

## **If Anis Were Alive, What Would He Be Doing?**

The following points were made in an analysis of the situation of the European Bahá'í youth community. They were included in a letter from the Universal House of Justice to the European Bahá'í Youth Council to “assist in overcoming the problem of the bewildering range of alternatives that lie before youth in these days.”

This is the importance of conveying to the youth the awareness that every aspect of a person's life is an element of his or her service to Bahá'u'lláh.

1. The love and respect one has for one's parents;
2. The pursuit of one's education;
3. The nurturing of good health;
4. The acquiring of a trade or profession;
5. One's behavior towards others and the upholding of a high moral standard;
6. One's marriage and the bringing up of one's children;
7. One's activities in teaching the Faith and the building up the strength of the Bahá'í community, whether this be in such simple matters as attending the Nineteen Day Feast or the observance of Bahá'í Holy Days, or in more demanding tasks required by service in the administration of the Faith [at this time this means to dedicate or consecrate our lives to the portals to growth, portals to entry by troops i.e. to the core activities of the Divine Plan: Training institutes and the raising of tutors and junior animators, devotional gatherings and classes for children and junior youth. Practically this means to complete the sequence of Ruhi courses, to become tutors and help facilitate the movement of clusters from one stage of growth to the next]
8. And, not least, to take time each day to read the Writings and say the Obligatory Prayer, which are the source of growing spiritual strength, understanding, and attachment to God. (\*Please study the Spiritual exercises workshop, page 55, for example to become educated in the law of Huquq'u'llah and fulfill ones duty towards this law).

The concept of the Youth Year of Service should be viewed in this context, as a special service that the youth can devote to the cause, and which should prove to be a highly valuable element in their own spiritual and intellectual development. It is not an alternative to, or in conflict with, the carrying out of the other vital tasks enumerated above, but rather a unique service and privilege which should be combined with them in the way that is best suited to each individual case (Universal House of Justice, Dec. 7th 1992 addressing the European Bahá'í Youth Council).

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*“One speck of chastity is greater than a hundred thousand years of worship and a sea of knowledge”* (Bahá'u'lláh: quoted in Universal House of Justice letter, 26 November 2003)

*“Such a chaste and holy life, with its implications of modesty, purity, temperance, decency, and clean-mindedness, involves no less than the exercise of moderation in all that pertains to dress, language, amusements, and all artistic and literary avocations. It demands daily vigilance in the control of one’s carnal desires and corrupt inclinations. It calls for the abandonment of a frivolous conduct, with its excessive attachment to trivial and often misdirected pleasures. It requires total abstinence from all alcoholic drinks, from opium, and from similar habit-forming drugs. It condemns the prostitution of art and of literature, the practices of nudism and of companionate marriage, infidelity in marital relationships, and all manner of promiscuity, of easy familiarity, and of sexual vices. It can tolerate no compromise with the theories, the standards, the habits, and the excesses of a decadent age. Nay rather it seeks to demonstrate, through the dynamic force of its example, the pernicious character of such theories, the falsity of such standards, the hollowness of such claims, the perversity of such habits, and the sacrilegious character of such excesses.”*

(Shoghi Effendi: Advent of Divine Justice)

*“Rejecting the low sights of mediocrity, let them scale the ascending heights of excellence in all they aspire to do. May they resolve to elevate the very atmosphere in which they move, whether it be in the school rooms or halls of higher learning, in their work, their recreation, their Bahá'í activity or social service. Indeed, let them welcome with confidence the challenges awaiting them. Imbued with this excellence and a corresponding humility, with tenacity and a loving servitude, today’s youth must move towards the front ranks of the professions, trades, arts and crafts which are necessary to the further progress of humankind--this to ensure that the spirit of the Cause will cast its illumination on all these important areas of human endeavour.”*

(Universal House of Justice, 8 May 1985, to the Bahá'í youth of the world)

*“Moreover, while aiming at mastering the unifying concepts and swiftly advancing technologies of this era of communications, they can, indeed they must also guarantee the transmittal to the future of those skills which will preserve the marvellous, indispensable achievements of the past. The transformation which is to occur in the functioning of society will certainly depend to a great extent on the effectiveness of the preparations the youth make for the world they will inherit.”*

(Universal House of Justice, message to the Bahá'í youth of the world, 8 May 1985)

*“It is seemly that the servant should, after each prayer, supplicate God to bestow mercy and forgiveness upon his parents. Thereupon God’s call will be raised:*

*‘Thousand upon thousand of what thou hast asked for thy parents shall be thy recompense!’ Blessed is he who remembereth his parents when communing with God. There is, verily, no God but Him, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved.”*

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### QUEEN OF CARMEL

Standing on the mountain; Looking across the bay; The Queen of Carmel reigns; She reigns majestically;

Chorus: Cry out O Zion; Cry out to your Lord; Cry out O Zion; Circle 'round in adoration; Circle 'round your Lord;

Unto God the Lord of Lords Belong Kingdoms of earth and heaven; Land and sea rejoice this Day; The Day of Revelation;

Chorus: Cry out.....

Robed in white and crowned in gold; She stands for unity God will sail His arc on thee As mentioned in the Book of Names      Chorus :Cry out...

### The Changeless Faith of God: Eternal Human Values Becoming an Integrated Person

*“Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.*

*Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face.*

*Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answered of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge.*

*Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech.*

*Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men.*

*Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression.*

*Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts.*

*Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive.*

*Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.*

*Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.”*

Bahá'u'lláh : Gleanings CXXX.

*“The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh is, indeed, an invitation to freedom – freedom from want, freedom from war, freedom to unite, freedom to progress, freedom in peace and joy.”*

Universal House of Justice

*“True liberty consisteth in man's submission unto My commandments, little as ye know it.”*