAIFA, ISRAEL

TO THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

April 1964.

Dearly loved Friends,

The Bahá'í Community of the British Isles occupies a unique position in the world-wide Community of the Most Great Name alike by virtue of the constant association of its country with the Cause of God and the "historic mission" with which it was invested by the Guardian of the Faith as a result of its own outstanding achievements.

The first, and possibly only, Westerner to write a description of the Báb was the English doctor who attended Him shortly prior to His martyrdom. Bahá'u'lláh's remarkable commendation of that form of government practised by the British people and His distinctive Tablet to Queen Victoria are among His most significant utterances on the future ordering of human society. 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself called this community into being, planting its roots and infusing into it "through the impact of His personality" during the course of two visits when He travelled from its capital city as far north as Edinburgh and as far west as Bristol, "a measure of His own mysterious power"; Shoghi Effendi, "the blest and sacred bough that hath branched out from the Twin Holy Trees," was called from Balliol College, Oxford, to enter upon his Guardianship of the Cause of God. His resting place, in the homeland of this community which he so dearly loved, confers yet another inestimable honour and bounty upon it. He it was, the Guardian of the Cause of God, who nourished the tender plant sown by the Master, who called forth its "sterling qualities of fidelity, tenacity and intrepidity," gave it tasks to develop its strength and capacities, causing it to put forth the first signs of that mysterious power with which it had been invested, and disclosed to it glimpses of a glorious destiny, "a vista of vast dimensions, of majestic beauty, of infinite promise."

The British Bahá'í Community now enters a new phase in the unfoldment of its "glorious mission." This mission has two closely linked, interdependent aspects, "the vital mission at home, in their boroughs and counties" whose ultimate aim is the awakening of the masses of their countrymen to the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh and their enrolment under the banner of His Cause, which "must be regarded as the base" for its "historic overseas mission." Your homefront goals are to

Open the Inner Hebrides Islands, the Isle of Wight and Guernsey, and re-settle and establish a group in the Isle of Man ;

Raise the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside to five hundred, including one in each of the above named territories and one in every county of Northern Ireland and Wales ;

Raise the number of Local Spiritual Assemblies to one hundred including one in every county of England, one each in the Isle of Wight, the Orkney Islands, the Outer Hebrides Islands, the Channel Islands, and the Shetland Islands, ten in Scotland, six in Northern Ireland, six in Wales and four in Eire ;

Incorporate thirty-four Local Spiritual Assemblies ;

Obtain from the civil authorities recognition of the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate in the United Kingdom ;

Develop the Bahá'í Publishing Trust ;

Enrich Bahá'í literature in Erse, Gaelic and Welsh ;

Establish the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Eire with its seat in Dublin ;

Incorporate the National Spiritual Assembly of Eire ;

Acquire a National Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds in Dublin ;

Acquire a National Endowment in Eire ;

Acquire a Temple Site in or near Dublin.

Your overseas mission was described by Shoghi Effendi in a letter to your Community dated 12th June 1952 :

" . . . diffusing the Message of Bahá'u'lláh and implanting its banner through successive stages, and in collaboration with its sister communities not only in the territories of the British Commonwealth in the African Continent, but throughout the Dependencies of a widely-scattered Empire in the remaining continents of the globe." This, however, is not the limit of your overseas mission for in a letter dated 25th June 1953, the beloved Guardian wrote : "The development of the institutions of the Faith on the home front must be supplemented by, and afford a constant stimulus to, the rise of similar institutions, first in the limited number of territories and islands assigned to the elected representatives of this community, and eventually throughout the colonies and protectorates comprising the British Empire." Beyond the confines of the British Isles, the Plan requires your Community to

Open the Line Islands and the Phoenix Islands in Australasia ;

Establish at least two vigorously functioning Local Spiritual Assemblies in Cyprus, one Local Spiritual Assembly in the Faroe Islands assisted by the National



Spiritual Assemblies of Denmark and Norway, and one Local Spiritual Assembly in Malta ;

Establish on the north-eastern coast of South America the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Guianas and Surinam, with its seat in Georgetown, British Guiana, assisted by the National Spiritual Assembly of Brazil ;

Raise the number of localities in British Guiana where Bahá'ís reside to thirty-five ;

Raise the number of Local Spiritual Assemblies in British Guiana to four ;

Incorporate that National Spiritual Assembly ;

Acquire a National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in Georgetown ;

Acquire a National Endowment in British Guiana ;

Acquire a Temple Site in or near Georgetown ;

Obtain from the civil authorities in British Guiana recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days and the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate.

In the field of international co-operation, so vital to the world-wide development of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, the British Bahá'í Community is called upon to assist

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Indian Ocean in opening Rodriguez Island ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of West Africa in consolidating Sierra Leone ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of West Central Africa in consolidating Dahomey, and acquiring a National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in Victoria, Cameroon Republic ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of South and West Africa in consolidating South West Africa ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of South Central

Africa in acquiring a National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in Blantyre/Limbe, Malawi (Nyasaland) ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of Guatemala in establishing the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Belize ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of North-East Asia in consolidating Hong Kong ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand in opening Tokelau Islands ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of the South Pacific Ocean in consolidating Fiji, and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of France in consolidating Corsica ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany in opening the Cyclades Islands, and in consolidating Crete ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of Italy in consolidating Rhodes and Sardinia ;

The National Spiritual Assembly of Spain in consolidating the Balearic Islands.

The great emphasis which Shoghi Effendi laid upon your work in the islands of the North Sea, the Mediterranean and the Pacific, and particularly the beneficial results which he said would flow from an outpouring of pioneers and treasure in the "islands bordering the homeland," should lead you to concentrate on these vital points when planning the overall strategy of your onward march.

We wish you success with all our hearts.

*(Signed and Sealed)*

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.