

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HUQÚQU'LLÁH IN CANADA**  
**CONSEIL DES MANDATAIRES DU HUQÚQU'LLÁH AU CANADA**

April 26, 2019

To those gathered at the 71<sup>st</sup> National Convention of the Bahá'ís of Canada

Dear Friends,

With gratitude to the National Spiritual Assembly, the Board of Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh in Canada wishes to share with you a few words about the Right of God – that “*mighty act*”<sup>1</sup> the liberating influence of which we have, so far, only dimly experienced.<sup>2</sup>

Bahá'u'lláh has “*blotted out from the pages of God's holy Book whatsoever hath been the cause of strife, of malice and mischief amongst the children of men.*”<sup>3</sup> Desiring “*to manifest grace and beneficence ... and to set the world in order, He revealed observances and created laws*”.<sup>4</sup> Among all these laws and principles, Huqúqu'lláh (the Right of God) stands out prominently.<sup>5</sup>

As lovers of the Blessed Beauty we are asked to broaden our knowledge on matters related to this “*highly significant*”<sup>6</sup> ordinance in such a way that it, and its application, are integrated into our daily life.<sup>7</sup> What it might mean to so consciously obey this “*profoundly private act of conscience*”<sup>8</sup> to the degree that it becomes a daily observance, rather than an annual or monthly consideration of one's financial affairs with the view to determining if payment is due, is -- and will be for many years to come -- among the many frontiers of learning in the Bahá'í world. Equally unknown is the impact such consciousness on the part of one protagonist of the Plan would have on the other two.

Applying the law in one's life is not a linear process. It is a cyclic and reflective one that develops many virtues. As awareness and understanding of the law increases, one begins – and then refines – its implementation. And, as a result, Bahá'u'lláh's exhortation to: “*Strive ye with all your might, O people, that ye may bring forth that which will truly profit you in the worlds of your Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised.*”<sup>9</sup> is fulfilled and its promise of “*divine increase, prosperity, dignity and honour*”<sup>10</sup> realized.

“*Man is in the highest degree of materiality, and at the beginning of spirituality – that is to say, he is the end of imperfection and the beginning of perfection.*”<sup>11</sup> Consequently, the present “*state of the world reflects a distortion of the human spirit, not its essential nature.*”<sup>12</sup> “*The destructive forces of materialism dominate both the East and the West*”<sup>13</sup> and “*consumerism continues to act as opium to the human soul*”.<sup>14</sup>

We exist “*in the midst of a society acutely disordered in its material affairs.*”<sup>15</sup> Given this milieu, “*Bahá'u'lláh is asking of us nothing less than a complete reversal of habitual human behaviour.*”<sup>16</sup> If, however, “*a new model of community life, patterned on the teachings, is to emerge, must not the company of the faithful demonstrate in their own lives the rectitude of conduct that is one of its most distinguishing features? Every choice a Bahá'í makes—as employee or employer, producer or consumer, borrower or lender, benefactor or beneficiary—leaves a trace, and the moral duty to lead a coherent life demands that one's economic decisions be in accordance with lofty ideals, that the purity of one's aims be matched by the purity of one's actions to fulfil those aims.*”<sup>17</sup> It is, “*in the final analysis, through the spiritual decisions and actions of the individual believers that the Faith moves forward on its course to ultimate victory.*”<sup>18</sup>

Although an obligation, Huqúq is a purely voluntary act, never to be solicited. “*It would be impossible to conceive any act more contemptible than soliciting, in the name of the one true God, the riches which men possess.*”<sup>19</sup>

*“Bahá’u’lláh’s Revelation is vast. It calls for profound change not only at the level of the individual but also in the structure of society.”*<sup>20</sup> Besides being a necessary element in *“managing one’s financial affairs in accordance with spiritual principles”*,<sup>21</sup> *“an indispensable dimension of a life lived coherently”*,<sup>22</sup> and *“a matter of conscience”*<sup>23</sup> for the individual, obedience to the law of the Right of God is also *“a way in which commitment to the betterment of the world is translated into practice.”*<sup>24</sup>

Discharging with joy one’s obligation ensures *“that the share which is the Right of God provides for the greater good.”*<sup>25</sup> It brings *“into the realm of existence civilization-building powers which can only be released through conformity with His decree.”*<sup>26</sup> It is *“a joyful way of building the strong fabric of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh”*<sup>27</sup> and for establishing *“a necessary framework to ensure equity and justice in the distribution of wealth”*.<sup>28</sup>

What other personal ordinance addresses so directly our twofold moral purpose – *“to develop ... inherent potentialities and to contribute to the transformation of society”*?<sup>29</sup>

Obedience to the Right of God has already had a *“profound impact ... on the worldwide activities of the Bahá’í community, an impact that portends far-reaching implications for the transformation of society.”*<sup>30</sup> The *“followers of Bahá’u’lláh have successfully laid the foundations of a worldwide community transcending all differences that divide the human race, and have brought into existence the principal institutions of a unique and unassailable Administrative Order that shapes this community’s life.”*<sup>31</sup> With increased visibility and engagement with society, however, comes the need for more concentrated attention to the economic dimension of social existence.<sup>32</sup>

We in Canada are fortunate. Our country’s future, *“whether from a material or a spiritual standpoint, is very great.”*<sup>33</sup> Let us then rise to the responsibility implied by that promise, attach not ourselves *“to the luxuries of this ephemeral world,”*<sup>34</sup> free ourselves *“from every attachment, and strive with heart and soul to become fully established in the Kingdom of God.”*<sup>35</sup>

With a mandate to assist in promoting understanding of the spiritual significance of this *“supremely important link between the spiritual and material aspects of Bahá’í life”*,<sup>36</sup> Representatives and Deputy Trustees stand ready to accompany and assist anyone interested in exploring and learning more. Please call upon us.

With heartfelt love for each and every one of you,  
The Board of Trustees of Huqúqu’lláh in Canada

<sup>1, 8 & 9</sup> *Huqúqu’lláh – The Right of God*, April 2007, Amended August 2009, #23, 27 & 10 respectively

<sup>2, 16, & 27</sup> Banani, Dr. Amin, *The Institution of Huqúqu’lláh: The Concept of Law*, talk given at the Arabic Session of Landegg Academy, August 1991

<sup>3 & 19</sup> Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings*, XLIII & C respectively

<sup>4</sup> Bahá’u’lláh, *General Prayers: Marriage*

<sup>5</sup> Varqa, Dr. Ali Muhammad, talk given during the Huqúqu’lláh Conferences in Barcelona, Spain and Hofheim, Germany, October 1999

<sup>6 & 10</sup> *The Right of God – Huqúqu’lláh*, Revised edition 1999, #45

<sup>7</sup> Varqa, Dr. Ali Muhammad, 29 September 2006 letter to the Institutional Conference, held at the Toronto Bahá’í Centre

<sup>11</sup> ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Compilation of Compilations*, Volume I, page 254

<sup>12</sup> Universal House of Justice, *Ridván*, 2012

<sup>13 & 28</sup> Universal House of Justice, 24 October 2018 letter to the Bahá’ís of Iran

<sup>14</sup> Universal House of Justice, 2 March 2013 letter to the Bahá’ís of Iran

<sup>15, & 21 - 24</sup> Universal House of Justice, 29 December 2015 letter to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors

<sup>17, 25 & 32</sup> The Universal House of Justice, 1 March 2017 letter to the Bahá’ís of the World

<sup>18</sup> Universal House of Justice, 25 February 1986 letter to all National Spiritual Assemblies

<sup>20</sup> Universal House of Justice, *Ridván*, 2010

<sup>26</sup> Universal House of Justice, 28 December 2010 letter to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors

<sup>29</sup> Universal House of Justice, 12 December 2011 letter to all National Spiritual Assemblies

<sup>30</sup> Universal House of Justice, 21 June 2016 letter to the International Board of Trustees of Huqúqu’lláh

<sup>31</sup> Universal House of Justice, 24 May 2001 letter to the Believers Gathered for the Events Marking the Completion of the Projects on Mount Carmel

<sup>33 - 35</sup> ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Tablets of the Divine Plan*, #13 Tablet to the Bahá’ís of Canada and Greenland

<sup>36</sup> Varqa, Dr. Ali Muhammad, 30 September 1993 letter to all the Deputies and Representatives of Huqúqu’lláh