

**Excerpts from Books 1-7 of the Ruhi Institute  
on the Value and Purpose of Memorizing Passages from the Writings**

**1 • 1 • 5**

Memorizing quotations from the Writings is highly rewarding, and you should make every effort to do so. Yet there are some people who, for various reasons, find memorization almost impossible. If you happen to have such a difficulty, then you should try to learn the quotations so well that you can express the ideas with words as close to the original text as possible.

**2 • 2 • 2**

There are many phrases and sentences from prayers that you can memorize and let run through your mind.

**2 • 3 • 1**

You should realize...that the study on which you are now to embark will not be a substitute for memorizing the Creative Word, which has a special power and penetrates the hearts of men. Therefore, you will want to be able to quote passages from the Writings often when you teach. But quoting the Writings excessively can be counterproductive. As in so many aspects of Bahá'í life, what is needed is moderation—in this case, balance between quoting directly from the Writings and using your own words to explain the Faith. To achieve this balance, of course, you need to devote much time and energy to the study of the Writings and allow them to shape your thoughts and feelings.

**2 • 3 • 2**

The following words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá are the expression of His ardent desire to serve, and if you memorize them, they will be a guide to you as you walk your own path of service...

**2 • 3 • 3**

Below are a few quotations from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh... Reflect on them and make every effort to memorize them. In this way, you will be able to weave passages from the Writings into your speech and thus influence the hearts of your listeners.

**2 • 3 • 4**

It is suggested that you memorize the following quotations from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh in order that you may work some or all of them into your speech...

**2 • 3 • 5**

You may wish to memorize the following passages from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh so that you can quote them when you speak to friends...

**2 • 3 • 6**

It is suggested that you memorize the following passages so that you can quote them when you speak of Bahá'u'lláh...

**2 • 3 • 9**

You may wish to memorize the following quotations so that you can refer to them when you speak...with your friends...

**3 • 1 • 1**

It will help you to memorize these words and have them always in mind when you teach.

**4 • 1 • 8**

So as to not lose sight of the urgency with which you must engage in acts of service to the Cause, commit to memory the following passage from a letter dated 28 January 1939 written by the Guardian...

**6 • 1 • 7**

Commit to memory the following passage from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and let it remind you always of the need to feed the flame of the love of God in your heart so that its warmth can be felt by all those who come into contact with you and its light may illumine their minds...

**7 • 2 • 4**

In the same Tablet presented to you above, 'Abdu'l-Bahá reveals a prayer of particular beauty. You may wish to memorize it and call it to mind each time you take on the function of a tutor in a study circle.

**7 • 2 • 25**

*[Tutor A]: I have a question about Section 6. There the participants are asked to memorize three passages from the Long Obligatory Prayer. Should I have encouraged them to memorize the entire prayer?*

*[Resource Person]: Like so many other things, this depends on the participants. Some will have only just begun to acquire the habit of praying every day, so memorizing the three passages suggested will be sufficient. Later, they can learn the entire prayer. Of course, others may*

*already know the Long Obligatory Prayer by heart. In any case, I have a feeling that, as tutors of the course, it would be a good idea for each of us to memorize it, if we have not already done so.*

## 7 • 2 • 25

We have talked about the importance of memorization on numerous occasions. By now you yourself have learned many passages by heart and know the value of being able to draw upon the power of the Creative Word, whether in moments of personal reflection, in times of difficulty, or in teaching the Cause. You may have also taught small children how to memorize quotations from the Writings as one element of a Bahá'í children's class. Much of the experience you have acquired will be helpful to you now in working with the members of your study circles. At this point, it would be worthwhile for you to explore some of the ways you can help them succeed in memorization. After having done so, you may wish to memorize the following short passage:

**“...and every breast which committeth His Words to memory, God shall cause, if it were that of a believer, to be filled with His love...”**

[The Báb • Selections from the Writings of the Báb • p. 99]

## 7 • 2 • 28

The various features of the study circles that you establish, and the activity that characterizes them, contribute to the development of [the attributes to be acquired by those set on the path of moral and spiritual empowerment]. Write a few sentences as to how these features nurture one or more of the attributes listed above. In each case, an example is given to assist you.

...

7. Memorizing prayers and passages from the Writings:

- a. Memorizing prayers and passages from the Writings contributes to clarity of mind.

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