

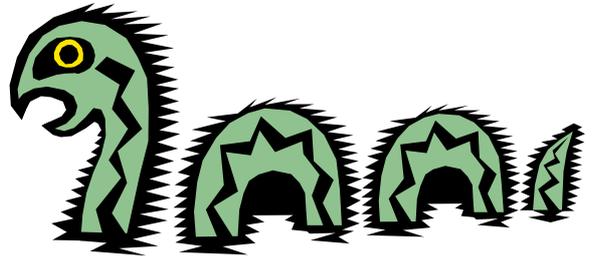
Knights of Bahá'u'lláh



Knights are brave people who are not afraid of risking their own lives, or losing their comfortable way of living, or doing something difficult in order to save people and make the world a better place to live in. They are known for their high morals, such as courtesy, justice and honour, and are always ready to help the weak. They do all these things because they love other people more than they love themselves.

It was the Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, who said that the first Bahá'ís to pioneer to certain places in order to spread the Faith around the world, in a plan called the Ten Year Crusade, would be called Knights of Bahá'u'lláh. There were 131 of these special places. Some were countries, like Greece and Mongolia. Other places were small, like the Galapagos Islands, where many strange animals live.

These Knights were often lonely, because there were no other Bahá'ís there and people were suspicious of them. They were often poor, because at first no-one would give them work. They were often treated in an unfriendly way, because people did not understand what a wonderful message they had come to tell them. But they did not give up. They showed love and kindness to everyone they met. They were generous and just, and all the other things knights of old were expected to be. And they respected and loved the people they were now living among, even if they were sometimes unfriendly.



The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh were modern knights. They did not fight with swords. They fought with love against prejudice and hate, and in the end they won because people came to love them and each other too. Their armour was not made of metal, but it was the strength of their faith and their prayers which protected them. Their names are now written on a special scroll placed under the doorway in the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

Among these Knights of Bahá'u'lláh are those who went to the islands of Shetland, Orkney, the Hebrides, and the Channel Isles. All these islands are part of the United Kingdom, and the following stories are about the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh who went there in 1953, fifty years ago.

