

**Title:** Proposal for New Character - Nine Pointed White Star

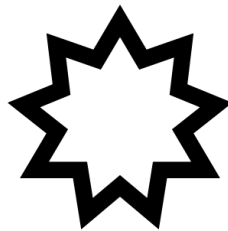
**Submitter:** Adib Behjat, Joop Kieft

**Submission Date:** Mar 26, 2020

**Revision Date:** Oct 1, 2021

**Additional references:** This document replaces L2/17-237 (Emoji Submission), L2/20-095 (Script Submission), and L2/21-144.

## Proposal to add Nine Pointed star to Unicode



*Figure 1: Proposed Nine Pointed Star Shape*

### Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to request that a codepoint be allocated in the UCS for the nine pointed star character, which is commonly used by members of the Bahá'í Faith.

In Baha'i Literature, different forms of stars were used that are not standardized from one publishing to another (examples below). The presence of the nine pointed star will help standardize across the different publications. Adding to that, for religions lacking a representation of their place of worship, it is suggested to use the Place of Worship emoji with the representing symbol of their faith, of which there are exactly none feasible at the moment.

In terms of Unicode, the nine pointed star is one of the most common symbols of the Bahá'í Faith, specifically the most distinctive one other than maybe the Ringstone Symbol (which would be extremely less universally usable), and it would help provide a near complete lineup of religions of the world; currently, there are many religious symbols supported via the Unicode standard - including Jewish (Star of David), Christian, Muslim (Star and Crescent), Sikh, Buddhists, and Wiccan (five pointed star).

The nine pointed star will also introduce a popular star character to the list of available stars in Unicode.

### Naming convention

NINE POINTED WHITE STAR is a widely accessible and commonly used term for the symbol provided. It follows the same naming standard as other available stars in the unicode (number of points - form of the star - color).

✳	U+2734	Eight Pointed Black <b>Star</b>
✴	U+2735	Eight Pointed Pinwheel <b>Star</b>
✪	U+2736	Six Pointed Black <b>Star</b>
✴	U+2737	Eight Pointed Rectilinear Black <b>Star</b>
✴	U+2738	Heavy Eight Pointed Rectilinear Black <b>Star</b>
✴	U+2739	Twelve Pointed Black <b>Star</b>

Figure 2: Current list of stars in Dingbats

The regular compound nine pointed star, with Schläfli symbol of  $\{9/3\}$  or  $3\{3\}$ , is the most common popular representation among Baha'is. However, the regular star version - the Schläfli symbol of  $\{9/4\}$  - is also acceptable, but not as popular.

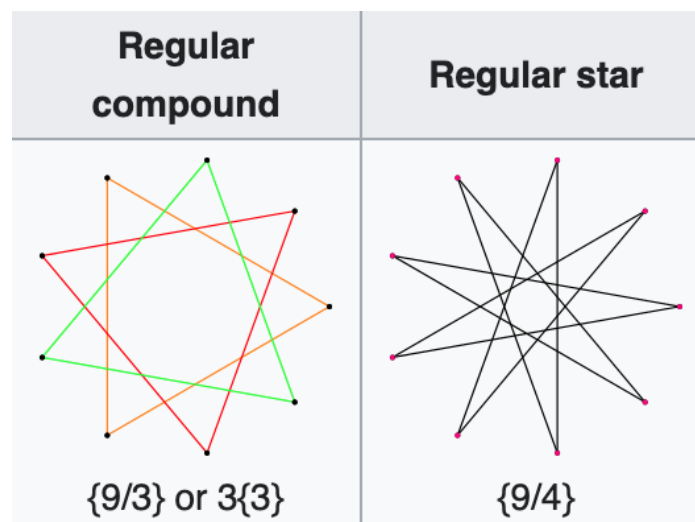


Figure 3: Snapshot from Wikipedia on nine-pointed star formation

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enneagram\\_\(geometry\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enneagram_(geometry)))

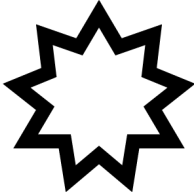
Other common usage of the star in Bahá'í context uses an outline and filled version, although this is not prescribed in any way. Table 1 provides more variation of stars.

In addition, while fonts can be introduced to provide a variety of options to the user, Baha'i organizations do not have a standard font library nor have sufficient resources to deploy specialized fonts. The need for variation of nine pointed star is better understood in the section of "Use of Nine Pointed Star", as different contexts may demand a star format that is legible on paper, stone, leather or other surfaces. In addition, the significance of access to those symbols for Baha'is around the world, especially users who may not have access to exclusive fonts, ensures that no Baha'i individual is disenfranchised from representing their Faith in the best manner to them.

In terms of placement, the nine pointed star should ideally be added to the current lineup of religious symbols or stars. In practical terms this would for example imply receiving the same treatment as the other symbols with a religious meaning as to being rendered as an emoji in instant messaging context. This would also enable the rendering of a symbol for a Bahá'í House of Worship, of which there are a growing number in the world.

For the purpose of this proposal, I have recommended that the nine pointed star be placed in the *Geometric Shapes Extended* (<https://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F780.pdf>) block (1F7D0 - 1F7FF). Religious symbols have been placed in different blocks, including Miscellaneous Symbols (2600 - 26FF), Dingbats (2700 - 27BF), but no blocks were available.

**Table 1:** Proposed 9 Pointed Star Characters

Code Point	Glyph	Character Name
1F7D9		NINE POINTED WHITE STAR

## History

The nine pointed star is also one of the most used symbols and shapes by the adherents of the members of The Bahá'í Faith. The Bahá'í Faith is a religion that was founded by its prophet

Bahá'u'llah in 1863. There are over 7 million Bahá'í adherents worldwide<sup>1</sup>, and Bahá'í institutions are recognized by many governments in the world - including the United States (<https://www.bahai.us/>) and European Union (<http://www.eprid.eu/members/bahai-international-community/>). Bahá'ís also participate in political administrations, such as the United Nations (<https://www.bic.org/offices/united-nations>), providing insight and perspective towards achieving world unity through discourses that promote the betterment of mankind.

Given the growth of followers of the Bahá'í Faith year over year, and the prominence of the Bahá'í Faith around the world, the availability of the Bahá'í icon would be significant to practicing Bahá'ís around the world.

In a non-Baha'i context, the nine pointed star is a common mathematical shape that consists of three intersecting triangles. The nine pointed star is also called a Nonagram, Enneagram, or Star of Goliath. In pop-culture, the nine pointed star also represents the band Slipknot, where they use the regular compound 9 pointed star figure as a symbol (image on right).



Figure 4: Slipknot 9-pointed star

## Significance of Nine in the Baha'i Faith

Shoghi Effendi, Central Figure and the Guardian of the Baha'i Administration from 1921 until His passing in 1957, gave significant commentary to the significance of the number 9, which Baha'is represent as 9 pointed star. In a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, he clearly explains that there are three reason for the significance of the number nine:

*First, regarding the significance of the number nine: Its importance as a symbol used so often in various connections by the believers lies in three facts: first, it symbolizes the nine great world religions of which we have any definite historical knowledge, including the Babi and Baha'i Revelations; second, it represents the number of perfection, being the highest single number; third, it is the numerical value of the word 'Bahá'.*

(Lights of Guidance, From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, July 9, 1939)

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<sup>1</sup> Pew Research Center# states "The Baha'i faith began in Persia (now Iran) in the 19th century. Bahá'ís are widely dispersed across many countries, with significant populations in India, the United States, Kenya and elsewhere." Adherents.com# (2005) statistics are: 7 million Bahá'ís around the world, ranking as the 13th largest global religion.



Shoghi Effendi's reference to the "numerical value of the word 'Bahá'" in the quotation is based on the Abjad numeral system, a system based on Arabic, Hebrew and other semetic languages dating back to before the 8th Century. In this system, each letter of the alphabet represents a number, so the first letter of the Arabic alphabet, alif, is used to represent the number '1'; the second letter, bā', is used to represent the number '2', and so on.

This is clarified in another letter to a Baha'i believer by Shoghi Effendi:

*In the Semitic languages—both Arabic and Hebrew—every letter of the alphabet had a numerical value, so instead of using figures to denote numbers they used letters and compounds of letters. Thus every word had both a literal meaning and also a numerical value. This practice is no more in use but during the time of Baha'u'llah and the Bab it was quite in vogue among the educated classes, and we find it very much used in the Bayan. As the word Baha also stood for the number nine it could be used interchangeably with it.*

(Lights of Guidance, From a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer, February 19, 1932)

## **Use of Nine pointed Star**

When searching for the term "Bahá'í", the presence of the nine-pointed star cannot be disregarded. The symbol is used widely in different areas of life, including - but not limited to - literature, architecture, gravestones, signage, and websites (for example, <https://bahaiteachings.org/> uses the nine pointed symbol in its logo).

Additional references are provided at the end of this proposal.

### **Nine pointed star bullet points in newsletter**

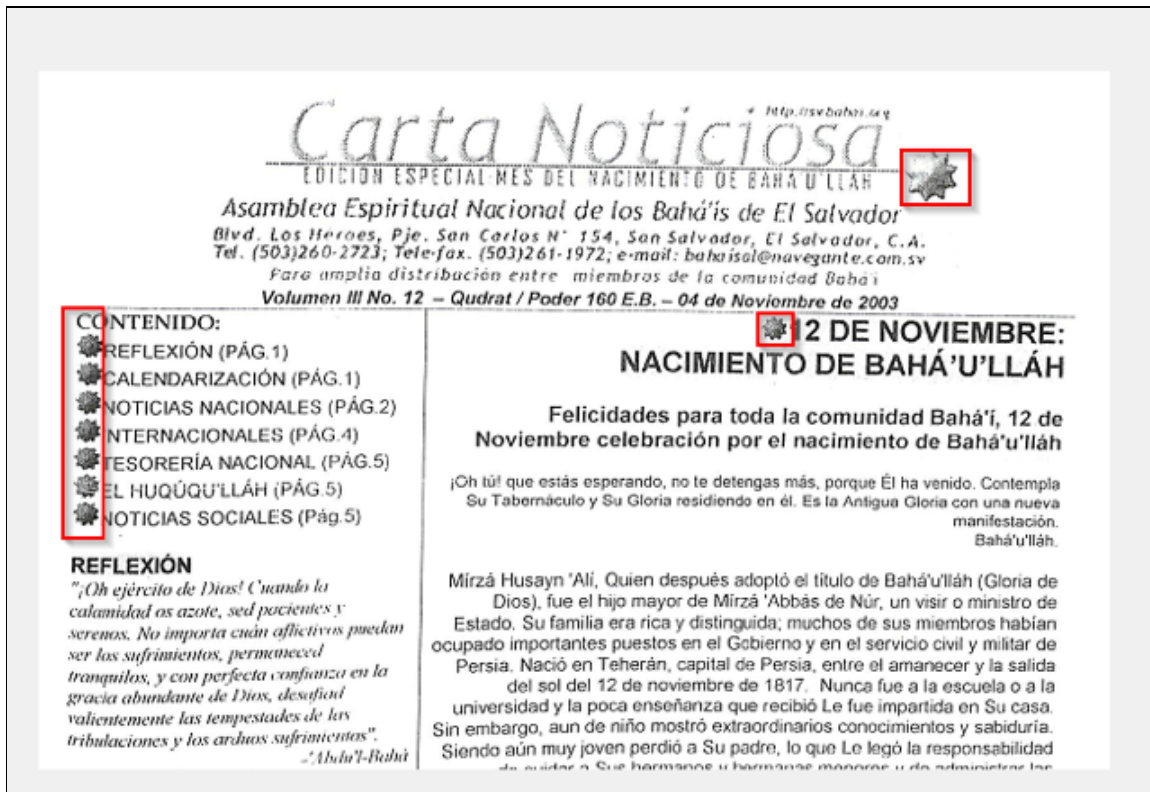


Figure 5: Carta Noticiosa newsletter, National Baha'i Assembly of El Salvador, 11/2003

Nine pointed star used in calendar to mark important Baha'i events

# Kalendář

154

## Leden Šaraf-Sultán

Kamál  
PO

Fidál  
ÚT

'Idál  
ST

Istijlál  
ČT

Istiqilál  
PÁ

Jalál  
SO

Jamál  
NE

6-Šaraf 5.1.98	Rahmat	13-Šaraf 12.1.98	Qudrat	1 Sultán 19.1.98	Bahá		
7-Šaraf 6.1.98	Kallmát	14-Šaraf 13.1.98	Qawl	2-Sultán 20.1.98	Jalál		
8-Šaraf 7.1.98	Kamál	15-Šaraf 14.1.98	Masá'il	3-Sultán 21.1.98	Jamál		
2-Šaraf 1.1.98	Jalál	9-Šaraf 8.1.98	Asmá'	16-Šaraf 15.1.98	Šaraf 4-Sultán 22.1.98	'Azamat	
3-Šaraf 2.1.98	Jamál	10-Šaraf 9.1.98	'Izzat	17-Šaraf 16.1.98	Sultán	5-Sultán 23.1.98	Nūr
4-Šaraf 3.1.98	'Azamat	11-Šaraf 10.1.98	Mašijjat	18-Šaraf 17.1.98	Mulk	6-Sultán 24.1.98	Rahmat
5-Šaraf 4.1.98	Nūr	12-Šaraf 11.1.98	'Ilm	19-Šaraf 18.1.98 Slavnost 19. dne	'Alá' 7-Sultán 25.1.98	Setkání RDR Setkání RDR	Kalimá'

-Bahá'í Slavnost, výročí, nebo jinak významný den.

Figure 5: Kalendar 154 Badi, National Baha'i Assembly of Turkey, 1997 A.D.

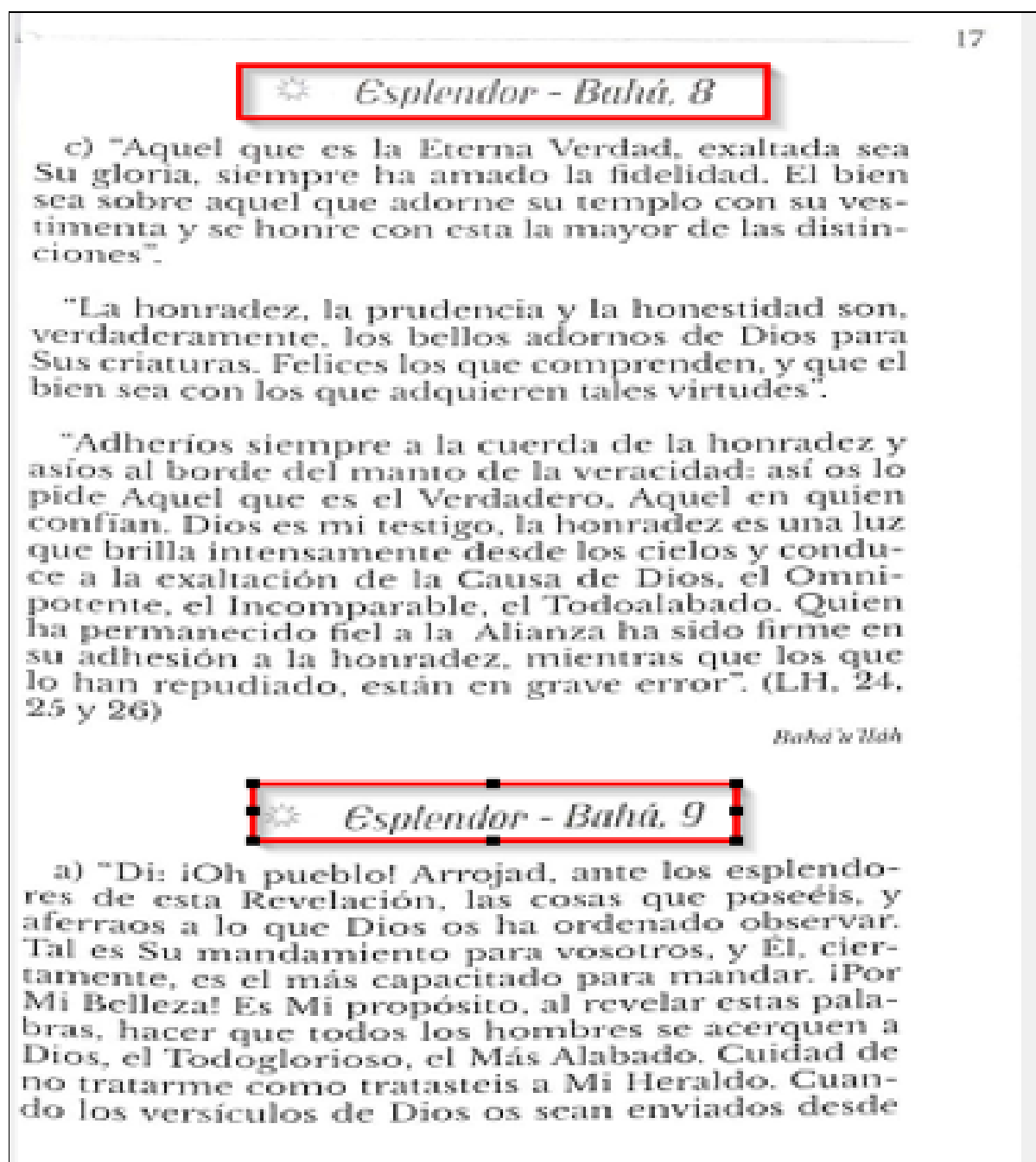


Figure 6: Selección de los escritos de Bahá'ulláh y el Báb para la reflexión y la profundización, revisado y aprobado por Asamblea Espiritual Nacional de los Bahá'ís de Bolivia

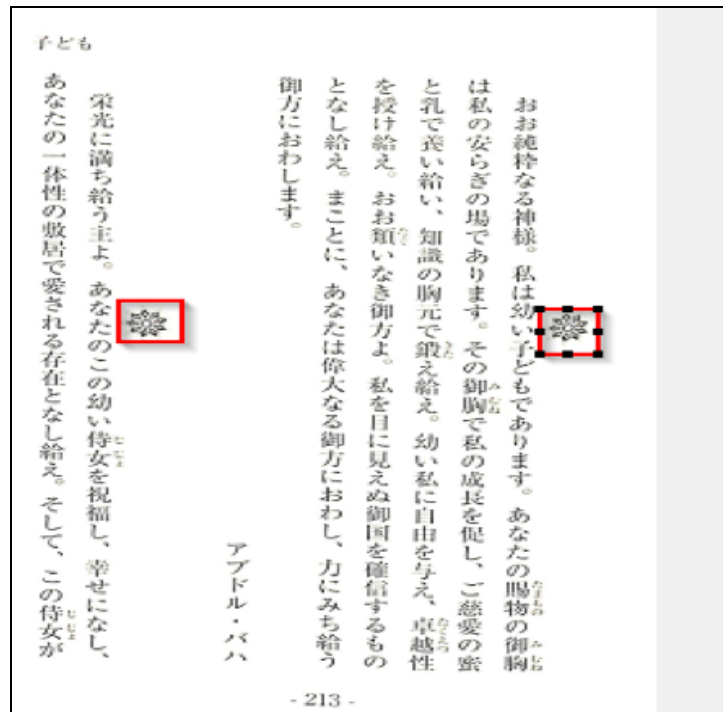


Figure 7: Baha'i inori no sho (バハイの祈り), p.213. Prayer book in Japanese

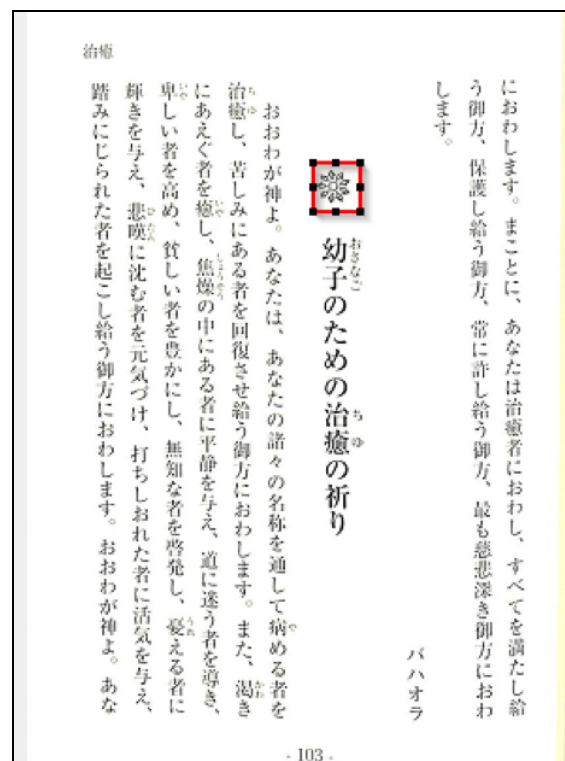


Figure 8: Baha'i inori no sho (バハイの祈り), p.213. Prayer book in Japanese



## Nine pointed star used in map and map legends

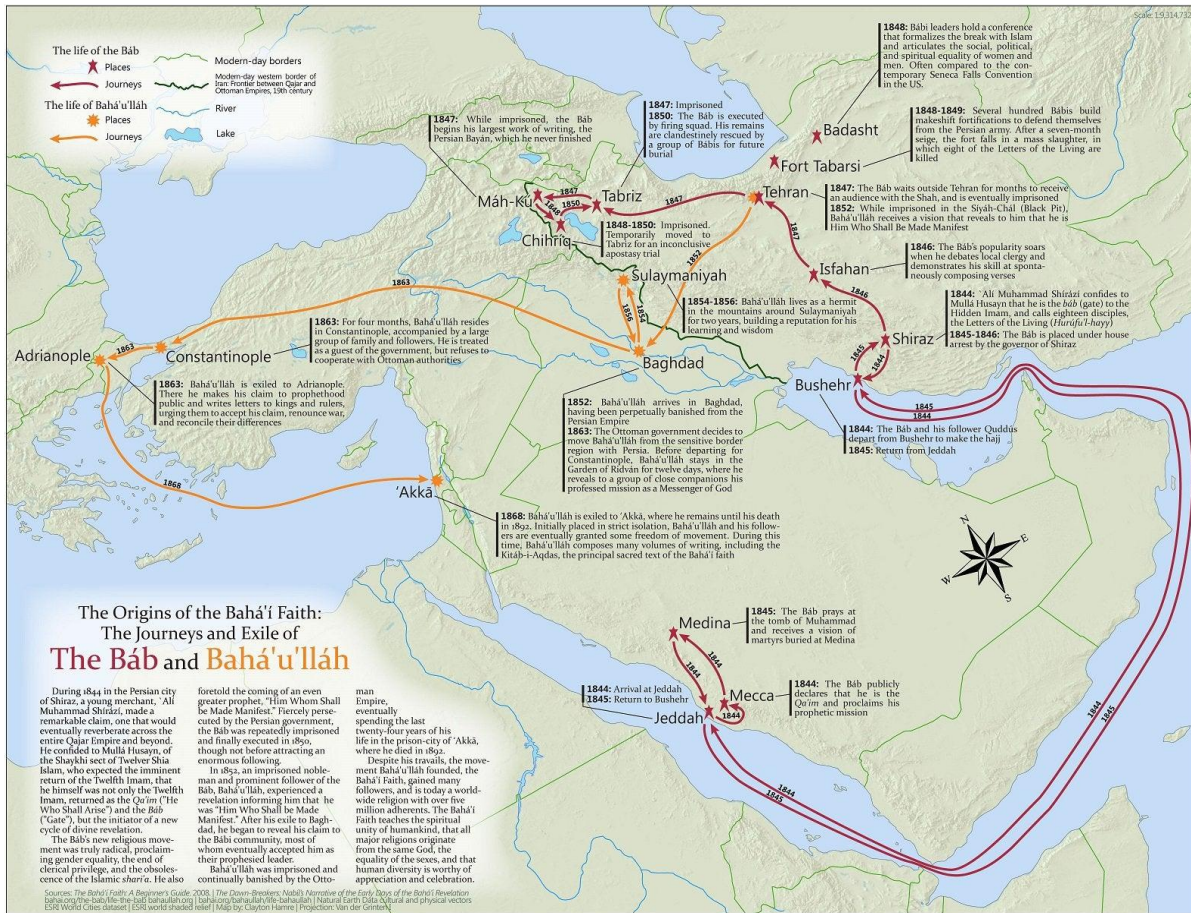


Figure 9: Map - The early history of the Bahá'í Faith, Clayton Hamre

([https://www.reddit.com/r/bahai/comments/35myqw/map\\_the\\_early\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_bah%C3%A1%C3%A9\\_faith\\_1650x1275/](https://www.reddit.com/r/bahai/comments/35myqw/map_the_early_history_of_the_bah%C3%A1%C3%A9_faith_1650x1275/))



Figure 10: Zoomed image of the legend from Figure 9, highlighting the use of a 9 pointed star as an element inside the map legend.



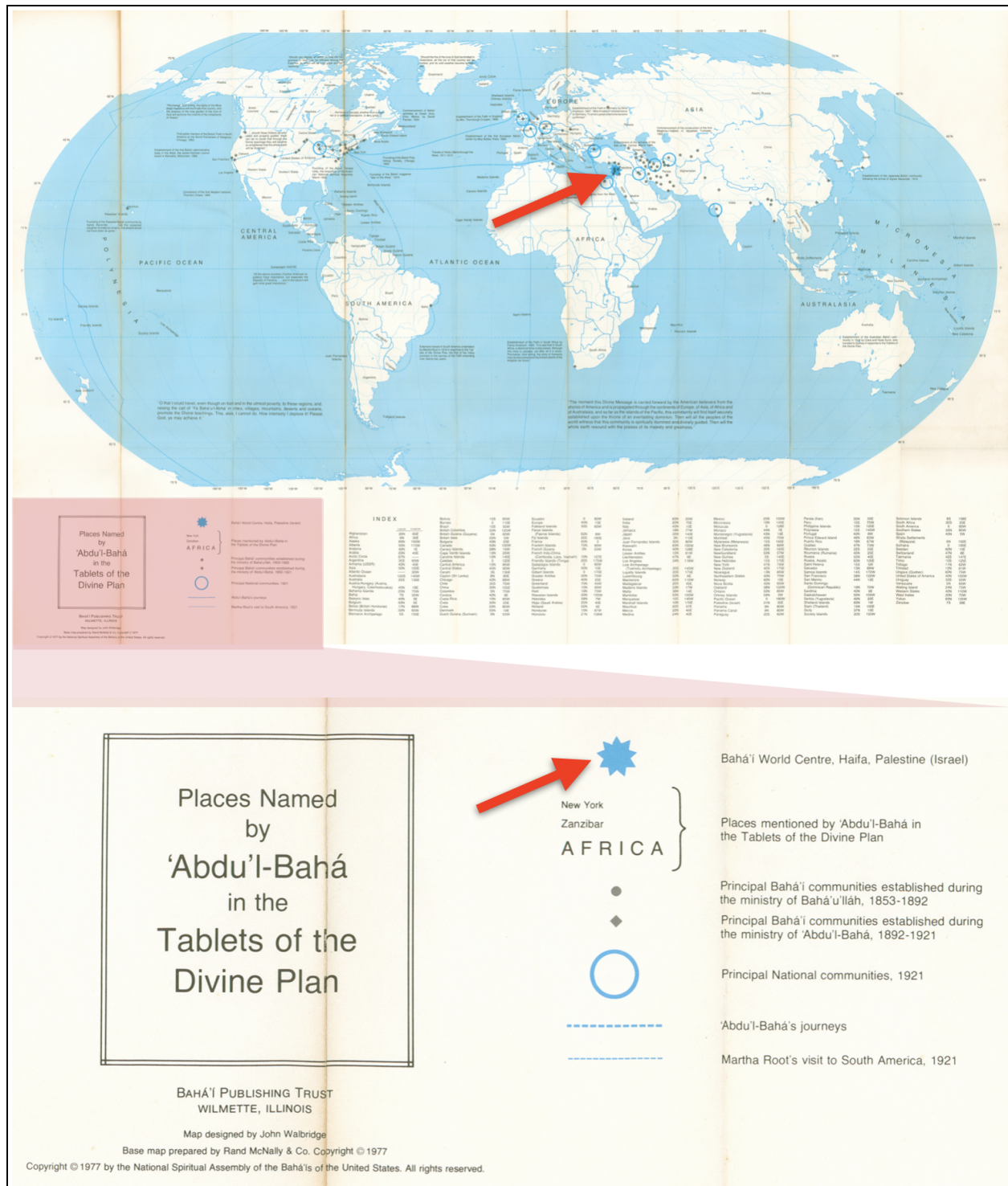


Figure 11: Places named by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, Published in Bahá'í World, Vol.17 (1976-1979). Full size version at [https://bahai-library.com/images/b/bw17\\_map1\\_places\\_named abdulgaha\\_1977\\_full.jpg](https://bahai-library.com/images/b/bw17_map1_places_named_abdulgaha_1977_full.jpg)



Figure 12: Image of a physical, hardcopy Map of Haifa with Nine Pointed Star Legends highlighting important Baha'i sites. Baha'i World Center, Haifa.



### Nine pointed star used on gravestone markers



Figure 13: Example of tombstones in the U.S. with nine pointed stars

### Nine pointed star used as signage for Baha'i Centers



Figure 14: Example of nine pointed stars as signage for Baha'i Centers in the U.S.

### Nine pointed star added to logos to indicate Baha'i affiliation



Figure 15: Bahá'í Publishing Logo (US Trademark Office: Serial Number 72221623)

## Nine Pointed Star in Bahá'í Literature

Currently, the governing institution of the Bahá'í Faith employs the five-pointed star and nine-pointed star in its Holy Writings and literature to define characters similar to a comma or period.

Currently, Baha'i institutions use the nine-pointed star in a graphical format at the end of each of their reports, guidance, or writings. Some examples can be viewed here (with screenshots below):

<https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/the-cause-of-universal-peace/>

<https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/is-economic-justice-possible/>

<https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/a-new-cycle-of-human-power/>

<https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/the-light-was-in-the-darkness/>

epochal magnitude... In 1976, a twenty-five year period of intensive learning commenced during which Bahá'í endeavors worldwide have become increasingly focused on capacity building in local populations to take greater ownership of their spiritual, intellectual, and social advancement, opening new possibilities in the long-term effort of the Bahá'ís to root out racial prejudice and contribute to the emergence of a society based on racial justice and unity.

### *Conclusion*

The pursuit of racial justice and unity have been defining aspirations of the Bahá'í community of the United States since the earliest days of its establishment in the country. Indeed, for well over a century, it has dedicated itself to racial unity. During periods of racial turmoil, it has contributed its share to the healing of the nation's racial wounds. 'Abdu'l-Bahá provided the example during his visit in 1912 and set in motion a race amity movement in 1921 for the Bahá'í community to build upon. Bahá'ís continued this work for decades with some fits and starts, but always moving forward under the inspired guidance of the Guardian of the Faith and then the Universal House of Justice. ✨

This consecration of humanity's creative pursuits would, as 'Abdu'l-Bahá foresaw it, in the centuries ahead give rise to "a new art, a new architecture, fused of all the beauty of the past, but new."<sup>41</sup> Despite all of its cultural ferment and experimentation, then, the early years of the twentieth century—with its "landscape of false confidence and deep despair, of scientific enlightenment and spiritual gloom,"<sup>42</sup> a landscape on which the "luminous figure of 'Abdu'l-Bahá"<sup>43</sup> appeared—might thus be seen merely as the first streaks of the dawn of a "new cycle of human power."<sup>44</sup>

*The author is grateful to Debra Bricker Balkan, Hari Docherty, Dannah Edwards, Sky Glabush, Jan Jasion, Michael Karlberg, Arlette Manasseh, Anne Perry, and Nathan Rainsford for their assistance in the preparation of this essay.* ✨

Figure 16: Screenshots from Baha'i World Center website that include nine pointed star in its inline text

This proposal is an individual proposal not brought forward by any Bahá'í organization specifically. However, the governing Baha'i body (Baha'i World Center) has provided a lot of materials and supporting documents of available usage of the nine pointed stars. Additional materials are attached to this proposal's appendix.

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العشى والاشراق \* لاتضعوا اوقاتكم بالبطالة والكسالة وانشغلوا بما يتنفع به انفسكم وانفس غيركم كذلك قضى الامر في هذا اللوح الذى لآت من افقه شمس الحكمة والتهيان \* ابغض الناس عند الله من يقعد ويطلب تمسكوا بحبل الاسباب متوكلين على الله مسبب الاسباب \* قد حرم عليكم تقبيل الايادى فى الكتاب هذا ما نهيتم عنه من لدن ربكم العزيز الحكيم \* ليس لأحد ان يستغفر عند احد ثوبوا الى الله تلقاء انفسكم انه لهو العاقل العظمى العزيز القواب \*

٧٥ يا عباد الرحمن قوموا على خدمة الامر على شأن لا تأخذكم الاضرار من الذين

٧٦ كفروا بطلع الآيات \* لبا \* عام البعد وظهر الموعد اختلف الناس وتساك كل حزب

٧٧ بما عنده من الطنون والأوعام \* من الناس من يقعد صف التعال طليبا لصدور \* الجلال

٧٨ قل من انت يا ايها العاقل الفرار \* ومنهم من يدعى الباطن والباطن الباطن قل يا ايها الكذاب تالله ما عندك انه من الغشور تركناها لكم كما ترك العظام للكلاب

٧٩ تالله الحق لو يغسل احد ارجل العالم ويمد الله على الأذغال والشواجر والجبال والغنان والشنايف وعند كل حجر وشجر ومدر ولا ينفخ منه غرق

٨٠ رضائي لن يقبل ابدا هذا ما حكم به مولى الأنام \* كم من عبيد اعتزل في جزائر الهند ومنع عن نفسه ما احله الله له وحل الرياضات والمشقات ولم يذكر عند

٨١ الله منزل الآيات \* لا تمسكوا الاعبال شرك الأعمال ولا تحرموا انفسكم عن هذا المال

٨٢ الذى كان اصل المخرين في ازل الآوان \* قل روم الاعبال موزعائى وعلق كل شيء

٨٣ بقبولى اقروا \* الأروام لتعرفوا \* ما هو المقصود فى كتب الله العزيز القواب \* من فاز بجنى حق له ان يقعد على سرير العيان فى صدر الأمكان والآبى منع عنه لو

٨٤ يقعد على القواب انه يستعيل منه الى الله مالئ الأديان \* من يدعى امرأ قبل اتمام الف سنة كاملة انه كذاب مقتر نسل الله بان يؤيده على الرجوع ان تاب انه

٨٥ فو \* القواب \* وان اصر على ما قال يبعث عليه من لا يبره انه خديع العقاب


٨٦ من ياول هذه الآية او يفسرها بغير ما نزل فى الظاهر انه محروم من روم الله

١) P. 2) ان. 3) P. 4) P. 5) P. 6) P. 7) P.

15

With the presence of Unicode standards and symbols, members of the Baha'i Faith will have a common star standard for their literature and have an appropriate way to mark religious affairs like places of worship in line with the other already represented religions, as there is no existing symbol that could work for this appropriately so far.

## Unicode Properties

Code Point	Glyph	Character Name
1F7D9		NINE POINTED WHITE STAR

1F7D9;NINE POINTED WHITE STAR;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;