

1 **Letter of April 12, 1927.**

2
3 To the members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United
4 States and Canada:

5
6 Dearly-beloved friends:

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8 Your recent communications, dated February 17 and March 2, 17 and 21, have
9 been received, and their perusal has served to heighten my admiration for the
10 unflinching determination which characterizes the concerted efforts which you
11 are exerting for the spread and consolidation of the Bahá'í Faith.

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13 **Inter-racial Amity**

14 I have also received and read with the keenest interest and appreciation a copy of
15 that splendid document formulated by the National Committee on inter-racial
16 amity and addressed to all the Spiritual Assemblies throughout the United States
17 and Canada. This moving appeal, so admirable in its conception, so sound and
18 sober in its language, has struck a responsive chord in my heart. Sent forth at a
19 highly opportune moment in the evolution of our sacred Faith, it has served as a
20 potent reminder of these challenging issues which still confront in a peculiar
21 manner the American believers.

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23 As this problem, in the inevitable course of events, grows in acuteness and
24 complexity, and as the number of the faithful from both races multiplies, it will
25 become increasingly evident that the future growth and prestige of the Cause are
26 bound to be influenced to a very considerable degree by the manner in which the
27 adherents of the Bahá'í Faith carry out, first among themselves and in their
28 relations with their fellow-men, those high standards of inter-racial amity so
29 widely proclaimed and so fearlessly exemplified to the American people by our
30 Master 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

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32 I direct my appeal with all the earnestness and urgency that this pressing
33 problem calls for to every conscientious upholder of the universal principles of
34 Bahá'u'lláh to face this extremely delicate situation with the boldness, the
35 decisiveness and wisdom it demands. I cannot believe that those whose hearts
36 have been touched by the regenerating influence of God's creative Faith in His
37 day will find it difficult to cleanse their souls from every lingering trace of racial
38 animosity so subversive of the Faith they profess.

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40 How can hearts that throb with the love of God fail to respond to all the
41 implications of this supreme injunction of Bahá'u'lláh, the unreserved acceptance
42 of which, under the circumstances now prevailing in America, constitutes
43 the **hall-mark** of a **true** Bahá'í character? Let every believer, desirous to witness
44 the swift and healthy progress of the Cause of God, realize the **twofold nature** of
45 his task.

46 Let him first turn his eyes inwardly and search his own heart and satisfy himself
47 that in his relations with his fellow-believers, irrespective of color and class, he is
48 proving himself increasingly loyal to the spirit of his beloved Faith.

49
50 Assured and content that he is exerting his utmost in a conscious effort to
51 approach nearer every day the lofty station to which his gracious Master
52 summons him, let him turn to his second task, and, with befitting confidence and
53 vigor, assail the devastating power of those forces which in his own heart he has
54 already succeeded in subduing.

55
56 Fully alive to the unfailing efficacy of the power of Bahá'u'lláh, and armed with
57 the essential weapons of wise restraint and inflexible resolve, let him wage a
58 constant fight against the inherited tendencies, the corruptive instincts, the
59 fluctuating fashions, the false pretenses of the society in which he lives and
60 moves.

61
62 In their relations amongst themselves as fellow-believers, let them not be content
63 with the mere exchange of cold and empty formalities often connected with the
64 organizing of banquets, receptions, consultative assemblies, and lecture-halls. Let
65 them rather, as equal co-sharers in the spiritual benefits conferred upon them by
66 Bahá'u'lláh, **arise** and, with the aid and counsel of their local and national
67 representatives, supplement these official functions with those opportunities
68 which only a close and intimate social intercourse can adequately provide.

69
70 In their homes, in their hours of relaxation and leisure, in the daily contact of
71 business transactions, in the association of their children, whether in their study-
72 classes, their playgrounds, and club-rooms, in short under all possible
73 circumstances, however insignificant they appear, the community of the followers
74 of Bahá'u'lláh should satisfy themselves that in the eyes of the world at large and
75 in the sight of their vigilant Master they are the living witnesses of those truths
76 which He fondly cherished and tirelessly championed to the very end of His days.

77
78 If we relax in our purpose, if we falter in our faith, **if we neglect the varied**
79 **opportunities given us from time to time by an all-wise and gracious Master, we**
80 **are not merely failing in what is our most vital and conspicuous obligation, but**
81 **are thereby insensibly retarding the flow of those quickening energies which can**
82 **alone insure the vigorous and speedy development of God's struggling Faith.**

83
84 I would particularly address my appeal to you, as the Trustees of God's sacred
85 Faith, to reaffirm by word and deed the spirit and character of the insistent
86 admonitions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, so solemnly and so explicitly uttered in the course
87 of His journeys through your land—a trust which it is your privilege and function
88 to preserve and fortify.

89

90 May the varied opportunities presented by the forthcoming assembly of the
91 friends at Green Acre this summer—a place so admirably suited to the realization
92 of such a noble ideal—be fully utilized to further this noble end. May it, on one
93 hand, serve to banish once and for all every misgiving and mistrust as to the
94 attitude that should characterize the conduct of the members of the Bahá'í family,
95 and, on the other, serve to familiarize the invited public with that aspect of our
96 Faith which, owing to the pressure of circumstances, a few have inclined to
97 belittle or ignore.

98

99 **Green Acre—a Testing Ground**

100 It is my earnest hope and prayer that the forthcoming gathering at Green Acre,
101 the program for which has been so carefully and judiciously prepared, may serve
102 as a testing ground for the application of those ideals and standards that are the
103 distinguishing features of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. May the assembled
104 believers—now but a tiny nucleus of the Bahá'í Commonwealth of the future—so
105 exemplify that spirit of universal love and fellowship as to evoke in the minds of
106 their associates the vision of that future City of God which the almighty arm of
107 Bahá'u'lláh can alone establish.

108

109 Not by merely imitating the excesses and laxity of the extravagant age they live
110 in; not by the idle neglect of the sacred responsibilities it is their privilege to
111 shoulder; not by the silent compromise of the principles dearly cherished by
112 'Abdu'l-Bahá; not by their fear or unpopularity or their dread of censure can they
113 hope to rouse society from its spiritual lethargy, and serve as a model to a
114 civilization the foundations of which the corrosion of prejudice has well-nigh
115 undermined. By the sublimity of their principles, the warmth of their love, the
116 spotless purity of their character, and the depth of their devoutness and piety, let
117 them demonstrate to their fellow-countrymen the ennobling reality of a power
118 that shall weld a disrupted world.

119

120 We can prove ourselves worthy of our Cause only if in our individual conduct and
121 corporate life we sedulously imitate the example of our beloved Master, Whom
122 the terrors of tyranny, the storms of incessant abuse, the oppressiveness of
123 humiliation, never caused to deviate a hair's breadth from the revealed Law of
124 Bahá'u'lláh.

125

126 Such is the path of servitude, such is the way of holiness He chose to tread to the
127 very end of His life. Nothing short of the strictest adherence to His glorious
128 example can safely steer our course amid the pitfalls of this perilous age, and lead
129 us on to fulfill our high destiny.

130

Your true brother, Shoghi.

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132 Haifa, Palestine,
133 April 12, 1927.