

HONOR FOUNDER OF BAHAI'S ON HIS BIRTHDAY

The Baha'is of the world are celebrating the 118th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the founder of their faith. The Baha'is of Chicago and its surrounding suburbs are gathered together at a Feast of Celebration, held this evening in the Foundation Hall of the Baha'i House of Worship, in Wilmette.

Baha'u'llah declared His mission in 1863 while an exile in Baghdad. He subsequently formulated the principles of that new and divine civilization which by His advent He claimed to have inaugurated. He was bitterly opposed, as have been all the Saviours of mankind, stripped of His property and rights, was exiled to Iraq, to Constantinople and Adrianople, and was eventually incarcerated in the penal colony of Akka where He passed away in 1892, in His 75th year.

In a series of letters addressed to kings and heads of government in Europe, Asia and the United States, written in 1868, 1869 and 1870 Baha'u'llah proclaimed that the era of international order had dawned and called upon the reigning rulers to assemble and take steps to eliminate the possibilities of future war. He expressed the profound truth that service to the ideal of peace was not merely an attitude of political wisdom, but obedience to God, and continued irresponsibility and unfaithfulness to the rights of the peoples to live in peace would produce international strife and anarchy so widespread that every reactionary regime would be destroyed.

The late Prof. Edward G. Browne, of the University of Cambridge, visited Baha'u'llah at Bahji in the year 1890 and recorded his impressions as follows:

.... "The face of him on whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow... . No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before One who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain! A mild dignified voice bade me be seated, and then continued:

"Thou hast come to see a prisoner and an exile. . . . We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; yet they deem us a stirrer-up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment. That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be annulled—what harm is there in this? Yet so it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the MOST GREAT PEACE shall come. . . . These strifes and this bloodshed and discord must cease, and all men be as one kindred family. . . . Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind."

For further information, call Mrs. Nina Mztthisen, Long Beach 0618, member of the National Baha'i publicity committee.