

Principles of Governance

Qualities of the Learned - 2

The Secret of Divine Civilization

Bahá'í Administration 12

Qualities of the Learned

Continuing with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s description in *The Secret of Divine Civilization* of the qualities necessary to be considered one of the Learned, we saw that the first requirement was to acquire the attributes of spiritual and material perfection. Here are other requirements.

The second requirement: defend one's faith

The second of these spiritual standards which apply to the possessor of knowledge is that he should be the defender of his faith. The whole population should be protected in every way; that every effort should be exerted to adopt a combination of all possible measures to raise up the Word of God.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, p. 41)



The third requirement: oppose one's passions

Opposing one's passions is the very foundation of every laudable human quality and embodies the basis of all the spiritual attributes of human beings. This is the balance wheel of all behavior, the means of keeping all man's good qualities in equilibrium.

(Abdu'l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 59-60)



The third requirement: oppose one's passions

For desire is a flame that has reduced to ashes uncounted lifetime harvests of the learned. How often has an individual who was graced with every attribute of humanity and true understanding, nevertheless followed after his passions until his excellent qualities passed beyond moderation into excess. His pure intentions changed to evil ones, his attributes were no longer put to uses worthy of them, and the power of his desires turned him aside from righteousness and its rewards.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 59-60)



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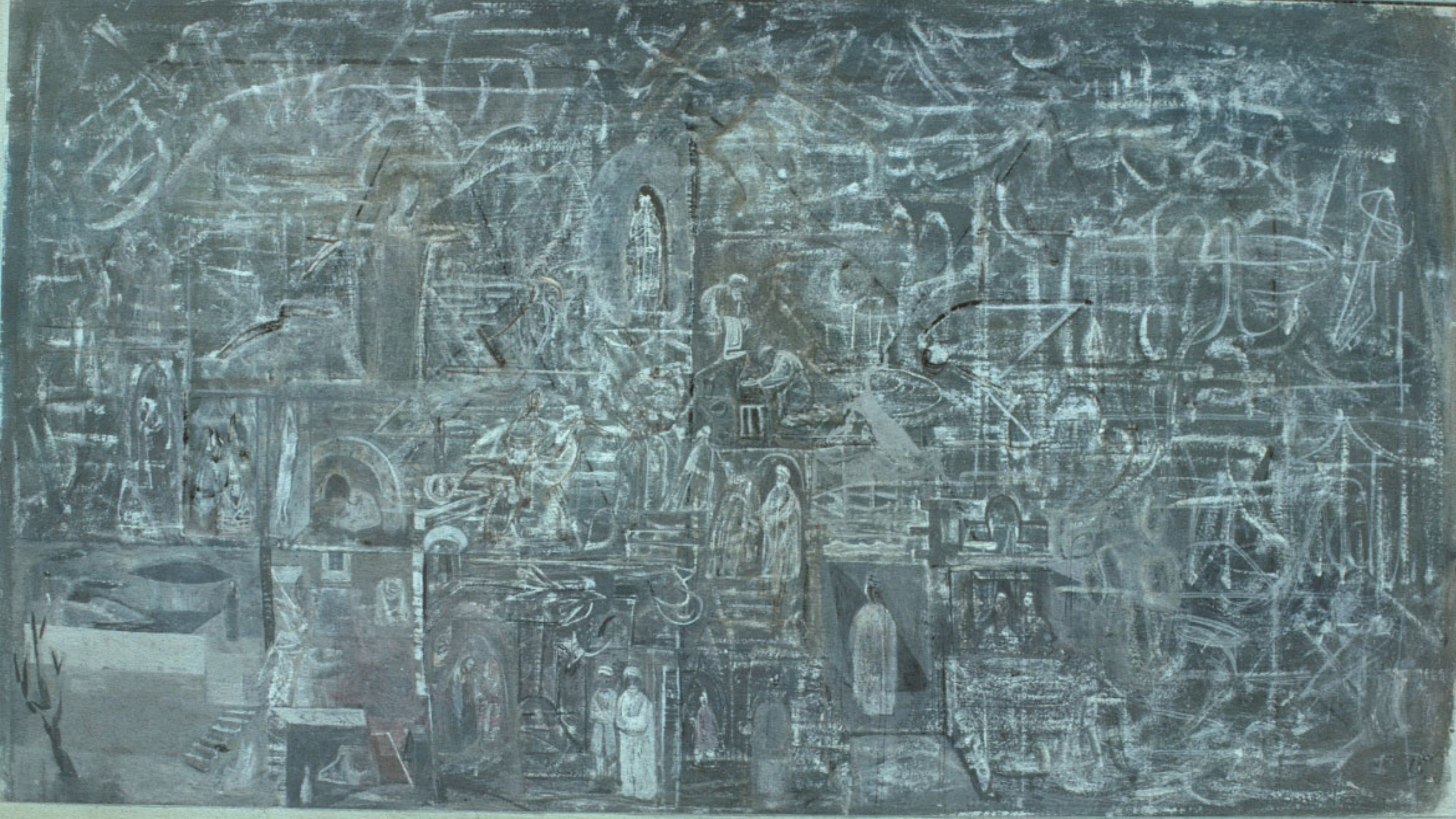
A good character is the most excellent and praiseworthy of all things, but always on condition that its center of emanation should be reason and knowledge and its base should be true moderation.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 59-60)

The fourth requirement: obedience

Man's highest distinction is to be lowly before and obedient to his God and observe the Divine commands and prohibitions. Religion is the light of the world, and the progress, achievement, and happiness of man result from obedience to the laws set down in the holy Books.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá (1875), [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#), pp. 71-72)



Paintings by Mark Tobey



Concourse 1943
Everyman 1939
Ancient Battle 1960
The New Day 1945

