

Notes taken during visit of Mr Samandarí

Hawthorne, California¹

Letter from Los Angeles LSA regarding the issue whether audience should arise when a Hand of the Cause of God enters a room to speak, end of his speech, etc.

No authority is given but it is customary in America to arise out of respect when VIPs enter a room, etc.

We all arose when Mr Samandarí entered the room. Dr Mihdí Samandarí, son of Mr Samandarí, interpreted, and as he spoke slowly I tried to catch every word uttered as Mr Samandarí continued in his native tongue.

“Tablet of love” revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá—a spiritual tablet for America.

No force in the world except God’s Words can unite mankind.

Only unity in all elements of mankind can bring love. The Kingdom of God always backs this power.

We, as Bahá’ís, should cleanse our hearts so as we can have love, etc.

If we beautify all hearts with the words of Bahá’u’lláh it will enter the spirits of all hearts.

You well know, that outside the Bahá’í community there is hatred and enmity. That is why the spirit in this world is dark.

The bearers of Bahá’u’lláh’s Words have to take His Message of love to mankind.

All of you that read *The Dawn-Breakers* know that it is full of stories of sacrifice in order to establish love in the world.

All of you know that the Dispensation of Bahá’u’lláh is not comparable with any other past religion—it is unique.

The field of action and influence of past religions was limited. They were not meant for the whole world. Bahá’u’lláh’s Message is for mankind.

Friends, you know that the task is great, and the whole world has to be influenced by the Bahá’í Faith. It needs the application of a proper and suitable system of administration. That is why Bahá’u’lláh has established His World Order.

The blessed Guardian said the Báb was the forerunner of the World Order founded by Bahá’u’lláh. The NSAs and LSAs are the promoters of this World Order.

The Book of the Aqdas states the old orders of the world are crumbling and being abolished.

¹ Ṭarázu’lláh Samandarí (1874–1968), Hand of the Cause of God. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma_maxwell_jones_collection, prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). The original notes were fragmented and contained gaps, and had to be rewritten. Compare with original, see PDF at link above. —M.W.T.

Guardian said and wrote as the Guardian, he did not mention his own name. He was the one who showed us how to put into practice the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. Asked why, he showed the results.

Those few words I quoted were to draw your attention so that day by day, week by week, year by year this World Order of Bahá'u'lláh will be established.

Again, I am sure that you are familiar with station of the LSA, they are as foundations of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The stronger the foundation, the better the building will stand and endure. In other words, despite the many different attacks that may come, the Guardian said that if the foundation is strong and well built, then tests will not break it.

Bahá'u'lláh made it quite clear that Bahá'ís who are elected are chosen through the prayers of the friends. The fact should not be forgotten that the condition and spirituality these people are in when attending the assemblies, even the way they sit, listen, dress and speak is different because Bahá'u'lláh is there. This is the key to success.

The number 9 was chosen by Bahá'u'lláh since 9 is equal to the name "Bahá'"—then it is complete and perfect. When a member is absent, then the assembly is weakened. If a member is not really able to attend and has an excuse, no time should be wasted to elect another member. It is true that an LSA can function so long as a majority is present, whereas if the number is not perfect the 9-power—then its power is reduced for confirmations from God.

During this 3 or 4 months visit I learned that the friends have chosen to meet once every 19 days. In other places bi-weekly meetings are chosen. The foundations should be strong and function well if meetings are held every week. If some members are absent from the LSA, they should be asked why, etc. The scope of activity of the LSA is increasing daily.

Beloved friends, know that the name LSA is temporary—the Local House of Justice is its future name.

It is one of the very important duties of the LSA to read prayers, Tablets and Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá before the meeting. Then we have the most important duty of teaching. It is the first duty of every believer of the Bahá'í Faith.

Are the friends conscious of what they are, are they sure that they are created by the Word of God, do they realize that what they do, creates a new generation of people in the world?

Are the LSAs conscious of the great power Bahá'u'lláh has given them,

that their decisions are to be obeyed by the people for one year, even if you decide incorrectly because it is the people's sacred spiritual duty to obey?

The LSA is respected by the Bahá'í community and the first people to make whatever decision is for the benefit of the community.²Teaching: There are two ways—personal and public.

No doubt that for public meetings there are Bahá'í bodies in charge of the public meeting program. However, individual teaching starts from your own heart. Every believer knows he can teach, must teach.

The members of the LSA have more responsibilities in the presence of God and their Bahá'í communities.

The friends gathered together in LSA meetings receive guidance, and each should say what teaching he has done. This should be a great encouragement to the members of the assembly.

Now, I would like you to enquire if your LSA has been actively teaching. God willing. Now, if you are doing the same, well and good. If not, then ask Bahá'u'lláh for guidance and call on the LSA to do like it is written or said, here. If you all were teaching as required, no doubt the number of communities would double and double.

In one place I heard a LSA member say that when we are in meetings, we are still responsible for teaching.

Now, I'm sure all the friends know the Universal House of Justice has taken steps for proclamation this year. Messages of Bahá'u'lláh have been sent to 140 rulers and kings. Once again the Bahá'í Faith has been proclaimed to the Leaders of the World. And again through Inter-Continental Conferences, humanity has been given the chance to hear the Word for this day.

Of course, all of these messages are telling us to proclaim the Bahá'í Faith through our own personal activities. Now, it is our duty and especially of the LSAs anywhere, to guide and take the first steps so that no one can say that they had not heard of the Bahá'í Faith.

One point should always be clear before our eyes is that Bahá'u'lláh's purpose was not just to proclaim a new religion. The Guardian said that Bahá'u'lláh's purpose is to correct the wrongs of the world.

One misery of mankind is materialism, and if Bahá'ís and LSAs must not let themselves become captives of this materialism—they must be freed from materialism. This is the standard of which Bahá'u'lláh referred to.

Everything is in the *Hidden Words*. You can all obtain copies. I beg you to read it, refer to it constantly, and realize what 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that "*This is the standard*". The *Hidden Words* is the testament of Bahá'u'lláh. 'Abdu'l-Bahá said if nothing else were revealed, then the *Hidden Words* would be enough for mankind.

This is the aim and goal of the Bahá'í Faith through what is revealed in the *Hidden Words*, but of course, not alone, one has to make an effort and train to attain the goals of the *Hidden Words*.

When I read the Words of Bahá'u'lláh, I feel so ashamed at my weakness, since I find so, so many short comings in myself.

One person that I saw, who could show the *Hidden Words* in Him was 'Abdu'l-Bahá; also the Greatest Holy Leaf and the beloved Guardian, whose wonderful body was covered with a garment of the *Hidden Words*.

The Manifestations are exemplars to learn from.

Written questions from audience were submitted and translated by Dr Samandarí.

Answer: Any public meetings, including on TV and radio, should be cleared through the LSA. Wisdom is always going side by side with teaching. It must not be mistaken that wisdom doesn't mean "not to speak". Realize what we are saying, how, when, etc. If an individual without wisdom speaks on TV and radio, even if one wrong word is said or mispronounced then it can be harmful.

Question: When someone wants to be a Bahá'í is there any reason for an assembly not to bring them in immediately?

Answer: Each question is important, but the person must realize what duties are expected of Bahá'ís.

Question: When there are 9 people in a community and one is frequently absent, should they be removed from the LSA?

Answer: Continue to function, now is the time to use power of prayer. Get up early in the morning and seek guidance to bring more souls into the Bahá'í Faith.

Question: When a person seems to have no time, i.e. work, family, to be able to appear [for teaching], what now?

Answer: When a member must designate a special time, they must make time for teaching activities. They must realize that this is the time to teach.

Question: How can we help our stray Bahá'í members return to the fold?

Answer: Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá say Bahá'ís are physicians, so you are called to give spiritual diagnosis from Writings of God.

Bahá'u'lláh gives us an example: Consider two groups, the first consists of religious leaders who have no religion, and the second group are those following the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

The first group's actions show they are not real physicians.

When referring to ourselves and our own time, it can be said that we have entered the Hospital of Bahá'u'lláh. We can cure the patients only if we are healthy. If we are not cured of the diseases of our time, then we cannot cure others. We must know that not all diseases are the same—some can take a small time, others a long time to cure.

So we first must be completely cured in order to be a skillful physician.

The *Hidden Words* is the text book.