BAHÁ’Í MARRIAGE

A FORTRESS FOR WELL-BEING

“And when He desired to manifest grace and beneficence to men, and to set the world in order, He revealed observances and created laws; among them He established the law of marriage, made it as a fortress for well-being and salvation, and enjoined it upon us in that which was sent down out of the heaven of sanctity in His Most Holy Book.”

-Bahá'u'lláh

Marriage, among the mass of the people, is a physical bond, and this union can only be temporary, since it is foredoomed to a physical separation at the close.

Among the people of Bahá, however, marriage must be a union of the body and of the spirit as well, for here both husband and wife are aglow with the same wine, both are enamoured of the same matchless Face, both live and move through the same spirit, both are illumined by the same glory. This connection between them is a spiritual one, hence it is a bond that will abide forever.

Likewise do they enjoy strong and lasting ties in the physical world as well, for if the marriage is based both on the spirit and the body, that union is a true one, hence it will endure. If, however, the bond is physical and nothing more, it is sure to be only temporary, and must inexorably end in separation.

When, therefore, the people of Bahá undertake to marry, the union must be a true relationship, a spiritual coming together as well as a physical one, so that throughout every phase of life, and in all the worlds of God, their union will endure; for this real oneness is a gleaming out of the love of God.

-Selections from the Writings of `Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 117

“The true marriage of Bahá’ís is this, that husband and wife should be united both physically and spiritually, that they may ever improve the spiritual life of each other, and may enjoy everlasting unity throughout all the worlds of God. This is Bahá’í marriage.”

-Selections from the Writings of `Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 118
PREPARATION FOR BAHÁ’Í MARRIAGE

“A couple should study each other's character and spend time getting to know each other before they decide to marry, and when they do marry it should be with the intention of establishing an eternal bond.”

-The Universal House of Justice, 2 November, 1982, in Baha’i Marriage and Family Life, p. 20

All Bahá’ís who wish to marry must first contact a Local Spiritual Assembly. It is not possible to have a Baha’i marriage ceremony without an Assembly's prior authorization. When a couple asks an Assembly to arrange a Bahá’í ceremony for them, the Assembly may wish to request a meeting with its representa- tives to review with them the Bahá’í Writings on marriage and to impress upon them the importance of the step they are about to take. This session should be both a serious and happy occasion and help them understand the permanent nature of their commitment to each other.

-NSA USA - Developing Distinctive Bahá’í Communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OR THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDED READING

- **Marriage: A Fortress for Well-Being** published by the Wilmette Bahá’í Publishing Trust

- **Conscious Courtship** published by George Ronald Publisher Ltd

- **Bahá’í Marriage and Family Life** – A compilation of the Universal House of Justice published by the NSA of Canada

- Compilation on the **Consent of Parents to Marriage**

- **Preserving Bahá’í Marriages** – A compilation of the Universal House of Justice published by the UK Bahá’í Publishing Trust

"Marriage is a holy institution and much encouraged in this blessed cause."

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá in London, p. 78)