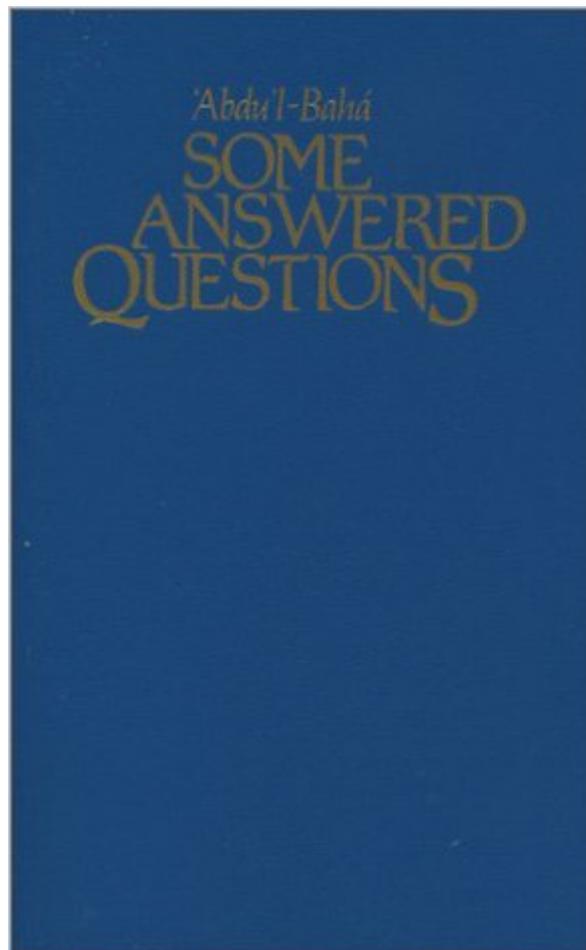


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Some Answered Questions



Synopsis

A wide range of questions and answers compiled from a series of talks given by 'Abdu'l-Bahâ in 1904, 1905, and 1906 while at the supper table. The answers were given in reply to questions posed by visiting pilgrims, especially Laura Clifford Barney. Later these answers recorded in Persian were translated into French and English. They constitute a rich source of philosophical and spiritual wisdom with answers that often bypass conundrums or controversies which have limited debate for many centuries. Treating human subjects and human spiritual destiny as well as the nature of creation as inseparable, these answers altogether represent a vision which surpasses any given in the past and which will inform and balance the thought of much intellectual and spiritual life in the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been a Baha'i for a total of 17 years (am currently 38), studied Islam closely in my teenaged years and even attempted to go through the conversion ritual (the imam performed the ritual incorrectly), and have also lived in the middle-east for two years (military service). My BA is in philosophy, and I am accustomed to studying matters of faith from a believing, yet critical perspective. This certainly does not mean that I fail to find considerable room for agreement. In the case of S.A.Q., it is obvious that Abdul'Baha, for a man who was almost completely lacking in formal education, and spent a huge proportion of his adult life either incarcerated or with restricted privileges, was in possession of considerable erudition and was single-minded in his devotion to the cause initiated by his father, Baha'u'llah. Certainly it is possible that he spent vast amounts of time

reading journals and other scholarly books during his imprisonment (although that is more characteristic of Mirza Abul Fadl, one of the Apostles of Baha'u'llah), and that still does not fully address that he was capable of very dense and thorough replies to these pilgrims. One must be very dedicated to gain useful perspective from S.A.Q. The closest western analogy is that of the Catechism, as the 'Perfect Exemplar' of the Baha'i Faith would go into close detail to reply to many different concerns. My primary issue with this volume is that it is so densely written as to be inaccessible to the typical layperson and I personally have some difficulty believing even Abdul' Baha could be infallible in this kind of rote exercise.

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