

To Recite the Holy Verses Melodiously

Bahau'llah

Partial translation



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*"Teach your children the verses revealed from the heaven of majesty and power, so that, in most melodious tones, they may recite the Tablets of the All-Merciful in the alcoves within the Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs. Whoever hath been transported by the rapture born of adoration for My Name, the Most Compassionate, will recite the verses of God in such wise as to captivate the hearts of those yet wrapped in slumber. Well is it with him who hath quaffed the Mystic Wine of everlasting life from the utterance of his merciful Lord in My Name—a Name through which every lofty and majestic mountain hath been reduced to dust."*¹

*"They who recite the verses of the All-Merciful in the most melodious of tones will perceive in them that with which the sovereignty of earth and heaven can never be compared. From them they will inhale the divine fragrance of My worlds—worlds which today none can discern save those who have been endowed with vision through this sublime, this beauteous Revelation. Say: These verses draw hearts that are pure unto those spiritual worlds that can neither be expressed in words nor intimated by allusion. Blessed be those who hearken."*²

"You have asked whether it is permissible for the friends to chant a prayer collectively. There is a difference between chanting a prayer collectively and congregational prayer. The latter is a formal prayer usually led by an individual using a prescribed ritual. Congregational prayer in this form is forbidden in the Faith except in the case of the Prayer for the Dead. While reciting prayers in unison and spontaneously joining in the recitation of the Words of God is not forbidden, the friends should bear in mind the advice of the beloved Guardian on this subject when he stated that:

'...although the friends are thus left free to follow their own inclination....they should take the utmost care that any manner they practice should not acquire too rigid a character, and thus develop into an institution. This is a point which the friends should always bear in mind, lest they deviate from the clear path indicated in the Teachings.' "³



1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 150

2. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 116

3. From a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to an individual believer, February 6, 1975, in Lights of Guidance, no. 1503



Babi Dispensation

See Arabic Bayan, Wahid VIII, Chapter XVIII



Islamic Dispensation

*"O thou folded in garments, stand (to prayer) by night, but not all night, half of it or a little less, or a little more; and recite the Quran in slow, meaqsured rhythmic tones."*⁴



Christian & Jewish Dispensation

*"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"*⁵



⁴. The Holy Qur'an, Al-Muzzammil 73:1-3

⁵. The Holy Bible, Psalm 95:1-2