

# Copyright Status of Baha'i Texts

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## 1. Question from an individual to the United States National Spiritual Assembly

Subject: World Wide Web Publishing

Date: 11/24/96

Author: Stephen Fuqua

Allah'u'Abha,

I write to you in the interest of receiving permission to post material whose copyright is owned by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of the United States on the world wide web. Publishing various Bahá'í materials on the web has become quite popular these days, and is a useful medium for spreading these materials to the world. There have been several interesting pieces of work whose copyrights are owned by the Publishing Trust which I am interested in posting on the web, such as the flyer: "Christ: Manifestation, not Incarnation." If given such permission, I would only post information of an educational or scholastic interest; no administrative information would be posted. Will you be willing to grant such permission (keeping in mind that the World Center has already posted

the writings of the Central Figures on anonymous FTP for the whole world, and the Bahá'í International Community has made available all of its statements over the world wide web)? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Fuqua

Austin, TX

## 2. Response from the United States Bahá'í Publishing Trust

Subject: Re: World Wide Web Publishing

Date: Tue Nov 26, 1996

From: United States Bahá'í Publishing Trust

To: Mr. Stephen Fuqua

Dear Bahá'í Friend,

Thank you for your message of November 24 regarding internet publishing. We are very grateful that you took the time to ask permission for posting materials from the U.S. Bahá'í Publishing Trust on the World Wide Web.

You may certainly post anything from the Holy Texts without requesting permission each time. Writings of the three Central Figures and Shoghi Effendi may be used freely. According to a letter from the Universal House of Justice dated 9/4/81 to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, "...Spiritual Assemblies and individual believers are free to quote in their publications from any of the Writings of the three Central Figures of

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When quoting from the Bahá'í writings, great care must be taken to make sure that the quoted passages are accurate and presented in a dignified way. The Research/Review Office at the Bahá'í National Center is able to answer questions concerning proper use of the Writings.

Please cite the sources of all quotations, using the original sources rather than secondary sources. Use the most recent printing of the source.

There are some sources that have out-of-date translations or unauthenticated sections and should not be used without checking the particular passages. These include *Star of the West*, *Bahá'í World Faith*, *Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, *Bahá'í Scriptures*, and *Abdul-Baha' on Divine Philosophy*. Please contact the Research/Review office if you have questions about whether a passage is authentic.

Please use the following citation for the Sacred Texts: (Author, Title, page number)

For example: ('Abdu'l-Bahá, *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 167)

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We hope this information helps you in your efforts to disseminate the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith on the World Wide Web.

Warmest regards,

xxxx

for Bahá'í Publications

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