

# The Covenant

Part 1

The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh  
Centre of the Covenant: 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Bahá'í Administration 5

# A Covenant

Covenant = a formal agreement,  
an engagement by and with God

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh gives us laws and institutions and we promise to obey them

This guarantees the unity of the Bahá'í Faith

If we are true to the Covenant, there will never be divisions

Those who try to create division are covenant-breakers

# The Covenant

*The vehicle in this resplendent Age for the practical fulfillment of these duties is the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh; it is, indeed, the potent instrument by which individual belief in Him is translated into constructive deeds. The Covenant comprises divinely conceived arrangements necessary to preserve the organic unity of the Cause. It therefore engenders a motivating power which, as the beloved Master tells us, “like unto the artery, beats and pulsates in the body of the world.”*

(Universal House of Justice, 29 December 1988)

# The Covenant

*“It is indubitably clear,” He asserts, “that the pivot of the oneness of mankind is nothing else but the power of the Covenant.” Through it the meaning of the Word, both in theory and practice, is made evident in the life and work of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the appointed Interpreter, the perfect Exemplar, the Center of the Covenant. Through it the processes of the Administrative Order—“this unique, this wondrous System”—are made to operate.*

(Universal House of Justice, 29 December 1988)

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh established interpretive and legislative institutions linked with the system of law revealed in *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

*When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed  
and the Book of My Revelation is ended,  
turn your faces towards Him Whom God  
hath purposed, Who hath branched from this  
Ancient Root.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, para. 121)

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

*...refer ye whatsoever ye understand not in the Book to Him Who hath branched from this mighty Stock.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, para. 174)





'Abdu'l-Bahá

1844-1921

“The Most Mighty  
Branch”

Centre of the  
Covenant

# The Centre of the Covenant

The Universal House of Justice describes:

“...the unique role which Bahá'u'lláh's Writings—indeed the text of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas itself—confer on His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This unique figure is at once the Exemplar of the pattern of life taught by His Father, the divinely inspired authoritative Interpreter of His Teachings and the Center and Pivot of the Covenant which the Author of the Bahá'í Revelation made with all who recognize Him.”

(The Universal House of Justice, Introduction to *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, p.3)

# Bahá'u'lláh's *Book of the Covenant*



*The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension.*

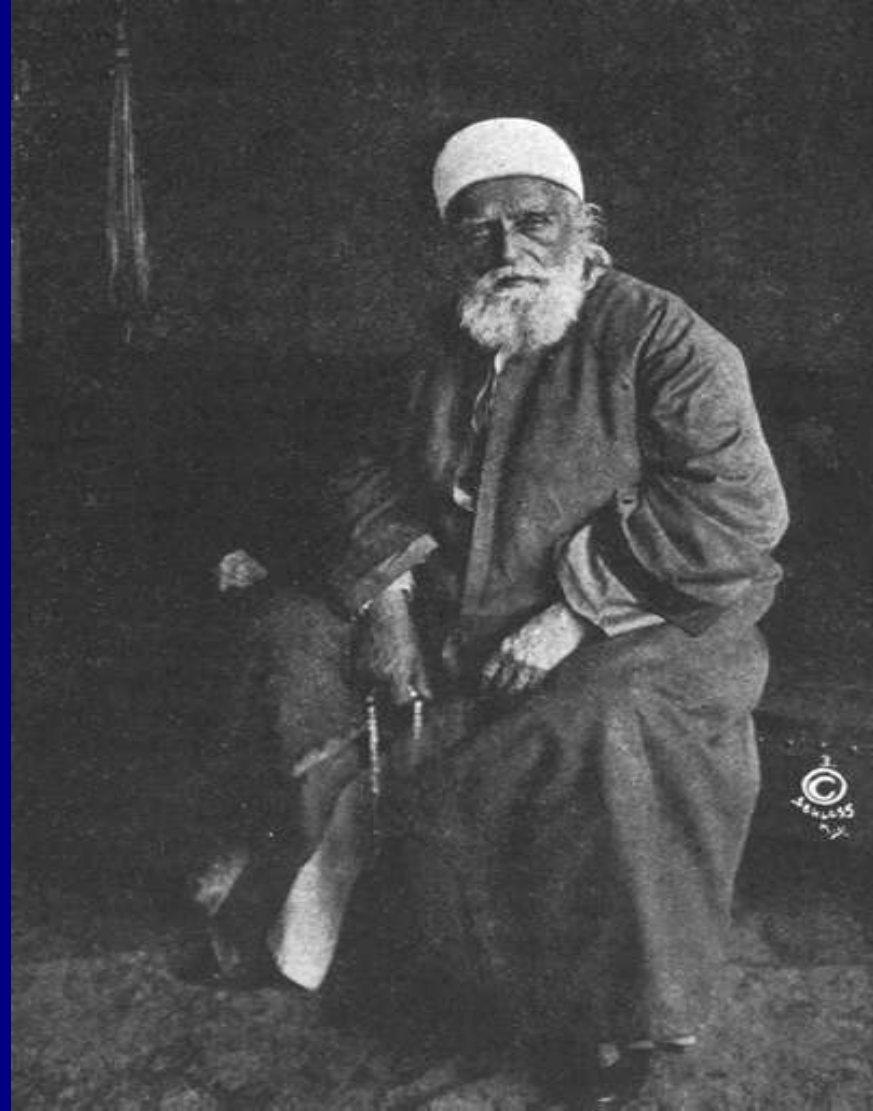
*Conflict and contention are categorically forbidden in His Book.*

*It is incumbent upon... My Kindred to turn, one and all, their faces towards the Most Mighty Branch. Consider that which We have revealed in Our Most Holy Book: "When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed and the Book of My Revelation is ended, turn your faces towards Him Whom God hath purposed, Who hath branched from this Ancient Root." The object of this sacred verse is none except the Most Mighty Branch [‘Abdu’l-Bahá].*

# The Head of the Bahá'í Faith

1892-1921

Bahá'í Holy Days:  
Day of the Covenant  
26 November  
Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
28 November



('Abdu'l-Bahá, )



# 'Abdu'l-Bahá

## The Perfect Example

A model for us to follow

How to live

How to teach the Faith

How to love all humanity





# 'Abdu'l-Bahá

## Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Teheran to Akka 1852-1868

Travels to the West 1911-1913

*Where He taught the Faith*

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## Tablets of the Divine Plan

1916-1917 → 1919

Calling to take the Bahá'í Faith to  
all the countries of the world

*How to teach the Faith*