

Hands of the Cause of God:
Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum:

In 1972 I was greatly privileged to be able to make, not only a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but to combine it with a teaching trip around the world. What makes it so extraordinary is that my husband Frank did not have a job at that time, nor for several months before that. How we managed that however, is another story.

The trip lasted for 3 months and ended with my getting home just in time to attend our National Convention for the election of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Windward Islands.

Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum was there as the representative of the Universal House of Justice. During this visit we were able to talk to her and tell her of our desire to remain in Barbados, as the Universal House of Justice had urged us to do so. But, Frank needed a job, and he was finding it very difficult to get one. It was not easy for Americans at that time to be employed there unless one had specific skills they needed.

At our last meeting with her, which was at our house in Belleplaine, she told me to write her and let her know what happened here with Frank getting a job and our being able to stay.

She left, attending the opening of the Panama House of Worship, and then home to Haifa.

In time, Frank was able to find work as a school teacher. He had never been trained as one nor worked as one, but the powers that be in Barbados, decided that with his degree in Physics, he could teach Math in the Secondary Schools.

I did remember Khánum's telling me to write her, but somehow, I could just never make myself do it. I never really understood why I couldn't, even today, but somehow it's mixed up with feelings of being unsure and unworthy to write her with such a personal matter.

The next year was the year of the International Convention held in Haifa, Israel. As Frank and I had been elected the previous year to the National Spiritual Assembly we were eligible to attend the Convention. Through another stroke of what I am personally sure was Divine Intervention, we were both able to attend.

During the first day we arrived and attended a gathering and I spotted Rúhíyyih Khánum way across the room, chatting with a group of Bahá'ís. As I stand there gazing at her, she looks up, spots me, and in a loud, clear voice said "You were supposed to write me!". Well, as she spoke, everyone turned around to see who this person was that she was talking to. I sort of shrink into myself, and mumbled, "sorry..". She just nodded with that look of hers, and continued chatting with the group.

The next morning was the formal opening of the Convention. Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum was the one to do this. She says a few words, and then said to the Convention " I want to talk to you about how important communications are..." Oops, now I had gotten everyone hollered at, not just me....Sorry...