

# The Covenant

Part 2

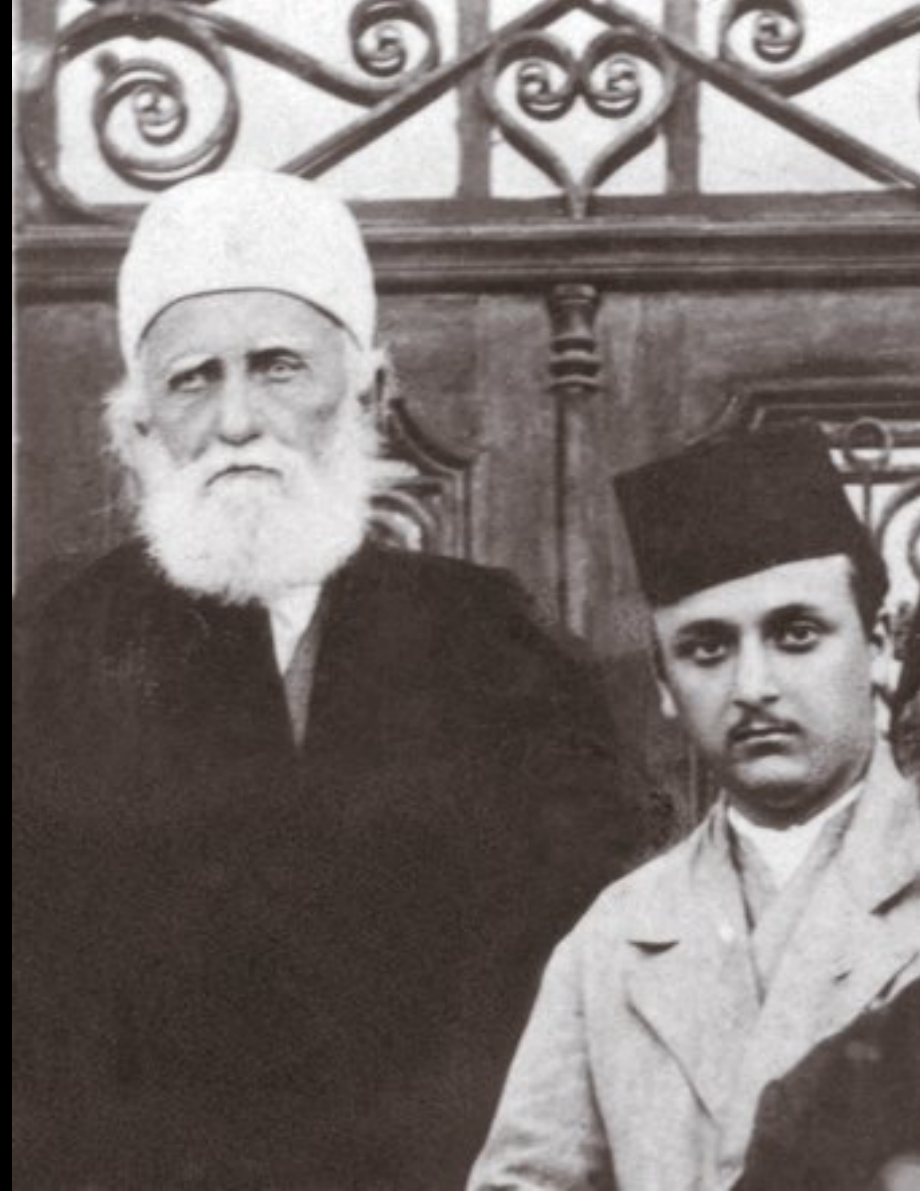
**Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá  
The Guardianship**

Bahá'í Administration 6

# Shoghi Effendi

Shoghi Effendi (1897-1957), grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, was born in Akka, studied in Haifa and Beirut, and attended Balliol College, Oxford, in 1920, until his studies were interrupted by the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He was the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith for 36 years from 1921 to 1957, when he passed away unexpectedly in London.

'Abdu'l-Bahá  
and  
Shoghi Effendi



# Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá

*After the passing away of this wronged one, it is incumbent... to turn unto Shoghi Effendi... as he is the sign of God, the chosen branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, he unto whom all the... loved ones must turn. He is the expounder of the words of God....*

# Will and Testament of Abdu'l-Bahá

*The sacred and youthful branch, the Guardian of the Cause of God, as well as the Universal House of Justice, to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abhá Beauty.... Whatsoever they decide is of God.*

The Guardian  
Shoghi Effendi



# The Guardianship

In His Will and Testament ‘Abdu’l-Bahá conferred the mantle of Guardian of the Cause and infallible Interpreter of its teachings upon His eldest grandson, Shoghi Effendi, and confirmed the authority and guarantee of divine guidance decreed by Bahá’u’lláh for the Universal House of Justice on all matters *“which have not outwardly been revealed in the Book.”*

# The Guardianship

The Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice can thus be seen to be, in the words of Shoghi Effendi, the “Twin Successors” of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. They are the supreme institutions of the Administrative Order which was founded and anticipated in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas and elaborated by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in His Will.

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



# Spiritual Assemblies and The Divine Plan

During the thirty-six years of his ministry, Shoghi Effendi raised up the structure of elected Spiritual Assemblies—the Houses of Justice referred to in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, now in their embryonic stage—and with their collaboration initiated the systematic implementation of the Divine Plan that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had laid out for the diffusion of the Faith throughout the world.

(The Universal House of Justice, Introduction to *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, p.3-4)

The Guardian  
Shoghi Effendi



# The Universal House of Justice

The revealed Word of Bahá'u'lláh, together with the interpretations and expositions of the Center of the Covenant and the Guardian of the Cause, constitute the binding terms of reference of the Universal House of Justice and are its bedrock foundation.

The Guardian  
Shoghi Effendi

