

August 24, 2023

What is my vision of **the Institution of the Local Spiritual Assembly**? Despite my obedience to the Head of the Faith, my National Assembly and Regional Council, as well, the Institutions of the Learned, I now know that none of them were ever intended to substitute for what belongs in a particular sacred spot within my **spirit/mind/heart**.

- a. What other Institution was ordained to form the very foundation of Bahá'u'lláh's Administrative Order; when viewed collectively, each one is also an organically evolving part of an unprecedented global Institution?
- b. I was passionately and adamantly told by a former Universal House of Justice member that, "**Without `Abdu'l-Baha, we have nothing, NOTHING!**" So what other *local* Institution was created to be His voice, to reflect His reality and beauty, and to be the sacred channel of His inspiration?
- c. Relative to the poor in spirit, society's marginalized and rejected, the historically oppressed—essentially all whose hearts have been prepared to listen for the melodious call of the Redeemer—what other Institution was created to **sing** these melodies *in every locality* with **its unique voice**?
- d. What other *local* Institution **MUST** follow the Master's illumined example for severing chains of tradition—the haven of humanity's **lower nature** and "**insistent self**"?
- e. What other Institution was ordained to encourage *local* believers to study and learn, to participate in activities, to encourage and reward their strivings and service and, like the Master, to lead by example?
- f. The beauty and spiritual meanings found within God's Supreme Revelation are waiting to be outwardly expressed through the erection of the Centerpiece of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. What other *local* Institution was assigned this sacred responsibility?
- g. What *local* institutional sign of Bahá'u'lláh's new World Order was divinely ordained for believers in every American realm to point to with pride, hope and confidence as their unique banner waving over their respective cities and towns, a banner we have been assured is destined to eventually transform into a Lighthouse from which God's Light of Justice will shine?
- h. What other Institution in every *locality* was ordained to bring communities in their charge closer to God and His guidance flowing through His Institutions (including the Auxiliary Board)?
- i. What other Institution was assigned the responsibility of establishing a faithful and necessary synchronicity with the Head of the Faith on behalf of its *local* community, as well as assure their continuous alignment with and support of our National Assembly?
- j. What other Institution has the responsibility to lovingly nurture the organic soil within *local* believers' hearts like a dutiful, loving parent?

- k. What other Institution—one which every believer was recreated to **trustingly** turn to first—was given the honor of protecting the Faith and its believers from all *local* enemies?
- l. What other Institution was given the primary responsibility of resolving conflicts and contentions among *local* friends and, correspondingly, for encouraging obedience and fidelity to the Faith's laws and teachings?
- m. What other Institution was assigned to be *local* believers' outwardly oriented eyes, especially for seeking opportunities for advancing the Cause?
- n. What other Institution was ordained to eventually become all the above and more, not just for believers but for entire city and town populations?

Much more can be written. May all the above suffice for explaining why the void within my heart can only be filled, administratively and spiritually, by a consecrated Local Spiritual Assembly focused on its ordained mission and purpose, an Assembly that also **MUST** be aware that **our Covenant** is a **living Covenant**. Thus not mere words on voluminous pages. In conclusion, members of Spiritual Assemblies will be oppressing and subjugating this divinely ordained and sacred Institution by unwittingly forcing it to function as a small, business-oriented committee.