



the orthodoxies of Qajar Shi'ism. Of Mirza Bozorg's thirteen children by four wives and three concubines, at least one adopted Shaikhism and at least six others Babism.

The new first minister, Aqasi, offered Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli his patronage, despite his being the son of an enemy, but the young Nuri proved uninterested, and the two later fell out when Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli refused to sell some land and villages to the rapacious Aqasi. (Mohammad "Nabil-e Aʿzam" Zarandi, *Mataleʿ al-anwar*, MS. International Bahá'í Archives, Haifa; partial Eng. tr. Shoghi [Šawqi] Effendi Rabbani, *The Dawn-Breakers*, New York, 1932; repr. Wilmette, 1974, pp. 120-22.) Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli was in contact with Shaikhis from Nur and from Tehran, a natural development given the popularity of esoteric Shaikhism with Qajar-era notables and his own speculative bent. When Molla Hosayn Bošruʿi came to Tehran in 1844 to spread the new beliefs of Babism, centered on Sayyed ʿAli-Mohammad Širazi the Bab, he met with local Shaikhis. One of them, Molla Mohammad Moʿallem Nuri, became a Babi and consented to contact Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli for Bošruʿi. Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli in this manner accepted the Bab's claims to religious authority as the gate of the Twelfth Imam. Soon thereafter, late in 1844 or in 1845, Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli returned to his village of Takor, where he endeavored to spread Babism in Nur and in Mazandaran. His prestige as a local notable gave him many openings, and this missionary journey met with some success, even among some members of the religious class. Through him, as well, his brothers Mirza Yahya (whom Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli raised, aged 14 in 1844) and Mirza Musa became Babis (*Ketab-e noqtat al-kaf*, ed. E. G. Browne, E. J. W. Gibb Memorial Series 15, 1910, pp. 239-40; Zarandi, *Mataleʿ*, tr. pp. 102-20; ʿAbd-al-Bahaʿ, *Maqala-ye šaks-i sayyah*, E. G. Browne, ed. and tr. as *A Traveller's Narrative*, Cambridge, 1891, pp. 72-78, tr. pp. 56-62).

Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli used his position and his contacts in Tehran, not only to spread Babism, but to protect his coreligionists. He did so at some risk, however, since the aid he gave the poet Qorrat-al-ʿAyn and other Babis after they were accused in the slaying (actually by a Shaikhi) of Molla Taqi Baragani caused him to suffer temporary imprisonment in Tehran. In 1847 the government exiled the Bab to imprisonment in Azerbaijan. In the summer of 1848 eighty-one prominent Babis gathered for twenty-two days in Khorasan in the village of Badašt. Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli and his young brother Mirza Yahya both attended. Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli played a low-key role, renting gardens for Qorrat-al-ʿAyn and others, and suggesting theophanic names for some of the Babis, whom the Bab had encouraged to glorify God by adopting divine names. From this point Mirza Hosayn-ʿAli adopted the name Bahaʿ (the glory, [of God]). Mirza Yahya became Sobh-e Azal (The morn of eternity). In the conflict at the conference between those who wanted to retain the Islamic law (Šariʿa) and those who knew of the Bab's recent announcement that he was the messianic Mahdi or Qaʿem, empowered to begin another dispensation, Bahaʿ-Allah took the side of the pro-change group, who won out (*Noqtat al-kaf*, pp. 145-54, 240-41; for Bahaʿ-Allah's role see

Zarandi, Matala?, tr. pp. 278-300, 459-61, 584-85).

Violence broke out between the Babis and the Qajar government in the second half of 1848, and Baha?-Allah and several companions, including his half-brother Yahya (then aged 17 or 18), set out from Nur to help the besieged Babis at Šayk Tabarsi near Babol, Mazandaran, in early December, 1848, but they were arrested and imprisoned in Amol (Noqtat al-kaf, pp. 242-43; Zarandi, Matala?, tr. pp. 368-77, 461-62, 583-84; Mirza Hosayn Hamadani, Tarik-ejadid, ms., Cambridge University Library, Browne Or. F. 55/9, tr. E. G. Browne, The New History of Mirza ?Ali Muhammed, the Bab, Cambridge, 1893; repr. Amsterdam, 1975, pp. 64-65). The following three years witnessed a series of disasters for the Babis, whom government troops besieged and then massacred in Mazandaran, Nayriz, and Zanjan. On 9 July 1850 the government had the Bab executed, but only after he had declared himself an independent manifestation of God (mazhar-e elahi) and had written a book of laws, the Bayan-e farsi for the new religion he founded.

The Bab had been in correspondence with the Nuri brothers from his prison, and after the death of many prominent disciples in 1848-50, they emerged as the most likely leaders. Baha?-Allah, then aged thirty-three and a well-known notable, might have been expected to become the leading Babi. But surprisingly, the Bab appears to have indicated for Mirza Yahya Sobh-e Azal (then around nineteen) a high station or leadership position, at least nominally, in Babism. The young Azal, however, seems to have possessed little widespread authority or legitimacy, and the 1850s saw the Babi community splinter into a number a regional sects headed by various claimants to theophanic status. The Bab's works emphasized that another messianic figure, "He whom God shall make manifest (man yozheroh Allah)" would appear. More important, the disheartened Babis seem to have been looking for charismatic leaders to replace the Bab. Azal at first refused to denounce these rivals outright, rather incorporating them into a "theophanic field" with himself at the apex. Later in the 1850s Azal became more intolerant of rivals. Baha?-Allah, on the other hand, attempted to deflate Babi "manifestations" (zohurat) even in early 1851, asserting his own high station. He snubbed the Babi disciple Sayyed Basir-e Hendi of Multan when he came to visit Nur, because the Indian made grandiose claims. Finally, Baha?-Allah "took pity on him and manifested upon that temple of servitude, [Sayyed Basir] the effulgences of divinity, [tajalliyat-e robubiyat] from that glory of paradise (Baha? al-rezwan, [i.e., Baha?-Allah])." (Noqtat al-kaf, p. 258; see also pp. 238-61 ).

In June, 1851, Baha?-Allah left Tehran for Karbala? in Iraq at the suggestion of First Minister Amir Nezam Taqi Khan (later Amir[-e] Kabir), who attempted to co-opt him by offering him a government post whenever he should return. Baha?-Allah refused the post, but took the hint that he should leave Iran for a while. Baha?-Allah found Babis in Karbala? following a Sayyed ?Oloww, who claimed to be a divine incarnation until

Baha'-Allah's greater prestige caused him to renounce his pretensions. While in Karbala' in 1851, according to his companion Shaikh Hasan Zonuzi, Baha'-Allah said he was himself the return of Imam Hosayn (whom many expected to appear after the Mahdi, whom Babis identified with the Bab), though he kept this "messianic secret" from most of his associates. In public, Baha'-Allah supported Azal, in the interests of unity, and worked to spread Babism in Karbala' (Zarandi, *Matale'*, tr. pp. 32, 587, 593-94).

The fall of Amir Kabir and the rise of Mirza Aqa Khan Nuri E'temad-al-Dawla as first minister under Naser-al-Din Shah had the potential for changing Baha'-Allah's political fortunes. The first minister wanted a rapprochement with Baha'-Allah, a relative from his region of the country, and with the Babis. He wrote Baha'-Allah asking him to return to Tehran, and the latter complied. The first minister's brother lavished hospitality on Baha'-Allah in Tehran for a month, after which the Babi notable retired to a summer house in Šemran. On the way, he met briefly with Shaikh 'Ali 'Azim, learning that 'Azim and other radical Babi leaders in the capital had planned the assassination of the shah in retaliation for the execution of the Bab. Baha'-Allah condemned the plan. On August 15, 1852, Babis did attempt to assassinate the shah, but failed (Zarandi, *Matale'*, tr. pp. 595-602; Hasan Fasa'i, *Fars-nama-ye naseri*, tr. H. Busse, *History of Persia under Qajar Rule*, New York, 1972, pp. 302-04; Sheil to Malmsbury, correspondence August 1852, FO 60/171 in M. Momen, *The Babi and Baha'i Religions, 1844-1944: Some Contemporary Western Accounts*, Oxford, 1981, pp. 128-46).

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Though he knew suspicion would fall on him, Baha'-Allah declined to go into hiding. He went to Zarganda, staying with his brother-in-law, Mirza Majid, who acted as secretary to the Russian ambassador. His presence was reported to the shah by Haji 'Ali Khan Hajeb-al-Dawla. Naser-al-Din Shah demanded that the Russian legation hand Baha'-Allah over, but the ambassador insisted on delivering him to Mirza Aqa Khan Nuri, who sympathized with Baha'-Allah. Mirza Aqa Khan, however, proved unable to protect Baha'-Allah when anti-Babi riots broke out in Tehran, and Baha'-Allah was arrested and made to walk in chains to the Siah Cal (black pit) dungeon. At length he was found innocent. His stay in the crowded, filthy dungeon, where he watched several Babi friends being executed, proved important for Baha'-Allah's spiritual development. He later wrote that he at that point decided to "undertake, with the utmost vigor, the task of regenerating" the Babi community (Baha'-Allah, *Lawh-e Šayk*, pp. 14-16; tr. Shoghi Effendi, pp. 20-22). He had several mystical experiences and dreams of a visionary nature while in prison. Despite having found him innocent, the government exiled Baha'-Allah, who chose to return to Iraq in the Ottoman empire, arriving in Baghdad on 12 January 1853. In Iran, the aftermath of the attempt on the shah's life saw widespread massacres of suspected Babis, and

pillaging of the Nuris' property in Takor (Zarandi, Matale?, tr. pp. 602-50; Mohammad-Hasan Khan E?temad-al-Saltana [Ruz-nama-yekaterat, ed. I. Afšar, Tehran, 1350 Š./1971, p. 957] asserts that Mirza Aqa Khan Nuri, who remained in power until 1858, offered his resignation over the issue of Baha?-Allah's imprisonment).

A small number of other Babis chose to follow Baha?-Allah into exile in Iraq, including his half-brother Mirza Yahya Sobh-e Azal, who arrived a few months later. Azal tended to distance himself from the community, spending his time in disguise and dealing with affairs through proxies, including Baha?-Allah, who publicly deferred to his brother. In Baghdad during 1853 differences arose between Baha?-Allah, and Azal and his close disciples. A close companion, Dahaji, wrote that Baha?-Allah disagreed with Azal's policy of remaining incognito, and left Baghdad in order to distance himself from Azal. He retired for two years (1854-56) to Kurdistan, living the life of a Sufi dervish. Azal's continued attempts to assassinate the shah, of which Baha?-Allah disapproved, may have been another source of contention. Prominent Babis in Baghdad, feeling a need for Baha?-Allah's stabilizing influence, pleaded with him to return from Solaymaniya, which he did in 1856 (Mirza Mehdi Dahaji, "Resala," ms., Cambridge University Library, Browne Or. F. 57, p. 48; Mirza Javad Qazvini, "Resala," ms., Cambridge University Library, Browne Or. F. 26, tr. E. G. Browne in *Materials for the Study of the Babi Religion*, Cambridge, 1918, pp. 7-9; Baha?-Allah wrote an important mystical poem while staying with the Kaledi Naqšbandis in Solaymaniya, that mentions his "mission" [be?tati], "al-Qasida al-warqa?iya," *Atar III*, pp. 196-215).

From 1856 to 1863 Baha?-Allah lived in Baghdad, building up an increasingly loyal following in Iran through his elegant mystical aphorisms and crisp doctrinal treatises in Persian or Arabic such as the *Kalamat-e maknuna* (Hidden words), *Haft wadi* (Seven valleys), and *Ketab-e iqan* (Book of certitude). He took very seriously a widely believed Muslim prophecy that the Mahdi or Jesus Christ would appear in 1280/1863-64, and put off making any public announcement until then, though evidence abounds that he kept a "messianic secret" for years before (for the wave of millenarianism that swept the Muslims of Arabia and India in the years just before 1280, see O. Pearson, *Islamic Reform and Revival in Nineteenth Century India: the Tariqah-i Muhammadiyyah*, Ph.D. dissertation, Duke University, 1979, pp. 211-12). Baha?-Allah replaced the disastrous militancy of the Babis to which leaders like Azal were still committed with an emphasis on internal personal transformation similar to Sufi ethics and mysticism.

In the 1860s, Baha?-Allah's gatherings attracted many local notables and Iranian pilgrims, lending him greater influence in Iran as well as in Baghdad. Despite his emphasis on communal harmony, however, sporadic communal violence broke out between Shi?ites and Babis, and among factions of Babis, especially among unruly tradesmen and religious students, and Ottoman and Persian officials often laid this violence at his door. Baha?-Allah's influence

worried his enemies in the Iranian government and among the Shi'ite clerics, and he narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of a man hired by the Iranian consul in Baghdad, Mirza Bozorg Khan. Molla 'Abd-al-Hosayn Tehrani, Naser-al-Din Shah's religious envoy to the shrine cities, cooperated with the consul, and began a major Shi'ite drive against Baha'-Allah and the fifty or so Babis in Iraq that lost steam when Shaikh Mortaza Ansari, the leading marja'-e taqlid, refused to join in on the grounds that he knew nothing about the Babis (Baha'-Allah, *Ketab-e igan*, pp. 210-12; tr. Shoghi Effendi, pp. 249-53; 'Abd-al-Baha', *Maqala*, pp. 107-18, tr. pp. 82-88; Dahaji, "Resala," pp. 81-82; Ostad Mohammad-'Ali Salmani, *Katerat*, ms., International Bahá'í Archives, Haifa; Eng. tr. M. Gail, *My Memories of Baha'ullah*, Los Angeles, 1982, pp. 15-20; Mirza Abu'l-Fazl Golpayegani, "Resala be Aleksandr Tumanskii," R. Mehrabkani, ed., *Rasa'el wa raqa'em*, Tehran, 1978, pp. 65-76; tr. J. Cole, *Letters and Essays 1886-1913*, Los Angeles, 1985; "Two State Papers of 1862," in Browne, *Materials*, pp. 270-81).

Alarmed at the revival of Babi activity under Baha'-Allah's de facto leadership, and at the easy access to Iranians enjoyed by the Babi leaders situated so near the Shi'ite shrine cities, Mirza Hosayn Khan Mošir-al-Dawla, the Iranian consul in Istanbul who at that point considered the Babis subversive, pressured the Ottomans to exile Baha'-Allah farther from Iran. The Ottomans complied, calling Baha'-Allah to Istanbul in the spring of 1863. Before he left Baghdad, Baha'-Allah camped for twelve days at the Garden of Necip Pasa, where a large number of friends came to bid him farewell. During these days, to intimates, "he would speak of the Bab's Cause and declare his own" (Salmani, *Katerat*, tr. p. 22; see also Dahaji, "Resala," pp. 65-70, 153-54; Qazvini, "Resala," p. 16). In late April, 1863, Baha'-Allah declared himself, to a handful of close followers, the promised one foretold by the Bab. Perhaps because the year 1280 had not yet begun, he delayed any written declaration for almost a year.

After a four-month journey overland, Baha'-Allah and his entourage arrived in Istanbul. He had chosen twenty Babis to accompany him, in addition to his own family and muleteers; these were often men he thought might make trouble if left to themselves. Azal voluntarily accompanied his older brother, traveling incognito. Baha'-Allah met with a few Ottoman officials who came to visit him, but refused to seek audiences with the sultan or first minister. In Istanbul in 1863 he first gave evidence of thinking about the global social reforms that he advocated in later years. He told former First Minister Kemal Pasha that the Ottomans, and the world, should adopt a universal auxiliary language to be taught alongside local languages in every nation, so that "the whole earth would come to be regarded as one country" (Baha'-Allah, *Lawh-e šayk*, p. 90, tr. p. 38.) Because he refused to build alliances with Ottoman politicians, Baha'-Allah had no means of resisting Mošir-al-Dawla's pressure on the sultan to exile him still farther away. Sultan 'Abdülaziz ('Abd-al-'Aziz) commanded that Baha'-Allah be banished to Edirne in Rumelia, a common site for the exile of political

prisoners. Baha?-Allah at first refused to leave Istanbul, and wanted to make a stand against the Ottomans, seeking either to overturn the sultan's edict or to attain martyrdom when troops came to arrest the Babis. But such a plan required unanimity, and when Azal declined to go along it fell through (Salmani, Katerat, tr. p. 39-41, Qazvini, "Resala," tr. pp. 18-19). Baha?-Allah and his entourage, as well as Azal and his, lived in Edirne from 12 December 1863 to 12 August 1868. They received an Ottoman stipend for their support. In the winter and spring of 1864/1280, Baha?-Allah gradually began announcing himself to friends in Iran. In the "Surat Damm" (Sura of blood), written twenty years after the Bab's declaration (1260/1844) for Molla Mohammad "Nabil" Zarandi, then in Iran, Baha?-Allah said he was the return (raj?a) of the Bab, that is, "He whom God would make manifest" (Atar IV, pp. 1-15). Close disciples of Baha?-Allah in Iran like Mirza Haydar-?Ali Esfahani received such letters and began increasingly passing them on to other Babis. For his followers, Baha?-Allah's assertion that he was an independent manifestation of God able to found a new dispensation made Azal's position as head of the old Babi religion irrelevant. Baha?-Allah and his supporters in any case held that the Bab's appointment of Azal had been a ruse to draw the fire of Iranian officials from Baha?-Allah. In spring of 1866 Baha?-Allah moved to a separate house from that of Azal, saying that Azal had attempted to have him killed, and, meeting with failure, had then imputed similar plots to his older brother. Baha?-Allah began more openly proclaiming his status as an independent prophet, writing suras he said were divine revelation (wahy). In September, 1867, he decisively broke with Yahya, addressing to him a letter in which he set forth his station and demanded his brother's obedience. Yahya refused, challenging Baha?-Allah to a test of the divine will (mohabeha) at the mosque of Sultan Selim, but Azal lost face when he changed his mind and did not appear (Baha?-Allah, "Lawh-e Nasir," in Majmu?a-ye matbu?a, pp. 166-202; see Baha?-Allah's many Edirne-period works in Atar, vol. 4; Dahaji, "Resala" pp. 35-38, 283-85; Salmani, Katerat, tr. pp. 42-48, 93-105; Qazvini, "Resala," tr. pp. 19-27).

From 1866 Baha?-Allah began addressing a series of letters to world leaders, announcing his advent as the promised one of all religions. His first was a long general letter of moral exhortations, the Surat al-muluk (Sura of the kings, 1866). Specific individuals therein addressed were Sultan ?Abd-al-?Aziz and the Iranian ambassador, Mošir-al-Dawla. In 1868 he wrote a long letter (Lawh-e soltan) to Naser-al-Din Shah, saying Babis under his leadership were not militant, and requesting an end to their persecution in Iran. The shah had Baha?-Allah's emissary bearing this letter tortured and killed. Baha?-Allah also wrote Napoleon III, elliptically proclaiming himself the return of Christ (Baha?-Allah, Alwah-e nazela ketab be moluk, pp. 3-70, 91-117, 143-201; for Western diplomatic correspondence on Baha?-Allah in the Edirne period, see Momen, *The Babi and Baha'i Religions*, pp. 185-200).

In 1868 the Ottoman government exiled the Babis once more. Baha?-Allah and his followers, along with a few Azalis, were sent to the prison city of ?Akka on the coast of Palestine, while Azal, his companions, and a few Bahais were sent to Famagusta, Cyprus. Baha?-Allah was imprisoned in the citadel for over two years, where some of his followers died from the unsanitary conditions. There he continued his proclamation to world leaders, including Queen Victoria, Tsar Aleksandr II, and Pope Pius IX. From 1870 to 1877 Baha?-Allah was kept under house arrest in the old city of ?Akka. In the late 1860s and early 1870s most Babis in Iran went over to Baha?-Allah, becoming Bahais. These believers in a new revelation asked for a new code of religious and ritual law. Around 1873 Baha?-Allah in ?Akka set down a new book of law and ritual, the *Ketab-e aqdas*, which he said derived from divine revelation, meant to replace both the Koran and the Bayan (Aleksandr Tumanskii, *Kitabe akdes, Mémoires de l'Académie impériale des sciences de St. Petersbourg*, 8th ser., vol. 3, no. 6, 1899; Dahaji, "Resala," pp. 154-56; Qazvini, "Resala," tr. pp. 27-52).

His improving relations with local officials were only disturbed once, when some of the rougher of his followers in ?Akka, unbeknownst to Baha?-Allah, plotted and carried out the murder of several Azalis who had been spying on the Bahais for the Ottomans and stirring up local inhabitants against them. Baha?-Allah denounced the murderers in no uncertain terms, but the incident revived restrictions on his movements. In 1877, however, the Pasha gave him permission to live in a mansion outside ?Akka, at Mazra?a till 1879, then at Bahji until his death in 1892. His advocacy of social reforms in the 1870s won him new respect from old foes like Mošir-al-Dawla. Baha?-Allah gradually convinced many Qajar notables that he represented no political threat (E?temad-al-Saltana wrote in 1892 in his *Ruz-nama-ye katerat*, 1st ed., p. 957: "Mirza Hosayn-?Ali, an old man, was no assassin"). In the ?Akka period his financial support probably came from believers' contributions as well as from the Ottoman stipend. Baha?-Allah married three times, once in Iran (Asia "Nawwab" Kanom), once in Baghdad, a cousin (Mahd-e ?Olya) whose family had been martyred, and once in ?Akka (Gowhar Kanom). In accordance with Babi law, he had only two wives at any one time (Bahai law later required monogamy). He had fourteen children, four of them girls; five sons predeceased him (Qazvini, "Resala," tr. Browne, pp. 45-65; Dahaji, "Resala," pp. 285-91; Western primary accounts of ?Akka period in Momen, *Babi and Baha?i Religions*, pp. 201-40). Before his death Baha?-Allah appointed his eldest son, ?Abd-al-Baha? ?Abbas Effendi to head the Bahai faith after him ("*Ketab ?Ahdi*," in *Majmu?a-i az alwah*, pp. 134-38).

Religious doctrines. Baha?-Allah taught a theological *via negativa*, writing that God's essence is unknowable, and he is simply the absolute truth (al-haqq, al-?ama?). Following the theology of Mu?tazilism and Shaikhism, Baha?-Allah teaches that God's essential attributes (*sefat al-dat*) are identical to his essence ("*Lawh madinat al-tawhid*," *Ma?eda-ye asmani IV*, p. 321). According to Baha?-Allah, both God and the universal

matter have always existed temporally, though God is essentially prior to matter, which is essentially originated (mahdat dati: Baha?-Allah, “Lawh al-hekma,” Majmu?a-ye matbu?a, p. 4b; this is Avicennian). He rejected the Sufi doctrine of existential monism or wahdat al-wojud, and denied that God becomes incarnate (holul) in the world, or manifests (zohur) his essence corporeally (Baha?-Allah, Haft wadi, Atar-e qalam-e a?la 3:114-15; Kitab-e iqan, p. 79; “Lawh-e Salman,” Majmu?a-ye matbu?a, pp. 140-42).

The transcendent essence of God and the originated material world are bridged in Baha?-Allah’s thought by the Word of God (kalamat Allah, kalam Allah; also called kitab Allah and amr or divine command), a temporally preexistent principle whereby God created composite creatures. The Word of God manifests (zahara) itself in human form, in the shape of prophets and messengers (“Lawh al-zohur,” ms. AB 201, Baha?i World Centre, Haifa; “Lawh al-hekma,” pp. 41-42; “Lawh Ašraf,” Majmu?a-ye matbu?a, p. 212; “Surat al-ra?is,” Majmu?a-ye mobaraka, p. 87). Baha?-Allah distinguished between prophets (sing. nabi [y]) who simply came with a mission to their people and “prophets endowed with constancy” (anbia? olu’l-azm), who revealed new religious legislation abrogating that of the previous dispensation. He wrote of the Zoroastrian, Mosaic, Christian, Islamic, and Babi dispensations, recognizing all of them as divinely-ordained religions progressively leading up to his own (he did not exclude other world religions, and his son ?Abd-al-Baha? later incorporated Buddha and Krishna into the schema). He taught the sinlessness (al-?esma al-kobra) of the legislating prophets, though he wrote that their human souls could progress and be purified. The purpose of the advent of prophets is to transmit God’s grace and educate souls for their own spiritual advance in this world and in the afterlife (Baha?-Allah, “Ešraqat,” in Cand lawh, pp. 54-59; “al-Qasida al-warqa?iya,” Atar 3: 198; Kitab-e aqdas, Bombay, n.d., p. 51; Kitab-e iqan, pp. 82-83).

Baha?-Allah’s doctrine of prophets is theophanic. He held that prophets manifest the active attributes (zohur-e asma? wa sefat) of God into the material world, though he denied that God’s essence (dat) itself could ever be manifested, differing in this regard from Druze and other Shi?ite esotericists. In neo-Platonic fashion, he sometimes refers to the totality of God’s active attributes as the “self” (nafs) of God. Only through the prophets and messengers of God, he wrote, could human beings attain a knowledge of God’s attributes, which his envoys mirror forth. He said that prophets have a two-fold nature (do ?onsor), one physical and the other divine (elahi), corresponding to two stations (maqam), the human, and the station wherein his voice is the voice of God. The doctrine of the divinity (oluhiyat) of all the prophets does not imply incarnation, but refers to the manifestation of the active attributes of God. Explaining his own station, he compared God’s manifestation in him to the divine effulgence in the burning bush of Moses, and wrote of divinity, “This station is the station in which one dies to himself (fana?) and lives to God. Divinity, whenever I mention

it, indicates my complete and absolute self-effacement.” (Lawh-e šayk, p. 30; see also Majmuʿa-ye matbuʿa, p. 340; “Tajalliyat,” in Cand lawh, pp. 203-05). Because all prophets manifest the same divine attributes, in Bahaʾ-Allah’s doctrine they are all metaphysically identical, though their human personalities differed. Thus, each is a “return” of the previous prophets (but this does not imply reincarnation of the human soul, a doctrine Bahaʾ-Allah rejected).

Social teachings. Bahaʾ-Allah’s enunciation of steps for social reform dates to his arrival in the Turkish-speaking provinces of the Ottoman empire in the mid-1860s, and continued during his Palestine exile 1868-92. He was in Edirne during some of the Ottoman debate on constitutionalism, and around 1868 wrote Queen Victoria that the parliamentary form of constitutional monarchy she presided over was the best type of government. In 1866 he had denounced the international arms race, urging that the money poured into it be instead spent on the poor. Later in ʿAkka he advocated the convening of an international parliament that would guarantee peace through the principle of collective security. He urged the adoption of one universal language throughout the world, and of uniform weights, measures, and currency. He forbade religious and racial prejudice, and discouraged nationalist chauvinism (“Glory not in this that you love your country, glory in this that you love mankind”). He urged universal education of children, and his insistence that daughters be educated along with sons is only one of many indications that he supported an improved status for women. He advocated the adoption of modern technology in the Middle East, arguing that it was only an extension of Greek science and philosophy, which Middle Easterners had long accepted (“Lawh maleka Viktoria,” Alwah-e nazela, p. 133; “Surat al-moluk,” *ibid.*; Ketab-e aqdas, pp. 52-53; other quotes and points in “Lawh al-hekma,” Majmuʿa-i az alwah and tr. Taherzadeh; this entire volume has these reformist emphases).

Bibliography : Most of the major primary sources have been cited in the course of the article. Several thousands of Bahaʾ-Allah’s letters and writings are preserved by Bahais in private archives in Iran and at the “International Bahá’í Archives” in Haifa, Israel. The best primary sources for Bahaʾ-Allah’s life, the chronicle by Molla Mohammad “Nabil” Zarandi, the memoirs of Aqa Hosayn Ašci, and those of Aqa Reza Qannad Širazi, all close companions of Bahaʾ-Allah in Iran and during his exile, remain in ms. in Haifa; these have been summarized by H. M. Balyuzi, *Bahaʾuʾllah*, Oxford, 1980. The first part of Zarandi was translated, as noted above. A reliable but slightly abridged English translation of memoirs by another companion, Salmani, has appeared recently (*op. cit.*). The Noqtat al-kaf contains primary material for the Babi movement in the 1840s and early 1850s, despite lingering questions about possible late interpolations in the recension published by Browne. The “Resala”s of Sayyed Mehdi Dahaji and Mirza Javad Qazvini, companions of Bahaʾ-Allah, are also valuable (microfilms of these and other Cambridge University Library Browne mss. are in the Library of Congress and the University of Michigan, British Manuscript Project). Bahaʾ-Allah’s eldest son, ʿAbd-al-Bahaʾ, wrote a valuable

chronicle, cited above, translated by Browne as *A Traveller's Narrative*. Some important details are in Mirza Haydar-ʿAli Esfahani, *Bahjat al-Sodur*, Bombay, 1331/1912-13, a small portion of which was translated by A. Faizi, *Stories from the Delight of Hearts*, Los Angeles, 1980. Primary biographies of Bahaʿ-Allah's major disciples in Iran are in Kazem Samandar, *Tarik-e Samandar wa molhaqat*, Tehran, 131 Badiʿ/1974. Momen's collection of Western documentary sources is useful, though neither the Ottoman nor the Iranian archives have been intensively explored for Bahaʿ-Allah's biography (see Mohammad-ʿAli Mowahhed, "Asnad-i az aršiv-e dawlati-e Estandbul," *Rahnama-ye ketab* 6, 1342 Š./1963, pp. 102-10). Because of his access to family history and private manuscripts as Bahaʿ-Allah's great-grandson, Shoghi Effendi's *God Passes By* (Wilmette, Ill., 1944) is also useful. Many Azali sources exist, some of them primary, but they are hard to collate with sources originating with Bahaʿ-Allah and his supporters, because they are so hostile and contradictory. Of note here are Molla Rajab-ʿAli Qaḥer, "Ketab," ms. Cambridge University Library, Browne Or. F. 24; and ʿEzziya Kanom, "Tanbih al-naʿemin," ms. Cambridge University Library, Browne Or. F. 60.

Most of Bahaʿ-Allah's major works have been published, though no scientific editions have been prepared. Multivolume collections of his writings include *Atar-e qalam-e aʿla*, 8 vols., Tehran, 1963-76 and ʿAbd-al-Hamid Ešraq Kavari, ed., *Maʿeda-ye asmani*, 10 vols., Tehran, 1971-73; repr. New Delhi, 1985. Facsimiles of many documents by or relating to the Bab and Bahaʿ-Allah were privately published in the 1970s by the Iran National Bahai Archives (INBA) in 100 volumes. Important works by Bahaʿ-Allah from the 1850s and early 1860s are in *Atar*, vol. 3, including *Jawaher al-asrar*, *Haft wadi* and *Cahar wadi*; for Eng. tr. of the latter two see *The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys*, tr. Ali Kuli Khan and Marzieh Gail, Wilmette, Ill., rev. ed. 1952. *Kalamat-e maknuna*, from the late 1850s, is in *Majmuʿa-ye matbuʿa-ye alwah-e mobaraka*, Cairo, 1920, repr. Wilmette, Ill., 1978, tr. Shoghi Effendi, *The Hidden Words*, London, 1949. Works from the 1850s and early 1860s can also be found in INBA, vol. 36, and in *Maʿeda-ye asmani*, vol. 4. One of Bahaʿ-Allah's more important theological and eschatological works, written in 1862 for an uncle of the Bab, is *Ketab-e iqan*, Cairo, 1902, Eng. tr. Shoghi Effendi, *The Kitābi-i-Íqán: The Book of Certitude*, Wilmette, 1931, 1970, Fr. tr. Hyppolyte Dreyfus and Mirza Habibullah Chirazi, *Le livre de la certitude*, Paris, 1904. Other tablets of the mid-1860s can be found in the section on Rezwan in ʿA. Ešraq Kavari, ed., *Ayyam-e tesʿa*, Tehran, n.d., including the *Lawh-e sabr*, set down on April 21, 1863. Many of Bahaʿ-Allah's Arabic letters to Iran declaring his independent prophethood in 1864-68 are in *Atar*, vol. 4, including the *Surat damm*, and the *Surat al-ashab*. His epistles to the world's rulers written in 1866-69 are in *Alwah-e nazela ketab be moluk wa roʿasa-ye arz*, Tehran, 124 Badiʿ/1968; partial tr., Shoghi Effendi, *Proclamation of Bahaʿu'llah to the Kings and Leaders of the World*, Haifa, 1967. Persian writings from the Edirne period and many significant

essays from the 'Akka period, 1868-92, are in *Majmu'a-ye matbu'a*. Baha'-Allah's most important opus, the *Ketab-e aqdas* (1873) was published at the Dutt Prashad Press: *al-Ketab al-aqdas wa nabza-i men alwah Baha'-Allah*, Bombay, 1890. A poor translation of the *Ketab-e aqdas* with fundamentalist Christian commentary was unaccountably published by the Royal Asiatic Society: E. Elder and W. Miller, tr. and ed., *Al-Kitab al-Aqdas or the Most Holy Book*, Oriental Translation Fund, N.S., vol. 38, London, 1961; the contemporary official Bahai approach to this book of laws can be seen in *A Synopsis and Codification of the Kitáb-i Aqdas, the Most Holy Book of Bahá'u'lláh*, Haifa, 1973. Several collections have been published of Baha'-Allah's tablets on global social reform and world government written from 1877 to 1892, including *Alwah-e mobaraka-ye hazrat-e Baha'-Allah šamel-e ešraqat wa cand lawh-e digar*, Tehran, n.d.; and *Majmu'a-i az alwah ke ba'd az Ketab-e aqdas nazel šodand*, Hofheim-Langenhain, 1980, pp. 35-36, Eng. tr. H. Taherzadeh et al., *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, Haifa, 1978. Baha'-Allah's last major book, which contains many passages of autobiography, is *Lawh-e mobarak ketab ba Šayk Mohammad Taqi Mojtahed*, Hofheim-Langenhain, 1982, pp. 14-16, Eng. tr. Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, Wilmette, 1971, Fr. tr. H. Dreyfus, *L'épître au fils du loup*, Paris, 1913. Translations into other European languages have for the most part followed the English rather than the original languages. Important translations in addition to those noted above are *Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah*, tr. Shoghi Effendi, Wilmette, Ill., 1939; and *Prayers and Meditations*, tr. Shoghi Effendi, London, 1957.

Most of the Arabic and Persian originals were published in the twentieth century by the Bahai Publishing Trust in Tehran, destroyed in 1979, but many have been recently reprinted in the original languages at the Bahai Publishing Trusts at Hofheim-Langenhain in West Germany, in Wilmette, Ill., and in New Delhi. For rare nineteenth-century editions of Baha'-Allah's works see *Alwah-e Baha'-Allah moštamel bar surat-e haykal . . . wa gayroh*, Bombay, 1890 and *Alwah-e Baha'-Allah*, Bombay, 1893; see also Baron Victor Rosen, *Collections scientifiques de l'institut des langues orientales du ministère des affaires étrangères*, St. Petersburg, vol. 1: *Manuscrits arabes*, 1877, pp. 179-212; vol. 3: *Manuscrits persans*, 1886, pp. 1-51; vol. 6: *Manuscrits arabes*, 1891, pp. 141-225; Rosen, ed., *al-Majmu' al-awwal men rasa'el al-šayk al-babi Baha'-Allah*, (Historico-Philological Section of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, 1908); and Aleksandr Tumanskii, ed., *Ketab 'ahdi wa lawh-e bešarat*, in *Zapiski of the Russian Oriental Society* 7, 1892, pp. 183-92, 193-203, as well as his edition of the *Ketab-e aqdas*, cited above. A brief survey of Baha'-Allah's major works is 'A. Ešraq Kavari, *Ganj-e šayegan*, Tehran, 123 Badi'/1966). A traditional Bahai commentary in English on a large number of these works in A. Taherzadeh, *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, 3 vols., Oxford, 1974.

No modern, academic biography of Baha'-Allah has yet been written, though Balyuzi uses some critical apparatus. Early relevant Western scholarship

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