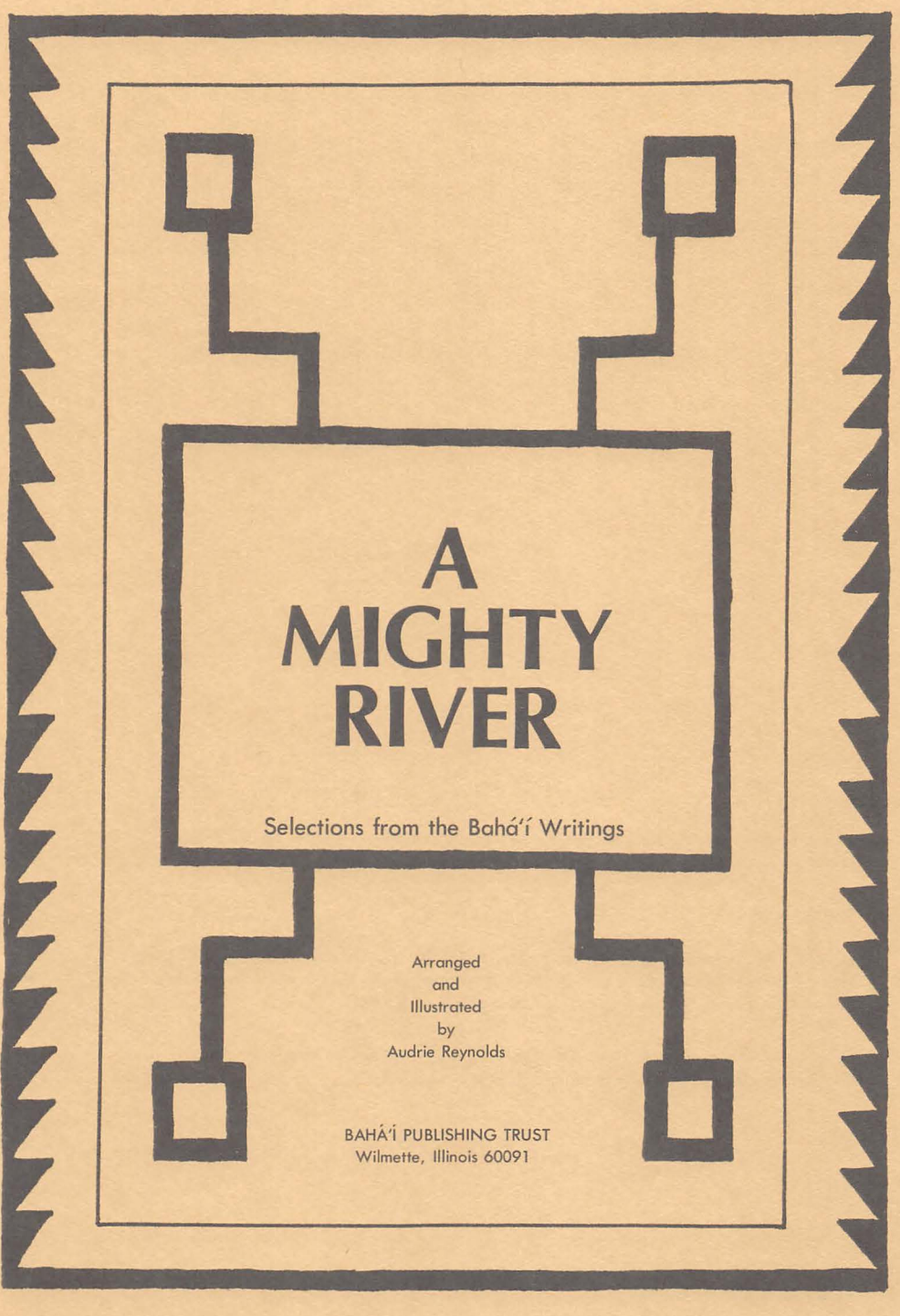




A MIGHTY RIVER

Selections from the Bahá'í Writings

Arranged
and
Illustrated
by
Audrie Reynolds

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST
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"The earth is in motion and growth;
the mountains, hills and prairies
are green and pleasant; the bounty
is overflowing; the mercy universal;
the rain is descending from the clouds
of mercy; the brilliant Sun is shining. . . .

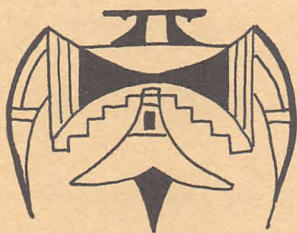
Boundless treasure is in the hand
of the King of Kings!

Lift up the hem of thy garment
in order to receive it."



"Blessed are your ears, for they have heard the Call!
Blessed are your eyes, for they have beheld
the signs of their Mighty Lord!

Blessed are your tongues, for they have uttered
the praise of my Lord, the Supreme!"



"Minds are powerless

To comprehend God,

and the souls become bewildered
in explaining Him.

"The eyes see Him not,

but He seeth the eyes. . . ."



"Through Thy name, O my God,
all created things were stirred up,
and the heavens were spread,
and the earth was established,
and the clouds were raised
and made to rain upon the earth."



"No man hath ever known Him;
no soul hath ever found
the pathway to His Being....
The way is barred...."

"Thou, truly, art the King of all men.
There is no God but Thee,
The Ever-Forgiving,
The Most Generous."



"Thou, truly, art
the Lord of all mankind,
and the Possessor of this world
and of the next. No God is there
save Thee, the All-Knowing,
the All-Wise."

"How all-encompassing
are the wonders
of His boundless grace!
Behold how they have pervaded
the whole of creation."

"Sanctified be the Lord of all mankind,
at the mention of Whose name
all the atoms of the earth
have been made to vibrate...."



"...the mystery of eternal might
vibrates within the innermost being
of all created things."

"... how vast the oceans of wisdom
that surge
within a drop!"

"O Son of Being!
With the hands of power I made thee
and with the fingers of strength
I created thee; and within thee
have I placed the essence of My light.
Be thou content with it
and seek naught else,
for My work is perfect
and My command is binding.
Question it not, nor have a doubt thereof."



"This period of time
is the Promised Age,
The assembling of the human race
to the Resurrection Day
and now is the great
Day of Judgment.



"Soon the whole world,
as in springtime, will change
its garb. The turning and falling
of the autumn leaves is past;
the bleakness of the winter time
is over. The new year
hath appeared and
the spiritual springtime
is at hand."



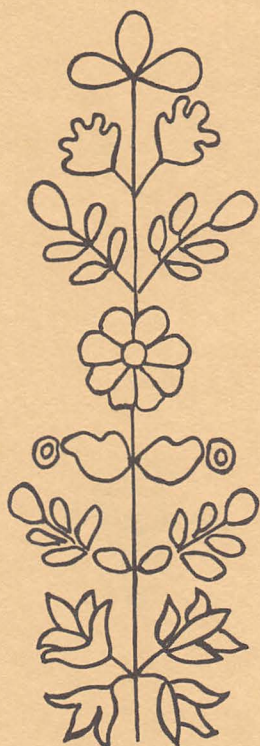
"Every spring has an autumn
and every autumn has its spring.

The coming of a manifestation of God
is the season of spiritual spring.

For instance, the appearance of
His Holiness Christ was a divine springtime....

Then gradually that spring was followed
by the autumn of death and decay....

At such a time as this
His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh dawned...."



"All men
will adhere to one religion,
will have one common faith,
will be blended into one race
and become a single people.

All will dwell in one
common fatherland, which is
the planet itself."





"... in this brilliant age and divine cycle,
the Noble Personage,
the Radiant Star,
the Distinguished One,

will manifest with virtues which will
eventually amaze the peoples, for
He is in spiritual virtues and divine
perfections loftier than all the Individuals;
nay, rather He is the Source of Divine
Benediction and The Center
of the Radiant Circle."



"Bahá'u'lláh has drawn
the circle of unity,
He has made a design for the uniting
of all the peoples...."

"The basis of the teaching
of Bahá'u'lláh
is the Unity of Mankind,
and his greatest desire was
that love and goodwill should live
in the heart of men."

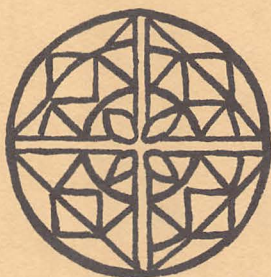


"Bahá'u'lláh spent His life
teaching this lesson of Love
and Unity."

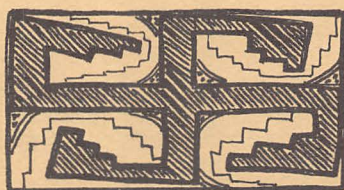


"Although Bahá'u'lláh was in prison
the great Power of the
Holy Spirit was with Him!"

"The Purpose of the one true God,
exalted be His glory,
in revealing Himself unto men
is to lay bare those gems
that lie hidden within the mine
of their true and inmost selves."



"Whenever My laws appear
like the sun
in the heaven of Mine
utterance,
they must be faithfully obeyed by all...."



"A twofold obligation resteth
upon him who hath recognized
the Day Spring of the Unity of God,
and acknowledged the truth
of Him Who is the Manifestation
of His oneness.

The first is steadfastness in His Love....

The second is strict observance
of the laws He hath
prescribed...."

"He Who is everlastingly hidden
from the eyes of men
can never be known
except through His Manifestation...."



"In the estimation of God
all men are equal.
There is no distinction
or preference for any soul...."

"As the compassionate God
has placed such a wonderful crown
upon the head of man,
man should strive
that its brilliant jewels
may become visible in the world."





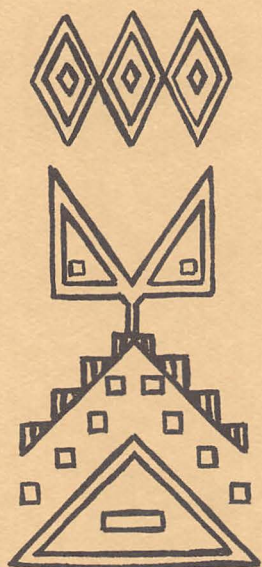
"O Children of Men!

Know ye not why We created you all
from the same dust?

That no one should exalt himself
over the other. Ponder at all times
in your hearts how ye were created.

Since We have created you all
from one same substance it is incumbent
on you to be even as one soul,
to walk with the same feet,
eat with the same mouth
and dwell in the same land...."



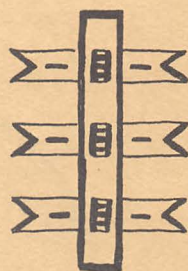


"How lofty
is the station which man,
if he but choose
to fulfill his high destiny,
can attain!"

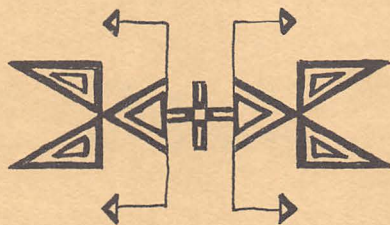
"What a power
God has given our spirits!
He has endowed us
with a power to penetrate
the realities of things...."

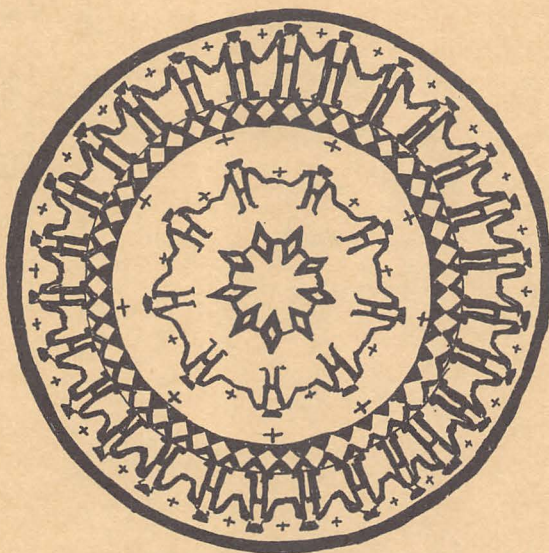


"Man has two powers. . . .
 One power is connected
 with the material world
 and by it he is capable
 of material advancement.



"The other power is spiritual. . . .
 These powers are like two wings.
 Both must be developed,
 for flight is impossible with one wing."





"Bahá'ulláh hath said that the various races of human kind lend a composite harmony and beauty of color to the whole. Let all associate, therefore, in this great human garden even as flowers grow and blend together side by side without discord or disagreement between them."

"In the estimation of God
there is no distinction of color;
all are one in the color and beauty
of servitude to Him.
Color is not important;
the heart is all-important."

"God doth not behold differences of hue
and complexion. He looketh at the
hearts. . . . he who is devoted to the
Kingdom is most beloved."

"We are all servants of one Threshold,
attendants at one Court, waves of one sea,
drops of one stream, the dust before one door
and plants of one garden. There must arise
no trouble to deprive one from that which is
the real purpose."



"He [Bahá'u'llah] likened the world of existence to one tree and all the souls to leaves, blossoms and fruits. Therefore all the branches, leaves, blossoms and fruits must be in the utmost of freshness, and the bringing about of this delicacy and sweetness depends upon union and fellowship."



"These days are swiftly passing
and this mortal life will remain fruitless
and without result. Therefore, while there is yet time
and the arrow is in the bow,
enter ye the chase
and strike ye the game.
This game is the good-pleasure of God,
and this chase is the merciful Providence;
that is, living in accord with
the divine instructions."



"All mankind are creatures and servants of the one God. The surface of the earth is one home; humanity is one family and household. Distinctions and boundaries are artificial, human."



"...no one should glorify himself over another;...no one should look upon another with scorn and contempt and no one should deprive or oppress a fellow-creature. All must be considered as submerged in the ocean of God's mercy. We must associate with all humanity in gentleness and kindness. We must love all with love of the heart."



"Ye are the fruits of one tree,
and the leaves of one branch.
Deal ye one with another with the utmost
love and harmony,
with friendliness and fellowship....
So powerful is the light of unity
that it can illuminate the whole earth."



"It is not for him to pride himself
who loveth his own country, but
rather for him who loveth the whole
world. The earth is but one country,
and mankind its citizens."



"... without patience the wayfarer on this journey
will reach nowhere and attain
no goal."



"... if there be no pain
this journey will never end."

"In the ocean he findeth a drop,
in a drop he beholdeth
the secrets of the sea."



"Even in fire, he seeth
the face of the Beloved."



"O My friend, listen with heart and soul
to the songs of the spirit, and treasure them
as thine own eyes."



"Turn thy sight unto thyself,
that Thou mayest find Me
standing within Thee,
mighty, powerful and self-subsisting."



"Trust in the favor of God.
Look not at your own capacities,
for the divine bestowal can transform
a drop into an ocean;
it can make a tiny seed a lofty tree."



"Thou knowest, and seest,
and hearest, O my Lord,
that before every Tree
I am moved to lift up
my voice to Thee...."



"If it be Thy pleasure,
make me to grow as a tender herb
in the meadows of Thy grace,
that the gentle winds of Thy will
may stir me up and bend me
into conformity with Thy pleasure,
in such wise that my movement
and my stillness
may be wholly directed by Thee."



"Supplicate to God, pray to Him
and invoke Him at midnight and at dawn.
Be humble and submissive to God
and chant the verses of Thanksgiving
at morn and eve...."

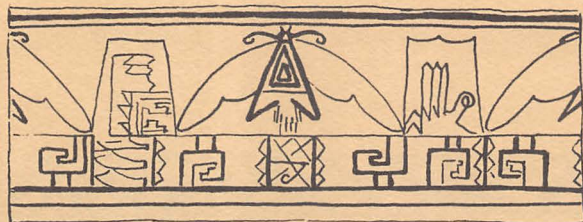


"Chant (or recite) the words of God
every morning and evening.
The one who neglects this
has not been faithful to the Covenant
of God and His agreement,
and he who turns away from it today
is of those who have turned away
from God."



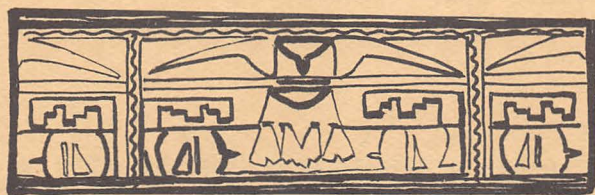
"Know thou
that prayer
is indispensable
and obligatory. . . ."

"...prayer and fasting
is the cause of awakening
and mindfulness
and conducive to protection
and preservation from tests. . . ."



"If thou be a man of communion and prayer,
soar up on the wings of assistance
from Holy Souls, that thou mayest behold
the mysteries of the Friend and attain
to the lights of the Beloved."

"I now assure thee, O servant of God,
that, if thy mind become empty
and pure from every mention
and thought and thy heart attracted
wholly to the Kingdom of God,
forget all else besides God
and come in communion
with the Spirit of God,
then the Holy Spirit will assist thee
with a power which will enable thee
to penetrate all things...."





"Ye dwell in one world,
and have been created
through the operation of one Will.
Blessed is he who mingleth
with all men in a spirit
of utmost kindness and love."

"Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind....
It is through your deeds that ye can
distinguish yourselves from others. Through
them the brightness of your light can be
shed upon the whole earth."





"That one indeed is a man who, today,
dedicateth himself to the service of the
entire human race. The Great Being saith:
Blessed and happy is he
that ariseth to promote
the best interests of the peoples
and kindreds of the earth."

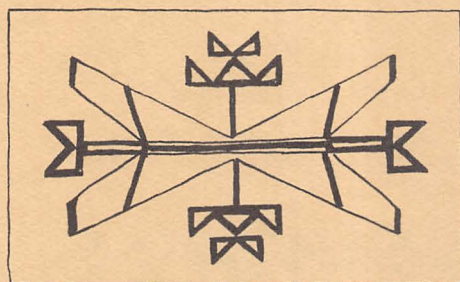
"Be ye as the fingers of one hand,
the members of one body."



"He [the seeker] must never seek to exalt himself
above any one, must wash away from the
tablet of his heart every trace of pride
and vain-glory, must cling unto patience
and resignation, observe silence
and refrain from idle talk."

"Men who suffer not,
attain no perfection.

The plant most pruned by the gardeners
is that one which, when the summer comes,
will have the most beautiful blossoms
and the most abundant fruit."



"The poor in your midst
are My trust;
guard ye
My trust. . . ."

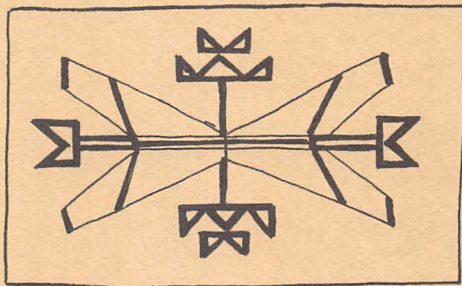


"O My Brother! A pure heart is as a mirror;
cleanse it with the burnish of love
and severance from all save God,
that the true sun may shine within it
and the eternal morning dawn."

"Love the creatures for the sake of God
and not for themselves. You will never
become angry or impatient if you love them
for the sake of God."

"Truthfulness is the foundation of all human
virtues. Without truthfulness
progress and success, in all the worlds of God,
are impossible for any soul."

"Beware lest ye
prefer yourselves
above
your neighbors."



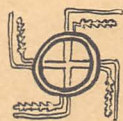


"Out of the whole world
He hath chosen for Himself
the hearts of men...."

"...this mystery of inner meaning
may be whispered only
from heart to heart,
confided only
from breast to breast."



"O Man of Two Visions!



Close one eye and open the other.

Close one to the world

and all that is therein,

and open the other to the

hallowed beauty of the Beloved."

"The real meeting consists in the
communication of heart. . . . hearts which
are spiritually related to each other,
their meetings are eternal, both in
this world and in the Universe of God.
I hope that thou mayest attain thereunto."



"An humble man without learning,
but filled with the Holy Spirit,
is more powerful than
the most nobly-born profound scholar
without that inspiration."



"Be happy and joyous
because the bestowals of God
are intended for you
and the life of the Holy Spirit
is breathing upon you."

"Beware lest ye offend the feelings
of anyone, or sadden the heart of any
person, or move the tongue in reproach of
and finding fault with anybody,
whether he is friend or stranger. . . ."

"If any differences arise amongst you,
behold Me standing before your face,
and overlook the faults of one another
for My name's sake. . . ."

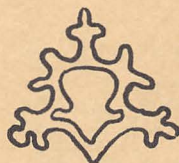
". . . if a person falls into errors
for a hundred-thousand times
he may yet turn his face to you,
hopeful that you will forgive his sins;
for he must not become hopeless,
neither grieved nor despondent.
This is the conduct and the manner of
the people of Bahá!"



"Through his ignorance,
man fears death;
but the death he shrinks from
is imaginary...."

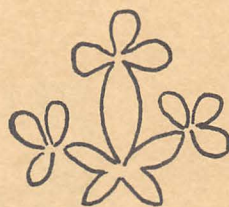


"O Son of the Supreme!
I have made death
a messenger of joy to thee.
Wherefore dost thou grieve?
I made the light
to shed on thee its splendor.
Why dost thou
veil thyself therefrom?"



"As to the question
that the holy and spiritual souls
influence, help and guide
the creatures after they have
cast off this elemental mould—
this is an established truth
of the Bahá'ís."

"And know thou for a certainty,
that in the divine worlds,
the spiritual beloved ones . . .
will recognize each other,
and will seek union [with each other],
but a spiritual union."



"Know thou of a truth
that the soul, after its separation
from the body, will continue
to progress until it attaineth
the presence of God. . . ."

"...in this world
he must prepare himself
for the life beyond.
That which he needs
in the world of the kingdom
must be obtained here."



"Now there are many wisdoms to ponder in the dream. . . . First, what is this world, where without eye and ear and hand and tongue, a man puts all of these to use? Second, how is it that in the outer world thou seest today the effect of a dream, when thou didst vision it in the world of sleep some ten years past? . . .

"God, the Exalted, hath placed these signs in men, to the end that philosophers may not deny the mysteries of the life beyond nor belittle that which hath been promised them.

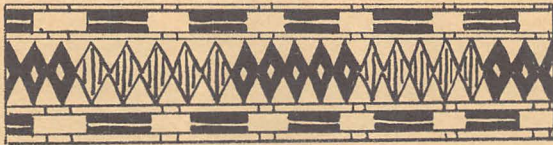
"...reflect upon the perfection of man's creation, and that all these planes and states are folded up and hidden away within him."





"Lay not on any soul
a load which ye would not wish
to be laid upon you,
and desire not for any one
the things ye would not desire
for yourselves.

This is My best counsel
unto you, did ye but
observe it."





"O Son of Spirit!
The best beloved of all things
in My sight is Justice;
turn not away therefrom
if thou desirest Me...."

"Be vigilant, that ye may not do
injustice to anyone, be it to the
extent of a grain of mustard seed.
Tread ye the path of justice,
for this, verily, is the straight path."

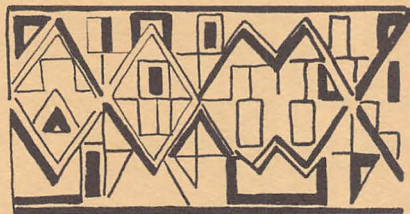


"Observe My commandments,
for the love of My beauty.'...

"Think not that We have
revealed unto you
a mere code of laws.

Nay, rather, We have unsealed
the choice Wine with the
fingers of might and power....

Whenever My laws appear
like the sun in the heaven
of Mine utterance, they must be
faithfully obeyed by all...."





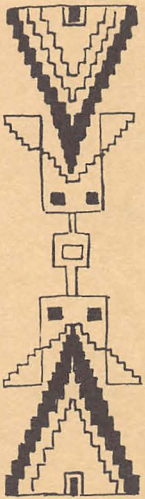
"Verily, God loveth those
who are working in His path
in groups, for they are
a solid foundation."

"May they drink from the same fountain.
May they be refreshed by the same breezes.
May they obtain illumination
from the same source."

"What a great blessing it is when the
torrents, streams, currents, tides and drops
are all gathered in one place!
They will form a great ocean and
the real harmony shall overcome and reign...."



The Spiritual Assembly



"In this day, assemblies of consultation are of the greatest importance and a vital necessity."

"The first condition is absolute love and harmony amongst the members of the assembly."

"The members of the Spiritual Assembly must day and night endeavor to create love and unity among the believers, to glorify the Cause of God and to propagate the Divine Faith."

"Obedience unto them [Spiritual Assemblies]
is essential and obligatory.

The members thereof must
take counsel together in such wise
that no occasion for ill-feeling
or discord may arise.

This can be attained when
every member expresseth with
absolute freedom his own opinion
and setteth forth his argument.

Should any one oppose, he must
on no account feel hurt
for not until matters are fully discussed
can the right way be revealed."



"God hath prescribed unto every one
the duty of Teaching His Cause."

"If he be kindled with the fire of His love,
if he foregoeth all created things,
the words he uttereth shall set on fire
them that hear him."

"These are the days of seed-sowing.
These are the days of tree-planting....
He who sows a seed in this day
will behold his reward
in the fruits and harvest
of the heavenly kingdom."



"Know ye of a certainty
that the powers of the Kingdom
of Abhá are with you. . . .

Not for a moment

are ye alone,

Not for a second

are ye left to yourselves.

The Beauty of Abhá

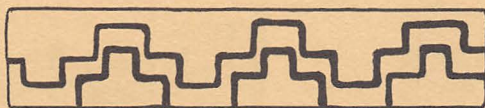
is with you.

The Glorious God

is with you.

The King of Kings

is with you."



"We live upon this earth for a few days
and then rest beneath it forever. . . .

Shall man fight for the tomb which
devours him, for his eternal sepulchre?

What ignorance could be greater than this?

To fight over his grave; to kill another
for his grave!"

"Today there is no greater glory for man
than that of service in the cause of the

'Most Great Peace.'

Peace is light whereas war is darkness.

Peace is life; war is death.

Peace is guidance; war is error.

Peace is the foundation of God; war is
satanic institution.

Peace is the illumination of the world of
humanity. . . ."

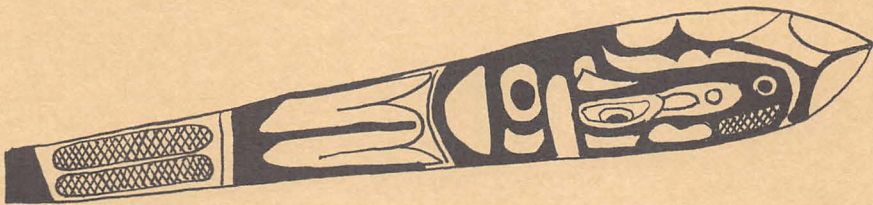


"Under the leadership and training
of God the real shepherd,
all will be protected and preserved.
He will lead them in green pastures
of happiness and sustenance
and they will attain to the
real goal of existence.

This is the blessing and benefit of unity;
this is the outcome of love.

This is the sign of the
 'Most Great Peace';
this is the star of the oneness
 of the human world.

Consider how blessed this
 condition will be."



NOTES

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- 3 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, III, 641.
Ibid., II, 270.
Hopi Pueblo.
- 4 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 168.
Bahá'u'lláh, *Prayers and Meditations*, p. 236.
Sioux.
- 5 Bahá'u'lláh, *The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys*, p. 23.
Bahá'u'lláh, in *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 12.
Ibid., p. 70.
Sioux.
- 6 Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 62.
Ibid., p. 16.
Pueblo.
- 7 The Báb, quoted in *The Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 39.
Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 177.
Bahá'u'lláh, *The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 6.
Acoma Pueblo.
- 8 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, II, 318.
Ojibway.
- 9 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 52.
'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 205.
Ojibway.
- 10 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, III, 541.
'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 54.
Zuni.
- 11 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 45.
Ibid., p. 49.
Ibid., p. 79.
Zuni.
- 12 Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 287.
Ibid., p. 333.
Papago. Canada.
- 13 Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, pp. 289-90.
Ibid., p. 49.
Laguna Pueblo.
- 14 'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in *Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 31.
'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 91.
Tesuque Pueblo.
- 15 Bahá'u'lláh, *Hidden Words*, p. 20.
Pueblo. Maricopa.
- 16 Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 206.
'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation*, p. 182.
Sioux.
- 17 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation*, p. 57.
Sioux.
- 18 'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in *Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 31.
East Canada.
- 19 'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in *Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 31.
Ibid.
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