Milly Collins talk, 1938 [[1]](#footnote-1)

Notes taken from a talk given by Mrs Collins about her months visit in Haifa. Answers to questions put by Mrs Collins to the Guardian, and other information gathered from talks with the Guardian.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Obligatory prayers

These prayers are given in the new little prayer books translated by Shoghi Effendi. The prayers to be said while washing hands and face are to be said three times a day. The two shorter verses may be said, instead, if one chooses. The Guardian said that the prayer with all prostrations will be said by those who are very spiritual.

The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

The National Spiritual Assembly has the Book of Aqdas, but the American believers are not ready for it. When they get it, they must live up to it. At present, it would be too much of a shock to them. They will be given a little of the Aqdas, when they are ready for it and can take it. In Persia, the schools were closed because the Bahá’í anniversaries were observed.

Alcohol

The Bahá’ís are forbidden to use alcohol in any form, not even as medicine or in any cooking, such as puddings or candy.

There are twenty-six volumes of the writings of Baha’u’llah to be translated, as large as the three volumes of tablets. Those writings contain many instructions that the Bahá’ís have not yet had. For that reason the “[International] National House of Justice” will not be established until these are translated.

Bahá’u’lláh said that the “Hidden Words” had been revealed to Fáṭima, the daughter of Muḥammad by an angel, at a time she was so grieved over the martyrdom of her two brothers and her husband. He also said that had anyone asked Him what the Universal Language would be, he would have told them.

Jews

We must be careful and use wisdom in our approach to Jews in giving the message. And to do better than we have done with the colored people. The reason we must be cautious with the Jews is because of the conditions in Germany and Hitler’s persecution of them and it would make things worse for the German Bahá’ís. One German woman told Mrs Collins to tell the Guardian that she was sorry of the condition of the attitude of the government against the Bahá’ís because it was another burden placed on Him. The Guardian said he rejoiced because of this persecution, because it would be the greatest means of spreading the message. He said that Germany, Persia and America would rise to great power and glory.

There were three things that were the cause of the migration of the Jews to the Holy Land, “The League of Nations, the taking over of the Holy Land by the British Government, and Hitler’s restriction, and this has been brought about by the will of God so that the prophecies would be fulfilled of the return of the Jews to the Holy Land.” He said the Jews had done wonderful work in building up Haifa and the work they are doing in agriculture. They are now building the substructure, and when they become Bahá’ís they will build the superstructure, the spiritual. The Shrine [of the Báb] and

the gardens surrounding it is one beautiful green spot in Haifa, the Jews visit it on their holidays. One day, while at the shrine, Mrs Collins saw an old Jew, a younger woman and a boy. The women said, “I Suppose, we will have to take off our shoes if we visit the shrine.” The boy said, “Of course we will, Bahá’u’lláh is a prophet to the Bahá’ís like Moses is to us.” Another time she met some Jewish ladies, and she spoke to them and they said they had to leave Germany where they had known their ancestors for five-hundred years, and also their beautiful home. Mrs Collins told them that they should rejoice to think that they were the first to fulfill prophecies of their return. They were hardly aware of that prophecy and had not given it a thought. They asked her to tea. She told them her time was not her own, but she would see if she could. She asked the Guardian if it would be alright, and he told her to go. The Guardian’s two younger brothers wanted to go along. They are so eager to serve and they never can speak of the Cause there. These two escorted Mrs Collins every place and treated her like a princess, a young one at that.

The Guardian was continually emphasizing that the Bahá’ís should live the life. He said some had great understanding of the cause, but did not come up to it morally, and, although they were forgiven by God, they still had that responsibility. The followers of the Báb were Heroes, not saints, but, now, we are called upon to Live the Life.

A new race will be born that will be so marvelous, so wonderful, but what this race will be like no one can know, not any more than we can tell what a babe in the womb of the mother is like. This will come about after the great calamity, which will be the great war and not earthquakes. Whether we will be that race or not we do not know.

Just as Persia, the lowest and most degraded country, was chosen by God as the place where the Manifestation arose to proclaim the New Day, so Baha’u’llah has chosen America, the lowest and most degraded politically, to hoist the standard of Universal Peace and establish the “New World order”.

Persecution

The Jews were the persecutors of Christ, and Islam the persecutors of the Báb, Bahá’u’lláh and Their followers. The Bulgarian-Christian will be the first to persecute the Bahá’ís, then the Catholics of Spain and of Mexico. Then the Presbyterians and Catholics of this country, and last our own Government. The universalists will be the only ones that will not persecute.

The Bahá’í Spiritual Assembly will rise to such a height of knowledge understanding and justice, through consultation, that they will astonish the world, and our government will try to give the Bahá’ís favors, but they will refuse to accept. They will, also, come to the Bahá’ís for advice but the Bahá’ís will refuse because the government, will not acknowledge the source.

I know we all like to hear something of the wife of Shoghi Effendi, and the Guardian told Mrs Collins not to mention personalities. She then asked if she could speak of them as the young people of the household and he said yes. So when she spoke of them she always said the young people and did not mention names. The young people are his two younger brothers and wife. She said she never had seen such respect, courtesy and reverence as these young people showed and they all called Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian.

Mrs Shopflocher said she heard Mrs Maxwell tell something about the engagement of her daughter to the Guardian. The mother of the Guardian invited Mrs Maxwell to come over end see her, and when she came the mother arose and said sternly, “Do you think that your daughter has the qualities and virtues to become the wife of the Guardian?” Mrs Maxwell said, “I do not, she has been spoiled and had her own way ever since she was a baby.” A few days later she again asked Mrs Maxwell to come and bring her daughter, and the same questions were asked and Mrs Maxwell again said she did not think her daughter had those qualities. The mother of the Guardian arose and said sternly “She must have as the Guardian has chosen her”, and just then the Guardian came in and placed a ring on Mary’s hand.

The marriage service was simple, the two of them went to the Shrine and prayed, and when they came home they went to the Guardians office and both went to work. She works every hour of the day and enjoys it. At first, she would sleep until eleven a.m., and Mrs Schopflocher said to her one day, “Mary, why don’t you get up in the morning.” She said, “What for?” A few days later at the table the Guardian said to her “Why don’t you get up earlier?” She answered rather flippant, “What should I get up earlier for?” and then corrected herself and said, “What time should I got up?”, and He said “You might start by getting up at nine.”

For Thanksgiving, or rather the evening before, the young people came into the room where meals were served and were all smiles and all excited. Meals are cooked in one place and there are about seventy to cook for, and brought in buckets to the different people. And often when it arrived it was cold, but no one seemed to mind, and meals were extremely simple. Well, when the meal came this evening, a small turkey was brought on a platter too small for it and set in front of Mrs Collins to carve and serve. Lucky, she said it was tender, she had no trouble with it, as it fell to pieces. She said that evening was the first meal in which the conversation was on other matters besides the Cause.

Copied 2/10/1938 Z. A. S.

1. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma\_maxwell\_jones\_collection , prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Transcribed with minor typographical and spelling corrections from scanned photographic images of typewritten copy.—Ernie Jones (21-05-2021) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)