

Bahá'u'lláh

The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

The Most Holy Book

Prohibitions - Abrogations

Kitáb-i-Aqdas 5

y. Prohibitions:

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

Prohibition

i. Interpretation of the Holy Writ

Whoso interpreteth what hath been sent down from the heaven of Revelation, and altereth its evident meaning, he, verily, is of them that have perverted the Sublime Word of God, and is of the lost ones in the Lucid Book.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, §105)

Prohibition

ii. Slave trading

It is forbidden you to trade in slaves, be they men or women. It is not for him who is himself a servant to buy another of God's servants, and this hath been prohibited in His Holy Tablet.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §72)

Prohibition

iii. Asceticism - iv. Monasticism

How many a man hath secluded himself in the climes of India, denied himself the things that God hath decreed as lawful, imposed upon himself austerities and mortifications, and hath not been remembered by God, the Revealer of Verses. Make not your deeds as snares wherewith to entrap the object of your aspiration, and deprive not yourselves of this Ultimate Objective for which have ever yearned all such as have drawn nigh unto God.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, §36)

Prohibition v. Mendicancy

It is unlawful to beg, and it is forbidden to give to him who beggeth. All have been enjoined to earn a living, and as for those who are incapable of doing so, it is incumbent on the Deputies of God and on the wealthy to make adequate provision for them.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §147)

Prohibition

vi. Priesthood - vii. Use of pulpits

Ye have been prohibited from making use of pulpits. Whoso wisheth to recite unto you the verses of his Lord, let him sit on a chair placed upon a dais, that he may make mention of God, his Lord, and the Lord of all mankind. It is pleasing to God that ye should seat yourselves on chairs and benches as a mark of honor for the love ye bear for Him and for the Manifestation of His glorious and resplendent Cause.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, §154)

Prohibition viii. The kissing of hands

The kissing of hands hath been forbidden in the Book. This practice is prohibited by God, the Lord of glory and command.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §34)

Prohibition ix. Confession of sins

To none is it permitted to seek absolution from another soul; let repentance be between yourselves and God.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §34)

Prohibition x. Plurality of wives

*God hath prescribed matrimony unto you....
Whoso contenteth himself with a single
partner from among the maidservants of
God, both he and she shall live in
tranquillity.*

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

Prohibition

xi. Intoxicating drinks

It is inadmissible that man, who hath been endowed with reason, should consume that which stealeth it away. Nay, rather it behooveth him to comport himself in a manner worthy of the human station, and not in accordance with the misdeeds of every heedless and wavering soul.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §119)

Prohibition

xii. Opium - xiii. Gambling

Gambling and the use of opium have been forbidden unto you. Eschew them both, O people, and be not of those who transgress. Beware of using any substance that induceth sluggishness and torpor in the human temple and inflicteth harm upon the body.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §155)

Prohibition xii. Opium

It hath been forbidden you to smoke opium. We, truly, have prohibited this practice through a most binding interdiction in the Book. Should anyone partake thereof, assuredly he is not of Me.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §190)

Prohibition xiv. Arson

Should anyone intentionally destroy a house by fire, him also shall ye burn; should anyone deliberately take another's life, him also shall ye put to death.... Should ye condemn the arsonist and the murderer to life imprisonment, it would be permissible according to the provisions of the Book.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §62)

Prohibition xv. Adultery

Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §19)

Prohibition xv. Adultery

God hath imposed a fine on every adulterer and adulteress, to be paid to the House of Justice: nine mithqáls of gold, to be doubled if they should repeat the offense. Such is the penalty which He Who is the Lord of Names hath assigned them in this world; and in the world to come He hath ordained for them a humiliating torment.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §49)

Prohibition xvi. Murder

Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §19)

Prohibition xvi. Murder

Should anyone intentionally destroy a house by fire, him also shall ye burn; should anyone deliberately take another's life, him also shall ye put to death.... Should ye condemn the arsonist and the murderer to life imprisonment, it would be permissible according to the provisions of the Book.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §62)

Prohibition xvi. Murder

Let none contend with another, and let no soul slay another; this, verily, is that which was forbidden you in a Book that hath lain concealed within the Tabernacle of glory. What! Would ye kill him whom God hath quickened, whom He hath endowed with spirit through a breath from Him? Grievous then would be your trespass before His throne! Fear God, and lift not the hand of injustice and oppression to destroy what He hath Himself raised up; nay, walk ye in the way of God, the True One.

Prohibition xvii. Theft

Exile and imprisonment are decreed for the thief, and, on the third offense, place ye a mark upon his brow so that, thus identified, he may not be accepted in the cities of God and His countries.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §45)

Prohibition xviii. Homosexuality

We shrink, for very shame, from treating of the subject of boys.... Commit not that which is forbidden you in Our Holy Tablet, and be not of those who rove distractedly in the wilderness of their desires.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §107)

Prohibition

xix. Congregational prayer, except for the dead

It hath been ordained that obligatory prayer is to be performed by each of you individually. Save in the Prayer for the Dead, the practice of congregational prayer hath been annulled.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §129)

Prohibition xx. Cruelty to animals

Burden not an animal with more than it can bear. We, truly, have prohibited such treatment through a most binding interdiction in the Book. Be ye the embodiments of justice and fairness amidst all creation.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §187)

Prohibition

xxi. Idleness and sloth

*Waste not your hours in idleness and sloth,
but occupy yourselves with what will profit
you and others.*

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

Prohibition xxii. Backbiting - xxiii. Calumny

Ye have been forbidden... to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §19)

Prohibition

xxiv. Carrying arms unless essential

*It hath been forbidden you to carry arms
unless essential...*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §159)

Prohibition

xxv. Use of public pools in Persian baths

See that ye approach not the public pools of Persian baths; whoso maketh his way toward such baths will smell their fetid odor ere he entereth therein. Shun them, O people, and be not of those who ignominiously accept such vileness. In truth, they are as sinks of foulness and contamination, if ye be of them that apprehend.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §106)

Prohibition

xxvi. Entering a house without the owner's permission

Take heed that ye enter no house in the absence of its owner, except with his permission.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §145)

Prohibition

xxvii. Striking or wounding a person

The penalties for wounding or striking a person depend upon the severity of the injury; for each degree the Lord of Judgment hath prescribed a certain indemnity.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §56)

Prohibition

xxviii. Contention and conflict

Let none contend with another

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §73)

Prohibition

xxix. Muttering sacred verses in the street

To none is it permitted to mutter sacred verses before the public gaze as he walketh in the street or marketplace; nay rather, if he wish to magnify the Lord, it behooveth him to do so in such places as have been erected for this purpose, or in his own home.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §108)

Prohibition

xxx. Plunging one's hand in food

Take heed lest, when partaking of food, ye plunge your hands into the contents of bowls and platters. Adopt ye such usages as are most in keeping with refinement.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §46)

Prohibition

xxx. Shaving one's head

xxxii. Growth of men's hair beyond the lobe of the ear

Shave not your heads; God hath adorned them with hair, and in this there are signs from the Lord of creation to those who reflect upon the requirements of nature Notwithstanding, it is not seemly to let the hair pass beyond the limit of the ears.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §44)

2. Abrogation of specific laws and ordinances of previous Dispensations, which prescribed:

- a. Destruction of books
- b. Prohibition of the wearing of silk
- c. Prohibition of the use of gold and silver utensils
- d. Limitation of travel
- e. Offering priceless gifts to the Founder of the Faith
- f. Prohibition on questioning the Founder of the Faith
- g. Prohibition against remarrying one's divorced wife
- h. Penalizing whoever causes sadness to his neighbour

Abrogation: i. Prohibition of music

We have made it lawful for you to listen to music and singing. Take heed, however, lest listening thereto should cause you to overstep the bounds of propriety and dignity. Let your joy be the joy born of My Most Great Name, a Name that bringeth rapture to the heart, and filleth with ecstasy the minds of all who have drawn nigh unto God. We, verily, have made music as a ladder for your souls, a means whereby they may be lifted up unto the realm on high; make it not, therefore, as wings to self and passion.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §51)

Abrogation:

j. Limitations upon one's apparel and beard

The Lord hath relieved you, as a bounty on His part, of the restrictions that formerly applied to clothing and to the trim of the beard.... Let there be naught in your demeanor of which sound and upright minds would disapprove, and make not yourselves the playthings of the ignorant.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §159)

Abrogation:

k. Uncleanliness of divers objects and peoples

l. Uncleanliness of semen

m. Uncleanliness of certain objects for purposes of prostration

God hath... abolished the concept of “uncleanness,” whereby divers things and peoples have been held to be impure.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §75)

