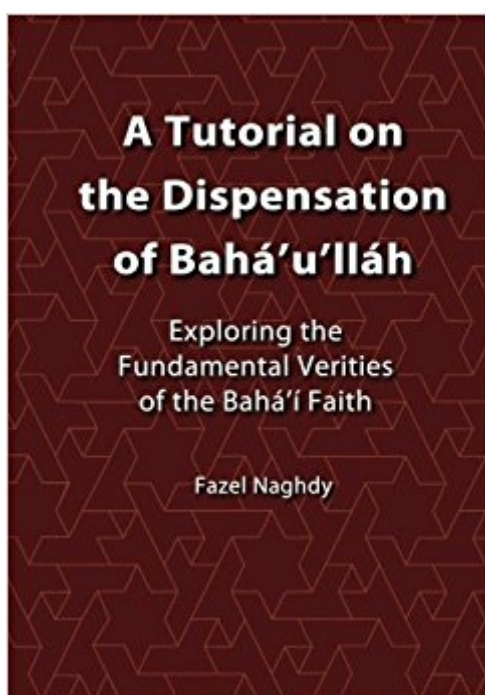


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A Tutorial On The Dispensation Of Bahá'í: Exploring The Fundamental Verities Of The Bahá'í-Faith



Synopsis

Shoghi Effendi stated that the first duty, and the focus of sustained efforts, of every faithful follower of the Bahá'í Faith is to strive to acquire a more adequate understanding of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. Although a full comprehension of such a Revelation is beyond the limits of our understanding, a clearer understanding of its basic truths will empower us to derive fresh inspiration and to gain further spiritual nourishment, which in turn will support and maintain our services to the Cause (Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 100). Shoghi Effendi wrote *“The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh”* in 1934 in the form of a letter addressed to the Bahá'ís of the West to assist them to fulfil the obligation of deepening their understanding. The letter was published together with a selection of his other letters in 1938 in the book entitled *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*. *“The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh”* provides an accurate and clear description of the fundamental verities of the Bahá'í Faith concerning the station of its Central Figures as well as the twin crowning institutions of the Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice. Grasping and upholding these verities will enrich the spiritual life of the individual. This tutorial is designed to assist you in studying and assimilating the content of *“The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh”*. It is called a tutorial to emphasize the concept underlying its development. In a tutorial, a tutor facilitates learning for an individual or a small group. This book has been designed and developed to simulate, as much as possible, the tutor-tutored relationship in a self-paced personal study. The tutorial identifies the main themes covered in Shoghi Effendi's letter and splits related paragraphs into chapters. Hence, the 130 paragraphs of *“The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh”* are apportioned for study across 27 chapters. The size and complexity of each chapter reflects the content and intricacy of the issues addressed in the paragraphs included therein. The title chosen for each chapter reflects the main theme covered in the paragraphs. In addition, two extra chapters address those questions that arose following the sudden passing of Shoghi Effendi and the lack of any lineal descendant to succeed him as the next Guardian. The first chapter explores the possible reasons that Shoghi Effendi did not leave a will nor appoint a successor. The second chapter examines the defection of Charles Mason Remey after the passing of Shoghi Effendi, and his unsubstantiated claim to the Guardianship.

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Customer Reviews

Fazel Naghdy is an educator and a researcher. His passion for education has been a dominant force in his life both as a Bahá'í™ and an academic. He has been working with Bahá'í™ youth and junior youth for more than 20 years, helping to unfold their inner intellectual and spiritual capacities. He has also been teaching at the tertiary education level for over two decades. He has published widely on innovation in teaching and learning as well as on his research discipline: robotics and intelligent systems. He is currently a professor at the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering, University of Wollongong. He lives with his wife Golshah in Wollongong, Australia.

I have not yet finished reading "A tutorial on the Kitab-i-Iqan" so my review is based on roughly the first 28% of this text. It is a large, softbound book which totals a massive 658 pages by its numbering. Don't be too put off by the size however. This book seems best designed for small groups who are studying the "Kitab-i-Iqan" and want to make use of a study guide. Here you will find all of the essentials. The entire text of the Kitab-i-Iqan as translated into English by Shoghi Effendi is included in the tutorial. The tutorial is divided into many small chapters. Each chapter, as a rule, focuses on a few consecutive paragraphs of the Iqan. The author begins by highlighting what he feels are the most important themes in those paragraphs. This is followed by the actual text (English only), then by some further commentary by the author, often referring to other sources such as other Baha'i texts, passages from the Quran, and elsewhere related to the theme. Finally at the end of each chapter are a number of proposed questions for discussion. Each question is followed by lines, on which a student can write his or her proposed answers for discussion, typically about a paragraph's worth of space or less. There are no proposed "answers" to the questions, as there are no official "answers" other than the text itself or authorized works directly commenting upon it. The questions make the reader think further about the meaning of the themes. Sometimes the questions are quite

thought-provoking and different readers may come up with quite different answers. In total there are 58 "chapters". So far I would say this is the best study guide to the Kitab-i-Iqan that I have seen published in the English language. Certainly it is the longest! A very honorable mention goes to a much smaller work, containing some real pearls of wisdom (some of which, so far, seem not to be included in this work) and that is "A Companion to Study of the Kitab-i-Iqan" by Hooper Dunbar, a mere 290 (smaller) pages in length. If you had to pick only 2 study guides for the Iqan, these would be go-to. There are a few mistakes in the text of this tutorial. I have found a few. Maybe you'll see some others! Mostly they are minor; occasionally they affect the meaning.

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