

Appendix II

Some select quotations on the importance of Bahá'í Scholarship

"There are certain pillars which have been established as the unshakeable supports of the Faith of God. The mightiest of these is learning and the use of the mind, the expansion of consciousness, and insight into the realities of the universe and the hidden mysteries of Almighty God.

To promote knowledge is thus an inescapable duty imposed on every one of the friends of God..."

(°Abdu'l-Baha passage cited Selections From the Writings of °Abdu'l-Bahá [Haifa 1978], p.126 [No. 97]).

" It seems that what we need now [1949 !] is a more profound and coordinated Bahá'i scholarship in order to attract such men as you are contacting. The world has--at least the thinking world--caught up by now with all the great and universal principles enunciated by Baha'u'llah over 70 years ago, and so of course it does not sound 'new' to them. But we know that the deeper teachings, the capacity of his projected World Order to re-create society, are new and dynamic. It is these we must learn to present intelligently and enticingly to such men! "

(From a letter dated July 3, 1949, written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer).

"The Cause needs more Bahá'i scholars--people who not only are devoted to it and believe in it and are anxious to tell others about it, but also who have a deep grasp of the Teachings and their significance, and who can correlate its beliefs with the current thoughts and problems of the people of the world." (From a

letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi 21 October 1943

"What he [Shoghi Effendi] wants the Bahá'ís to do is study more, not to study less. The more general knowledge, scientific or otherwise, they possess, the better. Likewise he is constantly urging them to really study the Bahá'i teachings more deeply."

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi dated 5th July 1947).

"Bahá'i scholars and writers will, no doubt, gradually appear, and will, as promised by Baha'u'llah, lend a unique support to their Faith."

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi cited in U.S. Bahá'í News No. 102 [August 1936], p.2.)

" As the [Bahá'í] Cause develops it will need more and more people who are really versed in their branch of learning and who can interpret the [Bahá'i] teachings to suit the facts."

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi in Bahá'i Youth : A Compilation, p. 14).

" What the Faith needs, even more than teachers, is books that expound the true significance of its principles in the light of modern thought and social problems."

(From a letter of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer dated 6 May 1933 cited Unfolding Destiny..[London 1981], p.431).

".. the majority of Baha'is, however, intensely devoted and sincere they may be, lack for the most part the necessary scholarship and wisdom to reply to and refute the claims and attacks of people with some education and standing."

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi dated 25th September 1942 cited in *ibid.*, p.439).

"Scholarship has a high station in the Baha'i teachings and Baha'i scholars have a great responsibility to a growing, divinely-guided world society.."

"Baha'i scholarship is of great importance in the development and consolidation of the Baha'i community."

(From a Statement of the Research Dept. of the Universal House of Justice on Baha'i Scholarship [1979]).

"The Supreme Body [= The Universal House of Justice] has informed us [= the International Teaching Centre] that it believes that both the International Teaching Centre and the Boards of Counsellors can render valuable services in the field of Baha'i scholarship by encouraging budding scholars, and also by promoting within the Baha'i community an atmosphere of tolerance for the views of others."

(From a letter of the International Teaching Centre dated 22 March 1981).

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