

Treasurer's Notes

Feast of 'Azamat (Grandeur), 16 May 2025

"He urges your Assembly ... to carefully supervise expenditures ... It is only through a wise economy, the elimination of non-essentials, concentration on essentials and a careful supervision, that the Guardian himself has been able to build the Shrine and the International Archives at the World Centre, and surround the Holy Places here by what appear in the eyes of the public to be lavish gardens, but are in reality the result of rigorous and economical planning. This will ... be a salutary example to the ... Bahá'ís ... The more they see that economy and intelligent supervision of the work is carried on ... the more they will be encouraged to feel some financial responsibility toward their National Body." (From a letter dated 8 August 1957 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to a National Spiritual Assembly)

The Guardian's example reminds us that what appears magnificent to the world was, in fact, accomplished through humble and intentional use of resources. The splendour of the Holy Places rests not on wealth, but on "wise economy," "careful supervision," and a focus on essentials.

This is a powerful lesson for how we manage the affairs of the Faith – especially the Bahá'í Fund. When our expenditures reflect the grandeur of our purpose – to carry forward an ever-advancing civilisation – we draw closer to the spiritual standard set before us. True grandeur lies in making choices that uplift, inspire, and encourage participation, rather than impress or overwhelm.

As we deepen our understanding of the Fund as a sacred trust, let us remember that the way we use our resources can reflect our devotion and unity. By following the Guardian's example of restraint, wisdom, and purpose, we help foster a culture where everyone feels empowered to participate in sustaining the work of the Faith.

For consultation

1. What examples of 'wise economy, the elimination of non-essentials, concentration on essentials and a careful supervision' come to mind when thinking about our local community?
2. What do we consider *essentials* and *non-essentials*?
3. How does careful, thoughtful stewardship encourage more friends to feel connected and responsible for the work of the Faith?

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Our Office is thankful to those friends who have been generous and shared stories and other resources with us. Please continue to do so via office.treasurer@bahai.org.uk so that all communities across the UK can continue to benefit from these Notes.

Office of the Treasurer

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