

Teaching

To the maid-servant of GOD, Mrs. A. M. Bryant, Denver, Colo.

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art attracted by the Fragrances of GOD!

I have read thy recent letter, and noted its beautiful contents.

Thank GOD that He hath opened thy sight for thee, unfolded to thee His Words of Love, and chosen thee from among women.

Thus thou responded to the Call, wast attracted to the Light and the Kingdom of the Lord of Manifest Signs; proclaimed the Truth and called in the Name of the Lord of the High Heaven.

O maid-servant of GOD! This Day is not a day of seclusion and solitude, but a Day of Proclaiming the Manifestation of the Light of the Beauty of thy Supreme Lord.

Therefore, abandon silence and seclusion and solitary nooks, and go forth unto the arena of explanation. Convey the Message of thy Lord with clearest speech and most complete elucidation. This is better for thee than solitude.

The season of seclusion in quiet nooks is the season of winter when the colds and the winds increase. But during the spring, the passing of the gentle breeze and the wafting of fragrances from the rose, the state of equilibrium in the atmosphere, and the green hue of valleys and prairies, it is best for man to leave solitude and enjoy out-of-door blessings.

Thus be thou happy in the commemoration of thy Lord. Go out of the solitary place like unto a shining star blazing its horizon. This is better for thee in the Kingdom of the Lord of the worlds.

Thus, harken unto the Melodies of the Birds of Holiness, in the Garden of Fellowship, upon the Branches of Purity, to the murmuring of its waters, the rustling of the trees, the blowing of its winds, and the cooing of its doves.

Upon thee be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdul-Baha Abbas.

(Translated by M. F. Ameen, Chicago, Feb., 5, 1904).

Through Mirza Ahmad to the woocer of peace and salvation,
The maid-servant of God, Wilhelmina Sherriff Bain, New Zealand.

HE IS GOD!

O thou lover of humanity!

The letter was received and its contents imparted spiritual significance. Thank thou God that from thy early childhood thou hast been always a seeker after salvation and hast been spending thy energy and effort in the charitable affairs and the excellences of the world of humanity. However, every great Cause in this world of existence finds a visible expression through three means: 1st., Intention; 2nd, Confirmation; 3rd, Action. To-day on this earth there are many souls who are the spreaders of peace and reconciliation, and are longing for the realization of the oneness and unity of the world of man; but this intention needs a dynamic power, so that it may become manifest in the world of being . To-day the divine Instructions and lordly Exhortations of Baha'u'llah promulgate this Most Great Aim, and the Confirmations of the Kingdom are the supports and defenders of this eminent Aim. For the Power of the Word of God is penetrative and the existence of the divine Kingdom is uninterrupted. Therefore, ere long it will become evident and clear that the Ensign of the Most Great Peace is the Teachings of Baha'u'llah. For the Intention, the Power, and the Action, all the three essential elements are brought together and the realization of everything in the contingent world depends upon these three principles. Therefore, O thou lover of the oneness of the world of humanity spread thou as much as thou canst the Instructions and Teachings of His Highness Baha'u'llah, so that the desired Beloved become unveiled in the as-

sembly of humankind and cast her light upon all the people.

Likewise some of the ancient philosophers have spoken regarding the oneness of the world of humanity, but confirmation and assistance became not their supports and helpers. Consequently their endeavors ended in being without result and the tree of their hope without fruit.

Thou hast written regarding the language of Esperanto. This language will be spread and universalized to a certain degree, but later on a more complete language than this, or the same language will undergo some changes and alterations and will be adopted and become universal. I hope that Dr. Zamenhof become assisted by the invisible Confirmation and do a great service to the world of humanity.

O thou maid-servant of GOD! Whatsoever question thou hast in thy heart, turn thou thy heart toward the Kingdom of ABHA and entreat in the Threshold of the Almighty and reflect upon that problem, then unquestionably the Light of Fruth shall dawn and the reality of that problem will become evident and clear to thee. For the Teachings of His Highness Baha'u'llah are the keys to all the doors. Every hidden secret will become discovered and every unsearchable mystery will become manifest and apparent.

Upon thee be Baha-el-ABHA!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Translated by M. Ahmad Esphahani,
April 2, 1908, Washington, D. C.

A talk by Abdul-Baha to Dr. Getsinger on Economy.
From Mirza Ahmad'Sohrab's Diary, August 24, 1914.

Dr. E. C. Getsinger left today for America. During the day he met the Beloved several times and each time the Master spoke with him in great length. Economy was the subject of his morning's talk with him.

"Economy" He said, "is the foundation of human prosperity. The spendthrift is always in trouble. Prodigality on the part of any person is an unpardonable sin. The fewer the habits the better for the man. It is a divine virtue to be satisfied with very few things.

Contentment

Contentment is the antidote for the cure of all the social diseases. We must live an independent life and never live on others, like a parasitic plant. Every person, whether literary or manual, must have a profession and live a clean, manly, honest life, an example of purity to be imitated by others. Contentment is the master key to all successes. If the members of my family starve, I will not ask money for the people. It is more kingly to be satisfied with a crust of stale bread than to enjoy a good dinner composed of many delicious dishes, the money of which comes out of the pockets of others. Just at this time it is simply impossible to get money from any source. Yet for the last three days I have applied to many people and finally succeeded in borrowing a sum for thy traveling expenses. I would not have done this for any Persian sahai nor for any one belonging to my own household. A Bahai must be very satisfied. There was a time that I lived on five cents a day, and I was then much happier than I am now. The Persian Bahais often live in the utmost poverty and want, yet they never complain nor ask for money from any one. Begging they consider below their spiritual station. A man who is the beneficiary of the treasury of the Kingdom is not poor. There have been some rich Bahais in Persia whose properties have been entirely confiscated. Being thus reduced to utter destitution, they went out cheerfully to work and in their turn spent all they made for the maintenance of the poorer Bahai families. Love, yes, love must be demonstrated through deeds. Love has never been a passive noun, a figure of speech, but it has always been an active noun, an ideal reality. The sign of true Faith is the service of the believers of GOD, and service must always manifest itself in loving deeds and actions. - - - - -The mind of a contented person is always peaceful and his heart is at rest. He is like a monarch ruling over the whole world. A small business with a steady income is better than the wild helter-skelter speculations of the financiers. How happily such a man helps himself to his frugal meals. How joyfully he takes his walks and how peacefully he sleeps."

In His good words He said to Dr. Getsinger.
x x x "When thou reachest the United States convey My wonderful Baha greeting to all the Believers of GOD. Once thy continue to live in accord with My advices and teachings there will appear in their words a most miraculous power and effect."

Dinner Talks + Tablets of Abdul Baha

Justice - Parable - No beads -

Page I

Detachment - Sacrifice - Service

" II

Proofs of statements made - "Rose of Sharon City of No Valley," -
Rivers in Revelation (p. 22 chapter) - Significance of 2 Trees -
Calamities, - service - one language

" III

Friends of Los Angeles & San Francisco - firmness in Covenant }
"Nakazeen" - their aim and our treatment of -

" IV -

LOVE - name of Abdul Baha - meaning of - purpose of this Day }
Fulfillment in advent of Bahá'u'lláh & No Tab (also One as defined)

V

Station of martyrdom

.. VI

Firmness in No Covenant

" VII

America's possibility for "Army of Peace" Prayers in Los Angeles

IX

To my Father on No Peace Congress

X

Letter to Jessie Reuell (1908)

XI

" " Mrs Mary Reuell (1908) on working in No church.

XII

Effect of No Revelation upon souls - at time of Dawning of Sun of Truth

XIII

The Protestant College in Hamadan, Persia (letter to Stanton Ches) 1908

XIV

7

The Justice of GOD is a difficult subject and requires much reflection upon our Lord's Words. First, to know the meaning of Justice; it is not equality, but the giving to every one according to his right. People think it means equality; but it does not mean that one deals with a learned man in the same way as an ignorant man is dealt with. To deal in the same way with an enemy and a friend, is not justice; nor to deal with an animal and a man in the same way. The meaning of Justice is to give what is due to each one, and to deal differently with the learned and ignorant.

One of GOD'S Names is the "Doer of Justice" and also the "Doer of Favor." There is a great difference between these two Names. The meaning of Justice is reward and punishment, when either one is due to the person to whom it is rewarded.

Favor is giving to a person more than is his right. As we see that the Attributes and Names of GOD are different, this shows that all stations must be different for different persons. Some men receive favor, some justice. It would not do for all contingent beings to be mineral or animal or vegetable, or for all to be man.

For instance, it is not possible to be given all eyes; we must have ears, nose, legs, etc., if man were only an eye, perfection would not become visible in him.

When we consider that God has made a stone to be a stone, a man to be a man, etc., has God shown oppression to a stone because it is not a man? God has given according to capacity. He has created man with nails and eyes. Can a nail say, "I am oppressed because I am not an eye?" Can the foot say, "O God, Thou hast not shown mercy because I am not the brain?" God has given according to station. The contingent world is a sign of the Kingdom and Dominion of God. Consider the material kingdoms.

PARACLETE.

Paraclete means the Holy Spirit, the abundance of which is manifested through every one, giving ease and comfort. But the Center of this Spirit is the Blessed Perfection, Baha'ollah. As the center of all lights is the sun, all others beings but rays of its abundance, thus those who receive the bounty are partakers of the Holy Spirit but not centers of the Divine Appearance of the Manifestation thereof; for example, a lamp gives light, the torch also, the stars shine and the moon beams, but the center of the source of their light is the sun and through its power are they able to shine, receiving through it their rays!

THE BEADS..

Regarding the use of the beads; The object lies not in the beads, but in their number - ninety-five- for in reckoning the names of the numbers according to the customs of the Orient, One (Wahid) amounts to nineteen and the meaning of "wahid" is the oneness and singleness of the Infinite Essence. The number of the name "Bab" is five; therefore, multiply nineteen by five and ninety-five is produced. The Bab was one of the nineteen, remaining eighteen being His disciples. Twelve being the number of the disciples of Christ, is held in reverence by the Christians, while the number thirteen is rejected as unlucky.

"Souls are like mirrors, and the Bounty of God is like unto the sun. When the mirrors pass beyond all coloring and attain purity and polish, and are confronted with the Sun, they will reflect in full perfection its light and glory. In this condition one should not consider the mirror, but the Power of the Light of the Sun which has penetrated the mirror making it a reflector of the Heavenly glory."

Handwritten notes:
D.W.T.
Sh. ...
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Some Extracts from various Tablets of Abdul Baha.

"Take no thought for yourselves, (or your lives) whether ye eat or whether ye sleep, whether ye are comfortable, whether ye are well or ill, whether ye are with friends or foes - whether ye receive praise or blame - for all of these things ye must not care at all. Look at Me and be as I am. Ye must die to yourselves and to the world: so shall ye be born again and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Behold a candle how it gives its light. It keeps its life away, drop by drop, in order to give forth its flame of light."

"Know, verily, man before reaching (spiritual) maturity, merely passes his days, and apprehends only trivial things, which are clear on account of their exoteric indications; but when he attains full development, then he grasps the reality of things and their esoteric facts. Every day after maturity is equivalent to one year before it, on account of (man's) perception, understanding, apprehension, and discoveries."

"I desire every Bahai to be severed and detached. If he passes between two mountains of gold, he must not look to either side. These souls who have entered under the shade of the Blessed Perfection must show such independence as to astonish the people of the world. If men come to them with money and supplicate them to accept it, they must reject it."

"Up to the time I was thirty-two years old, I never slept in a bed, preferring always a piece of mat, and as a cushion I chose one or two books. I went to sleep without changing my dress, fearing that it will take me some time to dress in the morning. But now I cannot do these things. When I lived in Acca, generally I kept ten secretaries busy, - often dictating important letters to three at the same time."

"Thou hast written what thou shouldst do and what prayer should thou offer in order to become informed with the Mysteries of God. --- Pray thou with an attached heart and supplicate thou with a spirit stirred by the Glad-tidings of God. Then the Doors of the Kingdom of Mysteries shall be opened before thy face, and thou shalt comprehend the Realities of all things."

"I am not feeling well even in Ramled, but for the present I will not move to any other place, no matter what may happen. I have finished all my work. I have nothing else to do. I am now ready for the last call! How I long to quaff from that Cup! How sweet will be its taste! How delightful will be that hour!"

"After my return from American and Europe, owing to the difficulties of the long voyage and the innumerable inconveniences of the journey, a reaction set in and I became sick. Now through the favor and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection I am feeling better, - therefore I am engaged in writing to thee this letter, so that thou mayest realize the friends of God are never forgotten under any circumstance. NOW IS THE TIME THE BELIEVERS OF GOD MAY ILLUMINATE THE CONDUCT AND MANNER OF ABDUL-BAHA. Day and night they must engage in teaching the Cause of God - but they must be imbued with the same spiritual state that Abdul-Baha manifested while travelling in America. When a teacher delivers an address, first of all his own words must have a supreme and powerful effect even upon himself, so that everyone in turn may be affected. His utterances must be like unto the flame of fire, burning away the veils of dogmas, passions and desire. Moreover, he must be in the utmost state of humility and evanescence,

31/4

that others may be mindful. He must have attained the station of renunciation and annihilation. Then and not until then will he teach the people with the melody of the Supreme Concourse. *The duty of the believers of God is to be the servants to each other and attend to each others wants. I am the servant of the friends of God.*

"Whenever any soul explains any matter, he must have authority from the Verbes of God and the Words of the Supreme, either from the Book of Akdas or other Divine Tablets. If he is asked for the proof of his statement, he must show the ext of the Book; that is his evidence. Briefly, every statement and word which is not based upon the Divine Texts is not Truth. No one must listen to it. No one must interfere with it. This is the irrefragable Command. Expatriate in detail upon this subject in every meeting.

Regarding the statement, "I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley," by this is meant that, just as the sweet fragrances of the roses and lily are diffused with the utmost delicacy and perfumes the nostrils, so also the Divine Teachings of GOD affect the intellects, uplifts the souls, and inspires the spirits with boundless love and kindness. For the sweet fragrances of the Heavenly Flowers are the Heavenly Teachings, Behests and Exhortations.

Regarding the Vision in the twenty-second chapter of Revelation by this is meant that the Bounty of God consists of the Water of Life which, like a river, flows from the right side of the Almighty and the promised Lamb of God.

Know thou of a certainty, that in the world of existence there are two kinds of trees- First, the Tree of Affirmation, which is the Blessed Tree of the Tree of Life. This was the Tree upon which the Fire became manifest to Moses on Mount Sinai, and that was the Reality of the Manifestations of Divine Appearance. This is the Tree mentioned in the Vision. The significance of its yielding fruit every month is that its blessings are eternal and not temporal, and it produces fruit in all seasons. This Tree has no autumn, summer or winter. It has an eternal Spring. The other is the tree of negation,- barren and fruitless,- and when it grows it will become the object of scorn and derision. It bears no fruit and bestows no benefit and this is the tree mentioned in the Fifteenth chapter of Ezekiel. (Extract from Kitabul-Akdas.)

"In the event of calamities, whether they befall you or others, be neither sorry nor happy; but rather choose the mention of God under such circumstances and be vigilant as to that which may befall you at the end. Thus ye are admonished by the Learned, the All-Knower.

"Hospitality is incumbent upon you once a month, though only water be served; for God desireth to unite the hearts.

"Arise with steadfastness to serve the Cause of God under all circumstances. Verily He will strengthen you with a Dominion which encompasseth the worlds.

"Take hold of the rope of refinement and delicacy in such wise that no trace of dirt appears on your clothes. This is that which is commanded by Him who is more elegant than the elegant; but there is no obligation on one who has a valid excuse.

"Meet gently every one who offends you and approach not him who censures you, but leave him to himself and rely on God, the Avenger, the Just, the Mighty.

"O people of Authority! Throughout the countries select one language and one character of those which exist for all the people of the earth."

31
Talk given by Abdul Baha to Miss Mary Leach, Mrs Lanyon, Mrs Slater, and Miss Gertrude Bulkema at Hotel Plaza, Chicago, on Thursday evening Oct., 31, 1912, Dr. Ameen U. Fareed interpreting. Taken stenographically by Miss Gertrude Bulkema.

Firmness in the Covenant

Velocly, Exceedingly Welcomel When I reached Los Angeles and San Francisco a great commotion was set up. Great interest was manifested by all the newspapers, by the Universities and the Churches. The speeches were lengthy and the cause was proclaimed. Arguments and evidences were advanced, rattling and valadating the teachings of Baha'ollah. Not a single soul dissenting. All listened with perfect acquiescence and all were unanimous in their praises, even the ministers.

The Angelenos

The friends of Los Angeles and San Francisco were very firm in the Covenant and Testament; they are exceedingly firm. If they should sense the least violation on the part of any person, they shun him entirely for they know this is the cause of their becoming lukewarm; the cause of their being weakened; because such people are not occupied with anything except extinguishing the lamps which have been ignited by the Light of the Covenant. For instance, the firm ones teach a person; then the Nakazeen go to him and they cause suspicion until they become lukewarm. There have been Nakazeen here (in Chicago) for twenty years. What have they done? Nothing have they been able to teach anybody? Have they been able to speak in a church? Have they been able to address an audience? Have they been able to make any body firm? They are doing nothing except extinguish lamps which we ignite and putting such lamps out; that is all they do.

The friends in San Francisco are exceedingly firm. They do not associate in their homes with any Nakazeen. A certain Nakazeen went there; no body would look at him. Nobody spoke to him. Wherever he went, they turned him away. They said: "You are not with us and as long as you are not with us, what have you to do with us?" You must be as firm as a mountain.

Today the most important affair is firmness in the Covenant, because firmness in the Covenant wards off differences. After His Holiness Christ, there were many who appeared who were instrumental in creating factions, dissensions. It was not known as to which one was pursuing the right way. For example, there appeared one among them whose name was Nestor (?) who said that Christ was not a Prophet of God's Prophets. Another division was created. The Catholics who declared Jesus Christ to be the Son of God; even they pronounced Him to be Divinity Himself. Another division was created, the Protestants - that Christ was possessed of two elements, a human element and a divine element. In short, the religion of Christ was divided; division was created and it was not known as to who was pursuing the right pathway, because there was no appointed Center to whom Christ referred every one, whose word was to be a Gateway. If His Holiness Christ has taken a Covenant with any soul, summoning all to cling to His Word as correct, then it would have been evident as to what was veracity.

Because there was no appointed book, every one declared, saying: "We are the right pathway and the others are not," But the Blessed Perfection, Baha'ollah, to ward off such dissensions, so that no interested person should create any division or belief, appointed a Central personage declaring Him to be the Expounder of the Book. That is, people do not generally understand the meaning of the Book, but He does understand. "He is the Expounder of My Book and the Center of My Testament." In the last two verses of the Book are revealed explicit instructions declaring that, "After Me, you should turn your attention to a distinct Personage and whatsoever He says is correct." And in the Book of the Covenant He said that by these two verses are meant such and such a person.

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D - 1

In all His Tablets and Books He has praised the firm ones in the Covenant and He has anathematized those who are not firm in the Covenant, and in all His Tablets He said: "Verily, saith those who are snaken in the Covenant. Verily, God is the Confirmer of the firm ones." In His prayers He has said: "o God! render those who are firm in the Covenant as dear. Bregard those who are not firm in the Covenant. o God! be the Protector of him and confirm him who confirms the center of the Covenant."

Many are the utterances regarding the Covenant, so that in the Blessed Cause, there should be no ~~any~~ dissensions. No one should say: "My opinion is this." No one should say: "My thought is this." That they may know who is the Expounder. Whatsoever he says is correct. He has not left any room for dissension - not at all. Of course, it is certain that in the world there are those who are antagonistic; there are those who are followers of passion; there are those who follow their own thoughts, there are those who like to create dissensions in the Cause. For, example, Judas Iscariot was one of the disciples, but he betrayed Christ. Such things have happened in the past but now the Blessed Beauty has declared: "This person is the Expounder of My Book and all must turn to Him." And this is to ward off dissension.

The purpose of the Blessed one is to create not any difference. Not with standing all this, there are certain souls here and a few souls in Acca who have violated this command. For twenty years the Nakazeen ~~has~~ have done nothing. Have they here in Chicago? The friends must be like friends in San Francisco. When ever they sense the least violation from anyone, they should say: "Get out of here! You must not associate with us."

The following are reminiscences of conversations taken the same evening between the same parties but not taken stenographically.

In answer to the question by one of the four ladies as to how ~~w~~ would be able to know a Nakazeen, Abdul Bana replied: "Would you know a donkey if you saw one?"

In further explaining the absolute necessity of keeping aloof from the Nakazeen, Abdul Bana cited the following example: "In any army containing 1000 well men and one consumptive, the 1000 well men could never cure the one sick man of consumption, but the one sick man could contaminate the whole army of 1000 well and make every one of them sick."

one of the ladies present asked Abdul Bana to name the Nakazeen in Chicago. His reply was: "For he to name a Nakazeen, would be an everlasting condemnation against that person. It would be a black mark that would never be erased."

Extract from Tablet to an American believer.

VI

Upon him be Baha'ullah!

HE IS GOD!

Your last letter was received, and I was informed of all of its contents. You had written concerning the beloved of GOD, and the slight difference of opinion.

You must know this: That the principle of the Divine Foundation is LOVE, UNION, ONENESS, and the PURITY of INTENTION.

When LOVE is attained the mystery of Truth will become manifest.

No one should adhere to different titles. One title (or station) is enough, and it is "ABDUL-BAHA". All must agree in this word. Until the difference of opinions may be entirely removed from their midst. But that which is essential to the acknowledgement of this word (i.e. ABDUL-BAHA) is attraction, the Love of GOD, service to the Cause of GOD, diffusing the Word of GOD, severance from all else save GOD, affinity, union, oneness, humility, meekness, nothingness, and Servitude to the Beloved of GOD. If one does not become characterized with these attributes, he has not acknowledged the title (or station) of ABDUL-BAHA.

Because: ABDUL-BAHA is the Banner of the Love of GOD, the Lamp of the Knowledge of GOD, the Herald of the Kingdom of GOD, the Commander of the Hosts of Peace and Reconciliation, and the Orb of Union and Harmony among all the nations of the world. Consequently, every one in whose heart the love of ABDUL-BAHA has irradiated, must act in this manner; and when persons walk and move in this path, all differences shall be removed.

O dear one! This dispensation of the Beauty of ABHA is the time of deeds, new not words. The purpose is not words, but deeds!

All the beloved of GOD must be characterized with the heavenly attributes and appear in such conduct that the Brilliance of Mercyfulness may pervade all regions.

Every person who is strengthened in these Heavenly virtues is my partner and associate in the service of the Holy Threshold.

O dear one! All nations await two Manifestations, and these two Manifestations signify the Blessed Beauty (BAHA'U'LLAH) and His Holiness the BAB. Words are different, but the purpose is one.

One has called Him "MAHDI", and another hath called Him "CHRIST".

One hath named the Blessed Beauty the "LORD OF HOSTS", and another hath called Him the "HEAVENLY FATHER."

Briefly: You should adhere to that which hath issued from my Pen and Tongue.

It is just as thou hadst written, - when people recognize the Beauty of ABHA and arise to His Teachings, they have recognized all the Prophets and have arisen in Their Teachings; but if they do not recognize HIM (BAHA'U'LLAH), and acknowledge all the Prophets, it will impart no fruit, nay, they will fall in manifest loss.

Consider that in the Day of Christ whosoever acknowledged Christ was a believer in all the Prophets and Messengers. And whosoever denied Christ, was deprived of all (of them).

Consequently you should know the Blessed Beauty (BAHA'U'LLAH) and call in His Name, and promote His Teachings.

All have sought Light from That Sun and are illumined with That Light. Consider if the sun cast rays upon a thousand mirrors, the Brilliance of those mirrors is received from the same (one) sun; and when thou knowest the sun thou hast known all the mirrors, for they are all under its shadow (i.e. subordinate to the sun).

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VII

O dear one! This is a time that thou mayest have the billows of the Love of GOD, like unto the sea, and be aflame with the Light of the Knowledge of GOD and illumine the world.

I was very much rejoiced with thee, for that thou art thinking concerning the union and harmony among the beloved ones.

O dear one! Consider how in Persia the friends of GOD are sacrificing their lives in the fields of sacrifice; and drink the cup of Martyrdom with the utmost thirst! They sacrifice property, family and home, with all joy, in the way of the Beauty of ABHA, and boil like unto a sea at the time of martyrdom; and raise the cry "Ya BAHU-UL-ABHA." These souls are the faithful friends of ABHA.

I hope that the beloved of America will also sacrifice their reality, body and soul, like unto these souls.

This is the essence of this subject: If man attain to this station he will become the light of the two worlds and an eternal light to human kind.

(Signed) F.E.
(Aboul-Baha-Abbas.)

(Translated by A. M. Khan,
October 27, 1903.)

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VII HE IS GOD! *The Abdu'l-Baha Assn
9th Annual Conv. 1908*

O ye real friends and heart-felt beloved of Abdul Baha! *to me - for all
friends & some
to share
with the*
Your petition, full of prayer and supplication, received, and
your cry and lamentation reached the ears of this longing one.

Praise be to God that you have a blessed Assembly surnamed by
the Name of the Center of the Covenant! This is an evidence of your
utmost firmness and steadfastness and a proof of your faith and assur-
ance in the Blessed Perfection. For this Divine Covenant is an in-
stitution of the Lord. The Blessed Perfection, in all the Tablets,
Books, Epistles and Supplications, has begged Confirmations for, and
has praised and commended those who are firm in this Covenant and the
Testament, and has asked the wrath of God and woe and desolation unto
the violators. For firmness in this Covenant will preserve the Unity
of the Religion of God and the Foundation of the Religion of God will
not be shaken. According to the clear text of the Kitab-el-Akdas and
other Tablets, the Center of the Covenant is the Remover of all the
difficulties, for He is the Interpreter of the Book. Not one soul
has the right to say one word on his own account or to explain anything
or elucidate the text of the Book, whether in public or private.

His Holiness the Christ says, no one should hide the light un-
der a cover. One should explain plainly and utter penetrative speech.

I was very much affected by your lamentations and moaning, and
I beg and supplicate to the Generosity of the Blessed Perfection that
I may be assisted to behold your heart-rejoicing faces.

The attracted maid-servant of God, Mrs. Goodall, the assured
maid-servant of God, Mrs. Cooper, and the devoted maid-servant of God,
Miss Wise, are always before my eyes.

Convey the rare greetings of Abdul Baha to all those who are
firm in the Covenant. If all the believers and maid-servants of the
Merciful do proclaim their firmness in the Covenant, such steadfastness
in the Covenant, like unto a magnet, will draw Abdul Baha to those re-
gions.

Upon ye be Baha-el-Abha!

Abdul Baha.

(Own signature on the translation)

B C # 310

IX
Army of Peace

36

Dear Friends of the Bahai Assembly of Los Angeles:

In a talk in Chicago, in 1912, Abdul Baha, the Center of the Covenant of God, says--"In this Western world, with its stimulating climate, its capacity for knowledge, its lofty ideals, the message of peace should be easily spread.****Yet even now warfare prevails. Envy and rancor arise between nations, but because I find the American nation so capable of achievement, and the American government the fairest of Western governments, my wish and hope is that the banner of peace may be raised first on this continent, that the standard of the Most Great Peace may here be unfurled. May the nation of America and its government unite in their effort, in order that this light may dawn from this point and spread to all regions, for this is one of the greatest bestowals of God. In order that America may avail herself of this opportunity I request that you strive and supplicate with heart and soul, devoting all your energies to this end, that the banner of international peace may in reality be unfurled here and that American democracy may be the cause of the cessation of warfare in all other countries." And again "Should you unite together in one word and thoroughly agree upon the original and fundamental aim and have perfect love amongst you, by the life of Him who formed the grains and created the breath, the lights will shine forth from your faces and reach to the highest point****and your thoughts will have great effect upon the greatest and most powerful nations." Now while the armies of hatred are organizing to kill, shall not we mobilize the silent army of peace? Our Beloved says "Come ye together. Concentrate your spiritual forces so that the fire of the love of God may flame forth**" Now shall we not arise with all our power at this time and unite in one word, and that word Universal Peace. In order to obtain the perfect love and unity let us, during the Bahai month of Masheyat (beginning Sep'r 27 to Oct 15, inclusive,) "clasp hands and pray together, saying these wonderful words together for nineteen days, ninety-five times each day during this month--"Is there any remover of difficulties save God? Praise be to God, He is God. All are His servants, and all are standing by His command." The friends of Los Angeles have agreed to unite in this prayer from 6 to 7 each morning and 9 to 10 each evening. Other Bahai Assemblies throughout America are, or will be using these same wonderful words at the same time. If we merely raise our voices in the general clamor for peace no fruit will come of it; but if we make a supreme effort knowing that the only solution to the problem lies in the glorious Cause of Baha'u'llah, great results may be accomplished by that spiritual leaven which "will leaven the whole lump." If the leaven be pure and strong, only a little is needed, and the divine promises are definite.

Bc# 311

37

9

To Mr. Charles Mason Remey.
Upon him be Baha'o'llah-el-ABHA!

HE IS GOD!

"The copy of the address which you delivered before the Peace Congress was received. Truly, I say thou art a ransom to the Blessed Perfection. Thou hast no other thought nor idea save the spreading of the rays of the Kingdom of Abha, amongst which is this address which thou hast delivered in the Congress. The Bahai friends must utilize all their thoughts so that they may be able to attract such gatherings to the Kingdom of Abha. For these souls, without being conscious, are serving the Kingdom of Abha, and incidentally before reading your letter I had written two Tablets to the founder of the Mohonk Lake conference on International Arbitration, and its secretary, so that Mirza Ahmad may translate and forward to them. Undoubtedly you shall become acquainted with the contents of those two Tablets. Consult with Mirza Ahmad and execute it in whichever manner is most advisable. Association and communication with this Congress is incumbent upon the believers in God, for their instrumentalities are physical and the teachings of the Blessed Perfection is the spirit. The body needs this spirit that it may become quickened and attain to the greatest importance. Concerning the matter of teaching publicly through the spiritual assemblies, unquestionably its importance is very great.

Perchance, God willing, you might become assisted to cause the entrance of the members of that Peace Congress, which consists of 400 prominent people of that country, into the Kingdom of Abha.

O MY Remey! Indeed thy effort is great and thy intention is pure. The matter of the Kashrak-el-Azcar is of the utmost importance. A contribution has been received from Persia and forwarded. Likewise this servant has sent a sum of money. Undoubtedly it has arrived by this time.

To be brief: Endeavor ye so far as ye can that the spirit of the Kingdom of Abha, through the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, may be diffused through the hearts and souls of the societies and individuals of that continent, and that with the greatest love and concord you may become levers of each other and be attracted with the Light of Truth to such a degree that you may reverence each other. I testify that my intention is such. I seek from the bounties of the Blessed Perfection uninterrupted confirmation for thee, and I see thee as my associate and my co-partner in the servitude of the Threshold of the Beauty of Abha, O My Remey!

Upon thee be Baha-el-ABHA!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab,
Washington, D.C., August 4, 1911.

Be# 312

Through Mirza Ahmad and the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Brittingham,
to Miss Jessie E. Revell, Philadelphia, Pa.

HE IS GOD!

O thou wooer of Truth!

From the letter, which was a nose-gay from the Rose-Garden of
Significance, a sweet fragrance was inhaled.

Thou hast supplicated to become a word in the Book of Love,
attain to Truth, love the enemies and be firm in the Cause of God.
All these desires are accepted and beloved.

Supplication

O Thou Almighty GOD, make the Spiritual Assembly of Philadel-
phia the manifestor of invisible confirmations and the dawning
place of the lights of the Merciful; so that its members arise to
serve the world of man, and be benevolent to the children of hu-
manity, and adorn existence and become the cause of Eternal Life.
O Lord, make that gathering place the emblem of the Supreme Con-
course and that congregation the manifest sign of the Supreme
realm. Thou art the Powerful and the Mighty.

Upon thee be Baha-el-ABHA!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Translated by M. Ahmad Esfahani,
Washington, D.C.,
October 11, 1908.

Through Mirza Ahmad to Mrs. Mary J. Nevell, (Philadelphia, Pa.)

HE IS GOD!

O thou maid-servant of God!

Thy letter was received; now I answer it. Remain thou in the church and impress the Truth upon the priest and others with the utmost love and consideration. Engage thy time in prayer and supplication and the guidance of the people. Today every soul who deals with the people with the utmost humility and submission, is kind and showing love to them, is considering them the members and limbs of one temple, receiving the stranger as the friend, the remote one as the near one, and is occupied in their guidance - the power of the word of God will make him as a conquering host and as an angel with far-reaching voice.

Therefore walk and travel thou in this road and, with perfect kindness and love, engage in the instruction of the children of man.

Upon thee be Baha-el-ABHA!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Translated by M. Ahmad Esphahani,

Washington, D.C.,

October 11, 1908.

BC # 314

~~XIII~~

39.

Through Mirza Ahmad to (Mrs.) Flora M. Clark (Fort Bragg, Cal.)

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art the wooer of the Beloved of the Regions!

As soon as the Sun of Truth dawned in the East of Eternity, its rays like unto the lightening of the early morn, brightened and illumined this vast palace of immensity. Pure and transparent souls, which were clear from the rest of matter, immediately became enlightened and luminous and reflected the light upon the world of contingent beings. This effulgence, to those pure hearts, was like unto a Call, a Revelation, a Splendor and Heavenly Music. Therefore each one acquired a special effulgence and made manifest and apparent a certain Divine Glory.

I beg of God that this lustrous Brilliancy shine in such wise in the heart of humanity, and make such a deep and imperishable impression that the world of darkness be entirely illuminated.

The poetry, which flowed from the luminous heart of that maid-servant of God, became the cause of the happiness and rejoicing of the friends of God. Keep thy heart always perfumed and thy soul always odoriferous, through the Fragrances of the Paradise of Abha, in assemblies and gathering places.

(Signed) Abdul Bala Abbas.

Translated December 16, 1908,
by N. Ahmad Esphahani,
Washington, D C.

B.C.# 315

~~SECRET~~

Extract from a letter written by Mirza Moneer Zain, dated
Acca, December 20, 1908, to Mr. Thornton Chase.

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"One of the friends from the city of Hamadan, Persia, wrote us the following statement which I wish to translate and relate to you:

'The friends of God here on one night collected four thousand toman (a toman = \$1.95) and purchased the Protestant College situated in the Israelites' square. (All the students in that college were known Israelites with a few Mohammedans and Parsees.) The teachers endeavored for many years with an utmost zeal and effort to bring up and train the students after their own desire and to convert them into Protestant faith. The teachers and missionaries, being very jealous and fanatic people, were acting always against the Cause. But from their earnest labors no result or fruit had ever been produced, i.e., none of the students accepted their teachings, and when finally they received their diplomas, to the great astonishment of the teachers and missionaries, the students unanimously exclaimed: "We are Bahais! We are Bahais!"

'The teachers, finding that their efforts, labors and immense expenses all had been spent in vain and that their educated students were consequently converted into Bahai faith, intended to give up any further teaching and to sell the college. So the Bahais purchased the college for themselves and will soon provide it with Bahai teachers.

'In fact, the noble and refined students had to suffer and endure patiently every trial and test in the college, for they were rather forced to listen to different statements, preached to them quite against their faith and yet to keep silent.'

'This servant, when he was called into the holy presence of the Master, Abdul Baha, six years ago, had the intention to relate to Him in detail the grievous condition of the students of that college, but not more than a few words were submitted to Him when I heard Him uttering these words:

'Although the Protestants seem to be outwardly very jealous and against the Bahais, they are unconsciously and inwardly serving and spreading the Cause of ALHA.'

'Now we realize the fulfillment of that blessed statement uttered six years ago, for the Protestants established and organized the college, educated the students and consequently offered all to the Bahais. Glory be to His Holy Name!'

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BC # 316

Service
Extracts of talks given by Abdu'l gaha to the American pilgrims, sent in Fugeta's letter, dated April, 24, 1980, to Mrs. Frankland.

April, 24th--Last night at the supper table the Master spoke to the friends. ----"Now I am standing here. There is a cause. The Blessed beauty Baha'o'llah is making me stand and serve you. I am a servant of the friends of God, so you must excuse me for not sitting at the table with you."

Although He was very tired, yet he stood and walked around the table all through the meal. While the friends were eating the Master gave a most powerful talk on LOVE.

At another time He said: "The Blessed beauty has trained me to serve----- You must follow my example. I cannot be the Master if I don't serve. I love you all so you must be kind and love one another. This is my instruction."

Service
At the supper table, May, 7th.--- "His Holiness Jesus says, 'He amongst you who desires to become first must be the last, and he who desires to be a master, must become a servant.' "He brought about the Lord's Supper, and served the disciples in order to teach them that they must also serve others. This was His example to them. I am always your servant, not for one night only. His disciples followed the teachings of His Holiness but not completely. But I always follow the teachings because the Blessed beauty Says: "Ye must be a servant to all. Ye must serve with heart and soul in utmost humility and submission." Now I am teaching you as well that ye may act in this wise one toward the other, that ye may prefer others to yourselves. For without the realization of this, ye cannot attain to this to which ye aspire. Therefore act in this manner, that thus ye may realize your aim."

To the departing guests he said: "This is the last night I am with you, but this is true only physically, in heart and soul I am always with you. I am with you under all circumstances. I am your partner and you must be my partner in the same way. In the service of the Holy Threshold, you must share with me and keep me company. Now that you are leaving, there must come from you good news. News which will give me happiness. This is my utmost hope; that each one of you may become a bright candle in the Kingdom of Baha'o'llah."

May, 6th, at the luncheon table--- "I hope that God willing

TALKS WITH ABDUL BAHA

*Servants of
Humanity
Civil-Disobedience*

"What do you expect the Bahais to accomplish in this world?" asked a stranger. The Beloved One answered: "The Bahais must be the servants of Universal Peace, the workers for the cause of Oneness of the World of Humanity, the Spreaders of heavenly love amongst the children of men, the promulgators of the principles of the progress of mankind, the dispellers of the clouds of religious, national, patriotic and political prejudices, and the upholders of the inviolable rights of equality between man and woman.

They must correspond religious ideals with the deductions of science and reason, discard all theories that cannot stand the test of intellect and empirical knowledge. This is the work of the Bahais: Dost thou not desire to accomplish this work? Art thou not in favor of it? Dost thou like to enlist in this army? You? Then come and usher under this tent. Make thou also an effort, so that the world of humanity may attain to the highest summit of perfection. Strive that religion may be cleansed from ignorant prejudices. Strive that bias may be removed. Strive that warfare and strife may become non-existent. Strive that love and good-fellowship may replace intolerance and narrowness of dogmatism.

Strive to scatter the seeds of kindness in the hearts. These are the teachings of Baha'u'llah. We are striving in this path.

His Holiness Baha'u'llah has opened a great door of interdependence of all nations before the faces. For example, the strict adherents of the present-day religions consider each other as infidels and contaminating, - as apostates in the sight of GOD and man, - as deserving to be thrown to the bottom of hell in the jaws of satan. But Baha'u'llah, addressing the world of humanity, says: 'Ye are the leaves of one branch and the fruits of one tree.'

"What is your belief as regards the origin of evil."

The Blessed One answered: "There is no origin of evil. Evil is non-existent. For example, darkness is evil; it is the absence of light. Wherever there is no light, there is darkness; consequently, there is no existence of it. Poverty is the absence of wealth. Ignorance is the absence of knowledge. Evil is the absence of good. All evils are non-existent and have no outward forms and shapes. Creation is good. 'And the Spirit of GOD moved upon the face of the waters, and GOD said: Let there be light; and there was light. And GOD saw the light that it was good.'

"How can one understand the object of his life?"

The Blessed One answered: "There are two kinds of understanding, - objective and subjective. To illustfate: Thou seest this glass of water and thou dost comprehend in an objective manner their constituent parts.

On the other hand, thou canst not see love, intellect, hate, anger, sorrow, but thou dost recognize them in a subjective way through their signs and manifestations. The first is material: The second is spiritual.

The first is outward; the second is intuitive. I hope that thou mayest make great advancement in the second kind of understanding. Turn thy face toward GOD and say: 'O GOD, refresh and gladden my spirit; purify my heart; illumine my powers. I lay all my affairs in Thy Hands. Thou art my Guide and Refuge. I will not be grieved and sorrowful any more. I will not let trouble harass me any longer. I will not dwell on the unpleasant things of life. O GOD, Thou art kinder to me than myself.

TALK BY ABDUL BAHA.
Haifa, Palestine, November, 1919

... .. M... ..

For the black and white in America to associate together in a social way is good. The Government has objections on political grounds for granting equality to the blacks, but you can promote friendly intercourse with-out interfering with politics. Doves or sheep of different color associate with-out conflict. Why should man, who is higher than animal, observe distinctions based on color? It is not proper for man to do such a thing. Difference in color is in it self a beauty. It is so in the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms. If flowers in a garden were white, it would not have perfect beauty. Variety is needed. In the human world too, the white, yellow, red, brown and black, when they associate together they contribute to beauty.

The whites in America fought four years to liberate the slaves. This effect has stirred the people in Europe and the East to do the same thing. Even ~~XXXXX~~ in Africa the blacks have been partly emancipated. The blacks should be grateful for these efforts of the whites. I spoke to the ... of... in this way. They invited me to their church. There were white and colored people there and I spoke in this way. A Jew from Washington heard this. He prepared a special meeting with white and colored all mixed together.

There is no distinction in the sight of GOD between black and white. It is the pure heart that counts, not whether the skin be yellow, white red brown or black. You ought to spread these views in America. The world of the Kingdom is a unicolor pavilion. Don't try to force these opinions upon the people if they are obstinate in their prejudice. The Kingdom is one of good pleasure, not of force. We must follow the policy of GOD and accept all who are pure.

(Copied from Dr. Esselment's Notes)

ABDUL BAHA.

In interview with Mr. W.H. Randall, November 18, 1919.

W.R. Randall:--The colored question in Washington and the south has become quite acute, but not so in Boston. I believe it is largely due to politics of one kind or another. Will the Master suggest any plan to solve it?

ABDUL BAHA:-- "This question will only be solved thru' the Teachings of Baha'o'llah".

W.H. Randall:-- In some of the recent race riots some white men colored themselves black to instigate trouble.

ABDU BAHA:--"I knew it. These difficulties are solved by Baha'o'llah, and the Teachings of Baha'o'llah, like what I said in America in Washington. Have you read my address in Washington on the subject?".

W.H. Randall:--Yes.

ABDUL BAHA:--"The solution is in that way".

W.H. Randall:-- We have many beautiful colored friends in America and in Boston

ABDUL BAHA:--"From the association of the white friends with the colored friends the others, people outside the Cause will learn the Meaning".

(Taken in Persian by Lotfullah Hakim. Interpreted by Shoghi Rabbani).

*Ed (LOVE)
abdul (Baha)*

WORDS UTTERED BY ABDUL BAHA DURING THE FEAST.

Anointing with rose water:

"Now have we, the beloved of God, gathered together to partake of material and spiritual food." "As this perfume is to the nostrils, so may spiritual fragrance refresh the soul!"

"You are in prison here - My partners in imprisonment - prisoners of love: God be praised!"

Serving the Food:

"This is a blessed Supper of the Lord, for we have gathered under the Shadow of the Blessed Perfection."

"Christ said, 'I am the Living Bread which came down from Heaven. If any man eat of this Bread he shall live forever!'"

"This meeting is through the Love of the Blessed Perfection. In the sensibility of the heart is the true realization. God is Love."

"We are the lambs of the Blessed Perfection. Jesus said, 'Lovest thou Me, Peter? Feed My lambs.'"

"It is prophesied in the Heavenly Books that so they shall sit down at the Lord's Table. From the east and from the west they shall come to sit down in His Kingdom."

"In the last day all the sheep shall be gathered together."

"In this manner ye shall gather together in America. Then shall the Bounties of the Blessed Perfection descend upon you. Divine assistance will be given to you, and from your meeting, the Love of God will be spread to all men."

"Strive, strive always that ye may be united. If one single sheep strays away from the fold, do all in your power to bring it back. Kindness and Love must be your means of gathering all together!"

"God has favored us. We have gathered once more at His Table. May His Abundance and Mercy make night as day and day everlasting! For day and night are according to the conditions of this world. In relation to the sun they do not exist. To the sun, day is everlasting. If we ascend to the heavens there will be no night, no horizon. The earthly things have existence: all must die. The wise man sees them as perished, sees them as non-existent, realizes their nothingness and insufficiency. But that which belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven is from everlasting to everlasting. The spiritually-open eyes of the servants of God, those who are active, alert and mindful of the Eternal Destiny, will turn to the Kingdom of Heaven because It is everlasting and is the only Reality. Consider, O beloved of God, that the outward is but the sign of the inward. How many people since the time of Christ have come and gone! How many kings, princes and celebrated men have lived their span of years, yet now no sign of them remains; no result - therefore non-existence. But those who were partakers of the Divine Cup which Christ brought - although they were looked upon as having no knowledge, and though outwardly simple and unimportant - they appeared from the Eternal Horizon and forever live in the Light of the Day of God. For that which belongs to the Kingdom - that which is alive in the Divine Spirit - is everlasting, while all that belongs to earth and its existence will fade away and perish."

"There are two kinds of Love: one Universal and one Individual. You must love humanity in order to uplift and beautify humanity. Even if they kill you, you must love them. Individual love cannot be forced and you are not called to love everybody

personally, but if they are in your lives, see to it that they are means of your development and that you are means of their development, through your universal love for them. We are creatures of the same God. We must love all therefore as children of God even though they are doing us harm. Christ loved His persecutors. It is possible for us to attain to that love. God manifested His Love by creating man in His own Image. Man must manifest His Love by developing himself and others in the Image of God. The true fruit of man is therefore Love. The purpose of a tree is to produce fruit. Man is like a tree. His fruit should be Love."

"You will send My Greetings and Love to each and all the believers in America from here. I have not much opportunity to write to them; My work is so heavy. I must look and turn to the whole world. My work is the whole world - and if I do not answer their letters - it is not that My Love does not go out to them - it is simply that opportunity does not permit the accomplishment of My desire. To each one, and to all the believers in America, say: be a cause of happiness, be a cause of enkindlement in the Kingdom of God."

"I long to be with you day and night, but unfortunately other duties claim My time. Although I do not see you, I think of you always, continually. In My heart you are ever living. I have been with the Governor this afternoon, yet My heart has been with you. The important thing is the heart and My heart is yours. That hearts should be united with hearts, spirit with spirit: this is the real existence; all else is but vanity and nothingness. God be praised that it is so. As I cannot be with you continually, the regret is deep. From God I bear witness that I wish always to be

at your side - that nothing may ever come between us - that we may continue together in the same place. So shall our spirits continue inseparable, although the bodies are widely separated by distance. To-night some of our spiritual brothers will come to the table with us and you will be with them. This is the cause of My great happiness - seeing America and the East joined together in love and spiritual unity. May all the beloved in the world be so joined, until all mankind shall come under one rule; all nations be as one family. And this will surely come to pass. It is the Will of God that we may all be perfected in the Wisdom and Spirit of the Blessed Perfection."

"You are in prison here - My partners in imprisonment - prisoners of Love - God be praised! In these times, one hour in Akka means much. There is a vast significance in these precious hours."

"The beloved in New York must be as one soul, one will, in different bodies. They must help one another as much as possible. This is the most acceptable action in the Kingdom of God. It is especially a blessed privilege to invite the beloved to share your hospitality. If possible have a general meeting every nineteen days even though it be to partake only of water and bread. In all your meetings, speak not of political questions. Concentrate your words upon the Cause of God. Do not talk about other things. Speak as you hear Me speak, saying very little about outside matters. I pray that the blessings of the Blessed Perfection may strengthen and assist you in the Cause of God. The more you are assisted in the Cause of God, the happier I will be and the more I will rejoice."

File (Faint)
W. W. W. W.

"There is something especially I wish to make you sure of. It is this: Never let your hearts be troubled or distressed by anything that may happen here. Never let My difficulties or hardships distress or affect you. If you should receive news in America that I have been thrown into the sea, or carried away by armed men to an unknown place; if you should receive word that I have been tortured, dismembered and killed, change not, grieve not; nay, rather, be more firm, be more steadfast, whether I am in this world or not; for wherever I may be, here or in the world to come, I will always be with you, and always ask assistance for you."

(The early part of 1905)

Man → CONCERNING BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT

A talk by ABDUL BANA in Paris, #4, Avenue de Caméens, Nov. 17, 1911.

THERE are in the world of humanity three degrees; those of the body, the soul, and spirit.

The body is the physical or animal degree of Man. From the bodily point of view Man is a sharer of the Animal Kingdom. The bodies alike of men and animals are composed of elements held together by the law of attraction.

Like the animal, man possesses the faculties of the senses, is subject to heat, cold, hunger, thirst, etc.; unlike the animal, man has a rational soul, the human intelligence.

The intelligence of man is the intermediary between his body and his spirit.

When man allows the spirit, through his soul, to enlighten his understanding, then does he contain all Creation; because Man, being the culmination of all that went before and thus superior to all previous evolutions, contains all the lower world within himself. Illumined by the spirit through the instrumentality of the soul, Man's radiant intelligence makes him the crowning point of Creation.

But on the other hand, when man does not open his mind and heart to the Blessing of the Spirit, but turns his soul towards the Material side, towards the bodily part of his nature, then is he fallen from his high place and he becomes inferior to the inhabitants of the lower animal kingdom. In this case the man is in a sorry plight! For if the spiritual qualities of the soul, open to the Breath of the Divine Spirit, are never used, they become atrophied, enfeebled, and at last incapable; whilst the Soul's material qualities alone being exercised, they become terribly powerful—and the unhappy, misguided man, becomes more savage, more unjust, more vile, more cruel, more malevolent than the lower animals themselves. All his aspirations and desires being strengthened by the lower side of the soul's nature, he becomes more and more brutal, until his whole being is in no way superior to that of the beasts that perish. Men such as this, plan to work evil, to hurt and to destroy; they are entirely without the Spirit of Divine Compassion, for the celestial quality of the soul has been dominated by that of the Material. If, on the contrary, the Spiritual nature of the soul has been so strengthened that it holds the Material side in subjection, then does the man approach the Divine; his humanity

#2. CONCERNING BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT

becomes so glorified that the virtues of the Celestial Assembly are manifested in him; he radiates the Mercy of God, he stimulates the Spiritual progress of Mankind, for he becomes a lamp to show light on their path.

You perceive how the soul is the intermediary between the body and the Spirit. In like manner is this tree (A small Orange-tree on the table near by.) the intermediary between the seed and the fruit. When the fruit of the tree appears and becomes ripe, then we know that the tree is perfect; if the tree bore no fruit it would be merely a useless growth, serving no purpose!

When a soul has in it the Life of the Spirit, then does it bring forth good fruit and become a Divine tree. I wish you to try to understand this example. I hope that the unspeakable goodness of God will so strengthen you that the celestial quality of your soul, which relates it to the Spirit, will for ever dominate the material side, so entirely ruling the senses that your soul will approach the perfections of the Heavenly Kingdom. May your faces, being steadfastly set towards the Divine Light, become so luminous that all your thoughts, words and actions will shine with the Spiritual Radiance dominating your souls, so that in the gatherings of the world you will show perfection in your life.

Some men's lives are solely occupied with the things of this world; their minds are so circumscribed by exterior manners and traditional interests that they are blind to any other realm of existence, to the spiritual significance of all things! They think and dream of earthly fame, of material progress. Sensuous delights and comfortable surroundings bound their horizon, their highest ambitions centre in successes of worldly conditions and circumstances! They curb not their lower propensities; they eat, drink, and sleep! Like the animal, they have no thought beyond their own physical well-being. It is true that these necessities must be despatched. Life is a load which must be carried on while we are on earth, but the cares of the lower things of life should not be allowed to monopolize all the thoughts and aspirations of a human being. The heart's ambitions should ascend to a more glorious goal, mental activity should rise to higher levels! Men should hold in their souls the vision of celestial perfection, and there prepare a dwelling-place for the Inexhaustible Bounty of the Divine Spirit.

#3. CONCERNING BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.

Let your ambition be the achievement on earth of a Heavenly Civilization!
I ask for you the Supreme Blessing, that you may be so filled with the vitality of
the Heavenly Spirit that you may be the cause of life to the world.

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Manifestations

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE MANIFESTATIONS

!!! !!! !!! !!!

From Talks by ABDUL BARA.

The Manifestation of the Essence of GOD is like ~~the~~ unto the sun, which has different risings. The dawning-places are different, but the sun is always the same. The lamps are different, but the light is one.

Consider with the eye of reality. The aim of life is reality, and reality is one. Reality does not accept multiplicity. This is the essence of the teachings, and an established, self-evident fact. The light is the light, no matter from what lamp it shines. The rose is the rose, no matter from which rose-garden it comes. The fruit is the fruit, no matter upon which tree it is produced. The breeze possesses life, no matter from which direction it is wafted.

Always think of the breeze and not of the direction: Look upon the flower and not upon the earth which has produced it:
Look upon the light and not upon the lamp:

Look upon the jewels and pearls, and not upon the depths of the sea: Search and find the pearls from whatever sea they may come, whether eastern sea or western sea:

Find the pearls - find the jewels from whichever mine they may be, whether it be the mine of the north or mine of the south.

Consider the teachings. If they are truth, hold fast to them: But if they are untruth, throw them away.

We cannot say that the Manifestations are either greater or lesser. In order to make this distinction, we must be greater than they. The only thing we know is this - THEY ARE LIFE!

But to say that one is greater and the other lesser, - this is beyond the comprehension of our intellects. In order to know that they are greater or lesser, we must surround them. But we are the surrounded, not the surrounding.

We see that they bestow light, -- that the rest of the world is illumined by them, - that is all.

!!! !!! !!! !!!

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE
OF THE MANIFESTATIONS

From Talks by Abdul Baha.

The Manifestation of the Essence of GOD is like unto the sun, which has different risings. The dawning-places are different, but the sun is always the same. The lamps are different, but the light is one.

Consider with the eye of reality. The aim of life is reality, and reality is one. Reality does not accept multiplicity.

This is the essence of the teachings, and an established, self-evident fact. The light is the light, no matter from what lamp it shines. The rose is the rose, no matter from which rose-garden it comes. The fruit is the fruit, no matter upon which tree it is produced. The breeze possesses life, no matter from which direction it is wafted.

Always think of the breeze and not of the direction:

Look upon the flower and not upon the earth which has produced it:

Look upon the light and not upon the lamp:

Look upon the jewels and pearls, not upon the depths of the sea:

Search and find the pearls from whatever sea they may come, whether eastern sea or western sea:

Find the pearls - find the jewels from whichever mine they may be, whether it be the mine of the north or mine of the south.

Consider the teachings. If they are truth, hold fast to them: -But if they are untruth, throw them away.

We cannot say that the Manifestations are either greater or lesser. In order to make this distinction, we must be greater than they. The only thing we know is this-THEY ARE LIFE!

But to say that one is greater and the other lesser, - this is beyond the comprehension of our intellects. In order to know that they are greater or lesser, we must surround them. But we are the surrounded, not the surrounding.

We see that they bestow light, -that the rest of the world is illumined by them - that is all.

BC# 323

New Race

Abdul Baha in the "Asiatic Quarterly Review", 1913.

"In this Age, His Holiness Baha'o'llah has breathed the Holy Spirit into the dead body of the world, consequently, every weak soul is strengthened by these fresh, divine out-breathings, - every poor man will become rich, every darkened soul will become illumined, every ignorant one will become wise, because the confirmations of the Holy Spirit are descending like unto torrents. A new era of divine consciousness is upon us. The world of humanity is going through a process of transformation. A new race is being developed. New ideals are stirring the depths of hearts and a new spirit of universal consciousness is being profoundly felt by all men."

... ..

Last words of Abdul Baha to a little group of Americans. -
Paris, 1913.

"I have planted the seeds in America. You must nurture them and care for them. If you do this so that they will yield an abundant harvest, then I will return to America. But you must arise with superhuman strength to spread the teachings, for the Cause is great; and whosoever shall arise in this day to teach, know that he will be assisted by the divine concourse. This is not the day of silence. It is the day of the proclamation of the Kingdom. It is not the day of rest. We must ACT, ACT, ACT."

... ..

...

Prayer
WORDS OF ARDUL BAHWA.

After a visit to the Holy Tomb of the Bab, this afternoon,
ARDUL BAHWA said:

"In reality, the air of Mount Carmel is most energizing. I have breathed in the air of many country places and have viewed many natural scenes, but the air of this mountain is most vitalizing and its scenery very entrancing.

The purity of the air, the sublimity and beauty of the panoramas are united on Mt. Carmel, presenting to the eye a noble and inspiring spectacle of nature; especially now that this fine structure is built upon its slope, containing the Holy remains of the Bab.

Many Israelitish prophets either lived or passed a portion of their lives here, or sojourned on the mountain for awhile, or spent the last days of existence here.

His Holiness Christ came to this Holy Mountain many times.
Its atmosphere is impregnated with a wonderful spirituality.

Man is eternally in a state of communion and prayer with the source of all good. The highest and most elevating state is the state of prayer. Prayer is communion with GOD. Its efficacy is conditional upon the freedom of the heart from extraneous suggestions and mundane thoughts.

The worshipper must pray with a detached spirit, unconditional surrender of the will, concentrated attention and a magnetic, spiritual passion. His innermost being must be stirred with the ethereal breeze of sanctification. If the mirror of his life is polished from the dross of all desires, the heavenly pictures and star-like images of the Kingdom of GOD will become reflected therein.

Then he will be given power to translate these celestial forms into his own daily life and the lives of many thousands.

Automatic, formulated prayers that do not touch the core of the heart are of no avail. How sweet, how delicious, how satisfying, how spiritual is prayer in the middle of the night!

While all the eyes are closed, the eyes of the worshipper are wide open: While all the ears are stopped, the ears of the devotee are attuned to the subtle music of GOD! While the majority of the people are fast asleep, the adoror of the Ideal Beloved is wakeful.

All around him there is a rare and delicate silence,- deep, airy, ethereal silence, calm, magical and subtle,-and there is the devotee, communing with nature and the Author of nature!

.....

WORDS OF ABDUL BAHÁ CONCERNING PRAYER.

5-

*See
Prayer
of
Ascendance*

The heart of man is like a mirror upon which dust ever accumulates. To cleanse it he must constantly supplicate God that it may be purified. The act of supplication removes earthly desires from the heart, as polishing removes dust from the mirror. Without prayer the heart ceases to be a mirror of the Divine perfections, it becomes as a rough and unpolished stone.

The delight in prayer severs the heart from the world. Prayer is the key by which the doors of the Kingdom are opened. There are many questions which it is difficult for man to solve, but by prayer these are unveiled. There is nothing which man cannot learn through prayer.

"Prayer is a ladder by which man can ascend to heaven." If one's heart is free from attachment to the world, praying is the act of ascension to God.

But we must pray only because we love God, not because we fear Him, or fear hell, or hope for Divine bounty or for heaven.

Prayer for Friday Morning.

"The brightness on this aspect is only from God! O Rising Sun! And bears witness unto that which God hath witnessed concerning Himself, that there is no God but He, the Precious! The Beloved!"

Today directing mankind in the right path is the magnet which will attract to us the help of God. All those who consecrate themselves to this work are accompanied by the Divine Protector.

BC# 326

Proof

WORDS OF ABDUL BAHÁ

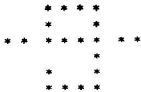
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"Now as to the coming of the Great Master: His appearance is dependent upon the realization of certain conditions. Investigate the Reality, and in whomsoever these conditions are fulfilled, know ye of a certainty that He is the Great Master.

- Firstly: That Great Master will be the Educator of the world of humanity.
- Secondly: His teachings must be universal and confer illumination upon mankind.
- Thirdly: His knowledge must be innate and spontaneous, and not acquired.
- Fourthly: He must answer the questions of all the sages, solve all the difficult problems of humanity and be able to withstand all the persecutions and sufferings heaped upon Him.
- Fifthly: He must be a joy-bringer, and the Herald of the Kingdom of Happiness.
- Sixthly: His knowledge must be infinite and His wisdom all-comprehensive.
- Seventhly: The penetration of His Word and the potency of His influence must be so great as to humble even His worst enemies.
- Eighthly: Sorrows and tribulations must not vex Him; His courage and conviction must be Godlike. Day by day He must become firmer and more zealous.
- Ninthly: He must be the Establisher of Universal Civilization, the Unifier of religions, the Standard-bearer of Universal Peace, and the Embodiment of all the highest and noblest virtues of the world of humanity.

"Wherever you find these conditions realized in a human temple, turn to Him for guidance and illumination."

... ..



A BRIEF ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON THE FULFILLMENT
OF SOME BIBLE PROPHECIES CONCERNING THIS DAY.

(By Louis G. Gregory)

Nineteen Hundred years ago, Jesus Christ walked the earth, but was despised, rejected and unknown to many of the religious doctors, although He was a perfect man and the One whom they expected, and for whose coming they continually prayed. On one occasion He said to the Scribes and Pharisees, the advice of the age, "Ye search the Scriptures for out of them ye think ye have Eternal Life. These also testify of me."

The reason why Jesus Christ was known to the humble layman and the very lowly people, but rejected by many of the wise and learned, was on account of the pride and arrogance of the latter, by preferring their own human thoughts and limited interpretations, to Divine conception and insight.

The Messengers of God, BAHÁ'Ó'LLAH, His Greatest Manifestation, and ABDUL BAHÁ, the Servant of God and the Center of His Covenant have appeared, and the Divine Light in this "Day of God," shines with the brilliancy of the sun. The principles which they proclaim are universal and are the "healing of the nations" and "the pacification of the world." If man will accept it, these twelve great principles are symbolized by the Tree, in the Book of Revelation, bearing twelve manner of fruits, and the leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations. These Universal principles, briefly stated, are as follows:

The Search for Truth,
The Oneness of Humanity,
The Unity of Religions,
Religion and Science Agree,
Equality of Men and Women,
Abandonment of Prejudices,

A Universal Language,
Universal Education,
Universal Peace,
An International Tribunal,
Solution of the Economic Problem,
The Power of the Holy Spirit.

These principles applied to the sick body of the world will be a healing antidote for every disease.

Christ warned us against the false; as the false prophets in every cycle, were ever a veil for the True One. The false prophets against whom we were warned by Christ, were to appear in His name, and show great signs of wonders, but the True One was to come in a new name and the children of light, in these latter days, were to appear with a new name upon their foreheads. "He that is faithful and true, I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and I will write upon him, MY NEW NAME." But the new name in meaning, fulfills prophecies.

Many of the prophecies of the Old Testament, which have been thought by the divines, to apply to Jesus Christ, did not in reality apply to Him; but those prophecies are, in this day, fulfilled in the appearance of Baha'ó'llah (the Glory of God) and in the coming of the Servant of God, Abdul Baha.

Isaiah - 9:6: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

It is very significant that Jesus Christ never claimed any of the above titles. The titles by which He preferred to be known were: "The Son of God" and "The Son of Man." His human name was Jesus. His title, "The Christ", means the anointed. He did not claim to be the Father, but He said, "the Father is in Me," meaning the Holy Spirit. He said, "I go to the Father, and the Father is greater than I." He promised that the Father would come, and bade His disciples, in the Lord's Prayer, pray for the coming of the Father. He also promises it in the parable of the vineyard, namely, that the Lord of the Vineyard would come!

Today, Baha'o'llah, in a marvelous way, fulfills all these prophecies and many others, made not only by Jesus Christ, but by all the prophets of previous cycles.

"Arise, shine, for thy Baha, (Light) hath come, and Baha'o'llah (The Glory of God) hath risen upon thee. The Baha of Glory, of Abha, (God) shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep. "Carmel and Sharon" shall see Baha'o'llah (The Glory of God.)" All flesh shall see Baha'o'llah (The Glory of God.)"

In the same way, Abdul Baha is the "Branch of the Lord" and "My Servant, the Branch," appears in many prophecies. One of them reads: "In that day shall the Branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruits of the earth shall be comely because of Him. Another reads; "Behold my Servant, the Branch, He shall build the temple of the Lord." It is particularly significant that Abdul Baha directed and completed, in the Orient, the building of the Mashrak-ul-Askar, or Universal house of worship, in which all nations, races, classes, colors and religions are welcome. By His instructions, another such great temple is being erected in Chicago. The reason why people, in the various cycles have rejected the Divine Messengers when sent to them, is because they have misunderstood the symbols and prophecies of their own Holy Books. Whoever rejects Baha'o'llah, the Manifestation of God, and Abdul Baha, the Center of His Covenant, in this great day, is unwittingly condemned by the prophecies and Creative Words of the very book for which he professes faith. Bible prophecies point overwhelmingly to the Mystery of the Return and Wonders of this new dispensation. Those who profess belief in Christ, being sincere, should take all His words and promises and not reject Him in particular, for thus they deny themselves the Divine Bounty and Mercy in this day of His second appearance.

He said He would come "as a thief in the night." How would His coming be more likely to be unnoticed by people than if He came as He came before, in the temple of man, the perfect man of this cycle? Would not such an appearance be "a snare to everyone on the face of the earth?" These are only a few of the prophecies that prove the validity of the Bahai Revelation and its three Holy Messengers who have successively appeared in this day, and by whose appearance, the whole earth is filled with light.

God grant that all mankind may awaken out of their deep slumber and have "seeing eyes and hearing ears," that they may understand and find healing of their spiritual and material diseases.

If even the little that is stated in this brief letter, fall into a pure heart, it will move the reader to investigate the prophecies of the Bible, in the light of the Bahai Revelation and he will find that the whole Bible was written

for this great day of God, in which we are now living, and that all these prophecies, as well as the prophecies of all the Holy Books, are now fulfilled. Consider the words of Christ, wherein He told us how to judge between the true and the false; "By their fruits ye shall know them! Men do not gather grapes of thornes, nor figs of thistles." We are also told that the fruits are Love, Joy, Peace, etc.

The Bahai Revelation is the divine way of applying the creed of God, which is Love and Union, to all the denisons of the earth.

Blessed are they who see!

Blessed are they who hear!

Blessed are they who know the mysteries of God in this, the day of His Appearance, when His spirit is being outpoured upon all flesh.

The Ideal Comforter, the Spirit of Truth has come to guide humanity into all Truth. The heat and light of the Sun of Truth, which are the Bounty of the Holy Spirit, appear with great power and splendor from the Divine Messenger or Perfect Man. "If thou art able, take a portion thereof." His Words, which are life and spirit, are creative and bring into being the new civilization wherein peace and righteousness dwell.

Seattle, Wash.

January-1922.

March 1st. 1934

BAHA'I HISTORY

By Mrs. Rosella Dennis.

In the early part of the spring of 1903, when the orange trees were all in bloom, Mrs. Emily Goodwin and myself were riding through the orange groves of Hollywood at Sunset. I happened to make the statement that the fragrance of the orange blossoms always made me think of the Christ, as I had always thought of Him walking among the orange trees in Palestine. My friend looked at me quite hard for a few seconds, then said, "My dear, do you know that it is said that He has come again and is living in Acca, Palestine at present?" For a second I was so surprised that I could not speak, then I asked how she knew this. She told me that her friend of many years, Mrs. Helen Goodall of San Francisco, had told her about four years before that, but she, Mrs. Goodwin, had not known how much truth there was in the report. I wrote Mrs. Goodall for particulars and through Mrs. Goodall was confirmed in the truth. Mrs. Goodall was my teacher; sent my letter to 'Abdu'l-Baha; gave me my first ring; and received my first Tablet from 'Abdu'l-Baha, July 14, 1903. Mrs. Goodall wrote me in a few weeks that Mr. and Mrs. Winterburn would be here in Los Angeles to live, then there would be some one to teach me. In the meantime, one day Mrs. Goodwin and myself were shopping in Los Angeles and the young lady who waited on me had to go and hunt the articles that I wanted. As she left us, Mrs. Goodwin said, "Did you notice the ring she had on her little finger?" I said, "No", but when she returned I asked her if I might see her ring. She held out her hand, and as it was just like mine that Mrs. Goodall sent me, I looked

BC# 329A

and said, "Allah'u'abha". The young lady almost jumped over the counter to take me in her arms, as she was so happy to find some one who knew the Message, as she had just come to Los Angeles from Chicago, and was very lonesome. That young lady was Grace Rutherford, who later became Mrs. Roscoe Lamb.

In about two weeks time Mr. Chase came to Los Angeles and Mrs. Goodwin had Grace, Mrs. Chase and myself at her home in Hollywood the Sunday afternoon that Mr. Chase was here: so that was really the very first Baha'i meeting in this part of Southern California. Later, when the Winterburns came, they held the meetings at their home for several years, and through their teaching all the earlier believers came into the Cause. Mrs. Brittingham spread the first Feast in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Winterburn.

Allāh'u'Abhā!

Willard P. Hatch,
3440 Wilshire B'l'v'd.,
Los Angeles,
California.

About 1400 words.

X

VALUES ARE RELATIVE

BY

WILLARD P. HATCH.

"....for the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

-1 Samuel. 16-7.

It has been said that when a person dies the people of the earth enquire as to what material possessions have been left behind; while the angels ask as to what good deeds have been sent before.

True it is that material possessions, even the very body of a human being, cannot accompany the soul into the next world.

"But to be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift....
God is the all-possessing...."

-Hidden Words.

All of which is illustrated in the following true story -

3. Values Are Relative.

pounds, and was around five feet, nine inches, in height. He wore a very frayed, tall silk hat. His brownish suit had a morn-ing coat, long-tailed. He carried a heavy cane. He had read in the newspapers of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and had called to see Him. George Latimer was unhesitatingly conducting him up the stairs to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and with all cordiality, as if he had been none other than one of the many visitors, eminent in the city's eyes, who in their materially busy lives had still taken the time to pay respects to Him.

These upstairs at the time say that, as His door was opened and the visitor was ushered in, 'Abdu'l-Bahá arose with a ^{warm and} welcoming smile and exclaimed: "I was waiting for you!"

After that loving welcome, it was not long before the new arrival was seen coming down the stairs, radiant, a large bag of candy which 'Abdu'l-Bahá had given him, clasped tightly in his hand. Thereupon it became the privilege of this writer to greet him; to lead him to a chair in the corner; and to tell him something of the remarkable story of the life of the One he had called to see - that he might know something of the true greatness of the man, who had treated him as if He had always known him, and with such love and courtesy.

In the meanwhile, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was departing on time, on His way to the return call which He paid to Mrs. Phoebe Hearst; for she had travelled, formerly, to Palestine, to visit Him.

When our San Franciscan had learned, ~~what day~~, to whom he had paid his visit, his happiness reached the superlative degree, and in its reflection he seemed to exist until he passed away.

The last few years of his life, our friend had been forced to live in a little, green, refuge shack, one of the emergency dwell-

4. Values Are Relative.

lings dotting the burnt-out places in the business district of San Francisco, after the great catastrophe of 1906. A calamity, the writer heard 'Abdu'l-Bahá tell the then governor of the United States sub-treasury at San Francisco, a repetition of which could be avoided for the future, if San Francisco would dig ~~some~~ many deep artesian wells, and emphasized the fact that they must be very deep.

That there is a supply of artesian water under San Francisco, the writer knows, for at the time of the earthquake in 1906, he was living at the Palace Hotel, in that city; and has seen, in a corner in a blind alley that ran at right angles to Market Street, towards the front of the hotel, the hotel water supply, an artesian well, ^{This well} ~~which~~ was used for all hotel purposes, and with water from ^{it} ~~which~~ ^{hotel} the employees endeavoured to beat back the fire that followed the earthquake. ^{of 'Abdu'l-Bahá} This ^{was} ~~advice~~ has been ignored.

How true had been our San Franciscan's living of the Biblical statement regarding the earthquake and fire - for it was after that city's disaster that the still, small voice of the Spirit had led him to the culminating, spiritual episode of his life, his contact with 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Our friend was a lawyer with the right of practice in California. Business had drifted from him until he, himself, was his only client; ⁺ for his client he is reported to have successfully prosecuted a case through the supreme court of the state, just before he died.

The green shank was packed to within a few feet of the roof with newspapers, to keep the dampness of the ground from affecting him. This condition would not permit his having his typewriter

In an informal address heard by a roomful of people
BC# 331c

5. Values Are Relative.

inside of his house, so he had it on a cracker-box just outside his door.

Like Elijah, our friend was fed by the ravens. He did not beg. Kind souls would drop by and leave food for him, and every once in a while he was invited somewhere to dinner, but he never knew where his next meal would owe its origin.

If it chanced that, after meeting Him, our ~~friend~~ San Franciscan had read the following writing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, his soul would have been comforted:

"The greatest attainment in the world of humanity is nearness to God. Every lasting glory, honour, grace and beauty which comes to man comes through nearness to God....But nearness to God is not an easy accomplishment. During the time His Holiness Jesus Christ was upon the earth mankind sought nearness to God, but in that day no one attained save a very few, His disciples. These blessed souls were confirmed with divine nearness through the love of God. Divine nearness is dependent upon attainment to the knowledge of God, upon severance from all else save God. It is contingent upon self-sacrifice, and to be found only through forfeiting wealth and worldly possessions. It is made possible through the baptism of water and fire revealed in the gospels. Water symbolises the water of life which is Knowledge; and fire is the fire of the Love of God; therefore man must be baptized with the water of life, the Holy Spirit and the fire of the love of the Kingdom. Until he attains these three degrees nearness to God is not possible."

In similar vein, reads the Qur'án, in chapter 43:

"If it were not that mankind would have become one sect of infidels verily We had given unto those who believe not in the Merciful, roofs of silver to their houses, and stairs of silver by

THE PASSING

ABDU'L-BAHÁ

His Successors
Are

↓
Shoghi Effendi
The Guardian of the Faith
of the Word
The Universal Home
of Justice
Determining things not in
the Word

↓
In the
International Assembly
of the Faithful
Local Spiritual Assemblies
make applications of
the Word

10 November
9th 1954

Willard P. Hatch

WILLARD P. HATCH
609 SOUTH MANSFIELD AVE.
LOS ANGELES 36, CALIFORNIA

copy of original
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EXTRACT FROM A LETTER TELLING OF A DRIVE WITH ABDUL BAHÁ; IN ENGLAND.

.....

"While driving one afternoon, Abdul Bahá expressed much interest in rural England, marvelling at the century old trees, and the vivid green of the woods and downs so unlike the arid East, "though it is autumn it seems like spring," He said. The houses with their little plots of ground, suggested a quotation which Abdul Bahá gave from Bahá'o'llah's writings, in which He speaks of each family having a house with a piece of land. Abdul Bahá likened the country to a soul and the city to the body of man. The body without the soul can not live. "It is good to live under the sky, in the sunshine and fresh air," He said. Appropos to a young woman who rode by on horseback with her hair flying free and several who wheeled past, unattended, He said; - This is the age of woman. She should receive the same education as her brother and enjoy the same privileges; for all souls are equal before God, Sex, which relates to the exigencies of the physical world, has no connection with the Spirit. In this period of attraction, the world has entered upon the ladder of progress leading to the arena of advancement where the power of the Spirit surpasses that of the bodies. Soon the Spirit will have dominion in the world of humanity."

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BC# 333

(Copy of letter to Shoghi Effendi-from Sephronia Aeki)

Geyserville Calif.
Aug. 14th.1927

Dear Shoghi Effendi;-

This letter was suggested by Leroy Leas, and although I am anxious to write, I am a little nervous about it.

I might tell you about the Summer-School, for you are interested in it and my family has attended every meeting so far.

The sessions were all beautiful and what is more important convincing, so now seven of our family are confirmed believers. I want say we have become Baha'is, for we were born that, having a Japanese father and American mother.

We have never experienced such happy days as these and I shall be sorry when they are ended, for we have never met so many lovely people at one time before. Since we have few friends in Geyserville, we are ##### the more affected by our Baha'i friends who have come here from all up and down the coast.

As we had received insufficient instruction in the Principles, before the school started, we were not seriously interested. During one of these mornings dear Mrs Waite had charge we had a wonderful never-to-be-forgotten experience. The whole room seemed permeated with a deep spiritual feeling, and as Mrs. Waite went on speaking, I experienced a true Faith, for the first time I believed with all my heart and soul, we all did, and no one had to be assured of our conviction, for Mrs. Besch exclaimed- "Oh! you believe! I can see it." This was after Mrs. Waite's talk on the 4 Station of the Manifestation," and then Mrs. Waite said that she felt "as though Abdu'l Baha had had charge all the time." There are eight of us, and now we are practically a whole Baha'i family, for although my father does not admit it, he is one at heart.

This letter is longer than I intended so shall close immediately, with love from us all,

Your sincere friend,

(Signed) Sephronia Aeki.

Sephronia was just 17 years old then. I called her my "Lotus-Blessed", because of her exquisite nature, and deep spirituality and my joy is unbounded that it was my blessed privilege to bring this rare, and fragrant soul into the Kingdom, and all of the friends knew from her beautiful poems, a gift that came to her after becoming a believer; ~~how~~ how much she already means to the Cause, especially, of her Japanese-American parentage. All of the other members of the family are equally gifted and truly remarkable and will I am sure do great work for the Cause in many ways. GOD bless and bless them.

Shahnaz.

BC# 334

Return please!
J.H. Wheeler

10

THE TALK GIVEN BY 'ABDU'L* RAHA (GIVEN IN GREEN ADCA) AT HIS XX/XX FEAST
AT THE HOME OF Mrs FLYNN AUGUST 20th, 1912 at 2.30 p.m.

THE NINETEEN DAY FEAST.

In the world of humanity there are many strange and marvelous spectacles, many. Among them is this spectacle before us people from the East and from the West between them there is no outward relation & no relation because of nativity because of race or tongue in a word no evident relationship of love or fellowship yet (they) met together in the expression of love and fellowship. For example we are from the Orient and you are of the Occident. Not on account of language is there any relationship, nevertheless we are in a state of love, of utmost fellowship as if we were of the of the same family or as if we were united in every respect. How often two brothers of the same mother and father, of the same race and name the same language and mode of life have no trace of love between them.

But here we are from the Orient and you are from the Occident. We are without any external connection, yet we are in the utmost love and fellowship. What is the cause, now, altho these two brothers are of the same mother and father, that relationship is purely physical and not spiritual. Their spirits were not accordant, did not enjoy fellowship. Previous to their embodiment they had no association; they were antagonistic spirits, hence when they came into the world of embodiment there is no fellowship between them. Nay, rather their spirits are at variance. Altho their is a physical union no fellowship can obtain.

But these come from the East and from the West with no physical relation being neither brothers no of the same race, nor the same language, not of the same mode of life, yet have the utmost of love existing between them. The spirits of these are in harmony, this outward physical distinction has no effect in the world if spirit these two are united-- not in the world of bodies.

If in the world of spirit they are in harmony they are likewise in harmony in the world of physical being. As soon as they meet they seem to have had previous cognition of each other and to have known each other for years. In one moment they find the utmost of fellowship. Now, (as) your spirits were in the utmost of fellowship in the realm of spirit and they had fellowship with our spirits. -- Praise be to God our hearts are united and the infinite bounties of God are all-encircling. This Nineteen Day Feast is organized that the friends shall gather together and shall enjoy the Feast. Thus may they express the same spirit of fellowship in the world of spirit(s) as they do here today. Because our spirits are in harmony our hearts united in the body of spirit, we have gathered here so that our bodies may meet. I pray God that day by day increase this unity until all become as one sea the waves numerous- but one sea. Altho the rays of the sun are multitudinous yet they emanate from the same solar system center. Candles are outwardly numerous yet they are lighted by the same light.

Like-wise these trees -- altho numerous their continuous growth is due to the light of the same sun.

I ask God that unity, concord and fellowship may increase day by day. God willing you will be the cause of the unification of all humanity. Thru you the hearts of all the world shall find the spirit of Oneness, all become flowers so variegated- one in shape a triangle, another a square, one a hexagon; one red in color, one white, another black, another yellow but variegated but (all) belonging to the same garden-- one in kind. All receive animation from the same sun. All grow from the same stem externally variegated, different in hue-- this shall lend charm and harmony to the whole. Such a difference is agreement because it lends adornment. Should you enter a garden in which all the flowers are white, or yellow there you would find no adornment but should the garden be variegated the garden is charming and beautiful. We each possess and all people possess individuality. We hope that these differences in personality may be that sort of adornment that lends charm and beauty.

(copy from Alta Wheeler by JRB.)

Religions - Unity of

EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS. WASHINGTON' D.C. APRIL 22, 1912.

.....

"You are all welcome. I am very glad to see you all. I pray for you, asking God for His Infinite bountiess to descend on you all so that the veils may be rent asunder,- that you may attain to the utmost progress.

For six thousand years misunderstandings have kept humanity divided. All nations have been in a state of strife, of warfare and bloodshed. Misunderstandings have been among the people. People have bowed to imitations. Now, praise be, a century of light has appeared, and superstition shall pass away. All seek truth in the foundations of religion, and all foundations of divine religion are one. All must be united and agreed. Veils will be torn asunder and all nations shall be united.

I said the foundations of all religions are one. But religion consists of two divisions,- 1st, the spiritual and ethical, which is unchangeable; and, that which deals with material life; this is changeable and fluctuating with the need of men; this is subject to change in every age and cycle. The law of Moses permitted a plurality of wives. David had 99 wives, Solomon, a thousand,- Jacob had two, Jacob married two sisters. In the day of Christ this was all changed. Divorces was allowed in Moses' day. Christ abrogated it. The conditions of Moses' time were quite different from the time of Jesus.

A physician changes his prescription according to the condition of the patient. One day he gives one medicine, the next day, another. These changes are due to ~~the~~ changes in the condition of the patient. In Moses' time the body politic was subject to certain ills,- in Christ's time it had need for other prescriptions. These things are non-essentials. But the ethical foundation is unchangeable. This is the reality. Change is a property of the accidental. In the essential there can be no change.

Religions

2.

A bright century dawns, the ultimate result will be Unity. The Christian may inquire from the Jew as to the foundation of Judaism, - of the Zoroastrian concerning the moralization of man. This idealism and progress. The foundations of all are one. The veils of superstition and ignorance shall pass away. The Sun of Reality will shine and unite humanity. All nations must become united together in a spiritual bond, Follow this path. Serve this threshold. Supplicate the bounties of God for all. There is one flock, one divine Shepherd. Enough of division! When the sheep separate, they are exposed to many dangers, but the flock remaining together under one Shepherd is protected.

Praise be for this radiant century! this new springtime of divine bounties! The breath of the Holy Spirit is refreshing the world. And all may become one flock, with God, singly and alone, for our Shepherd.

EXTRACTS FROM TALK. WASHINGTON? D.C. APRIL 22. 1912.

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Ques.

Could not the Bahai Movement be furthered by use of socialist and labor union movements?

Ans.

"All nations must become socialistic in spirit. People must not be forced by circumstances to help the poor. They must give aid willingly. That which the socialists aim to accomplish in the economic world will in time be done by the people freely through faith and love and cooperation. For that which is established through loving fellowship is permanent."

BC# 336B

IMMORTALITY.

"In the world of existence there are three stages, the mineral, the vegetable, and the animal. In the animal kingdom the most distinguished product is man. These kingdoms form an endless chain of existence, and one is merged imperceptibly into the other. Yet neither is aware that the other exists. So, to say that this animal man, should pass a few days here in sorrow, pain and grief, and then end, is nonsense. That this tree should end in bitter fruit - could anything be more useless?"

So we must conclude that it must have a greater ending. The lesser can never comprehend the greater; nor the lower comprehend the higher. The mineral cannot comprehend the vegetable, nor the vegetable the animal, nor the animal comprehend the man. The animal has no idea of the spiritual life in man. These chains form an endless movement of life. Can man imagine that the endless chain is broken with him? Because he cannot conceive a higher, does it not exist? The purely material man cannot comprehend the spiritual idea of life. And so he thinks that his lack of knowledge is proof of non-existence. Matter cannot present various sides at the same time. Two geometric forms cannot be in the same object. A spherical object cannot be in a plane; a triangle cannot be a square."

.....

APRIL 26th.

In the world of existence the greatest bounties of God are His teachings. The other bounties of God are limited. Human existence is limited. Vision or sight is a limited blessing. Hearing is a divine bounty, - but limited as are all others, except divine teachings. This circle is boundless. There is no terminus. Ages and centuries pass away and the teachings last.

BCH 336C

Ques.

What difference is there between the animal and man?

Ans.

The difference between animal and man is this,- That the animal cannot comprehend the teachings of God. The animal does not progress. But these teachings are specialized for man. ... After ages, thick clouds envelope the sun, and these clouds are the imitations, not the fundamentals. Then again the power of the Sun of truth dispels the clouds and shines most gloriously. For a long time the Sun of Truth has been clouded. Bahm'o'llah scattered the clouds and revealed the foundations of the teachings of God again.

The teachings say first to investigate reality,- to forget hearsay. For he does not know who does not investigate he must examine truth and hold to the truth found. Outside of reality there is only superstition. The Jews anticipated the Messiah, praying and supplicating God for the Holy One. Who when He appeared they rejected, nor did they believe in Him; they persecuted and tormented Him,- they spat on Him, they crowned Him with thorns, and ultimately crucified Him. Why did they crucify Him? Because they did not investigate reality. Had they investigated, they would have believed; but they crucified the Saviour, and freed Barabbas, because they were holding to imitations.

.....

The human entity has two perceptions. One through instruments, the eye, the ear, the sense of touch, the sense of smell. There is another perception independent of these. When you reach an ultimate conclusion you do not arrive at it through senses. It is independent of senses. Columbus discovered America, and the idea that there was

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some country to find did not come by means of his senses. So man is possessed of certain perceptions that are independent of outward objects. But an animal is dependent on his senses. An animal could not have discovered electricity or any of the mysteries of nature. And so we know that the human spirit has its own independent being.

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I will pray for you, and especially for the great Democracy of which you are a part.

BC # 336 E-

ALL DARKNESS IS TO BE DISPELLED.

FROM TALKS BY ABDUL BAHÁ

9

In this cycle there shall be such progress along the lines of civilization as to be unparalleled in the history of the world. For the world of humanity has heretofore been in the state or stage of infancy. Now, it is beginning, or it is in the process of attaining, maturity.

Just as the human organism, attaining the period of maturity, attains a great development, the intellectual faculties ripen to the fullest extent (in one year of this period there is accomplished a tremendous, unprecedented development) likewise, the world of humanity having reached the period of maturity, will accomplish a tremendous upward progress, and that power, which is the Depository of GOD in the human realities - that Universal Power, like unto the intellectual faculties of man - will reveal tremendous development.

Therefore, thank ye GOD that ye have come into the plane of existence in this radiant century, wherein the bestowals of GOD are appearing from all directions, the doors of the Kingdom have been opened unto you, the summons of GOD are being raised, and the virtues of the human world are in the process of promulgation.

THE DAY has come when all darkness is to be dispelled, and the Sun of Truth is to shine forth radiantly.

This century may be likened unto the equinoctial in the annual cycle: For, verily, this is the Spring Season of GOD!

It is, therefore, that in the Holy Books a promise is given concerning a time when the Springtime of GOD shall make Itself manifest, and the Jerusalem - the HOLY CITY - shall descend from Heaven, and that Zion shall leap forth and dance, and that the Holy Land shall be submerged in the Sea of the Holy Lights.

Just as you observe a tremendous motion in the time of Spring in the material world - how the vegetable kingdom receives a new life, a new stimulus, - how the animal kingdom and the human kingdom are resuscitated and moved forward, - what a circulation takes place in the blood! How the gentle zephyrs are set in motion! How flowers are in bloom! What delightful and temperate air is enjoyed! How pleasant and delightful become the mountains, the fields and meadows!

Likewise, this Bounty of GOD will endow the world of humanity with a new motion, a new movement. All the virtues which have been deposited in the human verities and realities, like unto these flowers will be revealed from that Reality.

It is a Day of Joy. It is a time of Happiness. It is a Period of Spiritual Progress.

I beg of GOD that this Divine Spiritual Civilization may have a tremendous impression and effect on you. May it make you growing plants: May your trees bring forth leaves, variegated blossoms. May they bear the Ideal Fruits appearing therefrom, in order that the world of humanity - akin to the growth and development of material civilization - may develop spiritually along the lines of idealism.

Just as the intellects have revealed mysteries of matter and have brought forth from the invisible nature her mysteries, may the minds and spirits likewise come in touch with the Verities of GOD and the Realities of the Kingdom be made manifest.

Then the world will be the Paradise of ABHA, the Standard of the Most Great Peace will be upraised, and the Oneness of the world of humanity, in all its beauty, glory and usefulness, become apparent.

Bctt 337

FAULT-FINDING

With ABDUL BAHÁ in Paris, May 1913.

Excerpt from notes of a private interview:

Question: ----- "How shall I overcome seeing the faults of others- recognizing the wrong in others?"

Answer by ABDUL BAHÁ:- "I will tell you. Whenever you recognize the fault of another, think of yourself, - ask yourself: 'What are my imperfections?' - and try to remove (overcome) them. Do this whenever you are tried through the words or deeds of others; thus you will grow, become more perfect. You will overcome self. You will not even have time to think of the faults of others! Man is blind yet he sees far. (laughing) Man is blind yet he sees far! That is puzzling? We are in Paris, and we see the faults of the believers in America and Stuttgart, but we are so blind that we cannot see the nose on our face! While we are blind, we have a far-sighted vision to America, to Germany!

Abdul Baha
Wamp
Words of Abdul Baha: Two extracts from the notes of Mr. Mountfort Mills.

Notes of his visit to Abdul Baha in 1921.

"Jesus was a Manifestation of God. Everything of Him pertained to God. To know Him was to know God; To love Him was to love God; To obey Him was to obey God. He was the source of all Divine Qualities. In this Mirror the light of the Sun of Reality was reflected to the world. Through this Mirror the energy of God was transmitted to the world. The whole disk of the Sun of Reality was ~~not~~ reflected in Him."

"In one prayer I could have health the remainder of My life, but it is necessary for ~~me~~ Me to suffer to show to others that these things can be borne and overcome. I must first undergo all the hardships, then you will be able to. I must experience every difficulty that I may teach you to do likewise."

"A weak tree may stand if there are no winds to oppose it. But the strong tree that withstands every attack has developed its strength only through resisting wind and storm. A weak light will go out with the slightest breeze but a torch only grows the stronger as the storm attacks it."

"I must be an example that you may learn to do the same, resisting all difficulties that firmness and steadfastness may be shown. Strength will be given to sustain work for God if the purpose is to aid Him."

BC# 339

WORDS OF ABDUL RAHA.

(From the Notes of the Kinney party.)

associations

The Blessed Perfection came for the purpose of uniting the heart that He might link them together. For this purpose you must prove the means of unity to the inhabitants of the earth. This is His hope for you. If among yourselves there is no love, no unity, how can this become possible? Are you willing that His labors, His sorrows, be in vain? All is to bring love to your hearts. It is certain not to be in vain - Praise be to GOD! But if you find a soul whose friendship or association is dangerous, which may perchance be the cause of danger to yourself, you should have only a formal acquaintanceship. Be kind, and deal with such people not harshly, but leave them alone; do not mix with them. There are many bad people in the world; have nothing to do with them. It must be so that your very silence should be blame (reproof) itself.

Children

Abdul Baha's meeting with the children in the home of Mr. and Mrs.
A.P. Dodge, 261 W. 139th. St New York city.

The Bahai mother's and children were gathered in the afternoon of April 16th. 1912. to meet Abdul Baha. The parents and invited Friends formed a circle seated in the back-ground, and the children sat on the floor in front of them, an aisle being made for Abdul Baha. He entered, and bending over the children laid the hand of blessing upon the head of each one as He passed along - Two little colored children were in the group to receive the beautiful blessing - As He passed along He placed His hand under the chin of one little boy and said,- "laugh! Laugh!" Then He spoke in the following words. These are blessed children. They are very illumined. In their faces the rays of the Love of God can be seen, I pray in their behalf - His Highness Christ said, these are the children of the Kingdom. Their hearts are like pure mirrors. They are in utmost cleanliness. When the hearts of the grown people become as pure then the kingdom of God will come on earth. Children in their childhood are beloved because of the purity of their hearts. I Pray for them. You too must pray for their assistance, so that each of them shall become pure plants, and be watered by the downpour of Mercy, and may bringforth blessed fruits."

Then with general greetings and His lovely face smiling upon all, we passed out of the room.

friends from New Jersey had gathered and brought in wild flowers which with rose buds furnished by some of the friends, were distributed among the children as they left.

From

Mrs Brittingham.

BC# 341

(Through Ali-Kuli-Khan.)

To the Beloved of God. (Upon them be Beha'Ullah El-Abha!)

LE IS GOD.

Meetings

O ye Friends of Abdu'l-Beha! Every meeting, which is adorned in remembrance of the Beauty of Abha and organized for the sake of hearing the words of God, that meeting is the Rose-garden of the Kingdom and that assemblage is sanctified by the Fragrances of Holiness from the Divine World. For the Divine Bounties are the candle of that assemblage and the Merciful Splendors are manifest in that gathering.

I beg of God that He may illumine those shining faces in the meeting of the Kingdom of Holiness and assemble these attractive beings in the Haven of Mercifulness,--so that they may chant Verses of Oneness in the Supreme Concourse and sing with the voice of Glorification and praise in the Kingdom of Abha; that they may raise a clatter in the Higher World and an outcry in the Paradise of Abha!

Verily, God assisteth whomsoever He willeth in that which He willeth! Verily, He is the Powerful, the Mighty!

(Signed) Abdu'l-Beha Abbas.

(Translated by A. K. Khan, April 23th, 1900, Washington, D. C.)

Recent Tablet to the beloved of God, in this Country.

Be# 342

Continued

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D.H.

A Talk given by Abdul Baha, Friday evening, March 21, 1915, on Hayroos, at 15 Rue Grenue, Paris, M. Hippolyte Dreyfus interpreting.

"I am extremely glad to see you on this Hayroos occasion. This day is considered holy by the Persians. It is the anniversary of many national events, among them the victory of the Persians over the Arabs, who invaded Persia and were successfully repulsed. This day in Persia starts a season of feasts which continue for thirteen days, and in which all take part, rich or poor alike. They put on new clothes and open their houses to all. Money is distributed and music played, and the houses are decorated with flowers. It is a fete when work is put aside and enjoyment invited. A traveler in Persia feels that the country is in a state of complete renewal. A town which seemed dead yesterday, today has faces shining with gladness. The poor man of yesterday, with sordid garments, is well dressed today and the whole national life seems changed. From time immemorial this day has been consecrated, for in this there is a symbol. At this moment the sun appears at the meridian and the day and night are equal. Until today the North Pole has been in darkness. Today the sun appears on the horizon of the North Pole. Today the sun rises and sets at the Equator and the two hemispheres are equally illumined. This sacred day, when the sun illumines equally the whole earth, is called the equinox, and the equinox is the symbol of the Manifestation of God. The Sun of Truth Rises on the horizon of Divine Mercy and sends forth its rays. This day is consecrated to commemorate it. It is the beginning of spring. When the sun appears at the equinox it causes a movement in all living things. The mineral world is set in motion, plants begin to shoot, the desert is changed into a prairie, trees bud and every living thing responds, including the bodies of animals and men. The rising of the sun at the equinox is the symbol of life, and likewise it is the symbol of the Divine Manifestation of God, for the rising of the Sun of Truth in the Heaven of Divine Bounty established the signal of Life for the world. The human reality begins to live, our thoughts are transformed and our intelligence is quickened. The Sun of Truth bestows Eternal Life, just as the solar sun is the cause of terrestrial life. The day of the Appearance of God's Manifestation on earth must be a sacred day when man must commemorate God in prayer and praise. Among the ancient Persians this day was looked upon as the holy day of the year, and on it hospitals and charitable institutions were founded. Collections for the poor were made on this day and every effort is put forth so that it may not be allowed to pass without leaving some divine traces. Throughout Persia one sees the historical traces of this sacred day by the many good works that have commemorated it. I am spending this New Year in Paris. I hope for considerable results from this fast. I hope that a wonderful influence may remain in your hearts, sign of the eternal joy and happiness that will illumine the lights of the Kingdom in this city. May the Breezes of the Holy Spirit breathe upon you that your intelligence may progress and your souls be joyful in God. Thus will you become real and eternal beings, shining in the Divine Kingdom.

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**Bahá'í Baha's Message to the Pilgrims at the Tomb of Baha'o'llah
on Christmas Day, 1913.**

... ..

"It is a part of the Divine Wisdom that I should keep silent for a time! All that was required of me-- that is, to raise my voice in the churches, synagogues, conventions and meetings, calling the attention of the people to the Kingdom of God and the appearance of Baha'o'llah--praise be to God, through the confirmation of the Blessed Perfection, is accomplished. Now is the turn of the believers of God. Now I am ever expecting to hear the sweet voice of the friends of God raised and the watchword, Ya Baha el Abha! reaching to the ear of the heart and the spirit.

Those souls who have become subservient to the Will of God as manifested in the life and teachings of Baha'o'llah must know of a certainty that they attract unto themselves heavenly confirmation and assistance. Now, existence upon the Sacred Threshold is the magnet whereby aid is attracted. The more the believers humble themselves at the Divine Threshold (the Bahai expression for the Threshold of God), the more powerful and universal will be the descent of the Holy Spirit of the New Dedication upon them. The more they strive to teach souls, the greater will be their power of sanctification and attraction.

Today divine powers reinforce the souls who are spreading the Cause of God. Whoever walks upon this highway is confirmed: those who appear now dried plants will be changed into fruitful trees. God's blessing will rest upon all who enlist in the service. They are the flowers of the Garden of Abha-- they must breathe forth their fragrance! They are the trees planted by the Sacred Hand of Baha'o'llah in the Orchard of the Kingdom. He hath watered you with the rivers of His Knowledge and hath protected you from winds and storms.

I hope that each one of you may become a tree laden with delicious fruits for the healing of the nations."

From an article in the Christian Commonwealth,
by H. M. Holbach,
dated at Haifa, January 8, 1914.

BC # 344

Both S. + P. Healing

B. 94- ?

Word of Abdul Baha to Miss Florence Johnson, accompanied by Edna McKinney,
April 25, 1912, at 68 High St., Malden, Mass., Trans. by M.A.S.

"You are very welcome. The weather is delightful. This is a lovely suburb, perfectly charming. I like the place very much. I am likewise pleased to have seen you here. Praise be to God that your hearts are pure. You have seeing eyes and hearing ears. You have turned your faces towards the Kingdom of Abha. For I desire spiritual protection that each one of you may become a favored maid-servant of God; that your hearts may become occupied with the Name of God; that you may become free and sanctified from worldly conditions and desires, and may become the members of one family, the human family; that you may become pure, holy and sanctified, and live in accord with the Love of God. I desire these stations for you.

The way to serve humanity is the way that is paved by Baha'o'llah. The path of Baha'o'llah is the Path of Unification and Peace. It is the Path of the Oneness of the realm of humanity. It is the Path of the investigation of Reality. It is the Path of equality between the children of men. It is the Path of corresponding religion with science, and it is the Path of the manifestation of the protection of the Holy Spirit. It is the Road toward the Life Eternal. It is the Road of being born from the world of materiality into the world Divine, it is the Road of Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Walk in this Path— such a straight Path, such an illumined Path, such a Spiritual Path, walk in it. I instruct you. All of these ailments will pass away and you will receive perfect physical and spiritual health. I will guarantee it. Be confident. Let your hearts be confident and assured that, through the Bounty of Baha'o'llah, through the Favor of Baha'o'llah, every thing will become pleasant for you; you must be assured. Be confident that you will receive spiritual and physical health together. Know thou of a certainty. But you must turn your face wholly to-ward the Kingdom of ABHA, giving perfect attention, the same attention that Mary Magdalene had for His Holiness Christ. Be like her, and I will assure you that you will get physical health and spiritual health. You are worthy. You are worthy. I give you the glad tidings that you are worthy, because your heart is pure. Laugh and talk. Don't lament and talk. Laugh and speak. I have given you the promise, but your attention to the Blessed Perfection, Baha'o'llah must be like unto the attention of Mary Magdalene to Jesus Christ, and then you will get both spiritual and ~~and~~ Physical health. You will learn. Associate with your sister; sit down and talk with her and read My address ~~Be~~ confident. Be confident. Be happy. Be rejoiced. Be hopeful. When you have completely turned your face to Baha'o'llah, like unto Mary Magdalene, then you will see. Very good, very good, very nice. You must say, a Baha El Abha!

BC #1345

To Mrs. Thornton Chase:

You are very welcome. I have come to pay you a visit. I was exceedingly sad and heartbroken when I heard of the departure of Mr. Chase, for I loved him very much. He was a near soul to God. Mr. Chase was a man who is never to be forgotten; his value is not now known but will be known in the future. Through the Orient his name is well known and they all longed to see him.

Be not sad nor grieved. Do not sorrow. For no man in this world is permanent. As there was a day for him to come, so there is a day for him to depart. There is nothing of importance, only results, in life; A man may live in a hundred years (here a very short time) and his life be fruitful, ~~it is~~ (on the other hand) if he lives here a very short time and his life is fruitful, it is equivalent to (his) being here a hundred thousand years. The importance is to be attached to fruitage. Now, Praise be to God. Mr. Chase did yield fruit: Mr. Chase was heavenly; Mr. Chase was spiritual; Mr. Chase was radiant. You have not lost him; at most there is but a temporary separation amongst you two; in the kingdom there will be a meeting. It is precisely like taking a journey. You will meet him. Do not sorrow.

Certain souls that come into the world, their coming is like not being here at all. Even of kings and how many rulers it is as if they had never come. Certain souls who come and, believing, leave behind a life of radiance it is equivalent to a candle which never goes out. And from the time of Christ how they are beneath the lowest strata of the earth: their very existence has passed away. But one of the least of the servants, like the disciples, who left the world two thousands years ago, their stars glisten with an everlasting radiance; marvelous traces have they left. You should be much comforted; then may the spirit of Mr. Chase be pleased with your patience and forbearance. [If you were sad, he would be sad; and you would not want to make him sad too.]

Oct 19, 1913. In Abdul Baha's room, 510 Lankershim Hotel. L.A. Calif.
Farred interpreting.

*contains within for the
and dignified*

Through his honor Mirza Ahmad Sohrab and the attracted raid-servant of god, Mrs. MacNutt, to the faithful servant of God Miss Julia Ward.

UPON HER BE THE GLORY OF THE MOST GLORIOUS!

HE IS GOD!

O thou who hast turned thy face to the Kingdom of God!

*document
for the
departed.*

Thy letter arrived and its contents revealed spiritual sentiment that is, praise be to God, thou hast, through the grace of the merciful Lord, become the recipient of Bounty in this divine age and hast seen the light of the Kingdom shining. I hope that thou wilt progress in the human world; that thou mayest receive eternal life through the breath of the Holy spirit.

Thou hast asked about the progress of Human Reality. Know thou that progress is of two kinds. The one is a progress through various planes, and the other in degrees of perfection. (i.e., that is within the same plane). For instance, thou observest that the human body first belonged to the mineral kingdom; then it progressed from the vegetable kingdom; from the vegetable kingdom to the animal kingdom; from the animal kingdom to the human kingdom; thus it travelled many stages. This progress in planes belongs to this world wherein opposites exist.

The other progress is a progress in degrees of perfection. As divine perfections are unlimited, so man accordingly can and does progress in degrees of perfection in this world and the world to come. For example: one of the Divine Perfections is Knowledge and the Divine Knowledge is limitless; consequently, in all the worlds of god this perfection occupies the position of the sun and pours bounties upon all creatures. Hence, all creatures in all worlds receive bounty from the sun of Knowledge. And, as the bounty is boundless, the receiver of the Bounty is also everlasting and immortal. The Divine Bounty, therefore, in this world as well as the next condition continues forever and ever to descend upon human reality. So it is established and admitted that human reality can acquire perfection and can progress in all divine worlds. [This is the reason the Holy scriptures pointed out the advisability of pious deeds and love offerings in behalf of a soul after it has ascended. These good deeds and sincere offerings become the cause of the elevation of the station (to the departed soul)].

It is known that man's progress is permissible in every world; that is, to acquire Divine Perfections and boundless bounties. But the appearance of man in this world is both for his progress in planes as well as in perfections; while in the next world the progress is confined to divine perfections only.

I hope that thou wilt be blessed with the divine help to serve in the Kingdom of God and be attracted by the Holy spirit in such wise that thou wilt be filled with love and admiration, and upon thee be the glory of the most glorious.

*the glory of the most glorious!
(signed) Abdul Qader Ali*

To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful!
Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!
East and West.

HE IS GOD!

Glory be unto Thee, O God, for Thou hast opened the Doors of the Kingdom of Grandeur and Majesty before the faces of Thy beloved ones; overshadowed them with the wide-spreading Tree of Thy Mercifulness; stirred them into cheerfulness by the Breezes of Acceptance from the Garden of Thy Singleness, and caused the downpour of Pure waters from the Heaven of Thy Generosity, through which Thou didst cleanse the hearts of Thy friends.

Thou didst resuscitate the spirit of those who have arisen in Thy service with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit and reinforced them with the angels of Thy Sanctification and the unseen Cohorts from the Supreme Concurrence. Verily this was no other but a reinforcement from Thee and a fresh Confirmation on Thy part, in order that they may arise in the proclamation of Thy Word, the diffusion of Thy Fragrances, the perusal of Thy Verses, the promulgation of Thy Religion, the propagation of Thy Teachings, the Universalisation of Thy Grace and the strengthening of Thy Covenant. Verily, they have pitched the Tabernacle of Thy Oneness on the apex of the world, whose cords are unbreakable, under whose shade nations and peoples shall dwell and which is glorified with the Bestowal of Thy Effulgence.

O Lord! We are weak, fortify us with Thy Power. We are prisoners, shine upon us the Light of Thy Freedom!

O God! This captive has no other Protector save Thee; this afflicted one has no other Guardian except Thee, and this weak soul has no other Support beside Thee!

O Lord! O Lord! Grant endurance and fortitude to these broken wings and brace and steel the nerves of these suppliant birds, so that they may soar toward the apex of Prosperity, wing their way through the Immensity of Success to the highest station of worthiness, stretch forth their pinions to reach the loftiest Point in Thy Abha Kingdom and the Apogee of Grandeur in Thy Supreme Concurrence; thus their eyes be brightened by beholding the lights and their ears be charmed by listening to the singing of the Mysteries!

O Lord! Assist them in the promotion of Thy Glad-tidings between the Easts of the world and the Wests thereof; inspire them to speak in Thy glorification in the congregations of Fellowship and enliven them to impart the gospel of the appearance of Thy Kingdom in the zenith of the universe; thus through mutual attraction, their hot tears might flow from their eyes, their hearts drawn toward the refulgent Light of God, supplicating Thee, beseeching in Thy Presence, their breasts expanded by the Signs of Thy Singleness and their visions clarified by perceiving the Standards of Thy Victory amongst Thy creatures.

O God! Suffer their joy to be in the Glad-tidings of Thy Manifestation; their happiness in the shining forth of Thy Light; their serenity in the obtainment of Thy Favor; their health in the

healing wonders of Thy Name; their life in the Breaths of the Spirit of Thy Holiness; the consolation of their hearts in the winning of Thy Bounty; their hope in the propagation of Thy Cause and their aspiration in the promotion of Thy Word.

Verily, Thou art the Confirmer, the Omnipotent, the Self-subsistent, the Giver, the Mighty and the Most Beautiful, and, verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

O ye friends of Abdul Baha! It has been some time since correspondence and letters-writing has been postponed, because this servant of the Threshold of the Almighty, Abdul Baha, has been traveling continually throughout the East and the West for the last four years, reminding the people of the appearance of the Manifestation of the Lord of Hosts, so that the Occident may become illumined and the Orient perfumed. Therefore, in all the meetings and temples the cry of "Ya Baha El Abha!" reached to the zenith of the Supreme Concurrence and the voice of "O my Lord the Supreme" soared unmitigatingly towards the Court of His Highness the Almighty. In the temples of many a nation the Cause of the Possessor of Existence was taught and in the houses of worship of many a religion meetings were held for announcing the Signs of the Clement Lord. In Christian Churches the Spirit was breathed and in the Synagogues of the Jews the Gospel of the Lord of Hosts was proclaimed. In the Universities of Europe and America, such as the University of Oxford, England, and the Leland Stanford University in San Francisco, California, which are considered in the vanguard of educational institutions of the world, eloquent addresses were delivered. In the last mentioned University there were present one hundred and seventy-five professors and eighteen hundred students. Many speeches were given before Theosophical, Spiritualistic and Esperanto societies, and a speech was delivered before the Open Forum in San Francisco, explaining the aim of the Eastern and Western systems of philosophies. In all these churches, temples, synagogues, meetings and clubs, through the Favor and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection, there was not one single soul found who uttered one word of opposition or criticism. Every one listened attentively to the explanation of the Teachings and Proofs and all expressed thanks and gratitude at the end of the meetings. This was only made possible through the Grace and Bestowal of Baha' o'llah, for under all circumstances the Sea of the Confirmation of the Kingdom of Abha was waving high and the Cry of Abdul Baha ascended to the Highest Apex.

Undoubtedly you have read the contents of the American and European newspapers which are mirrors reflecting the public opinion of other nations. Verily, truth is that which concurrently is testified by all wise men! The contents of those magazines and newspapers are the traces of the pen of the followers of Christ, the people of Moses, philosophers, professors and thinkers of the West. For example, amongst them might be mentioned the Palo Alto, published in the town where Stanford University is founded, the newspapers of Oxford, Christian Commonwealth, Century, Herald, Standard, Review of Reviews, the Arabic newspapers of New York, etc., etc. The philosophers, professors and literary men have expressed their opinions concerning this Cause in these periodicals. This again was through the Mercy and Providence of the Blessed Perfection whose absolute Will had ordained the promotion of the Cause of God in all parts of the world and who confirmed this Servant of the Threshold in this service.

In short, although Abdul Baha considers himself as a drop, yet this drop is connected with the Most Great Sea; although he looks upon himself as an atom, yet this atom is related to the world-illuminating SUN. As it is said, "The Originator of all these voices is the King Himself", or, in other words, "It is through His Assistance."

Unquestionably, this physical body and human energies would have been unable to stand this constant wear and tear, and were it not for the support of the angel of Providence, even the bones of this servant would have been mouldered away. But the aid and help of His Highness the Desired One was the Guardian and Protector of the weak and humble Abdul Baha.

Through the many annoyances and inconveniences of the journey, physical exhaustion was produced in the nerves, and the various indisposition caused by poor health, but the Spirit was so energized that this great weakness and excessive feebleness disappeared in a short period of time, and ere long Abdul Baha will be occupied again with reading and writing.

However, back of this apparent silence and interruption of all correspondence for the time being there was hidden another wisdom. It was this: that the believers of God may walk in the footsteps of Abdul Baha and raise such a melody and show forth such a firmness and steadfastness that the diffusion of the Fragrances of God might continue, whether he does exist or not; nay, rather, all of them may roar like unto the sea and break forth into joyous songs of thanksgiving. Thus those souls who are anticipating the death or departure of this Servant at the Divine Threshold might be afflicted with regret and remorse and realize that the exaltation of the Blessed Cause and the increasing Majesty of the Word of God does not depend upon the existence of Abdul Baha.

Praise be to God! How inscrutable are His ways! When His Holiness the Bab--May my life be a ransom to Him!--was martyred, the enemies vociferously cried out that this Cause is totally annihilated!

Afterward, they witnessed the result contrary to their expectations, for with the martyrdom of His Holiness the Bab, the Word of God was promulgated more widely. Then, changing their front, they expected the departure of the Blessed Perfection, dreaming vainly that after His ascension the Blessed Tree will be uprooted. Praise be to God that through the Bounty and Bestowal of the Blessed Perfection, they were stricken with self-condemnation and grief. In a similar manner, the pretenders and Covenant-breakers are awaiting the decease and the passing away of Abdul Baha in various and divers manner; i.e., either he may be cast to the bottom of the sea or be suspended high on a cross; either be banished to the remotest country, be imprisoned in the dark dungeon of a fortress, or through manifold sickness and illness he may quit singing the Songs of Life and the Anthems of Light, that thus after him they may obtain a field for the display of their nefarious activities and the promotion of their poisonous ideas.

Alas! alas! Vain is their imaginings. Whether Abdul Baha does exist or not, the Cause of God shall be protected and preserved from all these supposed dangers through the power of the Kingdom of Abha. Were the wheels of the Cause of God stopped in their onward

progressive march through the setting of those two brilliant Suns (the Bab and Baha'o'llah), or is it possible that through the death of this Servant of the Threshold, the Cause of God will lose its influence? Alas! alas! ere long you will see them (the Hakaseen) in manifest loss!

Soon after the ascension of Baha'o'llah, while they were weltering in the midst of rebellion and violation, I predicted in a short space of time ye shall see the Hakaseen in evident deprivation! The present condition is an unmistakable assurance that the prediction is literally fulfilled.

Therefore, rest ye assured that their present baseless surmises will be as barren and as fruitless as their past imaginations. Some have also asserted that Abdul Baha is on the eve of bidding his last farewell to this world, that his physical energies are being depleted and drained and that ere long these complications shall put an end to his life. This is far from truth. Although in the outward estimation of the violators and defective-minded, the body is weak on account of the great ordeals in the Blessed Path, yet, praise be to God, through the Providence of the Blessed Perfection, the spiritual forces are in the utmost rejuvenation and strength. Thanksgiving behooveth the Lord that now, through the Blessing and Benediction of Baha'o'llah, even the physical energies are fully restored, divine joy obtained, the supreme glad-tidings are resplendent and ideal happiness overflowing. I hope that in the future letter writing and correspondence might continue uninterruptedly.

O ye loyal friends of the Blessed Perfection! It is hoped that through the Wonderful Bestowals of that Peerless Adored One, a new dynamic acclamation and stirring activity be realized amongst the divine believers, so that they may obtain a boundless rejoicing and exultation through the Melody of the Kingdom of Abha which has moved the invisible world, and arise in the delivery of the Word of God, so that the Holy Fragrances of God may transform the East and the West into the Paradise of Abha, the Clouds of Grace change the surface of the earth into a delectable rose-garden and the Breeze of Compassion give fragrance and perfume to the plain and the meadow. This state is only made possible through teaching the Cause of God with divine evidences and irrefutable arguments and guiding the inhabitants of the earth to the Fountain of Reality!

Consider that the Apostles of Christ were few in number, but because they were filled beyond containing with His Graces, and the essence of His Advice and Commandments was circulating like unto the spirit through their veins and arteries to such an extent that one could find nothing else throughout their beings save His Love, and they girded up their loins of endeavor to convey the Message, now it has become manifest what a tremendous effect and result their service produced! We must also act accordingly and follow in their footsteps.

O ye divine believers! Today any soul who is a teacher of the Cause is confirmed. The teachers are in the front rank, are favored at the Threshold of the Almighty and helped from the Kingdom of Abha! The believers of God must exercise the utmost love, respect and consideration toward the teachers, so that in whichever place they may enter, joy and happiness be obtained. But as regards the quali-

fication of the teachers, they are revealed in the Divine Tablets. They must adorn themselves with these attributes. I declare by God that if today a weak mosquito is characterized with the qualifications of the teachers and summons the people to the Divine Kingdom, it will become the soaring falcon of heaven, and the spherule moth will be changed into the eagle of the apex of the Merciful. The drop will be transformed into a surging ocean and the ~~mark~~ atom emits the brilliancy of the sun. From every part the cry of "Where are the teachers?" is being raised and from the Kingdom of Abha the Voice of "Where are the attracted ones? Where are the severed ones? Where are the righteous ones? Where are the sanctified ones?" reaches to the ear of intelligence. The inhabitants of the world have attained to a most astonishing capacity and are ready to hearken to this Call.

O ye friends of God! Show ye an effort, put ye forth an extraordinary exertion, so that this candle may become the witness of every congregation and this lag or strain be the cause of happiness to every human soul.

In the next spring, whosoever has competency, or, in other words, can provide sufficient and adequate traveling expenses for his coming and return, so that he may journey with the utmost joy and fragrance, if he asks for permission to visit the Holy Threshold, it will be granted. Now, the present conditions show the wisdom of withholding permission in the past. For during these days of general revolutions and disturbances, the pilgrim would have been obliged to suffer innumerable difficulties. Be ye admonished! O ye possessors of intelligence! Hence, it is plain that all that which is written is based on a consummate Wisdom.

Upon ye be Baha El Abha!

Glory be unto Thee, O Thou whose Seas of Bestowals are waving and whose Breezes of Providence are wafting over all who have arisen to promote Thy Word amongst mankind and are hastening toward the City of Self-sacrifice with a heart overflowing with love and fidelity and a tongue eloquent with the praise of Thy Abha Beauty!

O Lord! Confirm whosoever opens his mouth in the explanation of Thy Cause, arises in the diffusion of Thy Fragrance, flows from his lips the irresistible torrents of evidence in the elucidation of Thy Religion, waves like unto the surging of the profound main, sings like unto the singing of the golden-tongued nightingale in the Garden of Thy Knowledge, and rears like unto the roaring of a lion in the Forest of Thy Favor.

O Lord! Cause them to quaff from the goblet which is filled with the Wine of Thy Guidance, exhilarate them with the intoxication of Thy Elixir, suffer them to speak out Thy most incontrovertible proofs, inspire them with the irrefutable evidences and demonstrations, and teach them the essences of Wisdom and Understanding.

Verily, Thou art the Clement, Thou art the Confirmer, the powerful, the Mighty and the Omnipotent, and, verily, there is no God beside the Lord of Grace and Mercy.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab,
1914, September 22, 1914.

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Bc # 348 E -

Portion of a Tablet from Abdul Baha.

Union & Harmony

... ..

It has been decided, by the Desire of God, that union and harmony may day by day increase in the West among the friends of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful One. Not until this is realized will the affairs advance by any means whatever; and the greatest means for the union and harmony of all is Spiritual Meetings.

This matter is very important and is as a magnet (to attract) Divine Confirmation.

If the Beauty of this divine beloved one, that is, the unity of the believers, does appear in the adornment of the Kingdom of ABHA, it is certain that those countries will, in a short time, become the Paradise of ABHA, and the Light of Unity and Singleness will shine upon the whole world from the West.

We are endeavoring, with all heart and soul, having no rest night or day, nor a moment of tranquility, so that we may make the world of humanity the mirror of the Divine Unity. How much more the beloved of God should do so! And this wish and hope shall appear and shine forth at that time when the true friends of God may arise to act in accord with the Teachings of the Beauty of ABHA: *May My life be a sacrifice to the beloved ones!*

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Bl # 349

Words of Abdul Laha to Mr. MacNutt.

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"Say, O people: Can the mosquito of violation withstand the eagle of the Testament? No, by the Orb of Effulgence!

"Or, can the fly of impotence and the spider of superstition repel the Birds of the Kingdom, soaring high in the space of the Gift of God?

"Can the gloomy darkness oppose the lights whereby the heaven and the earth are illumined? No, by no means! Verily, the obstinate Nimrod with the power of his armies could not resist the Affectionate Friend (Abraham). The fierce Pharaoh with the power of steel could not repel the Glorious Moses. The obstinate Jews were not capable of extinguishing the Praised Light, the promised Christ. And the communities in Mecca and Medina could not quench that Fire enkindled on Mount Paran. (This Fire signifies the appearance of Mohammed - May the peace of God be upon Him! Paran is a mountain near Mecca.)

"By My Lord, the Merciful, all their exertions proved in vain and the host of God made them as dispersed dust. They found all their houses void, their country forsaken, their thrones upset, their trees uprooted, and so on."

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84 # 350