

Use of public pools in Persian baths

Bahauallah

Partial translation



Use of public pools in Persian baths

*"...it is not permissible to bathe yourselves in water that hath already been used. See that ye approach not the public pools of Persian baths; whoso maketh his way toward such baths will smell their fetid odor ere he entereth therein. Shun them, O people, and be not of those who ignominiously accept such vileness. In truth, they are as sinks of foulness and contamination, if ye be of them that apprehend. Avoid ye likewise the malodorous pools in the courtyards of Persian homes, and be ye of the pure and sanctified..."*¹

"approach not the public pools of Persian baths

Bahá'u'lláh prohibits the use of the pools found in the traditional public bathhouses of Persia. In these baths it was the custom for many people to wash themselves in the same pool and for the water to be changed at infrequent intervals. Consequently, the water was discolored, befouled and unhygienic, and had a highly offensive stench."²

"Avoid ye likewise the malodorous pools in the courtyards of Persian homes

Most houses in Persia used to have a pool in their courtyard which served as a reservoir for water used for cleaning, washing and other domestic purposes. Since the water in the pool was stagnant and was not usually changed for weeks at a time, it tended to develop a very unpleasant odor."³



1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 106

2. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas no. 131

3. Notes to the Kitab-i-Aqdas no. 132

