

Bahá'u'lláh

The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

The Most Holy Book

Miscellaneous Laws and Ordinances

Kitáb-i-Aqdas 4

D. Miscellaneous Laws, Ordinances and Exhortations

1. Miscellaneous Laws and Ordinances

(Synopsis and Codification of the Laws and Ordinances of The Kitáb-i-Aqdas)

a. Pilgrimage

The Lord hath ordained that those of you who are able shall make pilgrimage to the sacred House, and from this He hath exempted women as a mercy on His part.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §32)

b. Huqúqu'lláh

Should anyone acquire one hundred mithqáls of gold, nineteen mithqáls thereof are God's and to be rendered unto Him.... By this means He hath desired to purify what ye possess and to enable you to draw nigh unto such stations as none can comprehend save those whom God hath willed.... O people! Deal not faithlessly with the Right of God, nor, without His leave, make free with its disposal....

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §97)

b. Huqúqu'lláh

He who dealeth faithlessly with God shall in justice meet with faithlessness himself; he, however, who acteth in accordance with God's bidding shall receive a blessing from the heaven of the bounty of his Lord, the Gracious, the Bestower, the Generous, the Ancient of Days. He, verily, hath willed for you that which is yet beyond your knowledge, but which shall be known to you when, after this fleeting life, your souls soar heavenwards and the trappings of your earthly joys are folded up.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §97)

c. Endowments

Endowments dedicated to charity revert to God, the Revealer of Signs. None hath the right to dispose of them without leave from Him Who is the Dawning-place of Revelation. After Him, this authority shall pass to the Aghşán, and after them to the House of Justice—should it be established in the world by then—that they may use these endowments for the benefit of the Places which have been exalted in this Cause, and for whatsoever hath been enjoined upon them by Him Who is the God of might and power.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §42)

d. The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

O people of the world! Build ye houses of worship throughout the lands in the name of Him Who is the Lord of all religions. Make them as perfect as is possible in the world of being, and adorn them with that which befitteth them, not with images and effigies. Then, with radiance and joy, celebrate therein the praise of your Lord, the Most Compassionate. Verily, by His remembrance the eye is cheered and the heart is filled with light.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §31)

d. The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

Blessed is he who, at the hour of dawn, centering his thoughts on God, occupied with His remembrance, and supplicating His forgiveness, directeth his steps to the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár and, entering therein, seateth himself in silence to listen to the verses of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Say: The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár is each and every building which hath been erected in cities and villages for the celebration of My praise. Such is the name by which it hath been designated before the throne of glory, were ye of those who understand.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §115)

d. The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

Teach your children the verses revealed from the heaven of majesty and power, so that, in most melodious tones, they may recite the Tablets of the All-Merciful in the alcoves within the Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs. Whoever hath been transported by the rapture born of adoration for My Name, the Most Compassionate, will recite the verses of God in such wise as to captivate the hearts of those yet wrapped in slumber.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §150)

e. Duration of the Bahá'í Dispensation

Whoso layeth claim to a Revelation direct from God, ere the expiration of a full thousand years, such a man is assuredly a lying impostor. We pray God that He may graciously assist him to retract and repudiate such claim. Should he repent, God will, no doubt, forgive him. If, however, he persisteth in his error, God will, assuredly, send down one who will deal mercilessly with him. Terrible, indeed, is God in punishing!

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §37)

f. Bahá'í Festivals

All Feasts have attained their consummation in the two Most Great Festivals, and in the two other Festivals that fall on the twin days—the first of the Most Great Festivals being those days whereon the All-Merciful shed upon the whole of creation the effulgent glory of His most excellent Names and His most exalted Attributes, and the second being that day on which We raised up the One Who announced unto mankind the glad tidings of this Name, through which the dead have been resurrected and all who are in the heavens and on earth have been gathered together.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §110)

f. Bahá'í Festivals

Say: The Most Great Festival is, indeed, the King of Festivals. Call ye to mind, O people, the bounty which God hath conferred upon you. Ye were sunk in slumber, and lo! He aroused you by the reviving breezes of His Revelation, and made known unto you His manifest and undeviating Path.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §112)

g. The Nineteen Day Feast

Verily, it is enjoined upon you to offer a feast, once in every month, though only water be served; for God hath purposed to bind hearts together, albeit through both earthly and heavenly means.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §57)

h. The Bahá'í Year

The number of months in a year, appointed in the Book of God, is nineteen. Of these the first hath been adorned with this Name which overshadoweth the whole of creation.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, §127)

i. The Intercalary Days

Let the days in excess of the months be placed before the month of fasting. We have ordained that these, amid all nights and days, shall be the manifestations of the letter Há, and thus they have not been bounded by the limits of the year and its months. It behooveth the people of Bahá, throughout these days, to provide good cheer for themselves, their kindred and, beyond them, the poor and needy, and with joy and exultation to hail and glorify their Lord, to sing His praise and magnify His Name; and when they end—these days of giving that precede the season of restraint—let them enter upon the Fast.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §16)

j. The age of maturity

The age of maturity is fifteen for both men and women.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §Questions20)

k. Burial of the dead

The Lord hath decreed that the dead should be interred in coffins made of crystal, of hard, resistant stone, or of wood that is both fine and durable, and that graven rings should be placed upon their fingers.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §128)

k. Burial of the dead

The Lord hath decreed, moreover, that the deceased should be enfolded in five sheets of silk or cotton. For those whose means are limited a single sheet of either fabric will suffice. Thus hath it been ordained by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. It is forbidden you to transport the body of the deceased a greater distance than one hour's journey from the city; rather should it be interred, with radiance and serenity, in a nearby place.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §130)

I. Engaging in a trade or profession is made obligatory and is exalted to the rank of worship

O people of Bahá! It is incumbent upon each one of you to engage in some occupation—such as a craft, a trade or the like. We have exalted your engagement in such work to the rank of worship of the one true God. Reflect, O people, on the grace and blessings of your Lord, and yield Him thanks at eventide and dawn.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §33)

I. Engaging in a trade or profession is made obligatory and is exalted to the rank of worship

Waste not your hours in idleness and sloth, but occupy yourselves with what will profit you and others. Thus hath it been decreed in this Tablet from whose horizon hath shone the daystar of wisdom and utterance. The most despised of men in the sight of God are they who sit and beg. Hold ye fast unto the cord of means and place your trust in God, the Provider of all means.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §33)

m. Obedience to government

Take heed not to stir up mischief in the land after it hath been set in order. Whoso acteth in this way is not of Us, and We are quit of him. Such is the command which hath, through the power of truth, been made manifest from the heaven of Revelation.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §64)

m. Obedience to government

None must contend with those who wield authority over the people; leave unto them that which is theirs, and direct your attention to men's hearts.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §95)

n. Education of children

Unto every father hath been enjoined the instruction of his son and daughter in the art of reading and writing and in all that hath been laid down in the Holy Tablet. He that putteth away that which is commanded unto him, the Trustees are then to take from him that which is required for their instruction if he be wealthy and, if not, the matter devolveth upon the House of Justice. Verily have We made it a shelter for the poor and needy. He that bringeth up his son or the son of another, it is as though he hath brought up a son of Mine; upon him rest My glory, My loving-kindness, My mercy, that have compassed the world.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §48)

o. The writing of a testament

Unto everyone hath been enjoined the writing of a will.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §109)

p. Tithes (Zakát)

It hath been enjoined upon you to purify your means of sustenance and other such things through payment of Zakát. Thus hath it been prescribed in this exalted Tablet by Him Who is the Revealer of verses. We shall, if it be God's will and purpose, set forth erelong the measure of its assessment.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §146)

Zakát is referred to in the Qur'án as a regular charity binding upon Muslims.... these matters will have to be set forth in the future by the Universal House of Justice. Shoghi Effendi has indicated that pending such legislation the believers should, according to their means and possibilities, make regular contributions to the Bahá'í Fund. (Note §161)

q. Repetition of the Greatest Name 95 times a day

It hath been ordained that every believer in God, the Lord of Judgment, shall, each day, having washed his hands and then his face, seat himself and, turning unto God, repeat “Alláh-u-Abhá” ninety-five times.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §18)

r. The hunting of animals

If ye should hunt with beasts or birds of prey, invoke ye the Name of God when ye send them to pursue their quarry; for then whatever they catch shall be lawful unto you, even should ye find it to have died.... Take heed, however, that hunt not to excess. Tread ye the path of justice and equity in all things.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §60)

s. Treatment of female servants

*...he who would take into his service a maid
may do so with propriety.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §63)

1. Miscellaneous Laws and Ordinances

- t. The finding of lost property
- u. Disposition of treasure trove
- v. Disposal of objects held in trust

(Synopsis and Codification of the Laws and Ordinances of The Kitáb-i-Aqdas)

w. Manslaughter

Should anyone unintentionally take another's life, it is incumbent upon him to render to the family of the deceased an indemnity of one hundred mithqáls of gold.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §188)

x. Definition of just witnesses

The criterion of justness is a good reputation among the people. The testimony of all God's servants, of whatever faith or creed, is acceptable before His Throne.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, §Q79)

