

Topics covered in Rúhíyyih Khánum's meeting with pioneers, Haiti, 3 November 1982

Informal notes by Greg Dahl

1. Gwili Posey introducing the pioneers
2. Rúhíyyih Khanum about her current long trip
3. Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi were highly practical
Comments on how Shoghi Effendi worked and wrote, liked small pieces of paper, read newspapers
4. Joe Coblenz question: how much did Shoghi Effendi sleep?
5. S.E. died of thrombosis of the heart
Poverty and riches; no virtue in having wealth, but there is virtue in poverty
6. Poverty and riches continued; Bahá'í economic system is socialistic
Importance of being exact about quotations, also their context; Shoghi Effendi wouldn't answer any question about passages in the Writings without seeing the original unless he had done the translation himself
Context of quotations is also essential; example from consultation of the Hands after passing of Shoghi Effendi
7. Re: read esp. *Citadel of Faith* and also *Promised Day is Come* regarding what is in store for the world, rather than pilgrims' notes. Khánum doesn't remember anything specific that Shoghi Effendi said to pilgrims about future calamities etc. Shoghi Effendi got his information about future wars from scientists, statesmen, and we should too.
8. Re: voodoo, psychic powers: Rúhíyyih Khanum's mother had them, Juliet Thompson also; the dead can't come back, but we can see reflections of them
9. To whom should we pray? The principle of intercession.
10. Different stations of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi
Teaching the poor, not promising them material rewards
11. continued
12. Can Bahá'ís execute official (e.g. Canadian) projects, receive aid?
We don't buy Bahá'ís. Her experience in Africa where a fellow Hand had promised a school
13. Poverty. Giving to the Fund.
14. Need to teach the Faith; Haitians are dear, the country is very attractive. Pioneers are precious. Role of pioneers. Outstanding services of the Baruks and the Thimms
15. It takes a long time to build a community of dedicated Bahá'ís. Khánum was "a Bahá'í chauffeur" as a young person in Montreal, taking the friends home after meetings. We shouldn't expect babies to be adults. Team visits to villages in Haiti are producing good results.
16. her trip to Ile-a-Vache
17. discussion of distance to Ile-a-Vache, boats (not very interesting)
18. Divine Plan, and God's Plan
being "saved" and recognition of the Manifestation for this day
19. mass teaching and enrolling; story of Dr. Muhschlegel and the Swedish man who had heard 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the U.S. many years before