

Abrogated Laws: Prohibition of Music

Bahá'u'lláh



Prohibition of music

“We have made it lawful for you to listen to music and singing. Take heed, however, lest listening thereto should cause you to overstep the bounds of propriety and dignity. Let your joy be the joy born of My Most Great Name, a Name that bringeth rapture to the heart, and filleth with ecstasy the minds of all who have drawn nigh unto God. We, verily, have made music as a ladder for your souls, a means whereby they may be lifted up unto the realm on high; make it not, therefore, as wings to self and passion. Truly, We are loath to see you numbered with the foolish.”¹

“Blessed is he who, at the hour of dawn, centering his thoughts on God, occupied with His remembrance, and supplicating His forgiveness, directeth his steps to the Mashriqu'l Adhkar and, entering therein, seateth himself in silence to listen to the verses of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Say: The Mashriqu'l-Adhkar is each and every building which hath been erected in cities and villages for the celebration of My praise. Such is the name by which it hath been designated before the throne of glory, were ye of those who understand.

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

“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-Adhkar. 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.”³

1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 51

2. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 115-116

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



TABLET

*“Intone, O My servant, the verses of God that have been received by thee, as intoned by them who have drawn nigh unto Him, that the sweetness of thy melody may kindle thine own soul, and attract the hearts of all men....”*⁴

“We have made it lawful for you to listen to music and singing.

‘Abdu’lBaha has written that “Among certain nations of the East, music was considered reprehensible.” Though the Qur’an contains no specific guidance on the subject, some Muslims consider listening to music as unlawful, while others tolerate music within certain bounds and subject to particular conditions.

There are a number of passages in the Baha’i Writings in praise of music. ‘Abdu’lBaha, for example, asserts that “music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart.”⁵

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<https://oceanoflights.org/music-bahauallah-abdulbaha-en/>



Babi Dispensation

The Bab declared that music is acceptable as long it does not cross the lines of propriety.⁶



4. Baha’u’llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha’u’llah, CXXXVL (136)

5. Notes to Kitab-i-Aqdas no. 79

6. See Epistle on Music by The Bab