

## Overview of the Advent of Divine Justice skills and processes

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Yes, read the book but not like a novel. Read it as a Manual and workbook. And this is not just for you but for every Baha'i and those folks who are investigating become Baha'is hanging around on this thread.

The Advent of Divine Justice Book (ADJ) is our Baha'i primer manual on how to become a Baha'i in practice. The book answers how to implement the Tablets of the Divine Plan by Abdul Baha.

Shoghi Effendi's position as The Guardian is not just to protect the Faith, but to interpret the Writings and to put them in a practical context so we as individuals know what and how to implement the practice of the standards of being a Baha'i

The original form was a letter sent to the Baha'is of US and Canada. An African American woman named Sadie Oglesby asked Shoghi Effendi how we can eliminate racism? He blessed us with this letter 80 years ago.

In short, it a manual that tells us how to start practicing and applying the skills and processes to achieve race unity earnestly.

Quick overview:

First it starts with the individual (you) learning the skills outlined in the book. They are Moral Rectitude, A Chaste and Holy Life, and Elimination from Race Prejudice,

Each skill has standards, so take each one separately and study them. Don't just read through.

Each skill builds to the next skill.

The skills were established to use functionally as your internal process to set as goals through your prayers for the day and reflect on with evening prayers in the evening in order to converse with God.

Through prayers we communicate with God, so learn this process well as it is your basic gear/process and as you actually deal with this subject. you will be going back to it each day! I guarantee you this!

On a personal note any way you speak to God is valid, but include the reflection and appropriate prayers as your process.

The questions you should be asking God to address this subject is

- What happened?
- How did I contribute either right or wrong?
- How can I do better or what can I do to repair?

Specifically ask the questions through how it applies though your new skills in the ADJ Book. Example: How did what happened to affect my conduct and rectitude? How can I do better next time? This is very important as it builds confidence in your personal and spiritual self.

Use the thought questions through how it measures up to the 3 skills and the appropriate prayers to heal and improve to address the issue each day and night. Reflect on them in the evening and set them as goals before you start your day!

Do this morning and evening to allow your soul to rest through prayer and start with it in the morning to energize your soul to set your day. Through thought and prayer talking to God builds the skills!

Once you establish a system to talk to God, work on applying your new skills through interactions.

Shoghi Effendi outlined 2 processes to address the standard of how to implement your skills regarding

this subject. I call them the Scroll and The Double Crusade.

The Scroll is the action of applying the skills you have learned in the ADJ

The Scroll Section outlines the responsibilities each side (understand even though it states black and white folks, it is covering all races and hues in between), must adhere to in the process of interaction. Read slowly to see who has what responsibility. There are responsibilities for both sides as well as the White side and Black side.

The Scroll Section starts with the passage, "A tremendous effort are required by both races...(NOTE,: this is an example to show the responsibility of both). You will know where the Scroll process ends as the next paragraph will introduce the transition to the Double Crusade.

## The Scroll

### To Whites:

"Let the white make a supreme effort in their resolve to contribute their share to the solution of this problem, to abandon once for all their usually inherent and at times subconscious sense of superiority to correct their tendency towards revealing a patronizing attitude towards the members of the other race, to persuade them through their intimate, spontaneous and informal association with them of the genuineness of their friendship and the sincerity of their intentions, and to master their impatience of any lack of responsiveness on the part of a people who have received, for so long a period, such grievous and slow-healing wounds."

### To Blacks:

"Let the Negroes, through a corresponding effort on their part, show by every means in their power the warmth of their response, their readiness to forget the past, and their ability to wipe out every trace of suspicion that may still linger in their hearts and minds."

### To Both:

"Let neither think that the solution of so vast a problem is a matter that exclusively concerns the other. Let neither think that such a problem can either easily or immediately be resolved. Let neither think that they can wait confidently for the solution of this problem until the initiative has been taken, and the favorable circumstances created, by agencies that stand outside the orbit of their Faith. Let neither think that anything short of genuine love, extreme patience, true humility, consummate tact, sound initiative, mature wisdom, and deliberate, persistent, and prayerful effort, can succeed in blotting out the stain which this patent evil has left on the fair name of their common country."

*(The Advent of Divine Justice, p 40)*

NOTE: Notice what Shoghi Effendi does with the Transition paragraph leading to the Double Crusade. He reintroduces the skills, but on a broader level!

As you learn, review and reflect on your skills practicing them each day and night and applying them through action and interaction of the Scroll process, you will encounter the fallout reactions. This is the process outlined in the Double Crusade.

As the Scroll is the action the Double Crusade is the reaction of fallout to your action both within and outside the Baha'i Communities when you speak on this issue.

We were blessed that Shoghi Effendi gave us a multitude of reactions of fallout to be aware of.

The fallout is our measurement of how well and effectively we are applying the skills and processes outlined in the Scroll. It will not be pretty!

Also he gives and outlines the assurances that if we adhere to the skills and processes in the ADJ Book,

we will be rewarded with seeing movement towards Race Unity we seek.

Understand that the Race Unity we seek will be measured on how we have learned and practiced the skills and practices outlined in the ADJ Book.

Implementing the skills through the Scroll and Double processes create the action and reaction and practice cycle that creates your Spiritual Growth!

God will always test you to see if you know!

Once you start actually practicing, applying, and being challenged to grow, you will gain more confidence and resolve in how you can apply your Faith into action! When continually practiced folks will start to see it and feel it within you and what you stand for. You will not need to wear a t-shirt!

I have just given you the basics of the process. I am working with Mary Rose Van Kesteren to write out a more detailed outline for Baha'is to use as a guide in order to develop their own practice styles and incorporate the skills and processes Shoghi Effendi outlined in the ADJ Book.

PLEASE USE THIS OVERVIEW WITH THE ADJ BOOK. BUT RELY ON THE ADJ BOOK AS OFFICIAL GUIDANCE!

### The Advent of Divine Justice – a new paradigm

In The Advent of Divine Justice, instead of asking us to teach and converse in an old world sense that we are familiar, the task that Shoghi Effendi gives us, based on Baha'u'llah's Writings, is to start with ourselves. We have to start breaking ourselves down, by first looking within ourselves and building our relationship process connecting with Baha'u'llah/God through Prayers, self assessment and reflection as this prime relationship will be a daily source of energy, and encouragement towards building our spiritual stamina to endure our spiritual test.

Also, by focusing on learning the skills, knowing the standards and practicing them through the processes outlined in the book until it feels natural and normal to use it, we become the book! We start to develop our spiritual lens to see, assess, problem solve, resolve our answer, and implement the solution through action in terms of those qualities and standards.

The journey of this change will seem "disunifying" as the process is uncertain, unnerving, hard, and unfamiliar. Initially, the process will feel quite mechanical but with time and practice it gets smoother.

So we have to take ourselves apart by disrupting (disunifying) our old world thinking and communicating to be able to rebuild ourselves towards unity of seeing each other and communicating on a new level.

Oh yes, the standards outlined in ADJ are also in the Baha'i Writings for Consultation. The standards are consistent!

### A metaphor for the Practice

Do you know what working with this Advent of Divine Justice process and the Consultation tool feels to me?

I like to use movies as my metaphors. So, using a current movie reference, it feels like I am in a student in Dumbledore's Army and I am working on building my Patronus!

I feel that I have to use total energy when I am self reflecting about my past day (I realized that I have been using Shoghi Effendi's process of his 5 steps on how to solve a problem as my structure guide to self assess and reflect on an issue so I know what to talk to God about and set up my appropriate prayers to resolve and correct my actions for the next day. It also makes it clear what prayers I need to say to correct and heal my soul and to generate my morning prayers for the courage, strength, and stamina to follow through in with my corrective actions during the course of my day's interactions. See Shoghi Effendi's 5 steps - Reference Tool #3

That spiritual energy of the cycle that I use each day gives me the confidence and resolve to implement my corrective actions and guess what?... make more mistakes, misunderstandings, and faux-pas!. Lol!

Each of my missteps in my daily interactions with others, no matter how painful or embarrassing, are opportunities to generate my "Patronus" way of talking to God through the Baha'i Writings and the ADJ and Consultation processes that evening!

But the ultimate result of my process is joy, which is ultimate energy to create a Patronus!

My joy is through the confirmations I received and am still receiving back by practicing my daily and nightly process using the Baha'i tools!

All the hell I have raised around the issue of dealing with racism, and at most times doing it quite badly using familiar old world standards, has given me many outcomes listed under the "Double Crusade" section of the ADJ, especially when it came to my interactions with Baha'is and Baha'i institutions around the issue of dealing with racism.

These outcomes were constant opportunities for me to talk to God!

The more knocks I got from my interactions, the more practice I got in building my spiritual stamina to endure through my spiritual tests which also gave me confidence and allowed me to focus on my duty to show through my actions that I am working towards building race unity through building my spiritual qualities!

Did the knocks hurt? Yes. Did I suffer through it? Yes!. Am I growing spiritually? YES!

I can feel that I am talking and even consulting with people differently even with the Baha'is and Baha'i institutions.

I feel that I can interact with even with many of you on this Facebook site on a level that even if we have a clash of differing opinions, we can resolve, even if we agree to disagree to maintain each other's dignity.

Before, I would be stuck in that old world dichotomy of "me right/you wrong and I could prove you wrong, which left a lot of other folks dignity, bleeding on the floor! My nicknames wasn't "The Hatchet Lady" and "Zorro" for nothin'! I worked in a jail and would cut down some officers and command staff so bad that they would cry!

But like in Harry Potter, whether it was Harry, or even Snape, no matter how hard your path, the path of choosing love will be the ultimate righteous path and will triumph over any "patent" evil.

I am definitely not perfect, but I am trying to practice that path in developing practicing, the ADJ (Advent of Divine Justice) and Consultation Patronus... and I am seeing light...the Baha'i Writing and using our tools that were left for us as gifts to practice and use!

O SON OF SPIRIT!

The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbour. Ponder this in thy heart how it behoveth thee to be. Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving kindness. Set it then before thine eyes.

"For every thing, however, God has created a sign and symbol, and established standards and tests by which it may be known:

The spiritually learned must be characterized by both inward and outward perfections; they must possess a good character, an enlightened nature, a pure intent, as well as intellectual power, brilliance and discernment, intuition, discretion and foresight, temperance and reverence. For an unlit candle, however great in diameter and tall, is no better than a barren palm tree or a pile of dead wood."

Abdu'l-Baha, Secret of Divine Civilization