

## REFERENCES – ESSAY 13

"What mankind needeth ... is obedience unto them that are in authority ... The instruments which are essential to the immediate protection, the security and assurance of the human race have been entrusted to the hands, and lie in the grasp, of the governors of human society." (Baha'u'llah)

"Dispute not with any one concerning the things of this world and its affairs ..." (Baha'u'llah)

"Speak thou no word of politics." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"We must obey and be the well-wishers of the governments of the land, regard disloyalty unto a just king as disloyalty to God Himself and wishing evil to the government a transgression of the Cause of God." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"... (the believers) must obey the kings with the utmost sincerity and fidelity, and (Baha'u'llah) hath forbidden them to interfere at all with political problems. He hath even prohibited the believers from discussing political affairs." ('Abdu'l-Baha, clarifications added)

"Rather, confine thine utterance to spreading the blissful tidings of the Kingdom of God ..." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"Except to speak well of them, make thou no mention of the earth's kings, and the worldly governments thereof." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"If any person wishes to speak of government affairs, or to interfere with the order of Governors, the others must not combine with him because the Cause of God is withdrawn entirely from political affairs ..." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"But there is need of a superior power to overcome human prejudice, a power which nothing in the world of mankind can

withstand... That irresistible power is the love of God." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"It is often through our misguided feeling that we can somehow aid our fellows better by some activity outside the Faith, that Baha'is are led to indulge in politics. This is a dangerous delusion." (Shoghi Effendi)

"We are not the ones, as individual Baha'is to judge our Government as just or unjust – for each believer would be sure to hold a different viewpoint, and within our own Baha'i fold a hotbed of dissention would spring up and destroy our unity." (Shoghi Effendi)

"We must build up our Baha'i system, and leave the faulty systems of the world to go their own way. We cannot change them through becoming involved in them; on the contrary they will destroy us." (Shoghi Effendi)

"The Guardian wishes me to draw the attention of the friends through you that they should be very careful in their public utterances not to mention any political figures-either side with them or denounce them. ... Otherwise they will involve the friends in political matters, which is infinitely dangerous for the Cause." (Shoghi Effendi)

"...society is disintegrating so rapidly that moral issues which were clear a half century ago are now hopelessly confused and, what is more, thoroughly mixed up with battling political interests. That is why Baha'is must turn all their forces into the channel of building up the Baha'i Cause and its administration." (Shoghi Effendi)

"Loyalty to world order of Baha'u'llah, security of its basic institutions, both imperatively demand all its avowed supporters, particularly its champion builders of the American continent, in these days when sinister, uncontrollable forces are deepening the cleavage sundering peoples, nations, creeds, and classes, resolve despite pressure of fast crystallizing public opinion, abstain

individually, collectively in word, action, informally as well as in all official utterances and publications from assigning blame, taking sides, however indirectly, in recurring political crises now agitating, ultimately engulfing human society." (Shoghi Effendi via cable)

"... rise above all particularism and partisanship, above the vain disputes ..." (Universal House of Justice)

"In such controversies they should assign no blame, take no side, further no design, and identify themselves with no system prejudicial to the best interests of that world-wide-Fellowship which it is their aim to guard and foster." (Universal House of Justice)

"... not affiliate ... with political parties, become entangled in partisan issues, or participate in programmes tied to the divisive agendas of any group or faction." (Universal House of Justice)

"The world situation is so confused and moral issues which were once clear have become so mixed up with selfish and battling factions, that the best way Baha'is can serve the highest interests of their country and the cause of true salvation for the world, is to sacrifice their political pursuits and affiliations and wholeheartedly and fully support the divine system of Baha'u'llah." (Universal House of Justice)

"It is not for a Baha'i, in offering social commentary, to vilify specific individuals, organizations, or governments or to make attacks on them. Indeed, the Guardian specifically cautioned the friends against referring to political figures in their public remarks, whether in criticism or support." (Universal House of Justice)

"Unity and co-operation ... (are) the watchwords... Baha'is eschew the adversarial approach of dispute and confrontation, and seek rather the methods of consultation ... informed discussion and mutual respect... Baha'is aim to persuade others ... through ... the use of reason, and shun ... pressure, condemnation and abuse

which are a deplorable feature of much of the present-day quest for social justice.” (Universal House of Justice, clarification added)

"Even if such a (Baha'i) community were to focus the entirety of its resources on the problem of racial prejudice, even if it were able to heal itself to some extent of that cancerous affliction, in the face of such a monumental social challenge the impact would be inconsequential. Therefore, the friends must effectively assess the forces at work in their society and, beginning in neighborhoods and clusters, contribute their share to the process of learning and systematization which, as their numbers, knowledge, and influence grow, will transform their lives, families, and communities. Only if the efforts to eradicate the bane of prejudice are coherent with the full range of the (Baha'i) community's affairs, only if they arise naturally within the systematic pattern of expansion, community building, and involvement with society, will the American believers expand their capacity, year after year and decade after decade, to make their mark on their community and society and contribute to the high aim set for the Baha'is by 'Abdu'l-Baha to eliminate racial prejudice from the face of the earth." (Universal House of Justice, clarification added)

"This principle (non-involvement in partisan politics) should not, however be misunderstood. The ... Baha'i Cause itself operates in the political realm to the extent that it is concerned with inducing changes in public policy and behavior at local, national and international levels." (Universal House of Justice, clarification added)

"The principles of non-involvement in politics and obedience to government, far from being obstacles to social change, are aspects of an approach set forth in the Baha'i writings to implement effective remedies for and address the root causes of the ills afflicting society. This approach includes active involvement in the life of society as well as the possibility of influencing and contributing to the social policies of government by all lawful means. Indeed, service to others and to society is a hallmark of the Baha'i life." (Universal House of Justice)

“‘Know thou, of a truth,’ Baha’u’llah declares, ‘these great oppressions that have befallen the world are preparing it for the advent of the Most Great Justice ...’. However great the demands of the work in which we are engaged, and however stressful it will undoubtedly become, we can be confident that the forces released in this age of transition – this greatest crisis in the history of the human race – ultimately reinforce the efforts we make, swell the ranks of the community we are building and empower the Cause we serve to achieve every objective its Founder has decreed for it.” (Universal House of Justice)

*(Quotes by Shoghi Effendi or the UHJ may have been written on behalf of.)*