

**[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:] Tasnim News Agency

[Date:] 26 Ordibehesht 1395 [15 May 2016]

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Mehdi Tabatabaei in an Interview With Tasnim:

Faezeh Hashemi Must Ask For Forgiveness / Friendship With Baha'is is a Great Sin / She Must Apologize to the Revolutionary Nation of Iran and the Shias

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Mehdi Tabatabaei, in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency political reporter, referring to the opinion of jurists about the perverse Baha'i sect, said, "Misguided means deviation; the Baha'is are a political group whose main policy is to follow the foreigners."

He continued, "The Baha'i sect is a family or group that wants to infiltrate the country and in every way assault Muslims, especially Shias. It is unprecedented in history that there is anyone among Muslims and Shias who would not be aware of the Baha'i beliefs and views and look at these in a positive and appropriate way." The academic, [who specializes in] ethics, stated that the opinion of Shia scholars and experts about the Baha'i sect is obvious. He said, "The thoughts of this sect are also obvious to the people."

In response to the question, "If a person meets with members of this sect and expresses friendship with them, what is the ruling from the jurist's point of view?" He continued, "If anyone wants to make friends with members of the Baha'i sect, [he or she] has definitely committed a great sin."

[The question was asked], "Mrs. Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani recently met with one of the leaders of the perverse Baha'i sect, and even after Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani criticized the meeting, she had an interview with a foreign media outlet and stated that the Baha'is were her friends and is not regretting this meeting; what is your opinion?" He responded, "Mrs. Hashemi's meeting with one of the leaders of the perverse Baha'i sect is not in line with our Shia and Islamic culture and is disgusting."

Hojatoleslam Tabatabaei continued, "I also heard the story of Mrs. Faezeh Hashemi's visit and did not believe it. This was heavy on me, and I wondered how a person who knows the Baha'i background and is a descendant of a Quranic scholar and commentator like Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, who himself is a fighter for the revolution and a sympathizer of the regime, could do so, even though it is a friendship or a meeting."