

# *Zikrullah Khadem, The Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God*



# *Zikrullah Khadem, How Do We Remember Him*



# *Zikrullah Khadem, How Do I Remember Him?*



# *Zikrullah Khadem, The Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God*

*1904-1986*

*Born in Tehran, Iran*

*Passed away in Chicago, IL*

*In 1952*

*Appointed Hand of the Cause of God  
by Shoghi Effendi* 

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# *The family's origin Mazgan, Kashan*



*Sheikh Mazgan  
introduced the Bahá'í Faith to Kashan...*

*He was much persecuted.*

*All those in village of Mazgan became  
impassioned and became Baha'is.*

*Consequently they were persecuted  
Among them was the grandfather of  
Zikrullah Khadem*

*Ustad Ali* \_\_\_\_\_

# *Zikrullah Khadem, The Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God*

*Born to a family impassioned with the  
love of Bahá'u'lláh*

*Father- Mirza Nasr'ulláh,*

*Mother- Rázziyih Khanum*

*Grandmother – The courageous Bibi Jan*

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*Mirza Nasr'ulláh*

*Father of Zikrullah Khadem*

*Served as personal attendant and  
companion to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá for  
four years including the period of the  
Master’s sojourn in the Cave of Elijah.*

*Mirza Nasr'ulláh*

*was recipient of tablets from  
Abdu’l-Bahá* 

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*‘Abdu’l-Bahá  
bestowed the name  
Khadem (servant) to Nasr’ulláh*

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# *‘Tablets from Abdu’l-Bahá*

♥ Addressed to the mother of Nasr’ulláh- (Bibi Jan), ‘Abdu’l-Bahá wrote:

**“Wert thou to know to what bounty he hath attained, and what great blessings he hath received, thou wouldst assuredly spread thy wings and soar in the heavens.”**

In that same tablet, he predicted,  
**“Ere long the clear evidences of these favors will be apparent and manifest like unto the sun shining from the horizon of existence, and the bright light of his grace will enkindle the lamp of that family.”**

## *Home Environment*

*Zikrullah Khadem was born and  
nurtured in the Bahá'í enclave in  
Tehran  
known as Hayat-i-Bágh.*

**Bahá'í homes surrounded a large garden**

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# *An Idyllic home*

- ♥ Great Baha'i teachers who travelled through Iran, often stayed in Tehran, in this home:
- ♥ Among them were the poets: [Na'im](#), [Nayer](#) and [Sina...](#)
- ♥ It was a refuge for a small band of believers who gathered in secret to study recent messages just received from 'Abdu'l-Bahá ...



# *The Conditions of Those Days In a Talk given in 1957, Mr. Khadem describes:*

♥ “My father used to take my hands as we walked down the dark lanes. When we approached the house of the Bahá’í we were to meet, he would bump his shoulders against the door in passing, as if by accident. We would continue walking down the lane. Meanwhile, the owner of the house would open the door slightly. When we were sure that no one was passing, we would return and quickly slip into that house.”

From notes taken from talks given by Mr Khadem in April 1957 in Panama City, Panama, at the seventh annual convention of the Baha’is of Central America

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*The Conditions of Those Days  
From a Talk given in 1957,  
Mr Khadem describes:*

♥ In those days they used to bake bread in indoor pits. Sometimes the friends would meet around these. Light from candle placed inside was well concealed so the people could not guess they were having a Baha'i meeting. From the light of that candle they were able to read the Bahá'í writings and chant the prayers.

From notes taken from talks given by Mr Khadem in April 1957 in panama city, Panama, at the seventh annual convention of the Baha'is of Central America

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# *Connecting to Shoghi Effendi*

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# *Connecting to Shoghi Effendi*

- ♥ Sometime after the passing of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the Central Spiritual Assembly of Iran advised the Bahá’ís to convey their loyalty to Shoghi Effendi, appointed Guardian.
- ♥ Zikrullah sent a letter to Shoghi Effendi pledging his love and devotion.
- ♥ He received a letter back from the Guardian.
- ♥ This enkindled his love and devotion; thereafter his most ardent wish was to attain the presence of Shoghi Effendi.
- ♥ Period of waiting..... \_\_\_\_\_.

*The First Pilgrimage*  
1925

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# *Pilgrimage of February 1940*

- ♥ Two missions were given by Shoghi Effendi to Mr Khadem:
  - ♥ To arrange for Iranian pilgrims to obtain permission to visit the Bahá'í holy places in the Holy Land.
  - ♥ Call for pioneers- To encourage the Bahá'ís of Iran to go pioneering.  
This was during World War II. There was much difficulty in obtaining visas \_\_\_\_\_.

# *Special Mission 1944 Centenary Inauguration of Bahá'í Cycle*

- ♥ Shoghi Effendi asked the NSA of Iran to celebrate the Centenary in the House of the Báb in Shiraz.
- ♥ Delegates were to come from all over Iran.
- ♥ Shoghi Effendi asked Mr. Khadem to hand carry his message (70 page Centenary Tablet) ...



Partial account of gathering of 91 convention delegates, in

# *Appointment as Hand of the Cause*

## *1952*

*Cablegram Feb. 28, 1952*

*Zikrullah Khadem Tehran*

*“Moved convey glad tidings your elevation rank  
Hand Cause. Appointment officially announced  
public message addressed all National Assemblies.  
May sacred functions enable you enrich record  
services already rendered Faith Baha’u’lah.”*

Second contingent of Hands of the Cause appointed by  
Shoghi Effendi.



# *Hands of the Cause*

“The obligations of the Hands of the Cause of God are to diffuse the Divine Fragrances, to edify the souls of men, to promote learning, to improve the character of all men and to be, at all times and under all conditions, sanctified and detached from earthly things. They must manifest the fear of God by their conduct, their manners, their deeds and their words.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá , Baha'i World Faith - p. 444)

# *Hands of the Cause Duties given by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá:*

- ♥ *Protection of the unity of Faith*
  - ♥ *Propagation*
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*Sixth Pilgrimage-1952  
A week after appointment as  
Hand of the Cause*

*Two days before departure, he  
was Entrusted by Shoghi Effendi  
to carry  
The original copy of Kitabi Iqan,  
Book of Certitude*



# *International Service “Itinerant Hand of the Cause”*

- ♥ In 1952, Shoghi Effendi asked Mr Khadem to visit the Baha’is in the ten European goal countries—the objectives of the Second Seven Year Plan.
- ♥ In a cable to European Baha’is Shoghi Effendi referred to Mr Khadem as “**itinerant Hand of the Cause**”.
- ♥ In 1937, Shoghi Effendi had told Mr Khadem:  
“ I will send you to the West... to witness with your own eyes the secret, the mystery, the light of the Cause in those lands.”
- ♥ Mr Khadem travelled extensively to these goal countries. Indeed, he did behold the light of the Faith in these regions; this caused him to often use the expression, “**O’God Increase my astonishment in Thee.**”

# *International Service-Africa Preparation for the Holy Year, 1953*

- ♥ Shoghi Effendi asked Mr Khadem to prepare for similar visit to Africa and to attend the Kampala Conference.
  - ♥ As bidden by Shoghi Effendi, Mr Khadem set out for Africa on December 31, 1952 to communicate the Guardian's love and appreciation to **virtually every Bahá'í in Africa...**
  - ♥ In February Mr Khadem went to the Intercontinental Teaching Conference in Kampala, Uganda.
  - ♥ 25 Feb. to April 15, 1953, Mr Khadem continued the African tour: Nairobi, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Belgian Congo, Angola, Monrovia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Morocco to convey the Guardian's love to **every Bahá'í in Africa...**
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*Dedication of the Baha'i House of  
Worship Wilmette 1953  
May 1 and May 2  
Approach of Holy Year, 1953*

- ♥ Due to instruction of Shoghi Effendi, the program was revised--Mr Khadem was to chant a selection from the writings of the Báb...The text of the selection was handwritten by Shoghi Effendi ...
- ♥ Sixteen years earlier (1937)Shoghi Effendi had told Mr Khadem hat he would chant at the dedication of BHW in Wilmette and that Mrs. Khadem would accompany him. \_\_\_\_\_.

# *Extensive Travel in India*

- ♥ At behest of Shoghi Effendi in 1953 and 1954, Mr Khadem travelled through India.
  - ♥ On Dec 30, 1954, on behalf of Persian Hands, he consulted with NSA of India, Pakistan and Burma in order to take action for purchase of land for the House of Worship (objective of the Ten Year Plan).
    - ◆ Mr Khadem visited the temple site in Bahapur with members of Indian NSA for the dedication of Temple site.
    - ◆ On Jan. 9, received cable from Shoghi Effendi “Deeply appreciate services urge friends... concentrate objectives Plans assure loving prayers.”
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# *Japan and Onward*

- ♥ As the Guardian's representative, Mr Khadem attended Asia Teaching Conference in Nikko, Japan, in September 1955. This was aimed at increasing the number of local spiritual assemblies to provide the foundation for formation of The National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia. By Ridvan 1957 this NSA was elected.
  - ♥ After Nikko, Mr Khadem continued his tour of Japan, specially visiting Hiroshima and on to Macao, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, Singapore , Philippines, and Viet Nam.
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# *Burma*

- ♥ He arrived in Rangoon on November 22, 1955
  - ♥ Traveled by rickshaw to the village of Daidanaw
  - ♥ **Siyyid Mustafa Rumi** had brought the Baha'i Faith to this village and was murdered during world war II. He had translated the Writings into Burmese and helped transfer the **marble sarcophagus for the sacred remains of the Báb**. Posthumously, **Siyyid Mustafa Rumi** was designated, Hand of the Cause, by Shoghi Effendi.
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*The Passing of Shoghi Effendi*  
*November 4, 1957*

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# *Zikrullah Khadem*

## *Later Services*

# *After the Passing of Shoghi Effendi*

- ♥ Together with other Hands- the completion of the Ten Year Crusade and the election of the Universal House of Justice in 1963.
- ♥ November 25, 1957, the twenty six Hands of the Cause assembled in the Holy Land and unanimously adopted resolution to constitute a body of nine Hands (the Custodians) to serve the interest of the Faith in the World Center. Other Hands were assigned to other parts of the world.
- ♥ In 1959 Mr Khadem was assigned for protection and propagation in North, Central and South America and the administration of Auxiliary Board Members.
- ♥ Mr Khadem moved to the United States in 1960.

# *Later Services After the Passing of Shoghi Effendi*

- ♥ The Universal House of Justice asked Mr Khadem to undertake the task of researching all of the places associated with the lives of the Central Figures.
- ♥ Mr Khadem began work on this project, the “[Registry of Bahá’í Holy Places](#)”. He read all out of print books, manuscripts and accounts in several languages, translations, and corresponded extensively. He completed the work in five years and sent 134 volumes to the Holy Land.
- ♦ The Universal House of Justice, in 1977 commended him: “on behalf of the Bahá’í historians of the future as well as the entire Baha’i community, deepest gratitude for the meticulous research and thorough investigation you have made of historic sites hallowed by the sacred associations of the past.”



Zikrullah Khadem-“Registry of Bahá’í Holy Places”

# *Later Services*

## *The Bounty of Huququ'llah*

- ♥ Mr Khadem had a firm belief that the spiritual and material are intimately connected.
- ♥ In 1984, the NSA of the United States asked Mr. Khadem to address the 75<sup>th</sup> National Convention.
- ♥ He was moved and reminded the Convention of a scroll of names sent to 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1907 by the American believers, petitioning Him for permission to build the Mother Temple of the West.
- ♥ Mr Khadem asked that a petition be sent asking the Universal House of Justice to consider permitting the Western believers to have the blessing of the law of Huququ'llah. \_\_\_\_\_



*Zikrullah Khadem  
Asking for Petition regarding Huququ'llah  
1984, US 75<sup>th</sup> National Convention*

# *Later Services*

# *The Bounty of Huququ'llah*

♥ Jan 3, 1985 Universal House of Justice:

“Last April we were deeply touched by receiving a petition from the delegates gathered at the National Convention of the Baha’is of the United States, requesting that the law of Huququ’llah be made binding on all believers in the country. Although it is not yet the time to take this far-reaching step, we are moved to decide that as a preliminary measure, the text relating to Huququ’llah will be translated into English for general information against the time when this law will be applied more widely. \_\_\_\_\_

# *Literary Works*

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# *Literary works: Pilgrimage to the Scenes of the Báb's Captivity and Martyrdom*

- ♥ This writing imparts the passion of the Báb; it is moving and descriptive of the terrain and the sites associated with His captivity and martyrdom.
- ♥ On the 9th day of July 1950, for the commemoration of the centenary of the martyrdom of the Báb, the members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Persia set out for a nine day pilgrimage to Azarbayan to the sites of the Báb's captivity and martyrdom... They traveled to Urumiyyih and Tabriz and then toward Khuy. They wished to walk to the mountain of Maku as Mullah Husayn had done.

Bahá'í World: A Bicentennial International Record Volume XII, 1950-1954 \_\_\_\_\_.

# *Pilgrimage to the Scenes of the Báb's Captivity and Martyrdom-*

♥ The descriptions of the plains and mountains are expressive. Some excerpts: "Over a wide area around Mah-Ku the plains are black; the world mourns at Mah-Ku; for mile on mile the land is studded with outcroppings of glistening black rock. .. all nature is a prisoner here..."

♥ This moving and descriptive account to be found in:  
*Bahá'í World: A Bicentennial International Record* Volume XII,  
1950-1954



# *Zikrullah Khadem, How Do I Remember Him?*

- ♥ Home environment
  - ♥ Balanced Service and Family Life
  - ♥ Committed to his family
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# *His Marriage*

♥ Javidukht Javid  
Khadem

*The woman he  
loved,  
honored and  
respected  
throughout life.*



# *Zikrullah Khadem, How Do I Remember Him?*

- ♥ Zikrullah –  
“mention of  
God”
- ♥ Vast  
*Memorizations*  
He recited  
until his last  
breath. \_\_\_\_\_



# Zikrullah Khadem, How Do I Remember Him?

O BEFRIENDED STRANGER!

*The candle of thine heart is lighted by the hand of My power, quench it not with the contrary winds of self and passion. The healer of all thine ills is remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My love thy treasure and cherish it even as thy very sight and life.*

Hidden Words



*I thank my dear brother,  
Dr Ramin Khadem, who has shared some  
of the images from one of his videos :  
“Zikrullah Khadem, Hand of the  
Cause.”*

*This is one of the four magnificent and  
moving volumes on Hands of the Cause,  
starting from the time of Bahá'u'lláh*



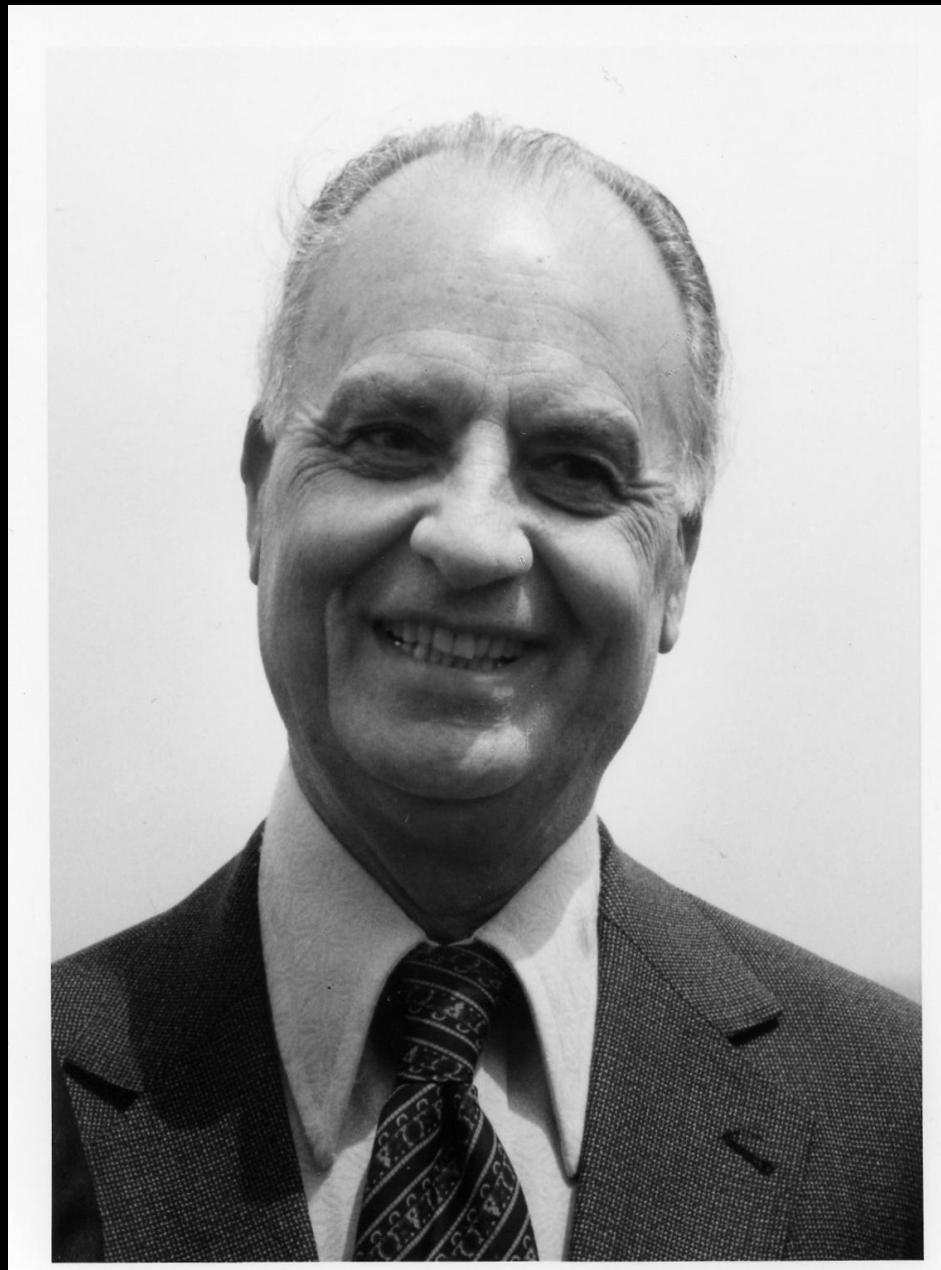
*Javidukht and Zikrullah Khadem*



*Javidukht and Zikrullah Khadem*



*Zikrullah Khadem*



*Zikrullah Khadem*



*Salim Nounoo, Zikrullah Khadem  
with Hand of the Cause ,Keith Ransom Kehler,  
1932*



*Hand of the Cause Zikrullah Khadem with  
Hand of The Cause William Sears  
1984*