

Bahá'u'lláh

The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

The Most Holy Book

3. Miscellaneous Exhortations

Kitáb-i-Aqdas 6

a. To associate with the followers of
all religions with fellowship

Consort ye then with the followers of all religions, and proclaim ye the Cause of your Lord, the Most Compassionate; this is the very crown of deeds, if ye be of them who understand.

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

a. To associate with the followers of all religions with fellowship

Consort with all religions with amity and concord, that they may inhale from you the sweet fragrance of God. Beware lest amidst men the flame of foolish ignorance overpower you. All things proceed from God and unto Him they return. He is the source of all things and in Him all things are ended.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §144)

b. To honour one's parents

...greater than all, after recognition of the unity of God, praised and glorified be He, is regard for the rights that are due to one's parents.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §Q106)

c. Not to wish for others what one does not wish for one's self

Wish not for others what ye wish not for yourselves; fear God, and be not of the prideful.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §148)

d. To teach and propagate the Faith after the ascension of its Founder

Be not dismayed, O peoples of the world, when the daystar of My beauty is set, and the heaven of My tabernacle is concealed from your eyes. Arise to further My Cause, and to exalt My Word amongst men. We are with you at all times, and shall strengthen you through the power of truth. We are truly almighty. Whoso hath recognized Me will arise and serve Me with such determination that the powers of earth and heaven shall be unable to defeat his purpose.

e. To assist those who arise to promote the Faith

Assist ye, O My people, My chosen servants who have arisen to make mention of Me among My creatures and to exalt My Word throughout My realm. These, truly, are the stars of the heaven of My loving providence and the lamps of My guidance unto all mankind.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §117)

f. Not to depart from the Writings or to be misled by those who do

... he whose words conflict with that which hath been sent down in My Holy Tablets is not of Me. Beware lest ye follow any impious pretender. These Tablets are embellished with the seal of Him Who causeth the dawn to appear, Who lifteth up His voice between the heavens and the earth. Lay hold on this Sure Handle and on the Cord of My mighty and unassailable Cause.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §117)

g. To refer to the Holy Writ when differences arise

Should differences arise amongst you over any matter, refer it to God while the Sun still shineth above the horizon of this Heaven and, when it hath set, refer ye to whatsoever hath been sent down by Him. This, verily, is sufficient unto the peoples of the world.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §53)

h. To immerse one's self in the study of the Teachings

Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths. Take heed that ye do not vacillate in your determination to embrace the truth of this Cause—a Cause through which the potentialities of the might of God have been revealed, and His sovereignty established. With faces beaming with joy, hasten ye unto Him. This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future. Let him that seeketh, attain it; and as to him that hath refused to seek it—verily, God is Self-Sufficient, above any need of His creatures.

i. Not to follow one's idle fancies and vain imaginations

Hold ye fast unto His statutes and commandments, and be not of those who, following their idle fancies and vain imaginings, have clung to the standards fixed by their own selves, and cast behind their backs the standards laid down by God.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §17)

j. To recite the holy verses at morn and at eventide

Recite ye the verses of God every morn and eventide. Whoso faileth to recite them hath not been faithful to the Covenant of God and His Testament, and whoso turneth away from these holy verses in this Day is of those who throughout eternity have turned away from God. Fear ye God, O My servants, one and all.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §149)

j. To recite the holy verses at morn and at eventide

Pride not yourselves on much reading of the verses or on a multitude of pious acts by night and day; for were a man to read a single verse with joy and radiance it would be better for him than to read with lassitude all the Holy Books of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Read ye the sacred verses in such measure that ye be not overcome by languor and despondency.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §149)

j. To recite the holy verses at morn and at eventide

Lay not upon your souls that which will weary them and weigh them down, but rather what will lighten and uplift them, so that they may soar on the wings of the Divine verses towards the Dawning-place of His manifest signs; this will draw you nearer to God, did ye but comprehend.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §149)

k. To recite the holy verses melodiously

They who recite the verses of the All-Merciful in the most melodious of tones will perceive in them that with which the sovereignty of earth and heaven can never be compared. From them they will inhale the divine fragrance of My worlds—worlds which today none can discern save those who have been endowed with vision through this sublime, this beautiful Revelation. Say: These verses draw hearts that are pure unto those spiritual worlds that can neither be expressed in words nor intimated by allusion. Blessed be those who hearken.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §116)

I. To teach one's children to chant the holy verses in 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.

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

m. To study such arts and sciences
as benefit mankind

We have permitted you to read such sciences as are profitable unto you, not such as end in idle disputation; better is this for you, if ye be of them that comprehend.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §77)

n. To take counsel together

*Compose your differences, O My servants;
then heed ye the admonition of Our Pen of
Glory and follow not the arrogant and
wayward.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §70)

o. Not to be indulgent in carrying out the statutes of God

Beware lest, through compassion, ye neglect to carry out the statutes of the religion of God; do that which hath been bidden you by Him Who is compassionate and merciful. We school you with the rod of wisdom and laws, like unto the father who educateth his son, and this for naught but the protection of your own selves and the elevation of your stations. By My life, were ye to discover what We have desired for you in revealing Our holy laws, ye would offer up your very souls for this sacred, this mighty, and most exalted Faith.

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

p. To repent to God of one's sins

...let repentance be between yourselves and God. He, verily, is the Pardoner, the Bounteous, the Gracious, the One Who absolveth the repentant.

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

p. To repent to God of one's sins

Should anyone be afflicted by a sin, it behooveth him to repent thereof and return unto his Lord. He, verily, granteth forgiveness unto whomsoever He willeth, and none may question that which it pleaseth Him to ordain. He is, in truth, the Ever-Forgiving, the Almighty, the All-Praised.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §49)

q. To distinguish one's self through good deeds

- i. To be truthful
 - ii. To be trustworthy
 - iii. To be faithful
 - iv. To be righteous and fear God
 - v. To be just and fair
 - vi. To be tactful and wise
 - vii. To be courteous
 - viii. To be hospitable
 - ix. To be persevering
 - x. To be detached
 - xi. To be absolutely submissive to the Will of God
- (Synopsis and Codification of the Laws and Ordinances of The Kitáb-i-Aqdas)*

q. To distinguish one's self through good deeds

xii. Not to stir up mischief

xiii. Not to be hypocritical

xiv. Not to be proud

xv. Not to be fanatical

xvi. Not to prefer one's self to one's neighbour

xvii. Not to contend with one's neighbour

xviii. Not to indulge one's passions

xix. Not to lament in adversity

xx. Not to contend with those in authority

xxi. Not to lose one's temper

xxii. Not to anger one's neighbour

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

r. To be closely united

Be ye as the fingers of one hand, the members of one body.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §58)

s. To consult competent physicians when ill

*Resort ye, in times of sickness, to competent physicians;
We have not set aside the use of material means, rather
have We confirmed it through this Pen, which God hath
made to be the Dawning-place of His shining and
glorious Cause.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §113)

t. To respond to invitations

Whensoever ye be invited to a banquet or festive occasion, respond with joy and gladness, and whoever fulfilleth his promise will be safe from reproof.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §156)

u. To show kindness to the kindred of the Founder of the Faith

*God hath bidden you to show forth
kindliness towards My kindred, but He hath
granted them no right to the property of
others.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §61)

v. To study languages for the furtherance of the Faith

The Lord hath granted leave to whosoever desireth it that he be instructed in the divers tongues of the world that he may deliver the Message of the Cause of God throughout the East and throughout the West, that he make mention of Him amidst the kindreds and peoples of the world in such wise that hearts may revive and the moldering bone be quickened.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §118)

w. To further the development of cities and countries for the glorification of the Faith

Promote ye the development of the cities of God and His countries, and glorify Him therein in the joyous accents of His well-favored ones. In truth, the hearts of men are edified through the power of the tongue, even as houses and cities are built up by the hand and other means. We have assigned to every end a means for its accomplishment; avail yourselves thereof, and place your trust and confidence in God, the Omniscient, the All-Wise.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §160)

x. To restore and preserve the sites
associated with the Founders of the
Faith

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

y. To be the essence of cleanliness

It hath been enjoined upon you to pare your nails, to bathe yourselves each week in water that covereth your bodies, and to clean yourselves with whatsoever ye have formerly employed.... Immerse yourselves in clean water; it is not permissible to bathe yourselves in water that hath already been used.... If the bather, instead of entering the water, wash himself by pouring it upon his body, it shall be better for him and shall absolve him of the need for bodily immersion.

y. To be the essence of cleanliness

i. To wash one's feet

*Wash your feet once every day in summer,
and once every three days during winter.*

ii. To perfume one's self

Make use of rose water, and of pure perfume..

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §152, 76)

y. To be the essence of cleanliness

iii. To bathe in clean water

iv. To cut one's nails

v. To wash soiled things in clean water

vi. To be stainless in one's dress

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

y. To be the essence of cleanliness

Wash ye every soiled thing with water that hath undergone no alteration in any one of the three respects; take heed not to use water that hath been altered through exposure to the air or to some other agent.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, §74)

y. To be the essence of cleanliness

God hath enjoined upon you to observe the utmost cleanliness, to the extent of washing what is soiled with dust, let alone with hardened dirt and similar defilement. Fear Him, and be of those who are pure. Should the garb of anyone be visibly sullied, his prayers shall not ascend to God, and the celestial Concourse will turn away from him.

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#), §76)

vii. To renew the furnishings of one's house

Ye have been enjoined to renew the furnishings of your homes after the passing of each nineteen years; thus hath it been ordained by One Who is Omniscient and All-Perceiving. He, verily, is desirous of refinement, both for you yourselves and for all that ye possess; lay not aside the fear of God and be not of the negligent. Whoso findeth that his means are insufficient to this purpose hath been excused by God, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Bounteous.

V. Specific Admonitions, Reproofs and Warnings Addressed to:

1. The entire human race
2. Crowned heads of the world
3. The concourse of ecclesiastics
4. The Rulers of America and Presidents of the Republics therein
5. William I, King of Prussia
6. Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria
7. The people of the Bayán
8. Members of parliaments throughout the world

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

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

1. The transcendent character of the Bahá'í Revelation
2. The exalted station of the Author of the Faith
3. The supreme importance of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, "The Most Holy Book"
4. The doctrine of the "Most Great Infallibility"
5. The twin duties of recognition of the Manifestation and observance of His Laws, and their inseparability
6. The end of all learning is the recognition of Him Who is the Object of all knowledge

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

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

7. The blessedness of those who have recognized the fundamental verity "He shall not be asked of His doings"

8. The revolutionizing effect of the "Most Great Order"

9. The selection of a single language and the adoption of a common script for all on earth to use: one of two signs of the maturity of the human race

10. Prophecies of the Báb regarding "He Whom God will make manifest"

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

11. Prediction relating to opposition to the Faith
12. Eulogy of the king who will profess the Faith and arise to serve it
13. The instability of human affairs
14. The meaning of true liberty
15. The merit of all deeds is dependent upon God's acceptance
16. The importance of love for God as the motive of obedience to His Laws

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

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

17. The importance of utilizing material means
18. Eulogy of the learned among the people of Bahá
19. Assurance of forgiveness to Mírzá Yahyá should he repent
20. Apostrophe addressed to Tihrán
21. Apostrophe addressed to Constantinople and its people
22. Apostrophe addressed to the "banks of the Rhine"

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

23. Condemnation of those who lay false claim to esoteric knowledge
24. Condemnation of those who allow pride in their learning to debar them from God
25. Prophecies relating to Khurásán
26. Prophecies relating to Kirmán
27. Allusion to Shaykh Ahmad-i-Ahsá'í
28. Allusion to the Sifter of Wheat

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

VI. Miscellaneous Subjects

29. Condemnation of Hájí Muhammad-Karím Khán
30. Condemnation of Shaykh Muhammad-Hasan
31. Allusion to Napoleon III
32. Allusion to Siyyid Muhammad-i-Isfahání
33. Assurance of aid to all those who arise to serve the Faith

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

