

CHAPTER 3- STAR OF THE WEST MAGAZINE

The **Star of the West** was the first Bahá'í magazine of the western world. It was the way that the friends were informed and taught, for it included Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi. They have been bound into 8 books and each contains many volumes of the magazine. There were nineteen issues printed each year beginning March 1910 and ending in March 1924. It is the way that the friends would have most likely received the Tablets and Epistles of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi before they were put into other formats such as booklets and books. I wanted to include the Stars of the West to give perspective and to become familiar with just what was given the friends and how was it given with regards to American Indians at the time of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi. Admittedly it was hard to stay on track and keep my focus for there were so many other items to read about as well. Many of these stories were written before Shoghi Effendi standardized the transliteration of Persian and Arabic words into English. Therefore, the spelling of some words is very different from current Bahá'í usage.

Book 1

Volume I: No.1-19 March 1910-March 1911 (checked)

Volume II: No.1-11 March 1911-September 1911 (checked)

Book 2

Volume II No.12-19 October 1911-March 1912 (checked)

Volume III: No.1-18 March 1912-February 1913:

1. No.4, May 17, 1912: Jaxon, Honore: "...breaking ground for the House of Worship...Persia, Syria, Egypt, Indian, Japan, South Africa, England, France, Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Jews of the World, The North American Indians were among the races and countries thus successively represented and finally 'Abdu'l-Bahá did the closing work and consigned the stone to its excavation on behalf of *all* people of the world."(May 1, 1912-Dedication of the Masrak-el-Azkar Site), p. 6.

Book 3

Volume III No.19 March 1912 (checked)

Volume IV: No.1-9 March 1913-March 1914 (checked)

Volume V: No.1-10 March 1914-September 1914 (checked)

Book 4

Volume V: No.11-19 September 1914-March 1915 (checked)

Volume VI: No.1-19 March 1915-March 1916 (checked)

Volume VII: No.1-19 March 1916-March 1917:

1. No.10, September, 8, 1916: Tablets Revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to the Bahá’ís throughout the United States and Canada. I believe this is the first time the Tablets for each region were given to the friends in the United States and to Canada. pp. 87-91.
2. No.10, September, 8, 1916: In the Tablet to the Dominion of Canada; “perchance, God willing the call of the Kingdom may reach the ears of the Eskimos, the inhabitants of the Islands of Franklin in the north of Canada, as well as Greenland. Should in Greenland the fire of the love of God be ignited, all the ices of that continent will be melted and the frigid climate will be changed into a temperate climate...Should you display an effort, so that the fragrances of God be diffused amongst the Eskimos, its effect will be very great and far reaching.” pp. 89-90.

Book 5

Volume VIII No.1-19 March 1917- March 1918 (checked)

Volume IX No.1-19 March 1918-March 1919

1. No.14, November 23, 1918: First Tablet Revealed for American Bahá’ís since the Opening of the Doors of the Holy Land. This is the very first Tablet that goes to the United States at this time. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá says; “...In brief, now is the time that the teachings of His Highness Baha’o’llah be promulgated in that continent, so that all the inhabitants may become ready for the establishment of universal peace, the flag of the oneness of the world of humanity be unfurled and all the nations and tribes may obtain tranquility and composure under the shade of the tabernacle of unity. p. 153.
2. No.14, November 23, 1918: Once again the Tablets calling Bahá’ís of the United States and Canada to diffuse the fragrances of the Kingdom throughout America appear as they did in No.10, Volume VII in Book 4. pp. 159-160 & pp. 166-168.

Volume X No.1-5 March 1919-June 1919:

1. No.4, May 17, 1919: ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Tablets which now make up the **Tablets of the Divine Plan** were presented with a talk and some explanation by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab at the Eleventh Annual Mashrekol-Azkar Convention and Bahá’í Congress held in McAlpin Hotel, New York City, **April 26-30, 1919**. The Star of the West printed these over the course of the year. Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Central States includes Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with the prayer revealed for that region. (First talk) pp. 67-72.

Book 6

Volume X No.6-19 June 1919-March 1920:

1. No. 6, June 24, 1919: Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Southern States includes Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with the prayer revealed for that region. (Second Talk) pp. 99-102 & pp. 111-112.

2. No. 7, July 13, 1919: Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Central States includes Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with the prayer revealed for that region. (Third Talk), pp.122-127 & 138.
3. No.10, September 8, 1919: Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Western States includes Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with the prayer revealed for that region. (Fourth Talk), pp. 197-203.
4. No.12, October 16, 1919: Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Dominion of Canada includes Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá with the prayer revealed for that region. Read at the Fifth Session), pp. 227-229.
5. No.15, December 12, 1919: Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Western World: Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá read at the Sixth Session of the Eleventh Annual Mashrekol-Azkar Convention and Bahá’í Congress held in McAlpin Hotel, New York City, **April 26-30, 1919**. “The two Tablets presented herewith are addressed to the Bahá’í Assemblies of the United States and Canada, instructing them to spread the principles of Bahá’u’lláh in Alaska, Mexico, Central American, South America, and the West Indies. “The first Tablet was revealed in the Garden of Bahjee Saturday morning, **April 18, 1916**; the second Tablet was revealed on Thursday afternoon, March 8th, 1917, at Haifa, Palestine.” This first Tablet has the important exhortation and in the words as it appears here; “*You must give great importance to the Indians, i.e. .the aborigines of America. For these souls are like the ancient inhabitants of Peninsular Arabia, who, previous to the manifestation of His Holiness Mohammed, were treated as savages. But when the Mohammedic light shone forth in their midst, they became so illumined that they brightened the world. Likewise, should these Indians and aborigines, be educated and obtain guidance, there is no doubt that through the divine Teachings, they will become so enlightened as in turn to shed light to all regions.*” pp.280-285.
6. No.17, January 19, 1920: *Unveiling of the Divine Plan for the Islands of the Sea*: Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá read at the Seventh Session of the Eleventh Annual Mashrekol-Azkar Convention and Bahá’í Congress held in McAlpin Hotel, New York City, April 26-30, 1919. This is a tablet now more commonly known as part of the Tablets of the Divine Plan and is addressed to the believers and the maid-servants of the Merciful of the Bahá’í Assemblies and meetings in the United States. It begins: “He is God! O ye real Bahá’ís of America!” “It was revealed on Tuesday morning, April 11, 1916 in Bahjee, near the blessed Tomb of Bahá’u’lláh. pp. 307-311.

Volume XI No.1-18 March 1920-February 1921

No.7 July 13, 1920:

1. A Bahá’í Pilgrimage to South America, pp. 107-111. & pp. 113-118.

No.12, October 16, 1920:

1. A Bahá'í Pilgrimage to South America. This is a continuation of the story in No. 7. pp. 206-207 & pp. 211-216.

Book 7

Volume XI No.19 March 1921 (checked)

Volume XII No.1-19 March 1921-March 1922:

1. No.5, June, 1921: M.H. & M.M: *The Removal of Race Prejudice*-Excerpts from the Holy Utterances of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá p. 103 & pp. 106-108.
2. No.6, June 24, 1921: Gregory, Louis: *Convention for Amity between the Colored and White Races*, p. 115-119. continued on pp. 123-125.
3. No.6, June 24, 1921: 'Abdu'l-Bahá to Dr. Zia M. Bagdadí: A Letter to Mr. Alfred Lunt-Secretary of the Bahá'í Temple Unity dated June 10, 1921, "*Now is the Time for the Americans to Unite both the White and Colored Races.*" pp.120-121.

Volume XIII No.1-8 March 1922-November 1922:

1. No.3, April 28, 1922 Williams, Roy: *Convention for Amity between the White and Colored Races* (Springfield, MA. December 5-6, 1921) with photo, pp. 50-55. continued on pp. 60-61.

Book 8

Volume XIII No.9-12 December 1922-March 1923:

1. No.9, December 1922: Gregory, Louis: *Inter-Racial Amity*, pp. 304-307
2. No.9, December 1922: 'Abdu'l-Bahá: *The Origin of Race-Color*: A Tablet from 'Abdu'l-Bahá p. 307.

Volume XIV No.1-12 April 1923-March 1924:

1. No.12, March 1924: Cobb, Stanwood: *Future of the Indian Race*, pp. 368-369.