

Repetition of the Greatest Name 95 Times

Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi

Partial translation



Repetition of the Greatest Name 95 Times

*"The Lord hath decreed that the dead should be interred in coffins made of crystal, of hard, resistant stone, or of wood that is both fine and durable, and that graven rings should be placed upon their fingers. He, verily, is the Supreme Ordainer, the One apprised."*¹

“Question: Do ablutions performed for the Obligatory Prayer suffice for the 95 repetitions of the Greatest Name?

Answer: *It is unnecessary to renew the ablution.*"²

“Question: The believers have been enjoined to face in the direction of the Qiblih when reciting their Obligatory Prayers; in what direction should they turn when offering other prayers and devotions?

Answer: *Facing in the direction of the Qiblih is a fixed requirement for the recitation of obligatory prayer, but for other prayers and devotions one may follow what the merciful Lord hath revealed in the Qur'án: "Whichever way ye turn, there is the face of God."*³

Recite the Greatest Name every morn, and turn thou unto the Kingdom of Abhá, until thou mayest apprehend my mysteries."⁴

"Regarding the blessed word, the Greatest Name: Its writing or spelling is according to its pronunciation (i.e., it is spelled as it is pronounced) in the Persian language. Bahá is correct; Beha is incorrect. However this question must not cause inharmony and grief among the friends. This truth shall become manifest. Should ye attribute a mistake to a person, it will be a cause of offense and grief to him - how much greater would this be if it is attributed to a number of people! How often it hath occurred that a slight difference hath caused a great dissension and hath been made a reason for division. Now, you write Bahá'u'lláh, but do not object to any person. All will eventually follow the correct spelling."⁵

1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 18

2. Baha'u'llah, Questions & Answers, no. 77

3. Baha'u'llah, Questions & Answers, no. 14

4. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 674

5. Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 20-21



"Concerning the Greatest Name; this term refers both to "Alláh-u-Abhá" and to "Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá". The first is a form of Bahá'í greeting and should be used, while the other is an invocation, meaning "O Thou Glory of Glories!" These two words are both referred to as the Greatest Name."

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"The Greatest Name is Alláh-u-Abhá." ⁷

"It hath been ordained that every believer in God ... shall, each day ... repeat "Alláh-u-Abhá" ninety-five times.

"Alláh-u-Abhá" is an Arabic phrase meaning "God the All-Glorious." It is a form of the Greatest Name of God (see note 137). In Islám there is a tradition that among the many names of God, one was the greatest; however, the identity of this Greatest Name was hidden. Bahá'u'lláh has confirmed that the Greatest Name is "Bahá."

The various derivatives of the word "Bahá" are also regarded as the Greatest Name. Shoghi Effendi's secretary writing on his behalf explains that

The Greatest Name is the Name of Bahá'u'lláh. "Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá" is an invocation meaning: "O Thou Glory of Glories!" "Alláh-u-Abhá" is a greeting which means: "God the All-Glorious." Both refer to Bahá'u'lláh. By Greatest Name is meant that Bahá'u'lláh has appeared in God's Greatest Name, in other words, that He is the supreme Manifestation of God.

The greeting "Alláh-u-Abhá" was adopted during the period of Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Adrianople.

The repetition of "Alláh-u-Abhá" ninety-five times is to be preceded by the performance of ablutions (see note 34)." ⁸

"Perform ye ... ablutions for the Obligatory Prayer

Ablutions are specifically associated with certain prayers. They must precede the offering of the three Obligatory Prayers, the daily recitation of "Alláh-u-Abhá" ninety-five times, and the recital of the verse prescribed as an alternative to obligatory prayer and fasting for women in their courses (see note 20)..." ⁹

"As explained in note 33, the Greatest Name of God can take various forms, all based on the word "Bahá." The Bahá'ís in the East have implemented this injunction of the Aqdas by heading their wills with such phrases as "O Thou Glory of the All-Glorious," "In the name of God, the All-Glorious" or "He is the All-Glorious" and the like." ¹⁰

"The Name by which Baha'is call upon the Power of the God (in worship) is Allah'u'Ahba, meaning God the Most Glorious; and in the Book of Akdas, the most Holy Book of Baha'u'llah, we

6. Shoghi Effendi, Letters to Australia and New Zealand, p.16

7. Shoghi Effendi, Unfolding Destiny, p. 369

8. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas, no. 33

9. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas, no. 34

10. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas, no. 137

are instructed to call upon the Power of the Greatest Name 95 times, preferable at dawn, but sometimes during the day. The wisdom of repeating the Greatest Name 9 times before each prayer and 95 times daily, is as follows: Abdu'l-Baha said that there is in man a power of concentration not fully developed, which power rightly directed can lead him to great heights of knowledge, understanding and illumination. Prayer and supplication are the ladder, He said, "by which the soul ascends and as the power of sustained communion with God develops the capacity to receive the influx of The Holy Spirit and to penetrate, the hidden mystery unfolds". Prayer and communion is the only direct approach of the should to God, and Baha'u'llah has likened it unto "a river of milk" which is the perfect nutriment, and the more we partake of this lifegiving food, the more the soul shall advance in the path of God and the greater will be its progress. Abdu'l-Baha has likened the power of concentration to a cubic crystal. He said, "If you place a ruby, the hardest stone, in a seven times heated furnace, the heat will have no effect, but if you place that ruby in a cubic crystal in the rays of the mid-day sun, it will be dissolved." This, He has likened to the powers of concentration in man. He said, "Whatsoever man concentrates upon, he will draw to himself." Therefore in prayer and supplication he must close the door to all the outer world and turn his whole being to the Focal Point, the Manifestation of God in his day and thus draw into his soul the burning rays of the Sun of Truth, the Infinite Love, Light Beauty and Perfection of God. Therefore, before each prayer, man should repeat the Greatest Name 9 times and each morning he should repeat it 95 times (successively) seeking the Divine Beloved with all his heart and soul." ¹¹



Babi Dispensation

The Bab ordained that the name of God should be mentioned in every city 95 times. ¹²



¹¹. Mirza Abu'l-Fadl, Elucidation of the Meaning of The Greatest Name

¹². See Persian Bayan, Wahid V, Chapter XVII