

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF REALITY

Objectives

- ❑ *To preserve, complete and computerize “The Master Index of the Worlds of God,”¹ a unique conceptual index of existence and reality compiled from the Bahá’í Writings, and created by the National Reference Library Committee (NRLC) of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the United States (NSA).*
- ❑ *To research the lives of Marian Crist Lippitt, the prime mover of the NRLC, and her mentor, H. Emogene Hoagg.*
- ❑ *To collect, preserve, study, promote and apply courses, publications and games Lippitt and Hoagg developed from this model of reality found in the Bahá’í Writings.*
- ❑ *To develop new applications based on this model of reality, and document similar concepts in the sacred writings of other religions and traditions.*

The Foundation for the Investigation of Reality (**FIR**) recognizes that successfully investigating reality² involves learning about:

- (1) one’s own self or identity,
- (2) why one ought to be self-motivated to investigate reality,
- (3) the faculties one can use or is

endowed with to investigate reality, and

- (4) how to apply the answers to these questions to routine everyday behavior, and thereby uplift the condition of one’s own life situation and those of fellow human souls.

Applications of this model of reality may be used to accomplish these goals.

History of “The Master Index of the Worlds of God”

Mrs. H. Emogene Hoagg was a Bahá’í from the United States, who studied the Bahá’í Faith with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (the successor to the Prophet-Founder of the Faith, Bahá’u’lláh) in Israel and with renowned Bahá’í scholar Mírzá Abú’l-Fadl Gulpáygání in Egypt and the United States. In 1900, 1913, 1914 and 1920, she lived and served in the household of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. After the passing of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in November 1921, Mrs. Hoagg returned to Haifa to assist Shoghi Effendi, the eldest grandson of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Who appointed Shoghi Effendi as Guardian of the Bahá’í Faith. She developed an outline to categorize the Bahá’í Writings using the “three conditions of existence:” *Servitude, Prophethood, and Deity*, which was published in 1937 and 1938. In 1943, Mrs. Hoagg instructed Mrs. Lippitt in the “three conditions of existence.”³

In 1951, Mrs. Lippitt was appointed to the NRLC by the NSA. A major responsibility of the NRLC was producing a master index to the Bahá’í Writings in English translation. Mrs. Lippitt recommended using the “three conditions of existence” she had learned from Mrs. Hoagg as the basis for classifying them, which was approved by the NSA in 1956. The Index organized the Writings into a holistic overview of reality and existence. Mrs. Lippitt’s involvement in this project became a labor of love that continued until her death in 1984.

Other Materials

From the late 1950s to 1984, the NRLC and Mrs. Lippitt prepared indexing training instructions and other materials--publications, courses, and games--to assist individuals with their personal spiritual transformation.

Among the many materials produced by the NRLC and Mrs. Lippitt were: *The Worlds of God* compilation, with companion courses; an indexing course; and other materials. The most used course, *Successful Self Direction (SSD)*, Mrs. Lippitt created for the moral re-education and rehabilitation of troubled youth. However, anyone can benefit from taking it (and many have). As a teacher of SSD once said, “We all behave like spiritual juvenile delinquents from time to time.” SSD is an application of the over-all view of reality found in the Bahá’í Writings to everyday living experiences, by removing one’s idle fancies, dependencies and other hang-ups.

History of the Foundation for the Investigation of Reality

After Mrs. Lippitt's death, the work of the NRLC lapsed. A few years later, a group of Bahá'ís interested in carrying forward this work petitioned the NSA to become custodians of the Index. On 27 January 1992, the NSA responded:

“The National Assembly feels that the information compiled in the Worlds of God Index is valuable and agrees that the data should be stored permanently in computer files. In addition, the cards themselves are important archival materials that need to be preserved properly.... We commend your desire to continue working on the index, thereby rendering a distinctive service to the Cause of God.”

This group of Bahá'ís formed *The Foundation for the Science of Reality* (FSR), incorporated as a non-profit educational organization in the State of Maine, on 30 June 1993 (Marian Lippitt's birthday). FSR received tax-exempt status on 20 October 1994. In the summer of 1998, the Board of Directors changed the organization's name to *The Foundation for the Investigation of Reality*.

Membership

General membership is open to anyone interested in FIR's objectives. Voting

membership is restricted to Bahá'ís, because the Board of the Foundation is responsible for the Master Index, which is the Bahá'í property of the NSA. All members receive a newsletter. Suggested annual dues are \$35 per fiscal year or in-kind service. However, a lack of funds should not deter you from joining, because the investigation of reality is a basic human right.

Location

The main office of the Foundation is presently located in Eliot, Maine, U.S.A., near Green Acre Bahá'í School, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá said:

“In Green Acre you must concentrate your forces around the one all important fact, the investigation of reality. Expend your efforts on this, that the union of opinions and expressions may be obtained.”
Green Acre on the Piscataqua, p. 49

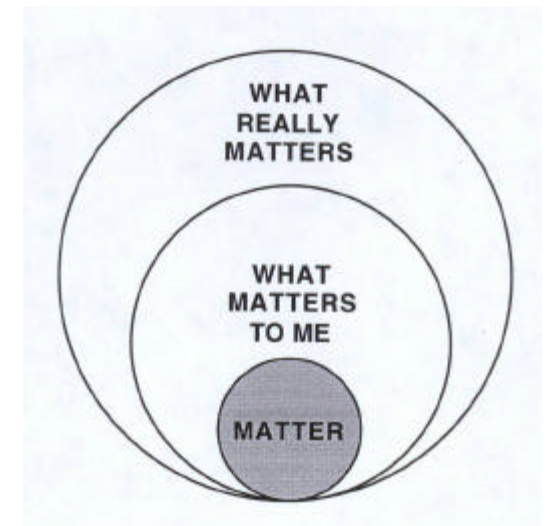
The Foundation for the Investigation of Reality

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Footnotes: (Other pamphlets available from the Foundation)

- 1 - “The Master Index of the Worlds of God: An Introduction”
- 2 - “Investigating Reality: Why Do It?”
- 3 - “The Three Conditions of Existence: A Brief Explanation”

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“The activity most intimately linked to the consciousness that distinguishes human nature is the individual's exploration of reality for himself or herself.”

Bahá'í International Community
- *The Prosperity of Humankind*