

PREJUDICE GERM INFESTS PEOPLE WHO CAUSE WARS

Flimsy Race Barriers Product of Disordered Minds

By Martha Root

As each century holds the solution of some one predominating problem the one that looms largest in this day is that of universal peace. Over in Acca, Palestine, dwells Abdul Baha, whose ideas on peace and the plans of his illustrious father, Baha'o'llah, are the "pearl richer than all the tribe" when it comes to universal peace plans that are workable. Commissions and organizations looking into the best suggestions can with profit study these. They will bring a lasting peace because they are founded on the Love and Word of God.

Following are some of the excerpts from their words which are being read in many countries of the world: "Another excuse for war is that of race. This is black, that is yellow; you are white, he is red; and then they fall on each other's lives instead of on each other's necks! What utter stupidity! What sheer ignorance! These are flimsy excuses and they stand neither the test of religion nor reason. They are pure fiction of disordered minds and interested parties. While in reality we all seek to worship the one supreme God who is the Father of us all. He is the Shepherd and we are the flock. The whole world is one home and mankind are the members of one family. In the estimation of God there are not many races, but one race, and that is humanity. Therefore the motives of all these wars are superficial and baseless."

Abdul Baha also said in his Paris talks and elsewhere: the foundations of all the divine religions are peace and amity, but misunderstandings have crept in. If these misunderstandings disappear you will see that all the religious agencies will work for peace and promote the oneness of humankind, for the foundation of all is one reality and the light of this reality is not multiple or divisible.

For example, His Holiness Moses founded this reality and the light of this reality shone forth in all the religions. His Holiness, Baha'o'llah, proclaimed this reality and promulgated the Most Great Peace. In the prison he rested not until he lighted this lamp in the east.

Praise be to God, all the people who have accepted the teachings of Baha'o'llah are peace-lovers and are ready to sacrifice their lives and forfeit their fortunes for it. Now let this standard be hoisted in the west and many shall respond to the call. Just as America has become renowned because of her discoveries, inventions and skill, famous for the equity of her government and colossal undertakings, may she also become noted for the Most Great Peace. Let this be her undertaking and let it spread from her to other countries. And I pray for you all that you may render this service to the world of humanity.

All prejudice, whether of religion, race, politics or nation, must be renounced, for these prejudices have caused the world's sickness. It is a grave malady which, unless arrested, is capable of causing the destruction of the whole human race. Every ruinous war with its terrible bloodshed and misery has been caused by one or another of these prejudices. These prejudices are destructive to mankind.

Contemplate first the prejudice of religion. Consider the nations of so-called religious people. If they were truly worshipers of God they would obey His law which forbids them to kill one another.

If priests of religion really adored the God of love and served the divine light they would teach the people to keep the chief commandment, "To be in love and charity with all men."

All religions teach that we should love one another; that we should seek out our own shortcomings before we presume to condemn the faults of others; that we must not consider ourselves superior to our neighbors. We must be careful not to exalt ourselves lest we be humiliated.

Who are we that we should judge? How shall we know who, in the sight of God, is the most upright man? God's thoughts are not like our thoughts. How many men who have seemed saint-like to their friends have fallen into the greatest humiliation? Think of Judas Iscariot; he began well, but remember his end! On the other hand, Paul the Apostle was in his early life an enemy of Christ, while later he became His most faithful servant. How, then, can we flatter ourselves and despise others?

Concerning the prejudice of race: It is an illusion, a superstition pure and simple, for God created us all of one race. There were no differences in the beginning, for we are all descendants of Adam. In the beginning also there were no limits and boundaries between the different lands; no part of the earth belonged more to one people than to another. In the sight of God there is no difference between the various races. Why should man invent such a prejudice? How can we uphold war caused by an illusion?

God has not created men that they should destroy one another. All races, tribes, sects and classes share equally in the bounty of their heavenly Father.

The only difference lies in the degree of faithfulness, of obedience to the laws of God. There are some who are as lighted torches, there are others who shine as stars in the sky of humanity. The lovers of mankind, these are the superior men, of whatever nation, creed or color they may be. For it is they to whom God will say these blessed words: "Well done, my good and faithful servants." In that day He will not ask, "Are you English, French or perhaps Persian? Do you come from the east or the west?"

The only division that is real is this: there are heavenly men and earthly men; self-sacrificing servants of humanity in the love of the Most High, bringing harmony and unity, teaching peace and good will to men. On the other hand, there are those selfish men, haters of their brethren, in whose hearts prejudice has replaced loving kindness and whose influence breeds discord and strife.

To which race or to which color belong these two divisions of men—to the white, to the yellow, to the black, to the east or to the west, to the north or to the south? If these are God's divisions, why should we invent others?

Political prejudice is equally mischievous. Victory bought at the price of bloodshed is not lasting. The conqueror shall one day be conquered and the vanquished ones victorious. Remember the history of the past; did not France conquer Germany more than once, then did not the German nation overcome France?

These glorious conquests are so ephemeral! Why attach so much importance to them and to their fame as to be willing to shed the blood of the people for their attainment? Is any victory worth the inevitable train

of evils consequent upon human slaughter, the grief and sorrow and ruin which must overwhelm so many homes of both nations? For it is not possible that one country alone should suffer.

Oh, why will man, the disobedient child of God, who should be an example of the power of the spiritual law, turn his face away from the divine teachings and put all his effort into destruction and war?

My hope is that in this enlightened century the divine light of love will shed its radiance over the whole world, seeking out the responsive heart's intelligence of every human being; that the Light of the Sun of Truth will lead politicians to shake off all the chains of prejudice and superstition and with freed minds to follow the policy of God: for divine politics are mighty, man's politics are feeble! God has created all the world and bestowed His divine bounty upon every creature.

Some of the books of Baha'o'llah are "The Hidden Words," "Ishrakhat," "Tarazat," "Tajalliat." His remedies are the love of God, knowledge of God, severance from all else save God, sincerity and faith, firmness and steadfastness, fidelity and love toward all humanity, kindness toward all the children of men and the acquirements of the virtues of the human world. These are the progress for all existence, international peace and the oneness of the human world.