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# SHOGHI EFFENDI; ERA OF RULING

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Shoghi Effendi entitled Shoghi Rabbani (1314 – 1377 A.H. / 1336 S.H.) was the oldest son of `Abdu'l-Bahá's daughter. In `Abdu'l-Bahá's Will and Testament, Shoghi Rabbani was appointed as `Abdu'l-Bahá's successor.

Like previous cases, succession of Shoghi Effendi caused disputes and separation among Baha'is.

In fact `Abdu'l-Bahá revised what his father had appointed and set aside his brother Muhammad `Ali Effendi, who had to be the next Bahá'i leader, and founded line of guardians<sup>1</sup> the first of whom was Shoghi and it should be continued in his male offspring afterwards<sup>2</sup>. Shoghi reached leadership with the aid of his mother however, some groups did not accept him, such as: Abdu'l-Husain Ayati, Fazlollah Sobhi (Mohtadi) and Hassan Nikoo. Some of them doubted the validity of the will.

### Some important activities

Shoghi, as was the case for his predecessors, slandered and reviled his opponents and they published books in response to him containing reports on their affiliation to Bahá'i and their observations. Some examples of these books are Kashfol-hial from Abdu'l-Husain Ayati, Sobhi's memoirs and Nikoo philosophy.

Contrary to his ancestors, Shoghi had official studies at American University of Beirut and Oxford University. His studies at Oxford were unfinished due to `Abdu'l-Bahá's death.

His fundamental role in Bahá'i history was developing its administrative and universal organizations. This process speeded up in Europe and United States in 1960s and the buildings of Bahá'i continental house of worships known as Mashreghol-azkar<sup>3</sup> were built.

### Creating the first UHJ

Bahá'i organization which was called by Shoghi Effendi 'Administrative Orders of the Faith'<sup>4</sup> is administered under the supervision of Bahá'is administrative and spiritual center located in Haifa, Israel. It is also known as The Universal House of Justice (UHJ).

<sup>1</sup> Wilayah Amr-Allah (ولاية امرالله)

<sup>2</sup> `Abdu'l-Bahá Will and Testament; page 11-16

<sup>3</sup> مشرق الأذكار

<sup>4</sup> Amr-Allah (امرالله)

## Close relations with Israel

Israel government was established in the occupied Palestine during Shoghi's life. Its establishment was opposed by all Islamic countries. Moreover Zionists behavior toward Muslims have hurt Muslims feelings and emotions. In contrast, Shoghi along with the letters showing his and Bahá'i approval of establishment of Israel government, visited Israel president after its establishment and "stated Bahá'is friendship toward Israel and their wishes and prays for the development and blessings of Israel"<sup>5</sup>. He also announced the Bahá'is in his congratulatory message for Nowruz of 1329 S.H. that "the proof of God promise to Khalil's son and Kalim's heirs has appeared and the Israeli government has settled in the holy land".

It was also mentioned in this message, the firm connection of Israel to the international center of Bahá'i community<sup>6</sup>. There are reports on the various examples of Bahá'i leaders' connections with the Israeli government, and their efforts to the recognition of Bahá'i by this government, published in the Bahá'is Akhbar Amri<sup>7</sup> journals and holy letters<sup>8</sup> of Shoghi Effendi.

## Books

Shoghi has written some books in Persian and English:

### Kitab-i-Badi<sup>9</sup>

It is originally in English in four volumes containing Báb and Bahá's history until 100th year of Báb claim, holy letters, and the collection of Shoghi's manuscripts about different ceremonies in six volumes in Persian.

<sup>5</sup> Journal of the Akhbar Amri (اخبار امری), Tir 1333 S.H.

<sup>6</sup> Holy Letters; Shoghi Effendi, page 290

<sup>7</sup> اخبار امری

<sup>8</sup> Toghi-a't Mobarakah (توقیعات مبارکه)

<sup>9</sup> Qarn Badi (قرن بدیع)

## The Era of Bahá'is<sup>10</sup>

This book was written in English and is a review of Bahá'i history and its future prediction based on `Abdu'l-Bahá thoughts, and translation of Nabil Zarandi History in English (about this book, Mohit Tabatabaee, year 3, no. 9, page 706).

## His succession

Based on `Abdu'l-Bahá's crystal clear explanation in his Will and Testament, after him, 24 of his male children, generation after generation, with the title of the guardian<sup>11</sup> should have undertaken Bahá'i's leadership and every one of them should have determined his successor "in order not to have conflict after his ascent (his death)" (`Abdu'l-Bahá, Mofavezat, page 45-46). However the first one of this succession, Shoghi Effendi, was infertile and obviously after his death, in 1337 S.H., another period of split and confusion appeared among Bahá'is. However, at last Shoghi Effendi's wife, Rúhiyyih Maxwell with a group of 27 people chosen by Shoghi Effendi who were known as hands of the cause<sup>12</sup> obtained most of Bahá'is consent and rejected their opponents and founded Universal House of Justice in 1342 S.H./1964. They, together with the chosen people by House of Justice, known as Continental Board of Counsellors, are responsible for the leadership of Bahá'is. Based on Bahá'is statistics, their population is currently estimated to be 5-7 million.

## Remey's branch formed along with the Haifan branch

Another branch which formed along with Rúhiyyih Maxwell's leadership, was Remey's. Since the permanent leader of Universal House of Justice according to `Abdu'l-Bahá's foresight has to be a guardian, and the House of Justice does not have the authority to lead without a guardian, Charles Mason Remey claimed to be the successor of Shoghi as the new guardian.

He presented some proofs of his succession and mentioned Shoghi's murder plot and the elimination of Shoghi's will.

<sup>10</sup> Dor Bahá'i (دور بهایی)

<sup>11</sup> Wali Amr-Allah (ولی امرالله)

<sup>12</sup> Ayadyan Amr-Allah (ایادیان امرالله)

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Mason Remey found followers among Bahá'is and established another group called Bahá'i Orthodox. Nowadays this group are scattered in different parts of America, India, Australia and some other countries.

Another group of Bahá'is followed a young Bahá'i from Khorasan called Jamshid Maani. He called himself Sam'allah<sup>13</sup> his followers are scattered in Indonesia, India, Pakistan and America.



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<sup>13</sup> سماء الله