

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

536 SHERIDAN ROAD, WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-2849 • (847) 733-3537 • EMAIL: secretariat@usbnc.org

September 27, 2006

Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. James



Dearest Bob and Mahtaj,

Words cannot say how grieved we were to learn of the sudden and tragic death of your beloved daughter, Anika Michelle. The loss of a child – particularly one so young and so full of promise as Anika was – must forever be, for any parent, the most grievous of life's misfortunes, a heavy burden to bear. Our hearts go out to you.

If there is any consolation to be found in such a sad hour, surely it can be found in the surpassing sympathy and understanding of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Who Himself suffered the loss of several of His children in their youngest years. Though written in another day to another grieving heart, His words offer us comfort and spiritual perspective undiminished by the passage of time:

"Be not grieved at the death of thy dear daughter. This divine bird flew away to the rose-garden of the Merciful and that plant of humanity hastened to the garden of the Kingdom. . . . Be happy and thankful because thou wilt see her face shining in the divine Kingdom and wilt find her as a lamp amid an assembly in the spiritual heaven."

'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, Vol. 1, p. 179

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the loss you have sustained and extend them to your cherished son, Shawheen, and to other members of your family and friends. Be assured that we will offer prayers beneath the lofty dome of the sacred and luminous Bahá'í House of Worship that Anika may be immersed in the boundless ocean of the living Lord's loving-kindness, that her precious soul may know eternal progress, and that you may all be favored with a joyous family reunion someday in the realms of Light.

With tender Bahá'í love,

Robert C. Henderson
Secretary-General