

# The Tabernacle of Unity Study Guide

*Bahá'u'lláh's responses to Mánikchí Sáhíb and other writings.*

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## Tablet to Mánikchí Sáhíb (Lawh-i-Mánikchí Sáhíb)

On your own, before you study the tablet with your group:

- Many theological statements are made in this Tablet to Mánikchí Sáhíb in which are found many fundamental verities of the Faith. As you read try and outline the themes.
- Find Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic claims.
- Find where the concept of progressive revelation is mentioned.
- Find where it talks about the creative power of the Word of God.

Multiple statements about Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic claim are made

Use these questions to stimulate discussion:

Paragraph 1.1- What is the Primal Word of God?

Paragraph 1.2- How does the power of understanding relate to the Word?

Paragraph 1.3- From reading this paragraph, what sort of a relationship do you perceive there to be between Bahá'u'lláh and Mánikchí Sáhíb?

Paragraph 1.4- What are some steps that can be taken to center one's deliberations on the exigencies and requirements of the age in which we are living?

Paragraph 1.5- What are some of the signs of mankind's afflictions?

Paragraph 1.6- What does it mean to be spiritually dead or alive?

Paragraph 1.7 - What is the purpose of language?

Paragraph 1.8 - How does the character and deeds of the believers affect others' perception of the Cause?

Paragraph 1.9- If one could grasp the true significance of these Words, why would they never be deprived of their portion of the Ocean of His Bounty?

Paragraph 1.10 - What is unity?

Paragraph 1.11- What would happen if the veil of covetousness were to descend upon one's inner eye?

Paragraph 1.12- How does the Light of God lay bare the doings of men?

Paragraph 1.13- What is the relationship between words and deeds?

Paragraph 1.14- How is Bahá'u'lláh like a royal falcon?

Paragraph 1.15- What are some of the things that Bahá'u'lláh is calling us to in this paragraph?

Paragraph 1.16- How is the past a mirror of the future?

Paragraph 1.17- How is the heart a treasury of His mystery?

Paragraph 1.18- What does it signify when Bahá'u'lláh says 'these Words are being uttered in due measure' and how does this relate to the current capacity of mankind?

Paragraph 1.19- How can this paragraph be applied to one's teaching efforts?

### **Responses to the Questions of Mánikchi Sáhib from Tablet to Mírzá Abu'l-Fadl**

Before you study the Tablet with your group, read through the tablet and summarize the questions and answers. Find where each question was answered by Bahá'u'lláh in the previous Tablet.

Here is our summary of the themes of the questions of the Sahib.

1. Which religion is to be preferred?
2. Four schools of thought concerning God and the world.

3. Religious laws and principles.
4. The role of reason/intellect in obedience to divine law.
5. The eating of beef and pork.
6. Association with the followers of other religions.
7. Teaching/proselytizing.
8. The proper attitude towards the truth claims of other religions.
9. The doctrine of creation.
10. The relative merits of Persian and Arabic.

As you read with your group, share the different places in the previous Tablet that you found the questions already answered. Do you see the wisdom Bahá'u'lláh had in not directly answering some of the questions as he does now?

### **Tablet of the Seven Questions**

Exercises to do on your own:

-Answer each of the seven questions in your own words after reading Bahá'u'lláh's reply.

-Memorize the prayer that Bahá'u'lláh reveals in this Tablet to Ustád Javán-Mard (the recipient of this Tablet).

Exercises to do with your group:

-For each paragraph discover the central theme and discuss it.

### **Two Other Tablets**

Before you read research the significance of fire in Zoroastrianism and then as you read, find some examples of fire imagery in this Tablet. Is there a connection between how Zoroastrians use the concept of fire and the way Bahá'u'lláh uses fire in this Tablet?

There are pearls of wisdom in each of the paragraphs of these Tablets. Discover a pearl from each paragraph, note it, and then share it with your group. Note the pearls that the others bring.

How can each tablet help you with your teaching efforts?

**Now that you have read this, how are you going to translate that which hath been written into reality and action? Discuss.**