

Arson

Bahá'u'lláh

Partial translation



Arson

*"Should anyone intentionally destroy a house by fire, him also shall ye burn;..."*¹

"...merely the fundamental principles of the punishments for murder and arson are given in the Kitab-i-Aqdas ... Arson, as you yourself can see from the newspapers, is becoming an increasingly frequent offense-scarcely a day passes without some building being burned or blown up, often causing agonizing death to innocent people. Bahá'u'lláh prescribes that a person who burns a house intentionally is to be burned or imprisoned for life, but again, the application of these punishments, the method of carrying them out and the fixing of degrees of offense are left to the Universal House of Justice. Obviously there is a tremendous difference in the degree of the offense of a person who burns down an empty warehouse from that of one who sets fire to a school full of children."²

"Baha'u'llah states that the determination of the degree of penalty, in accordance with the seriousness of the offence, rests with the House of Justice (Q and A 49). The punishments for theft are intended for a future condition of society, when they will be supplemented and applied by the Universal House of Justice."³



1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 62

2. Universal House of Justice, Messages from the Universal House of Justice 1963-86

3. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas no. 70

