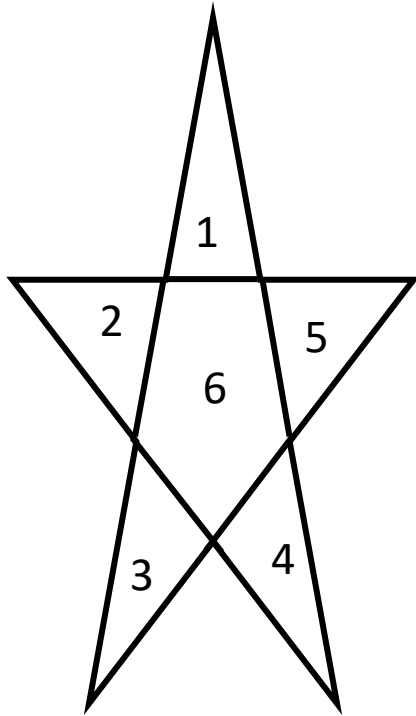


Equality/unity of Men and Women in the writings of The Bab

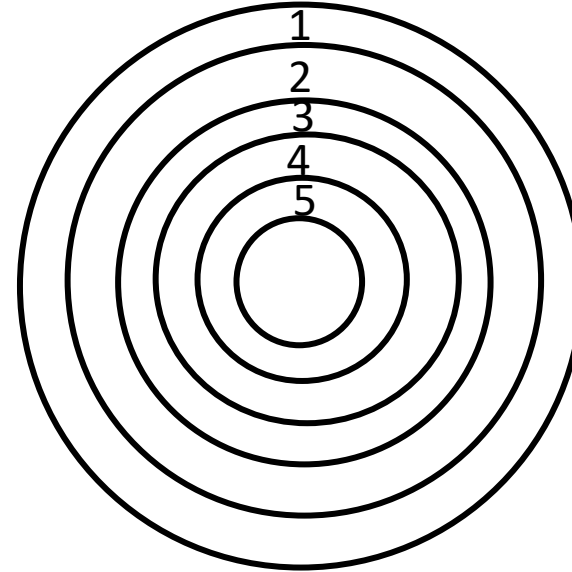
Adapted from “Gate of the Heart” by Dr. Nader Saeidi

Compiled by: Mohammad Norozi

Star or Heykal is symbol of Man
consists of 5 lines and 6 chambers.



Diereh (6 concentric circles) symbol of
woman consists of 6 circles and 5 chambers.



See next slides for more explanations
Note: In Abjad numerals H=5 and V=6
(read Vav). Together means Huva(He,
referring to God)

The Bab speaks of males and females symbolically as the possessors of "temples" (hayakil; singular, haykal) and "circles," respectively. "Temple," here, refers to the pentagram or five-pointed star, which abstractly resembles a human figure with a head, two arms and two legs⁽¹⁾.

Gate 10 of the 5th unity (in The Book of Bayan) discusses the ordinance that males should carry with them a temple and females a circle. Both temples and circles are made of complex symbols, and the believers are allowed to inscribe within them various verses of the writings of the Bab and to seek protection and the realization of the truth of those divine names in their lives. Some short works of the Bab are even written in this pentagram form. The temple consists of five lines which create six chambers.

Cont...

As the Bab explains, the "manifest" part is 5 and the "inner" part is 6₍₂₎. These numbers, again, refer to the two letters of Huva (He); the temple therefore refers to God and His Manifestation. The Bab allows the faithful to write on the five lines and in the six chambers whatever they wish of the writings of the Bab so that the divine words, reflected in the symbolic form of the human temple, will affect the souls of the people, making them the embodiments of divine attributes. The circle that women are to carry consists of six concentric circles which create five units of space between the six lines. Thus the circle mirrors the temple but with the manifest and inner aspects reversed. **This also symbolizes the unity of men and women- although appearing in different forms, they are essentially the same and refer to the same reality** (both are 11, manifestations of divine attributes).

References:

- (1) The Bahai symbol of the Greatest Name includes two of these temples, which refer to the Bab and Baha'u'llah.
- (2) The Bab, Persian Bayan 5:10.