

**Salomon Pacora Estrada**  
**(Pacora Blue Mountain)**  
**1899-1969**



**Pacora Blue Mountain**

The Hand of the Cause of God ‘Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum once stated: “The Beloved Guardian considered Mr. Pacora Blue Mountain to be the first known Bahá’í of Inca descent, and for this reason has a photograph of Mr. Pacora Blue Mountain placed in the Mansion of Bahji where it may still be seen”.<sup>(1)</sup> From 1941 to his death on Christmas 1969, Pacora Blue Mountain brilliantly served the Faith as a pioneer in Ecuador. His confirmation in the Faith took place in the home of Safá Kinney in New York. On August 9, 1941, Safá Kinney wrote to the beloved Guardian:

Pacora Blue Mountain, a ... Inca Indian, has been most important in the spread of the Cause in both Mexico and South America. He is a faithful attendant to my meetings and absorbs deeply all I have had to say. .. I have been giving out the strongest kind of spiritual food, dealing with actualities and truth — indeed, he says it was just that which made him a Bahá’í.<sup>(2)</sup>

The Guardian through his secretary responded to Safá Kinney two months later:

The Guardian was most happy to learn that you have been able to confirm souls from South American countries, such as Mr. Blue Mountain and Mr. Torres. He will pray for their dedication to the wonderful work of spreading their new-found belief in Bahá’u’lláh amidst their countrymen who so greatly need these glorious Teachings. He was particularly happy than Mr. Blue Mountain, an Inca descendant, should have embraced the Cause, thus bringing nearer the realization of the Master’s command to confirm the Indians”.<sup>(3)</sup>

And on March 28, 1942,

He [Shoghi Effendi] was very happy to hear of the successful teaching work which Mr. Blue Mountain is carrying on. The conversion of the original inhabitants of North America and South America to the Faith is a cause for great rejoicing, and will no doubt bring rich blessings in its wake.<sup>(4)</sup>

In “Heroes of God” Helen Hornsby describes what happened to Pacora Blue Mountain after his enrolment into the Faith:

After becoming a Bahá’í, he spent most of his time in small towns teaching the Faith. He would return home on weekends and give concerts for crippled children and at other hospitals. He married an Ecuadorian young woman and after that he always wanted to pioneer to her country.

In March 1961 he came to Ecuador as a pioneer and at Ridván he was elected to be a member of the local Assembly of Guayaquil. He was so well liked by the Bahá’ís and appreciated that the local Assembly made an official request to the National Assembly that he be allowed to remain with them in that city. However, Pacora enjoyed working in the more primitive areas of the country and devoted time to the community of Naranjapata where he kept a room for Bahá’í meetings. During the year, he was privileged to attend the first major Indian Teaching Congress in Ecuador at San Pablo near Otavalo.

While in Guayaquil, he gave many piano concerts interspersed with the Bahá’í writings and also radio programs on “Ondas del Pacifico” (The Waves of the Pacific). He received many letters from the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, to whom he was extremely devoted and he composed a chant for the Guardian entitled “Ya Shoghi Effendi Val-e-Amrollah.” Ruhíyyih Khánúm said that the Guardian loved him so much. <sup>(5)</sup>

Pacora died in Guayaquil as a pioneer and was buried on 25 December 1969. On January 13, 1970, the Universal House of Justice wrote to the National Spiritual Assembly of Ecuador: “His long and devoted services to the Faith in Latin America and in Ecuador will be long remembered”. Before passing away, Pacora Blue Mountain, donated his property in Sullana, Piura, his native town, to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Peru to be used as a Bahá’í center. He visited Lima once in the 1960s.

## References:

1. Bahá’í World Centre. *The Baha’i World*. Haifa, Israel : Baha’i World Centre, 1976. p. 468. Vols. XV 1968-1973.
2. —. *The Bahá’i World*. Haifa, Israel : Baha’i World Centre, 1976. p. 467. Vols. XV 1968-1973.
3. —. *The Bahá’i World*. Haifa, Israel : Baha’i World Centre, 1976. p. 467. Vols. XV 1968-1973.
4. —. *The Bahá’i World*. Haifa, Israel : Baha’i World Centre, 1976. p. 467. Vols. XV 1968-1973.
5. Hornsby, Helen. *Heroes of God, History of the Bahá’i Faith in Ecuador 1940-1979*. Quito, Ecuador : Arqtelier, 1984. pp. 158-159.

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