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## BAHA'I MOVEMENT

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHAI'S OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. Office of the Secretary : Green Acre, South Eliot, Maine.

## THE BAHAI CAUSE

(Contributed)

"The soul-oe of all learning i S' the lcnowleclge of Goa, exalted be His glory  
I and tIuis

cannot be attainea save through the lcnowle,age of His divine Manifestation."

-B.A.HA'U' LLAH.

"The gift of Goa to tIuis enUghtenea age is t he lc?wwleclge of the oneness of  
mant-

kind OAtcl tIU:J f111ncIMnental oneness of religion. War shall ce.ase between  
nations, ana

by the win of Goa the JJfost Great Peace shall come; the woTld will be see?t as  
a n ew

wo1·la, ana all men wil~ live as bToheTs."

- ABDU'L BAHAI.

Since May 23, 1844, the Baha'i Cause has been steadfastly presented to the  
world

as the expression for .this age of the same universal Spirit that in other ages  
spoke

thr·o ugh the Zoroaster, the Moses, the Jesus, and the Mohamet; one divine  
utterance

giving forth one a nd the same message, albeit adapted to the conditions and  
human

capacities of each time. In Baha'u'llah, according to the faith of the Baha'is,  
the

Message has been given mankind in its fullness and universality, and the Baha'i  
Gause

accordingly represents the fulfilment of that which was but partially revealed  
in previ-

ous religions.

A significant part of the teachings of Baha'u'llah consists of an  
interpretation of

the Bibles of the past, proving that they are several expressions of one  
fundamental

Truth and hence to be regarded with equal reverence by all races and peoples.

Another part of the Baha'i Message is devoted to an expositio-n of the fact  
that it is

only through spiritual ignorance that mankind divides truth into separate,  
unrelated

and frequently hostile sections: religion, science, ethics, politics, economics

and art;  
and that in this new age these false and arbitrary divisions shall be  
destroyed, since  
from them derive the fatal divisions of society into nations, creeds, classes  
and the  
many diverse interests rending the modern world. Still another, most  
significant

86 HARTMANN 'S 1  
WHO'S WHO

portion of the teaching concerns itself with revealing the new, universal  
possibilities  
of the present age~an a ge wh ose essence is the fact that now all the ideals  
and  
visions of the past can be translated into realities for the expansion and  
enrichment  
of all lives according to the capacity of the individual soul.  
In the limited space of this brief outline, the Baha'i teachings can not be  
men-  
tioned in further detail. The inquirer wiil find thos e teachings fully  
expounded in the  
works of Baha'u'lla h, th e founder of the Baha'i Cause, and of Abdu'l Baha,  
whom  
Baha'u'llah appointed as the center of his covenant •and the interpreter of  
his books.  
Of importance second only to the teachings themselves, however, is the history  
of  
the manner in which the world r eceived the Message of Bah a'u'llah . His  
forerunner  
and h erald, now known as the "Bab," meaning Door or Gate of Truth, was  
executed  
by order of the Persian Government under the instigation of the clergy, in the  
public  
square of Tabri'Z, Qn July 9, 1850. Practically all who· accepted the new  
message  
suffered martyrdom during rthe next few years. Twenty thousand deaths have been  
r ecorded among the followers Qf the Bab and Baha'u'llah at the hands of the  
fanatic  
mob, isolated cases of religious murder occuring in Persia even up to the year  
1924.  
But persecution has resulted in the more rapid and determined spread of the  
Cause.  
From. the first, therefore, the Baha'i teachings have been identified with an  
extremity  
of persecution proving beyond all doubt the essentially spiritual character of  
this  
movement and distinguishing it from other modern movements content with a

mental

acceptance involving no sacrifice or loss.

Baha'u'llah himself, together with his eldest son Abdu'l Baha, then a child of eight, the other members of his family and some three score followers, was exiled

from Teheran to Bagdad, from Bagdad to Constantinople, from Constantinople to Adrianople, and from thence finally to Acca, in Palestine, where they remained under

the surveillance of the Turkish Government until freed by the victory of the Young

Turks party in 1907. Those years were occupied with training his followers, directing

the affairs of the movement, and the writing of his books, until his death in 1892.

From 1892 to 1921, Abdu'l Baha guided the movement and caused its spread to India and other part of the East, to Europe and to North America. The Baha'i Cause

today, under the guardianship of Shoghi Effendi, the grandson of Abdu'l Baha, is a

spiritual fellowship embracing men and women of all races and religions, organized

in a true world-wide unity that might well be taken as a model, both as to spirit and

form, by other organizations in the inter-national field.

HORACE HOLLEY, Secretary,

National Baha'i Assembly of North America.

#### SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Chairman, Mountford Mills

Secretary, Horace Holley

Treasurer, Florence Morton

Asst. Treas., Alfred E. Lunt

Elizabeth Greenleaf

May Maxwell

Agnes S.

Parsons

Siegfried Schopfiocher

Roy C. Wilhelm

The Baha'i religion is a call to religious unity. 4. Religion must be the cause of unity.

unity and not an invitation to a new religion. 5. Religion must be in accord with

reason, not a new path to immortality, science and

God forbid! It is the ancient path cleared 6. Equality between men and women.

of the debris of imaginations and superstitions. 7. Prejudice of all kinds must be forgotten.

missions of men, of the debris of strife and 8. Universal peace.

clear path to the since seeker, that he 9. Universal

Educa tion.

m a y e n t e r t h e r e i n i n a s s u r a n c e , a n d f i n d  
e c o n o m i c p r o b l e m .

t h a t t h e w o r d o f G o d i s o n e w o r d , t h o u g h  
n g u a g e .

t h e s p e a k e r s w e r e m a n y .  
t r i b u n a l .

-Words of 'Abdu'l-B a h l l .

#### BASIC BAHAI PRINCIPLES

'A b d O . l B a h f t .

1. T h e o n e n e s s o f m a n k i n d .  
e r e l a i d d o w n b y

2. I n d e p e n d e n t i n v e s t i g a t i o n o f t r u t h .  
1863 a n d a r e t o b e f o u n d i n

3. T h e f o u n d a t i o n o f a l l r e l i g i o n s i s o n e .  
w r i t i n g s o f t h a t t i m e .

F o r i n f o r m a t i o n o f L o c a l B a h a i ' s A s s e m b l i e s , a d d r e s s , T h e N a t i o n a l S p i r i t u a l  
A s s e m -

b l y , a t G r e e n A c r e , S o u t h E l i o t , M a i n e .

10. S o l u t i o n o f t h e

11. A u n i v e r s a l l a

12. A n i n t e r n a t i o n a l

C o m p i l e d f r o m t h e w o r d s o f

T h e s e p r i n c i p l e s w

B a h l l ' u ' l l a h i n

h i s p u b l i s h e d