

The Lotus Temple, the  
first Bahá'í House of  
Worship of India

# Bahai

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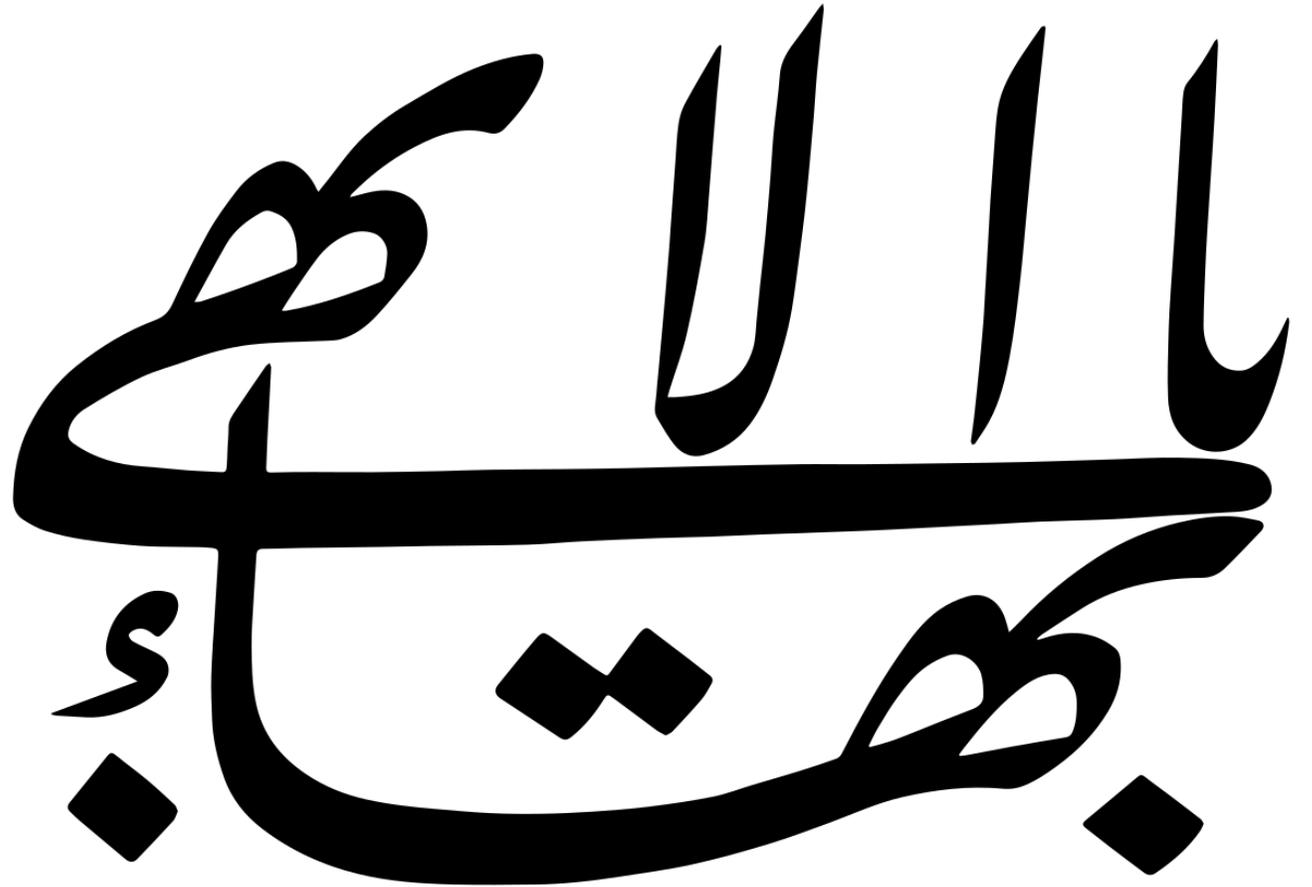
# Bahai

Bahá'í House of Worship  
in Ingleside, Sydney,  
Australia



The Greatest Name is a Bahá'í symbol for God. It is the calligraphic rendering of the Arabic text: يا بهاء  
يا بهاء translated as "O  
*Thou Glory of Glories*".

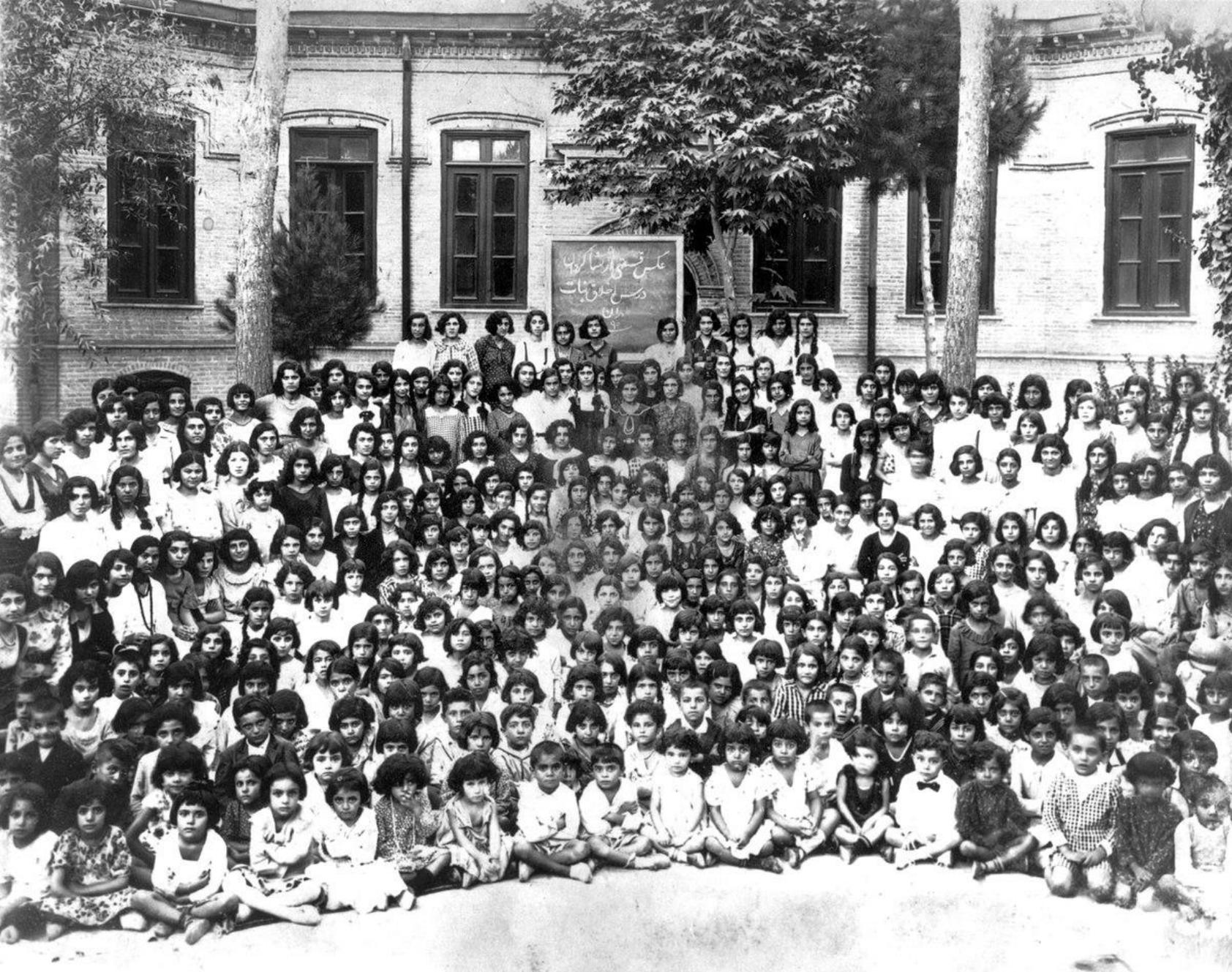
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# Bahai History



- A Persian named Mirza Ali Muhammad (1819-1850) claimed to be the bab (gate) of God.
- A follower, Mirza Hysayn Ali (1817-1892), claimed to be the world teacher (Baha'u'llah – Glory of God). His writings define the Bahai faith.
- Ali's son, Abdu'l-Baha (1844-1921), claimed to be the sole interpreter of his father's writings and declared that his own writings had equal authority.
- Baha's grandson, Shoghi Effendi (1897-1957), ran the Bahai faith.
- Subsequent leaders have been elected at annual “Spiritual Assemblies”
- Bahai's have been persecuted by Muslims who consider them apostate



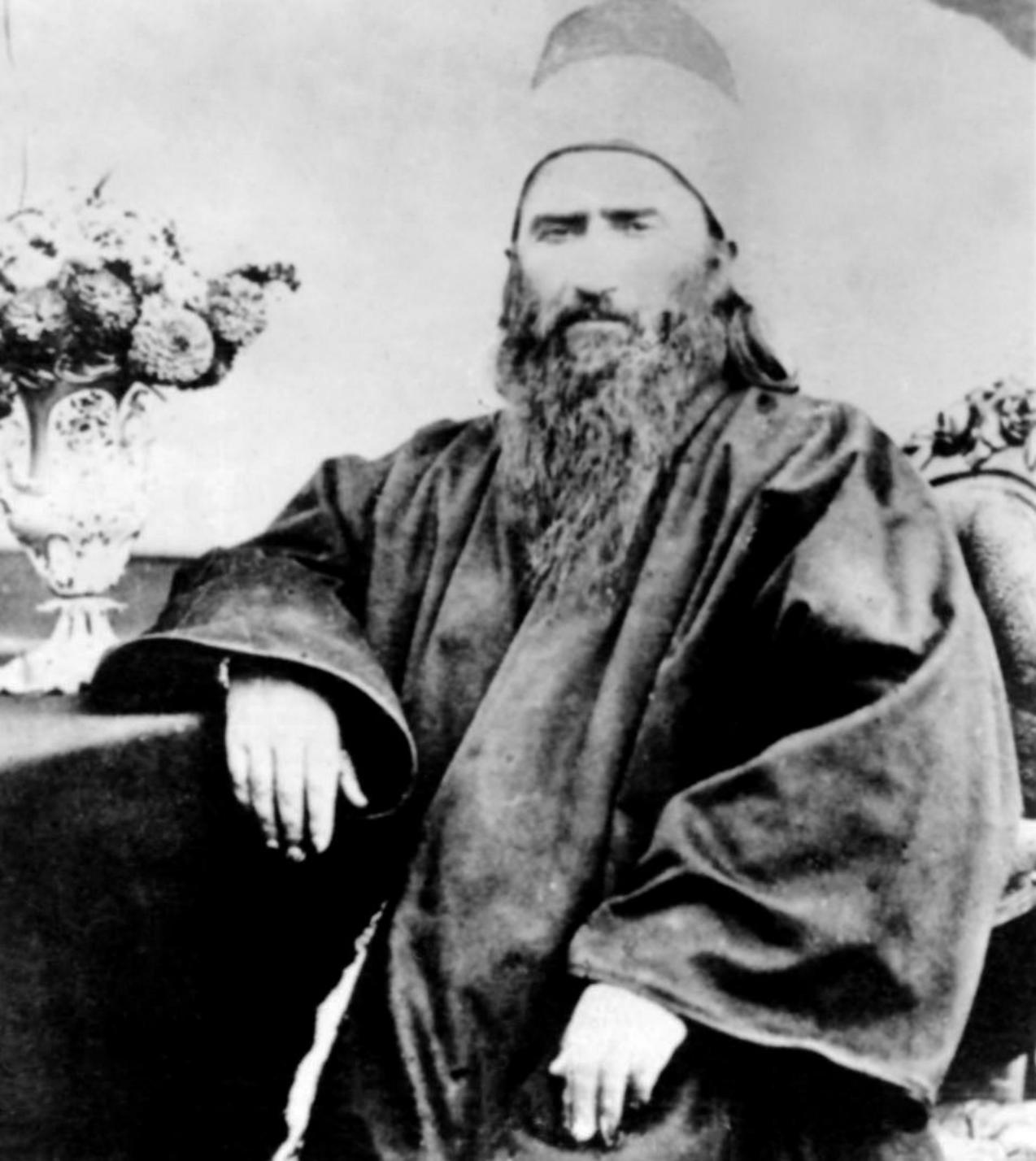
# Students of the School for Girls, Tehran, 13 August 1933.

- By Unknown author - The History of Bahá'í Educational Efforts in Iran, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69355357>

# Bahai Gardens in Haifa, Israel



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# Baha'u'llah

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# Abdul Baha (By

Unknown author -

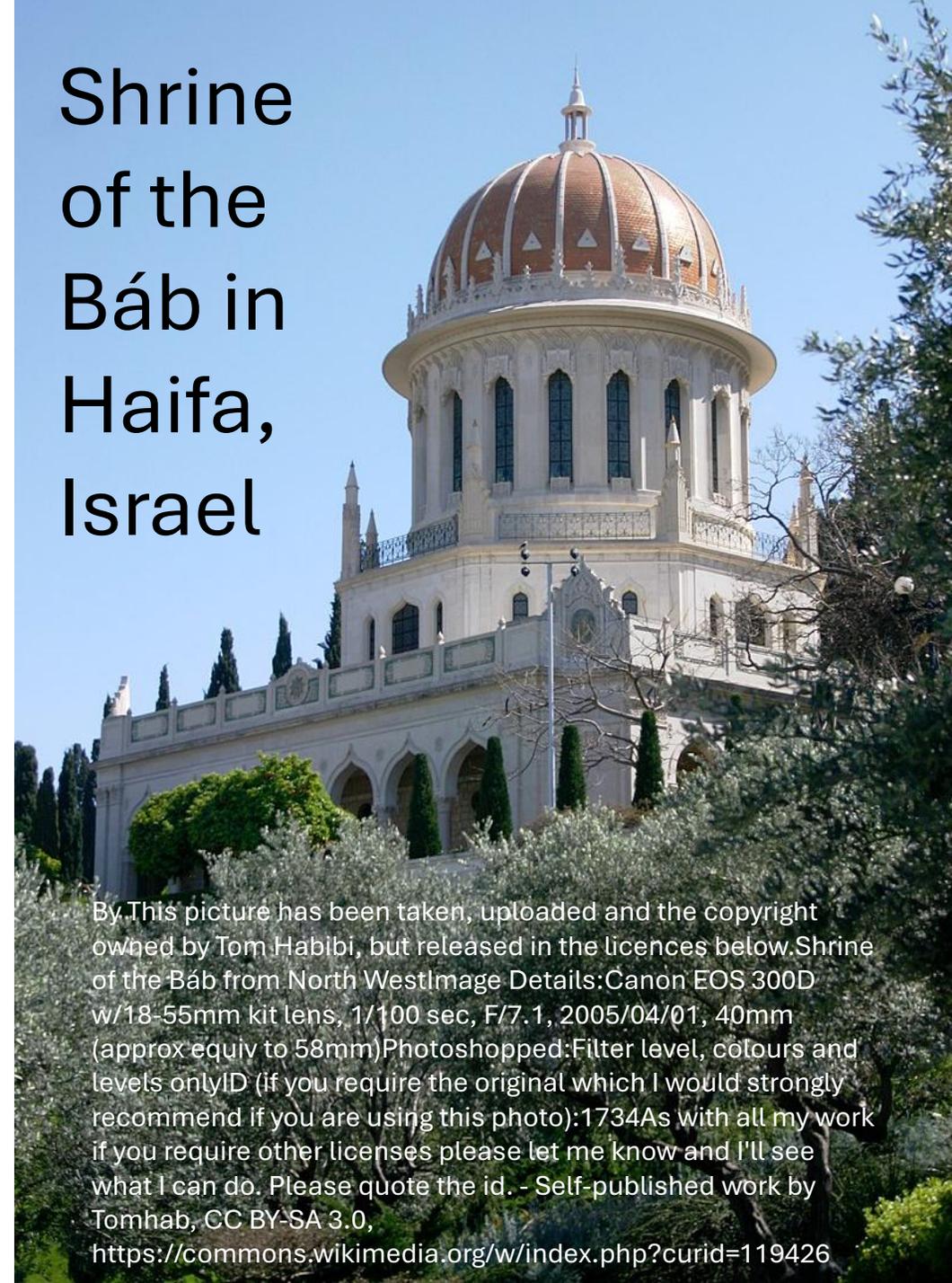
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# Bahai Beliefs (1)

- God's revelation is progressing, moving from Adam to Moses to Buddha to Jesus to Mohammad, and continuing to the current stage in Baha'u'lah
- Central tenet is the oneness of God, oneness of religion, and oneness of man.
- God – God is transcendent but has no personal relationship with His creation. He manifests Himself in His prophets
- Scripture – The writings of the Bab, Baha'u'lah, and Abdul'l'Baha. *The Most Holy Book, The Book of Certitude, and Gleanings from the writings of Baha'u'lah.*
- Man – No type of human is superior to any other. Individuals have an immortal soul which is immune to corruption.

## Shrine of the Báb in Haifa, Israel



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Image Details: Canon EOS 300D w/18-55mm kit lens, 1/100 sec, F/7.1, 2005/04/01, 40mm (approx equiv to 58mm) Photoshopped: Filter level, colours and levels only ID (if you require the original which I would strongly recommend if you are using this photo): 1734As with all my work if you require other licenses please let me know and I'll see what I can do. Please quote the id. - Self-published work by Tomhab, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=119426>

# Bahá'í House of Worship, Langenhain, Germany

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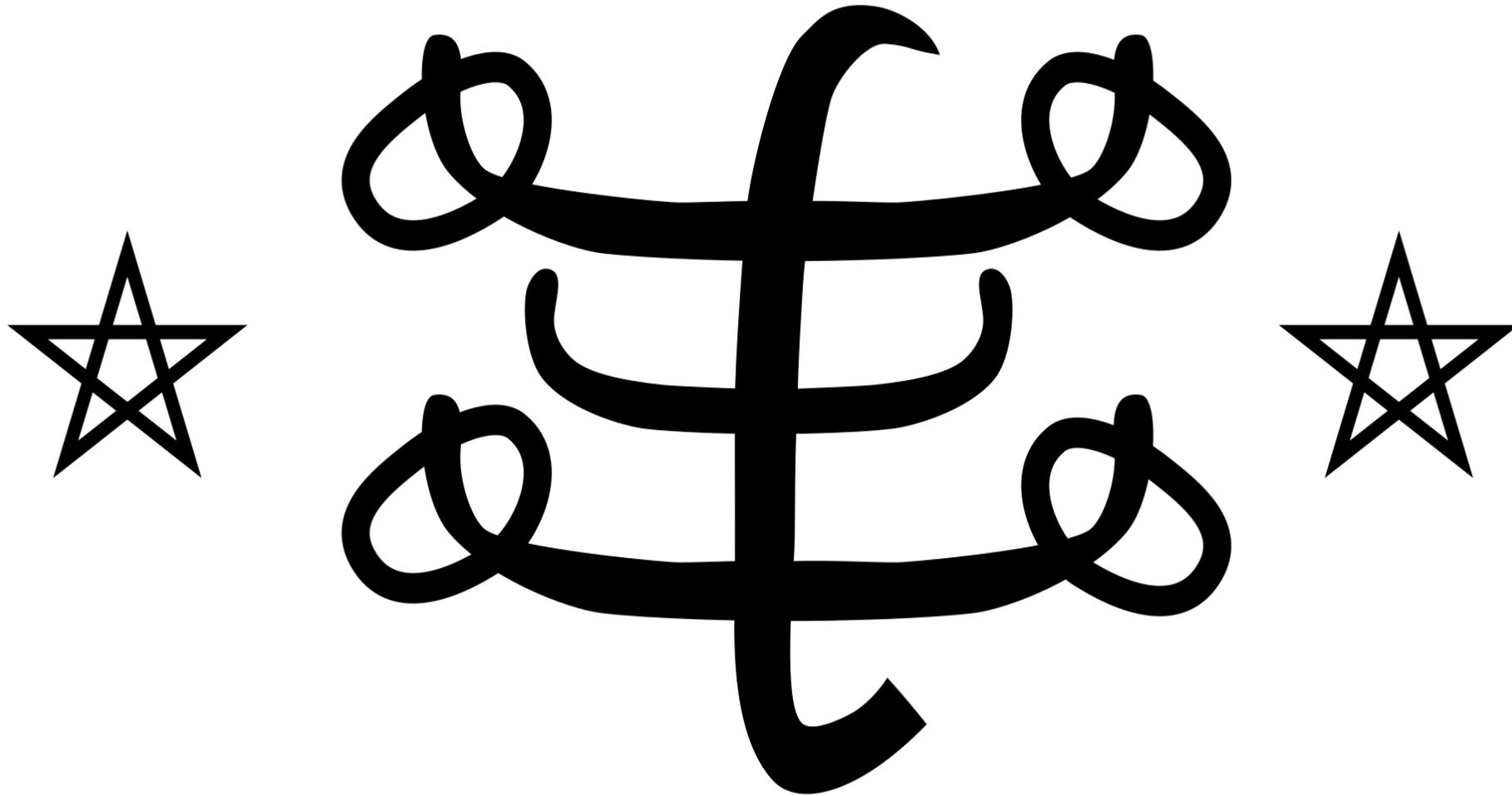
## Bahai Beliefs (2)

- Sin – Humans are not evil or sinful. Evil is only the absence of good. Satan does not exist as a person but is merely the personification of a person's lower nature.
- Salvation – A state of happiness in those who have turned to God through one of His manifestations (Moses, Bab, etc). Doing so allows one to overcome the lower part of his nature.
- Afterlife – Upon death, the soul separates from the body and travels to the spirit world, which is part of the physical universe. Heaven and hell are psychological. A person is in heaven when he or she makes spiritual progress and in hell when he or she does not.

Symbols of many religions on a pillar of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.

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# Ringstone Symbol – man’s connection to God





The Bahá'í  
gardens in  
Haifa, Israel

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# Baha'i Distinctive Beliefs (1)

- Ceremonial minimalism – no clergy, sacraments, or rituals. Work is a form of worship.
- Unity of science and religion – The truths of science are revealed through empiricism, and those of religion are revealed by revelation. There can be no contradiction.
- Universal House of Justice – a Bahai law making tribunal founded in 1963.
  - Administering international affairs
  - Preserving holy places
  - Handling Bahai property holdings.
- Global commonwealth – International Executive Power, World Legislature, World Court, universal language, compulsory education

# Universal House of Justice on Mount Carmel, Haifa, Israel

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- Public domain

# Bahai Today

- Up to six million adherents worldwide (others claim 1 million), with 28,000 in the US.
- International headquarters in Haifa, Israel.



By Marco Abrar - File:Shrine-of-Bahá'í Faith.jpg, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
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# Conclusion

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Discussion