

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets.]

[Personal information has been **redacted**.]

[The excerpt below is from the section of the article that pertains to the Baha'i Faith]

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Baha'ism Is the Only Religion That Forbids Kissing the Hand

Compiled by Reza Saberi

1- In the Kitab-i Aqdas of the Baha'is, it is written, "The kissing of hands hath been forbidden in the Book. This practice is prohibited by God, the Lord of glory and command." [Kitab-i-Aqdas, Baha'u'llah-pages 29-30]

Abdol-Hamid Ishraq Khawari, the Baha'i scholar, also mentions in his commentaries on the Kitab-i Aqdas that, "The kissing of the hand is forbidden and it has been forbidden in the Holy Book (Kitab-i Aqdas) (Taghrirat on the Kitab-i Aqdas - Page 93)."

2- In the past few days, a video was posted on the Internet that indicated that a person who was the host of the programme, at the same ceremony, is kissing the hand of Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani. Following that some people—I do not know by what logic, but pathologically—followed the Baha'is and created a controversy in this regard and

...Kissing Hands in the Baha'i Party

Baha'u'llah has stated in the Kitab-i-Aqdas, "The kissing of hands hath been forbidden in the Book. This practice is prohibited by God, the Lord of glory and command." [Kitab-i-Aqdas, Baha'u'llah-pages 29-30]

This means that kissing the hands is forbidden and this is a commandment of the God of glory and command. Abdol-Hamid Ishraq Khawari, in his notes on the Kitab-i Aqdas, also writes, "There are various religious leaders and scholars in the world today, one of whose practices is to expose their hands to be kissed by their followers ... In this blessed Cause, kissing the hand is forbidden and it is forbidden in the Divine Book to kiss the hands of the people in any way. This is a prohibition from the dear and ruling Lord." (Lectures on the Holy Book of Aqdas – Abdol-Hamid Ishraq Khawari - Page 93)

At the same time, some people, by following Baha'is, if they observe someone kissing the hand of a scholar, consider the action to be superstition and sanctification; worse than that, they consider it flattery and....

If we prove to them that it is not an illegal act, but kissing the hands of the righteous has entered the tradition, then they say, “Islam needs more important things today; you go into details and in this way keep people busy [with non-essential matters]”?! The question is whether rejecting a valid tradition and forbidding the divine law, under the pretext of a party and a group with the motive of destroying others, can be God-pleasing! ...