

ABDUL-BAHA

True Happiness, Wisdom and Progress. The Dawn of Knowledge.

UNIVERSAL LOVE.

All God's prophets have brought the message of love. None has even taught that war and hate are good. Everyone agrees in saying that love and kindness are best.

Love manifests its reality in deeds, not only in words—these alone are without effect. In order that love may manifest its power there must be an object, an instrument, a motive! There are many ways of expressing the love principle; there is love for the family, for the country, for the race; there is political enthusiasm; there is also the love of community of interest in service. These are all ways and means of showing the power of love. Without any means, love would be unseen, unheard, unfelt, altogether unexpressed, unmanifested! Water shows its power in various ways, in quenching thirst, causing seed to grow, etc. Coal expresses one of its principles in gaslight, while one of the powers of electricity is shown in the electric light. If there were neither gas nor electricity the nights of the world would be darkness! So it is necessary to have an instrument, a motive for love's manifestation, an object, a mode of expression. We must find a way of spreading love among the sons of humanity.

LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS.

Love is unlimited, boundless, infinite! Material things are limited, circumscribed, finite. You cannot adequately express infinite love by finite means. The perfect love needs an unselfish instrument, absolutely freed from fetters of every kind. The love of family is limited; the tie of blood relationship is not the strongest bond. Frequently members of the same family disagree, and even hate each other. Patriotic love is finite; the love of one's country causing hatred of all others is not perfect love! Compatriots also are not free from quarrels among themselves. The love of race is limited. There is some union there, but that is insufficient. Love must be free from boundaries! To love our own race may mean hatred of all others, and even people of the same race often dislike each other. Political love is also much bound up with hatred of one party for another. This love is very limited and uncertain. The love of community of interest in service is likewise fluctuating; frequently competitions arise which lead to jealousy, and at length hatred replaces love.

A few years ago Turkey and Italy had a friendly political understanding; now they are at war! All these ties of love are imperfect. It is clear that limited, material ties, are insufficient to adequately express the universal love.

BEYOND WORLDLY POWER.

The great unselfish love for humanity is bounded by none of these imperfect, semi-selfish bonds. This is the one perfect love, possible to all mankind, and can only be achieved by the power of the Divine Spirit. No worldly power can accomplish the universal love. Let all be united in this divine power of love. Let all strive to grow in the light of the sun of truth, and, reflecting this luminous love on all men, may their hearts become so united that they may dwell evermore in the radiance of the limitless love. Remember these words which I speak unto you: I earnestly exhort you let not your hearts be fettered by the material things of this world. I charge you not to lie contentedly on the beds of negligence, prisoners of matter, but to arise and free yourself from its chains!

CAPTIVE TO MATTER.

The animal creation is captive to matter; God has given freedom to man. The animal cannot escape the law of nature, when man may control it, for he, containing nature, can rise above it. The power of the Holy Spirit, enlightening man's intelligence, has enabled him to discover means of bending many natural laws to his will. He flies through the air, floats on the sea and even moves under the waters.

All this proves how man's intelligence has been enabled to free him from the limitations of nature and to solve many of her mysteries. Man, to a certain extent, has broken the chains of matter. 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 divinely infinite love.

When you love a member of your family, or a compatriot, let it be with a ray of the infinite love! Let it be in God and for God! Wherever you find the attributes of God, love that person, whether he be of your family or of another. Shed the light of a boundless love on every human being whom you meet, whether of your country, your race, your political party or of any other nation, color or shade of political opinion.

(Continued next week.)