Races Forget Color in Great Brotherhood Meet of Bahais
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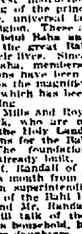
Races Forget Color in Great Brotherhood Meet of Bahais

Guests from nearly every part of the world will be present at the 11th annual convocation and convention of the Bahai Temple Unity, which is to take place April 22-23, on the ninth floor of the auditorium Hotel. Nine Bahais from various sections of the United States, who are just returning from Haifa, Palestine, will speak at the banquets for several hundred guests. The banquets have been scheduled for Saturday evening, upon the close of the sessions. These speakers, direct from the Holy Land, bring im-


Abdul Baha

portant news of new work planned by Shoghi Effendi, the recently appointed guardian of the cause since the death of Abdul Baha, the leader.

Mrs. Corinne True, 1426 Kenmore avenue, financial secretary of the Bahai Temple Unity, who reaches Chicago Saturday from Haifa, will present Shoghi Effendi's latest instructions regarding the spreading of the principles of unity among the races, nations and creeds, universal religion. These are principles for which Abdul Baha and his father, Bahaullah, who founded the religion, sacrificed their lives. Since the passing of Abdul Baha, members of all the world religions have been preparing for new clearness the magnificent basis for world unity which has been laid by the Bahai teachings.

Mountfort Mills and Roy C. Wilhelm of New York, who are now en route home from the Holy Land, will speak of latest plans for the Bahai Temple in Wilmette. The foundations for this temple are nearly completed.

Mrs. W. H. Randall of Boston, who returned this month from Haifa, where she has been a constant visitor since the building of the Bahai Pilgrim House, which she and Mr. Randall are giving to Haifa as a memorial to the memory of Abdul Baha's household, his sister, his wife and four daughters.

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Krug of New York are also expected visitors at the convention. Dr. Krug was present with Abdul Baha when the latter died on November 28. This convention is considered a significant one, as it is the first since the passing of the "Master." India, China, Japan, Mexico, Central America and South America had sent invitations to the Bahai Temple Unity to have their countries represented. Bahais in America had hoped he would be present at this congress and even ventured to lay the cornerstone of the Wilmette temple.

Abdul's Death Described

Mrs. Krug, who has been speaking in Europe and the East, will also tell of the turn last month, will present at the banquet a touching account of the death and funeral of Abdul Baha. Mrs. Krug's account *from all nine world religions spoke at the funeral.* A letter received Yesterday from a New Yorker who heard Mrs. Krug speak, says:

"The funeral procession up the mountain to the tomb was the most wonderful, triumphant, glorious sight one has ever taken place. About 9 o'clock in the morning the coffin was laid in the main hall of the house. It was covered with *four* aides came in. The four aides went to the four corners of the coffin, lifted it to their shoulders, and then there was a throng surrounding it, striving to carry it. As she said, there were so many eager to do it that it seemed to be wafted up the mountain in the grove before the tomb it was laid upon a long table with the coffin on it, while cloth put it over it.

There the nine eulogies were pronounced. Then, without any warning, the most wonderful happened: The people who had borne the casket up the mountain were people who came from all parts of the world—believers; Jews, Mohammedans, Buddhists, Parsees, Christians, all sorts.

Without any warning, these Bahais stepped forward and surrounded it, without it being arranged beforehand, and in a moment it was in the air again. Then, as Mrs. Krug said, the iron door swung to and one of the great seats of history, which had been the resting place of the room in which he was placed in the tomb was not known to exist by the generations of men. It was unbelievable! No one but Bahaullah knew it."

Charles Mason Remey, an architect of Washington, D. C., who is also returning to land in New York today from Palestine, will speak at the banquet of the Bahai Temple on Saturday evening. Mr. Remey, Mt. Carmel. His design has been accepted and it was approved by Abdul Baha before his death. Mr. and Mrs. John Bosch of California, who are returning this week, will also be banquet speakers. They visited the Society of Friends in preparation for Bahai teachings and then went to Haifa and were in the home of Abdul Baha at the time of his death.

Bahais from many parts of the world will go out to Wilmette on Sunday morning for the laying of the foundations. A short service will be held there.

One of the most important meetings of the week will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. W. H. Randall of Boston will speak on "Independent Investigation of Reality—The Only Means to Truth That Will Set All Men Free." He is a prominent business man and gifted speaker. Dr. Krug will speak on "The New Holy Land," and Mrs. May Maxwell, of Montreal, Can., will give an address on "The Spiritual Basis of the Oneness of Mankind." Music will be a special feature. Meetings will be held Monday and Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock. These conferen sessions are free and the public is cordially invited.

Col. Henry S. Culver, American consul at St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, will speak at the Civic Forum, Canadian Club of that city which well expresses the aims of the Bahai cause. *The following is the address in part:*

"The wonderful characters are the mediums through which this wonderful message has reached mankind. The first mighty prophet was a young Persian named Ali Mohammed, who, in May of that prophetic year, 1844, declared that a great teacher was soon to appear. He was called the 'Bab' in Persian, which means 'the gate.' He proved to be so wonderful a prophet or teacher that thousands in Persia and Russia became his followers. And he was crowned with great enthusiasm and zeal his new gospel of world-wide unity and love for mankind.

"He was met, however, with great opposition by the Mohammedan clergy and a reign of terror began. Thousands were seized and thrust into prison. He there continued to teach by letters and epistles for four years, when he was martyred, and 20,000 of his followers were slain.

"The second personage was also a Persian by the name of Mirza Husein Ali, from a family high in the social and official life of that country, but one noted for his piety, learning and spirituality. He was attracted to the teachings of the Bab and early became an adherent of the Bab's message. So powerful did he prove in advancing the cause that the Bab, before his martyrdom, declared that Mirza Husain Ali was the one whom God would manifest, and he bestowed upon him, with many others having been Bahaullah, which in Persian means, the glory of God, as the Christ was called the Holy Ghost, or Anointed. Because of his espousal of the Bab's cause and by reason of his power and eloquence in preaching, the Mohammedan clergy became more alarmed than ever, and through their influence he was exiled with his family 70 of his followers in 1852, after having his property confiscated or destroyed. They were first exiled to Bagdad, then to Constantinople, then to Adrianople, and in 1868 they were put in chains and sent to the penal city of Acca, at Mt. Carmel, in 1868. Bahaullah also declared himself to a few followers as the one to whom the Bab referred in his teachings as the one whom God would manifest, and a little later declared himself to the world, through tablets sent to all the kings of the earth. He, therefore, this divine manifestation remained in prison until 1892, when God freed him from his chains. He, however, after his death remained in prison until the young Turk's movement in 1908, when they were released.

"Servant of God"

"Now the third and last character in this trinity, is the interpreter and expounder of the faith—Abdul Baha—which in Persian means, Servant of God. He is the son of Bahaullah, the divine manifestation, and who upon the death of the manifestation became the interpreter of the message and the center of the covenant by express provision of the testament of his father. His divine father at the time of his departure commanded his followers to turn their face toward this servant of God. He was the only one in their spiritual guide. Abdul Baha passed on to the kingdom of God on November 28.

"He was the most humble, the most patient, the most loving, the most peaceful man upon the earth, yet withal apparently possessed of all knowledge. He was called the servant of God.

"As I have said, he is a native of that land in which the prophets' eyes always caught the light of a star that led them to the manger in Bethlehem of Judeah. His prison was for many years in Acca, at the foot of Mt. Carmel, on the Syrian shore of the Mediterranean sea, apparently desolate and unproductive, and Sharon shall be a fold of flocks and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people who have sought me."

"This man, the servant of God, when asked, 'What is the best?' always replied, 'Praise be to God that the divine cause in this Bahai dispensation is one of absolute love and universality. It is not of this kingdom, this earth, for it is not war and distress, nor the oppression of one people by another, but it is the kingdom of the love of God; its victory is the ecstasy of the knowledge of God.' His life and his teachings are the opposite of the world; its warfare is against selfishness; its patience is its reserve; its conflict is against the enemies of mankind and its love for all is a glory forever more. It is spirit and it is love.

"This is in substance the Bahai message. Let us compare it with the divine message brought to earth 1900 years ago. The lawyers asked of the divine Messenger then what he should do to inherit eternal life, and he replied, 'Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself.' And the lawyer replied, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and *with all thy soul and with all thy might* and with all thy strength and thy neighbor as thyself.' And the Christ answered, 'Thou hast answered right. This do and thou shalt live.'

"Thus we see that even the messenger or architect expect to succeed when all the past architects have failed to succomplish it? The answer lies in the fact is the age of the maturity of the human race. Other architects have built, but in this Bahai dispensation the time when we were ignorant, even of the shape of the earth, and with the most ancient evidence of the powers and the forces about us.

"And because also, he will build this new temple with material taken from all the previous temples in the old temples in the world, for he makes the startling announcement that all religions, the true religions, are founded on the same principles and foundations, are one as God is One, and that all the people of the earth are but leaves of one tree. He does not say to the Hindus, 'Your temple is entirely worthless and of no account,' but he says, 'Some of your foundation stones are the very ones I want in my new temple.' He tells the Buddhists that their assertions are true. Mohammedans the same as he tells the Christians. 'I can use your foundations and your stones,' he says, 'if you will lift off all this accumulation of the years and I will use your old material for my temple.'

"But, you say, why build a new foundation at all, why not use the Christian foundation? Why, he answers, as a wise architect, but I have instructions from the great Master Architect of the universe, to build a new temple, and I must build it out of material taken from all the temples, and I cannot disobey His commands. Besides, this material has been prepared by Him, that has been designated by the Creator of all things for the building of the new temple and it must be built.

A New Architect

"But again I hear you say, who is this *architect who comes with such authority to set aside the work of the past? Let us see his credentials. We have been* cautioned against false architects. What is the test? Well, he says, Well, he says exactly what the architect who built our Christian temple said to the Jews, 'Ye know a tree by its fruit.' Jesus knows a tree by its fruit. We would have known me.' For he says that the *same divine Spirit was shown in all the* architects who have built these temples, *one and the same spirit in all of* them, although some built their temples for eleven or more centuries apart, as circumstances and conditions demanded according to the age in which they built.

"Adam, the first divine architect we have any record of, who built the first spiritual temple, used only for his material the fruits of good and evil. Noah, another manifestation, builded more pretentiously and his temple was a refuge from the storms from the great flood of wickedness and unbelief that was surging over the people. Abraham built the temple of obedience, exhibited and perfected the laws and ordinances of God. And so on, with all the earlier architects, down to the Christian architect than had yet appeared—Jesus the Christ. His temple was primarily for love, yet included in its foundations all that was complete in every detail, and its beauty, like a polished mirror, reflected the glory of God. The world rejected him and the world reflected him and refused to worship in His temple, saying, 'Is not this the son of Joseph, whose mother is Mary?' We have no need of His temple, we have the temple of Moses and the prophets and the apostles, and we have the temple of Confucius, and so on.

"Let me further illustrate what I have so far attempted to explain allegorically. Let us picture the world a great pyramid, the apex of which pyramid is 1900 years ago. There were then 250,000,000 Roman Catholics, 100,000,000 Greek Catholics, and 197,000,000 Protestants, making a total of 547,000,000 devious ways trying to reach God. There are also 200,000,000 Confucianists, 250,000,000 Hindus, 175,000,000 Mohammedans, 120,000,000 Buddhists, 150,000,000 Animists, 12,000,000 Jews and 40,000,000 Shintoists, all of whom, in the apex of the apex, yet all claiming that their way is the most direct and the only way to reach God. And the result? Why, it is hatred, jealousy, envy, bloodshed and incessant strife.

Bahai Belief

"Now, *the Bahais believe that God* in His great wisdom, in this day is going to bring His kingdom upon earth, and that the time is at hand for the Lord to the fulfillment of all prophecies.

"Now the mission of the great architect, Bahaullah, the glory of God, which in Persian means, 'The Glory of God,' was this, to confirm mankind in the knowledge of God, and to establish great peace on earth, through the unification of religion. As the Bahais claim, he declared, 'I come to unify, not to rend, to renew, to unify. The Bahai message, therefore, is not a new religion, but religion renewed, religion as a development and a realization of our obligations to God. A thing that never can change, no more than the Ninety and Nine, and so the Architect of the Bahai temple calls us to seek the truth, and the truth shall make us one. as God is one.

"The Bahais believe it is the Christ spirit that has appeared in all the Messiahs—Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster—who has brought the Bahai message declares that God Himself is unknowable, and that He is beyond description, height, depth, size, description, or definition, so that we cannot say what He is or what He is not. He is, therefore, unknowable and can only be discerned through His manifestations, so God can only be known through His manifestations. They are the proofs of God and eternal life.

"Abdul Baha says these manifestations are like polished mirrors, reflecting the attributes of God, but not the essence of God's glory. They are the messengers of God to the light in the lamp. The light is the same wherever it shines, the lamps, only, may be different, and that is most worship the light, the spirit of the manifestation, and not the vessel in which the light shines.

Bahai Seasons

"You may understand this message more clearly by a further illustration: Spiritual life is manifested through the spring, summer, autumn and winter of the year. After the season of spring and the heat of the summer, then the full development of all nature appears, and after that the physical world ceases its growth and remains fruitless in the coldness of its fruitage. Then again the leaves begin to fall and all signs of life and growth disappear and all nature appears dead. Then it is that the wild March storms are raging and the clouds darken the heavens, but *green bud* shoots up from the ground, and so we say spring has come again, and in due course the leaves appear and the flowers bloom and the songs of the birds are heard again in the trees and all nature bursts into life. It is not the spring of last year. It is the spirit of spring. It comes to renew the growth and *development of all the preceding* seasons, not to destroy.

"So, in the spiritual world, we have the spring, summer, autumn and winter, and when the light of the spiritual cycle grows dim and the clouds of wickedness, doubt and unbelief darken the world, God mercifully sends a spring and he appears in great spiritual glory and the life of the spiritual world is again renewed.

"As the Bahais believe, this message that has come unbern in another springtime of the spiritual world.

"It is not the purpose of this message to take away one's religion, but to renew it, to build anew the temple of God. Its great purpose is to dispel the differences that now separate the human family.

"There is urgent necessity for a greater Christ spirit throughout the world. We are directed by this message to cling to that which is of Christ, but to dispense with prejudice, superstition, ritual and dogma, that which separates mankind.

Abdul Speaks

"When Abdul Baha was in Paris he declared that earth's unification at this time, where he was entertained, a simple message to the pilgrims gathered there. It must love one another, and consider the greatness and the goodness of this servant of God; for His own words are recorded in books that can be said or written about Him:

"How joyful it is to see such a meeting as this, one country, one land gathering together of heavenly men. We are all united in one Divine purpose, no worldly motive in our hearts, and every one wish is to spread the love of God throughout the world.

"We work and pray for the unity of mankind, that all the races of the earth may become one race, all the countries one country, that all the hearts may beat as one heart, working together for perfect unity and brotherhood.

"Praise be to God that our efforts are always and that our hearts are turned to the kingdom. Our greatest longing is that mankind may be established in the world, and in this hope we draw near to one another in love and affection. Each one will arise wholehearted and self-less, willing to sacrifice all personal ambition to the grand ideal to which they strive—manifest the love and peace and union among men!

"Doubt not that God is with us, on our right hand and on our left, that day by day He will cause our numbers to increase, and that our meetings will grow in strength and excellence.

"It is my dearest hope that you may all become a blessing to others, that you may be a spirit to the spiritless, a calling, hearing to the spiritually deaf, and life to those who are dead in sin. Then shall you be true Bahais, for the name Bahai means the spirit of spirituality to realize their divine ponship, and encourage them to unite and be worthy servants of God, so that through your endeavor the world of humanity may become the kingdom of God and all its people of God.

"I thank God that we are at one in this grand ideal, that my longings are also yours, and that we work together in perfect unity.

"Today upon the earth one sees the sad spectacle of cruel war. Man slays his brotherman for selfish gain, and to enlarge his territories. For this lamable ambition hate has taken possession of the heart, and more and more blood is shed.

"Fresh battlefields are fought, the armies are increased; more cannon, more guns, more explosives of all kinds, are sent out—so does bitterness and hatred increase from day to day. But they assembly, thank God, longs only for peace and unity, and must work with all its might and soul to bring about a better condition in the world.

"You who are the servants of God fight against these evil passions and discord, so that wars may cease and God's laws of peace and love may be established among men.

"Work! Work! with all your strength, spread the cause of the kingdom among men, teach the spirit unselfishness, love and spiritual sentiments that must appeal not in vain to all men whether Christians or not.

"As to the credentials of these holy men, the manifestation and the servant or interpreter of the message, they appear to be as convincing and unmistakable as any that have ever been presented to mankind, and their teachings are as simple and yet as profound, embodying and Godlike as have ever been given to the world. And to their followers therefore lies the truth and strength of the message.

"The manifestation himself declares that no one can be developed by the word. It is by the word that we shall be transferred from the material to the spiritual, not by miracles in this age; not by miracles and wonders, but by that creative word that changes the hearts of men.

"Bahaullah comes one say to the different believers, 'You must come out of your religious order, or must turn your back upon your religion.' He says, 'No, go and live out your faith with *all mankind and show that behind all* religions and creeds there is one religion *and one God.*'

"This is a universal message and belief, and it is destined to make itself felt its influence upon all mankind. So the Bahais declare that in this revelation all the promises and prophecies of the ages are fulfilled and that the way is open to a great mutual recognition that we are indeed all of one family, one race, and they believe that the world is entering upon an inheritance that has been foretold by the prophets since the beginning of time.

"A world consciousness is arising that will cause all nations to think and act as one.

"The Bahai message is touching the very hearts of men. The spring of life is in the laws and teachings that are promulgated by the messiger half a century ago. We see them now fulfilled in the great movements that are arising through the ocean of mankind. Foremost of all is the movement of world federation as exemplified in the uniting of nearly all nations and creeds in the battle for human freedom. It is also exemplified in the movements such as Rotary, that are appealing to our desires for service. It is exemplified in the movement for the equality of men and women and in the movement to rid the earth of the curse of intoxicants. These are but the additional movements, the same Power is behind all of them. The power of the renewal of the spirit, the new agencies of religion, the power of the creative Word.

"To the proud it cometh as a strong wind upon little chips, confounding them; unto the *meek it cometh as April* to the wayside, scattering sunshine."

Many prominent Bahai men and women are expected at the convention in the Auditorium hotel.

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