

Súriy-i-Ghusn, the Tablet of the Branch

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Language Of Revelation:

Arabic.

Place And

Date Of Revelation: Adrianople, closing years (See GPB, pp. 168-77; King, p. 250).

"...whilst in Adrianople, that same Father had, in the Suriy-i-Ghusn (Tablet of the Branch), referred as..." (GPB, p. 242)

Recipient: Mirza `Ali Rida-i-Mustawfi, the Mustasharu'd Dawlih.

"Mirza `Ali Rida-i -Mustawfi, a native of Khurasan. This believer was a titled person--the Mustasharu'd Dawlih. He had a prominent position in government circles in the district of Khurasan and was a man of great influence there. His teacher was no less a person than Mulla Husayn who taught him the Faith in Mashhad. Mirza `Ali-Rida became a dedicated believer who in spite of his rank and position never hesitated to assist the friends when ever they faced difficulties; he always helped the poor and down-trodden among them. He was the one mainly responsible for providing the horses and finance for Mulla Husayn and his companions when they were leaving Mashhad for Mazindaran on a mission of great importance. With the help of Mulla Sadiq-i-Khurasani, the renowned teacher of the Faith, he succeeded in converting his younger brother Mirza Muhammad-Rida, the Mu'taminu's-Saltanih, who became a devoted believer. When Mirza `Ali-Rida retired, it was this same brother who succeeded him in office. It is interesting to note that in

a Tablet,
Bahá'u'lláh comments on a photograph of Mu'taminu's-
Saltanih, saying that
it bears a striking resemblance to Himself."
(RofB II, p. 388) (See
illustration in Some Eminent Bahá'ís, by Mr. M.H.
Balyuzi, p. 54)

Also
see `Abdu'l-Bahá , p.22, Balyuzi; Some Eminent Bahá'ís, p.
52-9.

Publication In Original
Language: Athar-i-Qlam-i-`Ala , Vol. 4, pp.
331-5.

Translation And Publication In English: Translated in
parts by the Guardian and quoted in Dispensation of
Bahá'u'lláh,
WO, p. 134. (See EXTRACTS below).

The following extract from
God Passes By indicates that a translation
of this Tablet was at
hand as early as the time of `Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to
New York:

"...the
reading of the newly translated Tablet of the Branch, in a
general
assembly of His followers in New York,..." (GPB, p.
288)

Summary Of Contents: "Whether in the Kitab-i-Aqdas, the
most weighty and sacred of all the
works of Bahá'u'lláh, or in the
Kitab-i-`Ahd,
the Book of His Covenant, or
in the Suriy-i-Ghusn (Tablet of the Branch),
such references as have been
recorded by the pen of
Bahá'u'lláh--references which the Tablets of His
Father addressed to Him
mightily reinforce--invest `Abdu'l-Bahá with a
power, and surround Him
with a halo, which the present generation can
never adequately
appreciate." (WO p. 133).

"It was during that period that the

Suriy-i-Ghusn (Surih of the Branch)
was revealed, in which 'Abdu'l-Bahá's
future station is foreshadowed, and in which He is eulogized as the
"Branch of Holiness," the "Limb of the
Law of God," the "Trust of God,"
"sent down in the form of a human
temple"-- a Tablet which may well be
regarded as the harbinger of the rank
which was to be bestowed upon Him,
in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, and which was
to be later elucidated and confirmed
in the Book of His Covenant." (GPB.
p. 177)

Bahá'u'lláh declares that
Divine Revelation is sent down from the
heaven of His Tablets bringing joy
to believers and agitations to
unbelievers; warns against turning our
souls away from God's bounties;
foreshadows 'Abdu'l-Bahá's future station;
and instructs people to "render
thanks unto God...for His appearance"; and
establishes that "Whoso turneth
towards Him hath turned towards God, and
whoso turneth away from Him
hath turned away from My beauty"; He warns
that "They who deprive
themselves of the shadow of the Branch, are lost in
the wilderness of error,
are consumed by the heat of worldly desires, and
are of those who will
assuredly perish. "; commands the people to seek
the gems of wisdom and
knowledge from Him ('Abdu'l-Bahá). He makes
illusions to Siyyid
Muhammad-i-Isfahani and Mirza Yahya and commands the
people [of
Bayan] to cast them behind and drink from the water of life in
the name of
their Lord, the Merciful. He enjoins upon every soul the duty
of teaching
His Cause to all mankind; declares that he who revives one
soul under this
Cause, has, verily, revived all souls; and sets conditions
and method of
teaching.

Titles of `Abd u'l-Bahá in
Suriy-i-Ghusn:sacred and glorious Being; Branch of Holiness; the
Limb of the Law of
God; this sublime, this blessed, this mighty, this
exalted Handiwork; a sign
of His greatness and power among its people; He
is the most great Favor
un to you, the most perfect bounty upon you;
through Him every
mouldering bone is quickened; He is the Trust of God
amongst you, His
charge within you, His manifestation unto you and His
appearance among
His favored servants;

Passages Indicative Of Subject Matters:

"I affirm," is `Abdu'l-Bahá's own written comment
on the Tablet of the
Branch, "that the true meaning, the real
significance, the innermost secret
of these verses, of these very words,
is my own servitude to the sacred
Threshold of the Abha Beauty, my
complete self-effacement, my utter
nothingness before Him. This is my
resplendent crown, my most precious
adorning. On this I pride myself in
the kingdom of earth and heaven.
Therein I glory among the company of the
well-favored!" "No one is
permitted," He warns us in the passage which
immediately follows, "to
give these verses any other interpretation." "I
am," He, in this same
connection, affirms, "according to the explicit
texts of the Kitab-i-Aqdas
and the Kitab-i-`Ahd the manifest
Interpreter of the Word of God...Whoso
deviates from my interpretation is
a victim of his own fancy." (GPB, p. 138)

Description By The
Guardian:

"...a Tablet which may well be regarded as the harbinger
of the rank
which was to be best owed upon Him [`Abdu'l-Bahá], in the
Kitab-i-Aqdas,

and which was to be later elucidated and confirmed in the Book of His Covenant." (GPB. p. 177)

Notes And

Bibliography: There are tablets of Bahá'u'lláh either addressed to, or in honor of, `Abdu'l-Bahá several of which are published and well known: Ad`iyyih-Hadrat-i-Mahbub, pp. 105-110, four tablets; Tihran Archives, Vol. 81, pp. 87-89, 3 tablets. These Tablets should not be confused with the Suriy-i-Ghusn. Lawh-i-Ard-i-Ba (Tablet of the L and of Ba, Beirut) falls in this category.

There are also other Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh addressed to other believers in which He refers to `Abdu'l-Bahá. For instance, in a Tablet addressed to Haji Muhammad Ibrahim-i-Khalil He alludes to `Abdu'l-Bahá as the one amongst His sons "from Whose tongue God will cause the signs of His power to stream forth," and as the one Whom "God hath specially chosen for His Cause." (see GPB p. 242)

Shoghi Effendi, in an unmatched style, discloses the unique station of `Abdu'l-Bahá in the Bahá'í Dispensation as well as the religious history of mankind; quotes extracts from Bahá'u'lláh regarding the station of the Master, followed by `Abdu'l-Bahá's own interpretations of text regarding His Own station; clarifies certain misconceptions regarding the station of `Abdu'l-Bahá; and sets forth the guiding principles of Bahá'í belief. See God Passes By, chapter 18, and Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, section on `Abdu'l-Bahá.

Also see Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, by Mr. A dib Tahirzadih, Vol. II,

chapter 18.

References In The Writings Of The
Guardian:

"There hath branched from the Sadratu'l-Muntaha this sacred and glorious Being, this Branch of Holiness; well is it with him that hath sought His shelter and abideth beneath His shadow. Verily the Limb of the Law of God hath sprung forth from this Root which God hath firmly implanted in the Ground of His Will, and Whose Branch hath been so uplifted as to encompass the whole of creation. Magnified be He, therefore, for this sublime, this blessed, this mighty, this exalted Handiwork!...A Word hath, as a token of Our grace, gone forth from the Most Great Tablet-- a Word which God hath adorned with the ornament of His own Self, and made it sovereign over the earth and all that is therein, and a sign of His greatness and power among its people...Render thanks unto God, O people, for His appearance; for verily He is the most great Favor unto you, the most perfect bounty upon you; and through Him every mouldering bone is quickened. Whoso turneth towards Him hath turned towards God, and whoso turneth away from Him hath turned away from My beauty, hath repudiated My Proof, and transgressed against Me. He is the Trust of God amongst you, His charge within you, His manifestation unto you and His appearance among His favored servants...We have sent Him down in the form of a human temple. Blest and sanctified be God Who createth whatsoever He willeth through His inviolable, His infallible decree. They who deprive themselves of the shadow of the Branch, are lost in the wilderness of error, are consumed by the heat of worldly desires,

and are of those who will assuredly perish." (WO, p. 134-5, Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, 678)

References In Writings Of The Guardian:

GP 177 REF It was during that period that the Suriy-i-Ghusn (Surih of the Branch)

GP 242 REF To Him, whilst in Adrianople, that same Father had, in the Suriy-i-Ghusn

GP 288 REF Tablet of the Branch, in a general assembly of His followers in New York,

WO

133 REF or in the Suriy-i-Ghusn (Tablet of the Branch),

WO 134 QTD

In the Suriy-i-Ghusn (Tablet of the Branch) the following verses

WO 137 REF but form no part of, the said Tablet of the Branch.

WO 137 REF interpretation of certain terms and passages in the Tablet of the Branch,

WO 137 REF nor even in the Tablet of the Branch, nor in any other Tablet,

WO 138 REF the Tablet of the Branch, "that the true meaning, the real significance."

— Súriy-i-Ghusn, the Tablet of the Branch (Used by permission of the curator)