

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Universal House of Justice

**Date:** 14 March 2021

**From:** Research Department

### **Passages from a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi**

In his email letter of 27 August 2020, Mr. ... forwards passages quoted in the compilations “Family Life” and “Compilation on the Consent of Parents to Marriage” as well as in *Lights of Guidance: A Bahá’í Reference File* (New Delhi: Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 2004), excerpt 1233, and asks whether they are from the same letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi. He further requests the correct order of these passages as they appear in the letter and asks whether the passage beginning “I personally believe” is written by or on behalf of Shoghi Effendi. The Research Department responds as follows.

We note that the passages to which Mr. ... refers, quoted in the compilations “Family Life” and “Compilation on the Consent of Parents to Marriage” as well as in *Lights of Guidance* excerpt 1233, are from a letter dated 29 May 1929, written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi. The paragraphs appear in this order:

It is surely a very unfortunate case when the parents and children differ on some grave issues of life such as marriage, but the best way is not to flout each other’s opinion nor to discuss it in a charged atmosphere but rather try to settle it in an amicable way.

Bahá’u’lláh definitely says that the consent of the parents should be obtained before the marriage is sanctioned and that undoubtedly has great wisdom. It will at least detain young people from marrying without considering the subject thoroughly. It is in conformity with this teaching of the Cause that Shoghi Effendi cabled that the consent of your parents should be obtained.

I personally believe that if you retain your love as a pure and close friendship and continue your studies until you bring them to a close then you will be in a better position to judge and perhaps your parents would be given time to give the subject better consideration. Time can always provide things and settle disputes that temporary endeavour and heated discussion cannot help.

Shoghi Effendi read and approved all letters written by his secretaries; this one also has a postscript in his handwriting. It is one of a very few letters (all from early in his ministry) in which the secretary writing on the Guardian’s behalf appears to offer a personal opinion. The paragraph beginning “I personally believe” does not appear in any compilation prepared at the Bahá’í World Centre; the decision to publish it in *Lights of Guidance*, excerpt 1233, was made by the compiler of that work.