



General Style Guidelines

for published references
to the Bahá'í Faith



BAHÁ'Í FAITH

The Bahá'í Faith is an independent, monotheistic religion founded in the mid 1800s by Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God"). Bahá'u'lláh, a persian nobleman by birth, taught that all religions represent progressive stages in the revelation of God's will, leading to the achievement of a unified and peaceful world society. The faith's international governing body, the Universal House of Justice, is based in Haifa, Israel. U.S. offices are located in Evanston, Ill. There is no clergy in the Bahá'í Faith. Its affairs are administered by a network of democratically elected councils at the international, national and local levels.

Bahá'ís consider it disrespectful for images of Bahá'u'lláh to be displayed or published.

Members of the Bahá'í Faith are referred to as Bahá'ís; an individual adherent is a Bahá'í. The term Bahá'í may also be used as an adjective, as in "the Bahá'í community" or "a Bahá'í holy day." "Bahatism" and "Bahaist" are incorrect.

In a first reference of the Bahá'í Faith, capitalize "Bahá'í" and "Faith." In subsequent references, "the religion" or "the faith" are appropriate.

It is not accurate to refer to the Bahá'í Faith as a sect, as it is a world religion with its own scriptures, holy days and administrative structure. The faith may be described as an offshoot of Shiite Islam in a historical sense, in the same way Christianity is an offshoot of Judaism and Buddhism is an offshoot of Hinduism.

The faith is the second-most-geographically widespread religion, after Christianity, with more than 5 million adherents and significant Bahá'í communities in 236 countries and territories.

Standard Bahá'í usage includes accent marks in the following names: Bahá'í, Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. If it is not possible to use these accent marks, the names should be spelled Baha'i, Baha'u'llah, the Bab and Abdu'l-Baha.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Bahá'í Bah-HIGH or bah-hah-EE

Bahá'u'lláh Bah-hah-ol-LAH
(The Founder of the Bahá'í Faith)

The Báb The Bob
(The Prophet-Herald of the Bahá'í Faith)

'Abdu'l-Bahá Ab-dol ba-HAH
(Son of Bahá'u'lláh)