

[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]

[Adapted from website:] Fars News Agency

[Date:] 10 Azar 1389 [1 December 2010]

A responsible authority at the seminaries of Isfahan: "The Goal of Baha'ism is to Destroy the Shiite Beliefs"

Fars News Agency: The Research Deputy of the Office of the Islamic Seminary of Qom, based in Isfahan, said: "The goal of Baha'ism is to destroy Shiite beliefs."

According to the Fars News Agency from Birjand, in a conference this afternoon on the history and critique of deviant sects that ended with the subject of Baha'ism in the Islamic Propaganda Organization of South Khorasan, Majid Mahdavi referred to the history of the inception of Baha'is, and [how] they were formed and function. He said, "Baha'ism has its roots in world imperialism, but the main roots of this deviant sect are related to the ignorance of some of the insiders."

This professor of the Seminary and University of Isfahan continued, "Seyyed Kazem Rashti, who was one of the religious teachers of Najaf, went to extremes in expounding the Jafari jurisprudence, and after him, one of his students, Seyyed Ali Mohammad Bab, claimed that he was the gate of the unseen Imam of the Time (may God hasten his emergence). And after a while, he changed his claim and said, "I am the Gate to the One Who is the last Messenger, and he is the Manifestation of God."

Mahdavi considered the spread of Baha'ism in the world to be the result of Jewish activities; he said, "One of the main goals of this sect is to destroy the original Shiite beliefs among the Muslim people, and to promote unrestrained behaviour; the removal of the hijab was originated by the Baha'is."

He added, "The peak of the Baha'i activity in Iran dates back to the Pahlavi era, because during the time of Prime Minister Abbas Hoveyda, the 24 locations of the Baha' activities increased to 48 areas within three years, one of which was located in Birjand."

The head of one of Isfahan's seminaries stated, "After the dissatisfaction of Ayatollah Borujerdi, the Pahlavi government was forced to restrict the activities of the Baha'is."

Mahdavi continued, "According to the statistics of the world religions, as of 2002, 22% of the world's population believes in Islam, 15% in Hinduism and 6% in Buddhism."

He added, "Baha'is make the most of their efforts through culture and economics, and through this they seek to destroy cultures, especially Shiite culture."

End of message / Y 20/A