

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

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When replying please

refer to: GC-35688

25 May 2021

9 'Azamat 178 B.E.

To all Bahá'ís in the United Kingdom

Dearly loved friends,

“And so the One Year Plan begins”, the Universal House of Justice announced in its Riḍván message, and in an earlier letter reminded us that it “will be a year for profound reflection on the life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the strength of the Covenant of which He was the Centre.”ⁱ The National Spiritual Assembly is aware that the community is deeply conscious of this with meetings presently being filled with stories of His life and example, devotionals drawing on the new compilation of His prayers, children’s classes and junior youth groups brimming with mention of Him, and teaching events dedicated to His Name.

The fleeting days until the centenary of the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on November 27th next which will mark the conclusion of the first century of the Formative Age, will bring to a close a “period of special potency, which opened one hundred years after the revelation of the Tablets of the Divine Plan”ⁱⁱ. How blest we are to live during these days and it offers us an opportunity to commit to devoting some special time in this period – an hour, a day, a week, a few months, even a year or longer - to teaching the Cause and to having conversations in many different settings, with all manner of people. We ask you to give profound, prayerful thought to this.

There are many resources to support these efforts – some new and some existing - and we have listed these separately for your convenience. In addition to the above, the National Spiritual Assembly anticipates a flourishing of creative artistic expression that reflects the love of peoples of all ages and backgrounds for 'Abdu'l-Bahá - the Mystery of God, the Most Mighty Branch, the Centre of the Covenant, the Apple of the Eye of Bahá'u'lláh, He who is our Exemplar, and a shelter for all mankind.

We leave you with this often-quoted passage of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the servant of Bahá'u'lláh, to inspire your reflections on how, individually and collectively with others, you may, following in His footsteps, leave your final mark on this first century of the Formative Age of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh:

My name is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. My qualification is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. My reality is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. My praise is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Thralldom to the Blessed Perfection is my glorious and refulgent diadem, and servitude to all the human race my perpetual religion ... No name, no title, no mention, no commendation have I, nor will ever have, except ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. This is my longing. This is my greatest yearning. This is my eternal life. This is my everlasting gloryⁱⁱⁱ.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Patrick O'Mara,
Secretary

ⁱ Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, 25 November 2020

ⁱⁱ Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, Riḍván 2021

ⁱⁱⁱ Quoted by Shoghi Effendi in *The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh*