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11/1916 Mrs. Cooper (copy)
 (Deroy (was paper, Box 12 - *))

10/1916 MAS
 (Laliet Thompson papers, Box 3-4 - **)

From Mrs. Cooper's copy, November, 1916.

(M.E.M.)

L O V E.

FROM TALKS BY ABDUL BAHA.

We will now consider the subject of "Love" which has been suggested, submitting it to the four standards of judgment and thereby reaching our conclusions.

We declare that love is the cause of the existence of all phenomena and that the absence of love is the cause of disintegration or non-existence.

Love is the conscious bestowal of GOD - the bond of affiliation in all phenomena.

We will first consider the proof of this through sense perception.

As we look upon the universe, we observe that all composite beings or existing phenomena are made up primarily of single elements bound together by a power of attraction. Through this power of attraction, cohesion has become manifest between the atoms of these composing elements. The resultant being is a phenomenon of the lower contingent type.

The power of cohesion expressed in the mineral kingdom is in reality love or affinity manifested in a low degree, according to the exigencies of the mineral world.

We take a step higher into the vegetable kingdom where we find an increased power of attraction has become manifest among the composing elements which form phenomena. Through this degree of attraction a cellular admixture is produced among these elements which make up the body of a plant.

Therefore, in the degree of the vegetable kingdom there is love.

We enter the animal kingdom and find the attractive power binding together single elements as in the mineral, plus the cellular admixture as in the

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vegetable, plus the phenomena of feelings or susceptibilities.

We observe that the animals are susceptible to certain affiliation and fellowship, and that they exercise natural selection.

This elemental attraction, this admixture and selective affinity, is love manifest in the degree of the animal kingdom.

Finally we come to the kingdom of man.

As this is the Superior Kingdom, the light of love is more resplendent. In man we find the power of attraction, ^{among} the elements which compose his material body; plus the attraction which produces cellular admixture or power augmentative, plus the attraction which characterizes the sensibilities of the animal kingdom, but still, beyond and above all these lower powers, we discover in the being of man the attraction of heart, - the susceptibilities and affinities which bind men together, enabling them to live and associate in friendship and solidarity.

It is therefore evident that in the world of humanity the greatest king and sovereign is Love. If love were extinguished, the power of attraction dispelled, the affinity of human hearts destroyed, the phenomena of human life would disappear.

This is a proof perceptible to the senses, acceptable to the reason, in accord with traditions and teachings of the Holy Books, and verified by the promptings of human hearts themselves.

It is a proof upon which we can absolutely rely and declare to be complete.

But these are only degrees of love which exist in the natural or physical world. Their manifestation is ever according to the requirement of natural conditions and standards.

REAL LOVE is the Love which exists between GOD and HIS servants, - the Love

which binds together holy souls.

This is the Love of the spiritual world, - not the love of physical bodies and organisms. For example, consider and observe how the Bestowals of GOD successively descend upon the human world!

There can be no doubt that these Bestowals, these Bounties, these Effulgencies emanate from Love.

Unless Love be the Divine motive it would be impossible for the heart of man to attain or receive them.

Unless Love exists, the Divine Blessing could not descend upon any object or thing.

Unless there be Love, the recipient of Divine Effulgences could not radiate and reflect that Effulgence upon other objects.

If we are of those who perceive, we realize that the Bounties of GOD manifest themselves continuously, even as the rays of the sun unceasingly emanate from the solar center.

The phenomenal world, through the resplendent effulgence of the sun, is radiant and bright. In the same way the realm of hearts and spirits is illumined and resuscitated through the shining rays of the Sun of Reality and the Bounties of the Love of GOD.

Thereby the world of existence, the kingdom of hearts and spirits, is ever quickened into life.

Were it not for the Love of GOD, hearts would be inanimate, spirits would wither, and the reality of man would be bereft of the everlasting Bestowals.

Consider to what extent the Love of GOD makes itself manifest.

Among the signs of His Love which appear in the world are the Dawning-
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Points of His Manifestations.

What an infinite degree of Love is reflected by the Divine Manifestations toward mankind! For the sake of guiding the people they have willingly forfeited their lives to resuscitate human hearts! They have accepted the Cross!

To enable human souls to attain the supreme degree of advancement, they have suffered during their limited years extreme ordeals and difficulties.

If His Holiness Jesus Christ had not possessed Love for the world of humanity, surely He would not have welcomed the Cross!

He was crucified for the Love of mankind!

Consider the infinite degree of that Love!

Without Love for humanity, John the Baptist would not have offered his life.

It has been likewise with all the prophets and holy souls.

If His Holiness the Bab had not manifested Love for mankind, surely, He would not have offered His breast for a thousand bullets!

If His Holiness "BABA'O'LLAH had not been aflame with Love for humanity, He would not have willingly have accepted fifty years imprisonment!

Observe how rarely human souls sacrifice their pleasure or comfort for others! How improbable that a man would offer his eye, or suffer himself to be dismembered for the benefit of another!

Yet, all the Divine Manifestations suffered, - offered their lives and blood, sacrificed their existence, comfort and all they possessed for the sake of mankind. Therefore, consider how much they love!

Were it not for their love for humanity, Spiritual Love would be a mere
~~xxxx~~ nomenclature.

Were it not for their illumination, human souls would not be radiant.

How effective is their Love!

This is a sign of the Love of GOD: A ray of the Sun of Reality.

Therefore, must we give praise unto GOD, for it is the Light of His Bounty, which has shown upon us through His Love, which is everlasting.

His Divine Manifestations have offered their lives through Love for us.

Consider then what the Love of GOD means!

Were it not for the Love of GOD, all the spirits would be inanimate. The meaning of this is not physical death. Nay, rather, it is that condition concerning which His Holiness Christ declared "Let the dead bury their dead, for that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit."

Were it not for the Love of GOD, the ~~pathway of the~~ ^{hearts would} not be illumined.

Were it not for the Love of GOD the pathway of the Kingdom would not be opened.

Were it not for the Love of GOD, the Holy Books would not have been revealed.

Were it not for the Love of GOD the Divine Prophets would not have been sent to the world.

The foundation of all these Bestowals is the Love of GOD.

Therefore, in the human world there is no greater power than the love of GOD.

It is the Love of GOD that has brought us together here to-night.

It is the Love of GOD which is affiliating the East and the West.

It is the Love of GOD which has resuscitated the world.

Now, must we offer thanks to GOD that such a great Bestowal and Effulgence has been revealed to us.

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"Praise be to God that we are all under
His Divine Protection. — The news that
you have forwarded imparted to us
with gladness. We pray to God that He may
terminate this war and open the
door of Communication.

"The services that the friends are rendering
to the Cause will be recorded on the preserved
Tablets as their names mentioned in the
Books of God. We are supplicating for
them at the threshold of His Blessed
Protection. I beg for their confirmations
& assistance. — So that in every year they
may render new services & increase their
efficiency in the broad field of international
Solidarity & social reconstruction."

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I sincerely hope that the American behavior is not