

NINE BASIC BEHAI PRINCIPLES

TAUGHT BY BEHA 'U'LLAH

1. The oneness and singleness of God.
2. The oneness of Mankind.
3. Equality of Races.
4. Equality of Men and Women.
5. Harmony of Science and Religion.
6. Religion Without Clergy.
7. Universal Language.
8. Universal Tribunal.
9. Universal Peace.

O, my Servants!

Settle your differences peacefully, and hearken to what ye were admonished by the Supreme Pen, and follow not the extremely wicked.

Let not the world beguile you as it beguiled the people of yore.

Obey the ordinances of God and His Laws, then tread This Path which was established by God the Truth.

Those who cast aside oppression and ruthlessness, and hold fast to Piety, are regarded of the highest on the part of God, and they would be extolled by the Supreme concourse and the dwellers of this Station, which by the Name of God was sublime.

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

From the Book of ACKDAS.

BEHAI

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FOREWORD



EXTEND an apology to the beloved friends and kind readers of this periodical for my inability to publish the Fall Quarterly in 1934.

Earthly obligations prevented me from performing my greatest desire and real duty, "The Service to Mankind." Unless something unforeseen happens, I assure you of my promptness in the future.

May Ninteen Thirty-five be a year of greater progress, the awakening era of realization that we are all one in humanity, branches of one root, leaves of one tree, drops of one sea, and as such, to live in love and unity with each other and with all the people of the world, to glory not in ourself, but in our kind, and to love not only our native land, but the entire world.

Thus we will become the exponents of the great principles taught by The Eternal Tree, The Center of Divine Knowledge, our Great Master "Beha 'U'llah."

I call the attention of my good readers to the Article entitled "The Decapitation of the Seven Martyrs," which appears in this issue.

Indeed it is a testimonial which should impress upon our mind and conscience, the great tribute of the early Disciples; the noble souls and the advance believers in this movement, they who made the great sacrifice for the enlightenment and the progress of their fellow beings.

I am grateful to my dear friend, the Magyar-American Philosopher Poet, Count Gasper Bela Daruvary, for his regular contribution to this periodical. His exquisite and inspiring poems show indeed a great depth of understanding.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.



PEACE



IS IT possible for almost two billions of people of such widely differing ideas, upbringing, religions, traditions, race, color, etc., which compose this world, to live in harmony and peace, and give justice to one another?

A study of the history of the world, of each race, of each religion, of each country, and the conquests due to the greed of the more powerful countries, would lead almost anyone to say: "No, it cannot be—it is impossible. It is against human nature itself."

Yet the Bible does promise that there will be a thousand years of peace. So far this seems as though it were but a promise, and like most promises not to be kept. But is this one like that? No, for it was made by God, and, therefore, it shall come to pass and mankind cannot prevent its fulfillment! To prove that, it is only necessary to investigate if other promises or prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled. To those students of the Bible who know the occurrences of the past hundred years, the statement is correct, and they are looking forward to seeing the Most Great Peace really established upon this earth! Prophecies in the *Old Testament, written twenty-five hundred years ago, and in the New Testament, nineteen hundred years ago, have been fulfilled to the letter, yes, to the last iota. Daniel even gives the date when this one thousand years of peace will begin.*

What is the force that will push humanity into peace—peace so perfect that it can last one thousand years? Religion is the only force strong or powerful enough to accomplish this purpose!

Religion is a much misunderstood force—misunderstood by its devotees, as well as those who stand outside and scoff. True religion is not man-made as so many like to believe, but is direct from God, and God only. Our English word shows this in its derivation: *Ligio*, meaning tie, and *re*, back; together mean, the tie that binds us back; back to what? Back to our Creator, God. The purpose of true religion is to establish peace and unity with God, and with each other.

Some will say that religion is the cause of most of our wars—how can it be, also, the cause of peace? Religion is like unto a sharp sword. If carried and used by a madman and an ignoramous, certainly, it would cause trouble; but, if used by the strong arm of a sane and wise man, it would be the weapon of protection to the human family, to

A VOICE FROM THE EAST

A message to the people of understanding throughout the World.



HE Fountain head of knowledge said: "O different Creeds! Look forward unto agreement and be enlightened by the light of concord; for the sake of God assemble in a place and remove from amongst ye that which is the cause of dissension.

Whence came these rare jewels of wisdom? The speaker . . . who was He, and what was his object? Who are the different creeds, and what is it that must be removed, before mankind may hope to live in harmony?

A voice arose from the ancient fortified city of Akka, in Palestine. A voice of infinite wisdom and knowledge, patience and love for all mankind; our Master Beha 'U'llah. One who gave freely of his great understanding, with no object, save the elevation and progress of His fellowmen.

"O different creeds, which are the cause of dissension! Are they not the religious heads of the great nations, followed in kind by the heads of smaller nations? We have but to recall the events of the last World War. With our own eyes and ears, we observed and heard the enslavement, martyrdom and suffering of countless souls in all parts of this Globe, wrought in the name of the different creeds, by the religious leaders, who misguided the innocent followers and used the inspired teachings for their personal desires and aims, causing dissension amongst the people of the world, dividing the brothers of humanity, and as in the innumerable wars of the past, destroyed life and property, cities and nations.

Religious dissension is likened unto a blazing forest fire, which starts with a spark and ends, generally beyond control, destroying green and dead vegetation alike. To this the history of the world bears witness.

Altho each different creed teaches unity, accusing others of dissension and strife, if they would observe with the keen eye, and speak with the tongue of justice, they could but testify that now, as in the past ages, religious hatred is the foundation and cause of many unmentionable events.

The spiritual teachings, given to mankind through the inspired sages which are revealed for the purpose of enlightening the understanding and elevating the souls of humanity out of the mire of ignorance and superstition, became the whips of the leaders of the many creeds, whips which were used upon innocent, undeveloped and unlightened individuals, exploiting and oppressing the people who sincerely followed

them. Paying dearly with their lives and fortunes. O! Religion, what atrocious crimes have been committed in thy name!

The result is here, as we observe today; humanity enmass has rebelled against all the religious creeds, understanding them only as a medium through which the leaders receive benefit, elevating their stations in life, fulfilling their desires and giving the right to rule over the oppressed masses.

Behold! to this great principle, "Religion without Clergy." Beha 'U'llah commanded that His teachings are our leaders, and we accept them literally without interpretation. Indeed by this command He released us from the bondage of the clergy.

In these days of fast material progress, modern scientific discoveries have proven to be of great service to the inhabitants of this world, humanity with its great unlimited power of thought, has also advanced greatly, imaginations become realities, and the hidden mysteries are no longer hidden to those who understand. Yet in this age of fast progress with such advance in human development, it is pitiful to observe that the so-called intellectual people belittle their true station, that divinely endowed individuals lack confidence and self-understanding.

Free souls, yet remaining enslaved, allowing themselves and others to be caught in the meshes of religious superstition, to be ruled over by a small group of hand picked leaders. O friends and brothers, withdraw from your deluded seclusion and become your noble selves. Arise with great energy and vigor and fly in the vast and unlimited space of freedom. Think, and allow not yourself or your brothers to become entangled in the cobwebs of imagination and religious intrigue.

The aforesaid tablet of our Great Master was revealed for the elevation of all mankind, yet it behooves those of us who are endeavoring to follow His commands to be the first to eliminate the cause of dissension and all practices which are in violation of His teachings. We are in truth all members of one family and brothers in humanity. Be friendly with one another, and consider no one your enemy, especially those noble souls who traveled with you in the Valley of Knowledge, in search of truth, and received the spiritual food from the Fountainhead of Knowledge.

Should anyone be unfriendly, befriend him, and with the language of love and kindness guide him and bid him come and share with you the unlimited fruit of knowledge which you have attained.

In many of His tablets Beha 'U'llah repeatedly said that His only object in enduring untold hardships and calamities was to be able to reveal from His great understanding the way to extinguish the fires of hatred and animosity and to bring unity and harmony amongst people

of the earth. O friends: arise noble souls and fulfill His commands! Become the shining stars of the heaven of kindness and reflect as such upon all beings. Follow His footsteps, and with united efforts, using the weapons of His commands, endeavor to awaken and save your brothers in humanity from the ever renewed web of religious prejudice and its vicious corruption.

In this message I have no other motive but to awaken and elevate the thoughts of my brothers in humanity. THINK! my brothers; and may peace and happiness encompass you at all times.

GHUSNI AKBAR

January, 1935, Acre, Palestine.

MOHAMMED ALI BEHAI.

I extend my humble gratitude to the chosen son of Beha 'U'llah Ghusni Akbar for his timely contribution to this periodical. Indeed, it is a great honor to publish his instructive messages.

The world knows little of the services which this great personage has rendered to the Behai cause, as he has always avoided publicity, detested notoriety and shunned self-glory.

For the enlightenment of my readers, I shall record hereunder one of his services of which I was fortunate in being an eye witness and a participant.

In the year eighteen eighty-nine, by the command of Beha 'U'llah, he journeyed to East India for the sole purpose of publishing some of the sacred Books; India being the only Oriental country in which printing presses were available at that time.

I was commanded to join him also, though in my teens. We traveled by steamship from Haifa to Port Said, remaining there a few days with the friends; then proceeded to Aden, and from there to Bombay.

This being my first visit to the foreign lands, I was greatly impressed, especially with the customs, habits and the sincerity of the natives of India. We remained in Bombay over a year, during which time Ghusni Akbar succeeded in organizing a printing firm called "Naseri Press," and published five volumes of the teachings of Beha 'U'llah in the Persian and the Arabic languages.

After our return to Akka, copies of the said volumes were brought to the presence of Beha 'U'llah and received His approval.

Indeed, this was a great service to the cause, and deserves the gratitude of all the Behaists, for to this day, of which forty-four years have elapsed, these are the only outstanding volumes of the teachings of Beha 'U'llah ever published.

I hope to be able to present to my readers the Biography of this great personage in the near future.

EDITOR.



This portrait was taken in Bombay, India, A. D., 1890

Seated the Editor
SHUA ULLAH BEHAI

Standing
MIRZA HADI AFNAN, *who later became son-in-law of*
HIS EXCELLENCY GHUSNI AZAM (**ABDUL BAHA**)
and so father of SHOGHI EFFENDI, of Haifa, Palestine

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



WHAT is innate knowledge?

A. Inborn knowledge possessed by all the Sages.

Q. Did Beha 'U'llah possess innate knowledge?

A. Undoubtedly! His life teachings and His prophecies which came to pass proves His innate and divine knowledge.

Q. Who first announced this newest Atomic theory?

A. It was hinted at by Beha 'U'llah years before Science had discovered it. In the Book of Certainty, which was revealed by Beha 'U'llah in Bagdad, Mesopotamia, year 1862, He said "It has given to a drop the waves of a Sea and endowed a mote with the splendor of a Sun." In the Book of Ackdas, He said: "Think ye not that we have caused the laws to descend unto you, but rather we have opened the seal of the sealed Nectar by the finger of Might and Power. Ponder over this O thinkers."

Q. What is good and evil?

A. Everything in existence is good but can become evil through our actions. The power of speech is one of the faculties of man through which we know his innermost. Truth and lie both are considered speech and its creation was good but when misused, became evil. Fire produces heat, and it is very beneficial in our daily life, but dangerous when improperly used. Thorn is food to some animals, but may cause destruction when applied externally. Poison's Nature is destruction, but also beneficial when used properly.

Q. What is Heaven and Hell?

A. We contain both! When in the state of perfection and clear conscience, we are in Heaven, blessed with the mercy of the Creator; when in the state of imperfection and doubtful conscience, we are in Hell, a condition we have produced by our acts and deeds which are contrary to the laws of God and Nature.

Q. What was the Station of the "Bab?"

A. Elijah! The forerunner of He whom God shall manifest.

Q. What was the Station of "Beha 'U'llah"?

A. The Fulfiller! The Manifestation.

Q. Who was the Founder of the Behai Religion?

A. Beha 'U'llah. Who spent forty years in revealing tablets for the enlightenment of mankind. Invited all the rulers of the World, including the Pope, to come to the Kingdom of the Father. Completed His mission on earth and departed in 1892.

Q. When did the news of this progressive movement reach the Occident, and by whom?

A. By travelers and historians beginning 1850. Hereunder, I record a few names:

O. H. Wright and J. Perkin, German Oriental Society, Leipzig, A. D. 1851;

Lady Sheil, London, A. D., 1856;

Robert B. M. Binning, London, A. D., 1857;

The Bulletine de L'Academic Imperial, St. Petersburg, A. D., 1864;

M. de Count de Gabinean, Paris, A. D., 1865;

Dr. Jacob Edward Polak, Leipsic, A. D., 1865;

John Ussler, London, A. D., 1865;

Robert Grant Watson, London, A. D., 1866;

Herman Hambery, Pest, A. D., 1867;

Baron Alfred Von Kremer, Leipzig, A. D., 1868;

Dr. Herman Ethe, Berlin, A. D., 1872;

M. D. Gilbert, Journal Asiatique, A. D., 1873;

John Piggot, London, A. D., 1874;

Lieut. Baron Max Von Phielman, London, A. D., 1875;

Baron Victor Rosen, St. Petersburg, A. D., 1877;

Lawrence Oliphant, Edinburgh and London, A. D., 1877;

M. Clement Huart, Paris, A. D., 1889;

Prof. Edward G. Browne, London, A. D., 1890.

Q. Who first brought this Message to the United States?

A. The late Dr. Ibrahim G. Kheiralla, D.A.D.D., was the first to introduce the teachings of "Beha 'U'llah," and founded the Society of Behaists in the United States of America, A. D., 1893.



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8. Universal Tribunal.
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"My outward speaketh to my innermost, and my innermost to my outward, that there is no one else, in the kingdom, besides Me. But the people are in deep ignorance. Verily, the Branches, who branched from the Tree, are My fingerposts amidst My creatures, and My fragrances between heaven and earth. Do ye see, that there is a partner or an equal to God, your Lord? By the Lord of the worlds, No! Therefore, say ye not, that which God doth not permit, fear the Merciful, and be of those who reason."

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

From the Book of Heykel.

BEHAI

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FOREWORD

THE BEHAI FAITH has spread rapidly throughout the world, although less than a century since its birth.

The name of its founder, the last Sun of Reality, which appeared on the Horizon of the East "Beha 'U'llah is known all over the Globe, and its principles are gradually being practiced by individuals and nations.

The aim of this quarterly is to spread its teachings, and is presented to the readers absolutely free as "Truth ought not to be sold."

I extend my gratitude to the Librarians and readers for their encouraging letters and kind interest they have displayed, and hope that through our mutual efforts, we, the inhabitants of this world will, through greater understanding, live more in harmony with the plan of the Supreme Architect.

This Periodical can be secured from the principle libraries throughout the world. Should your home library be unable to supply you with a copy, please inform the Editor, sending your name and correct address, also the name of the library, and in due time you shall both receive a copy gratis.

I call the attention of my kind readers to the article entitled "The Experience of an Occidental Savant" which is reprinted from the works of the well-known historian, the late Professor Edward G. Browne, M. A. M. B., of the University of Cambridge, England, who was fortunate to pay his tribute to Beha 'U'llah in the year 1890.

I regret to disappoint my dear questioners, as shortage of space obliged me to eliminate its appearance in this issue. All questions received will be answered in the coming issue.

Your co-operation is urgently requested for the progress of the thoughts of mankind.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

THE EXPERIENCE OF AN OCCIDENTAL SAVANT

(Reprinted from the works of the late Professor Edward G. Browne, M. A. M. B., of the University of Cambridge, England. Published—Year 1891)



WE ENTERED Acre towards sun-down on April 13th, and, wending our way through the fine bazaars, on the smooth stone pavement of which our horses' hoofs slipped as on ice, alighted at the house of a Christian merchant named Ibrahim Khuri, who accorded to us the usual hospitable reception. That same evening I sent a note to the Babi agent, which was brought back by the messenger unopened, with the disagreeable news that my mysterious correspondent had gone to Haifa with Beha's eldest son 'Abbas Efendi, (Abdul Baha.) This was most unwelcome information; for as Mr. Eyres was leaving the next day for Haifa, and I did not wish to trespass further on the hospitality of Ibrahim Khuri, it was absolutely essential that I should obtain help from the Babis in finding other quarters. Evidently there was nothing for it but to wait for the morrow and what it might bring forth.

Next morning I enquired if there was any representative of the absent agent who might be cognizant of his movements, and was conducted to a shop in the bazaar, where I found a tall handsome youth clothed entirely in white save for his red fez, from beneath which a mass of glossy black hair swept back behind his ears at the lower level of which it terminated. This youth, accosting me in Turkish, enquired first somewhat haughtily what might be my business. I answered him in Persian, whereat he appeared surprised; and, after hearing what I had to say, bade me follow him. He led me to a house situated near the seashore, at the door of which we were met by an old Persian with long grizzled hair and beard, whose scrutinizing gaze was rendered more rather than less formidable by an enormous pair of spectacles. This man, after conversing for a few moments with my guide in an under tone, led me into a large room devoid of all furniture save a sort of bench or divan which ran round its four sides. I had scarcely seated myself when another Persian, evidently superior in authority to the other two, entered and saluted me. He was a man of middle height and middle age, with a keen and not unpleasing countenance, whereof the lower part was concealed by a short crisp beard. After bidding me reseal myself (for I had, of course, risen on his entrance) and ordering his servant (for such, I discovered, was the old man who had met me at the door) to give me a cup of coffee, he proceeded to subject me to a most minute cross-

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“O people of Beha, consort with all the people of the world with joy and fragrance. If ye have a word of essence whereof others than you are devoid, communicate it in the language of love and kindness; if it be received and be effective, the object is attained; and if not, leave him to himself and deal not harshly with him, but pray for him. The language of kindness is the lodestone of hearts and the food of the soul; it stands in the relation of ideas to words and is as a horizon for the shining of the Sun of Wisdom and Knowledge.

“We command all people to embrace the Great Peace. It is the greatest means for the preservation of human beings. Let the rulers of different horizons hold fast to establish peace; it is the best cause for the happiness and prosperity of mankind.”

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

BEHAI

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FOREWORD



GAZING with the eyes of intellect upon this planet earth, we will observe that all in existence testifies to the greatness of the Supreme Architect "God."

Each spark speaks of a sun, every atom contains a seed, and each green leaf represents the work of a mother plant.

The mineral Kingdom produces perfect specimens through slow process, the vegetable Kingdom produces perpetually each season and the animal Kingdom is productive also.

Behold! What are we the members of the human Kingdom producing?

We are gifted with a great power "mind," and through our thinking faculties we have progressed; Built and ruined empires, unfortunately not for the love of humanity, but for our selfish desires.

In each Cycle we had great Teachers who brought us the message of Truth, but the words of the Wise did not appeal to the masses, and they were herded to slaughter, by some iron-hand leader who through the spirit of Nationalism or religion fanaticism misguided the innocent individuals, and made them to follow him ignorantly and to take arms against their brothers in humanity.

History has repeated itself time and again and mankind has been the victim of circumstances each time.

With careful study of the life and teachings of the past Great Messengers, we will observe that each one had an object in His appearance and a Message to us.

Adam spoke of the Creation of the Universe and its beauties. Enock taught "Eternal Life." Noah saved humanity from the deluge of ignorance restoring it to the Ark of Knowledge. Moses saved the Israelite from Pharaoh. Buddha taught the Brotherhood of Man. Zaradust guided the Iranians to the Light of Truth. Jesus sacrificed His life for the sake of Unity amongst humanity. Mohammed saved the Arabs from Idolatry.

All of them bowed in reverence to the Supreme Governor of the Universe "God," and the essences of their teachings are the same, "Love of our Kind, better understanding of ourselves, Unity and Harmony of Mankind."

In the last century a Great Teacher appeared on the Horizon of the East, "Beha 'U'llah." He brought us the same message, only more useful for today "Truth is one though spoken in different tongues."

In the beginning of the Book of "Hidden Words" our Great Master Beha 'U'llah said, "This is that which hath descended from the Source of Majesty, through the tongue of power and strength upon the prophets of the past. We have taken its essences and clothed them with the garment of brevity, as a favor to the beloved, that they may fulfill the Covenant of God; that they may perform in themselves that which He has entrusted to them, and attain the victory by virtue of devotion in the land of the Spirit.

O Son of Spirit!

The first counsel is: Possess a good, a pure, and enlightened heart, that thou mayest possess a Kingdom eternal, immortal, ancient, and without end.

O Son of Spirit!

Justice is loved above all. Neglect it not, if thou desirest Me. By it thou wilt be strengthened to perceive things with thine own eyes and not by the eyes of men, to know them by thine own knowledge and not by the knowledge of any in the world. Meditate on this—how thou oughtest to be. Justice is of My bounty to thee and of My providence over thee; therefore, keep it ever before thy sight."

The pages of this Quarterly are covered with His Messages.

Indeed they are most useful today, a day in which the peace of the entire world is threatened.

I call the attention of my good readers to a Message, entitled "A Voice from the East," which is written by His eldest living son Ghusni Akbar Mohammed Ali Behai., appearing in this issue.

I earnestly ask you to grant his sincere request, and pray in your own way for Universal Peace and better understanding amongst the children of man.

Trusting through our mutual efforts, humanity will realize that we are all members of one family regardless of race, language and habits, and there is more happiness in love and unity than in discord and enmity.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

A VOICE FROM THE EAST

(A message to mankind)



MY BROTHERS in Humanity:

These are critical days in which the entire world is threatened with another conflict, socially, economically and politically.

The hearts of the individuals are filled with hatred towards one another through the spirit of Nationalism.

The sun of peace is covered with the clouds of preparedness for war.

The lamp of unity is dimmed, treaties violated, covenants broken, natural laws discarded, moral obligations forgotten and discord substituted for harmony.

I sincerely request every seeker of truth throughout the world, to pray in his own way, for Universal peace, and better understanding amongst the children of man.

Ponder over this message of our Great Master "Beha Ullah."

"Let justice be your army and your weapon reason, be characterized by forgiveness and virtue and do what induces happiness to those who are near to God."

"The Glory is not in loving yourselves but rather in loving your kind, the virtue is not for him who loves his native land, but rather for him who loves the World."

Humanity is in need of His instructive principles today more than ever.

Through their adoption and practice mankind will become better and live in greater happiness and harmony with one another.

Therefore, I invite you my brothers to come, search and study His wonderful teachings.

My entire Library, is at your command, which contains numerous unpublished volumes; still in manuscript form. An Ocean, full of pearls of Wisdom, to gain Knowledge from. A Universe full of shining stars, to be enlightened with.

In this invitation I have no object but your elevation, progress and happiness.

Hearken to my suggestion for the sake of truth.

November, 1935
Acre, Palestine

GHUSNI AKBAR,
Mohammed Ali Behai

THE DIVINE GIFT



WE THE CHILDREN OF A GOD, who in his divine dictum created this great universe, endowed mankind with a great gift, and a wisdom to recognize the sanctity of His philosophy often prompts one in moments of silent reverie as to whether we truly understand Diety's real purpose in this creation.

I as a humble disciple of God's teaching deplorably recognize the human errors and omissions of His children and can only reiterate that to abide by His precepts, learning life's lesson from out the book of understanding, traveling the path of righteousness day by day, leads one in the direction of establishing an individual heavenly haven, wherein lies the capacity to render service to humanity, extend tender mercies to broken reeds, comfort those in grief and sorrow, uplift those that show a tendency to fall by the wayside, and advise those who lack understanding, so that their days to follow will be crowned with joy, and rewards from Him, the creator of all creation.

Therefore human souls lift your heads up high, purge your hearts of all antipathy, animosity, prejudice and greed, cleanse your minds with heavenly dew and establish the resolve that a life of paradise for you and your comrades is here, just awaiting acceptance. Try a good portion of God's prescription, consisting of a pure mind, tenderness, consideration, and a sincere love for all mankind.

You will find that the Supreme Message to be found in the teachings of all the great Master Teachers, throughout the ages, has been the divine attempt to open the mind and soul of man as to when, how, and in what dosage one is to take this prescription. Let me I pray, try to answer this question.

Having traveled the various roads and byways, through life's great experiences, partaken of the bitter cup of pain, sorrow, lust and animal desire; finding them all lacking in satisfaction, I at last turned to the divine intelligence, with which each and every human ego is endowed, and therein found solace and understanding. So be it that each and everyone must search within the precepts of one's self, for there and there alone will one find the answer.

I pray this message prove far reaching, and penetrate the hearts of those open to a true desire for truth and understanding. Untold peace and happiness await you, they are your divine birthright, for providence

displays no partiality, and stands with open arms, awaiting all who wish to enter His hingedom of golden rewards. Qualify my brethren, prove your self worthy of the endowment of the greatest of all gifts, the power that makes a man, a Master. Whether he use this gift for good or ill, depends entirely upon himself, for use it he must, the "Gift of Creation," or better understood as the "Gift of Thought."

We are well aware of the fact that we all think, but how many are intelligently aware of controlled thought. Few there are; unless through scientific study or divine revelation. Thought is the concrete expression of the divinity of man, for man only, has been given the power to create, through the Power of directed thought.

If we are to continue to exist, it can only be by retaining intelligent hold upon this central controlling principle in ourselves. To this end therefore our endeavors should be directed, otherwise all our studies will only lead us into a confused labyrinth of principles and counterprinciples, which will be considerably worse than the state of ignorant simplicity from which we started.

The central controlling principle of thought is Will. It is the Will that says "I Am," and therefore when the enlightened and directed Will shall have learned to identify itself perfectly with the limitless powers of knowledge, judgment and creative thought which are ever at its disposal, then we as individual souls or creative thought centers, will have attained the wholeness, and all limitations will have passed away forever, then and then only will we have attained the full use of our birthright.

Beha 'U'llah so beautifully expressed this great truth in His "Hidden Words."

"O Son of Spirit!

I have created thee rich: Why doth thou make thyself poor? Noble have I made thee: Why dost thou degrade thyself? Of the essence of knowledge have I manifested thee: Why searchest thou for another than me? From the clay of love I have kneaded thee: Why seekest thou another? Turn thy sight unto thyself, that thou mayest find Me standing within thee, powerful, mighty and supreme."

ROSA ELECTA GAZVINI.

HIS BELOVED GARDEN OF RIZWAN

*(Reverently Dedicated to—GHUSNI AKBAR, the Venerable Mohammed Ali Behai,
Who is an inspiration to every true and faithful follower of BEHA 'U'LLAH.)*

HERE 'NEATH the shining globes of apricot fruit
Hanging all golden mid their emerald leaves.
I sit and dream my dream of other days
When I, a youth, aflamed with love of life
And all they offer, walked these garden paths
With joyous feet: heart tuned to loveliness
Of nature's harmonies. At dawn I rose
Ever to music of a myriad sounds.
Music of running water, singing of birds,
Of swaying lily-buds upon the breeze.

This morning I awakened with the sun,
But I am old that once was young, and since
My back is bent with years of labouring,
His glory had arisen o'er the hills;
Ere this beloved garden welcome thee
As one would welcome a beloved friend,
With glowing heart and smile of graciousness.
Alas! my friend, my Master walks no more
Within His Joneina; yet 'tis for His sake
And for the sake of Him my Master's friend
Whose earthly dusts rests near the Palace of Behja in peace.
But His Spirit still walks its loveliness;
That feeble hands still find some work to do,
And feeble feet still wander in its shade.

Thou dost not know the story, sir? Then thou
Art stranger in our land. But rest awhile
Beneath this mulberry and I will bring
Some bread and fruit with honey from the hive;
Wine of my Master's vintage such as He
Would offer thee as ever was His wont
When travellers came weary to His gate.

* * *

'Twas on a day in spring, like unto this,
Night three-score years ago. Upon the hills
Against dark glossy leaves, the myrtle tree
Bore the white scented wonder of her flowers,
As though foretelling her triumphant days
When at the great Feast of Ingathering
With joy she calls her sister trees to share
(Olive and walnut, willow and pomegranate)
In thanksgiving for our deliverance
From many years of exiled wandering.
My heart was singing and my feet were light
And swift to answer the beloved feet
Of Him my Father as He came
Across the brook beneath the bowery wreath.

Then I beheld His face all aglow
And from His great joy my heart tender grow,
I ran to Him with silent questioning,
For my poor lips were dumb before such joy of reasoning
That looked from out His eyes. At length He spoke:
"Go, GHUSNI AKBAR," He said, "within the house,
And with all haste bid thou my servants bring
Of all my wine cups the most precious ones,
Precious, thou know'st, since down the centuries
It comes from fathers' father. A treasure of treasuries."
I learned the news that He, my Master, will tonight
Eat of the Feast of Mahdy with those His friends
The ones whom He has chosen to Himself.

The cup He bade me bring was more than rare,
None other in the world like unto it,
So ancient was it, none could ever dare
Tell when was fashioned, nor who might engraved it.
For timeless time, the Lords of Kitabul-Ackdas
Had treasured it, and through the ages long
Held its beauty priceless. Some there are who say with power,

When Lucifer had fall'n by Michael's sword. A song
A stone of marvellous splendor fell from Paradise,
And from this stone, with song offering, o' might
Myriad Angels (ere the pride which circumscribed
Had seized that mighty spirit), man had made from that dearth
A vessel beautiful and full of light,
More meet for heaven's vintage than for earth's.

With trembling hands my Father took the cup,
Then left the garden, turning city-ward.
And all His bearing breathed a mystic beam
Of such splendour, till then, I had not seen
In my beloved Master. Sir, I cannot tell
To any ear the sadness which on that night fell
Night of that day on which we saw Him die.
But He, my Magyar friend, is Master of all
And conqueror of Death, since He is Beha 'U'llah!
For we who know Him hold Him in our hearts
Enshrined forever. E'en as once enshrined,
In the Palace of Joy. His Body laid on marble couch,
Brought thither by His friends for sacred burial,
Folded mid perfumed breath of Araby
Crushed from the hearts of roses and myrrh.
Then flamed the Great Awakening across mind's Arcady!
And Heaven and Earth flung wide her gates of His peace.



I am an old man now, and time has brought for me
Its many joys and mental sorrowings,
But at that First day dawning I was young
And up betimes; scarce were the birds astir on wings,
Only a distant twittered fluttering
Told of their presence. Overhead there swung
The red-tipped starlike flowers of incense trees,
And on the distant plains, like dancing girls
The scarlet, silken-clad anemones
Swayed on the music of the morning air.

Mid saffron crocuses and seame.
With beating heart attuned to nature's sway,
And singing her silent song, I went my way.
Suddenly, within my path, there came
An unseen presence, and about my head
The morning breeze seemed, in its mystic swing,
Like some pure pinion of an Angel's wing.

That is the story, friend, that He, the Glory of God
(For this we knew Him, now since our blind eyes
Were opened). Walked many years on this holy sod!
Manifesting unto many, teaching those of heavenly power
Whom He would bid to follow in His steps and love sublime,
And ordaining them to go forth throughout the world proud,
Proclaiming the good news of Brotherhood to all mankind,
And after He had taught them they all heaved a sigh,
For He left them, and about Him softly came.
A cloud that hid His beauty from their gaze,
As, watching, He ascended into beauteous Rizwan.

And dost thou marvel at my story, young bard?
Yet He, my friend, Ruler of Meshrickul-Azkar,
Because of it and of the truth convey
These many years long since He hath sailed away
To distant worlds to preach the living God
To those who sit in darkness and still clings to the sod.
And I, his son, servant, who again shall see
That form of love, and hear those eager steps
Amid the pure lilies in wondrous, eternal Rizwan,
Yet, since a greater love than mine hath need
Of Him, he who could but follow, leaving all:
His home, his friends, his wealth and heeding the call,
For, ere He went He called me to His side
And bade me tend this garden which He loved,
As I have ever tended it with joy for His holy cause,
Since now 'twas doubly precious in His eyes,
Precious with emeralds of a score of springs,
Precious with pearls of sacred memories. . .

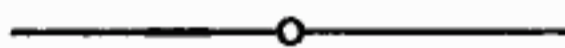
—GASPAR BELA DARUVARY.

TABLET OF BEHA 'U'LLAH TO NAPOLEON III KING OF FRANCE



KING OF PARIS! Tell the priest not to ring the bells. By God, the True One! The Most Glorious Bell hath appeared on the Temple of the Most Great Name, and the fingers of the will of Thy Lord, the High, the Supreme, ring it in the World of Eternal Power (Jeberutu'l-Baka) through His Most Spendid Name (Ismuhu'l-Abha): thus have the most mighty signs of thy Lord descended once more, that thou mayest arise to commemorate God, the Creator of the earth and the Heaven. . . . We have sent one whom we have strengthened with the Holy Spirit that he may give you tidings of this Light which hath shone forth from the horizon of the Will of your Lord, the Exalted, the Most Splendid, and whose effects have appeared in the West, that ye may turn unto Him in this day. . . . Arise amongst the servants (of God) in My Name and say, 'O people of the Earth advance toward Him, who hath advanced toward you, for verily He is the Face of God (Wajhu'llah) amongst you, and His Evidence in your midst, and His Proof unto you. . . . This is that *whereof the Spirit gave you tidings when He brought the truth, and the Jewish doctors opposed Him, until they committed that wherewith the Holy Spirit lamented.* . . . Say, O concourse of monks! Do not withdraw yourselves in churches and sanctuaries; come forth (thence) by my permission, then occupy yourselves with that whereby your souls shall be profited, and the souls of mankind. . . He who cleaveth to the house is indeed as one dead; it is meet for man that he should produce whereby (other) beings shall profit; and he who hath no fruit is fit for the Fire. . . . Verily, O King, we heard from thee a word which thou didst speak when the King of Russia asked thee concerning what was settled as to the order of war: verily thy Lord is Wise and Informed. Thou didst say, 'I was asleep in my bed (when) the cry of the servants (of God) who were wronged, even till they were drowned in the Black Sea, awoke me.' Thus did we hear, and God is the Witness of what I say. Thou canst witness that it was not (their) cry, but (thine own) lust (of war) which awoke thee, inasmuch as we tried thee and found thee afar off. . . Hadst thou been the speaker of that speech, thou wouldst not have cast the book of God behind thy back when it was sent unto thee on the part of one Mighty and Wise. Verily we tried thee therewith, and did not find thee in that state whereto thou didst pretend: arise and make reparation for what has passed away

from thee. The world shall perish, and what thou hast, and the Kingdom remains to God, thy Lord, and the Lord of thy fathers who were of yore. . . . BECAUSE OF WHAT THOU HAST DONE AFFAIRS SHALL BE CHANGED IN THY KINGDOM, AND EMPIRE SHALL DEPART FROM THINE HANDS, AS A PUNISHMENT FOR THINE ACTION: then shalt thou find thyself in manifest loss, and commotion shall seize the people there, 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 THAT SLEEP."



TABLET OF BEHA 'U'LLAH TO ALEXANDER II EMPEROR OF RUSSIA



KING OF RUSSIA! Hear the voice of God, the most Holy King! Then advance unto Paradise (which is) the place wherein abideth He who is named with the Most Comely Names amongst the most high assembly, and in the Kingdom of Creation by the name of God, the Splendid, the Most Splendid (Allahu'l-Bahiyyu'l-Abha): beware lest thy desires prevent thee from turning towards the Face of thy Lord, the Merciful, the Clement. . . . One of thine Ambassadors did assist me when I was in prison, in chains and fetters. Therefore hath God decreed unto thee a station which the knowledge of no one comprehendeth, save He only. Beware lest thou change this lofty station; verily thy Lord is able to do whatsoever He willeth: He cancelleth what He pleaseth and confirmeth what He pleaseth, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in a Preserved Tablet. . . . Be not of those who used to call upon Him by a Name amongst His Names, and when the Named One came, they denied Him, and turned away from Him, until they pronounced sentence against him with evident injustice. Look, then, and remember the days wherein came the Spirit, and Herod gave judgment against Him; God hath helped the Spirit with the hosts of the Unseen."

LIFE'S JOURNEY



FROM time immemorial mankind has been eager for the answer to the three great questions? Whence we came, why we are here, and where we are going?

Numerous articles have been written on this subject by Philosophers, Scientists and Theologians, explaining the line of thought they have been reared in, and each article varies considerably from another.

To the people of intellect the answer is clear, though a difficult problem to solve to the satisfaction of the individual mind.

I choose the study of the second question first, as it is more visible to our vision, why we are here?

To answer this great question, we must know ourselves, know the globe on which we reside, are we created in the image of the Creator, or evolved from the lower Kingdom?

What is the visible and the invisible in man, and his duties while here?

We are gifted with a great power "Mind," but unfortunately we know little of its use. Our occupation, social life, and recreations have been great barriers to our thinking faculties. In occupation we are part of the machinery, in social life often we are obliged to practice hypocrisy, and the major part of our recreation is wasted in public amusement places, gazing for hours upon the screen and absorbing fabricated events reproducing heroes, lovers, murderers, and so on.

To solve the aforesaid problem, we must first learn to think and to understand the object of our coming here.

Do we know ourselves? Nay! How can we, when we have no time to think.

Are we the image of the Creator? This is our conception, as we do not observe anything in existence better than ourselves, therefore we imagine that we are His image.

We have misinterpreted the explanation of the Holy Books. We should be His image in attributes, to be upright, kind, just, obedient, peaceful, loving, generous, charitable and to follow the footsteps of the past Sages, the clear and shining mirrors which the light of Truth and Reality reflected unto them. Those who sacrificed their lives for our progress and enlightenment.

Indeed we should glory more in this, than to consider ourselves His image in body.

Did we evolve from the lower Kingdom? Our body is composed from the elements of the earth, from the earth we came and to it we shall go. The law of evolution has been grossly misrepresented and misunderstood. True, we go through evolution in our life, we evolve from atom to child, from childhood to manhood, from darkness to light, from ignorance to intelligence.

Every change is evolution, each step of progress is evolution, and each new invention is the manifestation of evolution.

We direct our thoughts to man and the globe on which he resides, this human machinery composed of the elements of the earth, wonderfully erected, and vested with unlimited power which enables him to become superior to all in existence.

Mother earth under his command, co-operating with him constantly, assisting him silently and producing for him perpetually his needs in life.

With the products of the earth he secures nourishment, which supplies blood to his veins, causing him to grow to manhood. Thus kind mother earth, provides for man all his desires without complaint or expectations of gratitude, carries the burden of our weight and accepts all we deposit in her: What a faithful Mother!

From her surface provides for us livelihood, from her depth give us treasures and in spite of all our abusive actions, her heart is ever open, that we may dig deeper and deeper and gain more from her innermost.

Man through his great invisible power "Mind" hath progressed from the stone age to the age of steel.

His marvelous discoveries shortened communications and destinations. He hath harnessed the waters producing power called electricity to gain heat, strength, light, etc. Substituted autos for horse and carriages, improved the roads for travel and built more substantial homes for his protection and comfort. Conquered diseases and through scientific researches, learned more of the globe on which he resides.

The aforesaid progress is the production of the power of thinking, the more we think, the more we learn, the more we advance.

This powerful human machine with all his glory and might, when his time is ended on this earth and the call of the beyond reaches his

ears, he must obey and leave all behind, departing in the same manner which he came, free from all earthly possessions, destitute, friendless, motionless, he hath no need for home, clothing, light, heat, food, etc., and in a short duration of time he will become part of the earth, forgotten by all. If he has accumulated wealth, his off-springs and relatives, will share and enjoy the same, or will have a long litigation over his estate usually ending with bitter memories of the dear one who hath gone.

Billions of humanity hath come and gone, and how many of them are mentioned on the pages of history.

Was this the object of his coming here? To grow, to toil, to accumulate and to leave to others and go? Indeed nay! Doubtless there are other motives for his coming.

To search the reason for his presence, we will turn back the pages of history and study the teachings of the past great Sages and scientific writers.

Thus we will discover two branches of teachings, one who claimeth the existence of a soul which occupies this human form, coming from a beginning which hath no beginning and remaining to the end which has no end "Eternal Life," as taught by the Great Teachers, Enoch, Zaradusht, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed and Beha 'U'llah, who believed in God, the Supreme Governor, the Creator, the Originator, and who foretold events which came to pass.

The great personages that sacrificed their lives for the progress and enlightenment of mankind.

The other branch the materialists who believe from earth we come and to earth we go, denying the existence of a soul and contented with the theory of evolution and slow growth, as Darwin, Voltaire, etc.

Studying the two branches of teachings, we will observe that both confess to the existence of an originator and a beginner and agree to the oneness and singleness of that origin. The first Atom, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, Jahova, Everlasting Father, Supreme Governor, the Mighty "God."

Every individual is free to think as he wishes and to take the branch he desires for his salvation, but in conclusion my dear readers, I choose to follow the footsteps of the Inspired Teachers and fully believe that we are a soul and a noble one, coming to this school of learning "the Globe." To study, to learn, to go through experiences and thus to be prepared for the journey to the "Everlasting Existence," and rest in the World of harmony, love, peace and happiness, "Eternal Life."

Beha 'U'llah! Glory be to Him, said: "In answer to thy question regarding the soul and its immortality: Know thou, that it ascendeth

after death until it cometh to the presence of God, clothed in a temple which the centuries and ages cannot change, neither can the events of the universe nor its modifications. It will exist eternally inasmuch as the Kingdom of God, His Authority, His Might and His Power are eternal. Through that soul the evidences of God and His attributes shall be manifested, especially His providence and His Benevolence. The pen cannot name this station or describe its greatness and its sublimity. Then, the hand of Bounty will bring it (the soul) to an incomprehensible position the like of which is incomparable in the contingent world."

"Blessed is the soul which leaveth the body purified from the misdeeds of the world. It shall move in the atmosphere of the Will of its Lord and enter into the highest heaven, where it shall be guided by the van-guards of the Highest Paradise visiting round. It shall associate with the prophets of God and His Saints, speak with them and relate to them what had befallen it, (while on earth), in the cause of God, the Lord of the Worlds. If one could realize what was ordained to him in the realms of God, at once he would burn with the fire of desire to go to that most fortified, most high, holiest and most glorious abode."

"Concerning the immortality of the soul, this Oppressed One beareth witness that it is immortal. Regarding its status, this cannot be explained, and it is not meet to be mentioned save to a certain extent. The prophets and apostles came for the guidance of the people of the Earth, to the right path of God. Their purpose was the education and development of the people, that they may be, at the time of their ascension, holy, sanctified and abstracted, so as to be fitted for reaching the Supreme Station. By the Life of God, the truth is, the glory of these souls is the cause for the development of the people and the high positions of the nations. They are the cause of the existence and the greatest motive for the manifestations and sciences of the world. For them the clouds give rain and the earth brings forth its increase."

"There is not a thing existing without a cause, a motive and a beginning; and the greatest cause was and shall be the consecrated souls. The difference between this world and the world to come, is like unto the difference between the foetal life and this life."

"After the ascension, the soul cometh to the Presence of God clothed in a garment suited for eternal life and fitted for those realms. This everlasting existence of the soul is in time and is not self subsisting existence, because it was preceded by a cause. The self everlasting existence is not preceded by a cause, therefore, it belongs only to God, glory be to Him. Blessed are those who know."

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



"Religion without clergy," then who will be our leader?

A. Beha 'U'llah commanded, that His teachings are our leaders, we should study and be guided by them, also to pray individually and not in congregation. Thus He freed us from the clutches of the clergy. In the Book of Ackdas, He said, "If ye differ in a matter, bring it to God, so long as the Sun is shining from the Horizon of this heaven; but when He sets, bring it to what He uttered, verily it suffices the worlds."

Q. Is there need of an interpreter for the Utterances of Beha 'U'llah?

A. No! His Utterances are very clear to comprehend and He prohibited their interpretation.

In the Book of Ackdas He said, "He whosoever interpreteth what are descended from the heaven of revelations differently from its apparent meaning is of those who changed the Supreme Word of God, and is considered one of those who are written as losers in the Manifest Book."

Q. Beha 'U'llah passed unto entirety in 1892. How many sons survived Him?

A. Four! The eldest Ghusni Azam, The Greatest branch, Abbas (Abdul Baha), The second Ghusni Akbar, The Mightiest branch Mohammed Ali Behai, The third Zia Ullah and the fourth Badi Ullah.

Q. How many of His sons are living today?

A. Two! The Second son Ghusni Akbar, the Mightiest branch Mohammed Ali Behai and the fourth son, Badi Ullah, both residing at Acre Palestine.

Q. During the life of Beha 'U'llah on earth, what was the duties of His sons?

A. During Beha 'U'llah's exile at the fortress of Acre, His eldest son Ghusni Azam Abbas (Abdul Baha) was assigned to the entertainments of the government officials and outer circle visitors. His second son Ghusni Akbar Mohammed Ali Behai; was assigned to the entertainments of the inner circle, pilgrims, inscriber of Beha 'U'llah's Utterances and promulgator of His teachings throughout the world, especial-

ly Persia. Today he is the possessor of the seals of Beha 'U'llah and His complete teachings. In the latter years His two younger sons, Zia Ullah and Badi Ullah, served as inscribers of His Utterances also.

Q. In what tongue Beha 'U'llah revealed his Utterances?

A. In the Persian and the Arabic Languages.

Q. How many volumes of His Utterances have been published, when, and where?

A. Five volumes were published in Bombay, India, 1889-1890 A. D.

Q. By whom?

A. By the commands of Beha 'U'llah, His second son Ghusni Akbar Mohammed Ali Behai, made a journey to Bombay, India and succeeded in publishing the same. For details please consult Behai Quarterly, First Quarter 1935, page fourteen.

Q. What is the significance of the word branch applied to the sons of Beha 'U'llah?

A. Beha 'U'llah called Himself a Tree and His sons branches of the tree.

Q. What are the stations of His sons, the branches?

A. The following Tablets revealed by Beha 'U'llah answers your question:

"The Branches who are branched from the Sadret (Tree of Life), are my fingerposts amongst my Creatures, and my fragrance between heaven and earth. Have ye ever seen a companion or an equal to God; your Lord? By the Lord of the Whole Worlds, No! Then speak not of that which God did not permit, but rather fear the merciful and be of those who reason."

"O people, hold after my departure, to the branches who were branched from this Ancient Root. For by them the fragrance of my garment shall be diffused throughout the World, but no one can attain it, save every upright seeker."

"O my brothers, we command you and your children and those who are upon earth, never to resist my branches, nor do what will grieve them. They have the Supreme position and the highest rank amongst you.

Fear ye God and be not of those who are unjust."

"HIDDEN WORDS"

(From the Arabic)

(Revealed by Beha 'U'llah)

(Continued from the last issue)



Son of Existence!

Be not engrossed with this world, for with fire We test the gold and with gold We try the servants.

O Son of Man!

Thou desirest gold, and We desire thy separation from it. Thou hast realized therein the riches of thyself, while I realize thy wealth to consist in thy freedom from it. By My Life! This is My knowledge, while that is thine imagining; how can My thought agree with thine?

O Son of Man!

Distribute My possessions among My poor, that in Heaven thou mayest receive from the boundless treasures of Glory and from the stores of eternal bliss. But by My Life! The sacrifice of the spirit is more glorious, couldst thou see with Mine eye.

O Son of Humanity!

Thy temple of being is My throne. Purge it of everything, that I may descend therein to reign over it.

O Son of Existence!

Thy heart is My home; purify it for My descent; Thy spirit is My outlook; prepare it for My manifestation.

O Son of Man!

Put thy hand into My treasury; then will I lift My Head radiant above thy treasures.

O Son of Man!

Ascend to My heaven that thou mayest drink of the pure Wine which has no likeness—from the Chalice of everlasting Glory.

O Son of Man!

Days have passed by thee, and thou hast occupied thyself with thy fanciful imaginations. How long wilt thou thus sleep upon thy bed? Lift up thy head from slumber, for the Sun has climbed to the zenith, that He may illumine thee with Lights of Beauty.

NINE BASIC BEHAI PRINCIPLES

TAUGHT BY BEHA 'U'LLAH

1. The oneness and singleness of God.
2. The oneness of Mankind.
3. Equality of Races.
4. Equality of Men and Women.
5. Harmony of Science and Religion.
6. Religion Without Clergy.
7. Universal Language.
8. Universal Tribunal.
9. Universal Peace.

O Son of Spirit!

Justice is loved above all. Neglect it not, if thou desirest Me. By it thou wilt be strengthened to perceive things with thine own eyes and not by the eyes of men, to know them by thine own knowledge and not by the knowledge of any in the world. Meditate on this—how thou oughtest to be. Justice is of My bounty to thee and of My providence over thee; therefore, keep it ever before thy sight.

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

BEHAI

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FOREWORD



ADVANCED humanity is eagerly seeking Universal Peace and good will amongst mankind. The hearts are filled with the spirit of brotherly love, longing for lasting peace. Every individual who lost a spouse, a father, a son or a dear one during the last World War is a soldier of peace and bitterly opposed to future conflicts. The progressive young generation is awakening and unanimously revolting against future wars. The leaders of the world should realize the importance of this universal desire and use their efforts to bring lasting peace!

Behold! What became of the Egyptian, Persian, Roman, Macedonian, Babylonian and other great empires? The earth absorbed them all. Their empires doomed and palaces ruined. A Persian Philosopher Poet said, "Gaze with the eyes of recollection upon the palace of King Kasra, the cobwebs replaced the golden draperies and the Owl is a lone musician."

This earth is given to us to live on it in peace and happiness, to produce from it our livelihood, to enjoy what nature has provided for us and not to commercialize and colonize it.

The duration of our life on this earth is limited and sooner or later we will be absorbed by it whether we are seated on the throne of Gold and Glory or a ragged carpet.

Blessed is he who departs from this earth with clear conscience and unstained hands.

Blessed is he who leaves behind a monument of good acts and deeds.

Blessed is he who shepherds the human flock to the pasture of Knowledge and the pond of truth.

Blessed is he who sheltered the unfortunates under the dome of glory and served them with spiritual food. Blessed is he who crowned his head with the crown of justice, adorned his temple with the garment of Kindness. Blessed is he who occupied the throne of love and devoted his life to the service of his Kind.

Blessed is he who performed his duties to mankind and helped the needy generously.

The Glory of the Most Splendor shall be with him for ever and ever.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

THE GLAD TIDINGS

Revealed by Beha 'U'llah

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan



THIS is the Voice of EL-ABHA, which is being raised from the Supreme Horizon, in the Prison Acca!

He is the Declarer, the Knower, the Omniscient!

God testifies and the Appearance of His Names and Attributes bears witness that, by the raising of the Voice and by the Exalted Word, it has been (our) aim that the ears of the people of the world should be purified through the Kawther (spring) of Divine Utterance from false narrations and be prepared to harken unto the blessed, pure, exalted Word which hath appeared from the treasury of the Knowledge of the Maker of Heaven and Creator of Names. Blessed are those who are just!

O, people of the earth!

THE FIRST GLAD TIDINGS

which is conferred in this Most Great Manifestation on all the people of the world, from the "Mother-Book," is the abolishing of the decree of religious warfare from the Book. Exalted is the Beneficent One, the Possessor of Great Bounty—the One through whom the door of Grace is opened before all in the Heaven and earth!

THE SECOND GLAD TIDINGS:

It is sanctioned that all the nations of the world consort with each other with joy and fragrance. Consort ye, O people, with (the people of) all religions with joy and fragrance! Thus hath the Orb of Permission and Desire shone forth from the horizon of the Heaven of the Command of God, the Lord of the creatures!

THE THIRD GLAD TIDINGS

is the study of various languages. This command hath formerly flowed from the Supreme Pen. Their Majesties, the Kings—May God assist them—or the Counsellors of the earth must consult together, and appoint one of the existing languages, or a new language, and instruct the children therein, in all the schools of the world; and the same must be done in respect to writing also. In such case the earth will be considered as one. Blessed is he who heareth the Voice and fulfilleth that which is commanded on the part of God, the Lord of the Great Throne!

AM I A BEHAI?

(A Reminiscence to the Behaists Throughout the World)



BEHAI should study the teachings of our Great Master Beha 'U'llah with a broad mind, reason, care and judgment, gaining the Knowledge contained there in thorough diligent reading, without the assistance of an explainer or interpreter. Thus one should testify to the oneness and singleness of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, "God." Obey the Divine Laws. Revere the past Great Messengers. Become an advocate of a Universal language, Universal religion, Universal tribunal and Universal peace. Believe in the oneness of mankind, equality of all races and sex. Invest himself with the garment of faithfulness, truthfulness and trustfulness. Respect the laws of the land in which he resides.

Adorn himself with the ornament of justice, obedience, charity, kindness, forgiveness and serve his fellow-beings to the best of his ability. Divest himself from religious prejudice, considering mankind leaves of one tree, and drops of one sea. He should think and free himself from the clutches of religious leaders and avoid the rebirth of Papacy amidst us.

Should know himself and with complete confidence promulgate the teachings in the language of love and kindness, sowing the seeds of unity in the hearts of humanity.

Beha 'U'llah, "Glory be to Him," said:

"Be thou a giver while thou art wealthy and grateful when thou art poor. Be thou trustworthy when thou art entrusted and face the comers with a welcome smile. Be thou a treasure to the poor, an adviser to the rich, an answerer to the seeker, a fulfiller to the promise, and faithful in every respect.

"Be thou silent when thou art amidst the crowds, and let thy judgment be just. Be submissive to thy fellowman and a light in the midst of darkness. Be thou a comfort to the sorrowful and sweet sea to the thirsty. Be thou a shelter to the distressed, a help, an assistant, and a support to the oppressed. In piety let thy actions be performed, and be a home to the stranger. Be a healer to the sick, a fort to the refugee, a sight to the blind, and a path to those who are led astray. Be thou the beauty of the face of Truth, an ornament to the temple of faithfulness, a throne to the house of temperance, a spirit to the body of the world, a flag to the hosts of justice and a map to the horizon of goodness. Be thou a fertilizer to the good soil, a star to the heaven of bounty.

a crown to the head of wisdom, a brilliancy to the forehead of time, and a sweet fruit to the tree of obedience.

“O people, help My chosen ones who rise up to commemorate Me amidst My creatures and elevate My Word in My Kingdom. They are the stars of the Heaven of My Providence and the lamps of My Guidance to all the people of creation.

“Whosoever teacheth contrary to what was revealedt in My Tablets is not of Me. Beware, lest ye follow every wicked claimant.

“The Tablets are adorned by the beautiful ornament of the Seal of the Breaker of Dawns. Who speaketh amidst heavens and earths. Hold fast to My safe girdle and to the rope of My straight and firm command.

“Adorn your heads with the crown of faithfulness and fidelity, your hearts with the veil of piety, your tongues with uttering the pure truth, and your bodies with ornaments of moralities. All these be the properties of mankind, were ye of those who perceive.

“Whosoever becometh angry with you, treat him with kindness and when someone shall reprove you retaliate not, but leave him alone and rely upon God, the Punisher, the Just, the Powerful.

“Blessed is he who adorneth himself with the beautiful garment of morals and manners. Indeed, he is of those who helped their God with pure and good action.

“Build up the places of God and His countries, and commemorate Him thereat with the songs of the Cherubim. Verily, the hearts are built up by tongues, as houses and cities are built by hands and other means. On Our part, We have ordained for everything special means unto which, ye should hold fast, depending upon the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.”

Humbly I request every beloved true Behai to think and face the mirror of reality with the vision of investigation, answering this question.

Am I a Behai?

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

dor" and the "Voice" (revealed) in the Sinaitic Tree for the Son of Imran (Moses).

Praises be to God! It was supposed that at the Manifestation of God (the people's) knowledge had waxed perfect and mature, and had reached the furthest end. Now it has become evident that knowledge has decreased among the deniers, and has remained immature.

O Ali! They refuse to accept from the Tree of Being that which they accepted from the Tree of Sinai! Say: O people of Beyan! Speak not after the self and desire! Most of the peoples of the world confess the blessed Word which has proceeded from the Tree (the Manifestation). By the Life of God, were it not for the mention of "Divinity" made by the Precursor (the BAB), this Oppressed One would not have spoken in that which is the cause of distraction and destruction of the ignorant.

In the beginning of the Beyan, He (the BAB) says in description of "He-whom-God-shall-manifest:" "Verily, He is the One who shall utter in all grades—'VERILY, I AM GOD. THERE IS NO GOD BUT ME, THE LORD OF ALL THINGS, AND ALL BESIDES ME IS CREATED BY ME! O YE, MY CREATURES! YE ARE TO WORSHIP ME.'" Likewise, in another place, in speaking of "He-whom-God-shall-manifest," He says: "Verily, I (the BAB) am the first one of those who worship Him."

Now, man must reflect upon the "Worshipper" (the BAB), and the "Worshipped One" (BEHA'U'LLAH); perchance the people of the earth may attain to a drop of the Sea of Knowledge, and comprehend the Station of this Manifestation. Verily, He hath appeared, and hath spoken in Truth. Blessed is he who confesses and acknowledges, and woe unto every remote denier!

O ye concourse of the earth! Harken to the Voice of the Sadrat, the Shade of which hath encompassed the loftiest positions of the world; and be not of the tyrants of the earth who denied the Manifestation of God and His Power, and renounced His Bounty. Are they not of the contemptible, in the Book of God, the Lord of the creatures?

Glory, shining from the Heaven of My Providence, be upon thee, and upon him who is with thee and hearkens to thy saying in the Cause of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy!

BRIEF BEHAI HISTORY



IN the year 1844 A.D. a young man appeared in Iran (Persia) whose name was, Ali Mohammed, but as he claimed to be the gate of Knowledge, he was called "Bab" (gate) and his followers "Babists."

He declared himself to be the one whose appearance was expected by Islam called "Mahdi" and his great mission was the glad-tidings of the coming of the greatest manifestation on Earth.

He mentioned Him in his utterances with supreme deference just as John the Baptist spoke of the appearance of Jesus. Although he claimed *the highest state of Spiritualities, yet he considered himself naught and a humble servant in comparison with the appearance of He who in God shall manifest "The Glory of God."*

The message of the Bab awakened the minds of the Persians and thousands of learned people became his followers. This arose the anger of the Islam Theologians and fearing the loss of their leadership, they labored with all their might against this progressive new movement which was spreading rapidly throughout the land. Finally they succeeded in inducing the government to arrest the Bab and his devoted secretary and place them in prison, then suspended them both on a pole in the middle of the Square in the City of Tabriz, province of Azerbayajan and riddled their chests with hundreds of bullets.¹ This unfortunate event took place in the year 1850 A.D.

Beha 'U'llah "The Glory of God" of whom the Bab had spoken was born November 12, 1817 A.D. in the City of Teheran, the present Capitol of Iran (Persia). His name was Hosein Ali afterwards Beha 'U'llah. When the Bab proclaimed himself the new teacher his message appealed to Beha 'U'llah and He became an active worker in the new cause and a prominent figure amongst the Babists. After the Bab was put to death, through the influence of the same agitating group, Beha 'U'llah was arrested in the outskirts of Teheran, brought to the city and placed in a dungeon for the period of four months. Then through the protest of the Russian Ambassador, he was released but was requested to leave his native land.

By mutual agreement between Russia, Turkey and Persia he was sent to Bagdad, Mesopotamia, then Turkish possession. Beha 'U'llah resided in Bagdad nearly twelve years, while there he secluded himself

in the mountains of Soleimania and for two years his whereabouts were unknown to all. After his return from seclusion, Beha 'U'llah proclaimed himself to be the promised one of whom the Bab had spoken "He whom God shall Manifest." The Glory of God. This proclamation renewed the movement and under his gracious leadership the cause progressed in spite of persecutions, and ever since the followers of this religion are called Behaists.

Beha 'U'llah devoted forty years of his life in uttering verses and revealing Tablets for the progress of his fellow men. In chain and exile he sent Epistles to all the Rulers of the world, including the Pope of Rome inviting them to come to the Kingdom of the Father. He suffered hardship, calamity and banishment to bring us from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge.

Through the influence of the Ambassador of Iran (Persia) to the Ottoman Court, Beha 'U'llah was requested to come to Istambul, then capitol of Turkey and from there was sent to Adrianapolis where he remained five years. He was then banished to the Prison of the Fortress of Acre residing there twenty-five years.

Completing his mission on earth he departed unto Eternity on May 28, 1892 A.D.

Beha 'U'llah in his will entitled the Book of My Covenant (Ketabi Ahdi) appointed two of his sons leaders after him, both occupying the same position one after the other. His eldest son the greatest Branch Abbas (Abdul Baha) who passed away in 1921 and his second son, the mightiest branch, Mohammed Ali Behai, who is living and resides at Acre, Palestine.

This great personage, the eldest living son of Beha 'U'llah, is the head of the Society of Behaists throughout the world and the legal spiritual leader of all the Behai Organizations according to the afore-said will of Beha 'U'llah.

He was reared in the bosom of Beha 'U'llah and served him faithfully to the last, as inscriber of his utterances and promulgator of his teachings. He is the chosen son and received the highest honors by Beha 'U'llah.

Hereunder is the translation of a Tablet written to him by the Supreme pen of Beha 'U'llah, which showers upon him the highest honors and love.

"THE GREATEST, THE MOST GLORIOUS"

"O MY GOD! Verily this is a branch, who has branched from the firm and lofty tree of they singleness and oneness. Thou seest him O my God gazing unto Thee, and holding fast to the rope of Thy Bounty. Therefore keep him in the shadow of Thy mercy. Thou knoweth, O my God, that I desire him, as Thou hast desired him, and I have chosen him as Thou hast chosen him. Therefore assist him with the hosts of earth and heaven, and help, O my God, whosoever helpeth him, chose whosoever choeth him and assist whosoever cometh to him. Then forsake whosoever denieth him and desireth him not. O my Lord! Thou seest that while inspired, my pen moveth tho my limbs tremble. I ask thee by my longing for Thy love and my anxiety to manifest Thy cause, to ordain for him, and to those who love him, what Thou has destined for Thy messengers and the faithful of Thy Divine Inspiration. Verily Thou art God, The All Powerful, The Omnipotent.

HE IS THE GREATEST

"O my God, assist the Mightiest Branch (Ghusni Akbar) in Thy remembrance and Thy praise. Then cause to flow from his pen the marvels of Thy science and secrets. O my God, verily he has hastened unto Thy pleasure, and has fasted for the love of Thyself, and in obedience to Thy Commands. Destine for him all good revealed in Thy book. Verily, Thou art the All Powerful, the Omnipotent.

"Blessed is he who hath rested in the shelter of the branch of God, His Lord, Lord of the Throne, and Lord of the Universe.

"O my branch! Be Thou the spring cloud of my mercy, then shower upon all things in my name The New.

"O my branch, we have chosen thee, as the chosen one hath chosen thee. Say praise be to Thee, O God of the Universe.

"O mightiest branch, we have chosen thee to serve my cause, arise with marvelous assistance. Conquer the cities of all names, in my Name. The Ruler over all He wishes.

"O ocean, wave in my name, The Rising, The Great.

"Open the cities of the hearts in my name. The Beloved, The Dear, The Bountiful. Verily every action depends on Thy love. Blessed is he who accepted the Will of His Lord, the All Knowing. Blessed is he who hath heard Thy voice and hath come to Thee for the love of God, The Lord of the Universe."

This chosen son is a devout follower of the teachings and a staunch believer in them.

He is kind, gentle, patient and always ready to help the needy. Although he occupies the highest position amongst us yet he considers himself our elder brother.

He is misjudged, wronged and falsely accused by so-called friends, those who satisfied themselves with heresay without investigation.

I have been fortunate to be in his service the major part of my life and pray to God to grant me strength to write his biography as a testimonial for the future historians, so the sun of truth will not remain covered under the clouds of falsehood.

MIRZA MAJDEDDIN.

March, 1936
Haifa, Palestine

Mirza Majdeddin is nephew and son-in-law of Beha 'U'llah, and I welcome his contribution to this periodical.

The late Prof. Edward G. Brown, in his introduction in the Book entitled "The Episode of the Bab," regarding this venerable gentleman said, "Towards evening I received another visitor, whose mien and bearing alike marked him as a person of consequence. He was a man of perhaps thirty or thirty-five years of age with a face which called to one's mind the finest types of Iranian physiognomy preserved to us in the bas-reliefs of Persopolis, yet with something in it beyond this; which involuntarily called forth in my mind the thought, "What would not an artist desirous of painting a Saint or an apostle give for such a model!" My visitor (who as I afterwards discovered, was a son of Beha 'U'llah's deceased brother, Musa) was clothed, save for the tall red fez which crowned his head, entirely in pure white; and everything about him, from his short well-trimmed beard and the masses of jet-black hair swept boldly back behind his ears, to the hem of his spotless garment, was characterized by the same scrupulous neatness. He saluted me very graciously and remained conversing with me all the evening.

Shortly after supper he bade me good-night, saying that I must doubtless be fatigued with my journey."

EDITOR.

EVOLUTION AND INVOLUTION



THE progress of physical science since the recognition of the Correlation and Conservation of Energy, and the Law of Evolution has covered a very wide range.

Theologians hastened to designate all these concepts as "Materialism," and as "Godless."

Very few real scientists accepted the designation or the conclusions of materialism.

Huxley declared himself, to the last, AGNOSTIC, but the theologians twisted it into materialism, all the same. To say, in the language of Science—"I do not know," was made equal to denial of spirit, and a future life for man; in short, of all that cannot be weighed and measured: Hence the conflict still going on between Religion and Science, and to the betterment of both.

But the Constructive Principle is not even yet generally recognized.

The theory of Evolution has come to stay. No really intelligent student of either Religion or Science now denies that. The evidence is too universal and overwhelming.

Had we gone back to the source of the theory among the Greek philosophers, and thence to its earliest concepts among the Persians and Hindoos, we should have found that evolution was but one term of the Equation of Life, whether in atom, molecule, animal, man, or worlds.

Energy, Life, Intelligence, Law and Order are INVOLVED, point for point, as form, growth, function and complexity are evolved.

No single impulse from center to circumference could ever be repeated, or explained in the first instance, unless the energy were involved too, or toward the center. Action and reaction could not otherwise be conceived of under the law. Otherwise impulse to evolve would have been inconceivable, except as a "Fiat," or a "special creation," which the whole of evolution denies. Newton's "First Law" and the "Parallelogram of Force" ought to make that clear.

Had theologians been philosophers, they might not only have held their own, but from the beginning "turned the tables" upon the evolutionists, and by this time have made equal progress with physical science, in the establishment of Law and Order in the existence of the human soul, and the spiritual life of man.

RELIGION WITHOUT CLERGY



LO the multitude such a venture seems impracticable. Nay!—unachievable, as we have become accustomed by heritage to listen to the Clergymen reading and explaining the Gospel rather than to study the Bible ourselves. In dark ages on account of the limitation of education, readers and instructors were essential.

Today we are living in the age of progress. Education is compulsory and universal. We are able to read and study with reason, therefore, we have no need for an explanator or interpreter to the words of God. We should study them carefully, analyze them cautiously and acquire the knowledge contained therein. To conceive the greatness of this principle "Religion Without Clergy," we should study the past events in the History. Thus! we will observe that through the orthodoxy of religious organizations, dissention and strife hath arisen amongst the followers after the departure of every manifestation, usually ending with religious wars and the blood shed of innocent individuals.

The inspired teachings which were revealed for the upliftment of *humanity became the whips of religious leaders to fulfill their selfish desires, and to rule over the oppressed masses.*

Christianity enjoyed a great progress during its early days. The Monks collected the offerings from those who willingly gave and delivered them to those which were in need, even to the extent of carrying the offerings on their backs to the needy. Thus they performed the principles which Jesus commanded. As such, a period of time elapsed until they began to build palaces under the name of Monasteries and lived the life of luxury and ease on the expense of the faithful followers, compelling them to accept their commands supreme and the words of the Master Jesus.

Not contented with the *Spiritual rule which they possessed, they began to interfere with the affairs of the states until they became the Supreme Ruler over the rulers. Then came the revolt from the state and Church. Henry VIII violated the law of the Vatican and proclaimed himself the head of the Church of England. Napoleon Bonapart acted likewise which eventually caused the division of state and church throughout the World. Martin Luther protested to the Supremacy of the Holy Sea and founded the Protestantism of today which in number*

almost equals the mother church. Mohammedanism experienced the same consequence also, even to the extent of taking the life of the two grandsons of Mohammed. Hassan was poisoned and Hosein was beheaded. Caliph after Caliph became in control and in the name of Religion ruled nearly fourteen hundred years, until the last world war when the title of Caliph was abolished from the head of the state thus ending the Ottoman Dynasty. All the past Religions met the same fate after the departure of the Manifestation, through the selfishness of religious leaders, who corrupted the inspired teachings by misinterpretation and misguided the innocent masses. Grant us a survey of several churches on a Sunday morning. We will observe that each preacher selecting a verse from the Gospel and interpreting the same to harmonize with his sermon. The result is thus, many contradictory explanations of the same verse from the pulpits causing confusion in the minds of the listeners. According to the teachings of Beha 'U'llah, the principles He commanded and the foundation laid by Him. The Bahai Organization should be composed of not less than nine members in each community—elected by the vote of the members and subject to recall by the popular vote. This duly elected body shall appoint one of its members to be in charge of the distribution of educational literature, free lectures and the promulgation of the teachings which are easy to understand and useful in our daily life, thus eliminating the necessity of the Clergy.

Beha 'U'llah, "Glory be to Him," said:

"The Religion of God and the Creed of God hath been revealed and made manifest from the heaven of the Will of the King of Pre-existence for the sake of Union and harmony among the people of the world, make it not a means for disagreement and discord! The Religion of God and His Law is the greatest cause and mightiest means for the appearance and effulgence of the Orb or Unity. The development of the World, the training of nations, the tranquility of the servants and the security of the people of all lands have been due to the Divine Precepts and Ordinances. Religion is the greatest cause for (the appearance of) this great gift. It bestows the cup of vitality, confers immortal life and imparts eternal benefit (to the people). The Rulers of the earth, especially the trustees of the House of Justice, must make abundant effort to preserve this station and guard and promote it."

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

MY ANSWERED PRAYER

"AS YE ASK AND AS YE GIVE, SO SHALL YE RECEIVE"



PRAY for light: more, more; my Soul craves more light.
My limitations hemmed in, 'tis dark. The night
Brings near to me another soul sadder than I.
I take his hands and whisper "Hope," then bye and bye
The day breaks and divinest Truth illumines my sight.

*I ask for knowledge and for power; I would be wise
That I might benefit the world. My watchful eyes
See those around me steeped in selfish, foolish ways;
I stoop to teach them Wisdom, and the golden rays
Of Knowledge, Wisdom, Power, come to me from the skies.*

And it is ever thus. I ask for help, then find
Some other soul in deep distress whose wounds I bind
With loving balm and comradeship and lo! my prayer
Is answered, and I find it double joy to share
With others, all the joy that comes to my own mind.

—GASPAR BELA DAVUVARY.

* * *

Beha 'U'llah, Glory be to Him, said:

"O My Brother!

Hear My beautiful Words from My sweet tongue, and drink the
Water of Life from the fountain of My lips. That is, sow the seeds
of My innate Wisdom in the pure ground of the heart and water it
with conviction; then the hyacinth of My Knowledge and Wisdom
shall spring up verdantly in the holy city of the heart."

BEHAI RELIGION



TO most persons the Behai Religion is not only new; but here in America, to the masses, almost unknown, yet in a sense it is one of the oldest, and should be as well known as any of the other religious teachings. It is easily understood, in fact, through a study of the teachings as taught by Beha 'Ullah, one will gain a clearer and deeper understanding of all religions.

Few there are who have understood that the truth or root of all religions is an unbroken chain extending back into antiquity. Each link in that chain are the different prophets or messengers, sent by God to elevate and educate mankind raising each cycle, each generation to a higher mental level of Spiritual perception. Each striving, in his day to teach all with whom they come in contact, the Soul way back to the path of understanding.

Thus from the beginning of time there have been greatly advanced egoes who stand out as the greatest intellectuals of their day, each bringing the same message, tho clothed in different garments, depending upon the time, the place and the condition of the masses.

If we were to study the history of all great religions down through the ages, we would find their basic principles to be all alike. Their prophecies revolve around one central idea, that one certain individual was to come. The later prophets foretold the conditions of the world at the expected time of His appearance, told also the time, the place and the race of people from which this greatest of all messengers would come. They told of things the world would do, places He would visit and where He would establish Himself; also how the world in general would receive Him.

Space prevents the listings of all the Prophecies recorded, but I will select a few at random, to substantiate my contention. When Mohammed was asked for signs of His coming, he said, "When you see the ships sailing upon the land, He will come," again, "When you hear news at a distance by the beating of iron on iron He will be with you." It is written that Christ Himself said in Math. 6:10, "Thy Kingdom come," etc., and again in Luke 2:31: "So likewise ye, when ye see those things come to pass know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand." This was said at a time he had foretold of some of the happenings and conditions which would precede the coming of the Kingdom of God upon Earth. One of the signs Christ mentioned was Math.

24:7: "Nation shall rise against Nation, Kingdom against Kingdom, there shall be famine and pestilence and earthquakes in divers places." One has but to look into any history to confirm this.

For seventeen hundred years previous to the time of Christ but fifty-six were recorded and only few were disastrous; these few were within sixty-five years preceding the birth of Christ; on the other hand, from 1800 to 1865 A. D. there occurred within the same limits, the old Roman Empire, thirty-five disastrous earth disturbances. In 1867-68 there were not less than one hundred thousand souls perished and over twelve thousand vessels lost at sea.

The time has come! The many and varied prophecies which have come to pass confirm this.

In 1844 A. D., in Persia, one of the dark countries from a religious standpoint, a young man arose and proclaimed himself to be the gate, or door, or point; and that "He whom God shall manifest will shortly appear." During the next nine years, or until his martyrdom, all who flocked to his standard were persecuted by the clergy, in an effort to stop this movement, which went beyond anything known before, honor, wife, family, prosperity, all went; lives were eagerly given, that others would know; that He, whom God shall manifest, was about to appear.

One of the martyrs wrote, "By God, O people, it is for your awakening that we have forgone, life, wealth, wife, child and have shut our eyes to the world and its citizens, that perchance ye may be warned and may escape from uncertainty and error, that ye may fall to making inquiry, that ye may recognize the truth as a meet, and that ye may no longer be veiled therefrom."

It was in 1853 A. D., on the banks of the river, Chebor, in accordance with the vision of Ezekiel, that Beha 'U'llah, first declared himself to be the one whom God would manifest, and in 1867 A. D. He declared himself to the world.

He wrote many wonderful tablets to the Kings, Queens, the Pope and the great of the earth, inviting them to come to his banquet, declaring "I am the one promised by Christ and other prophets."

In accordance with Christ's parable and now known as a prophecy, they all had excuses and no one of them came. So from that time His servants have been in the by-ways inviting all who will to come eat of the spiritual food prepared by Himself for the benefit of humanity.

"Of his personality a Phlegmatic Englishman, who had been sent to study this new faith, after his first interview, wrote: "The face of Him on whom I gazed, I can never forget tho I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read ones very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow, while the deep lines on the forehead and face implied an age which the jet black hair and beard flowing down almost to the waist seemed to belie. No need to ask in whose presence I stood as I bowed myself before one who is the object of a devotion and love which Kings might envy and Emperors sigh for in vain."

John 4:21: "Women believe me, the hour cometh when ye shall neither in the mountains nor yet at Jerusalem worship the Father." In many places in the Bible we will find mention of the new Jerusalem. Acre, the New Holy City.

During His abode in the Holy City He gave forth from the Ocean of His wisdom thousands of Tablets, short treatises and many books containing everything necessary for the material and spiritual welfare of mankind. He ordained just and perfect laws of government which reflect the wisdom of divinity, and which are destined to accomplish universal peace and concord, when incorporated as God intends they shall be into the government of nations. In the most Holy Tablets He said, "The Father is come and that which was promised is fulfilled." In another Tablet He said, "The forerunner came and gave you tidings, then the Perfect One came and perfected all things for you." And so you who have read the above know the truth, true religion is from God and not from man. "Know the truth and the Truth shall make you free."

Beha 'U'llah came to this earth exactly on time and in accordance with the prophecies of Daniel, Christ, Mohammed and all the other prophets of ancient times. He came for our benefit and to give us from the ocean of His knowledge and mercy laws that we live in greater harmony with one another, peace that the fathers and mothers of youth need no longer lose their children, knowledge of God that we may live better lives, give to God the homage, love, devotion and service that is justly due him from us all.

God should be no longer unknown, since He has sent His messenger to all of His creatures through the new religion, Behaism.

—LESLIE E. PEASE.

NINE BASIC BEHAI PRINCIPLES

TAUGHT BY BEHA 'U'LLAH

1. The oneness and singleness of God.
2. The oneness of Mankind.
3. Equality of Races.
4. Equality of Men and Women.
5. Harmony of Science and Religion.
6. Religion Without Clergy.
7. Universal Language.
8. Universal Tribunal.
9. Universal Peace

O people of God!

Be not occupied with yourselves. Be intent on the betterment of the world and the training of nations.

The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and excellent deeds and well-approved and agreeable conduct. The helper of the Cause is Deeds and its assistant is Good Character.

O people of Beha! Hold fast unto Piety. This is that which is commanded by this Oppressed One and chosen by the Potent One.

BEHA 'U'LLAH.

BEHAI

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FOREWORD



EXTEND my humble gratitude to the kind readers of this Periodical and the beloved Behai friends for their generous response to my last message entitled "Am I a Behai."

In these days of unrest, it is indeed encouraging to receive such numerous constructive and illuminative replies and to know of the great interest which has been displayed.

We are living in a restless age, socially, economically, politically and spiritually.

Dissatisfaction prevails everywhere, hatred of race, nationality and creed is renewed, Divine teachings are laid aside, discord replaces unity, law of balance forgotten and Gold substituted for God.

Ambitious leaders are driving mankind to another bloody conflict and innocent masses are hoodwinked by the spirit of Nationalism and religious fanaticism.

But according to all indications and in spite of the obstacles visible we are approaching a new era, a great change is coming. The day of awakening to the realization that after all we are one in humanity regardless of our differences in race, language, color, creed and habits.

Then all this strife and discord shall cease and the great peace shall come. A peace founded on better understanding of one another, bound with the strong intellectual tie, that we are children of Adam and Athom and should live together as one kindred and to consider mankind members of one family.

Humbly I pray that through the actions of the living example of the basic principles taught by our Great Master "Beha 'U'llah" and the unexhaustible efforts of the diffusers of Truth, humanity will become united under the Glorious banner of "The Most Resplendent Glory" and the melodious song universally be sung "Glory is to the Father."

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

TABLET OF TARAZAT

Revealed by Beha 'U'llah

In My Name, the Protector Over all Names!



PRAISE and glory belong unto the King of Names and the Creator of Heavens, the waves of the Sea of Whose Appearance are manifest and evident before the faces of all in the world. The Sun of His Command is submitted to no covering, and His Word of Affirmation is beyond the reach of negation. *Neither the restriction of tyrants nor the oppression wrought by Pharaohs could withhold Him from His Will.*

Praise be unto God! Although Signs (or Verses) have encompassed the world, and proofs and arguments are shining forth and manifest from all directions like unto the light, yet ignorant servants (or people) are found heedless, nay, even contradictory. O that they were content with mere contradicting! Nay, but they are all the time plotting to cut down the Blessed Tree. From the beginning of this Dispensation the manifestors of selfishness have exerted themselves with all tyranny and injustice to extinguish the Light of God; but, verily, God prevented them therefrom, and through His Power caused the Light to appear and protected it through His Might, until the heaven and earth were illuminated with its radiance and brightness! Praise be unto Him under all circumstances!

Glory be unto Thee, O Thou God of the World and Desire of Nations. O Thou Who has become manifest in the Greatest Name, whereby the pearl of Wisdom and Utterance have appeared from the shells of the great Sea of Thy Knowledge, and the heavens of Religions are adorned with the light of the Appearance of the Sun of Thy Countenance!

I beg of Thee—by that Word, by reason of which Thy Proof was made perfect among Thy creatures and Thy argument among Thy servants—to strengthen Thy people in that, whereby the face of the Cause will radiate in Thy Dominion and the standards of Thy Power and the banners of Thy Guidance will be planted in Thy lands and among Thy servants!

O my God! Thou beholdest them clinging to the rope of Thy Grace and holding fast unto the hem of the mantle of Thy Beneficence. Ordain for them that which may draw them nearer unto Thee, and withhold them from all else save Thee.

I beg of Thee, O Thou King of existence and Protector of the seen and unseen, to make whosoever arises to serve Thy Cause as a sea mov-

THE BAB AND HIS PREDECESSORS

(The New Elijah)



HE awakening era for liberation from Religious Orthodoxy, began in Iran (Persia) in the early nineteenth century.

The first Reformer was Sheikh Ahmad Ahsai, born 1741 A. D.

This great personage from his youth was a seeker of new light. A devout student of the Koran and the Shiat Doctrine, a Progressive Teacher and leader of Sheikhi School.

At the suggestion of his Spiritual advisers he journeyed to Karbala and Najaf (the center of the Students of Theology) where he resided and taught his progressive teachings.

In a short duration of time he acquired great fame and surrounded himself with many liberal minded students.

He was an advanced and independent thinker, and his explanation of the Doctrine appealed to the dissatisfied individuals.

At the time the horizon of the minds of Iranians (Persians) was covered with the clouds of religious superstition, therefore the appearance of such a great Son of Liberty and the sound explanation and interpretation of the Doctrine brought him fame and glory and eventually he became a powerful leader.

His sudden rise to popularity caused the Shah to extend to him an invitation to come to the Capitol for counsel and advice.

Then he proceeded to Kermanshah and from there to Yezd where he resided twelve years, devoting his entire time to progressive teachings.

He made several pilgrimages to Mecca and on the last occasion he passed unto Eternity before reaching the Holy shrine of Kaba in 1825 A. D.

He was succeeded by his devoted disciple, Haji Seyed Kazim of Rasht, who came from a prominent merchant family.

This new leader while a young man one night in a dream was authorized by a supposed "Saint" to enroll himself under the Spiritual guidance of the said Sheikh Ahmad Ahsai.

He accordingly proceeded and eventually became a devout follower and earnest disciple of the Great Ahsai, in whose doctrine he attained such a fame that after his death, he was unanimously recognized as Leader of the Sheikhi School. He died in Bagdad Irak year 1843 A. D. at the age of fifty.

This venerable Teacher authorized his followers to expect the appearance of Khaim or Emam Mahdy (Elijah) after his departure.

He did not appoint a successor and devoted the last few years of his life paving the way for the coming of Mahdy and his appearance on Earth.

A year hence, there appeared in Iran (Persia) a young man of twenty-four years of age, whose name was Ali Mohammed, a descendent of the Prophet. He possessed the highest degree of the power of wisdom and spiritual inspiration. At the beginning he called himself "Bab," meaning gate (through which to gain Knowledge of Truth). Afterwards he claimed to be Khaim or Eman Mahdy whom the Mohammedans expected.

In a short duration of time he revolutionized the thoughts of the masses.

He brought them from darkness to light and from extreme religious orthodoxy to liberalism. He paved the way for the coming of the Glory of God "He whom God shall manifest" Beha 'U'llah.

One of his messages was thus,

"O ye people of the Earth, that which was prophesied by the Holy men of ancient times, will shortly come to pass. The Kingdom of God shall be established upon the Earth.

Prepare Ye in the desert a highway for our God. The Glory of God shall be revealed, all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."

His message spread rapidly throughout the land and thousands of Theologians and learned students followed him.

His followers were called Babis and were scattered all over Iran (Persia) but more prominently visible in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz, Neiris, Zanzan, the province of Mazanderan and Persian Irak.

The rapid spread of this message and the progress of his cause aroused the anger of the Mullahs (Mohammedan Theologians) as they feared the downfall of their leadership.

They organized against the Bab and his followers, calling him an impostor and a magician, and finally succeeded in sowing the seed of hatred in the hearts of the ignorant masses against the Babis. Allied with themselves the Governors of many provinces caused the persecution of hundreds of innocent Godly citizens.

Faithful and prominent Babis were put to death without question or judgment and many of the Governors participated in these unfortunate events to satisfy the desire of the Mullahs.

In spite of the severe persecution the Babis became more energetic and enthusiastic in the diffusion of the Message throughout the land.

The clamor of this movement commanded the attention of the Shah, who sent Sayyed Yahya of Darab, one of the highest Doctors, to question the Bab as to his teachings.

After his visit to the Bab this learned man became convinced of the Truth of the Bab's Message and allied himself with this cause as a zealous believer and preacher, so the Bab's cause became stronger as time passed.

The Mullahs decided to try a new method to extinguish this great light by forcing the Government to capture the Bab and placed him in prison, and not satisfied with this, caused his execution. The Bab and a devoted follower called Agha Mohammed Ali, were put to death in the city of Tabriz on the 9th day of July 1850 A. D.

A noted Babi historian recorded this unfortunate event thus:

"Next day the Chief of the Farrashes (Jail Keepers) delivered over the Bab and a young man named Agha Mohammed Ali; who was of a noble family of Tabriz to Saam Khan, Colonel of the Christian regiment of Urumiya at the sentence of the learned divine Mulla Mohammed of Mamaghan of the second ecclesiastical authority, Mirza Baghir and of the third ecclesiastical authority Mulla Mumtaz and others.

An iron nail was hammered into the middle of the staircase of the very cell wherein they were imprisoned and two ropes were hung down. By one rope the Bab was suspended and by the other rope Agha Mohammed Ali; both being firmly bound in such manner that the head of the young man was on the Bab's breast. The surrounding housetops billowed with teeming crowds.

A regiment of soldiers ranged itself in three files. The first file fired, then the second file, and then the third file discharged volleys, from the fire of these volleys a mighty smoke was produced. When the smoke cleared away they saw the young man standing and the Bab seated in the very cell from the staircase of which they had suspended them.

To neither one of them had the slightest injury resulted.

Colonel Saam Khan the Christian asked to be excused from the second attempt of the execution of the Bab. The turn of service came to another regiment and the Chief of the Farrashes withheld his hand. Agha Jan Bey of Ghamsa, Colonel of the body guard, advanced and they again bound the Bab together with the young man to the same nail. The Colonel of the regiment appeared in person and it was before noon on the 9th day of July 1850 A. D. Suddenly he gave orders to fire, at this volley the bullets produced such effect that the breasts (of the victims) were riddled, and their limbs were completely dissected, except their faces which were but little marred."

Three days after the execution the remains were taken away by a few Babis in the darkness of night and kept in a hiding place for years and finally were brought to the Land of Holy and buried in Mount Carmel, Haifa, Palestine.

His Holiness The Bab is recognized as Mahdy and Elijah and this is proven by His works and teachings entitled "Bayan."

He says,

"The whole Bayan revolves round the saying of Him whom God shall manifest.

A thousand perusals of the Bayan are not equal to the perusal of one verse of what shall be revealed by Him whom God shall manifest.

I swear by the most Holy essence of God (Glorious and splendid is He) that in the day of the manifestation, whom God shall manifest, if one should hear a single verse from Him and recite it, it is better than that he should recite the Bayan a thousand times.

The Bayan is today in the stage of seed but in the day of Him whom God shall manifest it will arrive at the degree of fruition.

All the splendor of the Bayan is He whom God shall manifest (Beha 'U'llah)."

The disciples of the Bab were many Theologians of whom the historians spoke of with great reverence.

Amongst them was a great Soul, a wonderful woman who discarded the veil and preached the new message to the masses.

She was called Korratel Ayn and Tahera (meaning Pure).

A daughter of a Theologian and well informed student, she served the cause of the Bab with great vigor and enthusiasm.

Of this noble Soul an English author writes thus:

"The appearance of such a woman as Korratel Ayn is in any country and any age a rare phenomenon, but in such a country as Persia it is prodigy, nay, almost a miracle.

Alike in virtue of her marvelous beauty, her fearless devotion and her glorious martyrdom, she stands forth incomparable and immortal amidst her country women.

Had the Babi religion no other claim to greatness this were sufficient that it produced a heroine like Korratel Ayn."

This marvelous woman was a poetess also. The same author attributes the following verses to Korratel Ayn:

“The effulgence of thy face flashed forth and the rays of thy visage arose
on high;
Why lags the word, ‘Am I not your Lord’? ‘Yea, that thou art’ ‘Let us
make reply.’
‘Am I not an appeal from thy drum, to greet what ‘Yeas’ the drums of
devotion beat;
At the gate of my heart I behold the feet and the tents of the host of
calamity.

That fair moon’s love for me, I trow, is enough; for he laughed at my
tale of woe,
And exulting cried as he sank below, ‘The Martyr of Karbala am I.’
When he heard my death-wail drear, for me he prepared, and arranged
my gear for me,
He advanced to lament at my bier for me, and o’er me wept right bitterly.
What harm if thou with the fire of amaze should’st set my Sinai-heart
ablaze
Which thou first mad’st fast in a hundred ways but to shake and shatter
so ruthlessly?

To convene the guests to his feast of love all night from the angel-host
above,
Pells forth this summons ineffable ‘Hail, sorrow-stricken community!’
Can a scale of the fish amaze like thee aspire to sing of Being Sea?
Sit still like Tahira, hearkening to what the monster of ‘No’ doth cry.”

Korratel Ayn, like many other of Bab’s disciples, was executed in
Teheran in the year 1852 A. D.

The account of her execution varies, but the most authentic is thus:
After extreme tortures she was cast alive unto a dry well which was
filled with stones. Dr. Jacob Eduard Polak of Leipzig formerly physi-
cian to the shah of Persia and professor at the Medical College of Te-
heran, happened to be an eye witness to the execution.

He writes of the horrible cruelties perpetrated on the Babis—their
extra-ordinary fortitude—the tortures inflicted on the beautiful Korratel
Ayn and the Super-human courage wherewith she endured her linger-
ing death.

This explanation substantiates the aforesaid account of her execution.

The young progressive Iranians should realize the greatness of those
noble souls and their sacrifices for the progress and freedom which they
are enjoying today.

SHUA ULLAH BEHAI.

WHAT I BELIEVE TODAY



I BELIEVE in the changeless love and fatherhood of God, and in the brotherhood of all humanity; in the Golden Rule as the supreme law of society; in a heaven that begins here upon this earth; in a religion that values men more than money, and deeds more than creeds; in a Gospel that has enough truth and love and life within it to unite all the people and all the nations of the world into one great fellowship, and which has power enough to bring health, happiness and hope to all mankind; in a religion which is inspired with a divine enthusiasm for humanity, in a unit of society which has knowledge and courage enough to grapple with every human problem and love enough to cast the devil of selfishness out of human hearts and human society; in the ideals which Jesus and Beha 'U'llah held up before the world as the beginning and the end of all true progress, and in love as the regant force, service as the highest achievement, and God incarnate in human institutions as the growing ideal of the age.

I BELIEVE that the chain of responsibility links my life and my destiny to my fellow-men of every race, that the strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak; that is my business in life to champion every worthy cause; that nature lays upon every one the burdens of all, and upon all the burdens of each.

I BELIEVE that I shall live forever; that what men call death is only the gateway to real life, and that when I shuffle off this mortal coil, I shall only throw off the fetters of a circumscribed and temporary existence, and rise untrammelled to achieve the wonderful possibilities of the spiritual (cosmical) and eternal universe.

I BELIEVE that smiles are better than frowns, laughter better than tears, love better than hate, kindness better than coldness, commendation better than criticism, sympathy better than selfishness, and that an encouraging word or a kindly, helpful deed given to any struggling soul is worth more to bring it to God than loads of creeds or tons of theological dogmas.

I BELIEVE that sectarianism is the child of ignorance and prejudice and that it will disappear just as soon as the sunshine of the Truth chase the shadows of bigotry and selfishness from human hearts. I believe