

Home of Baha-Allah ⁴⁹

Acca Syria

July 7th 1914

Dear friends!

The translation of a comprehensive Tablet revealed to Mr. Bannerjee, the founder of ^{the} Devalaya Society in Calcutta may constitute a fitting contribution to the Bahai world from the ^{Blessed} Home of Baha-o-Allah, where at this time and hour the Torch of Guidance is held aloft by Abdul-Baha—the Illuminator of hearts and souls. He writes:—

"O thou viceroy of Reality! His Highness the Merciful ^{One} hath caused the appearance of the splendors of Love and Affinity in the world of humanity,—so that the individuals of mankind be perfectly united together and the rays of Unity be revealed amongst the children of men. Hence He sent forth the Holy Manifestations, inspired their hearts with the contents of the heavenly Books and instituted divine Religions;—in order that these sanctified Personages, these revealed Books, these religions of God may become the means of Unity and Accord, Love and good-fellowship in the human world.

Should we study the divine religions with the perception of Truth we ~~would~~ ^{then} conclude that their underlying principle is the One Reality. All the Religions of God are ^{the} Reality.

50 Reality does not accept multiplicity and division. But alas! that that fundamental Reality is laid aside and forgotten and a catalogue of creeds, dogmas and rites have taken its place which are the basis of difference, the cause of hatred and prejudice and the reason of warfare and bloodshed. Therefore the Original Aim as regards the appearance of the Holy Manifestations and the establishment of the Religions of God is totally forgotten and quite neglected.

"When this impenetrable gloom - that is the gloom of the traditions of the forefathers and ancestors - surrounded the world and the pristine, primal Light of the divine Religions was changed into darkness of the ideas of men, - then the true Morn dawned and the Sun of Reality arose from the horizon of Persia, reflecting in the mirror of the world of humanity the Effulgence of ^{the} Heavenly Unity. Thus He (Baha-Allah) destroyed the foundation of the structure of blind dogmas, and human-made creeds and rituals which are the results of ignorant prejudices. It is owing to this fact that this Light is spreading with the greatest rapidity in all the countries of the world. The influence of these Divine Teachings in the heart of the world is similar to the influence of the Spirit over the bodies. ...

Consequently through the Breathes of this Divine Spirit, the followers of ^{the} different religions in Persia have rent asunder the veil of superstitions, are freed from the effect of unenlightened doctrines and have attained to the beloved of Reality. These antagonistic Faiths ~~are~~ united together with the bond of perfect Love and Amity. For this reason great meetings are organized in the which are represented Mohammodans, Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians and now ^{and} then Buddhists, and likewise various nationalities, ^{such} as Turks, Arabs, Parsees, Persians, Kurds, English, French and Americans ^{who} associate and mingle with each other like unto brothers. Similar unto the sheep of God they are grazing in the meadow of Truth under the protecting staff of the heavenly Shepherd.

Shouldst thou reflect with the insight of reality thou wilt observe that these antiquated and superannuated dogmas have ever been the cause of massacre and carnage amongst nations and peoples.

As this Cycle is the Cycle of sciences ~~there~~ must needs be New Teachings, a New Revelation is required and a New Life is wanted. The minds and the hearts refute the veracity of ancient opinions. New Ideals are called for and new principles are urgently demanded which

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may fill the requirements of this age, be as the spirit of this century and as the light of this period.

Search, labor, investigate, work and show extraordinary effort, — so that the Centre of the Light of Reality like unto the Witness of Love may become revealed in the assemblage of mankind. Arise thou with such Heavenly Power and ^{such} Divine Confirmation as to move and stir that great continent of India.

Upon thee be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Another important Tablet to a New York Bahai is as follows:—

"O thou who art firm in the Covenant! Thy letter was received. According to the clear text of the Book of Akdas and the explicit Contents of the Book of the Covenant Abdul Baha is the Interpreter of all the Words and Books of the Blessed Perfection and not only the Book of Akdas. This question is clear and evident to those who are informed with the writings and Tablets (of Baha-o-llah). Were this not the case, every one would have given an interpretation according to his own inclination, ^{and} considering his own interpretation preferable to the interpretation of others and this

would naturally ~~lead~~ ^{lead} to great difference. If some one interprets ~~one~~ verse of the verses of God and his interpretation is not approved by Abdul Baha, it is not authoritative. Now ~~it~~ is not the time of interpretation. This is the time of teaching. All the believers must unloose the tongue of teaching the Cause of God. For teaching is the means of the guidance of all the inhabitants of the earth, teaching is the cause of the illumination of mankind, teaching is conducive to the enlightenment of the world of humanity, teaching is promotive to the Confirmations of the Breathes of the Holy Spirit. This is the most great affair! But if a soul on reading one of the ^{Blessed} verses utters an explanation which does not harm the Cause, do not oppose him; for his talk is based on explanation (elucidation) and not ^{on} interpretation.

Upon thee be Baha El Ahba!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Another Tablet to a Brooklyn believer is as follows:—

Thy letter was received. From its contents it became evident that praise be to God the lights of the Kingdom are spreading, the souls are listening to the Word, the sleepy ones are becoming awakened and the blind ones are receiving the sight. This news imparted joy.

Today the power of the Kingdom grants victory to those souls who are confirmed in the service and are the cause of the guidance of the people. The person who is a herald to the Divine Kingdom is like unto a lamp and the souls who possess high ideals are like the moths. When the lamp is ignited unquestionably all the moths gather around it. Therefore as much as you are able summon the people to the Kingdom of God - thus you may become favored at the Threshold of His Holiness Baha-Allah....."

This morning the Beloved called a number of the believers into his presence. We sat there silent for ten or fifteen minutes but he did not say a word. He was preoccupied and ^{now and then} his eyes were shut. Then we left him oppressed with a feeling that the Master was sad on account of some reason over which we had no knowledge.

The two Arab believers arrived last night from Haifa and had the supreme privilege of meeting the Master. They left again this morning and will stay in Haifa till the Beloved returns which may not be very far off. I am very happy here, because I sleep in the room where many feasts were held in the Presence of Baha-Allah and which was at the time the room of His Secretary. Many, many tablets were revealed while ^{he was} sitting or walking to and fro. The air is full of His Wonderful Spirit. Oh! I wish you were here!