

HE IS GOD!

O thou seeker of Truth!

Whatever thou hast heretofore heard was fancy, not truth; was tradition (or narration), not vision, for it was an explanation concerning the Rising of the Sun, but that explanation was during the night.

But in this Day the Light of Truth hath dawned and the world hath become illumined; and therefore whatever thou (now) hearest concerning the Sun is on the authority of vision (or actual sight), not on tradition (or narration). Consequently, open thine eye so that thou mayest hear the Divine Voice. Be delivered from thyself, from the thoughts and superstitions, until thou mayest find Eternal Life.

Recollect thou how many imaginations (or fancies) thou had during thy life! Now it has become evident that they were all superstitions, not Truth. Now walk thou in the Path of Truth so that the shining Lights may encompass thee and thy soul find a new life.

Be thou quit of the superstitions of the Pharisees, so that they may not prevent thee from believing in the Christ. For the Pharisees were heedless of the real purpose of the Holy Scripture, and since they did not understand the meaning of the Pentateuch, they assailed His Highness, Christ. One said: "Christ must come from Heaven; this person has come from the womb of Mary!" Another said: "He must come from an unknown place; we know this one is from Nazareth." Another said: "Where is the Kingdom of the Messiah?" Another said: "Where is the iron rod?" Another said: "Where is the throne of David, and how did the Messiah sit upon it?" Another said: "Where is the Justice during the days of the Messiah, and the association of the wild beasts - wolf with lamb, leopard with young goat, asp with suckling babe?"

To be brief: As they did not understand the meaning of the Holy Scripture, they did not approve of His Holiness, the Spirit of God (i.e. Christ). They opposed Him, avoided Him; nay, they made Him an ornament of the cross. They took the liberty of treating Him with the utmost injustice.

Now too, (in this Day) the heedless ones are like unto the Pharisees and are not informed (or are ignorant) of the Truth of the Holy Scripture! Consequently, they oppose the Blessed Beauty (i.e. Baha'u'llah) and are of the scoffers.

Before long this Great Cause will change the dust-bin of strife, conflict and warfare into the Garden of Love, Affinity, Peace and Conciliation.

Upon thee be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan, July 9, 1905.

BC# 451

To the maid-servant of God, the Honorable Mamie Agnew.

I supplicate God to perfume thy nostrils with the Fragrances of Holiness wafting from this Paradise of ABHA! Know, IT is a Fragrance which imparts Spirit to the hearts and minds and quickens the souls with the Eternal and Everlasting Life throughout centuries and cycles.

By the Glory of My Lord do I declare, should one inhale from this pure and sweet Fragrance, he will become quickened with the Life of God; the Holy Spirit will assist him under all circumstances and he will talk with the Power of the Spirit at all times.

I beg of God to confirm thee with this Spirit, to follow Abdu'l Baha in humility and lowliness toward the beloved of God, to be severed from aught else save God, and be attracted wholly to the Kingdom of God.

Consider thou not the lack of ability, nor of capacity, for ability and capacity depend upon the Favor of thy Lord, and the Favor of thy Lord is never prevented.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated June 10, 1907.

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To Mrs. Sheppard, Brooklyn, N. Y.

O thou who art shining with the Light of the Love of God.

Verily, I read thy confession of the Oneness of God, thine acknowledgement of the appearance of the Kingdom of God, thy turning thy face towards the Day Spring of the Verses of God, thy desire to arise in the service of the Cause of God, and thine adherence to the Covenant of God! Amen!

I say unto thee: Every woman who is directed to the Guidance of God in this Great Age will surpass men in every respect, and she will be informed of the Hidden Mysteries and Preserved Allegory. Her words will take effect even in a hard rock. Minds will be astonished at the power of her understanding and souls will be subdued by the strength of her argument.

It is incumbent upon thee to be steadfast in this Great Cause, firm in this right Path, quaff from this Cup which is overflowing with the Wine of Knowledge, and resist the hosts of trial or tests.

Upon thee be praise!

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

52  
Bc # 425

HE IS GOD!

O thou servant of the Beauty of Abha!

What thou hadst written was perused. I was informed of the details. His Holiness Christ said: "Now is the time of the marriage feast." Reflect thou duly upon this utterance. The reality of circumstance and the requirement of the times will become clear and manifest; and Abdu'l Baha says: "This time is the time of teaching (the Truth)." Each one of the beloved must night and day endeavor and exert himself in teaching the souls (or people), and guide men to the Divine Kingdom. Such souls (i.e. those who teach) are in this day assisted (by God), and successful, for each time (or season) hath a requirement. One day is the time of seed-sowing; one day is the time of watering; one day is the time of reaping; and one day is the time of harvest. Now in the Kingdom of God, too, is the time of seed-sowing. Think ye of this, in order that ye may be assisted and confirmed; that ye may see the assistance of the hosts of the Kingdom of Abha and behold the confirmation of the Angels of Heaven.

Had each one of the beloved of God in America engaged in teaching the Cause of God, like unto the beloved in Persia, now they would (already) have guided several millions of souls, and all souls would have obtained a joy and happiness.

In Persia the friends of God utter the cry of "Ya Baha el Abha" while under the sword, and open their tongues in teaching (the Truth); and they engage in guiding souls, even when they are in jail, in chains and shackles. Ye should make an effort that in America, too, (some) souls may arise (to teach) in this manner; in order that the luminosity of Mercifulness may illumine and irradiate those regions.

Repeatedly I write, that, if conditions continue in this manner, that is, if disagreement remain (or continue) among the beloved ones (believers) in America, the Cause of God will (thereby) entirely become extinguished (in that country) and the seed which have been sown will decay, and all will become afflicted with a manifest loss. Now is the time of teaching (the Truth): that is all!

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan.  
January 5, 1904.

A prayer in supplication for forgiveness for -  
The dear maid-servant of God, the respected Mrs. Hearst.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O Divine Providence, O Forgiving Lord!

Mrs. Hearst has hastened from this dark and dreary world to the realm of light; she has become detached from this nether world and has flown to the realm on high.

O my God! Endowed with a seeing eye, she beheld the rays of the Sun of Truth, and endowed with a hearing ear, she hearkened to the call of the Kingdom; possessing a keen sense of smell, she inhaled the fragrant scent of the Paradise of Abha and gifted with a pure heart, she overflowed with Thy love.

From the far West, she journeyed to the Holy Land, attained the privilege of visiting the sacred spot and served Thy Kingdom.

O Thou pardoning God! Ignite her candle, and cause her star to become resplendent in the immortal realms. Let her memory be spread abroad over all regions and her name, like unto that of Mary Magdalene, be ever illustrious among the denizens of the Kingdom. Cause her fame to be world wide and her voice to reach the ears of the Supreme Concourse.

Exalt the members of her family and place upon their heads the diadem of everlasting glory, that they appreciate the value of that honorable soul, and may realize what a magnificent edifice she has erected for them, and what a standard of everlasting glory she has hoisted, so that of her, her family and kindred may be eternally proud.

O compassionate Lord! Although at present Thy favor on her behalf is unknown, yet in the future, like unto the sun, it shall be made manifest.

Verily, Thou art the Forgiver, the Bestower, and the Compassionate.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
Haifa, Palestine.  
June 2, 1919.

Be # 454

To the maid-servant of God, Victoria Bedikian, Montclair, N. J.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O thou dear maid servant of God!

Thy numerous letters have been received. All were indicative of faith, assurance, firmness in the Covenant, help to the miserable, and succor to the poor. A good path hast thou chosen; it is highly praiseworthy, for helping the poor and the orphan in service to the Kingdom of God. No benevolent deed has, or will, ever surpass it in merit. However, if thou helpst the poor of Syria this act is more acceptable. Perform this benevolent act through one of the trust-worthy friends such as Roy Wilhelm, for the relief committees of these regions send help to the committees of this land, the latter appropriate the main part of the funds that are sent and thus a small portion reaches the poor. On the other hand, if thou sendest help through the friends, all will reach the poor.

Likewise, the names that thou hast sent, as well as the photograph of the poor and orphaned, all have been highly acceptable. These are My children, and thus they are very dear in My Sight. In line, praise thou God, that thou art confirmed in such service! Convey on My behalf to thy respected husband respectful greetings. I pray on his behalf, and beg for him everlasting glory, that he may be dignified in both this world and in the Kingdom.

Traveling these days is very difficult. God willing, when it is made easy, permission will be given to thee and to thy husband.

Upon thee be greeting and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
Bahji, Acca, Palestine.  
July 23, 1919.

BE # 455

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art steadfast in the Covenant!

What thou hast written is perused. It is a clear proof of thy belief and assurance, and a sufficient and adequate demonstration of thy inclination to the Kingdom of God. I ask God that thou mayest increase day by day in love, devotion and attraction to the Divine Beauty, and be the means of union, concord, harmony and unity among the beloved, growing day by day like the trees of the excellent Garden, and giving forth shade and delicious fruits.

So listen to what the Physician says, in order to produce consequences of soundness and health. If all the people knew their remedy, there would be no need of the Physician and everybody could treat himself very skillfully.

I ask the greatest divine favor for thee, but its attainment requires that thou mayest not exceed a hair's breadth by what I write and say. Perhaps the physician would once give poison, the same would be suitable; one must not say within himself: "This is a poison, how can I take it?"

In a word, it is the same I have written you before: - If harmony and unity be produced among the beloved, the belief and faith will grow advantageously, and that country will become enlightened. Otherwise, the Fire of the Love of God will be completely quenched, and all will be scattered and frustrated.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Received in New York, April 27, 1904.

BC # 456

To his honor Dr. E----

What thou hast written was perused. In reality thou hast a good intention and lofty desire. I beg of God that thou mayest succeed therein. But the delivery of the Cause of God depends upon the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, severance from the world, engagement in the commemoration of God in independence of the rich.

It is stated in the Gospel (Matthew 10:14) "Even shake the dust from off your feet." Consider how great is the Cause and how much it requires sanctification and purity. I beg of God that He may provide thee a good means and facilitate (thy affairs) according to thy wish. But if thou desirest to teach the Truth of God and seekest to promulgate the Word of God: that requires the confirmation of the Holy Spirit and not the means of sustenance.

And the more this is done in the state of severance (from the world) the better it is.

His Holiness Christ delivered the Cause of God in the wilderness of the Holy Land, with bare feet, old clothing, thirsty and hungry.

Do thou follow (the example of) His Holiness Christ until thou mayest succeed.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Esphahani.

To the members of the Spiritual Assembly, Santa Paula, California.

Upon them be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O ye who are firm in the Covenant!

'Abdu'l Baha is constantly engaged in ideal communication with any spiritual assembly which is instituted through the Divine Bounty, and the members of which are in the utmost devotion turning to the Divine Kingdom and are firm in the Covenant.

To them He is heartily attached and with them He is linked by everlasting ties. Thus correspondence with that gathering is sincere, constant and uninterrupted.

At every instance, I beg for ye assistance, bounty, and fresh favor and blessing; so that the confirmations of His Holiness Baha'u'llah may, like unto the sea be constantly surging, the lights of the Sun of Truth may shine upon you all and that ye may be confirmed in service, may become the manifestation of bounty and that each one of ye may at dawn turn to the Holy Land and may experience spiritual emotions with all their intensity.

Upon ye be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Haifa. Palestine.  
November 12, 1919.

Be# 458



To the maid servant of God, Mrs. Mary Morrison, Denver, Colorado.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

HE IS GOD!

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

Thy letter was received. Thou hast asked regarding the contribution toward the education of the children of the school of Tabriat. Co-operation and mutual assistance are the basis of the religion of God. The East must assist the West and the West must assist the East. Whosoever quotes anything from my tongue, ask him an authority, either with my pen or with my signature. If he has such an authority in his hand, all right; if he has no such authority, do not give any importance to tradition. Keep always this as a criterion in view.

Convey the utmost of longing on my behalf to the believers and the maid-servants of the Merciful. I am engaged in their mentioning and beg for them Divine confirmation, so that the power of the spirituality of the Kingdom of Abha may environ the souls, quicken the hearts, deliver them from the hand of self and desire and suffer them to attain to the highest summit of faithfulness.

Then the Sun of the Covenant will shine, flooding the Orient and the Occident with glorious lights, There is no opportunity to write more than this.

Upon thee be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

(Signed ) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Paris, May 10, 1913.

Tablet revealed to the Persian believers.

O ye beloved friends of Abdu'l Baha!

It is now three years that, like unto a nestless and shelterless bird, I am wandering over mountains and plains and flying over the wilderness and Sahara. I rested not one moment, neither did I tarry long anywhere. Constantly was I moving and traveling.

The Call of the Kingdom of Abha was raised and the Most Great Glad Tidings penetrated throughout these vast and remote regions. The Flag of the Cause of God was unfurled over every hill and waved over every country.

As I was occupied day and night, raising the world-consuming cry of the Cause, I failed to correspond with the friends of the heart and the soul; but as soon as I returned to the Orient, notwithstanding weakness and indisposition, I immediately started to correspond, for the utmost desire of the heart and spirit is to remember the believers and to mention the names of the friends, especially those friends who have been at all times the objects of tests and are submerged in the sea of trials; notwithstanding this, with infinite firmness and steadfastness you withstood the attack of the waves, underwent bravely the violent storm and guided the ark to the shore of salvation.

Therefore I am greatly pleased and most satisfied with the believers of Boushrouyah, Kheir-ol-Gara and Faran and all the believers of Khorassan. I hope that in the future their flame of enthusiasm and the fire of their devotion may be enkindled more than before in Faran and Boushrouyah. Upon ye and upon the maid-servants of the Merciful be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

To his honor, Mr. Joseph H. Hannen, Washington, D.C.  
Upon him be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

O thou propogator of the Religion of God!

A few days ago an epistle was written thee. Although I have not any time, I immediately gave an answer to thy letter (written to Mirza Ahmad Sohrab) so that thou mayest know how my heart is attached to thee. Truly I say in the Cause of God thou art sincere. Thou hast no other object save the good pleasure of the Lord, and thou hast consecrated all thy time to the service of the Kingdom of God. On this account I have the utmost love for thee.

Praise be to God that the problem of the meetings is solved and there is no more cause of dispute. Now the believers must engage their time in teaching the Cause of God, and in the meetings no discussions should be carried on save the Cause of God.

The members of the Baha'i Assemblies must be infinitely kind toward each other and all their deliberations must be concerning the Kingdom of Abha.

Promiscuous discussions must be discountenanced, for these things will become the means of the luke-warmness and apathy of those who are present. The candles of all meetings must be the mention of God, and the propogation of the Cause of God, the exposition of the Divine Proofs and the elucidation of the principles of His Holiness Baha'u'llah.

When this condition is obtained, the meeting will become heavenly, celestial, god-like, illumined and the means of guidance of the erring ones. It will yield most great results.

O thou servant of His Holiness Baha'u'llah! Inform all the believers that perhaps a number of calumnious articles will be sent to those parts by the people of doubts. The aim of such articles is to cause the wavering of the friends in the Covenant and the Testament. Therefore, they should not take notice of these articles; nay, rather return them to the senders, accompanied with concise, full, sweeping answers: that we are firm in the Covenant and the servants of the Blessed Perfection. We do not give ear to such hearsays and incoherent statements.

We have turned our faces to the Center of the Covenant in accord with the incontrovertible Commands of Baha'u'llah, the text of the Ahdas and the text of the Tablets of the Covenant.

We have nothing to do with the people of doubts.

Upon ye be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, August 6, 1914.  
Home of Abdu'l Baha, Mt. Carmel, Haifa, Syria.

BC# 461

Helen Bishop's letter to Mr. Lunt.

Dear Mr. Lunt,-

It is a great experience to go to Haifa, and one changes one's point of view on many matters. The Guardian is an example of how intellect can serve the spirit in a manner we of the West have never known. There is nothing emotional about the Guardian; he is a perfectly controlled and mature personality. I have never heard him recite an incident in which he was the major figure, or say anything which would in any way give him a chance to excel. This may sound very naive but the point is that Shoghi Effendi simply refutes all those theories with which our academies are surfeited; that ever ego is trying merely to maximate itself.

Shoghi Effendi is very impersonal and he speaks only of the Word and our Faith. His speech is rapid and his English is stunning when he speaks, the hours pass tirelessly. I should say that his most obvious characteristic is Power, but there is nothing arbitrary or even personal about it. Again and again he seems to convey to one that the Cause of Baha'u'llah will reach its aim and that we have only to be superlatively faithful and to be active and obedient. There is something about him that makes one believe that one can do anything if he requires it; for example, he told me to write, and somehow I simply must begin to do it.

Shoghi Effendi says that great world events will establish the Faith. It depends only partly upon the Baha'is. The war is inevitable and great changes will result therefrom. Great Britain will lose her colonies. At present, the British Commonwealth is the greatest obstacle to the Commonwealth of Baha'u'llah. Russia will experience a change in regime. From America much can be expected. The form of the Administration established in America will become the form for the entire world. Also Germany has a great destiny. In an era of persecution they will exhibit a loyalty and devotion which makes them comparable to the Persians. Scholars, teachers and technicians from Germany will contribute much to the Baha'i Cycle.

Isn't this fascinating?

(Signed) Helen Bishop.

Written from Geneva.

Received by Mr. Lunt after the Convention was over.

BC# 462

ADDRESS OF ABDU'L BAHA

to the

Theosophical Society of Scotland.

February, 1913.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this evening and to take part in your delightful gathering, for you Theosophists, Praise be to God, are always independent investigators of reality, released from mere imitation of the customs of your forebears and ancestors. Your purpose in life is to achieve and welcome the knowledge of reality, no matter from what religion the light may dawn. The religions of today are all captives in the claws of custom and of blind dogma, for the absolute reality and dominant truth which prompted the foundation of the very religions in the past are entirely forgotten and certain blind observances of ritual and sacerdotal mummeries have crept in which are in entire opposition to the fundamental principles of Divine Religion.

True religion which comes from God, is founded for the purpose of illuminating the world of humanity and for the emancipation of the human race. It establishes a complete fellowship between all the hearts and unfolds before our vision the Kingdom of Heaven. But a thousand times, alas! Religions so founded have become the cause of contention and mutual strife, and today they are constantly waging war against each other. There is even bloodshed among their representatives, who engage in strife, ransack each other's possessions, and destroy each other's homes. What makes them do all these things? They do them because they are prisoners of blind dogma.

As an illustration, take anyone you meet. You ask him to what religion he belongs. He says he is a Jew. "Why art thou a Jew?" "Because my father was a Jew and my forebears were Jews. That is why I follow in their footsteps." Another man is a Musselman. "Why art thou a Musselman?" "My father was one, and my ancestors also." And if you put this query to the devotees of other religions they will give you the same answer. And indeed if you go through the whole category of the present-day religions you will find that in all of them numbers are following blindly; and that is a case of the "blind leading the blind". But if you inquire, you will find that they have never investigated the reality; for if they had done so, they would all have become unanimous and would work in harmony. If reality is one, then it is not subject to division; and this absolute reality is the foundation of all religions

The Theosophical Society has freed itself from such blind imitation of what was thought and done in the past; and, soaring up toward the Heaven of Reality, is ever trying to investigate the deeper Truths which underlie all religions. Therefore I am very

BC # 463

happy.

As we look upon this world - the Macrocosm - and upon all that goes to make up men - the Microcosm - what do we find? We find that every organism is composed of single primordial atoms, and has come into existence through the interaction of the electric affinities inherent in them. Its existence is a scientific fact. Every given atom of these myriads of atoms has passed through multitudinous forms, and in every form it has manifested a particular virtue or power. For example, looking upon this flower, there is no doubt that it is composed of single atoms, simple elements. There was a time when the various substances composing it were all in the mineral kingdom, and during that period they underwent many transformations. Having completed their course in the Mineral Kingdom, these atoms ascended to the Vegetable Kingdom, and they will go on maybe for many hundreds of years continuing their journey through experiences in this vegetable life. One day this which is now a chrysanthemum may become a rose; another day it may form part of a carnation. Another day it may enter into the composition of a tree. In short, each indestructible atom goes on journeying first through the mineral kingdom, and then through successive stages of the Vegetable World. This is a fact in harmony with the laws of biology.

Now this atom having run its course through the vegetable kingdom ascends next into the Animal Kingdom, where again it has its varied experiences. Having finished these it enters the realm of humanity and travels through its many and varied stages. In short, this primordial atom has under-gone transformations through all the kingdoms and sub-kingdoms of life, and in consequence of these experiences it manifests in a certain form and possesses a particular virtue and power.

It is one of the philosophic epigrams of the East that everything is included in the All. Therefore every man during these multitudes of transformations is gradually learning to know the many aspects of that All, and in every TRANSFORMATION has the opportunity of acquiring fresh virtue, so that man may become the compendium of all the virtues of creation. This is an exposition of a Divine Mystery.

Philosophic man, or the inner man, is indestructible. He is ever existent. For the immortality of the soul is a fact not to be denied. The spirit is everlasting, it is illimitable. The rational proof of the immortality of the soul is as follows:- Man enjoys two realities, two verities (or aspects of Truth). The first aspect of this human verity is material; and the second aspect is spiritual. The aspect which is material is subject to non-existence. But the ideal aspect of man which is the spirit is indestructible. What does mortality or death mean? It means transference from one body to another body. Thus to take again the illustration of this flower; this flower you may say is doomed to death, it is dying. Why? Because it is losing its present form and is returning to its original constitution, which is mineral. But there is ever a conservation of energy lasting through all creations; so that even the

material constituents which make up this flower never die, but are constantly transformed. Thus, when grass is eaten by an animal, you may say that the grass is dead. But the real fact is that it has only lost its vegetable form and become absorbed into the animal kingdom, and through this process, animal life is made possible, the plant has never been lost.

So that we may say of annihilation that it is a process of transference from one form to another; but the elements are indestructible. That is all that is meant by annihilation. Thus it is with the body of man, his material form that you see before you. The spirit leaving the body means that this temporal body having done its duty, will return to its original constituents and become part of the earth; but it still has an existence. So death means simply a step beyond the present conditions of life. In this way the material body of man may go through many forms and changes, and die and again be born, because it is used constantly in the making of various new forms and shapes.

At the same moment one body cannot occupy the same space as another. It may only occupy one space. Take for example, any given body - say a triangle. As long as it is a triangle, it cannot be a square, nor can it become a hexagon. It cannot become any other geometrical figure, for if it becomes a hexagon it cannot remain a triangle. One body can only be one shape at a time. So two forms cannot become part of one body at the same time. But, even as you are sitting here, your soul or mind or spirit, by whatever name you call it, contains all these various forms. At this very moment you conceive of a triangle, a square, a hexagon or a geometrical shape all at the same moment. Just at this time in your mind, in your SPIRIT, you may call up anything. There are these forms existing simultaneously, without having to be broken, and to replace one another in succession. They are all present in your spirit. In this way all forms exist in the spirit. There is no need of breaking one form, so that the spirit may enjoy another form. The spirit is independent of these forms. Therefore this is scientific proof that the spirit is eternal. Why do we enjoy the immortal spirit? It can never be transformed from one shape to another. It is able to contain all the shapes and forms in the world. This is self-evident. The spirit enjoys immortal life.

Another piece of evidence- this physical body of man, once in a while, is subject to sickness. At other times it gets well. Sometimes the body grows fat, at other times it grows the opposite way - all lean - so that the body goes through various conditions; but the spirit is ever the same. If the body grows lean the spirit grows not lean; if a man enjoys three hundred avoirdupois, his spirit does not weigh three hundred pounds. Therefore this Divine and Heavenly Absolute Reality which is in man is not subject to transformation or change. If one hand is cut off and the other arm is cut off, and the lower limbs are cut off, you will see that the man is going on living just the same, and his spirit is not mutilated. He is exactly the same man. The eternal spirit in him is undying. The third proof - what is death? Death means the losing of sensations or susceptibilities. While in a state of sleep, man's body lacks all sensation. His eyes do not see, his ears do not hear. The power of smell does not act. All the senses are at rest. They are asleep/ Yet notwithstanding all this the man travels.

He journeys, he dreams. His spirit sees and his tongue speaks. In that very state of quiescence he is endowed with all his faculties. Now if man was made only of this material flesh he would not have these various conscious experiences while in a state of dream. This likewise demonstrates the fact that in the inner reality of man there is a second deeper reality by which everything is surrounded. Therefore it is another evidence that in man God has hidden another second reality, which second reality is entirely free from all the fatalities of life, ever going forward, never retreating; and this will show you that man enjoys this immortal and everlasting spirit.

The fourth proof:- While speaking you use the word "I". "I went there." "I came here." Who is this "I" that speaks within you? It can look out and see its own body. It is evidently the ego within (cognito ergo sum). Therefore there is a second indestructible reality in man. The fifth proof: - When you want to undertake a great thing you retire within this chamber of your own thought and wonder "Will it be profitable? Ought I to do this? What will be the result of this?" Who is this consultant within you? That consultant is the spirit. You consult with it and you get the proper opinion; and if the spirit dictates "Go and do it", you will go on and do it, and if it dictates "No, it is not profitable", you will not dare to do it. And this state is constantly working in man, and is the proof in regard to the immortality of the soul. That inner reality is the rider and your body is the charger. The body is like unto this glass, and the spirit within you is like unto the light which illumines the glass. Although the glass may be broken, the light will not be broken. Although the bulb containing the electric light goes through the process of dissolution, the light is not destroyed. It remains latent as electric energy; and another glass will come and take the place of its predecessor, and you will again have the light shining through it.

Man has had all this journeying through the various grades, and he is traveling still and will travel, until in the end he will reach a destination which is superior to his physical life. That is called the state of perfection; but he is constantly breaking these glasses and purifying them, making for himself, by degrees, a purer and purer vehicle until it becomes perfectly transparent. At one time this glass that is here before us was in the course of vitrification in the mineral kingdom. And in the same way there was a time when the constituents of our material body were in a vegetable kingdom. And at another time they were a part of animal life. Now they have come together so as to form the human body. Therefore although the glasses be shattered, the light of the spirit or the true reality will ever shine; and this is another proof. It is not a traditional proof - not a matter of belief and theory. It belongs to the philosophy of the Kingdom and it is unanswerable.



To take another line of argument: - The world of existence, the world of manifestation, by itself and in itself, cannot enjoy perpetuity. No, the phenomenal world, or world of existence, has rather the capacity for receiving bounties and outpourings. There is a Reality which is central. The world of existence has emanated or issued from that central reality. As this material globe of ours - which in itself is not luminous - is vivified by rays emanating from the phenomenal sun - for the sun is a star - so the spiritual rays issue from this stupendous center of life and immediately all are illumined thereby.

The greatest Divine outpouring is the appearance of Divine Masters in this world. These Divine and Heavenly Verities consist of one central Verity. But they have diverse Dawning-places; just as this electric light is always the same light, although it shines through various glasses. Here one day it shines through this glass, another day this glass is extinct and it will shine through another glass. A third day it shines through a third glass - you can have many glasses - but the energy which gives light is the same, without any difference. The Light is indivisible, it is one light; and although these Heavenly Masters, as far as their personalities are concerned, are different; as regards their Inner Nature they enjoy one central realm, and that one central realm emanates from the central spiritual sun. There are many mirrors from which the sun is reflected. Yet the sun is one. This is an astronomical question. For example: - Here on the map you have twelve rays issuing forth from the central body/ As you look, see that there is one center and one stellar body; but this stellar body is capable of transmitting many, many rays of light to all parts. One light gives forth these twelve rays. Similarly one sun, the phenomenal sun, dawns at one time from the celestial sign of Capricorn; at another time it shines from the sign of Leo; at another time it will appear from the sign of Aries. It will shine from one point in spring, and again from another point in winter; but the sun is the same sun, and the ray is the same ray, although it passes through many signs. When the sun dawns from any particular sign, its heart is of a certain intensity. Similarly, there are differences in these Divine Manifestations, or "Masters"; but in reality they show forth the One Central Truth.

Man must never look at the Dawning-Points, he must ever look upward and see the Sun. He must be an adorer of the Sun, no matter from what Point it appears. He must recognize the Light, no matter from which Glass it has been admitted. For Light is illimitable, and man must attain to that state of divine perception. He must never limit himself to any one system. There are many mirrors reflecting the Light; but though all these mirrors should be shattered, the Light would remain. So long as we are seeking the Light and constantly turning towards it, we shall love the Light, no matter from which globe it may be shining.

And now I have made you quite tired.

O Thou Almighty God! Illumine our minds. May the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Arouse the hearts that are dead. Quicken the souls that are fast asleep.

(Theosophical Society)

Deliver us from ever tribulation. Suffer us to attain to Thine Infinite Kingdom. O Lord, confer upon us Thy Bounty so that we may attain to Thy Knowledge. May we be lovers of Thy Beauty no matter in which Human Temple it may appear. May we become the adorners of the Sun of Thy Reality, no matter from which dawning place it may shine forth. May we be the seekers of sweet fragrances no matter from which rose it is diffused. O Lord, deliver us from the material world and lead us on to Thine Eternal Kingdom so that we may walk in Thy Pathway, seek after Thy Holy Places and in consecration of the elect may we witness the transfiguration of Thy Bounteous Truth. Thou art Generous. Thou art Compassionate. Thou art Omnipotent. Thou art Omniscient.

.....

## THE GARMENT OF JOSEPH.

The great spiritual lights have always appeared in the East. The Blessed Perfection, Baha'u'llah, appeared in the East. His Holiness Jesus Christ dawned upon the horizon of the East. Moses, Aaron, Joseph and all the Israelitish prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekial, Isaiah and others appeared from the Orient.

- Promulgation of Universal Peace, page 21.

Among the great prophets was His Holiness Abraham, who being an iconoclast and a herald of the oneness of God, was banished from his native land. He founded a family upon which the blessing of God descended; and it was owing to this religious basis and ordination the Abrahamic house progressed and advanced. Through the divine benediction, noteworthy and luminous prophets issued from the lineage of Hos Holiness. There appeared Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David and Solomon.

- Promulgation of Universal Peace, page 356.

Abraham's migration from his native land caused the bountiful gifts of the All-Glorious to be made manifest, and the setting of Canaan's brightest star unfolded to the eyes the radiance of Joseph.

- Star of the West, Vol. XIV, page 87.

In consequence of his exile the descendants of Abraham became powerful, and the Holy Land was given to them. As a result the teachings of Abraham were spread abroad, a Jacob appeared among his posterity, and a Joseph who became the ruler in Egypt.

- Some Answered Questions, page 15.

You have expressed joy and happiness because of the trip of Abdu'l Baha from the center of prison (Acca) to the land of the divine Joseph (Egypt).

- Star of the West, Vol. 1, #16, page 1.

The Hand of Divine Power released the neck of Abdu'l Baha from the chains of the prison of Joseph and the fetters and manacles were placed around the unblessed neck of Abdul Hamid.

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #4, page 6.

If Adam sinned by going near the forbidden tree ..... what was the transgression of Joseph the Truthful?

- Some Answered Questions, page 143.

I am sending you forth as Jacob sent Joseph of old. (Words of Abdu'l Baha to some pilgrims).

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #18, page 8.

In the first book which he (the Bab) wrote in explanation of the Sura of Joseph, he addressed himself in all passages to the Person unseen from whom he received help and grace, sought for aid in arrangement of his preliminaries, and craved the sacrifice of life in the way of his love.

- Episode of the Bab, page 3.

Know that God has united all the essences and meanings and all attributes and names and explanations in a woven cloth and covered with it that Holy and Divine Person, that he may in that garment represent the Beloved Joseph. (Words of Baha'u'llah)

- World Unity Magazine, August 1933.

- The World of Reality, (Ruhi Afnan, part 11, page 307.

Verily, thy namesake, the faithful Joseph, fell surely into grievous distress through the jealousy of his brethern, who dishonored him; nay, outraged him, and cast him behind their backs and threw him in a dark well; they sold him for a paltry price - for a few pence - returning to their father at eve weeping, and, with his shirt stained with false blood, they slandered the wolf who was free from blame. The same shall appear from these violaters. Then interpret this vision: How the conduct of these former evil-doers agreeth with the course of the succeeding followers of great darkness.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 364.

When Joseph found that his envious brothers and his jealous relations and friends were heedless and unmindful, he unveiled his face in the market of the Egyptians, so that in exile he might destroy the foundation of strangeness and raise the banner of unity. Therefore it is the aim of this exiled one, that God willing, he may become the Herald and carry the glad tidings of the Kingdom to the empires of the West. Perchance the splendor of the Beauty of the real Joseph - the Most Great Name - May my life be a sacrifice to Him! - may shine from the countries of the Occident; and I beg of God that the glances of mercifulness may assist.

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #10, page 3.

The Holy Manifestations, especially the reality of the Greatest Name, the Beauty of Abha, when unveiled amid the assemblage of the world, like unto Joseph of Canaan, in the divine Egypt, will appear with such Beauty and Sweetness as to make the lovers of the world His captives.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 542.

As the Joseph of Egypt possessed real beauty and knowledge, he was in great demand in the Egyptian market. Although he was a stranger and abject, yet as he had this splendor, he became the beloved of the divine Egypt; attained eternal glory, and was addressed by his brethern, "Verily, God hath given thee precedence over us."

- Star of the West, Vol. XI, page 275.

## The Song of the Covenant.

The Divine Minstrel held the stringed instrument in His Hand and preluded a melody and tune after the Persian note, and sang this song with a loud voice, as follows:

This is the Ancient Covenant!  
This is the One Who has the Cup in His Hand!  
This is the One Who has brought failure in the market of Joseph of the Merciful God!  
This is the Testament of Accord!  
This is a Covenant to hold to, and utterly detach one's self from aught else!  
This is the cause of stopping the cries of contradiction (made by deniers) through the Divine Mercy!  
This is the Pre-existent Covenant!  
This is the weighty Mystery!  
This is the Greatest Secret of the Countenance of El Baha - May my soul redeem His beloved ones!  
- Star of the West, Vol. V, page 209.

Verily, thou who art called by this honorable name, desire to have a portion in its great successes, to become a cherished one in the Egypt of the love of God, to possess qualities free from all evil and to become the source of good deeds.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 364 -5.

It was the love of God that led Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that strengthened Joseph in Egypt and gave Moses courage and patience.

- Wisdom of Abdu'l Baha, page 75.

(Chapter XII of the KORAN should be read in order to understand the rest of these quotations from Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha)

Consider, O maid-servant of God, the bearer who brought the garment of Joseph to Jacob. That messenger was the bearer of the garment, but he could not inhale the fragrance of Joseph. But Jacob, whose nostrils were pure, inhaled the fragrances of Joseph from a long distance.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 682.

Physical nearness or remoteness is of no importance; the essential fact is the spiritual affinity and ideal nearness. Judas Iscariot was for a long time favored in the holy court of His Holiness Christ, yet he was entirely far and remote; while Paul, the apostle, was in close embrace with His Holiness. The Egyptian carrier of glad-tidings was the bearer of the garment of Joseph; yet he could not inhale the fragrance of the garment. His holiness Jacob, in Canaan, longed for meeting (Joseph), yet he was near and inhaled the fragrances of the garment. Consequently, it is evident that one can certainly and surely inhale the perfume of affinity even from a far distance.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 720.

Be # 471

Many a Jacob he sees wandering in quest of Joseph.

If, through the assistance of God, he find, in this journey, a trace of the Traceless Friend, and inhale the smell of the lost Joseph from the Harbinger of Oneness, he will immediately step into the Valley of Love.

Not until thou enterest the Egypt of the Spirit, wilt thou attain to the Joseph of the Beauty of the Friend; not until thou, like Jacob, give up thine outward eye, wilt thou open thine inward eye; and not until thou art ablaze with the fire of love, wilt thou associate with the Friend of acstasy.

- Seven Valleys, pages 8, 11, 12.

Shouldst thou inhale the Perfume of the Robe from the Youth that hath been hidden within the Tabernacle of Light by reason of that which the hands of the wicked have wrought, Raise a cry within thyself that all the inmates of the chambers of Paradise that are the embodiments of the Eternal Wealth may understand and hearken; That they may all come down from their everlasting chambers, And kiss their hands and feet for having soared to the heights of faithfulness, Perchance they may find from their Robes the fragrance of the Beloved One!

- Baha'i Scriptures, page 253.

Every believer who hath found the Perfume of the Garment in this Day and turneth with a pure heart toward the Supreme Horizon, he is mentioned as one of the followers of Baha upon a red page.

- Baha'i Scriptures, page 259.

O my Lord, I perceive the fragrance of Thy Garment as Thou hast approached with Signs and hast honored these countries by Thy Feet. Blessing be unto Thy people if they know Thee and discover Thy Fragrance, and woe unto those who sleep!

- Star of the West, Vol. 1V, page 19.

Say, from My Ordinances emanateth the scent of My Garment, and by them the standards of victory will be hoisted on the tops of mountains and hills. The Tongue of My Might, in the realm of My Greatness, hath addressed My creatures, saying: "Follow My Ordinances for the Love of My Perfection!"

- Star of the West, Vol. 1V, page 298.

Turn thou unto the Kingdom of Oneness and chant thou the verses of Singleness. Be thou invested with a robe, the embroidery of which is purity and sanctity, and the woof and warp of which is the spirituality of the Mighty Lord, so that thou mayest inhale the fragrance of the divine rose-garden from the garment of the real Joseph and so divest thyself of the mantle of bodily things that angelhodd and ideal spirituality become realized (in thee).

- Tablets, Vol. 1, page 124.

Move your tongues to thank the Loving Lord, and employ yourselves in praising and glorifying the Beauty of the Adored One, for ye were granted the privilege to be exhilarated from this most pure cup, and become full of cheer and attraction from this goblet of wine. Ye have perfumed your nostrils with the fragrance of sanctity, and delighted your senses with the scent of the garment of Joseph of faithfulness. Ye tasted the honey of devotion from the hand of the Unique Beloved and partook of the eternal table at the feast of the blessing of the Presence of the Unity.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 371.

Thank ye His Highness the Imcomparable One, that ye have become assisted in the service of the self-subsistent Lord and that ye are making copies of the Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, spreading them all around. This service is the most great bounty; for like unto the messenger from Egypt, ye are sending the garment of the Jodeph of the Love of God to all directions, so that the fragrance of the rose-garden of the Kingdom of Abha impart the spirit of life to the inquirers.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 586.

Study Genesis 37+50.  
Koran, chapter 12.

Compiled by Doris Goodrick.

BC# 473

R. C. A. RADIOGRAM.

July 30, 1936.

Baha'i, New York.

(I) entreat (the) American believers (to) ponder afresh (the) urgency (to) rededicate themselves (to the) task (of the) complete fulfillment (of the) Divine Plan. (The) National Assembly's energetic leadership (and) careful planning (are) ineffectual unless supplemented by vigorous action by every believer, however humble, however inexperienced. Time is short. (The) sands (of a) chaotic, despairing civilization (are) steadily running out. Founded on (the) unity (and) understanding so steadily achieved, functioning within (the) framework (of the) Administrative Order (so) laboriously erected, inspired (by the) vision (of the) Temple edifice so nobly reared, galvanized into action (by the) realization (of the) rapidly-deteriorating world situation, (the) American Baha'i Community should rise as never before (to the) height (of the) opportunity now confronting it. Audacity, resolution (and) self-abnegation (are) imperatively demanded. Impatiently and prayerfully waiting.

Shoghi.

Be# 474



LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

April 3, 1935.

The local Spiritual Assemblies of the United States and Canada.

Beloved Baha'i friends:

A cablegram of the utmost importance has been received from the Guardian. Its appeal is directed to each individual Baha'i of the United States and Canada.

CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE AND TRANSFER TO PALESTINE BRANCH (OF THE) AMERICAN (NATIONAL SPIRITUAL) ASSEMBLY (OF THE) DUMIT PROPERTY SITUATED (AT THE) CENTER (OF) AREA DEDICATED TO SHRINES ON MOUNT CARMEL (HAS BEEN) SIGNED. FOUR YEARS LITIGATION INVOLVING BAHA'I WORLD'S PETITIONS (TO) PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER (HAS BEEN) ABANDONED. OWNERS REQUIRE 4000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$20,000). HALF (OF THIS) SUM (IS) AVAILABLE. WILL AMERICAN BELIEVERS UNITEDLY CONTRIBUTE 1000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$5,000) BEFORE END OF MAY AND REMAINING 1000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$5,000) WITHIN NINE MONTHS. AM COMPELLED APPEAL ENTIRE BODY AMERICAN COMMUNITY SUBORDINATE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF FAITH TO ITS URGENT PARAMOUNT REQUIREMENTS AT ITS WORLD CENTER.

(Signed) SHOGHI.

(Received at New York, March 30, 1935)

To this message the following reply was immediately sent: "American Baha'i community, acclaiming impressive victory which contributes to future consolidation Divine institutions, will with one heart fulfil glorious privilege conferred upon it by beloved Guardian."

In communicating this appeal to the Baha'i Community, the following brief explanation will reveal the significance of the facts which Shoghi Effendi has reported.

The "Dumit property" is an area on Mount Carmel which has seriously interfered with the Guardian's plan of safeguarding the vicinity of the Holy Shrines and of preparing the necessary land for the future construction of important world Baha'i institutions. Held by an enemy of the Faith, the property has been made the basis of law suits against the Guardian throughout the period of the last four years. In July, 1933, at Shoghi Effendi's direction, the National Spiritual Assembly sent to the High Commissioner at Jerusalem a petition setting forth the religious character of the Baha'i land on Mount Carmel and appealing for his favorable action on the Baha'i claims. That petition was not at the time reported to the believers because the Guardian wished the matter held confidential pending the final outcome.

BC # 475

Shoghi Effendi's cablegram, consequently, means these three things: first, that a tract of land of paramount importance to the development of the Baha'i World Center can be acquired; second, that the law suits which have interrupted that development and been burdensome are now a thing of the past; and third, that the Guardian has made a contract to purchase that area, fulfillment of which requires the American Baha'i community to contribute approximately \$5,000 to the Guardian before May 31, 1935, and an additional \$5,000 within nine months.

No Baha'i will overlook the fact that the progress of the Faith of Baha'u'llah, in its evolution to His World Order, depends upon the collective capacity of the believers to assist in strengthening the World Center at Haifa. From that Center, through the Guardian now and through the Guardian and the Universal House of Justice in the future, flows outward to the Baha'i community the spiritual inspiration and the administrative power which sustains our efforts, guides our actions and renews our souls.

As Shoghi Effendi declares: "Am compelled appeal entire body American Community subordinate national interest of Faith to its urgent, paramount requirement at its World Center."

While humanity plunges blindly forward to a destiny become inevitable, it is our most sacred and glorious privilege, our most compelling duty to Baha'u'llah Himself, to do our part in laying the foundation firmly, in true love and sacrifice, for the World Order that is to give mankind the blessing of the Most Great Peace. "Ten years of unceasing turmoil, so laden with anguish, so fraught with incalculable consequences to the future of civilization, have brought the world to the verge of calamity too awful to contemplate." (The Goal of a New World Order, page 10) "Ours, dearly-beloved co-workers, is the paramount duty to continue with undimmed vision and unabated zeal, to assist in the final erection of that Edifice the foundation of which Baha'u'llah has laid in our hearts, to derive added hope and strength from the general trend of recent events, however dark their immediate effects, and to pray with unremitting fervor that He may hasten the approach of the realization of that Wondrous Vision which constitutes the brightest emanation of His Mind and the fairest fruit of the fairest civilization the world has yet seen." (The Goal of a New World Order, page 28). And addressing the American Baha'is Shoghi Effendi has written: "In a world writhing with pain and declining into chaos this community - the vanguard of the liberating forces of Baha'u'llah - succeeded in the years following Abdu'l Baha's passing in raising high above the institutions established by its sister communities in East and West what may well constitute the chief pillar of that future House - A HOUSE WHICH POSTERITY WILL REGARD AS THE LAST REFUGE OF A TOTTERING CIVILIZATION." (America and the Most Great Peace, page 21).

Such is the significance of our united effort to fulfil the Guardian's present appeal.

Now, that the matter may proceed with all possible force and efficiency, will each local Assembly do its utmost to transmit to the National Fund a flow of special donations marked for the Guardian, that our Treasurer, well within the dates fixed in the cablegram, may in turn transmit to Shoghi Effendi the two sums he requires. For its part, the National Spiritual Assembly will forthwith meet the problem of reducing its national budget to the lowest possible amount. Above all, we express the confident hope that all American Baha'is will take part in this magnificent enterprise, this holy and consecrated crusade under our Guardian's banner, even though in many circumstances the amount given may be only a tiny sum. What we are building is a true spiritual unity - the material needs of the Faith will all be met when that unity is attained!

Yours faithfully,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

.....  
N.S.A. to Local Assemblies.

December, 1936.

MESSAGE FROM THE GUARDIAN.

"Will the Assemblies share the following words written by the Guardian to the N.S.A. on November 14, with the members of the community. Once more Shoghi Effendi inspires the believers with his vision of the urgency of teaching."

"The promulgation of the Divine Plan, unveiled by our departed Master in the darkest days of one of the severest ordeals which humanity has ever experienced, is the key which Providence has placed in the hands of the American believers whereby to unlock the doors leading them to fulfil their unimaginably glorious Destiny. As the proclamation of the Message reverberates throughout the land, as its resistless march gathers momentum, as the field of its operation widens, and the numbers of its upholders and champions multiply, its potentialities will correspondingly unfold, exerting a most beneficent influence, not only on every community throughout the Bahai world, but on the immediate fortunes of a travelling society. The repercussions of this campaign are already apparent in Europe, India, Egypt, Iraq and even among the sorely tried communities in Persia and Russia. The Faith of God is gaining in stature, effectiveness and power. Not until, however, the great enterprise which you are now conducting runs its full course and attains its final objective, at its appointed time, can its world encompassing benefits be fully apprehended or revealed. The perseverance of the American believers will, no doubt, ensure the ultimate realization of these benefits."

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BULLETIN -

Issued by the National Spiritual Assembly.

November 1936.

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The Spiritual Assemblies are requested to present to the Baha'i Community the following cablegram received from the Guardian, Oct.29.

AMERICAN BAHAI COMMUNITY - Care BAHAI, NEW YORK.

OVERJOYED, UNSPEAKABLY GRATEFUL (FOR) AMERICAN BELIEVERS' SIGNAL RESPONSE (TO) MY REITERATED APPEAL. (THE) INAUGURATED CAMPAIGN (IS) FRAUGHT (WITH) CONSEQUENCES INVOLVING (THE) IMMEDIATE DESTINIES (OF THE) AMERICAN COMMUNITY. (THE) SHADOWS ENCIRCLING SORE-TRIED HUMAN SOCIETY (ARE) NOTICEABLY DEEPENING. (THE) WORLD CRISIS (IS) INEXORABLY MOVING TOWARDS CLIMAX, CHALLENGING (THE) TORCH BEARERS (OF) BAHAI CIVILIZATION (TO) SCALE LOFTIER HEIGHTS (OF) INDIVIDUAL HEROISM, (TO) SCATTER MORE WIDELY THROUGHOUT (THE) LENGTH (AND) BREADTH (OF THE) AMERICAN CONTINENTS, (TO) PARTICIPATE MORE STRENUOUSLY (IN) CONCERTED EFFORT ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL, REGIONAL (AND) LOCAL AGENCIES DEDICATED (TO THE) PROSECUTION (OF) NOBLE ENTERPRISE, (TO) POUR FORTH MORE ABUNDANTLY (THEIR) RESOURCES IN SUPPORT (OF THE) FUND CREATED FOR ITS FURTHERANCE, (AND) RESOLVE MORE DETERMINEDLY (TO) CONQUER WHATEVER OBSTACLES MIGHT RETARD ITS ULTIMATE FRUITION. (THE) DAWN BREAKERS (IN) PREVIOUS AGE HAVE ON PERSIAN SOIL SIGNALIZED BY THEIR ACTS (THE) BIRTH (OF THE) FAITH OF BAHAI'ULLAH. MIGHT NOT AMERICAN BELIEVERS, THEIR SPIRITUAL DESCENDANTS, PROVE THEMSELVES IN TURN CAPABLE (OF) USHERING IN ON WORLD SCALE THE CIVILIZATION OF WHICH THAT FAITH IS (THE) DIRECT SOURCE AND SOLE BEGETTER.

SHOGHI.

What more empathic could be than this warning of world crisis, this assurance of the destiny of the Faith? During these coming days, as we gather together for the Anniversary of Baha'u'llah, for the Day of the Covenant, and for the Ascension of Abdul Baha, as well as for the Nineteen Day Feasts, may we individually and collectively pray for a thousand times greater power to promote His Cause.

A Tablet to a believer regarding the duties of all the Baha'is.

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HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received and its contents became evident. It was an indication of a prayer and supplication and a proof of attraction and enkindlement. Happy is thy condition that thou art in this state and in this firmness.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! The Lord of the Kingdom and the Sun of Truth has sent forth a splendor and effulgence upon the world and the universe. All the contingent things found life and existence from the rays of that Effulgence, entered and became manifest in the Arena of Being. Therefore, all the objective phenomena are as surfaces of mirrors upon which the Sun of Truth has cast the rays of the Outpouring of Bounty. All these surfaces (different stages of life) are mirrors reflecting the rays of the Sun of Truth. The Outpouring is the One Outpouring, and the Effulgence is the One Effulgence. These complex and diversified mirrors are different from each other. Some of them are in a state of the utmost purity and clearness, reflecting the rays of the Sun of Truth, and the Effulgence of the Luminary is manifest and visible in them. On the other hand there are mirrors full of dust and dark, consequently they are deprived and bereft of any radiation.

The believers of God are the translucent mirrors, who, with the utmost purity and clearness, are reflecting the rays of the Orb of regions. Other communities are bedarkened and bedimmed like unto a stone and adamant. This condition is especially true of the people of hostility, animosity, oppression and tyranny, and the fanatical ones, who, on account of the accumulation of dust (prejudice) have become like unto the black stone, into which the rays of the sun do not penetrate and from which no light radiates.

Now we must not consider nor recognize these mirrors, which are deprived of every gift, as strangers and foreigners; neither should we speak of or know them as enemies or savages; nay, rather, must we recognize them as the members of our body, showing them love and affection; not as strangers but as associates; not as foreigners but as friends. One must become engaged in their training and education, sympathize with them and show pity to them, and lead them into the Heavenly characteristics, in order that the accumulated dust may disappear from the surfaces of those mirrors and the shining rays of the Sun of Truth radiate from them.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Beware! Beware! Be ye not a stranger to anyone, even if he be the lowest of savages on the face of the earth and knows nothing of God, or even if he be an enemy. Desire ye his association, aspire ye for his freedom and long ye for

BC# 479

Duties of all Baha'is, cont.

his perfection, in order that hatred and dissensions, animosities and oppressions, cruelties and tyrannies, brutalities and falsehoods, pride and transgressions may be removed from among mankind, the universe become the Paradise of Abha, the world be transformed into the Kingdom of Heaven, the human race become angels and the individuals of the world of humanity become the manifestors of the Favors of the Glorious Lord. This is the perfection of the human world. This is the Divine Guidance of the Almighty.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Display ye the utmost charity toward the poor, the orphans and the helpless ones of all communities and nations and have ye for them exceeding consideration. Serve ye them like unto the real servants. Know ye them as excellent persons, and count yourselves day and night the thralls of mankind.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Know thou that supplication and prayer is the Water of Life. It is the cause of the vivification of existence, and endows glad-tidings and joy to the souls. Show thou attention to this matter as far as thou canst, and summon others to prayer and supplication.

Upon thee be greetings and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Espahani.  
Washing, D. C.  
December 14, 1916.

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The Promulgation of Universal Peace. Page 185.

Words spoken by Abdu'l Baha, June 15, 1912, New York City.

"I desire distinction for you. The Baha'is must be distinguished from others of humanity. But this distinction must not depend upon wealth - that they should become more affluent than other people. I do not desire for you financial distinction. It is not an ordinary distinction I desire; not scientific, commercial, industrial distinction. For you I desire spiritual distinction; that is, you must become eminent and distinguished from all else. You must become distinguished for loving humanity; for unity and accord; for love and justice. In brief, you must become distinguished in all the virtues of the human world; for faithfulness and sincerity; for justice and fidelity; for firmness and steadfastness; for philanthropic deeds and service to the human world; for love toward every human being; for unity and accord with all people; for removing prejudices and promoting universal peace. Finally, you must become distinguished for heavenly illumination and acquiring the bestowals of God. I desire this distinction for you. This must be the point of distinction among you."

BC# 480

PROMISES OF WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE IF WE LIVE THE LIFE.

Set aside every mention save the mention of God and abandon everything save the divulgence of the Testament, be attracted by the magnet of the Covenant that thou mayest see the triumph of the angels of the King of the Kingdom and the valor of the hosts of Might. By the Life of the Lord! the invincible power will indeed strengthen, the HOLY SPIRIT will speak in thy mouth, the word of God will be revealed in thy heart, the sound of the trumpet of the Lord will gladden thee, the light of unity will shine from thy brow, the doors of success and prosperity will be opened upon thy face and the secrets of the Holy Books will be unfolded.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 160)

The truth I say unto you: "Verily, the Supreme Concurrence will utter praise unto you, because ye forsook the desires of self, were illumined by the light of guidance, clothed yourselves with the garment of sanctity and called in the Name of El-Baha among the people. Verily, ye shall reap what ye sow and obtain the fruits of what ye plant. This is a pre-ordained fact."

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 12)

Surely a day will come when all thy desires will be attained and God will answer all that which thou hast prayed for in thy heart and I beg of Him to make all that which thou hast longed for long ago, very attainable. Then thy heart will be overflowed with joy on account of such great bounty.

(Tablets of Abdul Baha, Vol. 1, page 122)

If thou wilt employ thyself in the service (of the Cause of God) the past losses will be recovered and all the troubles will be settled. This is a manifest truth.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol. 1, pages 158, 159)

It is incumbent upon thee to be firm in the Covenant and to stand up and serve the religion of God. Verily, this is the MAGNET of confirmation and assistance, the attracter of all success and the leader of hosts of gifts.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol. 1, page 172)

LAST TALK GIVEN BY ABDU'L BAHA.

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At the House of Abdu'l Baha.  
Haifa, Palestine.

November 19, 1921.

Talk given by Abdu'l Baha at the regular six o'clock evening meeting, called "The Persian Meeting", with Mr. John D. Bosch of Geyserville, California, present - the only one present from a foreign country among sixty friends who met at this time - just nine days before the Ascension of Abdu'l Baha, in fact, this was the last public talk given by Abdu'l Baha in the Persian Meeting when an American attended, before His Ascension.

(Interpreted by Mirza Mohammed Ali Afnan. Taken down in Persian by Dr. Lotfullah Hakim.)

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Abdu'l Baha opened the meeting by saying to Mr. Bosch:  
"Although you are here with these assembled friends and can not speak with them nor they with you, yet you speak with one another through the heart. The language of the heart is even more expressive than the language of the tongue and is more truthful and has wider reach and a more potent effect."

Mr. Bosch said: "This is a wonderful spiritual experience, to be here with the friends."

Abdu'l Baha said: "When lovers meet it may be that they can not exchange a single word, yet with their hearts they speak to one another. Thus do the clouds speak to the earth and the rain comes down; the breezes whisper to the trees; the sun speaks to the eyes of men. Although this is not actual speech, yet this is the way in which the hearts of the friends talk together. It is the harmony between two persons and this harmony is of the hearts. For instance, you were in America and I was in the Holy Land; although our lips were still, yet with our hearts we were conversing together. The friends here love you very much. They have a real attachment for you although with the tongue they can not express it."

Mr. Bosch said: "I am very glad. I love them too."



Abdu'l Baha said: "If this love is real and true, if it is from the heart, it will characterize itself by self-sacrifice. When the attachment is superficial, friends do not sacrifice themselves even to the extent of a hair's breadth. His Holiness Christ LOVED both His disciples and believers to such an extent that He Sacrificed His Life for them. His Holiness the Supreme (the Bab) LOVED the friends to such an extent that He gave His Life for them. The Blessed Beauty (Baha'u'llah) LOVED the friends to such an extent that for their sakes He accepted a thousand difficulties and afflictions. He was banished from place to place. His properties were confiscated. He gave all - His family, His relatives, His possessions. He accepted imprisonment, chains and fetters. His Holy Person was imprisoned in the fortress of Akka until the last moment of His Life. He was made to suffer more calamities, afflictions and difficulties than could be enumerated. He had not an hour's comfort. He was continually under the greatest hardships and ordeals. What great persecutions He endured from His enemies! What great afflictions He bore from His own relatives! He accepted all these trials for our sakes so that He might educate us, so that He might make us illumined, so that He might make us Heavenly, so that He might change our character, change our lives, so that He might illumine our inmost self. All these troubles He accepted for our sakes. He did indeed sacrifice His Life for us. This love is the real LOVE. This is the inner attachment and the genuine friendship. This is the love which sacrifices one's all, one's life. This is the reality of love. He accepted all these troubles.

"All this can not be accomplished by merely talking. It can not be done by saying: 'I love you' or 'How is your health' or 'You are my beloved' or 'You are esteemed'. This is not love. This is attachment that will break in the testing. This is why one sees persons associating with one another, apparently friends, expressing the greatest praise for one another, appearing to be enraptured with one another. Each seems to sacrifice himself for the other, but when they part they become as strangers. This is human love, it is not spiritual love; it is not divine love; it has no real foundation and in the time of testing it will fail and disappear.

"If you should go to Persia and mingle with the friends there and should be in the house of the friends and people should come to take you, to kill you, you would then witness how the owner of the house would sacrifice himself for you. He would sacrifice himself for you rather than allow even one hair of your head to be hurt. THIS IS LOVE! It has happened often in Persia that the friends have sacrificed themselves for one another. This has happened many times. This Love is the LOVE OF GOD.

"The King of Martyrs and the Beloved of Martyrs were two souls who were greatly honored among the people. They were wealthy. They were extremely comfortable. The people pillaged their property. They put them in chains. They put them in prison. The Shah of Persia decreed that they should be killed; that they should either deny their faith or be killed. The notables came to them and advised them to renounce their faith. The friends came and advised them; even the government advised them to recant so that they might save their lives. But they would not deny. They continued to cry aloud: 'YA BAHÁ EL ABHÁ!' (O Thou Glory of the Most Glorious!) And so they were martyred.

"This is the Love of God! This is the Love of the heart!

"THIS IS DIVINE LOVE!"

.....

...A PRAYER...

OUR ASSISTANCE IS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE BLESSED PERFECTION.  
IF ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST US WE  
WOULD STILL POSSESS THIS AND ALL THE WORLD COULD NOT TAKE IT AWAY  
FROM US.

IT IS A WEAPON TO FIGHT WITH FOREVER AND EVER AND WITH IT  
WE WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS.

IT IS A SWORD WHICH CAN NEVER BE DULLED, A MAGAZINE WHICH WILL  
ALWAYS BE FULL.

ABDU'L BAHÁ.

.....

HE IS GOD!

O thou seeker of Truth!

Whatever thou hast heretofore heard was fancy, not truth; was tradition (or narration), not vision, for it was an explanation concerning the Rising of the Sun, but that explanation was during the night.

But in this Day the Light of Truth hath dawned and the world hath become illumined; and therefore whatever thou (now) hearest concerning the Sun is on the authority of vision (or actual sight), not on tradition (or narration). Consequently, open thine eye so that thou mayest hear the Divine Voice. Be delivered from thyself, from the thoughts and superstitions, until thou mayest find Eternal Life.

Recollect thou how many imaginations (or fancies) thou had during thy life! Now it has become evident that they were all superstitions, not Truth. Now walk thou in the Path of Truth so that the shining Lights may encompass thee and thy soul find a new life.

Be thou quit of the superstitions of the Pharisees, so that they may not prevent thee from believing in the Christ. For the Pharisees were heedless of the real purpose of the Holy Scripture, and since they did not understand the meaning of the Pentateuch, they assailed His Highness, Christ. One said: "Christ must come from Heaven; this person has come from the womb of Mary!" Another said: "He must come from an unknown place; we know this one is from Nazareth." Another said: "Where is the Kingdom of the Messiah?" Another said: "Where is the iron rod?" Another said: "Where is the throne of David, and how did the Messiah sit upon it?" Another said: "Where is the Justice during the days of the Messiah, and the association of the wild beasts - wolf with lamb, leopard with young goat, asp with suckling babe?"

To be brief: As they did not understand the meaning of the Holy Scripture, they did not approve of His Holiness, the Spirit of God (i.e. Christ). They opposed Him, avoided Him; nay, they made Him an ornament of the cross. They took the liberty of treating Him with the utmost injustice.

Now too, (in this Day) the heedless ones are like unto the Pharisees and are not informed (or are ignorant) of the Truth of the Holy Scripture! Consequently, they oppose the Blessed Beauty (i.e. Baha'u'llah) and are of the scoffers.

Before long this Great Cause will change the dust-bin of strife, conflict and warfare into the Garden of Love, Affinity, Peace and Conciliation.

Upon thee be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan, July 9, 1905.

BC# 451

To the maid-servant of God, the Honorable Mamie Agnew.

I supplicate God to perfume thy nostrils with the Fragrances of Holiness wafting from this Paradise of ABHA! Know, IT is a Fragrance which imparts Spirit to the hearts and minds and quickens the souls with the Eternal and Everlasting Life throughout centuries and cycles.

By the Glory of My Lord do I declare, should one inhale from this pure and sweet Fragrance, he will become quickened with the Life of God; the Holy Spirit will assist him under all circumstances and he will talk with the Power of the Spirit at all times.

I beg of God to confirm thee with this Spirit, to follow Abdu'l Baha in humility and lowliness toward the beloved of God, to be severed from aught else save God, and be attracted wholly to the Kingdom of God.

Consider thou not the lack of ability, nor of capacity, for ability and capacity depend upon the Favor of thy Lord, and the Favor of thy Lord is never prevented.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated June 10, 1907.

.....

To Mrs. Sheppard, Brooklyn, N. Y.

O thou who art shining with the Light of the Love of God.

Verily, I read thy confession of the Oneness of God, thine acknowledgement of the appearance of the Kingdom of God, thy turning thy face towards the Day Spring of the Verses of God, thy desire to arise in the service of the Cause of God, and thine adherence to the Covenant of God! Amen!

I say unto thee: Every woman who is directed to the Guidance of God in this Great Age will surpass men in every respect, and she will be informed of the Hidden Mysteries and Preserved Allegory. Her words will take effect even in a hard rock. Minds will be astonished at the power of her understanding and souls will be subdued by the strength of her argument.

It is incumbent upon thee to be steadfast in this Great Cause, firm in this right Path, quaff from this Cup which is overflowing with the Wine of Knowledge, and resist the hosts of trial or tests.

Upon thee be praise!

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

52  
Bc # 425

HE IS GOD!

O thou servant of the Beauty of Abha!

What thou hadst written was perused. I was informed of the details. His Holiness Christ said: "Now is the time of the marriage feast." Reflect thou duly upon this utterance. The reality of circumstance and the requirement of the times will become clear and manifest; and Abdu'l Baha says: "This time is the time of teaching (the Truth)." Each one of the beloved must night and day endeavor and exert himself in teaching the souls (or people), and guide men to the Divine Kingdom. Such souls (i.e. those who teach) are in this day assisted (by God), and successful, for each time (or season) hath a requirement. One day is the time of seed-sowing; one day is the time of watering; one day is the time of reaping; and one day is the time of harvest. Now in the Kingdom of God, too, is the time of seed-sowing. Think ye of this, in order that ye may be assisted and confirmed; that ye may see the assistance of the hosts of the Kingdom of Abha and behold the confirmation of the Angels of Heaven.

Had each one of the beloved of God in America engaged in teaching the Cause of God, like unto the beloved in Persia, now they would (already) have guided several millions of souls, and all souls would have obtained a joy and happiness.

In Persia the friends of God utter the cry of "Ya Baha el Abha" while under the sword, and open their tongues in teaching (the Truth); and they engage in guiding souls, even when they are in jail, in chains and shackles. Ye should make an effort that in America, too, (some) souls may arise (to teach) in this manner; in order that the luminosity of Mercifulness may illumine and irradiate those regions.

Repeatedly I write, that, if conditions continue in this manner, that is, if disagreement remain (or continue) among the beloved ones (believers) in America, the Cause of God will (thereby) entirely become extinguished (in that country) and the seed which have been sown will decay, and all will become afflicted with a manifest loss. Now is the time of teaching (the Truth): that is all!

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan.  
January 5, 1904.

A prayer in supplication for forgiveness for -  
The dear maid-servant of God, the respected Mrs. Hearst.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O Divine Providence, O Forgiving Lord!

Mrs. Hearst has hastened from this dark and dreary world to the realm of light; she has become detached from this nether world and has flown to the realm on high.

O my God! Endowed with a seeing eye, she beheld the rays of the Sun of Truth, and endowed with a hearing ear, she hearkened to the call of the Kingdom; possessing a keen sense of smell, she inhaled the fragrant scent of the Paradise of Abha and gifted with a pure heart, she overflowed with Thy love.

From the far West, she journeyed to the Holy Land, attained the privilege of visiting the sacred spot and served Thy Kingdom.

O Thou pardoning God! Ignite her candle, and cause her star to become resplendent in the immortal realms. Let her memory be spread abroad over all regions and her name, like unto that of Mary Magdalene, be ever illustrious among the denizens of the Kingdom. Cause her fame to be world wide and her voice to reach the ears of the Supreme Concourse.

Exalt the members of her family and place upon their heads the diadem of everlasting glory, that they appreciate the value of that honorable soul, and may realize what a magnificent edifice she has erected for them, and what a standard of everlasting glory she has hoisted, so that of her, her family and kindred may be eternally proud.

O compassionate Lord! Although at present Thy favor on her behalf is unknown, yet in the future, like unto the sun, it shall be made manifest.

Verily, Thou art the Forgiver, the Bestower, and the Compassionate.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
Haifa, Palestine.  
June 2, 1919.

Be # 454

To the maid-servant of God, Victoria Bedikian, Montclair, N. J.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O thou dear maid servant of God!

Thy numerous letters have been received. All were indicative of faith, assurance, firmness in the Covenant, help to the miserable, and succor to the poor. A good path hast thou chosen; it is highly praiseworthy, for helping the poor and the orphan in service to the Kingdom of God. No benevolent deed has, or will, ever surpass it in merit. However, if thou helpst the poor of Syria this act is more acceptable. Perform this benevolent act through one of the trust-worthy friends such as Roy Wilhelm, for the relief committees of these regions send help to the committees of this land, the latter appropriate the main part of the funds that are sent and thus a small portion reaches the poor. On the other hand, if thou sendest help through the friends, all will reach the poor.

Likewise, the names that thou hast sent, as well as the photograph of the poor and orphaned, all have been highly acceptable. These are My children, and thus they are very dear in My Sight. In line, praise thou God, that thou art confirmed in such service! Convey on My behalf to thy respected husband respectful greetings. I pray on his behalf, and beg for him everlasting glory, that he may be dignified in both this world and in the Kingdom.

Traveling these days is very difficult. God willing, when it is made easy, permission will be given to thee and to thy husband.

Upon thee be greeting and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
Bahji, Acca, Palestine.  
July 23, 1919.

BC # 455

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art steadfast in the Covenant!

What thou hast written is perused. It is a clear proof of thy belief and assurance, and a sufficient and adequate demonstration of thy inclination to the Kingdom of God. I ask God that thou mayest increase day by day in love, devotion and attraction to the Divine Beauty, and be the means of union, concord, harmony and unity among the beloved, growing day by day like the trees of the excellent Garden, and giving forth shade and delicious fruits.

So listen to what the Physician says, in order to produce consequences of soundness and health. If all the people knew their remedy, there would be no need of the Physician and everybody could treat himself very skillfully.

I ask the greatest divine favor for thee, but its attainment requires that thou mayest not exceed a hair's breadth by what I write and say. Perhaps the physician would once give poison, the same would be suitable; one must not say within himself: "This is a poison, how can I take it?"

In a word, it is the same I have written you before: - If harmony and unity be produced among the beloved, the belief and faith will grow advantageously, and that country will become enlightened. Otherwise, the Fire of the Love of God will be completely quenched, and all will be scattered and frustrated.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Received in New York, April 27, 1904.

BC # 456



To his honor Dr. E----

What thou hast written was perused. In reality thou hast a good intention and lofty desire. I beg of God that thou mayest succeed therein. But the delivery of the Cause of God depends upon the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, severance from the world, engagement in the commemoration of God in independence of the rich.

It is stated in the Gospel (Matthew 10:14) "Even shake the dust from off your feet." Consider how great is the Cause and how much it requires sanctification and purity. I beg of God that He may provide thee a good means and facilitate (thy affairs) according to thy wish. But if thou desirest to teach the Truth of God and seekest to promulgate the Word of God: that requires the confirmation of the Holy Spirit and not the means of sustenance.

And the more this is done in the state of severance (from the world) the better it is.

His Holiness Christ delivered the Cause of God in the wilderness of the Holy Land, with bare feet, old clothing, thirsty and hungry.

Do thou follow (the example of) His Holiness Christ until thou mayest succeed.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Esphahani.

To the members of the Spiritual Assembly, Santa Paula, California.

Upon them be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O ye who are firm in the Covenant!

'Abdu'l Baha is constantly engaged in ideal communication with any spiritual assembly which is instituted through the Divine Bounty, and the members of which are in the utmost devotion turning to the Divine Kingdom and are firm in the Covenant.

To them He is heartily attached and with them He is linked by everlasting ties. Thus correspondence with that gathering is sincere, constant and uninterrupted.

At every instance, I beg for ye assistance, bounty, and fresh favor and blessing; so that the confirmations of His Holiness Baha'u'llah may, like unto the sea be constantly surging, the lights of the Sun of Truth may shine upon you all and that ye may be confirmed in service, may become the manifestation of bounty and that each one of ye may at dawn turn to the Holy Land and may experience spiritual emotions with all their intensity.

Upon ye be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Haifa. Palestine.  
November 12, 1919.

Bc# 458

To the maid servant of God, Mrs. Mary Morrison, Denver, Colorado.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

HE IS GOD!

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

Thy letter was received. Thou hast asked regarding the contribution toward the education of the children of the school of Tabriat. Co-operation and mutual assistance are the basis of the religion of God. The East must assist the West and the West must assist the East. Whosoever quotes anything from my tongue, ask him an authority, either with my pen or with my signature. If he has such an authority in his hand, all right; if he has no such authority, do not give any importance to tradition. Keep always this as a criterion in view.

Convey the utmost of longing on my behalf to the believers and the maid-servants of the Merciful. I am engaged in their mentioning and beg for them Divine confirmation, so that the power of the spirituality of the Kingdom of Abha may environ the souls, quicken the hearts, deliver them from the hand of self and desire and suffer them to attain to the highest summit of faithfulness.

Then the Sun of the Covenant will shine, flooding the Orient and the Occident with glorious lights, There is no opportunity to write more than this.

Upon thee be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

(Signed ) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Paris, May 10, 1913.

Tablet revealed to the Persian believers.

O ye beloved friends of Abdu'l Baha!

It is now three years that, like unto a nestless and shelterless bird, I am wandering over mountains and plains and flying over the wilderness and Sahara. I rested not one moment, neither did I tarry long anywhere. Constantly was I moving and traveling.

The Call of the Kingdom of Abha was raised and the Most Great Glad Tidings penetrated throughout these vast and remote regions. The Flag of the Cause of God was unfurled over every hill and waved over every country.

As I was occupied day and night, raising the world-consuming cry of the Cause, I failed to correspond with the friends of the heart and the soul; but as soon as I returned to the Orient, notwithstanding weakness and indisposition, I immediately started to correspond, for the utmost desire of the heart and spirit is to remember the believers and to mention the names of the friends, especially those friends who have been at all times the objects of tests and are submerged in the sea of trials; notwithstanding this, with infinite firmness and steadfastness you withstood the attack of the waves, underwent bravely the violent storm and guided the ark to the shore of salvation.

Therefore I am greatly pleased and most satisfied with the believers of Boushrouyah, Kheir-ol-Gara and Faran and all the believers of Khorassan. I hope that in the future their flame of enthusiasm and the fire of their devotion may be enkindled more than before in Faran and Boushrouyah. Upon ye and upon the maid-servants of the Merciful be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

To his honor, Mr. Joseph H. Hannen, Washington, D.C.  
Upon him be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

O thou propogator of the Religion of God!

A few days ago an epistle was written thee. Although I have not any time, I immediately gave an answer to thy letter (written to Mirza Ahmad Sohrab) so that thou mayest know how my heart is attached to thee. Truly I say in the Cause of God thou art sincere. Thou hast no other object save the good pleasure of the Lord, and thou hast consecrated all thy time to the service of the Kingdom of God. On this account I have the utmost love for thee.

Praise be to God that the problem of the meetings is solved and there is no more cause of dispute. Now the believers must engage their time in teaching the Cause of God, and in the meetings no discussions should be carried on save the Cause of God.

The members of the Baha'i Assemblies must be infinitely kind toward each other and all their deliberations must be concerning the Kingdom of Abha.

Promiscuous discussions must be discountenanced, for these things will become the means of the luke-warmness and apathy of those who are present. The candles of all meetings must be the mention of God, and the propogation of the Cause of God, the exposition of the Divine Proofs and the elucidation of the principles of His Holiness Baha'u'llah.

When this condition is obtained, the meeting will become heavenly, celestial, god-like, illumined and the means of guidance of the erring ones. It will yield most great results.

O thou servant of His Holiness Baha'u'llah! Inform all the believers that perhaps a number of calumnious articles will be sent to those parts by the people of doubts. The aim of such articles is to cause the wavering of the friends in the Covenant and the Testament. Therefore, they should not take notice of these articles; nay, rather return them to the senders, accompanied with concise, full, sweeping answers: that we are firm in the Covenant and the servants of the Blessed Perfection. We do not give ear to such hearsays and incoherent statements.

We have turned our faces to the Center of the Covenant in accord with the incontrovertible Commands of Baha'u'llah, the text of the Ahdas and the text of the Tablets of the Covenant.

We have nothing to do with the people of doubts.

Upon ye be Baha'u'llah El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, August 6, 1914.  
Home of Abdu'l Baha, Mt. Carmel, Haifa, Syria.

BC# 461

Helen Bishop's letter to Mr. Lunt.

Dear Mr. Lunt,-

It is a great experience to go to Haifa, and one changes one's point of view on many matters. The Guardian is an example of how intellect can serve the spirit in a manner we of the West have never known. There is nothing emotional about the Guardian; he is a perfectly controlled and mature personality. I have never heard him recite an incident in which he was the major figure, or say anything which would in any way give him a chance to excel. This may sound very naive but the point is that Shoghi Effendi simply refutes all those theories with which our academies are surfeited; that ever ego is trying merely to maximate itself.

Shoghi Effendi is very impersonal and he speaks only of the Word and our Faith. His speech is rapid and his English is stunning when he speaks, the hours pass tirelessly. I should say that his most obvious characteristic is Power, but there is nothing arbitrary or even personal about it. Again and again he seems to convey to one that the Cause of Baha'u'llah will reach its aim and that we have only to be superlatively faithful and to be active and obedient. There is something about him that makes one believe that one can do anything if he requires it; for example, he told me to write, and somehow I simply must begin to do it.

Shoghi Effendi says that great world events will establish the Faith. It depends only partly upon the Baha'is. The war is inevitable and great changes will result therefrom. Great Britain will lose her colonies. At present, the British Commonwealth is the greatest obstacle to the Commonwealth of Baha'u'llah. Russia will experience a change in regime. From America much can be expected. The form of the Administration established in America will become the form for the entire world. Also Germany has a great destiny. In an era of persecution they will exhibit a loyalty and devotion which makes them comparable to the Persians. Scholars, teachers and technicians from Germany will contribute much to the Baha'i Cycle.

Isn't this fascinating?

(Signed) Helen Bishop.

Written from Geneva.

Received by Mr. Lunt after the Convention was over.

BC# 462

ADDRESS OF ABDU'L BAHA

to the

Theosophical Society of Scotland.

February, 1913.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this evening and to take part in your delightful gathering, for you Theosophists, Praise be to God, are always independent investigators of reality, released from mere imitation of the customs of your forebears and ancestors. Your purpose in life is to achieve and welcome the knowledge of reality, no matter from what religion the light may dawn. The religions of today are all captives in the claws of custom and of blind dogma, for the absolute reality and dominant truth which prompted the foundation of the very religions in the past are entirely forgotten and certain blind observances of ritual and sacerdotal mummeries have crept in which are in entire opposition to the fundamental principles of Divine Religion.

True religion which comes from God, is founded for the purpose of illuminating the world of humanity and for the emancipation of the human race. It establishes a complete fellowship between all the hearts and unfolds before our vision the Kingdom of Heaven. But a thousand times, alas! Religions so founded have become the cause of contention and mutual strife, and today they are constantly waging war against each other. There is even bloodshed among their representatives, who engage in strife, ransack each other's possessions, and destroy each other's homes. What makes them do all these things? They do them because they are prisoners of blind dogma.

As an illustration, take anyone you meet. You ask him to what religion he belongs. He says he is a Jew. "Why art thou a Jew?" "Because my father was a Jew and my forebears were Jews. That is why I follow in their footsteps." Another man is a Musselman. "Why art thou a Musselman?" "My father was one, and my ancestors also." And if you put this query to the devotees of other religions they will give you the same answer. And indeed if you go through the whole category of the present-day religions you will find that in all of them numbers are following blindly; and that is a case of the "blind leading the blind". But if you inquire, you will find that they have never investigated the reality; for if they had done so, they would all have become unanimous and would work in harmony. If reality is one, then it is not subject to division; and this absolute reality is the foundation of all religions

The Theosophical Society has freed itself from such blind imitation of what was thought and done in the past; and, soaring up toward the Heaven of Reality, is ever trying to investigate the deeper Truths which underlie all religions. Therefore I am very

BC # 463

happy.

As we look upon this world - the Macrocosm - and upon all that goes to make up men - the Microcosm - what do we find? We find that every organism is composed of single primordial atoms, and has come into existence through the interaction of the electric affinities inherent in them. Its existence is a scientific fact. Every given atom of these myriads of atoms has passed through multitudinous forms, and in every form it has manifested a particular virtue or power. For example, looking upon this flower, there is no doubt that it is composed of single atoms, simple elements. There was a time when the various substances composing it were all in the mineral kingdom, and during that period they underwent many transformations. Having completed their course in the Mineral Kingdom, these atoms ascended to the Vegetable Kingdom, and they will go on maybe for many hundreds of years continuing their journey through experiences in this vegetable life. One day this which is now a chrysanthemum may become a rose; another day it may form part of a carnation. Another day it may enter into the composition of a tree. In short, each indestructible atom goes on journeying first through the mineral kingdom, and then through successive stages of the Vegetable World. This is a fact in harmony with the laws of biology.

Now this atom having run its course through the vegetable kingdom ascends next into the Animal Kingdom, where again it has its varied experiences. Having finished these it enters the realm of humanity and travels through its many and varied stages. In short, this primordial atom has under-gone transformations through all the kingdoms and sub-kingdoms of life, and in consequence of these experiences it manifests in a certain form and possesses a particular virtue and power.

It is one of the philosophic epigrams of the East that everything is included in the All. Therefore every man during these multitudes of transformations is gradually learning to know the many aspects of that All, and in every TRANSFORMATION has the opportunity of acquiring fresh virtue, so that man may become the compendium of all the virtues of creation. This is an exposition of a Divine Mystery.

Philosophic man, or the inner man, is indestructible. He is ever existent. For the immortality of the soul is a fact not to be denied. The spirit is everlasting, it is illimitable. The rational proof of the immortality of the soul is as follows:- Man enjoys two realities, two verities (or aspects of Truth). The first aspect of this human verity is material; and the second aspect is spiritual. The aspect which is material is subject to non-existence. But the ideal aspect of man which is the spirit is indestructible. What does mortality or death mean? It means transference from one body to another body. Thus to take again the illustration of this flower; this flower you may say is doomed to death, it is dying. Why? Because it is losing its present form and is returning to its original constitution, which is mineral. But there is ever a conservation of energy lasting through all creations; so that even the



material constituents which make up this flower never die, but are constantly transformed. Thus, when grass is eaten by an animal, you may say that the grass is dead. But the real fact is that it has only lost its vegetable form and become absorbed into the animal kingdom, and through this process, animal life is made possible, the plant has never been lost.

So that we may say of annihilation that it is a process of transference from one form to another; but the elements are indestructible. That is all that is meant by annihilation. Thus it is with the body of man, his material form that you see before you. The spirit leaving the body means that this temporal body having done its duty, will return to its original constituents and become part of the earth; but it still has an existence. So death means simply a step beyond the present conditions of life. In this way the material body of man may go through many forms and changes, and die and again be born, because it is used constantly in the making of various new forms and shapes.

At the same moment one body cannot occupy the same space as another. It may only occupy one space. Take for example, any given body - say a triangle. As long as it is a triangle, it cannot be a square, nor can it become a hexagon. It cannot become any other geometrical figure, for if it becomes a hexagon it cannot remain a triangle. One body can only be one shape at a time. So two forms cannot become part of one body at the same time. But, even as you are sitting here, your soul or mind or spirit, by whatever name you call it, contains all these various forms. At this very moment you conceive of a triangle, a square, a hexagon or a geometrical shape all at the same moment. Just at this time in your mind, in your SPIRIT, you may call up anything. There are these forms existing simultaneously, without having to be broken, and to replace one another in succession. They are all present in your spirit. In this way all forms exist in the spirit. There is no need of breaking one form, so that the spirit may enjoy another form. The spirit is independent of these forms. Therefore this is scientific proof that the spirit is eternal. Why do we enjoy the immortal spirit? It can never be transformed from one shape to another. It is able to contain all the shapes and forms in the world. This is self-evident. The spirit enjoys immortal life.

Another piece of evidence- this physical body of man, once in a while, is subject to sickness. At other times it gets well. Sometimes the body grows fat, at other times it grows the opposite way - all lean - so that the body goes through various conditions; but the spirit is ever the same. If the body grows lean the spirit grows not lean; if a man enjoys three hundred avoirdupois, his spirit does not weigh three hundred pounds. Therefore this Divine and Heavenly Absolute Reality which is in man is not subject to transformation or change. If one hand is cut off and the other arm is cut off, and the lower limbs are cut off, you will see that the man is going on living just the same, and his spirit is not mutilated. He is exactly the same man. The eternal spirit in him is undying. The third proof - what is death? Death means the losing of sensations or susceptibilities. While in a state of sleep, man's body lacks all sensation. His eyes do not see, his ears do not hear. The power of smell does not act. All the senses are at rest. They are asleep/ Yet notwithstanding all this the man travels.

He journeys, he dreams. His spirit sees and his tongue speaks. In that very state of quiescence he is endowed with all his faculties. Now if man was made only of this material flesh he would not have these various conscious experiences while in a state of dream. This likewise demonstrates the fact that in the inner reality of man there is a second deeper reality by which everything is surrounded. Therefore it is another evidence that in man God has hidden another second reality, which second reality is entirely free from all the fatalities of life, ever going forward, never retreating; and this will show you that man enjoys this immortal and everlasting spirit.

The fourth proof:- While speaking you use the word "I". "I went there." "I came here." Who is this "I" that speaks within you? It can look out and see its own body. It is evidently the ego within (cognito ergo sum). Therefore there is a second indestructible reality in man. The fifth proof: - When you want to undertake a great thing you retire within this chamber of your own thought and wonder "Will it be profitable? Ought I to do this? What will be the result of this?" Who is this consultant within you? That consultant is the spirit. You consult with it and you get the proper opinion; and if the spirit dictates "Go and do it", you will go on and do it, and if it dictates "No, it is not profitable", you will not dare to do it. And this state is constantly working in man, and is the proof in regard to the immortality of the soul. That inner reality is the rider and your body is the charger. The body is like unto this glass, and the spirit within you is like unto the light which illumines the glass. Although the glass may be broken, the light will not be broken. Although the bulb containing the electric light goes through the process of dissolution, the light is not destroyed. It remains latent as electric energy; and another glass will come and take the place of its predecessor, and you will again have the light shining through it.

Man has had all this journeying through the various grades, and he is traveling still and will travel, until in the end he will reach a destination which is superior to his physical life. That is called the state of perfection; but he is constantly breaking these glasses and purifying them, making for himself, by degrees, a purer and purer vehicle until it becomes perfectly transparent. At one time this glass that is here before us was in the course of vitrification in the mineral kingdom. And in the same way there was a time when the constituents of our material body were in a vegetable kingdom. And at another time they were a part of animal life. Now they have come together so as to form the human body. Therefore although the glasses be shattered, the light of the spirit or the true reality will ever shine; and this is another proof. It is not a traditional proof - not a matter of belief and theory. It belongs to the philosophy of the Kingdom and it is unanswerable.

To take another line of argument: - The world of existence, the world of manifestation, by itself and in itself, cannot enjoy perpetuity. No, the phenomenal world, or world of existence, has rather the capacity for receiving bounties and outpourings. There is a Reality which is central. The world of existence has emanated or issued from that central reality. As this material globe of ours - which in itself is not luminous - is vivified by rays emanating from the phenomenal sun - for the sun is a star - so the spiritual rays issue from this stupendous center of life and immediately all are illumined thereby.

The greatest Divine outpouring is the appearance of Divine Masters in this world. These Divine and Heavenly Verities consist of one central Verity. But they have diverse Dawning-places; just as this electric light is always the same light, although it shines through various glasses. Here one day it shines through this glass, another day this glass is extinct and it will shine through another glass. A third day it shines through a third glass - you can have many glasses - but the energy which gives light is the same, without any difference. The Light is indivisible, it is one light; and although these Heavenly Masters, as far as their personalities are concerned, are different; as regards their Inner Nature they enjoy one central realm, and that one central realm emanates from the central spiritual sun. There are many mirrors from which the sun is reflected. Yet the sun is one. This is an astronomical question. For example: - Here on the map you have twelve rays issuing forth from the central body/ As you look, see that there is one center and one stellar body; but this stellar body is capable of transmitting many, many rays of light to all parts. One light gives forth these twelve rays. Similarly one sun, the phenomenal sun, dawns at one time from the celestial sign of Capricorn; at another time it shines from the sign of Leo; at another time it will appear from the sign of Aries. It will shine from one point in spring, and again from another point in winter; but the sun is the same sun, and the ray is the same ray, although it passes through many signs. When the sun dawns from any particular sign, its heart is of a certain intensity. Similarly, there are differences in these Divine Manifestations, or "Masters"; but in reality they show forth the One Central Truth.

Man must never look at the Dawning-Points, he must ever look upward and see the Sun. He must be an adorer of the Sun, no matter from what Point it appears. He must recognize the Light, no matter from which Glass it has been admitted. For Light is inimitable, and man must attain to that state of divine perception. He must never limit himself to any one system. There are many mirrors reflecting the Light; but though all these mirrors should be shattered, the Light would remain. So long as we are seeking the Light and constantly turning towards it, we shall love the Light, no matter from which globe it may be shining.

And now I have made you quite tired.

O Thou Almighty God! Illumine our minds. May the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Arouse the hearts that are dead. Quicken the souls that are fast asleep.

(Theosophical Society)

Deliver us from ever tribulation. Suffer us to attain to Thine Infinite Kingdom. O Lord, confer upon us Thy Bounty so that we may attain to Thy Knowledge. May we be lovers of Thy Beauty no matter in which Human Temple it may appear. May we become the adorers of the Sun of Thy Reality, no matter from which dawning place it may shine forth. May we be the seekers of sweet fragrances no matter from which rose it is diffused. O Lord, deliver us from the material world and lead us on to Thine Eternal Kingdom so that we may walk in Thy Pathway, seek after Thy Holy Places and in consecration of the elect may we witness the transfiguration of Thy Bounteous Truth. Thou art Generous. Thou art Compassionate. Thou art Omnipotent. Thou art Omniscient.

.....

## THE GARMENT OF JOSEPH.

The great spiritual lights have always appeared in the East. The Blessed Perfection, Baha'u'llah, appeared in the East. His Holiness Jesus Christ dawned upon the horizon of the East. Moses, Aaron, Joseph and all the Israelitish prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekial, Isaiah and others appeared from the Orient.

- Promulgation of Universal Peace, page 21.

Among the great prophets was His Holiness Abraham, who being an iconoclast and a herald of the oneness of God, was banished from his native land. He founded a family upon which the blessing of God descended; and it was owing to this religious basis and ordination the Abrahamic house progressed and advanced. Through the divine benediction, noteworthy and luminous prophets issued from the lineage of Hos Holiness. There appeared Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David and Solomon.

- Promulgation of Universal Peace, page 356.

Abraham's migration from his native land caused the bountiful gifts of the All-Glorious to be made manifest, and the setting of Canaan's brightest star unfolded to the eyes the radiance of Joseph.

- Star of the West, Vol. XIV, page 87.

In consequence of his exile the descendants of Abraham became powerful, and the Holy Land was given to them. As a result the teachings of Abraham were spread abroad, a Jacob appeared among his posterity, and a Joseph who became the ruler in Egypt.

- Some Answered Questions, page 15.

You have expressed joy and happiness because of the trip of Abdu'l Baha from the center of prison (Acca) to the land of the divine Joseph (Egypt).

- Star of the West, Vol. 1, #16, page 1.

The Hand of Divine Power released the neck of Abdu'l Baha from the chains of the prison of Joseph and the fetters and manacles were placed around the unblessed neck of Abdul Hamid.

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #4, page 6.

If Adam sinned by going near the forbidden tree ..... what was the transgression of Joseph the Truthful?

- Some Answered Questions, page 143.

I am sending you forth as Jacob sent Joseph of old. (Words of Abdu'l Baha to some pilgrims).

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #18, page 8.

In the first book which he (the Bab) wrote in explanation of the Sura of Joseph, he addressed himself in all passages to the Person unseen from whom he received help and grace, sought for aid in arrangement of his preliminaries, and craved the sacrifice of life in the way of his love.

- Episode of the Bab, page 3.

Know that God has united all the essences and meanings and all attributes and names and explanations in a woven cloth and covered with it that Holy and Divine Person, that he may in that garment represent the Beloved Joseph. (Words of Baha'u'llah)

- World Unity Magazine, August 1933.

- The World of Reality, (Ruhi Afnan, part 11, page 307.

Verily, thy namesake, the faithful Joseph, fell surely into grievous distress through the jealousy of his brethern, who dishonored him; nay, outraged him, and cast him behind their backs and threw him in a dark well; they sold him for a paltry price - for a few pence - returning to their father at eve weeping, and, with his shirt stained with false blood, they slandered the wolf who was free from blame. The same shall appear from these violaters. Then interpret this vision: How the conduct of these former evil-doers agreeth with the course of the succeeding followers of great darkness.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 364.

When Joseph found that his envious brothers and his jealous relations and friends were heedless and unmindful, he unveiled his face in the market of the Egyptians, so that in exile he might destroy the foundation of strangeness and raise the banner of unity. Therefore it is the aim of this exiled one, that God willing, he may become the Herald and carry the glad tidings of the Kingdom to the empires of the West. Perchance the splendor of the Beauty of the real Joseph - the Most Great Name - May my life be a sacrifice to Him! - may shine from the countries of the Occident; and I beg of God that the glances of mercifulness may assist.

- Star of the West, Vol. 11, #10, page 3.

The Holy Manifestations, especially the reality of the Greatest Name, the Beauty of Abha, when unveiled amid the assemblage of the world, like unto Joseph of Canaan, in the divine Egypt, will appear with such Beauty and Sweetness as to make the lovers of the world His captives.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 542.

As the Joseph of Egypt possessed real beauty and knowledge, he was in great demand in the Egyptian market. Although he was a stranger and abject, yet as he had this splendor, he became the beloved of the divine Egypt; attained eternal glory, and was addressed by his brethern, "Verily, God hath given thee precedence over us."

- Star of the West, Vol. XI, page 275.

## The Song of the Covenant.

The Divine Minstrel held the stringed instrument in His Hand and preluded a melody and tune after the Persian note, and sang this song with a loud voice, as follows:

This is the Ancient Covenant!  
This is the One Who has the Cup in His Hand!  
This is the One Who has brought failure in the market of Joseph of the Merciful God!  
This is the Testament of Accord!  
This is a Covenant to hold to, and utterly detach one's self from aught else!  
This is the cause of stopping the cries of contradiction (made by deniers) through the Divine Mercy!  
This is the Pre-existent Covenant!  
This is the weighty Mystery!  
This is the Greatest Secret of the Countenance of El Baha - May my soul redeem His beloved ones!  
- Star of the West, Vol. V, page 209.

Verily, thou who art called by this honorable name, desire to have a portion in its great successes, to become a cherished one in the Egypt of the love of God, to possess qualities free from all evil and to become the source of good deeds.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 364 -5.

It was the love of God that led Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that strengthened Joseph in Egypt and gave Moses courage and patience.

- Wisdom of Abdu'l Baha, page 75.

(Chapter XII of the KORAN should be read in order to understand the rest of these quotations from Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha)

Consider, O maid-servant of God, the bearer who brought the garment of Joseph to Jacob. That messenger was the bearer of the garment, but he could not inhale the fragrance of Joseph. But Jacob, whose nostrils were pure, inhaled the fragrances of Joseph from a long distance.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 682.

Physical nearness or remoteness is of no importance; the essential fact is the spiritual affinity and ideal nearness. Judas Iscariot was for a long time favored in the holy court of His Holiness Christ, yet he was entirely far and remote; while Paul, the apostle, was in close embrace with His Holiness. The Egyptian carrier of glad-tidings was the bearer of the garment of Joseph; yet he could not inhale the fragrance of the garment. His holiness Jacob, in Canaan, longed for meeting (Joseph), yet he was near and inhaled the fragrances of the garment. Consequently, it is evident that one can certainly and surely inhale the perfume of affinity even from a far distance.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 720.

Many a Jacob he sees wandering in quest of Joseph.

If, through the assistance of God, he find, in this journey, a trace of the Traceless Friend, and inhale the smell of the lost Joseph from the Harbinger of Oneness, he will immediately step into the Valley of Love.

Not until thou enterest the Egypt of the Spirit, wilt thou attain to the Joseph of the Beauty of the Friend; not until thou, like Jacob, give up thine outward eye, wilt thou open thine inward eye; and not until thou art ablaze with the fire of love, wilt thou associate with the Friend of acstasy.

- Seven Valleys, pages 8, 11, 12.

Shouldst thou inhale the Perfume of the Robe from the Youth that hath been hidden within the Tabernacle of Light by reason of that which the hands of the wicked have wrought, Raise a cry within thyself that all the inmates of the chambers of Paradise that are the embodiments of the Eternal Wealth may understand and hearken; That they may all come down from their everlasting chambers, And kiss their hands and feet for having soared to the heights of faithfulness, Perchance they may find from their Robes the fragrance of the Beloved One!

- Baha'i Scriptures, page 253.

Every believer who hath found the Perfume of the Garment in this Day and turneth with a pure heart toward the Supreme Horizon, he is mentioned as one of the followers of Baha upon a red page.

- Baha'i Scriptures, page 259.

O my Lord, I perceive the fragrance of Thy Garment as Thou hast approached with Signs and hast honored these countries by Thy Feet. Blessing be unto Thy people if they know Thee and discover Thy Fragrance, and woe unto those who sleep!

- Star of the West, Vol. 1V, page 19.

Say, from My Ordinances emanateth the scent of My Garment, and by them the standards of victory will be hoisted on the tops of mountains and hills. The Tongue of My Might, in the realm of My Greatness, hath addressed My creatures, saying: "Follow My Ordinances for the Love of My Perfection!"

- Star of the West, Vol. 1V, page 298.

Turn thou unto the Kingdom of Oneness and chant thou the verses of Singleness. Be thou invested with a robe, the embroidery of which is purity and sanctity, and the woof and warp of which is the spirituality of the Mighty Lord, so that thou mayest inhale the fragrance of the divine rose-garden from the garment of the real Joseph and so divest thyself of the mantle of bodily things that angelhodd and ideal spirituality become realized (in thee).

- Tablets, Vol. 1, page 124.



Move your tongues to thank the Loving Lord, and employ yourselves in praising and glorifying the Beauty of the Adored One, for ye were granted the privilege to be exhilarated from this most pure cup, and become full of cheer and attraction from this goblet of wine. Ye have perfumed your nostrils with the fragrance of sanctity, and delighted your senses with the scent of the garment of Joseph of faithfulness. Ye tasted the honey of devotion from the hand of the Unique Beloved and partook of the eternal table at the feast of the blessing of the Presence of the Unity.

- Tablets, Vol. 11, page 371.

Thank ye His Highness the Imcomparable One, that ye have become assisted in the service of the self-subsistent Lord and that ye are making copies of the Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, spreading them all around. This service is the most great bounty; for like unto the messenger from Egypt, ye are sending the garment of the Jodeph of the Love of God to all directions, so that the fragrance of the rose-garden of the Kingdom of Abha impart the spirit of life to the inquirers.

- Tablets, Vol. 111, page 586.

Study Genesis 37+50.  
Koran, chapter 12.

Compiled by Doris Goodrick.

BC# 473

R. C. A. RADIOGRAM.

July 30, 1936.

Baha'i, New York.

(I) entreat (the) American believers (to) ponder afresh (the) urgency (to) rededicate themselves (to the) task (of the) complete fulfillment (of the) Divine Plan. (The) National Assembly's energetic leadership (and) careful planning (are) ineffectual unless supplemented by vigorous action by every believer, however humble, however inexperienced. Time is short. (The) sands (of a) chaotic, despairing civilization (are) steadily running out. Founded on (the) unity (and) understanding so steadily achieved, functioning within (the) framework (of the) Administrative Order (so) laboriously erected, inspired (by the) vision (of the) Temple edifice so nobly reared, galvanized into action (by the) realization (of the) rapidly-deteriorating world situation, (the) American Baha'i Community should rise as never before (to the) height (of the) opportunity now confronting it. Audacity, resolution (and) self-abnegation (are) imperatively demanded. Impatiently and prayerfully waiting.

Shoghi.

Be# 474

LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

April 3, 1935.

The local Spiritual Assemblies of the United States and Canada.

Beloved Baha'i friends:

A cablegram of the utmost importance has been received from the Guardian. Its appeal is directed to each individual Baha'i of the United States and Canada.

CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE AND TRANSFER TO PALESTINE BRANCH (OF THE) AMERICAN (NATIONAL SPIRITUAL) ASSEMBLY (OF THE) DUMIT PROPERTY SITUATED (AT THE) CENTER (OF) AREA DEDICATED TO SHRINES ON MOUNT CARMEL (HAS BEEN) SIGNED. FOUR YEARS LITIGATION INVOLVING BAHA'I WORLD'S PETITIONS (TO) PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER (HAS BEEN) ABANDONED. OWNERS REQUIRE 4000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$20,000). HALF (OF THIS) SUM (IS) AVAILABLE. WILL AMERICAN BELIEVERS UNITEDLY CONTRIBUTE 1000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$5,000) BEFORE END OF MAY AND REMAINING 1000 POUNDS (i.e. about \$5,000) WITHIN NINE MONTHS. AM COMPELLED APPEAL ENTIRE BODY AMERICAN COMMUNITY SUBORDINATE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF FAITH TO ITS URGENT PARAMOUNT REQUIREMENTS AT ITS WORLD CENTER.

(Signed) SHOGHI.

(Received at New York, March 30, 1935)

To this message the following reply was immediately sent: "American Baha'i community, acclaiming impressive victory which contributes to future consolidation Divine institutions, will with one heart fulfil glorious privilege conferred upon it by beloved Guardian."

In communicating this appeal to the Baha'i Community, the following brief explanation will reveal the significance of the facts which Shoghi Effendi has reported.

The "Dumit property" is an area on Mount Carmel which has seriously interfered with the Guardian's plan of safeguarding the vicinity of the Holy Shrines and of preparing the necessary land for the future construction of important world Baha'i institutions. Held by an enemy of the Faith, the property has been made the basis of law suits against the Guardian throughout the period of the last four years. In July, 1933, at Shoghi Effendi's direction, the National Spiritual Assembly sent to the High Commissioner at Jerusalem a petition setting forth the religious character of the Baha'i land on Mount Carmel and appealing for his favorable action on the Baha'i claims. That petition was not at the time reported to the believers because the Guardian wished the matter held confidential pending the final outcome.

BC # 475

Shoghi Effendi's cablegram, consequently, means these three things: first, that a tract of land of paramount importance to the development of the Baha'i World Center can be acquired; second, that the law suits which have interrupted that development and been burdensome are now a thing of the past; and third, that the Guardian has made a contract to purchase that area, fulfillment of which requires the American Baha'i community to contribute approximately \$5,000 to the Guardian before May 31, 1935, and an additional \$5,000 within nine months.

No Baha'i will overlook the fact that the progress of the Faith of Baha'u'llah, in its evolution to His World Order, depends upon the collective capacity of the believers to assist in strengthening the World Center at Haifa. From that Center, through the Guardian now and through the Guardian and the Universal House of Justice in the future, flows outward to the Baha'i community the spiritual inspiration and the administrative power which sustains our efforts, guides our actions and renews our souls.

As Shoghi Effendi declares: "Am compelled appeal entire body American Community subordinate national interest of Faith to its urgent, paramount requirement at its World Center."

While humanity plunges blindly forward to a destiny become inevitable, it is our most sacred and glorious privilege, our most compelling duty to Baha'u'llah Himself, to do our part in laying the foundation firmly, in true love and sacrifice, for the World Order that is to give mankind the blessing of the Most Great Peace. "Ten years of unceasing turmoil, so laden with anguish, so fraught with incalculable consequences to the future of civilization, have brought the world to the verge of calamity too awful to contemplate." (The Goal of a New World Order, page 10) "Ours, dearly-beloved co-workers, is the paramount duty to continue with undimmed vision and unabated zeal, to assist in the final erection of that Edifice the foundation of which Baha'u'llah has laid in our hearts, to derive added hope and strength from the general trend of recent events, however dark their immediate effects, and to pray with unremitting fervor that He may hasten the approach of the realization of that Wondrous Vision which constitutes the brightest emanation of His Mind and the fairest fruit of the fairest civilization the world has yet seen." (The Goal of a New World Order, page 28). And addressing the American Baha'is Shoghi Effendi has written: "In a world writhing with pain and declining into chaos this community - the vanguard of the liberating forces of Baha'u'llah - succeeded in the years following Abdu'l Baha's passing in raising high above the institutions established by its sister communities in East and West what may well constitute the chief pillar of that future House - A HOUSE WHICH POSTERITY WILL REGARD AS THE LAST REFUGE OF A TOTTERING CIVILIZATION." (America and the Most Great Peace, page 21).

Such is the significance of our united effort to fulfil the Guardian's present appeal.

Now, that the matter may proceed with all possible force and efficiency, will each local Assembly do its utmost to transmit to the National Fund a flow of special donations marked for the Guardian, that our Treasurer, well within the dates fixed in the cablegram, may in turn transmit to Shoghi Effendi the two sums he requires. For its part, the National Spiritual Assembly will forthwith meet the problem of reducing its national budget to the lowest possible amount. Above all, we express the confident hope that all American Baha'is will take part in this magnificent enterprise, this holy and consecrated crusade under our Guardian's banner, even though in many circumstances the amount given may be only a tiny sum. What we are building is a true spiritual unity - the material needs of the Faith will all be met when that unity is attained!

Yours faithfully,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

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N.S.A. to Local Assemblies.

December, 1936.

MESSAGE FROM THE GUARDIAN.

"Will the Assemblies share the following words written by the Guardian to the N.S.A. on November 14, with the members of the community. Once more Shoghi Effendi inspires the believers with his vision of the urgency of teaching."

"The promulgation of the Divine Plan, unveiled by our departed Master in the darkest days of one of the severest ordeals which humanity has ever experienced, is the key which Providence has placed in the hands of the American believers whereby to unlock the doors leading them to fulfil their unimaginably glorious Destiny. As the proclamation of the Message reverberates throughout the land, as its resistless march gathers momentum, as the field of its operation widens, and the numbers of its upholders and champions multiply, its potentialities will correspondingly unfold, exerting a most beneficent influence, not only on every community throughout the Bahai world, but on the immediate fortunes of a travelling society. The repercussions of this campaign are already apparent in Europe, India, Egypt, Iraq and even among the sorely tried communities in Persia and Russia. The Faith of God is gaining in stature, effectiveness and power. Not until, however, the great enterprise which you are now conducting runs its full course and attains its final objective, at its appointed time, can its world encompassing benefits be fully apprehended or revealed. The perseverance of the American believers will, no doubt, ensure the ultimate realization of these benefits."

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BULLETIN -

Issued by the National Spiritual Assembly.

November 1936.

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The Spiritual Assemblies are requested to present to the Baha'i Community the following cablegram received from the Guardian, Oct.29.

AMERICAN BAHAI COMMUNITY - Care BAHAI, NEW YORK.

OVERJOYED, UNSPEAKABLY GRATEFUL (FOR) AMERICAN BELIEVERS' SIGNAL RESPONSE (TO) MY REITERATED APPEAL. (THE) INAUGURATED CAMPAIGN (IS) FRAUGHT (WITH) CONSEQUENCES INVOLVING (THE) IMMEDIATE DESTINIES (OF THE) AMERICAN COMMUNITY. (THE) SHADOWS ENCIRCLING SORE-TRIED HUMAN SOCIETY (ARE) NOTICEABLY DEEPENING. (THE) WORLD CRISIS (IS) INEXORABLY MOVING TOWARDS CLIMAX, CHALLENGING (THE) TORCH BEARERS (OF) BAHAI CIVILIZATION (TO) SCALE LOFTIER HEIGHTS (OF) INDIVIDUAL HEROISM, (TO) SCATTER MORE WIDELY THROUGHOUT (THE) LENGTH (AND) BREADTH (OF THE) AMERICAN CONTINENTS, (TO) PARTICIPATE MORE STRENUOUSLY (IN) CONCERTED EFFORT ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL, REGIONAL (AND) LOCAL AGENCIES DEDICATED (TO THE) PROSECUTION (OF) NOBLE ENTERPRISE, (TO) POUR FORTH MORE ABUNDANTLY (THEIR) RESOURCES IN SUPPORT (OF THE) FUND CREATED FOR ITS FURTHERANCE, (AND) RESOLVE MORE DETERMINEDLY (TO) CONQUER WHATEVER OBSTACLES MIGHT RETARD ITS ULTIMATE FRUITION. (THE) DAWN BREAKERS (IN) PREVIOUS AGE HAVE ON PERSIAN SOIL SIGNALIZED BY THEIR ACTS (THE) BIRTH (OF THE) FAITH OF BAHAI'ULLAH. MIGHT NOT AMERICAN BELIEVERS, THEIR SPIRITUAL DESCENDANTS, PROVE THEMSELVES IN TURN CAPABLE (OF) USHERING IN ON WORLD SCALE THE CIVILIZATION OF WHICH THAT FAITH IS (THE) DIRECT SOURCE AND SOLE BEGETTER.

SHOGHI.

What more empathic could be than this warning of world crisis, this assurance of the destiny of the Faith? During these coming days, as we gather together for the Anniversary of Baha'u'llah, for the Day of the Covenant, and for the Ascension of Abdul Baha, as well as for the Nineteen Day Feasts, may we individually and collectively pray for a thousand times greater power to promote His Cause.

A Tablet to a believer regarding the duties of all the Baha'is.

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HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received and its contents became evident. It was an indication of a prayer and supplication and a proof of attraction and enkindlement. Happy is thy condition that thou art in this state and in this firmness.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! The Lord of the Kingdom and the Sun of Truth has sent forth a splendor and effulgence upon the world and the universe. All the contingent things found life and existence from the rays of that Effulgence, entered and became manifest in the Arena of Being. Therefore, all the objective phenomena are as surfaces of mirrors upon which the Sun of Truth has cast the rays of the Outpouring of Bounty. All these surfaces (different stages of life) are mirrors reflecting the rays of the Sun of Truth. The Outpouring is the One Outpouring, and the Effulgence is the One Effulgence. These complex and diversified mirrors are different from each other. Some of them are in a state of the utmost purity and clearness, reflecting the rays of the Sun of Truth, and the Effulgence of the Luminary is manifest and visible in them. On the other hand there are mirrors full of dust and dark, consequently they are deprived and bereft of any radiation.

The believers of God are the translucent mirrors, who, with the utmost purity and clearness, are reflecting the rays of the Orb of regions. Other communities are bedarkened and bedimmed like unto a stone and adamant. This condition is especially true of the people of hostility, animosity, oppression and tyranny, and the fanatical ones, who, on account of the accumulation of dust (prejudice) have become like unto the black stone, into which the rays of the sun do not penetrate and from which no light radiates.

Now we must not consider nor recognize these mirrors, which are deprived of every gift, as strangers and foreigners; neither should we speak of or know them as enemies or savages; nay, rather, must we recognize them as the members of our body, showing them love and affection; not as strangers but as associates; not as foreigners but as friends. One must become engaged in their training and education, sympathize with them and show pity to them, and lead them into the Heavenly characteristics, in order that the accumulated dust may disappear from the surfaces of those mirrors and the shining rays of the Sun of Truth radiate from them.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Beware! Beware! Be ye not a stranger to anyone, even if he be the lowest of savages on the face of the earth and knows nothing of God, or even if he be an enemy. Desire ye his association, aspire ye for his freedom and long ye for

BC# 479

Duties of all Baha'is, cont.

his perfection, in order that hatred and dissensions, animosities and oppressions, cruelties and tyrannies, brutalities and falsehoods, pride and transgressions may be removed from among mankind, the universe become the Paradise of Abha, the world be transformed into the Kingdom of Heaven, the human race become angels and the individuals of the world of humanity become the manifestors of the Favors of the Glorious Lord. This is the perfection of the human world. This is the Divine Guidance of the Almighty.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Display ye the utmost charity toward the poor, the orphans and the helpless ones of all communities and nations and have ye for them exceeding consideration. Serve ye them like unto the real servants. Know ye them as excellent persons, and count yourselves day and night the thralls of mankind.

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Know thou that supplication and prayer is the Water of Life. It is the cause of the vivification of existence, and endows glad-tidings and joy to the souls. Show thou attention to this matter as far as thou canst, and summon others to prayer and supplication.

Upon thee be greetings and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Espahani.  
Washing, D. C.  
December 14, 1916.

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The Promulgation of Universal Peace. Page 185.

Words spoken by Abdu'l Baha, June 15, 1912, New York City.

"I desire distinction for you. The Baha'is must be distinguished from others of humanity. But this distinction must not depend upon wealth - that they should become more affluent than other people. I do not desire for you financial distinction. It is not an ordinary distinction I desire; not scientific, commercial, industrial distinction. For you I desire spiritual distinction; that is, you must become eminent and distinguished from all else. You must become distinguished for loving humanity; for unity and accord; for love and justice. In brief, you must become distinguished in all the virtues of the human world; for faithfulness and sincerity; for justice and fidelity; for firmness and steadfastness; for philanthropic deeds and service to the human world; for love toward every human being; for unity and accord with all people; for removing prejudices and promoting universal peace. Finally, you must become distinguished for heavenly illumination and acquiring the bestowals of God. I desire this distinction for you. This must be the point of distinction among you."

BC# 480



PROMISES OF WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE IF WE LIVE THE LIFE.

Set aside every mention save the mention of God and abandon everything save the divulgence of the Testament, be attracted by the magnet of the Covenant that thou mayest see the triumph of the angels of the King of the Kingdom and the valor of the hosts of Might. By the Life of the Lord! the invincible power will indeed strengthen, the HOLY SPIRIT will speak in thy mouth, the word of God will be revealed in thy heart, the sound of the trumpet of the Lord will gladden thee, the light of unity will shine from thy brow, the doors of success and prosperity will be opened upon thy face and the secrets of the Holy Books will be unfolded.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 160)

The truth I say unto you: "Verily, the Supreme Concurrence will utter praise unto you, because ye forsook the desires of self, were illumined by the light of guidance, clothed yourselves with the garment of sanctity and called in the Name of El-Baha among the people. Verily, ye shall reap what ye sow and obtain the fruits of what ye plant. This is a pre-ordained fact."

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 12)

Surely a day will come when all thy desires will be attained and God will answer all that which thou hast prayed for in thy heart and I beg of Him to make all that which thou hast longed for long ago, very attainable. Then thy heart will be overflowed with joy on account of such great bounty.

(Tablets of Abdul Baha, Vol. 1, page 122)

If thou wilt employ thyself in the service (of the Cause of God) the past losses will be recovered and all the troubles will be settled. This is a manifest truth.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol. 1, pages 158, 159)

It is incumbent upon thee to be firm in the Covenant and to stand up and serve the religion of God. Verily, this is the MAGNET of confirmation and assistance, the attracter of all success and the leader of hosts of gifts.

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol. 1, page 172)

LAST TALK GIVEN BY ABDU'L BAHA.

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At the House of Abdu'l Baha.  
Haifa, Palestine.

November 19, 1921.

Talk given by Abdu'l Baha at the regular six o'clock evening meeting, called "The Persian Meeting", with Mr. John D. Bosch of Geyserville, California, present - the only one present from a foreign country among sixty friends who met at this time - just nine days before the Ascension of Abdu'l Baha, in fact, this was the last public talk given by Abdu'l Baha in the Persian Meeting when an American attended, before His Ascension.

(Interpreted by Mirza Mohammed Ali Afnan. Taken down in Persian by Dr. Lotfullah Hakim.)

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Abdu'l Baha opened the meeting by saying to Mr. Bosch:  
"Although you are here with these assembled friends and can not speak with them nor they with you, yet you speak with one another through the heart. The language of the heart is even more expressive than the language of the tongue and is more truthful and has wider reach and a more potent effect."

Mr. Bosch said: "This is a wonderful spiritual experience, to be here with the friends."

Abdu'l Baha said: "When lovers meet it may be that they can not exchange a single word, yet with their hearts they speak to one another. Thus do the clouds speak to the earth and the rain comes down; the breezes whisper to the trees; the sun speaks to the eyes of men. Although this is not actual speech, yet this is the way in which the hearts of the friends talk together. It is the harmony between two persons and this harmony is of the hearts. For instance, you were in America and I was in the Holy Land; although our lips were still, yet with our hearts we were conversing together. The friends here love you very much. They have a real attachment for you although with the tongue they can not express it."

Mr. Bosch said: "I am very glad. I love them too."

Abdu'l Baha said: "If this love is real and true, if it is from the heart, it will characterize itself by self-sacrifice. When the attachment is superficial, friends do not sacrifice themselves even to the extent of a hair's breadth. His Holiness Christ LOVED both His disciples and believers to such an extent that He Sacrificed His Life for them. His Holiness the Supreme (the Bab) LOVED the friends to such an extent that He gave His Life for them. The Blessed Beauty (Baha'u'llah) LOVED the friends to such an extent that for their sakes He accepted a thousand difficulties and afflictions. He was banished from place to place. His properties were confiscated. He gave all - His family, His relatives, His possessions. He accepted imprisonment, chains and fetters. His Holy Person was imprisoned in the fortress of Akka until the last moment of His Life. He was made to suffer more calamities, afflictions and difficulties than could be enumerated. He had not an hour's comfort. He was continually under the greatest hardships and ordeals. What great persecutions He endured from His enemies! What great afflictions He bore from His own relatives! He accepted all these trials for our sakes so that He might educate us, so that He might make us illumined, so that He might make us Heavenly, so that He might change our character, change our lives, so that He might illumine our inmost self. All these troubles He accepted for our sakes. He did indeed sacrifice His Life for us. This love is the real LOVE. This is the inner attachment and the genuine friendship. This is the love which sacrifices one's all, one's life. This is the reality of love. He accepted all these troubles.

"All this can not be accomplished by merely talking. It can not be done by saying: 'I love you' or 'How is your health' or 'You are my beloved' or 'You are esteemed'. This is not love. This is attachment that will break in the testing. This is why one sees persons associating with one another, apparently friends, expressing the greatest praise for one another, appearing to be enraptured with one another. Each seems to sacrifice himself for the other, but when they part they become as strangers. This is human love, it is not spiritual love; it is not divine love; it has no real foundation and in the time of testing it will fail and disappear.

"If you should go to Persia and mingle with the friends there and should be in the house of the friends and people should come to take you, to kill you, you would then witness how the owner of the house would sacrifice himself for you. He would sacrifice himself for you rather than allow even one hair of your head to be hurt. THIS IS LOVE! It has happened often in Persia that the friends have sacrificed themselves for one another. This has happened many times. This Love is the LOVE OF GOD.

"The King of Martyrs and the Beloved of Martyrs were two souls who were greatly honored among the people. They were wealthy. They were extremely comfortable. The people pillaged their property. They put them in chains. They put them in prison. The Shah of Persia decreed that they should be killed; that they should either deny their faith or be killed. The notables came to them and advised them to renounce their faith. The friends came and advised them; even the government advised them to recant so that they might save their lives. But they would not deny. They continued to cry aloud: 'YA BAHÁ EL ABHÁ!' (O Thou Glory of the Most Glorious!) And so they were martyred.

"This is the Love of God! This is the Love of the heart!

"THIS IS DIVINE LOVE!"

.....

...A PRAYER...

OUR ASSISTANCE IS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE BLESSED PERFECTION.  
IF ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST US WE  
WOULD STILL POSSESS THIS AND ALL THE WORLD COULD NOT TAKE IT AWAY  
FROM US.

IT IS A WEAPON TO FIGHT WITH FOREVER AND EVER AND WITH IT  
WE WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS.

IT IS A SWORD WHICH CAN NEVER BE DULLED, A MAGAZINE WHICH WILL  
ALWAYS BE FULL.

ABDU'L BAHÁ.

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"In this DAY all things call unto you and invite you unto the Lord, while ye are intoxicated with the wine of haughtiness that ye have not become conscious even for a moment. The ear is to harken unto My Voice, and the eye is to behold My Beauty. Harken unto it and be ye thereby warned."

"O Abdul Houssein! God willing, thou wilt be confirmed and bear unto the people (the Jews) the Glad-Tidings of what was formerly revealed in the Divine Books. For this Glad-Tidings is similar to the Water of Life for the dead of the world. Blessed are they who drink thereof and woe unto those who are deprived!"

"Say: In this DAY the CITY OF GOD hath appeared and is seen in full adornment. This is the CITY wherein the GOD OF ALL is become manifest. Reflect upon the words of John, wherein he hath prophesied of the HOLY CITY: 'And I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the LAMB are the Temple of It. And the CITY had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in It, for the GLORY OF GOD (BAHA'U'LLAH) did lighten It', and so on."

"Take the rod of resignation in the name of GOD and guide the erring people, with entire severance, to the GREAT CITY OF GOD, that peradventure the wanderers may attain to the real native land and the blind ones receive discerning sight. Verily, He is Powerful to do that which He willeth, all things are in the grasp of His Power. Verily, He is the Mighty!"

(Tablet to the Jews, Baha'i Scriptures, page 116)

"For the Glory of God did lighten it." Consider in connection with these words the following quotations from the Bible, which add illumination to the Splendor of our subject:

"And one cried unto another: Holy! Holy! is the Lord of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His Glory!"

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, O ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts. He is the King of Glory."

"And there was given Him Dominion and Glory and a Kingdom that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His Dominion is an everlasting Dominion which shall not pass away and His Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (From the Book of Daniel, referring to the "Ancient of Days" or Baha'u'llah.)

Abdu'l Baha has said: "The Name of GOD which Christ gave to His disciples was the Name of the Kingdom of Baha'u'llah. It was the same spiritually, but it was a Name that was never pronounced. All the Bible was written for Baha'u'llah. Everywhere, "Lord of Hosts" refers to the Manifestation."

(Baha'i Scriptures, page 444)

And Baha'u'llah has said: "Say: the Books were not revealed save for My Celebration, wherefrom every advancer will find the perfume of My Name and praise; and he who openeth the hearing power of his heart will hear from every word (of the Books), 'Lo, the truth hath come, and He is indeed the Beloved of the worlds.'" (Baha'i Scriptures, page 96)

How clear it is then that the "Light thereof" of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, as seen by John was the "Glory of God", Baha'u'llah:

Furthermore, Baha'u'llah has written, "O Sheikh! The Cause is so great and also the News! Meditate with clear insight and keenness upon the clear texts, the Supreme Words, and that which hath been manifested in these days, that thou mayest discover the hidden Mysteries in the Books, and to the uttermost exert thine energy in guiding the people."

"Hear with thy real hearing the declaration of Jeremiah: 'Alas, for verily that DAY is great, so that none is like it!' If thou shouldst look and reflect with the sight of equity thou wilt immediately recognize the greatness of this DAY. Hear the Voice of this Adviser, the All-Knowing and let not thy soul be excluded from the Mercy of God, which anticipated all existence - of the seen and the unseen."

"Hear what David chanted: 'Who will bring me unto the fortified CITY?' (Psalms 108: 10)

"O Sheikh! Read what Isaiah hath announced in His Book: 'O thou that bringest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain! O thou that telleth good tidings to Jerusalem! Lift up thy voice with strength: be not afraid. Say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your GOD! Behold, the Lord God will come with Power and His Arm shall rule for Him!' (Isaiah 40: 9, 10) In this DAY all the Signs (references) are disclosed and fulfilled. The Great City hath descended from heaven and Zion is revived and rejoiced by the appearance of the MANIFESTATION OF GOD; and it hath heard the Voice of God from all directions and places."

"Amos said: Verily, the Lord will rear from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the habitation of the shepherds shall mourn and the top of Carmel shall withdraw." (Amos 1: 2)

"Carmel in the Books of God is termed "The Heap of God", "The Vine of God" and sometimes the Heap of Wilderness (bewilderment); and this is the Station of the Bounty of the Manifestation. The Tent of Glory was raised upon it (Carmel) in these days: Blessed are those who advance!' Also it was recorded: 'Our Lord shall come, and shall not keep silence.'"

"In the Beyan the BAB hath written: 'Verily, He (Baha'u'llah) is the One who pronounceth in all conditions and createth the winds and treadeth upon the high places of the earth. The LORD, the GOD OF HOSTS, is His Name.'"

"Isaiah said: 'And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that DAY' (Isaiah 2; 11) And concerning the greatness of the Manifestation he (Isaiah) said: 'Enter into the rock and hide thee in the dust for fear of the Lord and the Baha of His Majesty.' (Isaiah 2; 19) 'The wilderness and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the Baha of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the excellency of the Lord and the Baha of our God.'" (Isaiah 35; 1, 2)

"These expressions need no interpretation. They are clear like the sunshine, and like the light gleaming and radiating." (Tablet to the Oriental Jews, Baha'i Scriptures, page 120)

#### WORDS OF ABDU'L BAHA.

"We are told in the Holy Scriptures that the NEW JERUSALEM shall appear on earth. Now it is evident that this celestial city is not built of material stones and mortar, but that it is a city made not with hands, Eternal in the Heavens."

"This is a prophetic Symbol - meaning the coming again of the Teaching to enlighten the hearts of men. It is long since this Holy Guidance has governed the lives of humanity. But now, at last, the Holy City of the NEW JERUSALEM has come again to the world. It has appeared anew under an Eastern sky; from the horizon of Persia has its effulgence arisen to be a Light to lighten the whole world. We see in these days the fulfillment of Divine Prophecy. Jerusalem had disappeared, the Heavenly City was destroyed, not to be rebuilt. It was razed to the ground. But now its walls and pinnacles have been restored and are towering aloft in their renewed and glorious beauty. In the Western world material prosperity has triumphed while in the East the Spiritual Sun has shone forth."

"To you who seek the TRUTH, the Revelation of Baha'u'llah will come as a great joy! This teaching is of the Spirit, in it is no precept which is not of the Divine Spirit."

"The greatest Power of the Holy Spirit exists in the Divine Manifestations of Truth. Through the Power of the Spirit the Heavenly Teaching has been brought into the world of humanity. Through the Power of the Spirit, Life Everlasting has come to the children of men. Through the Power of the Spirit the Divine Glory has shone from East to West and through the same Spirit will the Divine Virtues of humanity become manifest."

"Our greatest effort must be directed towards detachment from the things of the world; we must strive to become more spiritual, more luminous, to follow the Counsel of the Divine Teaching, to serve the Cause of Unity and true Equality, to be merciful, to reflect the Love of the Highest on all men, so that the light of the Spirit shall be apparent in all our deeds, to the end that all humanity shall be unified, the stormy sea thereof calmed, and all rough waves disappear from off the surface of Life's ocean henceforth unruffled and peaceful. Then will the NEW JERUSALEM be seen by mankind, who will enter through Its Gates and receive the Divine Bounty."

(Paris Talks)

Jerusalem was trodden under foot and dishonored, but the Holy of Holies was preserved, guarded and respected, and these events continued until 1260 (muhammedan time, 1844 Christian time) and as the period of 1260 years has expired, Jerusalem, the Holy City, is now beginning to become prosperous, populous and flourishing. Any one who saw Jerusalem sixty years ago and who sees it now, will recognize how flourishing and populous it has become and how it is again honored. This is the outward meaning of the verses of the 11th Chapter of Revelation, but they have another and symbolic sense which is as follows: "The law of God is divided into two parts, one is the fundamental basis which comprises all spiritual things, that is to say it refers to spiritual virtues and divine qualities, this does not change or alter; it is the Holy of Holies which is the Essence of the Law of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Muhammed, the Bab and Baha'u-'llah, and which lasts and is established in all the Prophetic Cycles. It will never be abrogated, for it is spiritual and not material truth it is Faith, Knowledge, Justice, Piety, Righteousness, Trustworthiness Love of God, Inward Peace, Purity, Detachment, Humility, Meekness, Patience and Cinstancy. It shows mercy to the poor, defends the wretched, gives to the oppressed, and uplifts the fallen. These Divine Qualities, these Eternal Commandments will never be abolished; nay, they will last and will be renewed in each of the different cycles, for at the end of every Cycle the Spiritual Law of God, that is to say the human virtues, disappear and only the form subsists."

Briefly, what is meant by the term "Holy of Holies" is that Spiritual Law which will never be modified, altered, or abrogated and the Holy City means the material law which may be abrogated, and this material law which is described as the Holy City was trodden under foot for 1260 years.

#### THE SPIRITUAL NEW JERUSALEM.

We have before explained that what was most frequently meant by the Holy City, the Jerusalem of God, which is mentioned in the Holy Books, is the Law of God. It is compared to a Bride, sometimes to Jerusalem, and again to the New Heaven and New Earth. So in Revelation 21: 1, 2, 3, St. John said: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth has passed away,

BC# 4850



and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the Holy City, the NEW JERUSALEM, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a voice out of Heaven saying: Behold, the Tabernacle of GOD is with men, and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people and GOD HIMSELF shall be with them, and be their God." Notice how clear and evident it is that the first heaven and earth signify the former law. For it is said that the "first heaven and the first earth are passed away and there shall be no more sea"; that is to say that the earth is a place of judgment, and on this earth of Judgment there is no more sea; meaning that the Teachings and the Law of God will entirely spread over the earth and all men will enter the Cause of God, and the earth will be completely inhabited by believers; therefore there will be no more sea, for the dwelling-place and abode of man is dry land. In other words at that epoch the Field of that Law will become the Pleasure-ground of man. Such earth is solid, the feet do not slip upon it. The Law of God is also described as the Holy City, the NEW JERUSALEM. It is evident that the New Jerusalem which descends from heaven is not a city of stone, mortar, bricks, earth and wood. It is the Law of God which descends from Heaven and is called New; for it is clear that Jerusalem which is of stone and earth does not descend from Heaven and that it is not "renewed" but that which is renewed is the Law of God.

The Law of God is also compared to an adorned bride who appears with most beautiful ornaments, as it is said, Revelation 21: "And I, John, saw the Holy City, the NEW JERUSALEM, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a BRIDE adorned for her husband."

#### TWELVE FOUNDATION STONES.

The twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem seen by St. John, "And I, John, saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from Heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a Great Voice out of Heaven, saying: Behold the Tabernacle of GOD is with men and He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people and GOD HIMSELF shall be with them and be their God."

"And he carried me away in spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me a great City, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, and her Light was like a stone most precious even like a jasper stone clear as crystal."

"And the foundations of the wall of the City were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was Jasper; the second, Sapphire; the third, Chalcedony; the fourth, Emerald; the fifth, Sardonyx; the sixth, Sardius; the seventh, Chrysolite; the eighth, Beryl; the ninth, Topaz; the tenth, Chrysoprasus; the eleventh, Jacinth, the twelfth, an Amethyst."

"All the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the Light of It; and Kings of the earth do bring their Glory and Honor into It."

These twelve foundation stones may be compared to the Twelve Baha'i Basic Principles; which are taken from the New Book of Laws revealed by Baha'u'llah, and from the foundation of the New Jerusalem. Of these principles Abdu'l Baha has said:

"The teachings of Baha'u'llah will give to hearts the necessary impulse for bestowing Eternal Life and will cause the Breeze of the Holy Spirit to blow upon you, so that with a single heart you will return to God."

"Today the promulgation of the Ideal Principles of Baha'u'llah which are manifestly recorded in the Books, is the Spirit of this Age and the Cause of the realization of Assistance and Confirmation of whosoever holdeth fast to them. In whatsoever enterprise they engage they will find the doors of Might and Power flung open before their faces. His Holiness Baha'u'llah has said: 'Verily we gaze upon thee from My Abha Kingdom (Horizon), and shall come to the assistance of him who has risen to the service of My Cause with the phalanxes of the Supreme Concurrence and the legion of chosen and favored angels.' Thus the diffusion of the Divine Fragrances is, above all, the most important matter. I very much desire that thou shouldst visit the Holy Land and thus to meet thee, but TEACHING standing above everything else."  
(Tablet to Kartha Root.)

"The principles of Baha'u'llah must be studied carefully one by one until they are understood and realized in mind and heart; then you will become strong followers of the Light; truly Spiritual, Heavenly Soldiers of God, acquiring and spreading the true Civilization throughout the world. This will be the Paradise which is to come on earth (the New Jerusalem) wherein all mankind will gather together under the Tent of Unity in the Kingdom of GLORY."

"O thou yearner after the Kingdom! Each Manifestation is the Heart of the world and the proficient Physician of every patient. The world of humanity is sick, but that skillful Physician hath the healing remedy and He bestoweth Divine Teachings, Exhortations and Advices which are the Remedy of every ailment and the dressing for every wound. Undoubtedly the Wise Physician discovereth the needs of every patient at every season and prescribeth suitable medicine. Therefore when thou wilt compare the Teachings of the Beauty of ABHA with the requisitions and necessities of the present time, thou wilt conclude that they are to the sick body of the world the swift healing antidote; nay, rather, they are the remedy producing everlasting health. The prescription of the proficient physicians of the past and the future will not be the same; nay, rather, they will be in accord with the ailment of the patient. Although the medicine is changed, yet all of these changes are for the purpose of healing the sick."

In former dispensations, the sick body of the world could not bear the strong and overpowering remedies. That is why His Holiness Chris said: 'I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when He, the Spirit of the Comforter, who is sent by the Father, is come, He will guide you into all Truth.' Therefore, in this Age of Lights, specific Teachings have become Universal, in order that the out-pouring of the Merciful One environ both the East and the West, the Oneness of the Kingdom of humanity become manifest and the luminosity of Truth enlighten the world of consciousness. The descent of the NEW JERUSALEM is the Heavenly Religion which secures the prosperity of the human world, and is the Effulgence of the Illumination of the Realm of God..... The Confirmations of the Holy Spirit are descending uninterruptedly. The Power of the Word shall penetrate in such wise that the Letter will become the reflective mirror of the Sun of the WORD, and the radiation of the Lights of the WORD shall illuminate the whole earth. But the Heavenly Jerusalem which is established upon the apex of the world and the Holy of Holies of the Almighty, which hath hoisted Its Banner, comprehendeth and includeth in it all the Perfections and Teachings of all the former Dispensations. Likewise, it is the Herald of the Oneness of the world of humanity, the Ensign of Universal Peace, the Spirit of Eternal Life, the Lights of Divine Perfections, the surrounding betowals of the realm of existence, the adornment and Grandeur of the world of creation, and the cause of the Tranquility of Humankind." (Baha'i Scriptures, page 436)

When in London, Abdu'l Baha wrote in the old Bible in the City Temple, where He first spoke in public: "This Book is the Holy Book of God and of Celestial Inspiration. It is the Bible of Salvation, the noble Gospel. It is the Mystery of the Kingdom and Its Light. It is the Divine Bounty and the Sign of the Guidance of God."

From this Book of "Divine Guidance" we have read in Revelation 21: "And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea."

"And I, John, saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying; Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men and He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them and be their GOD."

"And he carried me away in spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me a great City, the Holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, having the City of God; and her Light was like a stone most precious even like a Jasper stone clear as crystal."

"And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was Jasper; the second, Sapphire; the third, Chalcedony; the fourth, Emerald; the fifth, Sardonyx; the sixth, Sardius; the seventh, Chrysolite; the eighth, Beryl; the ninth, Topaz; the tenth, Chrysoprasus; the twelfth, Amethyst."

"And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the Light of it; and the Kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it."

In explanation of this vision of St. John's, Abdu'l Baha has said: "What is most frequently meant by the Holy City, the New Jerusalem of God, which is mentioned in the Holy Book, is the Law of God. It is compared to a bride, and sometimes to the New Jerusalem, and again to a New Heaven and a New Earth."

"Note how clear and evident it is that the first heaven and earth signify the former Law; for it is said that the first heaven and earth have passed away and there is no more sea; meaning that the Teachings and the Law of God will entirely cover the earth and all men will enter the Cause of God and the earth will be completely inhabited by believers; therefore there will be no more sea, for the dwelling place of man is dry land; in other words at that epoch the field of that Law will become the pleasure-ground of men. Such earth is solid and the feet do not slip upon it."

"The Law of God is also described as the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. It is evident that the New Jerusalem which descended from heaven is not a city of stone and mortar, bricks and earth and wood. It is the Law of God, which descends from heaven and is called New; for it is clear that the Jerusalem which is stone and earth does not descend from heaven, and that it is not renewed, but that which is renewed is the Law of God."

From this we learn that in each Divine Manifestation, or Cycle, a New Book of Laws is given unto man by God; through His Chosen One, or Prophet, and these Laws are both spiritual and material, constituting the New Heaven and the New Earth, according to the evolution of mankind at that particular time.

We are now living in the day of the fulfillment of St. John's revelation and the Divine Law of the New Day has been revealed to man through Baha'u'llah, God's latest Manifestation. This New Book of Laws is the New Jerusalem, and it is being built upon the sure foundation of the Word of God.

These are Twelve Basic Principles upon which this New Jerusalem rests and which are most remarkable as correlated to the twelve foundation stones of the New Jerusalem of St. John's vision as regards their spiritual significances and their colors, for they are

spiritual symbols and not material stones, as Abdu'l Baha has said. Let us consider them in this light.

**The first Basic Principle:** The oneness of the world of humanity. "Hands may be white, black, yellow or brown, but the hue of the heart is one."

**The first Foundation Stone:** the Jasper. It is a clear red like the hue of the human heart.

**The second Basic Principle:** The independent investigation of Truth. All must be free to seek out Truth in their own way.

**The second Foundation stone:** the Sapphire; which is a clear blue, "true blue" and the color of faith, inspiration, loyalty and truth. Man must be free to soar in this "dome" of heaven's blue and loyal to a truth when he finds it.

**The third Basic Principle:** The foundation of all religions is one. Each Revelator has given the same "New Heaven" and "New Earth", but man has polluted and misrepresented these Divine Laws. In reality they are all one.

**The third Foundation Stone:** the Chalcedony; which is pure white, of which Abdu'l Baha has said, "While white is apparent, yet in it is hidden and concealed the seven colors. In white all colors are brothers and sisters." White is the symbol of purity, and in its origin each religion is pure, and a brother to every other religion, for all Truth is One.

**The fourth Basic Principle:** Religion must be the source of Unity. If it is not, its non-being is better than its being.

**The fourth Foundation Stone:** the Emerald; which is green. Green is the color of Harmony and Unity; there is no color known that green will not harmonize with, as the green foliage blends with every hued flower. It is the color of immortality and also of humility.

**The fifth Basic Principle:** Science and religion must be united. Neither must deny the other.

**The fifth Foundation Stone:** the Sardonyx. This stone is red or brown according to the way it is held; so it is with Science and Religion, they are in essence one, but different in color and manifestation.

**The sixth Basic Principle:** The equality of men and women. They must be as the two wings of the soul, each equally developed.

**The sixth Foundation Stone:** the Sardius; which is the stone of two layers; one is white and one is red, symbolical of the two in one.

The seventh Basic Principle: Removal of all prejudices; racial, religious, etc.

The seventh Foundation Stone: The Chrysolite; an exquisite clear green. We read in the ancient philosophers of the "Chrysolite Tablet". It is a symbol of absolute sincerity, and truthfulness, or purity and selflessness. Only when our hearts are free from every form of prejudice can they become the chrysolite tablet whereon may be engraved the thoughts of our brother man.

The eighth Basic Principle: Universal Peace.

The eighth Foundation Stone: the Beryl; which is bluish green. The blue of faith and loyalty toward our brother man, the green of humility and unity; the harmonious blending into one symmetrical whole, like a beautiful bouquet of flowers. This established in the hearts of man shall also help in the establishment of Universal Peace

The ninth Basic Principle: Universal Education.

The ninth Foundation Stone: the Topaz; the glory of the sun, symbolical of the light of knowledge and the glory of wisdom, which this universal education will establish in the world when the Golden Topaz Light of the Teachings of Baha'u'llah are understood and lived.

The tenth Basic Principle: Solution of the Economic Problem.

The tenth Foundation Stone: the Chrysoprasus; which is like the Chrysolite, a clear green which embodies truthfulness, justice, sincerity and purity, and these are the requisites necessary for the solution of all economic problems. The golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

The eleventh Basic Principle: Universal Auxiliary Language.

The eleventh Foundation Stone: the Jacinth, which is like the Jasper, a clear red, the universal color like the hue of the heart; and the heart of a race can only understand the heart of another when it can speak the same language.

The twelfth Basic Principle: World Tribunal or Parliament of Man.

The twelfth Foundation Stone: the Amethyst; its color is violet. It symbolizes Spiritual Light, reverence, healing, serenity and poise. This Tribunal of all nations must be as the ultra-violet rays for the "healing of the nations", and it must seek spiritual Light in all reverence, that it may fulfill its high calling, imparting a sense of security, poise, and serenity to the hearts of all humanity.

Upon this sure foundation the New Jerusalem will be built. There is not need of man, either physical, mental or spiritual, that has not been met in the New Laws revealed by Baha'u'llah; and when they are established in the world, then indeed will the nations rejoice; then will appear that Holy City wherein "God shall wipe away

all tears, and there shall be no more death, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things have passed away."

"And the gates of it shall not be closed at all by day for there shall be no night there; and they shall bring the glory and the honor of nations to it."

In each heart individually must this Holy City first be built, that in turn each heart may become one of the precious stones of which the Universal City of the New Heaven and Earth will be constructed, and upon the foundation of these twelve Basic Principles will it rest. Of these principles we have learned that Abdu'l Bah has said: "The Principles of Baha'u'llah must be studied one by one until they are understood and realized in mind and heart; then will you become strong followers of the Light; truly spiritual, Heavenly Soldiers of God; acquiring and spreading the true civilization throughout the world. This will be the Paradise which is to come on earth, wherein all mankind will gather together under the Tent of Unity in the Kingdom of Glory."

#### CLOSING COMMUNE.

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#### The Second Birth.

O Thou kind God! In the utmost state of humility and submission we entreat and supplicate at Thy Threshold, seeking Thy endless confirmations and illimitable assistance. O Thou Lord! Regenerate these souls and confer upon them a New Life. Animate the spirits, inform the hearts, open the eyes and make the ears attentive. From Thy Ancient Treasury confer a new being and animus and from Thy Pre-Existent Abode assist them to attain to New Confirmations.

O God! Verily the world is in need of reformation. Bestow upon it a New Existence. Give it Newness of thoughts and reveal unto it Heavenly Sciences. Breathe into it a fresh spirit and grant unto it a holier and higher purpose.

O God! Verily Thou hast made this century radiant and in it Thou hast manifested Thy Merciful Effulgence. Thou hast effaced the darkness of superstitions and permitted the Light of Assurance to shine. O God! grant that these servants may be acceptable at Thy Threshold. Reveal a New Heaven, and spread out a New Earth for habitation. Let the NEW JERUSALEM DESCEND from on high. Bestow New Thoughts and New Life upon mankind. Endow souls with New perceptions and confer upon them New Virtues. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful, Thou art the Giver, the Generous!

YA BAHA EL ABHA.

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## LESSON 11, Part 1.

### THE GIFTS OF A PROPHET AND TO WHOM GIVEN.

Who is a prophet? In lesson 2, on "The Manifestation of God" this question was fully answered. We learned from the Holy Utterances of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha, and from the Bible, just who a Prophet or Manifestation was, and ever will be. That there are two degrees of Prophethood, the Universal Prophet and the Prophet who calls the people to the Universal Prophet's Teachings. The Universal Prophet gives forth a Revelation to the world. The lesser Prophet expounds this Revelation. One is a Supreme Leader and has a following, the other is a follower of the Greater One. We learned man's need of these Prophets, or Divine Shepherds, and the purpose of their coming into the world to develop the Divine Reality of man and to educate him; that the Prophet is the Educator, not the educated.

In Lesson 3, we learned of the Supreme Station from which the Reality of the Manifestation descends, and how He comes into the world, delivers His Divine Message, is despised and rejected by men, being recognized only by those who are pure in heart and free from self-seeking, and how He again ascends into the Glory of the Supreme Concourse.

Today we wish to consider the Gifts which a Divine Manifestation brings to the world and to whom they are given. He is likened unto the Tree of Life laden with precious Gifts from God to the world of humanity, from which Spiritual Reality, its Symbol: the Christmas Tree, sprang.

Let us study well the following passages from our Holy Scriptures, dealing with the Gifts of God and later compare them with the words of Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha.

#### BIBLE VERSES.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

(James 2: 17)

"The Lord will give strength unto His people, the Lord will bless His people with Peace."

(Psalms 29: 11)



"The God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people. Blessed be God." (Psalms 29: 35)

"For the Lord God is a sun and a shield. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of Hosts (Baha'u'llah), blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee." (Psalms 84: 11, 12)

"For the Lord giveth wisdom, out of His Mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous. He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly." (Proverbs 2: 6, 7)

"Every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of his labors; it is a gift from God." (Ecclesiastes 3: 13)

Thus saith the Lord: "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in My statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and shall be My people and I will be their God." (Ezekial 11: 19, 30)  
(Here obedience is again emphasized.)

"The wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6: 23)

Here we strike the tap-root of this vital question. All these gifts come through Christ, or through the Manifestation. The Abstract Essence, or Divine Reality, can only manifest Its Attributes and Divine Gifts through the Prophet or Divine Manifestation. Jesus bears out this truth in these, His words: "Jesus answered and said unto her, 'If thou knewest the Gift of God and Who it is that saith to thee: Give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked of Him and He would have given thee Living Water.'" (John 4: 10)

"Repent and ye shall receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Acts 2: 38, 39)

"Peter said unto them, 'Thy money perish with thee because thou hast thought that the Gift of God may be purchased with money.'" (Acts 8: 20)

"And by their prayers for you, which long after you, for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for this unspeakable Gift." (11 Corinthians 9: 14, 15)

"For by grace are ye saved, through Faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a Gift of God."

(Ephesians 2: 8)

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God, which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and it shall be given him."

(James 1: 5)

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the prohibition of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortations; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness."

(Romans 12: 6-10)

"Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.... Now, there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gift of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues, but all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will."

"For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, because I am not the head, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole body were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him. Now are they many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, 'I have not need of thee', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' Nay, much more, those members of the body which seem to be more feeble, are necessary. And whether one member suffers, all members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all members rejoice with it..... Are all prophets? Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of

healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the Best Gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way."

(1 Corinthians 12: verses throughout the Chapter.)

Paul tells us to "covet earnestly the Best Gifts", then adds, "Yet show I unto you a more excellent way." Even to desire for one's self the "best gifts" is tinged with selfishness. Forgetting self, all things become ours through love and service, and to all humanity, accepting that which pleaseth God, with joy and gratitude and "radiant acquiescence."

#### REJECTION OF THE PROPHET.

Jesus said to His disciples: "He that receiveth a Prophet in the Name of a Prophet shall receive a Prophet's reward."

(Matthew 10: 41)

And, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believed on His Name, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

From these words we find the reward or gifts of a Prophet are bestowed upon those who "receiveth Him", believe on His Name, are "born again" through the Spirit of Faith, and receive the power to become the Sons of God. How clear are the words of Jesus to the woman at the well, of whom He asked a drink, in the light of the above verses: "If thou knewest the Gift of God (Eternal Light) and who it is that saith to thee 'Give me to drink', thou wouldst have asked of Him and He would have given thee Living Water."

#### BAHA'U'LLAH'S WORDS CONCERNING THE "GIFTS OF GOD" THROUGH HIS CHOSEN MANIFESTATION.

"I testify that verily Thou hast fulfilled Thy Covenant and sent forth Him whose Manifestation was announced by Thy Prophets, Thy Chosen Ones and Thy Servants. Verily He hath come from the Horizon of Might and Power with the Banner of Thy Signs and with the Standards of Thy Evidences..... He hath arisen in the Most Mighty Steadfastness and spoken in the Loftiest Voice, saying: 'The Giver of Gifts hath indeed come, riding on the cloud. Advance, O ye people of the earth, with shining faces and illumined hearts.'" (Tablet of Ishrakat)

TREE OF REWARD - THE REAL CHRISTMAS TREE.

"This Oppressed One now speaks of one of these instances, thus conferring the hidden benefits of the "Tree of Reward" for the sake of God upon His servants, so that the mortal temples may not be deprived of the Immortal Fruits, and may perchance attain to a sprinkling of the never-failing Rivers of the Lord of Glory. This is a food whereby brilliant souls and minds find Eternal Life, and this is that Table of which it is spoken: 'O our Lord, cause to descend upon us Food from Heaven.' This food is never withheld from those who deserve it and is never exhausted. It grows continually from the Tree of Grace and descends from the heavens of Justice and Mercy. Alas, that man should withhold himself from this Excellent Gift and deprive himself of Eternal Bounty and Perpetual Life."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 10)

GIFT OF MEETING WITH GOD.

"By meeting these Holy Lights, the "meeting of God" is attained; through their knowledge, the Knowledge of God, and by their face, the Face of God..... Therefore, whosoever is favored by these shining and glorious Lights and hath attained to these luminous and radiant Suns, during every Manifestation, hath attained the 'meeting of God' and entered the City Eternal and Immortal Life. This 'meeting' cannot be realized by any except in the Resurrection Day, which is the Rise of the Self of God in His Universal Manifestation."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 26)

"Beware not to deny the Grace of God after Its descent. This is better for you than that which ye have, because what ye have will vanish and that on the part of God will endure."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 42)

REWARD TO FIRST BELIEVERS.

"Let your endeavor be in guiding some soul out of the whirlpool of mortality to the River of Immortality, and to behave in such a manner among the servants that the traces of the True One may become manifest in you. For you are the first of existence, the first to worship, the first of those who revolve around the True One. By the One who caused Me to give utterance to that which He desireth, your names are more famous in the Supreme Kingdom than they are well known to your own selves. You should not fancy that this statement is mere imagination. O that ye could see what your Merciful Lord sees concerning the loftiness of your degree, the greatness of your worth and the exaltation of your position! We beg that your desires may not prevent you from that which He hath ordained for you."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 51)

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(Baha'i Scriptures, par 51)

"The Greatest Gift and the Highest Blessing in the primary station is Wisdom. It is the Protector of Existence, and its support and help. Wisdom is the Messenger of the Merciful One and the Manifestation of the Name, the 'All Wise,'"   
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 108)

"In this Day a great Banquet is celebrated in the Supreme Course, for all that was promised in the Divine Books has appeared. This is the Day of the most great rejoicing! All must direct themselves to the Court of Nearness with the utmost joy, happiness, exultation and gladness, and deliver themselves from the fire of separation."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 458)

"The Hand of Might is opened for stating every example, and for every Word the Hand of Protection is raised, and no one can know save Him whom God willeth. And when the Seal of the Attar Vessel is broken off by the Hand of Might, then the fragrance will be perceived. The Command is in the grasp of the Hand of God. He bestows and He withholds. He causeth blindness and He openeth eyes. He doeth as He willeth and commandeth as He wisheth."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 459)

#### GIFTS OF THE BRANCH.

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"O ye people, praise ye God, for the Manifestation of It (the Branch) for verily It is the Most Great Favor upon you, and the Most

Perfect Blessing for you, and through Him (Abdu'l Baha) every mouldering bone will be quickened. Whosoever turns to Him hath surely turned to God, and whosoever turneth away from Him turneth away from My Beauty, denied My Proof, and is of those who transgress. Verily, He is the Remembrance of God amongst you, and His Appearance among the servants that are nigh. Inhale the fragrances of the Ridvan of His Roses, and be not of those who are deprived."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 528)

WORDS OF ABDU'L BAHA.

"Thou hast asked concerning the Station of this Servant. The station of this Servant is Servitude to the Holy Threshold (Bahatu'llah) and I glory and honor in this. Abdu'l Baha is the Standard of Divine Love, the Sign of the Gift of God, the Servant of the spiritual ones. He is the Orb of Peace and Reconciliation and the Light of Love in the world of humanity. He is the Herald of the Kingdom of the Merciful One and the Promulgator of the religion of Rectitude and Security. This is the station of this Servant. This is the Truth." (Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 191)

"I received thy letter which announced thy receipt of the loving letters sent thee by the pen of Abdu'l Baha. By God, the True One, verily those letters are as Gifts of God to thee..... Beg of God to enable thee to perfectly endeavor to practice according to their contents." (Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.111, page 648)

"Sing ye the sweet melody in the assemblages; entreat ye at the threshold of the Kingdom of the Lord of Hosts and beg ye for conformation and assistance. The Guide of Providence will appear and the 'Beloved of Divine Gifts' will unveil her luminous countenance." (Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.111, page 666)

"Abdu'l Baha in His heart was present in your gathering and His Spirit was gazing upon you. In order to render thanks for this Gift you must become engaged in creating harmony and union to such a degree that all of you may become as one soul and one spirit; that you may become waves of one sea, breezes of one rose garden, flowers of one meadow, and trees of one orchard." (Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.111, page 698)

"O maid-servant of God! It is incumbent upon thee to learn that which the Spirit of Abdu'l Baha poureth upon thee. Look not at thy capacity and ability; nay, rather, look at the Grace of thy Lord in these days and at the Gift of His Kingdom, the like of which hath never been seen by the eye of existence in former cycles." (Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vo.111, page 713)

### INTELLIGENCE.

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"The Heavenly Father gave the Priceless Gift of Intelligence to man so that he might become a spiritual light, perceiving the darkness of materialism and bringing goodness and Truth into the world. Strive therefore with heart and soul to follow the Precepts of the Blessed Perfection and rest assured that if ye succeed in living the life He marks out for you, Eternal Life and Everlasting Joy will be yours in the Heavenly Kingdom, and Celestial Sustenance will be sent to strengthen you all your days."

(Paris Talks, page 104)

"To man is given the special gift of the intellect by which he is able to perceive a larger share of the Light Divine. The Perfect Man is as a polished mirror, reflecting the rays of Truth and manifesting the Attributes of God."

(Paris Talks, page 21)

"The Holy Spirit will give to man greater powers than these, if only he will strive after the things of the Spirit and endeavor to attune his heart to the Divine Infinite Love."

(Paris Talks, page 28)

### INSTINCT.

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"When man has found the joy of life in one place, he returns to that same spot to find more joy. When a man has found gold in a mine, he returns again to that mine to dig for more gold. This shows the internal force and natural instinct which God has given man, and the power of vital energy born in him."

(Paris Talks, page 28)

### UNDERSTANDING.

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"God's greatest Gift to man is that of intellect or understanding. The understanding is the power by which man acquires his knowledge of the several kingdoms of creation and of various stages of existence, as well as much which is invisible. Possessing this Gift, he is in himself the sum of earlier creations, and by this Gift he can frequently through his scientific knowledge, reach out with prophetic vision."

(Paris Talks, page 36)

HOLY SCRIPTURES.

"The Spirit breathing through the Holy Scriptures is Food for all who hunger. God, Who has given this Revelation to His Prophets, will surely give of His abundance daily bread to all those who ask Him faithfully."  
(Paris Talks, page 51)

HEALING.

"O, put your faith in the Almighty, for He faileth not and His goodness endureth forever! His Sun giveth Light continually, and the Clouds of His Mercy are full of the Water of Compassion, with which He waters the hearts of all who trust in Him. His refreshing Breeze ever carries Healing in Its wings to the parched souls of men. Is it wise to turn away from such a loving Father who showers His blessings upon us, and choose rather to be slaves of matter?"  
(Paris Talks, page 99)

"Look at the time of Christ! Had the people realized that the Holy Spirit of God was speaking to them through His Divine Mouth, they would not have waited three centuries before accepting Him. And now is it meet for you that ye are sleeping upon the beds of idleness and neglect, while the Father foretold by Christ has come amongst us and opened the greatest Door of Bounteous Gifts and Divine Favors?"

LIFE.

"May you be given Life! May the rain of the Divine Mercy and the warmth of the Sun of Truth make your gardens fruitful, so that many beautiful flowers of exquisite fragrance and love may blossom in abundance. Turn your faces away from the contemplation of your finite selves and fix your eyes upon the Everlasting Radiance, then will your souls receive in full measure the Divine Power of the Spirit and the blessings of the Infinite Bounty."  
(Paris Talks, page 155)

FIRM FOUNDATION.

"Be thankful unto God that Baha'u'llah has given us a firm and solid foundation. He left no place for sadness in hearts, and the writings of His Sacred Pen contain consolation for the whole world."  
(Paris Talks, page 160)



SPIRITUALITY.

"Spirituality is the greatest of God's gifts, and Life Everlasting means 'turning to God'. May you, one and all, increase daily in spirituality; may you be strengthened in all goodness; may you be helped more and more by the Divine Consolation; be made free by the Holy Spirit of God, and may the power of the Heavenly Kingdom live and work among you."

(Paris Talks, page 102)

SPIRITUAL VISION.

"Kneel down and thank God for choosing you to enter His wonderful Kingdom..... Ye have taken away the veil and were guided into the Light ; have given up imitating forefathers and directed your eyes to the Sun of Truth, which is shining in the Supreme Horizon. This is a favor to you on the part of your Lord and a Gift for you."

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 135)

"Consider the Bounty of the Lord and the Gifts of thy Creator. He hath chosen thee to love Him and selected thee from among His beings to know Him, and distinguished thee particularly with the Gift of dazzling Light, through which the faces of the righteous will shine. Verily, I say unto you that this Gift now signifieth a globule and a date-stone, which will spring up and grow until it becomes a tree of solid root, and the branches thereof will expand to the East and West. Then the tongues shall utter: 'This is naught but a great Bounty.'"

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 159)

"By God, the True One! Verily the Gifts of God are in such profusion as to rush like a torrent, overflow as a sea and shower as rain."

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 163)

ABDU'L BAHAS LOVE.

"O my friend, the affection of my heart unto thee cannot be expressed through any interpretation, and I cannot write it, or acknowledge it. Turn with thy breast unto the Heart of Abdu'l Baha, then this concealed fact will be disclosed and the 'Hidden Mystery' be unveiled unto thee."

(Tablets of Abdu'l Baha, Vol.1, page 163)

"I beg of God to make all mankind the children of His Mercy. This is the utmost mercy of Abdu'l Baha for which He is endeavoring night and day and is summoning all to this Fountain which is flowing with the Pure Water of the Gift of God."

(Tablets, Vol.1, page 180)

"Now, with a heart overflowing with the Love of God, supplicate God with all joy, and thank thou God for this Guidance and this High Gift. And know thou, verily, the vanguards of the Gifts of thy Lord shall overtake thee from all sides when thy feet become firm in the Path." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 182)

"Boundless Treasure is in the Hand of the King of Kings (Baha'u'llah). Lift the hem of thy garment in order to receive it." (Tablets, Vol.111, page 64)

"As to you, be rejoiced, O ye children of the Kingdom! Your faces will surely become illumined, your brows shining, your hearts dilated with an abundant Bounty, and refreshed with a rain pouring from the clouds of the Gift of God." (Tablets, Vol.11, page 348)

"Thank God that He hath opened your insight to the Light which is shining from the Supreme Concourse and caused you to witness His Most Mighty Signs. By My Life, the hearts of the people of Baha are cheered with such Gifts." (Tablets, Vol.11, page 350)

"Suffer the thirsty ones to drink from the Salsabil of Thy Gifts, and quicken the dead by Eternal Life. Endow the blind with sight, the deaf with hearing, the dumb with speech, the lukewarm with energy, the heedless with mindfulness, the sleeper with wakefulness, the proud with humility. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, Thou art the Forgiver! Thou art the Loving! Verily, Thou art the Generous, the Most High." (Tablets, Vol.11, Page 367)

"Ye tasted the honey of devotion from the hand of the Unique Beloved and partook of the Eternal Table at the Feast of the Blessing of the Presence of the Unity. This Favor is one of the special Gifts of the Presence of the Merciful, and this Grace and Generosity is one of the incomparable Gifts of our Loving Lord." (Tablets, Vol.11, page 371)

"Praise be to God! The Divine Bounty favors all of you; the doors of Gifts are open before the faces of you all, and the radiance of the Sun of Truth is shining upon you all. Capacity, worth and ability are necessary, for the clearer and purer the mirror is, the Lights of the Sun are more manifest thereon." (Tablets, Vol.11, page 444)

#### GUIDANCE.

"By the Life of God! Verily, the Gift of Guidance, during this great century and this Age of Lights, is greater than reigning over the earth and all that is in it." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 933)

"What a great Gift is Guidance, the standards of which are raising the traces of which are published, the breeze of which has blown, the garden of which is ornamented, the basins of which have poured out, the birds of which have sung, and the joy of which is complete."  
(Tablets, Vol.11, page 475)

"I ask God to continue the heavenly, abundant Gifts upon thee, and to grant thee more freshness, tenderness and fineness day by day. Verily, I say unto thee that man is like a tree, and as the life of a tree and its tenderness and brilliancy depend upon the abundant rain descending from the clouds, so also the happiness of man, his pleasure, dignity, loftiness of position and highness of rank depend upon the abundant Bounty of the Kingdom and the Light of the Sun of Truth coming from the horizon of the Gift of God. (The Manifestation)  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 154)

#### GIFT OF THE MESSAGE.

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"Ye must appreciate Miss ----- . Move your tongue in thanksgiving and be obliged to her for her great effort, for she gave you to drink of the Wine of Guidance from the Cup of the Love of God and led you to the Kingdom of Lights. Were you to thank her for many years as a reward for this Guidance, ye will not be able to repay your obligation for this Gift."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 203)

"Thank thou the maid-servant, Mrs.----- for she hath guided thee to the Divine Kingdom, and led thee to the Noblest Station of the human world. Appreciate thou her value, and turn thou unto the Word of God, so that thou mayest be confirmed by the power of the Merciful One and attain to that which is wished for by the holy ones.  
(Tablets, Vol.111, page 675)

"Be thou grateful to Mrs.----- for having led thee to the Straight Path and guided thee to the Kingdom of God. If thou shouldst thank her a thousand times an hour, thou wilt fail to thank her sufficiently for this attainment."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 136)

"Truly I say unto you, this is a Gift which neither the dominion of the world nor the riches of treasures, nor the glory of distinguished men of the world can equal in this glorious century and New Age, inasmuch as crowns are transient, while this is Eternal and never-ending."  
(Tablets, Vol.11, page 412)

GIFT OF INSIGHT.

"Thank God that He hath opened your insight to the Light which is shining from the Supreme Concourse and caused you to witness His Most Mighty Signs. By My Life, the hearts of the people of Baha are cheered with such Gifts."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 350)

"O thou whom I mention with My heart and tongue!

Though I do not see thee with mine eyes, I do see thee with my heart, and mention thee with the fullness of love, clemency, yearning and attraction, supplicating My Lord that we may meet together at the Meeting of His Kingdom and the Pavilion of His Might, where we shall chant the Verses of thanks for His Bounty, Generosity and Gifts, the Lights of which have shone upon all horizons and their effulgences have become intense upon the hearts of the people of harmony. O thou dearly beloved! Hasten! Hasten! Hasten to the Gifts of thy Lord, the Merciful! Come to the Benefactor! Avail thyself of this opportunity and take thy portion of this Greatest Treasure, in this Promised Day."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 255)

"Beloved art thou, for thou hast lighted the Lamp of the Love of God in the glass of America, called out in His Name among the people and guided them to the Kingdom of El Abha. O maid-servant of God! Fly away with joy, for God hath strengthened thee in this great Gift, which is a Glorious Crown, the gems of which are scintillating with the Light of Guidance. Blessed is thy hand, for it is decorated with this crown. Verily, this is better for thee than the dominion of the world."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 517)

"Thank God that thou hast been guided by the Light of Guidance and illumined by the brilliance of the Supreme Concourse, kindled by the Fire of the Love of God, and hath directed thyself to His Kingdom, partook of the Heavenly Table, and enjoyed the fruits of the Tree of Life." (Real Christmas Tree)

"Thou hast been confirmed in serving those who are nigh unto the Divine Threshold! This is not servitude, but Sovereignty; and this is not service but Chieftainship and Greatness. This is the Garment of Everlasting Glory with which thou hast clothed thyself, and this is a Rose of Eternal Exaltation with which thou hast adorned thy head. It is said in the New Testament: 'Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.' In short, thou shouldst thank God a hundred thousand times for having been confirmed and strengthened in obtaining this Great Gift. Know thou the value thereof, and consider that its price is highly appraised."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 510)

"Thy letter was like a perfume nosegay, and from that nosegay the fragrance of Faith and Assurance was inhaled. Well done! Well

done, that thou hast turned thy face towards the Invisible Kingdom. Excellent! Excellent, that thou art attracted by the Beauty of His Highness, the Almighty! Well done! Well don! How happy thou art that thou hast attained to this Most Great Gift."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 530)

#### EVERLASTING LIFE.

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"I entreat and supplicate at the Threshold of the Almighty and ask for your confirmation and assistance, that you may be born wholly out of the physical world into the Divine Realm, to seek after Eternal Life and wish for the Everlasting Gift, so that you may shine upon ages and cycles like unto the morning star."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 555)

#### THE MIGHTY GIFT.

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"By God the True One! Verily, the Crown of Mighty Gifts is suspended betwixt heaven and earth, and the Angels of Holiness are awaiting a lofty hand which may be worthy of this great Bestowal, so it may descend upon that head, and that it may wear that Glorious Crown, the most precious Gems of which illumine the eyes of all in the world."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 602)

#### KNOWLEDGE.

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"The Gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the Oneness of the world of humanity and of the fundamental Oneness of Religion. War shall cease between nations, and by the Will of God the Most Great Peace shall come. The world will be seen as a New World and all men shall live as brothers."

(Baha'i Scriptures, par 561)

#### TESTS.

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"To the sincere, tests are as the Gift from God, the Exalted, for a heroic person hasteneth with utmost joy and gladness to the tests of a violent battlefield, but the coward is afraid and trembles and utters moaning and lamentation. Likewise an expert student prepareth and memorizes his lessons and exercises with the utmost effort and in the day of examination he appeareth with infinite joy before his master."

(Baha'i Scriptures, par 877)

ETERNAL GIFT.

"What a Bounty and what a Favor it is that the sages of the world and the wise among mankind are incompetent of comprehension, yet the little children of the Kingdom have attained to Truth, dwell and abide under the shadow of the Tree of Life, and are assisted by the Everlasting and Eternal Gift."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 484)

GIFT AFTER ASCENSION.

"Then as to what thou hast asked Me about pious persons who died before they heard the Voice of this Manifestation (Baha'u'llah). Listen! Those who have mounted to God before hearing the Voice, if they followed the rules of conduct laid down by Jesus and always walked in the Straight Path, they have obtained this dazzling Light after their rising to the Kingdom of God. I pray God to lift the veil for thee and to corroborate by the Spirit of experience, so that all may be evident to thee by the Holy Spirit of God."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 478)

GIFT OF SHOHI EFFENDI.  
(When a child.)

"Verily, that infant is born and exists, and there will appear from His Cause a wonder which thou wilt hear in the future. Thou shalt see Him with the most perfect form, most Great Gift, most perfect Perfection, most Great Power and Strongest Might. His face glisteneth, a glistening whereby the horizons are illumined. Therefore, forget not this account as long as thou art living, forasmuch as there are Signs for it in the passing centuries and ages."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 484)

GIFT OF LOVE.

"The greatest Gift to man is Universal Love, for this Love is a magnet which renders existence eternal, attracts Reality and diffuses Life with infinite joy. If this Love penetrates the heart of man, all the forces of the universe will be realized in him, for it is a Divine Power which transports him to a Divine Station, and man will make no real progress until illumined by this Power of Love."

(Baha'i Scriptures, par 865)

"Love is the Highest Law in this great universe of God. Love

supplies the impulse to that intense and unceasing meditation which reveals the hidden mysteries of the universe.... Love is the highest Honor for all the nations of men. To that people in whom God causes Love to appear, the Supreme Concourse, the angels of Heaven, and the Hosts of the Kingdom of the All-Glorious One make salutation. O friends of God, be ye manifestations of the love of God, and lamps of Guidance in all horizons, shining by the Light of Love and Harmony. How beautiful is the Shining of this Shining!"

(Baha'i Scriptures, par 790)

#### GOD'S SUPREME GIFT TO MAN.

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"The greatest Bounties of God in this phenomenal world are His Manifestations. This is the Greatest Postulate. These Manifestations are the Suns of Reality, for it is through the Manifestation that the Reality becomes known and established for man. History proves to us that, apart from the influence of the Manifestations, man sinks back into the animal condition, using even his intellectual power to subserve an animal purpose. Therefore there is no cessation whatever in the future for the appearance of the Manifestations of God, because God is Infinite and His purpose cannot be limited in any way."

(Baha'i Scriptures, par 739)

#### THE BANQUET OF GIFTS.

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"Praise be to God that Baha'u'llah has spread before us the Heavenly Table upon which one finds every kind of food. There is the Food of Faith and Assurance; the sustenance of Divine Virtues; the Bread of the Love of God; the meat of the Gladness of the Kingdom of Abha; the victuals of Severance and Detachment; the viands of Enkindlement and Attraction; the nutriment of Sanctity and Holiness; the dish of Attraction with the Fragrances of God; the sustenance of the Breaths of the Holy Spirit; the food of Eternal Life; the nourishment of the Teachings of God and the Promulgation of the Religion of God. In short, one finds on this Divine Table all kinds of Spiritual Food which constitutes the Real Lord's Supper."

(Divine Art of Living, page 11)

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.

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"Glad-tidings be unto the righteous ones! Rejoicing be unto the perceiving ones! Happiness be unto the favored ones! Joy be unto the yearning ones! Cheerfulness be unto the attracted ones! Exhilaration be unto the longing ones!

Glory be unto Him who hath arisen from the Brightest Dawn!  
 Glory be unto Him who hath shone from the Manifested Light!

Glory be unto Him who showered Glorious Outpourings upon the  
 contingent beings!  
 Glory be unto Him who illumined the Supreme Horizon with such  
 a Radiance by which the gloom of the dark night hath been dispelled!  
 Glory be unto Him who causeth to descend the Food from Heaven!  
 Glory be unto Him who causeth the Running Spring to gush forth  
 from the rugged cliff!  
 Glory be unto Him who poured down Pure Water from on High!  
 Glory be unto Him who developed the barren and sterile ground  
 into fruitfulness!  
 Glory be unto Him who hath produced growth in the adjoining  
 fields of various natures!  
 Glory be unto Him who irrigated them with the same Water gush-  
 ing forth from that Fountain!  
 Glory be unto Him who adorned the delectable gardens with all  
 kinds of delicate and delicious fruits!  
 Glory be unto Him who ushered in the Emanation of the New  
 Creation!  
 Glory be unto Him who brought forth the Day of Retribution!  
 Glory be unto Him who granted Life unto the contingent beings!  
 Glory be unto Him who created the Existence!  
 Glory be unto Him who extended forth the Path!  
 Glory be unto Him who made clear the Way!  
 Glory be unto Him who appeared in the Most Wonderful Age!  
 Glory be unto Him, the founder of this New Epoch!

Then thanks be unto Thee, O my God, for these Gifts, and praise  
 be unto Thee, O my Beloved, for this Eminent Bounty! Verily, Thou  
 art the Merciful of the Most Merciful!

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 377)

PRAYER.

O Thou kind Lord! Grant unto me a shelter in Thy Kingdom, so  
 that day and night I may be engaged in mentioning Thy Name and oc-  
 cupied with Thy Glorification and Praise. Bestow upon me at every  
 moment a new spirit, so that with every breath I may receive a New  
 Gift, be occupied at the Divine Threshold and well known at the  
 Court of the Almighty. Thou art the Giver! the Generous! the Kind!

ALLAH'U'ABHA.

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LESSON 11, Part 2.

GOLDEN PROMISES AND PROPHECIES.

Given by ABDU'L BAHA  
(Sign of the Gift of God.)

Having traveled the path so far; having become acquainted with the "Hidden Mysteries", the "Inner Significances", the Divine Realities and the "Gifts of God" through realization and steadfastness, zeal and endeavor, the student is now ready to reinforce his efforts, comfort his heart and soul, become inspired and illumined with the Light of Joy through the Golden Promises and confirming Prophecies given unto us by our Beloved Master, Abdu'l Baha, the "Sign of the Gift of God". Let us read and reread the following words, and feed on them in our heart and be thankful: To a believer in America, He wrote: "Know thou that all the promises of Abdu'l Baha are true, and His instructions are Inspirations of the Holy Spirit, and received as suggestions from Baha'u'llah. Be assured that what I have said will come to pass." And to another believer He wrote: "Once the believers continue to live in accord with my advice and teachings, there will appear in their words a most miraculous power and effect."

WORDS OF COMFORT AND JOY.

"I ask God to adorn your heads with the pearls of His favor, to ignite in your hearts the Fire of the Love of God; to free your tongues in utterance of eloquent words and excellent meanings and mysteries of El Abha, angels of heaven, united in opinions, harmonious in thoughts, and to manifest in your faces Signs of Holiness of the Kingdom among the people. Soon will your Lord make you growing trees in His Wonderful Vineyard, blossoming, leafing, and bearing fruits of the Paradise of Abha through the Shadow of Hid Name, the Merciful, the Clement!" (Tablets, Vol.1, page 31)

"Thank God for that He enlightened your faces by the Light of Guidance, deposited in your hearts the Sign of Faith, and made you of the chosen ones in this new century."

"The truth I say unto you! If ye were aware of what God has destined for you in the Kingdom of His Glory, verily ye would rejoice exceedingly and soar with the wings of joy unto the Heights

of Happiness, crying with the most loud voice: Blessings and Happiness from this Great Attainment and Evident Bounty."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 70)

"Surely a day will come when all thy desires will be attained and God will answer all that which thou hast prayed for in thine heart and I beg of Him to make all that which thou hast longed for long ago very attainable. Then thy heart will be overflowed with joy on account of such a great Bounty."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 122)

"O my dear! If thou lovest to be happy and pleasant this is the cup that is full of the wine of glee and delight; and if thou desireth to have the Ancient Glory, the Eternal Retinue and Everlasting Dominion, thou must look after these Gifts which wave in the Horizon of Bounty with a brilliant Light to all sides and regions. By My Life! If thou knowest what thou art commanded and speak openly of it, the Dominion is for thee, the Kingdom is for thee, and thy Shining Star will never set, thy brilliant Light will never sink, thy brimful Treasure never be consumed and thy brave army never be defeated."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 155)

"When thou findest the Way to the Kingdom the earthly world shall be of no account; and when thou art illumined the darkness will not affect thee - nay, rather the four corners of the earth will then be radiant and every thorn will become a rose and a rose-garden."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 151)

"This is a blessed address. If thou fulfill its requirements, which are purity of intention, attractive love, insight, discovery of truth and absolute Spiritual attitude, thou wilt become entirely free from the physical conditions and wilt soar to the Spiritual Realms."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 150)

"By the life of Baha, verily, the power of the Kingdom of God hath taken hold of the pillars of the world, and hath possessed all the nations. Thou wilt surely find the Standards of the Testament waving in all regions, the chanting of the Verses of Unity raised in Exalted Assemblies and the Light of the Sun of Truth, and its heat, dispersing the thick clouds massed on the horizon. Be rejoiced at this glad-tidings, whereby the hearts of the sincere among the beloved are cheered."  
(Tablets, Vol.1, page 164)

"Now thou hast reached development and apprehended the degree of maturity; gaze at the grades of the existence, the Realities of being, the allegories in the Epistles of God, and the Mysteries in the Old and New Testaments. By the life of Baha, the covering will be removed from thee, facts will be unfolded to thee, and thou wilt be informed of that which all philosophers and wisemen are unable to apprehend. Verily this is a Gift which God assigns only unto such of His chosen children (servants) as He willeth. Verily, thy

Lord will inspire thee with the Mysteries of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsistent." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 166)

"Verily, I send thee good news of the confirmation which thou shalt receive, the like of which was never seen by the eyes in those regions and of the success, the lights of which will brilliantly shine in those regions - if thou wilt arise with all thy power to assist the Testament of God and to serve the Covenant of God." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 161)

"Thy heart shall surely have attractions and revelations through the Power of the Beauty of El Abha, which will be followed by glad-tidings and Signs, in every minute and instant. Verily, I reveal unto thee in Spirit and address thee in heart, a speech which will open unto thee the Doors of Mysteries, which are concealed behind veils. When mirrors become pure and the Lights shine, the Signs of the Sun of Truth shall reflect therein with most wonderful Splendors. O maid-servant of God! Verily I have not forgotten thee, and will not forget thee. Trust thou in the Love of Abdul Baha, for verily nothing equals it." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 201)

"Trust thou in the Divine Grace and have hope in the Merciful Gift. If thou wishest for Everlasting Joy and Happiness engage thou in delivering (teaching) the Cause of God night and day, for the commemoration of God attracts confirmation and assistance like unto a Magnet." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 186)

"It is incumbent upon you to soar up with the wings of joy and happiness unto the apex of Exaltation and gladness; for He hath assigned unto you the greatest guidance in the Day of Resurrection, and hath crowned you with a diadem of Glory and Divine Honor among the women of the world, and hath chosen you above the queens of the world for His Greatest Bounty. Verily the crowns which are upon the heads of the noble women, the queens of the world, all their bases will be finally broken, their gems scattered away, their luster removed and will become dispersed dust. But your magnificent crowns are everlastingly brilliant and permanently glorious and mighty and their gems scintillating throughout cycles and ages. This is the Highest Gift! This is the Greatest Bestowal! Thank ye your Lord for this Great Bounty and Favor! Verily your Lord, the Supreme, is calling upon you from the Ancient Kingdom and announces unto you such glad-tidings wherewith the hearts of the Angels of Heaven rejoice." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 144)

"The maid-servants of God must reach a Station wherein they themselves shall comprehend the Realities and meanings, to give clear explanations for each word and the fountains of Wisdom gush forth from the Reality of their hearts, like a full flowing stream." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 94)

"Arise with every power to assist the Covenant of God and serve in His Vineyard. Be confident that a confirmation will be granted

unto you and a Success on His part is given unto you, Verily! He shall support you by the Angels of His Holiness and reinforce you with the Breaths of Spirit, that ye may mount the Ark of Safety, set forth evident Signs, impart the Spirit of Life, declare the essence of His Commands and Precepts, guide the sheep who are straying from the folds in all directions, and give the Blessings. Ye have to use every effort in your power and strive earnestly and wisely in this New Century. By God, verily the Lord of Hosts is your support, the angels of Heaven your assistance, the Holy Spirit your companion, and the Center of the Covenant your Helper. Be not idle, but active, and fear not.... Ye are now in great station and noble rank, and shall find yourselves in evident success and prosperity, the like of which the eye of existence never saw in former ages." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 162)

"Be not grieved at the smallness of your numbers and thank God for the power of your spirits. He shall assist you with such a confirmation whereat minds will be astonished and souls amazed." (Tablets, Vol.1, page 80)

"Consider ye! In the day of His Highness Christ the grandeur and majesty of the Apostles was not known. After three hundred years the loftiness of their station and the exaltation of their attainment became manifest. Ere long the result of the deeds in this cycle of Baha'u'llah will appear and every one of the friends and maid-servants will be crowned with a diadem whose splendid gems will radiate brilliancy and effulgence, throughout ages and cycles." (Tablets, Vol.111, page 532)

"Should any one in this day attach his heart to the Kingdom, release himself from all else save God, and become attracted to the Fragrances of Holiness, the army of the Kingdom of Abha will help him and the angels of the Supreme Concurrence will assist him." (Tablets, Vol.111, page 591)

"Whenever thou art desiring to talk and answer questions, turn thy face towards the Kingdom of Abha, and beseech for assistance, then loosen thy tongue. Thou wilt behold at that time how thou art able to answer all the questions." (Tablets, Vol.111, page 592)

"The Spirit of God shall assist thee, and his angels will confirm thee. The Life of Holiness of God will be breathed into thy mouth and thou wilt find thyself in a position free from ideas and thoughts resulting from worldly grades.... Seize the opportunity, use every effort and depend not on circumstances, which produce no fruits. Spend thy days with all joy and fragrances in speaking to the Praise of God, being gladdened through His good-tidings, in rejoicing through His Graces and in spreading His Breaths. Then thou shalt with the eyes of Joy see the Banner of the Covenant fluttering above all stately mansions. Verily God effecteth that which He

pleaseth, naught can annul His Covenant; naught can obstruct His Favor nor oppose His Cause. He doeth with His Will that which pleaseth Him and He is powerful over all things! At that time thou wilt find the waverers in manifest loss."

(Tablets, Vol.1, page 597)

"Shouldst thou come with the whole of thy being to God and be attracted to the Lights of the Kingdom of God, and be enkindled by the Fire of the Love of God, then wilt thou see that which thou canst not see today, wilt comprehend the Inner Significances of the Word of God, and thoroughly understand the Mysteries contained in the Holy Books."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 622)

"Whatsoever questions thou hast in thy heart, turn thou thy heart toward the Kingdom of Abha, and entreat at the Threshold of the Almighty and reflect upon that problem, then unquestionably the Light of Truth shall dawn and the Reality of that problem will become evident and clear to thee. For the teachings of Baha'u'llah are the Keys to all the Doors. Every hidden secret will become discovered, and every Hidden Mystery will become manifest and apparent."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 622)

"Blessed art thou, and more blessed thou shalt be if thy feet be firm, thy heart tranquil through the Fragrances of His Holy Spirit and thy secret and hidden thoughts pure before the Lord of Hosts. Then, by God, the Truth, the Hosts of the Angels of the Kingdom shall surround thee and convey to all thy limits and veins the Spirit of Life; thy tongue shall utter fluently and distinctly the most eloquent and clear words and thoughts. Thy bosom shall be cheered with joy through the appearance of the evident texts; thy face shall be illumined among the daughters of the Kingdom with the Lights of firmness; the doors of glad-tidings shall be opened before thy face and thou shalt receive knowledge through the Symbolic Signs descending from the Heavenly Kingdom in the Books and Tablets."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 704)

"Then know, O thou virtuous soul, that as soon as thou comest separated from aught else save God and dost cut thyself from the worldly things, thy heart will shine with the Lights of Divinity and with the Effulgence of the Sun of Truth, from the Horizon of the Realm of Might and then thou wilt be filled by the Spirit of Power from God and become capable of doing that which thou desireth. This is the confirmed Truth."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 713)

"Truly I say unto thee this Blessed Name (the Greatest Name) is the Spirit of Life, the Deliverer from Death, the word of Salvation and of Manifest Signs! Thou shalt surely hear from all parts the cry 'Ya Baha El Abha' reaching to the Supreme Concurrence."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 713)

"Whenever the daughters of the Kingdom are ready in the Presence, they become Initiated into the Mysteries, and are always companions and associates with US."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 724)

"I hope that thou shalt discover the Hidden Significances of Divine Verses and through the Bounty of the Almighty, thou mayest become informed of the concealed mystery and recondite symbol of the Stone of the Most Great Name. These mysteries can neither be written nor uttered. Whenever the eye of insight is opened, the Reality of meanings is understood."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 521)

"The essence of the Teachings of His Holiness Baha'u'llah is Universal Love, which comprehendeth all the virtues of the world of humanity; is the Cause of Eternal Life, and out of the progress of all the individuals of the human race. Soon thou wilt see that these Heavenly Teachings, like unto the Light of Reality, will envelop and enlighten the world."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 544)

"Every meeting which is organized for the purpose of unity and concord will be conducive to changing strangers into friends, enemies into associates, and Abdu'l Baha will be present in His Heart and Soul with that meeting."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 553)

"Be thou not unhappy; the tempest of sorrow shall pass, regret will not last, disappointment will vanish. The Fire of the Love of God will become enkindled and the throne and briars of sadness and despondency will be consumed. Be thou happy! Rest thou assured upon the Favours of Baha, so that uncertainty and hesitation may become non-existent and the Invisible Outpourings descend upon the arena of being. If thou art seeking after Spiritual tranquility, turn thy face at all times towards the Kingdom of Abha. If thou art desiring Divine Joy, free thyself from the bonds of attachment. If thou art wishing for the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, become thou engaged in Teaching the Cause."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 557)

"The Blessed Perfection in a clear text hath promised us in the Book, 'Verily I behold you from the Horizon of Abha, and will make victorious whomsoever will arise in the Service of My Cause with the Hosts of the Supreme Concourse and the cohorts of the Favoured Angels.'"

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 566)

"Nearness is in reality of the Soul, not of the body, and help and receptivity of help are spiritual, not physical. Notwithstanding this, I hope that thou mayest attain nearness in every respect. Be thou assured that the Divine Bounties will so encompass holy souls even as the lights of the Sun doth the moon and the stars."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 723)

"O ye elect and chosen ones of the Kingdom!

Thank God that the Greatest Name selected and elected that gathering, ushered it into the Kingdom of Eternal Glory, honored and crowned it amid the Supreme Concourse.

He placed upon each head a Glorious Diadem of Guidance and established each one upon the Throne of Eternal Reign. This is not known now, but shall become evident and clear hereafter.

The seed when growing, at first doth not attract attention, but later it becometh green and thriveth, adorning the rose-garden and the orchard. Now likewise this Divine Bounty is unknown, it is not yet revealed, but soon will its Splendor illumine the horizons and brighten the East and the West."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 434)

"Your Lord hath assuredly promised His servants who are firm and steadfast to render them victorious at all times, to exalt their word, propegate their power, diffuse their lights, strengthen their hearts, elevate their banner, assist their hosts, brighten their stars, increase the abundance of the showers of mercy upon them and enable the brave lions (teachers) to conquer. Hasten! Hasten, O ye firm believers! Hasten! Hasten, O ye steadfast! Abandon the heedless, set aside every ignorance, take hold of the Strong Rope, be firm in this Great Cause, draw light from this Evident Light, be patient and be steadfast in this Wise Religion. Ye shall see the Hosts of Inspiration descending successively from the Supreme World, the procession of attraction falling incessantly from the Heights of Heaven, the abundance of the Kingdom of Abha outpouring continually and the Teachings of God penetrating with utmost Power, while the heedless are indeed in evident loss."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 442)

"Verily I hope from God that ye may become My associates in servitude to His Holy Threshold and My partners at the entrance of the Door of His Oneness, so that ye may equally serve in His Great Vineyard. Then thank ye your Lord for He hath favored you with His Manifest Success. By God, the True One! this cannot be equalled either by the dominion of the world or by the gift of ruling over all regions with pomp, glory and power. Reflect ye upon the chosen ones of God in the earlier ages; how their worth was unknown during their days, how they were known by the people as but ordinary individuals and unimportant persons. Afterwards, their arguments appeared, their lights scintillated, their stars beamed, their trees became lofty, their mysteries gleamed forth, their fruits were praised, their reservoirs became overflowing, their gardens adorned, their birds warbled and their joy became perfect in the Kingdom of their Beneficent Lord."

(Tablets, Vol.11, page 274)

"The Principles and Teachings of Baha'u'llah should be carefully studied, one by one, until they are realized and understood by mind and heart; so will you become strong followers of the Light,

truly spiritual heavenly soldiers of God, acquiring and spreading the true civilization in the whole world. This will be the Paradise which is to come on earth, when all mankind will be gathered together under the Tent of Unity in the Kingdom of Glory!"  
(Paris Talks, page 18)

"The constellation of Love and Wisdom and Power is once more shining from the Divine Horizon to give joy to all who turn their faces to the Light of God. Baha'u'llah has rent the veil of prejudice and superstition which was stifling the souls of men. Let us pray to God that the Breath of the Holy Spirit may again give hope and refreshment to the people, awakening in them a desire to do the Will of God. May heart and soul be vivified in every man; so will they rejoice in a New Birth! Then shall humanity put on a new garment in the radiance of the Love of God, and it shall be the Dawn of a New Creation! Then will the Mercy of the Most Merciful be showered upon all mankind and they will arise to a New Life."  
(Paris Talks, page 29)

"We must all strive with heart and soul until we have the Reality of Unity in our midst, and as we work so will strength be given unto us. Leave all thought of self and strive only to be obedient and submissive to the Will of God. In this way only shall we become citizens of the Kingdom of God, and attain unto Life Everlasting."  
(Paris Talks, page 48)

"I pray for you one and all, that you may receive the Bounties of the Holy Spirit; so you will become in Truth enlightened and progress ever onward and upward to the Kingdom of God. Then shall your hearts be prepared to receive the glad-tidings, your eyes shall be opened to see the Glory of God, your ears shall be unstopped and you will hear the call of the Kingdom, and with tongues made eloquent shall you call men to the realization of the Divine Power and Love of God."  
(Paris Talks, page 57)

"Lift up your hearts above the present and look with eyes of Faith into the future! Today the seed is sown, the grain falls upon the earth, but behold the day will come when it shall rise a glorious tree and the branches thereof shall be laden with fruit. Rejoice and be glad that this Day has dawned, try to realize Its Power, for it is indeed Wonderful! God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a Radiant Star; verily thereof shall brighten the whole world."  
(Paris Talks, page 61)

"Seek with all your hearts the Heavenly Light, so that you may be enabled to understand the Realities, that you may know the Secret things of God; that the Hidden Ways may be made plain before your eyes. I pray that God in His Mercy may illumine your hearts and souls with His Glorious Light! Then shall each one of you shine as a Radiant Star in the dark places of the world."  
(Paris Talks, page 62, 63)



"This Century is the fulfillment of the Promised Century, the dawn of the appearance of the Glorious Visions of past Prophets and Sages. Now is the early dawn; ere long the Effulgent Sun shall rise and station Itself in the Meridian of Its Majesty. Then shall ye observe the effects; then shall ye behold what heavenly illumination has become manifest; then shall ye comprehend that these are the Infinite Bestowals of God, then shall ye realize that this world has become another world and ye shall perceive the Divine Teachings universally spread. The Teachings of His Holiness Baha'u'llah like unto the Spirit shall penetrate the dead body of the world, and like unto an artery shall beat through the heart of the five continents,"  
(Divine Philosophy.)

"Baha'u'llah's teachings are the health of the world. They represent the Spirit of this Age, the Light of this Age, the Well-being of this Age, the Soul of this Cycle. The world will be at rest when they are put into practice, for they are Reality. Praise be to God, the Doors of Divine Knowledge are flung open, the Infinite Light is shining and to such as believe and obey the Divine Mysteries are revealed."  
(Divine Philosophy)

"The East shall become illumined, the West perfumed, and the children of men shall enter beneath the All-embracing canopy of the Oneness of the World of Humanity." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 551)

"Know thou verily, the Covenant is an Orb which shines and gleams forth unto the universe. Its Light will dispel darkness, Its Sea will cast out the thick foam of suspicion upon the shore of perdition. Verily, naught in the world can ever resist the Power of the Kingdom."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 641)

"Verily I say unto thee the Covenant of God and His Alliance is a Lamp diffusing Lights from the Supreme Concourse unto the horizons of earth and heaven. Whosoever hath this Divine Lamp before his face, his forehead shall glisten with manifest Light, and his speech shall take effect in all minds and spirits and God shall assist him by the Power which penetrates the essence of things."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 685)

"Be tranquil and know verily that the Holy Ghost in this glorious Age reacheth every soul that is sincerely faithful, firm and drawn to the Kingdom of the Great Lord. Verily, I address thee with a heart overflowing with the Love of God."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 911)

"In this day if any one lives in accord with the Heavenly Teachings and instructions, he shall become a Spiritual Physician to the world of humanity and the Trumpet of Israel to quicken the dead. For the confirmations of the Kingdom of Abha are uninterrupted and the Victory of the Supreme Concourse is the Associate of every one who is pure in heart."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 949)

"It is known and clear that today the Unseen Divine Assistance encompasses those who deliver the Message. And if the work of delivering the Message be neglected, the Assistance shall be entirely cut off. Under all conditions the Message must be delivered but with wisdom. If every one of the friends of God were to try to lead one soul to the Right Path the number of believers would be doubled every year." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 950)

#### HEALING.

"When the material world and the Divine World are co-related, when the hearts become heavenly and the aspirations grow pure and Divine, perfect connections will take place. Then will its power produce a perfect manifestation. Physical and spiritual diseases will then receive absolute healing." (Divine Art of Living, page 166)

"He who is filled with the Love of Baha and forgets all things, the Holy Spirit will be heard from his lips and the Spirit of Life will fill his heart, the lights of the Signs will shine from his face, the words will issue from his mouth as strands of pearls, and all sickness and disease will be healed by the laying on of hands." (Divine Art of Living, page 170)

"Turning the face toward God brings healing to the body, the mind, the soul. When this advancement towards God has become complete one is able to overcome passion and desire, one becomes protected from sin and transgression, and is delivered from heedlessness. This will bestow Eternal Life and will grant the imperishable gift." (Divine Art of Living, page 171)

"Trust thou in the Grace of thy Master and ask that which thou wishest from His Name, the Clement, the Merciful. All these ailments will pass away and you will receive perfect physical and spiritual health. I will guarantee it. Be confident. Let your heart be confident and assured that through the Bounty of Baha'u'llah, through the Favor of Baha'u'llah, everything will become pleasant for you, you must rest assured. Be confident that you will receive spiritual and physical health together. Know thou of a certainty. But you must turn your face wholly towards the Kingdom of Abha, giving perfect attention; the same attention Mary Magdalene had for His Holiness Christ. Be like her and I will assure you that you will receive physical and spiritual health." (Tablet to American believers.)

"Do thou show a steadfast and firm footing in this station, engage in guiding the people and call them unto the Kingdom; then will thou find how the Divine Magnet - the Power of the Word of God - will attract hearts and bestow ecstasy and enthusiasm upon souls.

When thou reachest this station, there shall remain no obstacles, and no veil shall intervene and all that is thy highest wish shall be realized." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 833)

"Now is the beginning of the manifestation of the Spiritual Power and surely day by day its potency will assume greater and greater proportions. Therefore this twentieth century is the beginning or dawn of the Spiritual Illumination and it is evident that day by day it will advance. It will reach such a degree that Spiritual Effulgence shall overcome the material; so that Divine susceptibilities shall overcome material intelligence and the Heavenly Light shall dispel and banish earthly darkness. Divine healing shall cure all ills and the cloud of Mercy shall pour down Rain. The Sun of Reality shall shine and all the earth shall put on its beautiful green carpet." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 639)

"Among the results of the manifestation of the Spiritual Forces will be: that the human world shall take a new social form, the Justice of God will become manifest, human equality will be established. For the poor there will be greater bestowals, and for the rich eternal happiness. For although just now the rich enjoy the greatest luxury and all comfort, yet they are deprived of eternal happiness, for Eternal Happiness is contingent upon giving, and the poor are in a state of abject poverty. Through the manifestation of God's Great Equity, the poor of the world will be fully rewarded, so that in the future there will not be the abnormally rich nor the abject poor. The poor will enjoy comforts as well as the rich, for in the future, owing to certain restrictions, the rich will not accumulate so much as to be beyond management, and the poor will not retain this state of absolute want and misery."

"The purpose is this: that Divine Justice shall be manifest and all human kind shall find comfort. I do not mean that all will be equal, for inequality is a principle of nature. There will be of necessity rich people and those who will be in want of their livelihood, but there will be an equalization and re-adjustment. In the future there will no very rich people nor extremely poor people. There will be an equilibrium, and a condition will be established which will make both the rich and the poor comfortable. This shall be an Eternal and Blessed out come of this Glorious Century, which in the future will become realized. The purpose is this: that all the promises of the Prophets, all the glad-tidings given in the Holy Books will be fulfilled. Await ye for that manifestation." (Baha'i Scriptures, par 640)

"Verily I say unto thee, that if for the Appearance of that Divine Essence thou desireth to have a definite proof, an indisputable testimony, and a strong convincing evidence, thou must prepare thyself to make thy heart empty and thine eye ready to look only toward the Kingdom of God. Then at that time, the Radiance of that Widespread Effulgence shall descend upon thee successfully, and that

motion rendered thee by the Holy Spirit shall make thee dispense with any other strong evidence, that leadeth to the appearance of this Light, because the Greatest and Strongest Proof for showing the abundance of the Spirit to the bodies is the very appearance of Its Power and Influence in those bodies. Think thou deeply of this in order to know the Reality of My Explanation and Demonstration."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 875)

"Praise be to God that He has endowed you with a power through which you can penetrate mysteries. Verily, as you reflect deeply, ponder carefully, think minutely, the Doors of Knowledge will be opened to you."  
(Compilation)

"Today, directing mankind to 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 of Divine Providence."  
(Compilation)

"As to the question that the holy and spiritual souls influence help and guide the creatures after they have cast off their elemental mold, this is an established truth of the Baha'is. Nay, even the Holy Manifestations of God extend a Great Bounty, and an evident Light after their ascent from the world."  
(Tablets, Vol.111, page 543)

#### A GLORIOUS PROMISE.

As to the question whether souls will recognize each other in the Spiritual world; this fact is certain. For the Kingdom is a world of vision, where all the concealed Realities will become disclosed. How much more the intimate souls will become manifest. The mysteries of which man is heedless in this earthly world, those will be discovered in the Heavenly World and there will be informed of the secret of truth; how much more will he recognize or discover persons with whom he has associated. Undoubtedly, the holy souls who find a pure eye and are favored with insight will in the Kingdom of Lights be acquainted with all mysteries and will seek the bounty of witnessing the Reality of every great soul. They will even manifestly behold the Beauty of God in that world. Likewise will they find all the friends of God, both those of former and recent times, present in the Heavenly Assemblage. And know thou of a certainty, that in the Divine Worlds, the Spiritual beloved ones will recognize each other, and will seek union, but a spiritual union. Likewise, a love that one may have entertained for one will not be forgotten in the world of the Kingdom. Likewise, thou wilt not forget the life thou hast had in the material world."  
(Baha'i Scriptures, par 922)

MARRIAGE.

"When relationship, union and concord exist between the two from a physical and spiritual standpoint, that is the real union, therefore everlasting. But if the union is merely from the physical point of view, unquestionably it is temporal and at the end separation is inevitable. But the marriage of the people of Baha must consist of both physical and spiritual relationship, for both of them are intoxicated with the wine of One Cup, are attracted by One Peerless Countenance, are quickened with One Life, and are illumined with One Light. This is the Spiritual Relationship, and Everlasting Union. Likewise in the physical world they are bound together with strong and unbreakable ties."

"Consequently when the people of Baha desire to enter the Sacred Union of matrimony, Eternal Connection, Ideal relationship, Spiritual and physical association of thoughts and conceptions of Life must exist between them, so that in all the grades of existence and 'all the worlds of God' this union may continue forever and ever, for this Real Union is a Splendor of the Lights of the Love of God. The souls who sacrifice self, become detached from the imperfections of the realm of man, and free from the shackles of this ephemeral world, assuredly the 'Splendors of the Rays of Divine Union' shall shine in their hearts; in the Eternal Paradise they shall find Ideal Relationship, Union and Happiness."

(Tablet to Shahnaz Waite.)

"Then know thou verily, the holy souls will be united together in the Supreme World, even as the birds which return to their nests in the Garden of Unity. But they are strangers in this mortal world and will not be united together except under the Tree of Mercifulness."

(Tablet to Mrs. Meadowcroft, Chicago)

"The question as to supernatural power: without advancing towards the Kingdom of Abha, it is impossible and inaccessible. But should a soul enter under the Shadow of the Blessed Perfection, step into the Divine Kingdom, act according to the Commands and Exhortations of God and practice the New Teachings - unquestionably he will become endowed with Supernatural Power."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 547)

"Verily, thy Lord hath breathed the Spirit of argument into thy mouth, speak thou in a most wonderful explanation and meditate not at the time of advancing proofs, evidences and signs. And speak thou which the Spirit inspirereth thee. This is a proof unto thee and unto every one among the possessors of understanding..... Verily, I am with thee in Spirit and reveal unto thee the Word of Guidance at every moment and time."

(Tablets, Vol.111, page 717)

"Lo! To be far in body is of no account. To be near in Spirit is essential. Seek that from God. When thou hast attained that, thou art always with Me."

(Compilation)

"I am the Lamp and the Love of God is My Light. This Light hath become reflected in the mirrors of hearts. Therefore turn thou unto thy heart; that is when it is in the utmost freedom, and behold how the Radiance of My Love is manifested in that mirror, and thou art near unto Me. Recite the Greatest Name at every morn and turn unto the Kingdom of Abha, until thou mayest apprehend My Mysteries."

(Tablets, Vol. III, page 674)

"If any soul desires to attain to Knowledge, in the moment when that desire had mounted to its apex - a teacher will be sent regardless whether that inquiring one is in a cave in the ground or in any other inaccessible place. The Power of Divine Attraction will bring this Knowledge to that soul."

(Tablet)

#### THIS AGE.

"If thou couldst measure the heights and depths of the marvelous events which have transpired and are transpiring in this Cause thou wouldst write down every word I utter with a Pen of Diamond upon a page of Gold."

(Ahmad's Diary)

"I now assure thee that if thy mind become empty and pure from every mention and thought and thy heart attracted wholly to the Kingdom of God, forgetting all else beside God and coming in communion with the Spirit of God, then the Holy Spirit will assist thee with a Power which will enable thee to penetrate all things, and a dazzling spark which enlightens all sides, a brilliant Flame in the Zenith of the Heavens will teach thee that which thou dost not know, of the facts of the Universe and the Divine Doctrine. Verily, I say unto thee, every soul which today ariseth to guide others to the Path of Safety and infuse in them the Spirit of Life, that soul the Holy Spirit will inspire with evidences, proofs, facts, and the Light will shine upon it from the Kingdom of God. Do not forget what I have conveyed unto thee from the Breaths of the Spirit."

(Bahá'í Scriptures, par 876)

"Verily, know that the Tablets of Abdu'l Baha and His Addresses are a Hidden Mystery and concealed fact. No one is informed of their greatness and importance at these times, but in the course of time and future centuries the signs thereof will be manifested, the Lights thereof will dawn forth; the Fragrances thereof will be diffused and the greatness, the importance thereof will be known. The truth I say unto thee, that each leaflet from Abdu'l Baha will be a wide-spread

BC# 485 (p) —