

# ABDUL - BAHÁ

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

Before taking up the leading events which followed the declaration of The Manifestation, let us again refer to one of the Bible passages quoted in our first talk, viz., Micah 1:2, 3—as follows: "Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is; and let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from His Holy Temple. For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." Observe, the command is here for all the people to hear, for all the earth to hearken. The command is not addressed to the Jew only, or to the Christian, or any of the other religious sects, who are looking for the coming of their Promised One; but is addressed to the people of all the nations and religions; hence the One who appears and puts forth the claim of divinity must, of necessity, show forth all the characteristics, qualities and attributes of God; be able to furnish proofs which can be verified from the text books of all religions (of divine origin); and possess the power of drawing all hearts together, and, by the convincing evidence of His claim unite them into one harmonious whole. To accomplish this miraculous undertaking, thoughtful minds are agreed, would indeed require the special power and actual presence of the Mighty One Himself, and the text just quoted confirms this belief, as it plainly states, " . . . let the Lord God be witness against you, the Lord from His Holy Temple. For, behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth."

It is needless to say, all the predictions of the Bab concerning "Him whom God would manifest" have, in every particular, been completely fulfilled, and the divine characteristics, qualities and attributes of the Blessed Perfection fully manifested in the person of Baha'ollah.

That such a great teacher was needed in this age of diversified doctrines, creeds, fads and "isms"—what honest, thoughtful person will deny? Mankind left to his own will, and following the dictates of human desire, passion and lust, has ever arrived at an alienated condition from His Lord; thus necessitating a manifestation of God to reclaim him and teach him the way of right living; and foreseeing the conditions which would obtain in the latter days, He declared through Christ and the prophets, that the Lord of the Vineyard would come Himself and "make the crooked things straight"; "He whose going forth has been from of old from everlasting"—the word that was in the beginning, the word that was with God, the word that was God, the same word would be made flesh and dwell among us.—(John, 1st Chap.).

The followers of Baha'ollah claim and believe He was that Word manifested in the flesh; and that all the prophecies relating to the advent of the Lord of Hosts have (in Him) been fulfilled to the letter, supporting their claim with the most convincing proofs. But the greatest of all proofs are the words, and the works, the purity and perfection of the beautiful life of Baha'ollah Himself. That He was the Divine Manifestation promised, who would appear in the latter days, notwithstanding the rulers of—"The people that walked in darkness who saw the great light, they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death and upon whom the light shined"—as recorded in the second verse of the 9th chapter of Isaiah—failed to recognize "Him whom God would manifest," as declared by the Bab; but on the contrary, being led by that flagrant spirit of hatred and malice, which found pleasure and satisfaction only in persecuting and killing the Bab and His faithful followers, they flashed the malevolent arrows of their bitter enmity against Him, and for a number of months consigned Him, bound in chains, to the inclosed gloom of solitude and prison walls. But these extreme measures of torture, oppression and persecution did not stop the spread of His Heavenly teachings; but, on the contrary, served only as a powerful reflector to spread the Light more brilliantly, which Light has already reached the uttermost parts of the earth. To follow Him in detail from Teheran to the Holy City, or even to relate but a very few of the wonderful things we have to tell, would indeed be

more than human mind could absorb at one hearing.

Like the time of Christ—"He (Christ) spake to them as they were able to hear it"—i. e., as they were able to grasp and understand the things He had to tell concerning the Kingdom. Our purpose in this talk is simply to give some leading facts and proofs. Then, to those who desire to hear more, we shall be most happy to gratify their wish at any stated time upon which we can mutually agree.

Baha'ollah, most generally alluded to by Believers as the "Manifestation" or "Blessed Perfection," was born in Teheran in the year A. D. 1817; and declared Himself, as before mentioned, to His notable followers in the year 1862. In 1852 He was imprisoned in Teheran four months, and all His personal property confiscated. After His release from the prison He was sent to Bagdad, where he remained twelve years, from thence He was sent to Constantinople under a military escort; after a few months' stay at the latter place He was sent to Adrianople. At Adrianople he was kept about five years, after which time He was exiled to Acre, a seaport in Syria on the Mediterranean, arriving there on Aug. 31, 1868. Acre (or Akko) is a penal colony in the possession of the Sublime Porte, the sultan of Turkey. It is situated, as described in Psalms 48:2—"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the City of the great King." "On the sides of the north"—i. e., on the opposite side of the Harbor of Haifa (Syria) facing Mount Carmel; in the center you might say of the land of prophecies and Divine Manifestations.

Between the years 1864 and 1868 Tablets were sent out by El-Baha, through special carriers, to the crowned heads of all nations; to the pope of Rome and other noted dignitaries; notifying them that their Lord had come, and inviting them to partake of His great Supper; thus literally fulfilling the prophecy of Christ, expressed in the parable of the great supper, Luke 14th Chapter, beginning at the 15th verse—"And when one of them that sat at meat with Him heard these things, He said unto Him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God"—meaning material and spiritual bread. (16th verse)—"Then said He unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come," etc., etc.—material consideration of this ephemeral life being to them of greater importance than that which is eternal. Just here let us call your attention to the fact that the land, five yoke of oxen and wife, mentioned in these verses, have a deep significance (in a symbolic sense) which can be explained in order. As a matter of course, nearly all these invitations were treated with silent contempt by the recipients.

The President of the United States received a most wonderful Tablet, a copy of which is in our possession.

The emperor of France made the receipt of his first Tablet an occasion of great swelling words. That Tablet alone is a sufficient proof of the divinity of the Blessed Perfection. It was revealed when Napoleon III. was so powerful that he said, "On this Globe I am the one God." In such a time, the second Tablet was sent him, and its contents published over the world. For his sneers, the Blessed Perfection told him in this latter Tablet that he would lose his kingdom and he himself die in exile. It was published two years before the prophecy came to pass. The following is an extract from that remarkable Tablet, which can be found in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society:

"Because of what thou hast done, affairs shall be changed in thy kingdom, and the empire shall depart from thy hands as a punishment for thine action. Thou shalt find thyself in manifest loss, and commotion shall seize the people; then, unless thou arisest to assist in this matter, and followest the Spirit in this straight way—thy glory hath made thee proud—by My life: verily, it shall not endure, but shall pass away, unless thou takest hold of this firm rope. We have seen humiliation hastening after thee while thou art of those who slept."