

The Rights of God (Huququ'llah)

By God! In earthly riches fear is hidden and peril is concealed...

Dearly-loved Friends,

One of the spiritual responsibilities of the followers of Baha'ullah is to observe the Huququ'llah (the Rights of God), a law requiring the payment of 19% of the surplus from the annual income of a Baha'i's work, trade, or crop.

The Blessed Beauty has acknowledged the payment of Huququ'llah in the Kitab-i Aqdas, as a means of increasing blessings and bounty, and to cause kindness in different respects.

The USNSA, with the assistance of the trustees of the Rights of God, will be holding 4 meetings on January 31st to Feb 1st 2015, on the East coast of the United States. This is in order to encourage the Friends to pay the Huququ'llah, and to plan for its receipt. They also intend to encourage those among the youth who are employed and possess particular skills to pay the Huququ'llah.

We should all observe the following issues regarding the very important status of the Huququ'llah.

1. According to Kitab-i Aqdas, payment of the right of God is a private and personal affair. No one is permitted to ask for it. No one is allowed to insist upon its payment. Therefore, to hold meetings, public invitations for the Friends, and any such planning for the receiving of the Huququ'llah from the Friends, etc.; all such activities that the USNSA is engaging in, is not in compliance with the Baha'i Revelations.

2. Abdul-Baha, in His tablet, Lisan-e-Huzur (The Language of Presence) has prohibited the attempt to own, collect, or partially/wholly consume the Huququ'llah, without the permission of the **authority of the Cause**, in his

Will and Testament, has clearly specified that “only the Guardian is the right authority of the Cause, and the Guardians will be the sole lawful recipients of the Huququ’llah.” Moreover, in the “Nazar-i Ejmali Bar dianat-e-Bahai” (an Introduction to the Bahai Faith, written By Ahmad Yazdani), the contents of which were approved and confirmed by the beloved Guardian, we read the following:

Payment of the Huququ’llah is a religious obligation; but none are authorized to ask for its payment. It will be collected by the trustee of the Huququ’llah, and will be submitted to the Guardian of each period, that sanctified reference and authority of the Baha’i Cause.

And it will be utilized according to his decision.

(A. Yazdani, Nazari Ejmali, p81, no. 29,105 B.E. [1948])

The Universal House of Justice, despite its position in the Baha’i Faith is not allowed to receive the Huququ’llah. Only Shoghi Effendi during his own lifetime, and the Guardians who followed thereafter are authorized to receive and consume the Huququ’llah (Right of God).

3. The UHJ, during its more than 50 years of activity, has not provided any annual or periodic bill, for the large and frequent amounts received as donations, compensation, Huququ’llah, properties of the heirless deceased, etc., from Baha’is worldwide.

This lack of transparency in the financial affairs of the UHJ will lead to severe mistrust. It will also lead to accusations of the misappropriation of funds, accusations like the following: that such large amounts were used for expanding the already overly-bureaucratic Baha’i administration, for payments to the Elective branch of the Baha’i administration, for the salaries of the 150 staff members of USNSA, or other unnecessary expenses, rather than towards public welfare, charity, or promotion of the word of God.

I sincerely invite the beloved Baha'i Friends to investigate the authorized persons and institutions for receipt of the Right of God (Huququ'llah), before committing to any such payment.

Sincerely Yours,
Sahba Vejdani