



BAHÁ'IS ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE



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Throughout history, some rules have always been applicable and followed and some others have not been welcomed by liberal countries. Tom R. Tyler¹, a renowned psychologist, believes that effectiveness of rules is based whether it derived from the personal self-interest and social values or not.

In every society, complying with the laws is of vital importance and not complying, would create a disturbance in reaching its goals. Sometimes, a rule can be opposing the beliefs and cultures of a society. For instance, banning (or even forcing) Hijab in a secular and liberal country, would inevitably hurt the Muslims (or non-Muslims) and would result in a protest and even the liberals would follow to protest more and all would seek to repeal the inhumane and unjust law.

Yet there is a sect named Baha'ism, which does not have any acceptance of the rights and freedom of its own beliefs and only sees itself obedient to the country in which they reside, even if it opposes their own beliefs. This goes to the limit that the governmental laws supersede the Bahá'i laws.

As it has been quoted from Shoghi Effendi:

“Following the laws of the Book of Aqdas is mandatory when it is doable and not opposing any laws of the country.”²

¹ For more information on professor Tyler you can [visit his homepage](#) at Yale Law School.

² Baha'i Procedure (Nizamat Baha'i), Page 6.

BAHÁ'Í PROCEDURE

Instructions from Shoghi Effendi, and Procedures and Rulings Adopted by the National Spiritual Assembly, Compiled from the Guardian's Letters, Bahá'í News, and Minutes and Records of the National Assembly, for the Information of American Bahá'ís.



Section One

Material Defining the Attitude and Action of the Individual Bahá'í.

Section Two

Instructions and Procedures for the Local Spiritual Assembly.

Section Three

The Function and Procedure of the Annual Convention.

Section Four

Instructions and Procedures for the National Spiritual Assembly.



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Obedying a country's law is just and necessary to protect citizen's rights, yet it does not mean that divine instructions should be violated since it is not like a personal belief which can be neglected; unless leaders of that faith see themselves as divine-less. Thus in the case of Baha'ism, a country's law is simply given preference to the so-called divine legislative system. This means that the Baha'is must always be obedient to the rulers of their own time and place, and disregard their own teachings.

Elsewhere, `Abdu'l-Bahá in his writings uses the term 'absolute obedience'. Universal House of Justice quotes from `Abdu'l-Bahá:

“The methods of civilization and the beautification of the country must also be encouraged; and also to be inculcated is absolute obedience to the Government and total avoidance of any trace of sedition.”³

³ From the writings and utterances of `Abdu'l-Bahá on [Bahá'í Reference Library](#)

Having said, the question that Bahá'is must answer is that why their divine commandments are so unimportant and devalued to the extent that they must follow the Zionist system of Israel without any questioning or objections.

Why do Bahá'is and their leaders apply these commandments only in Israel?

Why do not they do anything against Israeli government and act presumably based on their divine mandate and destiny, while in other countries such as Turkey, Malaysia, Iran, Egypt, etc. where propagating Bahá'i faith is considered illegal, preach non-Bahá'is and invite them to convert? And when they are confronted they cry out loud for violation of their rights and there is not a person that they have not informed of such.

How can we make sense of this dilemma?

