

ABDUL-BAHA

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

For the Reader's Consideration

Being some observances by the writer during the past year in riding on the street cars, at the ball park and talks with people both black and white. A year ago and previous to that time on the street cars a Colored person on entering the car, whether male or female, the majority of white people on the car would turn up their noses at the Colored person, and quite a few white people would give up a seat to a Colored lady, even if that Colored lady carried a child in her arms. And a Colored person sitting beside a white, the white would try to draw away. Notice the difference today, and you will see more whites getting up to give the Colored lady a seat, and if your seat mate is white the tendency is to snuggle up. At the ball park at Thirty-ninth street the audience is more evenly divided and seemingly on even terms. Notice the way the southern papers are praising the Tenth, and notice the way the southern papers are praising the Eighth I. N. G. for their cleanliness in camp life. The same way you will notice more blacks and whites talking together on the street corners and other places. The same way in the business world, in the stores, shops and factories, all working together for the common good. WHY are these things so? Why are the blacks and whites getting together? It can be answered in a few words. The power of LOVE, LOVE of GOD, and LOVE of fellow man, and these things will have to be before we can be a nation.

In writing these lines the writer would like to make the following explanation as to why he has noticed these changes and why he has been writing on the UNITY of the RACE question for the past year for this paper.

The Power of Prayer

Some time ago I had a great favor conferred on me by God. It was this way: During July, 1915, a young lady friend that I thought very highly of. She was gifted beyond the ordinary, with a beautiful figure, very handsome-looking, of the brunette type, well educated, accomplished in music, a fine talker and well read. She was taken sick during July, 1915. Being a friend, was telephoned her condition and visited her that evening at her home. Among the articles of jewelry of hers that she always wore was a ring and engraved on the stone was the greatest name of God. That evening I sat at her bedside, when her condition was such that a breath of air would have ushered her to the Great Beyond. Took hold of her hand with my thumb on the stone in the ring and read the following prayers to her God, and Your God, and my God:

"In Thy Name, the Sufferer, the Healer, the Fulfiler, the Lottiest, the Supreme, the Baha El Abah; I ask Thee by Thine Ancient Beauty, and I supplicate Thee by the Manifestation of Thy Greatest Majesty, and Thy Name around which the Heavens of the Manifestations revolve; by which the waters of the oceans overflow, the full moons appear, the lights diffuse, and verily the visible and the invisible, the mysterious and the celebrated; by which all sorrow will be turned into joy and all disease will be turned into health, and by which every sick, afflicted, unfortunate and constrained one may be healed, to suffice to heal this weary, sick-worn one of the seen and unseen disease. Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Conqueror, the Mighty, the Living, the Forgiver.

"In the name of God, the Healer, the Sufferer, the Helper; praise be unto Thee, O God; O my God and my Beloved; I ask Thee in Thy Name, by which Thy mercy anticipated all things, and by the sun of the beauty of Thy Hidden Name which hath shown forth from the horizon of Thine appearance and by which Thy Grace was perfected upon those in earth and heaven, to shower upon this sick one from the clouds of Thy mercy, that which will purify her from every disease, weakness and trial, and immerse her in the ocean of Thy healing. O Thou, in whose grasp is the kingdom of destiny and the power of Execution: verily Thou are the Doer of that which Thou wishest and which Thou wilt; and verily Thou art the Forgiver, and the Compassionater.

"I beg of Thee, O my God, my God, by the ocean of Thy healing power, by the dawning lights of the orb of Thy generosity, by Thy Name which commands Thy servants to perform Thy orders; by the executive power of Thy Supreme Word, by the might of Thy greatest pen, by the glorious sun of righteousness and Thy mercy, which existed before the creation of the heavens and earth, to shower upon me (and upon her) Thy gifted waters, to purify her from every affliction and disease and from every defect and weakness.

"Thou seest, O my God, that the needy one is standing at the door of Thy bounty and the waiting one is holding on to the robe of Thy generosity. I beg Thee not to disappoint her in what she desires from the sea of Thy Providence. For Thou art the Omnipotent; there is no God but Thou. Thou art the Most Powerful and Mighty."

Before finishing the prayer she

smile appeared on her face as she turned to her mother and asked to have okra for dinner the next day. As she in the next few days began to pick up in health and strength and could talk, it was suggested by me to show our appreciation to our God. That would start and see what could do by writing and talking to bring about UNITY of the RACE. What with Divine help and good care she quickly recovered her health and strength. When it may seem wonderful with her regaining health, good clothes to wear, no need to go to work, well provided for, plenty of amusement, and an indulgent mother. That after all that had been done for her by the grace of God and human hands. In one short month by evil influences she turned to the downward path. But these things will be done. Some turn that way from lack of proper living conditions, others from choice. This trying by me to help bring about UNITY of the RACES is my monument to the memory of that beautiful smile that appeared on her face after she had had a glimpse of that beautiful shore of the Great Beyond. When God gave her a renewal of life, pray for her that she may see her error.