



SARAWAK BAHÁ'Í NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Sarawak

To the Baha'is of Sarawak

Dearly loved Friends,

In this Feast of Izzat, which means "Might" in Arabic, let us be mindful of the sanctity of our Baha'i laws and ordinances. In the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Bahá'u'lláh asserted:

"Think not that We have revealed unto you a mere code of laws. Nay, rather, We have unsealed the choice Wine with the fingers of might and power."

Becoming a Baha'i means observing all these laws and ordinances, with the full knowledge that they are, as characterized by Bahá'u'lláh, *"the highest means for the maintenance of order in the world and the security of its peoples"*.

In the face of political upheaval happening in various regions of the world, the fiercest one being the on-going fighting between the government forces and the opposition in Libya, it is appropriate for us to remind the friends of our stand regarding the non-political character of our

beloved Faith; though we are apolitical, we can vote, without identifying ourselves with one party or another. Such a reminder is timely, too, in view of the expectation that the general election for our country will be called soon.

Regarding the on-going demand for political changes in certain regions, we must take note of the word of caution given by our beloved Supreme Body in its **"No matter how captivating the spectacle of the people's fervour for change, it must be remembered that there are interests which manipulate the course of events."**

We should be actively concerned on what is going on around us for the Blessed Beauty has said:

"Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and center your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements."

However, it is often through our misguided feeling that we can somehow aid our fellowmen better by some activity outside the Faith that Bahá'ís are led to

indulge in politics. This is a dangerous delusion. As Shoghi Effendi's secretary wrote on his behalf:

"What we Bahá'ís must face is the fact that society is disintegrating so rapidly that moral issues which were clear half a century ago are now hopelessly confused and, what is more, thoroughly mixed up with battling political interests. That is why Bahá'ís must turn all their forces into the channel of building up the Bahá'í Cause and its administration. They can neither change nor help the world in any other way at present. If they become involved in the issues the governments of the world are struggling over, they will be lost. But if they build up the Bahá'í pattern they can offer it as a remedy when all else has failed."

The Guardian, in another letter written on his behalf by his secretary, also said:

"We Bahá'ís are one the world over; we are seeking to build up a new World Order, divine in origin. How can we do this if

every Bahá'í is a member of a different political party – some of them diametrically opposite to each other? Where is our unity then? We would be divided, because of politics, against ourselves, and this is the opposite of our purpose... The best way for a Bahá'í to serve his country and the world is to work for the establishment of Bahá'u'lláh's World Order, which will gradually unite all men and do away with divisive political systems and religious creeds."

For, as cautioned by Universal House of Justice in the Ridvan 2011 Message:

"And, so long as the remedy prescribed by the Divine Physician is not administered, the tribulations of this age will persist and deepen."

Setting politics aside, let us be actively involved in our current Five Year Plan with its goal to raise "the total number of clusters in which a programme of growth is underway, at whatever level of intensity, to 1,500", with the full confidence that this is the remedy.

We wish you a spiritually uplifting gathering in this Feast of Izzat.

With loving greetings,
Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá'ís of Sarawak

Universal participation and the Fund

Letter of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the world, dated 29 December 1970

"The universal participation of the believers in every aspect of the Faith—in contributing to the Fund, in teaching, deepening, living the Bahá'í life, administering the affairs of the community, and, above all, in the life of the prayer and devotion to God—will endow the Bahá'í community with such strength that it can overcome the forces of spiritual disintegration which are engulfing the non-Bahá'í world, and can become an ocean of oneness that will cover the face of the planet."

Letter of the Universal House of Justice dated September 1964

"Every believer can contribute to the Fund. Not all believers can give public talks, not all are called upon to serve on administrative institutions. But all can pray, fight their own spiritual battles, and contribute to the Fund. If every believer will carry out these sacred duties, we shall be astonished at the accession of power which will result to the whole body, and which in its turn will give rise to further growth and the showering of greater blessings on all of us."

"The real secret of universal participation lies in the Master's oft-expressed wish that the friends should love each other, constantly encourage each other, work together, be as one soul in one body, and in so doing become a true, organic, healthy body animated and illumined by the spirit. In such a body all will receive spiritual health and vitality from the organism itself, and the most perfect flowers and fruits will be brought forth."

"... the participation of every believer is of the utmost importance, and is a source of power and vitality as yet unknown to us. For extensive and deep as has been the sharing in the glorious work of the Cause, who would claim that every single believer has succeeded in finding his or her fullest satisfaction in the life of the Cause?"