From the beginning of the month of Rabí’u’l-Tháni [27 June 1903], every time the post arrived, it brought a Tablet [from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá regarding the restoration of the House of the Báb] in honor of the Afnán. In the first Tablet, it was instructed that an estimate of the total cost of the repairs be prepared and sent [to the Holy Land]. Through the aid of the Mi’már-Báshí [the construction taskmaster], the Afnán prepared a detailed estimate of the costs of construction and a drawing of the Sacred House, and sent it to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Upon its receipt, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá revealed several sanctified Tablets insisting on immediate commencement of the restoration work of the House. In response, the Afnán began to make the required plans and to assemble the necessary provisions.

At the beginning of Jamádíyu’l-Avval [26 July 1903], the post from the Holy Land brought an exalted Tablet for Áqá Mírzá Áqá Núri’d-Dín, the Afnán, as the custodian of the House of God. Therein, special emphasis and utmost weight were placed on restoring the Blessed House to its exact original form [at the time of the Báb]. That blessed Text is included below so that the divine friends would become aware of God’s inscrutable wisdom in this regard:

Shíráz. The illustrious Afnán of the sacred Lote-Tree, the honored Áqá Mírzá Áqá, upon him rest the Glory of God, the Most Glorious.

He is God.

O thou august offshoot of the sacred Lote-Tree! Some time ago, thou hadst written about the restoration of the heavenly point of adoration and the celestial Ka’bíh, and a response was sent to thee. However, news of its receipt hath not arrived.

The restoration of the Blessed House [of the Báb] is thy most immediate duty, and not a moment’s hesitation is permitted. However, the House must be rebuilt in complete conformity to the original design, and absolutely

302 In 1872–73, at the request of Khadijih Bagum and with Bahá’u’lláh’s consent, the design of the House was altered under the supervision of Núri’d-Dín.
no change is allowed. Therefore, that illustrious personage must prepare a
detailed estimate of the restoration costs and at once send it to the Holy
Land. Somehow, the required funds will be raised and sent from here so
that thou mayest soon commence work on the Blessed House, the heavenly
point of adoration. Not a moment's delay is permitted. This is of the utmost
importance. This undertaking will have profound spiritual and material
influence. Upon the receipt of this letter, do not delay for an instant, and
quickly submit an estimate. The design of the House and the plan for the
rooms, the walls, the dimensions, and the orientations must not deviate by
a dot from the original, and no change is admissible.

Praise and salutations rest upon thee.

'A 'A.

[ps.] Consider how important is the restoration of the Blessed House that
this servant has pledged, that should the believers in Fárs rise to this task,
all the troubles besetting that community will be removed. And as I had
previously written, the friends must consider this the measure of truth or
imposture.303

[Another Tablet:]

Shíráz. The illustrious Afnán of the sacred Lote-Tree, the honored Áqá Mírzá
Áqá, upon him rest the Glory of God, the Most Glorious.

He is God!

O thou august offshoot of the sacred Lote-Tree! Thy missive hath arrived,
and its contents stand manifest. The estimate for the restoration of the
Blessed House was reviewed and found most agreeable. Through the honored
Mi'már-Báshi see to all the details and assemble the necessary provisions. In
this task, the Mi'már-Báshi must exert his utmost and of a certainty must
ensure that the construction does not deviate by so much as a hair's breadth
from the original design, layout, architecture, and dimensions. The building
must be raised in the utmost refinement, beauty, and solidity. God willing,
gradually the required funds will be sent. Now you must busy yourself
with organizing the construction materials. Within a month, a sum will
be forwarded. Report very frequently on progress, as this Servant, placing
His reliance in God, will be able to facilitate all difficulties. Not a minute's
delay is permitted. Be assured. I beseech God that I may not fail in my
duties and may be rendered triumphant.

Praise and salutation rest upon thee.

'A 'A.304

Upon consideration of these Tablets and oft-repeated exhortations on the
Mi'már-Báshi to undertake this trust—a task requiring the utmost dili-
gence, the greatest attention, and highest urgency—my father instructed