

Abrogated Laws: Uncleanliness of Certain Objects for Purposes of Prostration

Bahá'u'lláh



Uncleanliness of certain objects for purposes of prostration

*“Hair doth not invalidate your prayer, nor aught from which the spirit hath departed, such as bones and the like. Ye are free to wear the fur of the sable as ye would that of the beaver, the squirrel, and other animals; the prohibition of its use hath stemmed, not from the Qur’an, but from the misconceptions of the divines. He, verily, is the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing.”*¹

*“... God hath granted you leave to prostrate yourselves on any surface that is clean, for We have removed in this regard the limitation that had been laid down in the Book; God, indeed, hath knowledge of that whereof ye know naught...”*²

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The requirements of prayer in previous Dispensations have often included prostration. In the Arabic Bayan the Bab called upon the believers to lay their foreheads on surfaces of crystal when prostrating. Similarly, in Islam, certain restrictions are imposed with regard to the surface on which Muslims are permitted to prostrate. Baha'u'llah abrogates such restrictions and simply specifies *“any surface that is clean.”*³



Babi Dispensation

The Bab called upon the believers to lay their foreheads on surfaces of crystal when prostrating.⁴



1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 9

2. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 10

3. Notes to Kitab-i-Aqdas no. 15

4. See the Arabic Bayan, Wahid VIII, Chapter 10

