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THE FAITHS MEN LIVE BY OTHER.

CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS 27 1

she went to Madras, India, and established her society there. When

prophet. After years in prison, where he wrote several books he

she died, in 1á891, she had one hundred thousand followers. Her died

in 1892 and was succeeded by his son, Sir Abdul Baha Bahai, disciples, now divided into two international societies, still com- who, before his death in 1921, appointed his grandson Shogi Effendi memorate the day of her death, May 8, as 'White Lotus Day'. as the next Guardian of the Bahai Cause.

It was under the latter's able leadership that the Bahai There are three divisions of American Rosicrucians, all teaching Assemblies in America were organised into a National Spiritual mainly theosophical doctrines. The Societas Rosicruciana has an Assembly and a large and beautiful Bahai Temple built at office in New York City, the Fraternitas Rosre Crucis has one in Wilmett~, Ill., near Chicago. This Temple of Peace is a nonagon in Quakertown, Pa., and the Ancient Mystical Order Rosre Crucis spans the entire globe. The great pillars of white quartz to symbolise the (AMORC) one in San Jose, Cal. nine

including religions of the world. Like Theosophy, Bahai Rosicrucians belong to secret fraternities and have mystic emphasises the teaching of Comparative Religion. It also proclaims symbols, like the pyramid, the swastika, and the rosy cross. The that the foundation of all religions is one, and teaches world last is sometimes represented by a cross within a circle, but the peace, universal education, and the equality of the sexes. It AMORC has a red rose on a golden cross. The name Rosicrucian advocates an international auxiliary language.

has been traced to the symbol, but it has also been derived from There are said to be 700,000 Bahais in Persia, but there are the name of a German scholar and noble, Christian Rosenkreuz, only about five thousand in the United States. A recent interesting said to have founded the brotherhood in 1420, after long travel development is the creation of the New History Society of New York, and study in Damascus, Egypt, and Spain. It is asserted that the a Bahai group, of an international Caravan of East and York, early Rosicrucians were alchemists, hypnotists, almoners, and west, a youth Correspondence Peace Society With 1,300 chapters in healers of the sick.

thirty-seven countries and a membership of one hundred thousand. Brothers of this order are found today in all parts of the British Commonwealth as well as in America; and some of them are still Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) was one of the most interested in such unconventional means for the relief and cure of amazingly versatile geniuses who ever lived, a veritable Swedish disease as hypnotism, vegetable drugs, and coloured lights. They Leonardo da Vinci. For the first half of his long life, he was a teach a sort of pantheism, believing that the Creator is still in scholar, inventor, engineer, and an advanced scientist in the fields every tree, plant, and rock, for the whole universe is instinct with of

physics, anatomy, physiology, economics, astronomy, paleontology, according to the supreme design of the Master Mind. tology, geology, and metallurgy. He anticipated several recent developments and predicted others. Kant and Laplace have been Bahatism, like Theosophy, has its roots in Gnosticism and Neo-credited with being the first to adduce the nebular hypothesis platonism, especially in the Persian and Zoroastrian strains of those theory to account for the formation of the sun and planets, but types of eastern Mediterranean mysticism. It also has elements of Swedenborg had published that theory in one of his books in 1734, Sufism, the Moslem mysticism of contemplation which developed twenty years before Kant and sixty before Laplace.

in Persia in the 11th century. But its immediate origin was in In 1747, he suddenly resigned his government position as Babism, a nineteenth-century mysticism, both Persian and Assessor of the Royal College of Mines which he had held for Moslem, when Mirza Ali Mohammed took the title of Bab ed-Din thirty years and devoted himself to theological and spiritual (Gate of Faith). and announced himself the successor of Moses, matters, declaring that heaven had been opened to him. First, he Christ, and Mohammed. His teaching of a combination of had been instructed in dreams, then had seen visions and heard Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Parseeism, plus Gnostic elements . voices. In his full illumination or theophany, after visiting heaven aroused opposition, and he was imprisoned and finally shot, in and .hell and talking with angels and spirits, the Lord gave him 1850. Babism went underground, but reappeared, in 1868, as full instructions as to the symbolic meaning and interpretation of Bahatism with Baba Ullah as the Bab's successor and the next the Scriptures.

— The Faiths Men Live By (Used by permission of the curator)