



REFLECTIONS ON THE JANUARY 4, 2022 LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

1. Have you noticed a *"RISE IN CAPACITY"* in yourself or your community within the past two years, specifically within traditionally marginalized groups? Share the tangible results you've witnessed. What factors do you attribute to "rise in capacity" and how is it bettering the worlds of marginalized people?
2. The Counselors and their auxiliaries will be at your side as YOU PREPARE FOR THIS *IMMENSE COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE*, what are you doing to prepare to make the most for the sweep across the globe of Bahauallah's *UNIVERSAL SUMMONS*?
3. We are told that *A CONFLUENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES* has made this *A CHARGED MOMENT*. What are some of the circumstances *WITHIN THE FAITH* that have made this moment in our history so charged? What are of the circumstances *WITHIN THE WORLD AT LARGE*?
4. What are some of the *GLOBAL CHALLENGES NOW FACING HUMANITY* THAT ARE *SEVERELY TESTING ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ITS ONENESS*? What can you do to help humanity see its oneness?
5. First, define family by sharing the first three words that come to mind when you think about your family. Clearly, we are to treat each other as *ONE, INTERCONNECTED FAMILY*, however, do you think everyone feels like family in your community? Do POTE? Do SOTE? Do Non-Persians, Muslims, Christians, Jews, and others get treated like family? What about Republicans and Democrats? Vaccinated vs. unvaccinated; mentally ill, singles, etc. What can you do to make sure everyone feels like a functional happy family?
6. *"SHARING ONE PRECIOUS HOMELAND."* What are you doing to be a good steward of the planet and to protect our natural resources and human and animal lives?
7. *AT THIS SAME MOMENT, THE FOLLOWERS OF BAHAUILLAH ARE EXAMINING ANEW THE POSSIBILITIES BEFORE THEM.* Looking with fresh eyes, what possibilities are before YOU right now? What possibilities are before your community right now.
8. What do you see as the *"SOCIETY BUILDING POWERS OF THE FAITH?"*
9. This plan will test your *STAMINA* or ability to sustain prolonged physical EFFORT. What can you do or how can you prepare yourself to pass this stamina test?
10. This plan will test your *WILLPOWER* to restrain your impulses, how will you prepare yourself to pass the willpower test?

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11. This plan will test *THE STRENGTH OF YOUR LOVE FOR THOSE WHO DWELL ALONGSIDE YOU*. First, define LOVE! Do you feel loved? Are you feeling loving towards others? Who dwells alongside you? How is your love for those alongside you being tested? How are you sustaining? What are you learning? On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the strength of YOUR LOVE for those who dwell alongside you? Using the same scale, how would you rate the strength of the THEIR LOVE for you?
12. What can you do to *nurture* other people, especially POTE (who have for so long, received such grievous and slow healing wounds)?
13. How would you define "*communities of common purpose*", and how can we find, connect with, and help these communities to "*recognize the power of unity*?"
14. How can the power of unity *HEAL? TRANSCEND?*
15. Let's discuss each of the types of "endeavors" to find sanctuary: *WORSHIP AND PRAISE, EDUCATION, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES*. How might we think about each of these avenues of creating a sense of safety for everyone.
16. Do you feel *safe* in your community? If so, describe what makes you feel *nurtured*, encouraged, and safe in your community?
17. If you do not feel "*safe*," share your definition of community and what would have to happen in your community for it to be one of those sanctuary communities and for you to feel safe in it?
18. Lines 55-62 describe "these sanctuary communities", It describes a community where every soul will find "sanctuary" or feel safe, find shelter, a refuge from the world that harms them. What is required of a sanctuary community to be a safe space? What people now desperately need a safe space or sanctuary? *LGBTQ? POTE? ELDERS? MENTALLY ILL? HOMELESS? CHILDREN OR FAMILIES OF MIXED LINEAGE? POOR PEOPLE? DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS? THE SICK?* What do we need to do to attract, support, and help heal these vulnerable populations?
19. We are told to "*examine anew the possibilities before us*. AS POTE, and that we have two global challenges that will test us (1) putting aside our short-term interests, and (2) come to terms with the stark spiritual and moral reality that we are one interconnected family, what one thing can you do to bring this about?

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THIS SECTION IS A REFLECTION ON THE PROMISE OF ABDUL-BAHA

THE **SMALL** SHALL BE MADE GREAT
THE **POWERLESS** SHALL BE GIVEN STRENGTH
THEY THAT ARE OF **TENDER AGE** SHALL BECOME THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM
THOSE THAT HAVE **GONE ASTRAY** BE GUIDED TO THEIR HEAVENLY HOME

“**SOON** will the Western regions become as radiant as the horizons of the East, and the Sun of Truth shine forth with a refulgence that will cause the darkness of error to fade away and vanish. **Great is the multitude**

- ✓ who will **rise up to oppose you,**
- ✓ who will **oppress you,**
- ✓ **heap blame upon you,**
- ✓ **rejoice at your misfortunes,**
- ✓ **account you people to be shunned,** and
- ✓ **visit injury upon you;**

yet shall your heavenly Father confer upon you such spiritual illumination that ye shall become even as the rays of the sun which, as they chase away the sombre clouds, break forth to flood the surface of the earth with light.

It is incumbent upon you, whensoever these tests may overtake you,

- ✓ to **stand firm,** and
- ✓ to **be patient and enduring.** Instead of repaying like with like, ye should
- ✓ **requite opposition with the utmost benevolence and loving-kindness,** and on no account
- ✓ **attach importance to cruelties and injuries,** but rather
- ✓ **regard them as the wanton acts of children.**

For ultimately the radiance of the Kingdom will overwhelm the darkness of the world of being, and the holy, exalted character of your aims will become unmistakably apparent. Nothing shall remain concealed: the olive oil, though stored within the deepest vault, shall one day burn in brightness from the lamp atop the beacon. **The small shall be made great, and the powerless shall be given strength; they that are of tender age shall become the children of the Kingdom, and those that have gone astray shall be guided to their heavenly home.”**

'Abdu'l-Bahá, From a Tablet dated 14 November 1909 to an individual, published in Crisis and Victory (London: Baha'i Publishing Trust, 1988), p. 24.; Baha'i World Volume XX, 1986-1992, p. 23

QUESTION: SO, BASED ON THE PROMISES OF CRISES AND THE MULTITUDES TURNING AGAINST YOU, WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL PLAN ON HOW YOU WILL MEET THESE INJUSTICES AND RISE ABOVE THEM?