

Principles of Governance

Qualities of the Learned - 1

The Secret of Divine Civilization

Bahá'í Administration 11

Qualities of the Learned

In *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá described in some detail the qualities necessary to be considered one of the Learned. They are useful guidance to anyone who aspires to the qualities of the mind and intellectual effort.



Center for the Study of the Texts, Bahá'í World Centre

The spiritually learned

The spiritually learned must be characterized by both inward and outward perfections; they must possess a good character, an enlightened nature, a pure intent, as well as intellectual power, brilliance and discernment, intuition, discretion and foresight, temperance, reverence, and a heartfelt fear of God.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 33-34)

The first requirement: guard one's own self

The first requirement is to guard one's own self. The primary meaning of this guarding of oneself is to acquire the attributes of spiritual and material perfection.

('Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp.34-35)

a) The first attribute of perfection: learning

The first attribute of perfection is learning and the cultural attainments of the mind:

- *a thorough knowledge of those realities pertaining to God*
- *the fundamental truths of political and religious law*
- *the contents of the sacred Scriptures of all faiths*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 35-36)

Center for the Study of the Texts, Bahá'í World Centre

IMPETUOSITY

... of his writing, including those writings, in Persian, that showed the phenomenon of the quality of the writings.

Bahá'u'lláh's secretaries revealed this revealed.

... of an exact hand, ... of the use of light was finished.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

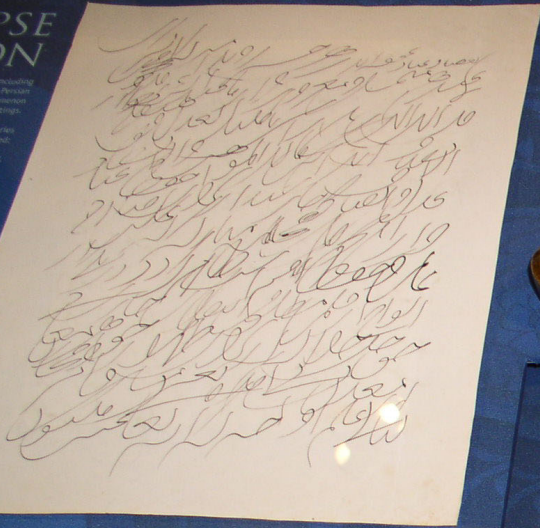
... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

... of the substituted hand approved, ... of the secretaries.

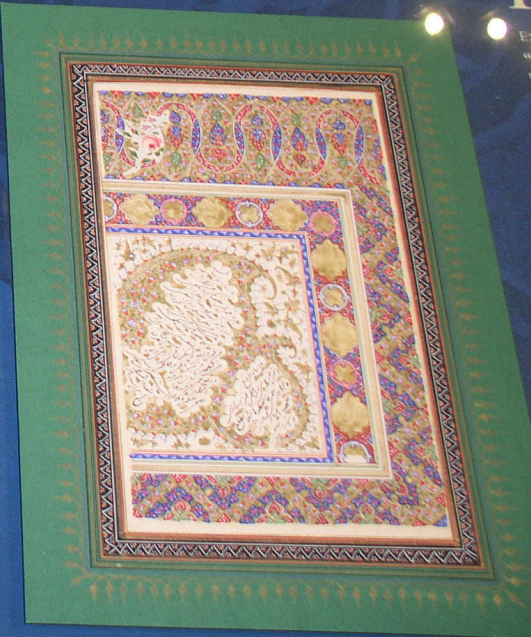
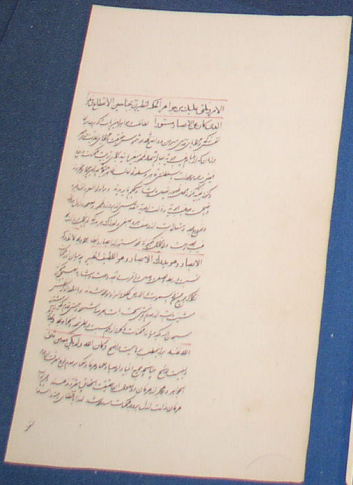


A leaf from the Lubb-i-Lub (Book of Certitude) in Bahá'u'lláh's last major work, 1868-1869. The page features elegant, flowing Persian calligraphy in black ink on aged paper.



Pen case and pens from the period and of the style similar to those used by Bahá'u'lláh, His secretaries and transcribers.

A reproduction of the slender volume - including a sample page - that was the earliest entire transcription of the Kitáb-i-Íqán (Book of Certitude). This first volume was in the handwriting of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Revealed in 1892.



Two verses of The Hidden Words (Arabic, nos. 68 and 69) in Bahá'u'lláh's handwriting, later decorated with

a) The first attribute of perfection: learning

- *those regulations and procedures which would contribute to progress and civilization*
- *the laws and principles, the customs, conditions and manners, and the material and moral virtues characterizing other nations*
- *all the useful branches of learning of the day, including natural science*
- *the historical records of bygone governments and peoples.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 35-36)

b) The second attribute of perfection: justice

The second attribute of perfection is justice and impartiality. This means to have no regard for one's own personal benefits and selfish advantages. It means to see one's self as only one of the servants of God, and except for aspiring to spiritual distinction, never attempting to be singled out from the others. It means to consider the welfare of the community as one's own. It means, in brief, to regard humanity as a single individual, and one's own self as a member of that body, and to know that if pain or injury afflicts any member of that body, it must inevitably result in suffering for all the rest.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), p. 39)

Center for the
Study of the Texts,
Bahá'í World
Centre



c) The third attribute of perfection: sincerity

The third requirement of perfection is to arise with complete sincerity and purity of purpose to educate the masses: to exert the utmost effort to instruct them in the various branches of learning and useful sciences, to encourage the development of modern progress, to widen the scope of commerce, industry and the arts, to further such measures as will increase the people's wealth.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), p. 39)

d) Other attributes of perfection: virtues

Other attributes of perfection are to fear God, to love God by loving His servants, to exercise mildness and forbearance and calm, to be sincere, amenable, clement and compassionate; to have resolution and courage, trustworthiness and energy, to strive and struggle, to be generous, loyal, without malice, to have zeal and a sense of honor, to be high-minded and magnanimous, and to have regard for the rights of others. Whoever is lacking in these excellent human qualities is defective.

Center for the
Study of the
Texts, Bahá'í
World Centre

