

1 Will and Testament of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

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3
4 *(This written paper hath for a long time been preserved under ground, damp having affected*
5 *it. When brought forth to the light it was observed that certain parts of it were injured by the*
6 *damp, and the Holy Land being sorely agitated it was left untouched.)*

8 Part Two

9 He Is God

10
11
12 O my Lord, my heart’s Desire, Thou Whom I ever invoke, Thou Who art my Aider and my Shelter,
13 my Helper and my Refuge! Thou seest me submerged in an ocean of calamities that overwhelm
14 the soul, of afflictions that oppress the heart, of woes that disperse Thy gathering, of ills and pains
15 that scatter Thy flock. Sore trials have compassed me round and perils have from all sides beset
16 me. Thou seest me immersed in a sea of unsurpassed tribulation, sunk into a fathomless abyss,
17 afflicted by mine enemies and consumed with the flame of their hate, enkindled by my kinsmen
18 with whom Thou didst make Thy strong Covenant and Thy firm Testament, wherein Thou biddest
19 them turn their hearts to this wronged one, to keep away from me the foolish, the unjust, and refer
20 unto this lonely one all that about which they differ in Thy Holy Book, so that the Truth may be
21 revealed unto them, their doubts may be dispelled and Thy manifest Signs be spread abroad.

22
23 Yet now Thou seest them, O Lord, my God! with Thine eye that sleepeth not, how that they
24 have broken Thy Covenant and turned their backs thereon, how with hate and rebelliousness they
25 have erred from Thy Testament and have arisen intent upon malice.

26
27 Adversities have waxed still more severe as they rose with unbearable cruelty to overpower and
28 crush me, as they scattered far and wide their scrolls of doubt and in utter falsehood hurled their
29 calumnies upon me. Not content with this, their chief, O my God, hath dared to interpolate Thy
30 Book, to fraudulently alter Thy decisive Holy Text and falsify that which hath been revealed by
31 Thy All-Glorious Pen. He did also maliciously insert that which Thou didst reveal for the one that
32 hath wrought the most glaring cruelty upon Thee, disbelieved in Thee and denied Thy wondrous
33 Signs, into what Thou didst reveal for this servant of Thine that hath been wronged in this world.
34 All this he did that he might beguile the souls of men and breathe his evil whisperings into the
35 hearts of Thy devoted ones. Thereunto did their second chief testify, confessing it in his own
36 handwriting, setting thereupon his seal and spreading it throughout all regions.

37
38 O my God! Could there be a more grievous injustice than this? And still they rested not, but
39 further strove with stubbornness, falsehood and slander, with scorn and calumny to stir up
40 sedition in the midst of the government of this land and elsewhere, causing them to deem me a
41 sower of sedition and filling the minds with things that the ear abhorreth to hear. The government
42 was thus alarmed, fear fell upon the sovereign, and the suspicion of the nobility was aroused.
43 Minds were troubled, affairs were upset, souls were perturbed, the fire of anguish and sorrow was
44 kindled within the breasts, the Holy Leaves (of the Household) were convulsed and shaken, their
45 eyes rained with tears, their sighs and lamentations were raised and their hearts burned within
46 them as they bewailed this wronged servant of Thine, fallen a victim into the hands of these, his
47 kindred, nay, his very enemies!

48

49 Lord! Thou seest all things weeping me, and my kindred rejoicing in my woes. By Thy Glory, O
50 my God! Even amongst mine enemies, some have lamented my troubles and my distress, and of
51 the envious ones a number have shed tears because of my cares, my exile and my afflictions. They
52 did this because they found naught in me but affection and care and witnessed naught but
53 kindness and mercy. As they saw me swept into the flood of tribulation and adversity and
54 exposed even as a target to the arrows of fate, their hearts were moved with compassion, tears
55 came to their eyes and they testified declaring:—"The Lord is our witness; naught have we seen
56 from him but faithfulness, generosity and extreme compassion." The Covenant-breakers,
57 foreboders of evil, however, waxed fiercer in their rancor, rejoiced as I fell a victim to the most
58 grievous ordeal, bestirred themselves against me and made merry over the heartrending
59 happenings around me.

60
61 ***I call upon Thee, O Lord my God! with my tongue and with all my heart, not to***
62 ***requite them for their cruelty and their wrong-doings, their craft and their***
63 ***mischief, for they are foolish and ignoble and know not what they do. They discern***
64 ***not good from evil, neither do they distinguish right from wrong, nor justice from***
65 ***injustice. They follow their own desires and walk in the footsteps of the most***
66 ***imperfect and foolish amongst them.***

67
68 ***O my Lord! Have mercy upon them, shield them from all afflictions in these***
69 ***troubled times and grant that all trials and hardships may be the lot of this Thy***
70 ***servant that hath fallen into this darksome pit. Single me out for every woe and***
71 ***make me a sacrifice for all Thy loved ones. O Lord, Most High! May my soul, my***
72 ***life, my being, my spirit, my all be offered up for them. O God, my God! Lowly,***
73 ***suppliant and fallen upon my face, I beseech Thee with all the ardor of my***
74 ***invocation to pardon whosoever hath hurt me, forgive him that hath conspired***
75 ***against me and offended me, and wash away the misdeeds of them that have***
76 ***wrought injustice upon me.***

77
78 ***Vouchsafe unto them Thy goodly gifts, give them joy, relieve them from sorrow,***
79 ***grant them peace and prosperity, give them Thy bliss and pour upon them Thy***
80 ***bounty.***

81 ***Thou art the Powerful, the Gracious, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting!***

82
83 O dearly beloved friends! I am now in very great danger and the hope of even an hour's life is
84 lost to me. I am thus constrained to write these lines for the protection of the Cause of God, the
85 preservation of His Law, the safeguarding of His Word and the safety of His Teachings. By the
86 Ancient Beauty! This wronged one hath in no wise borne nor doth he bear a grudge against any
87 one; towards none doth he entertain any ill-feeling and uttereth no word save for the good of the
88 world.

89 My supreme obligation, however, of necessity, prompteth me to guard and preserve the Cause
90 of God. Thus, with the greatest regret, I counsel you saying: Guard ye the Cause of God, protect
91 His law and have the utmost fear of discord. This is the foundation of the belief of the people of
92 Bahá (may my life be offered up for them): "His Holiness, the Exalted One (the Báb), is the
93 Manifestation of the Unity and Oneness of God and the Forerunner of the Ancient Beauty. His
94 Holiness the Abhá Beauty (may my life be a sacrifice for His steadfast friends) is the Supreme
95 Manifestation of God and the Dayspring of His Most Divine Essence. All others are servants unto
96 Him and do His bidding."

97 Unto the Most Holy Book every one must turn and all that is not expressly recorded therein
98 must be referred to the Universal House of Justice. That which this body, whether unanimously
99 or by a majority doth carry, that is verily the Truth and the Purpose of God Himself. Whoso doth

100 deviate therefrom is verily of them that love discord, hath shown forth malice and turned away
101 from the Lord of the Covenant. By this House is meant that Universal House of Justice which is
102 to be elected from all countries, that is from those parts in the East and West where the loved ones
103 are to be found, after the manner of the customary elections in Western countries such as those
104 of England.

105
106 It is incumbent upon these members (of the Universal House of Justice) to gather in a certain
107 place and deliberate upon all problems which have caused difference, questions that are obscure
108 and matters that are not expressly recorded in the Book. Whatsoever they decide has the same
109 effect as the Text itself. And inasmuch as this House of Justice hath power to enact laws that are
110 not expressly recorded in the Book and bear upon daily transactions, so also it hath power to
111 repeal the same. Thus for example, the House of Justice enacteth today a certain law and enforceth
112 it, and a hundred years hence, circumstances having profoundly changed and the conditions
113 having altered, another House of Justice will then have power, according to the exigencies of the
114 time, to alter that law. This it can do because that law formeth no part of the Divine Explicit Text.
115 The House of Justice is both the initiator and the abrogator of its own laws.

116
117 And now, one of the greatest and most fundamental principles of the Cause of God is to shun
118 and avoid entirely the Covenant-breakers, for they will utterly destroy the Cause of God,
119 exterminate His Law and render of no account all efforts exerted in the past. O friends! It
120 behooveth you to call to mind with tenderness the trials of His Holiness, the Exalted One, and
121 show your fidelity to the Ever-Blest Beauty. The utmost endeavor must be exerted lest all these
122 woes, trials and afflictions, all this pure and sacred blood that hath been shed so profusely in the
123 Path of God, may prove to be in vain. Ye know well what the hands of the Center of Sedition, Mírzá
124 Muhammad ‘Alí, and his associates have wrought. Among his doings, one of them is the
125 corruption of the Sacred Text whereof ye are all aware, the Lord be praised, and know that it is
126 evident, proven and confirmed by the testimony of his brother, Mírzá Badí‘u’lláh, whose
127 confession is written in his own handwriting, beareth his seal, is printed and spread abroad. This
128 is but one of his misdeeds. Can a transgression be imagined more glaring than this, the
129 interpolation of the Holy Text? Nay, by the righteousness of the Lord! His transgressions are writ
130 and recorded in a leaflet by itself. Please God, ye will peruse it.

131
132 In short, according to the explicit Divine Text the least transgression shall make of this man a
133 fallen creature, and what transgression is more grievous than attempting to destroy the Divine
134 Edifice, breaking the Covenant, erring from the Testament, falsifying the Holy Text, sowing the
135 seeds of doubt, calumniating ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, advancing claims for which God hath sent down no
136 warrant, kindling mischief and striving to shed the very blood of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and many other
137 things whereof ye are all aware! It is thus evident that should this man succeed in bringing
138 disruption into the Cause of God, he will utterly destroy and exterminate it. Beware lest ye
139 approach this man, for to approach him is worse than approaching fire!

140
141 Gracious God! After Mírzá Badí‘u’lláh had declared in his own handwriting that this man
142 (Muhammad ‘Alí) had broken the Covenant and had proclaimed his falsification of the Holy Text,
143 he realized that to return to the True Faith and pay allegiance to the Covenant and Testament
144 would in no wise promote his selfish desires. He thus repented and regretted the thing he had
145 done and attempted privily to gather in his printed confessions, plotted darkly with the Center of
146 Sedition against me and informed him daily of all the happenings within my household. He has
147 even taken a leading part in the mischievous deeds that have of late been committed. Praise be to
148 God affairs recovered their former stability and the loved ones obtained partial peace. But ever
149 since the day he entered again into our midst, he began afresh to sow the seeds of sore sedition.
150 Some of his machinations and intrigues will be recorded in a separate leaflet.

151
152 My purpose is, however, to show that it is incumbent upon the friends that are fast and firm in
153 the Covenant and Testament to be ever wakeful lest after this wronged one is gone this alert and
154 active worker of mischief may cause disruption, privily sow the seeds of doubt and sedition and
155 utterly root out the Cause of God. A thousand times shun his company. Take heed and be on your
156 guard. Watch and examine; should anyone, openly or privily, have the least connection with him,
157 cast him out from your midst, for he will surely cause disruption and mischief.
158

159 O ye beloved of the Lord! Strive with all your heart to shield the Cause of God from the
160 onslaught of the insincere, for souls such as these cause the straight to become crooked and all
161 benevolent efforts to produce contrary results.

162 O God, my God! I call Thee, Thy Prophets and Thy Messengers, Thy Saints and Thy Holy Ones,
163 to witness that I have declared conclusively Thy Proofs unto Thy loved ones and set forth clearly
164 all things unto them, that they may watch over Thy Faith, guard Thy Straight Path and protect
165 Thy Resplendent Law. Thou art, verily, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

166

167

168

Part Three

169

170 He Is the Witness, the All-Sufficing

171

172 O my God! my Beloved, my heart's Desire! Thou knowest, Thou seest that which hath befallen this
173 servant of Thine, that hath humbled himself at Thy Door, and Thou knowest the sins committed
174 against him by the people of malice, they that have broken Thy Covenant and turned their backs
175 on Thy Testament. In the day-time they afflicted me with the arrows of hate and in the night-
176 season they privily conspired to hurt me. At dawn they committed that which the Celestial
177 Concourse did lament and at eventide they unsheathed against me the sword of tyranny and
178 hurled in the presence of the ungodly their darts of calumny upon me. Notwithstanding their
179 misdeeds, this lowly servant of Thine was patient and did endure every affliction and trial at their
180 hands, though by Thy power and might he could have destroyed their words, quenched their fire
181 and stayed the flame of their rebelliousness.

182

183 Thou seest, O my God! how my long-suffering, my forbearance and silence have increased their
184 cruelty, their arrogance and their pride. By Thy Glory, O Beloved One! They have misbelieved in
185 Thee and rebelled against Thee in such wise that they left me not a moment of rest and quiet, that
186 I might arise as it is meet and seemly, to exalt Thy Word amidst mankind, and might serve at Thy
187 Threshold of Holiness with a heart that overfloweth with the joy of the dwellers of the Abhá
188 Kingdom.

189

190 Lord! My cup of woe runneth over, and from all sides blows are fiercely raging upon me. The
191 darts of affliction have compassed me round and the arrows of distress have rained upon me. Thus
192 tribulation overwhelmed me and my strength, because of the onslaught of the foemen, became
193 weakness within me, while I stood alone and forsaken in the midst of my woes. Lord! Have mercy
194 upon me, lift me up unto Thyself and make me to drink from the Chalice of Martyrdom, for the
195 wide world with all its vastness can no longer contain me.

196 Thou art, verily, the Merciful, the Compassionate, the Gracious, the All-Bountiful!

197

198 O ye the true, the sincere, the faithful friends of this wronged one! Everyone knoweth and
199 believeth what calamities and afflictions have befallen this wronged one, this prisoner, at the

200 hands of those who have broken the Covenant at the time when, after the setting of the Day-Star
201 of the world, his heart was consumed with the flame of his bereavement.

202
203 When, in all parts of the earth, the enemies of God profiting by the passing away of the Sun of
204 Truth, suddenly and with all their might launched their attack; at such a time and in the midst of
205 so great a calamity, the Covenant-breakers arose with the utmost cruelty, intent upon harm and
206 the stirring up of the spirit of enmity. At every moment a misdeed they did commit and bestirred
207 themselves to sow the seeds of grievous sedition, and to ruin the edifice of the Covenant. But this
208 wronged one, this prisoner, did his utmost to hide and veil their doings, that haply they might
209 regret and repent. His long-suffering and forbearance of these evil deeds, however, made the
210 rebellious ones still more arrogant and daring; until, through leaflets written with their own
211 hands, they sowed the seeds of doubt, printing these leaflets and scattering them broadcast
212 throughout the world, believing that such foolish doings would bring to naught the Covenant and
213 the Testament.

214
215 Thereupon the loved ones of the Lord arose, inspired with the greatest confidence and
216 constancy and aided by the power of the Kingdom, by Divine Strength, by heavenly Grace, by the
217 unfailing help and Celestial Bounty, they withstood the enemies of the Covenant in well-nigh three
218 score and ten treatises and supported by conclusive proofs, unmistakable evidences and clear
219 texts from the Holy Writ, they refuted their scrolls of doubt and mischief-kindling leaflets. The
220 Center of Sedition was thus confounded in his craftiness, afflicted by the wrath of God, sunk into
221 a degradation and infamy that shall be lasting until the Day of Doom. Base and wretched is the
222 plight of the people of evil deeds, they that are in grievous loss!

223
224 And as they lost their cause, grew hopeless in their efforts against the loved ones of God, saw
225 the Standard of His Testament waving throughout all regions and witnessed the power of the
226 Covenant of the Merciful One, the flame of envy so blazed within them as to be beyond recounting.
227 With the utmost vigor, exertion, rancor and enmity, they followed another path, walked in another
228 way, devised another plan: that of kindling the flame of sedition in the heart of the very
229 government itself, and thus cause this wronged one, this prisoner to appear as a mover of strife,
230 inimical to the government and a hater and opponent of the Crown. Perchance 'Abdu'l-Bahá may
231 be put to death and his name be made to perish whereby an arena may be opened unto the enemies
232 of the Covenant wherein they may advance and spur on their charger, inflict a grievous loss upon
233 everyone and subvert the very foundations of the edifice of the Cause of God. For so grievous is
234 the conduct and behavior of this false people that they are become even as an axe striking at the
235 very root of the Blessed Tree. Should they be suffered to continue they would, in but a few days'
236 time, exterminate the Cause of God, His Word, and themselves.

237
238 Hence, the beloved of the Lord must entirely shun them, avoid them, foil their machinations
239 and evil whisperings, guard the Law of God and His religion, engage one and all in diffusing widely
240 the sweet savors of God and to the best of their endeavor proclaim His Teachings.

241 Whosoever and whatsoever meeting becometh a hindrance to the diffusion of the Light of
242 Faith, let the loved ones give them counsel and say: "Of all the gifts of God the greatest is the gift
243 of Teaching. It draweth unto us the Grace of God and is our first obligation. Of such a gift how can
244 we deprive ourselves? Nay, our lives, our goods, our comforts, our rest, we offer them all as a
245 sacrifice for the Abhá Beauty and teach the Cause of God." Caution and prudence, however, must
246 be observed even as recorded in the Book. The veil must in no wise be suddenly rent asunder. The
247 Glory of Glories rest upon you.

248
249 O ye the faithful loved ones of 'Abdu'l-Bahá! It is incumbent upon you to take the greatest care
250 of Shoghi Effendi, the twig that hath branched from and the fruit given forth by the two hallowed

251 and Divine Lote-Trees, that no dust of despondency and sorrow may stain his radiant nature, that
252 day by day he may wax greater in happiness, in joy and spirituality, and may grow to become even
253 as a fruitful tree.

254
255 For he is, after ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the Guardian of the Cause of God, the Afnán, the Hands (pillars)
256 of the Cause and the beloved of the Lord must obey him and turn unto him. He that obeyeth him
257 not, hath not obeyed God; he that turneth away from him, hath turned away from God and he that
258 denieth him, hath denied the True One. Beware lest anyone falsely interpret these words, and like
259 unto them that have broken the Covenant after the Day of Ascension (of Bahá’u’lláh) advance a
260 pretext, raise the standard of revolt, wax stubborn and open wide the door of false interpretation.
261 To none is given the right to put forth his own opinion or express his particular conviction. All
262 must seek guidance and turn unto the Center of the Cause and the House of Justice. And he that
263 turneth unto whatsoever else is indeed in grievous error.

264 The Glory of Glories rest upon you!

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266