

INSTRUCTION IN THE NOBLE WORD OF ABDUL BAHÁ

His Answers to Questions About Universal Religion; Unity of Mankind

Almost a year has passed since the death of Abdul Baha, former head of the Bahai church of the world. A temple is being built for the worshippers of this faith in Wilmette. Baháism is described as the universal religion, the faith that comprehends all races, sects and beliefs.

During his lifetime Abdul Baha was asked many questions regarding the movement by persons eager to know. So clear and useful were his answers that the followers of the faith still make use of them. Abdul Baha used to explain the Bahai movement as "the spirit of this age."

Continuing, he would say: "It is the essence of all the highest ideals of this country. The cause is an inclusive movement; the teachings of all the religions and societies are found here; the Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Mohammedans, Zoroastrians, Theosophists, Freemasons, Spiritualists and others find their highest aims in this cause—the socialists and philosophers find their theories fully developed in this movement.

"The objective aims of this cause are the oneness of the world of humanity; universal peace; universal love; international co-operation, reciprocity; the promotion of the principle of human consanguinity and solidarity, and the establishment of the kingdom of God, first in the hearts of men and then upon earth."

Questions that are asked with greater concern, perhaps, of Baháís, than other questions, are: "What relation does the Bahai movement bear to Christianity? What place does Christ hold in the Bahai religion?"

These questions are answered in the words of Abdul Baha:

"Baha 'Ullah established Christ in the East. He has praised Christ, honored Christ, exalted Him, called Him 'the Word of God, the Spirit of God,' raised the name of Christ to supreme summits of glorification. Throughout the orient Baháís have illumined the lamp of Christ and spread His mention.

"The cause of Baha 'Ullah is the same as the cause of Christ. It is the same temple and the same foundation. Both of these are the spiritual springtimes and the seasons of the soul-refreshing awakening and the cause of the renovation of the life of mankind.

"In the coming of Christ the divine teachings were given in accordance with the infancy of the human race. The teachings of Baha 'Ullah have the same basic principles, but are according to the stage of the maturity of the world and the requirements of this illumined age."