

## EXPANDING OUR SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

In the past, the illiterate masses hadn't the capacity to develop spiritually. They had, however, the capacity to develop religiously, and they did.

Revealed religion lifted the burden of thinking spiritually from the masses. They had only to accept, obey and practice certain rites. Whatever thinking was done by the masses in the name of religion, up until recently, has been erroneous.

The rise of scienc, universal education, the newly acquired habit of thinking, now capacitates the masses to begin man's quest for spiritual - in contrast to merely religious - development.

The individual now must take on himself the responsibility for spiritual thinking and for spiritual progress - no more priesthood.

Religiosity has been a mass phenomenon and process. Spirituality is an individual process.

Baha'u'llah's mission was to universalize spirituality - as the preceeding Revelators had universalized religiosity. "I came in order that mankind might be regenerated."

And 'Abdu'l-Baha said, "Our spiritual perception and our inner sight must be awakened, so that the signs and traces of God's Spirit can be seen in everything, for everything can reflect the light of the Spirit".

We must not put the cart before the horse. The success of Baha'u'llah's New World Order depends upon the spiritualization of man's thought-life and his motivations.

Baha'is at first will be apt to be content with acceptance of Baha'u'llah and His World Order, with administrative work, and with spreading the Faith.

But this is not enough. Spiritual development is expected of every Baha'i. We are no longer in an era when religiosity is sufficient. We must develop to the point where we can envision the invisible. "And then with a new eye thou wilt see in every atom opening unto the attainment of the station of absolute knowledge, certain traces of the horizon of eternity."

Stanwood Cobb