

A yellow rectangular area with a subtle fingerprint pattern of concentric circles, centered on the word "Trust".

Trust

Trust and Trustworthiness

Issues for Discourse with Youth

Bahá'í Discourse - Trust

Trustworthiness

The quality of always being good, honest, sincere so that people can rely on you. You are able to be trusted. It makes you reliable. It is essential to building strong relationships.

This trust needs to be warranted, meaning justified, well-grounded or plausible.

Usually trust is interpersonal, that is trust in a person, but it can also apply to groups, institutions, government or science.

The opposite is distrust.

Distrust

Today there is an increasing lack of trust in governments, in leaders, especially politicians, in businesses, in traditional religious institutions, in sources of information, in people around us.

Many promises are made and not kept. Agreements are signed but not implemented. Corruption is widespread. Criminal activity is increasing. With so much distrust, and the fear it generates, it is hard to be positive. This is why trustworthiness is so important.

Need for Trust

- Governments must be trustworthy
- States must trust that decisions to protect the Earth System are really taken in the common interest
- People must trust that their human and environmental rights will be protected
- Everyone should be able to develop their full potential to contribute to society
- Action must be founded on justice for all and for nature
- Sacrifices should be shared equitably
- No one should be left behind

Trustworthiness

The goodliest vesture in the sight of God in this day is trustworthiness. All bounty and honour shall be the portion of the soul that arrayeth itself with this greatest of adornments.

(Bahá'u'lláh, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá'í Virtue §1)

Trustworthiness

Be ye God's manifestations of trustworthiness in every land. So perfectly should ye mirror forth this quality that even were ye to travel through cities heaped with gold, your gaze would not for a single moment be seduced by its allure. This is the standard required of you, O assemblage of true believers.

Trustworthiness

Beseech the Lord that He deprive not His dominions of the effulgent light of the sun of trustworthiness, nor deny them the radiance of the Day-Star of truthfulness or the splendour of the orb of justice and equity.

Trustworthiness and piety are even as two luminaries shining resplendent above the horizon of the heaven of the Tablet in which are inscribed the ordinances of God. Well is it with them that have discerned them, and woe betide the heedless!

(Bahá'u'lláh, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian and Arabic, compilation: Trustworthiness,

Trustworthiness

The first, the fundamental purpose underlying creation hath ever been, and will continue to be, none other than the appearance of trustworthiness and godliness, of sincerity and goodwill amongst mankind, for these qualities are the cause of peace, security and tranquillity.

(Bahá'u'lláh, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá'í Virtue §7)

Trustworthiness

The fourth Ṭaráz concerneth trustworthiness. Verily it is the door of security for all that dwell on earth and a token of glory on the part of the All-Merciful. He who partaketh thereof hath indeed partaken of the treasures of wealth and prosperity.

Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquillity and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light.

(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p. 37)

Trustworthiness

We gazed on one of the Beauties of the Most Sublime Paradise, standing on a pillar of light, and calling aloud saying: ‘O inmates of earth and heaven! Behold ye My beauty, and My radiance, and My revelation, and My effulgence. By God, the True One! I am Trustworthiness and the revelation thereof, and the beauty thereof. I will recompense whosoever will cleave unto Me, and recognize My rank and station, and hold fast unto My hem. I am the most great ornament of the people of Bahá, and the vesture of glory unto all who are in the kingdom of creation. I am the supreme instrument for the prosperity of the world, and the horizon of assurance unto all beings.’

(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p.122)

Trustworthiness

Commerce is as a heaven, whose sun is trustworthiness and whose moon is truthfulness. The most precious of all things in the estimation of Him Who is the Sovereign Truth is trustworthiness: thus hath it been recorded in the sacred Scroll of God. Entreat ye the one true God to enable all mankind to attain to this most noble and lofty station.

(Bahá'u'lláh, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian and Arabic, compilation: Trustworthiness, §34)

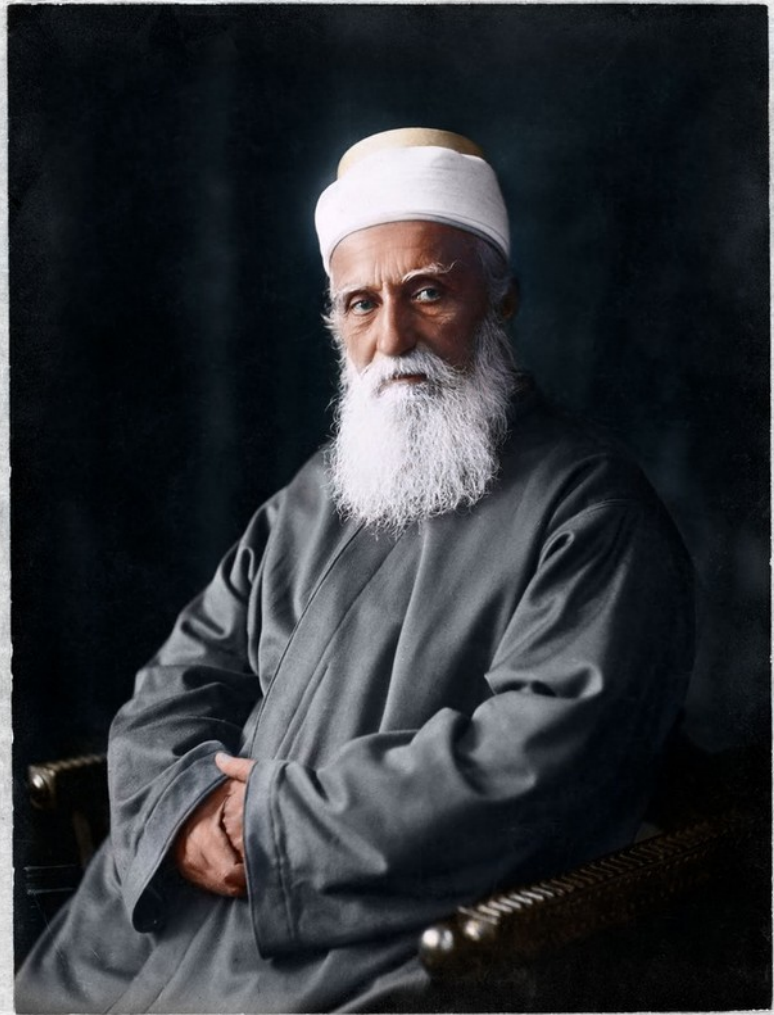
Trustworthiness

We have enjoined upon all to become engaged in some trade or profession, and have accounted such occupation to be an act of worship. Before all else, however, thou shouldst receive, as a sign of God's acceptance, the mantle of trustworthiness from the hands of divine favour; for trustworthiness is the chief means of attracting confirmation and prosperity.

(Bahá'u'lláh, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá'í Virtue §33)

'Abdu'l-Bahá

the perfect
example



Boissonnas & Caponier, 12, Rue de la Paix, Paris.

No. 1011

Abdul Baha Abbas

Trustworthiness

...in the sight of God, trustworthiness is the bedrock of His Faith and the foundation of all virtues and perfections. A man deprived of this quality is destitute of everything. What shall faith and piety avail if trustworthiness be lacking?

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá’í Virtue §46)

Trustworthiness

The primary characteristic of true believers is trustworthiness whereas the primary characteristic of the rebellious is faithlessness.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá’í Virtue §45)

Trustworthiness

Every business company should be established on divine principles. Its foundations should be trustworthiness, piety and truthfulness in order to protect the rights of the people.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, from a Tablet—translated from the Persian, compilation: Trustworthiness: A Cardinal Bahá’í Virtue §50)

Trustworthiness

Of the manifold virtues in Bahá'í Scriptures which the individual is exhorted to cultivate, trustworthiness is of the first rank. Bahá'u'lláh states that the tranquility and security of the world, the stability of every affair – of every human transaction, of every contract negotiated, of every endeavor promulgated – depend on it. Whether in the home, at work, in the community or in business or political affairs, trustworthiness is at the heart of all constructive interaction and engagement. It is key to the maintenance of unity between diverse peoples and nations.

(Bahá'í International Community, Valuing Spirituality in Development, 1998)

Trustworthiness

Those who wield authority bear a great responsibility to be worthy of public trust. Leaders – including those in government, politics, business, religion, education, the media, the arts and community organizations – must be willing to be held accountable for the manner in which they exercise their authority. Trustworthiness and an active morality must become the foundation for all leadership if true progress is to be achieved.

(Bahá'í International Community, Valuing Spirituality in Development, 1998)

Moral Leadership

Moral leadership, the leadership of the future, will find its highest expression in service to others and to the community as a whole. It will foster collective decision-making and collective action and will be motivated by a commitment to justice, including the equality of women and men, and to the well-being of all humanity. Moral leadership will manifest itself in adherence to a single standard of conduct in both public and private life, for leaders and for citizens alike.

(Bahá'í International Community, Valuing Spirituality in Development, 1998)

Ultimate Trust

What could be more trustworthy than the Word of God, and divinely-inspired institutions?

Bahá'ís are fortunate to have the Revelations of two Manifestations of God, perfectly recorded, two immediate successors who were promised divine inspiration, and now the Universal House of Justice ordained by God as freed from all error.

While everything else may be subject to questions, we can turn to this divine authority as fully trustworthy.

Universal
House of
Justice

1963



Spiritual Authority

The Bab, Bahá'u'lláh, Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi are the four central figures of the Baha'i Faith and the authoritative sources of the revelation.

(David Langness in Bahá'í Teachings:
<https://bahaiteachings.org/one-hundred-years-divine-guidance/>)

The Bab referred to Bahá'u'lláh as “Him whom God shall make manifest”. Bahá'u'lláh designated ‘Abdu'l-Bahá as His successor. ‘Abdu'l-Bahá named Shoghi Effendi as the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'u'lláh Himself called for the Universal House of Justice.

Spiritual Authority

The Bab's revelation from 1844 to 1850 lasted six years. Baha'u'llah's revelation began in 1863 and continued until his passing in 1892, for 29 years. Abdu'l-Baha, appointed by Baha'u'llah to lead the Baha'i Faith as his successor and exemplar, guided the Faith from 1892-1921, 29 more years. When Abdu'l-Baha passed away in 1921, he appointed Shoghi Effendi as the Guardian of the Faith, who administered and guided the worldwide Baha'i community for another 36 years until 1957. That is 100 years of divine spiritual guidance.

(based on David Langness in Bahá'í Teachings: <https://bahaiteachings.org/one-hundred-years-divine-guidance/>)

Spiritual Authority

Shoghi Effendi claimed no divine station at all, but the Baha'i writings describe his role and the role of Abdu'l-Baha—both unique in religious history—as the divinely-inspired authoritative interpreters of the Baha'i teachings.

The Baha'i teachings give humanity a new spiritual path, setting forth a new system of divine law, and then creating a democratically-elected global leadership structure headed by the Universal House of Justice to deal with the newly-developing areas, sciences and subjects that progress and the revelation itself left to posterity.

(based on David Langness in Bahá'í Teachings: <https://bahaiteachings.org/one-hundred-years-divine-guidance/>)

Source of Spiritual Authority

It is incumbent upon the Aghsán, the Afnán and My Kindred to turn, one and all, their faces towards the Most Mighty Branch. Consider that which We have revealed in Our Most Holy Book: “When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed and the Book of My Revelation is ended, turn your faces towards Him Whom God hath purposed, Who hath branched from this Ancient Root.” The object of this sacred verse is none except the Most Mighty Branch [‘Abdu’l-Bahá].

(Bahá’u’lláh, Kitáb-i-‘Ahd (Book of the Covenant))

Source of Spiritual Authority

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, under the shelter and unerring guidance of the Exalted One (may my life be offered up for them both). Whatsoever they decide is of God.

(Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)

Source of Spiritual Authority

Concerning the House of Justice which God hath ordained as the source of all good and freed from all error, it must be elected by universal suffrage, that is, by the believers.... By this House is meant the Universal House of Justice.... Unto this body all things must be referred. It enacteth all ordinances and regulations that are not to be found in the explicit Holy Text.

(Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)

Trustworthy Spiritual Authority

We can turn to the Bahá'í sacred writings in many volumes, the extensive tablets, writings and lectures of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the unnumbered letters, writings and translations of Shoghi Effendi, and now the continuing flow of guidance from the Universal House of Justice, with the assurance that they are completely trustworthy sources of learning and inspiration in a world so full of confusion. No one else is so blessed.