

THE
H I D D E N
W O R D S

AND SELECTED
HOLY WRITINGS

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BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

THE HIDDEN WORDS &
SELECTED HOLY WRITINGS

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The first unit of *Reflections on the Life of the Spirit*—the first course in the Ruhi Institute sequence of courses—focuses on reading the Bahá'í Writings. This unit fosters the habit of reading passages from the Sacred Text every day and meditating on their meaning, a habit that will greatly aid participants as they walk a path of service.

This small book is a collection of Writings of Bahá'u'lláh. It includes *The Hidden Words* and a selection of other Writings presented as short passages. It is an excellent resource to support the fostering of the habit of engaging with the Word of God morning and night.

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THE
H I D D E N
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BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The Hidden Words was revealed by Bahá'u'lláh on the banks of the Tigris River in 1857. It was revealed partly in Persian, and partly in Arabic.

The Hidden Words is referred to as "dynamic spiritual leaven cast into the life of the world for the reorientation of the minds of men, the edification of their souls and the rectification of their conduct". Bahá'u'lláh Himself refers to it as "the inner essence" of that which was "revealed unto the Prophets of old" clothed "in the garment of brevity".

It is written that "these holy Words have not been revealed to be heard but to be practiced" and as such we are exhorted to recite them daily, memorise them, and strive to align our conduct with them.

It is important to note, that the salutations at the beginning of each verse, which include such phrases as Son of Spirit, Son of Man, Son of Being, are ways in which Bahá'u'lláh addresses humanity as a whole and there is no connotation within them of any sex differentiation between man and woman.

Part One: From the Arabic

He Is the Glory of Glories

This is that which hath descended from the realm of glory, uttered by the tongue of power and might, and revealed unto the Prophets of old. We have taken the inner essence thereof and clothed it in the garment of brevity, as a token of grace unto the righteous, that they may stand faithful unto the Covenant of God, may fulfil in their lives His trust, and in the realm of spirit obtain the gem of divine virtue.

- 1 *O Son of Spirit!* My first counsel is this:
Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart,
that thine may be a sovereignty ancient,
imperishable and everlasting.
- 2 *O Son of Spirit!* The best beloved of all
things in My sight is Justice; turn not away
therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect
it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid
thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not
through the eyes of others, and shalt know
of thine own knowledge and not through
the knowledge of thy neighbour. Ponder this
in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be.
Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign
of My loving-kindness. Set it then before
thine eyes.
- 3 *O Son of Man!* Veiled in My immemorial
being and in the ancient eternity of My essence,
I knew My love for thee; therefore I created
thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and
revealed to thee My beauty.

- 4 *O Son of Man!* I loved thy creation, hence
I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me,
that I may name thy name and fill thy soul
with the spirit of life.
- 5 *O Son of Being!* Love Me, that I may love
thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can
in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant.
- 6 *O Son of Being!* Thy Paradise is My love;
thy heavenly home, reunion with Me. Enter
therein and tarry not. This is that which hath
been destined for thee in Our kingdom
above and Our exalted dominion.
- 7 *O Son of Man!* If thou lovest Me, turn away
from thyself; and if thou seekest My pleasure,
regard not thine own; that thou mayest die
in Me and I may eternally live in thee.

- 8 *O Son of Spirit!* There is no peace for thee save by renouncing thyself and turning unto Me; for it behooveth thee to glory in My name, not in thine own; to put thy trust in Me and not in thyself, since I desire to be loved alone and above all that is.
- 9 *O Son of Being!* My love is My stronghold; he that entereth therein is safe and secure, and he that turneth away shall surely stray and perish.
- 10 *O Son of Utterance!* Thou art My stronghold; enter therein that thou mayest abide in safety. My love is in thee, know it, that thou mayest find Me near unto thee.
- 11 *O Son of Being!* Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee. Get thou from it thy radiance and seek none other than Me. For I have created thee rich and have bountifully shed My favour upon thee.

- 12 *O Son of Being!* With the hands of power I made thee and with the fingers of strength I created thee; and within thee have I placed the essence of My light. Be thou content with it and seek naught else, for My work is perfect and My command is binding. Question it not, nor have a doubt thereof.
- 13 *O Son of Spirit!* I created thee rich, why dost thou bring thyself down to poverty? Noble I made thee, wherewith dost thou abase thyself? Out of the essence of knowledge I gave thee being, why seekest thou enlightenment from anyone beside Me? Out of the clay of love I moulded thee, how dost thou busy thyself with another? Turn thy sight unto thyself, that thou mayest find Me standing within thee, mighty, powerful and self-subsisting.

- 14 *O Son of Man!* Thou art My dominion and My dominion perisheth not; wherefore fearest thou thy perishing? Thou art My light and My light shall never be extinguished; why dost thou dread extinction? Thou art My glory and My glory fadeth not; thou art My robe and My robe shall never be outworn. Abide then in thy love for Me, that thou mayest find Me in the realm of glory.
- 15 *O Son of Utterance!* Turn thy face unto Mine and renounce all save Me; for My sovereignty endureth and My dominion perisheth not. If thou seekest another than Me, yea, if thou searchest the universe forevermore, thy quest will be in vain.
- 16 *O Son of Light!* Forget all save Me and commune with My spirit. This is of the essence of My command, therefore turn unto it.

- 17 *O Son of Man!* Be thou content with Me and seek no other helper. For none but Me can ever suffice thee.
- 18 *O Son of Spirit!* Ask not of Me that which We desire not for thee, then be content with what We have ordained for thy sake, for this is that which profiteth thee, if therewith thou dost content thyself.
- 19 *O Son of the Wondrous Vision!* I have breathed within thee a breath of My own Spirit, that thou mayest be My lover. Why hast thou forsaken Me and sought a beloved other than Me?
- 20 *O Son of Spirit!* My claim on thee is great, it cannot be forgotten. My grace to thee is plenteous, it cannot be veiled. My love has made in thee its home, it cannot be concealed. My light is manifest to thee, it cannot be obscured.

- 21 *O Son of Man!* Upon the tree of effulgent glory I have hung for thee the choicest fruits, wherefore hast thou turned away and contented thyself with that which is less good? Return then unto that which is better for thee in the realm on high.
- 22 *O Son of Spirit!* Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created.
- 23 *O Son of the Supreme!* To the eternal I call thee, yet thou dost seek that which perisheth. What hath made thee turn away from Our desire and seek thine own?
- 24 *O Son of Man!* Transgress not thy limits, nor claim that which beseemeth thee not. Prostrate thyself before the countenance of thy God, the Lord of might and power.

- 25 *O Son of Spirit!* Vaunt not thyself over the poor, for I lead him on his way and behold thee in thy evil plight and confound thee forevermore.
- 26 *O Son of Being!* How couldst thou forget thine own faults and busy thyself with the faults of others? Whoso doeth this is accursed of Me.
- 27 *O Son of Man!* Breathe not the sins of others so long as thou art thyself a sinner. Shouldst thou transgress this command, accursed wouldst thou be, and to this I bear witness.
- 28 *O Son of Spirit!* Know thou of a truth: He that biddeth men be just and himself committeth iniquity is not of Me, even though he bear My name.
- 29 *O Son of Being!* Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not. This is My command unto thee, do thou observe it.

- 30 *O Son of Man!* Deny not My servant should
he ask anything from thee, for his face is
My face; be then abashed before Me.
- 31 *O Son of Being!* Bring thyself to account
each day ere thou art summoned to a
reckoning; for death, unheralded, shall come
upon thee and thou shalt be called to give
account for thy deeds.
- 32 *O Son of the Supreme!* I have made death
a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost
thou grieve? I made the light to shed on thee
its splendor. Why dost thou veil thyself
therefrom?
- 33 *O Son of Spirit!* With the joyful tidings
of light I hail thee: rejoice! To the court of
holiness I summon thee; abide therein that
thou mayest live in peace forevermore.

- 34 *O Son of Spirit!* The spirit of holiness
beareth unto thee the joyful tidings
of reunion; wherefore dost thou grieve?
The spirit of power confirmeth thee
in His cause; why dost thou veil thyself?
The light of His countenance doth lead
thee; how canst thou go astray?
- 35 *O Son of Man!* Sorrow not save that thou
art far from Us. Rejoice not save that thou art
drawing near and returning unto Us.
- 36 *O Son of Man!* Rejoice in the gladness
of thine heart, that thou mayest be worthy
to meet Me and to mirror forth My beauty.
- 37 *O Son of Man!* Divest not thyself of My
beauteous robe, and forfeit not thy portion
from My wondrous fountain, lest thou
shouldst thirst forevermore.
- 38 *O Son of Being!* Walk in My statutes for
love of Me and deny thyself that which thou
desirest if thou seekest My pleasure.

- 39 *O Son of Man!* Neglect not My commandments if thou lovest My beauty, and forget not My counsels if thou wouldst attain My good pleasure.
- 40 *O Son of Man!* Wert thou to speed through the immensity of space and traverse the expanse of heaven, yet thou wouldst find no rest save in submission to Our command and humbleness before Our Face.
- 41 *O Son of Man!* Magnify My cause that I may reveal unto thee the mysteries of My greatness and shine upon thee with the light of eternity.
- 42 *O Son of Man!* Humble thyself before Me, that I may graciously visit thee. Arise for the triumph of My cause, that while yet on earth thou mayest obtain the victory.
- 43 *O Son of Being!* Make mention of Me on My earth, that in My heaven I may remember thee, thus shall Mine eyes and thine be solaced.

- 44 *O Son of the Throne!* Thy hearing is My hearing, hear thou therewith. Thy sight is My sight, do thou see therewith, that in thine inmost soul thou mayest testify unto My exalted sanctity, and I within Myself may bear witness unto an exalted station for thee.
- 45 *O Son of Being!* Seek a martyr's death in My path, content with My pleasure and thankful for that which I ordain, that thou mayest repose with Me beneath the canopy of majesty behind the tabernacle of glory.
- 46 *O Son of Man!* Ponder and reflect. Is it thy wish to die upon thy bed, or to shed thy lifeblood on the dust, a martyr in My path, and so become the manifestation of My command and the revealer of My light in the highest paradise? Judge thou aright, O servant!

- 47 *O Son of Man!* By My beauty! To tinge
thy hair with thy blood is greater in My sight
than the creation of the universe and the light
of both worlds. Strive then to attain this,
O servant!
- 48 *O Son of Man!* For everything there is a sign.
The sign of love is fortitude under My decree
and patience under My trials.
- 49 *O Son of Man!* The true lover yearneth
for tribulation even as doth the rebel for
forgiveness and the sinful for mercy.
- 50 *O Son of Man!* If adversity befall thee not
in My path, how canst thou walk in the ways
of them that are content with My pleasure?
If trials afflict thee not in thy longing to meet
Me, how wilt thou attain the light in thy love
for My beauty?

- 51 *O Son of Man!* My calamity is My providence,
outwardly it is fire and vengeance, but inwardly
it is light and mercy. Hasten thereunto that
thou mayest become an eternal light and
an immortal spirit. This is My command unto
thee, do thou observe it.
- 52 *O Son of Man!* Should prosperity befall thee,
rejoice not, and should abasement come
upon thee, grieve not, for both shall pass
away and be no more.
- 53 *O Son of Being!* If poverty overtake thee,
be not sad; for in time the Lord of wealth
shall visit thee. Fear not abasement, for glory
shall one day rest on thee.
- 54 *O Son of Being!* If thine heart be set upon
this eternal, imperishable dominion, and this
ancient, everlasting life, forsake this mortal
and fleeting sovereignty.

- 55 *O Son of Being!* Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants.
- 56 *O Son of Man!* Thou dost wish for gold and I desire thy freedom from it. Thou thinkest thyself rich in its possession, and I recognize thy wealth in thy sanctity therefrom. By My life! This is My knowledge, and that is thy fancy; how can My way accord with thine?
- 57 *O Son of Man!* Bestow My wealth upon My poor, that in heaven thou mayest draw from stores of unfading splendor and treasures of imperishable glory. But by My life! To offer up thy soul is a more glorious thing couldst thou but see with Mine eye.
- 58 *O Son of Man!* The temple of being is My throne; cleanse it of all things, that there I may be established and there I may abide.

- 59 *O Son of Being!* Thy heart is My home; sanctify it for My descent. Thy spirit is My place of revelation; cleanse it for My manifestation.
- 60 *O Son of Man!* Put thy hand into My bosom, that I may rise above thee, radiant and resplendent.
- 61 *O Son of Man!* Ascend unto My heaven, that thou mayest obtain the joy of reunion, and from the chalice of imperishable glory quaff the peerless wine.
- 62 *O Son of Man!* Many a day hath passed over thee whilst thou hast busied thyself with thy fancies and idle imaginings. How long art thou to slumber on thy bed? Lift up thy head from slumber, for the Sun hath risen to the zenith, haply it may shine upon thee with the light of beauty.

63 *O Son of Man!* The light hath shone
on thee from the horizon of the sacred
Mount and the spirit of enlightenment hath
breathed in the Sinai of thy heart. Wherefore,
free thyself from the veils of idle fancies and
enter into My court, that thou mayest be fit
for everlasting life and worthy to meet Me.
Thus may death not come upon thee, neither
weariness nor trouble.

64 *O Son of Man!* My eternity is My creation,
I have created it for thee. Make it the garment
of thy temple. My unity is My handiwork;
I have wrought it for thee; clothe thyself
therewith, that thou mayest be to all eternity
the revelation of My everlasting being.

65 *O Son of Man!* My majesty is My gift to thee,
and My grandeur the token of My mercy unto
thee. That which beseemeth Me none shall
understand, nor can anyone recount. Verily,
I have preserved it in My hidden storehouses
and in the treasuries of My command, as a
sign of My loving-kindness unto My servants
and My mercy unto My people.

66 *O Children of the Divine and Invisible
Essence!* Ye shall be hindered from loving
Me and souls shall be perturbed as they
make mention of Me. For minds cannot
grasp Me nor hearts contain Me.

67 *O Son of Beauty!* By My spirit and by My
favour! By My mercy and by My beauty!
All that I have revealed unto thee with
the tongue of power, and have written
for thee with the pen of might, hath been
in accordance with thy capacity and
understanding, not with My state and the
melody of My voice.

- 68 *O Children of Men!* Know ye not why
We created you all from the same dust?
That no one should exalt himself over the
other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how
ye were created. Since We have created you
all from one same substance it is incumbent
on you to be even as one soul, to walk with
the same feet, eat with the same mouth and
dwell in the same land, that from your inmost
being, by your deeds and actions, the signs
of oneness and the essence of detachment
may be made manifest. Such is My counsel
to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye
this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit
of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory.
- 69 *O Ye Sons of Spirit!* Ye are My treasury,
for in you I have treasured the pearls
of My mysteries and the gems of My
knowledge. Guard them from the strangers
amidst My servants and from the ungodly
amongst My people.

- 70 *O Son of Him that Stood by His Own Entity
in the Kingdom of His Self!* Know thou, that
I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of
holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word,
have perfected through thee My bounty
and have desired for thee that which I have
desired for My Self. Be then content with
My pleasure and thankful unto Me.
- 71 *O Son of Man!* Write all that We have
revealed unto thee with the ink of light
upon the tablet of thy spirit. Should this not
be in thy power, then make thine ink of the
essence of thy heart. If this thou canst not
do, then write with that crimson ink that
hath been shed in My path. Sweeter indeed
is this to Me than all else, that its light may
endure forever.

Part Two: From the Persian

*In the Name of the Lord of Utterance,
the Mighty.*

- 1 *O Ye People that Have Minds to Know and Ears to Hear!* The first call of the Beloved is this: O mystic nightingale! Abide not but in the rose garden of the spirit. O messenger of the Solomon of love! Seek thou no shelter except in the Sheba of the well-beloved, and O immortal phoenix! dwell not save on the mount of faithfulness. Therein is thy habitation, if on the wings of thy soul thou soarest to the realm of the infinite and seekest to attain thy goal.
- 2 *O Son of Spirit!* The bird seeketh its nest; the nightingale the charm of the rose; whilst those birds, the hearts of men, content with transient dust, have strayed far from their eternal nest, and with eyes turned towards the slough of heedlessness are bereft of the glory of the divine presence. Alas! How strange and pitiful; for a mere cupful, they have turned away from the billowing seas of the Most High, and remained far from the most effulgent horizon.

- 3 *O Friend!* In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold. Treasure the companionship of the righteous and eschew all fellowship with the ungodly.
- 4 *O Son of Justice!* Whither can a lover go but to the land of his beloved? and what seeker findeth rest away from his heart's desire? To the true lover reunion is life, and separation is death. His breast is void of patience and his heart hath no peace. A myriad lives he would forsake to hasten to the abode of his beloved.
- 5 *O Son of Dust!* Verily I say unto thee: Of all men the most negligent is he that disputeth idly and seeketh to advance himself over his brother. Say: O brethren! Let deeds, not words, be your adorning.

- 6 *O Son of Earth!* Know, verily, the heart wherein the least remnant of envy yet lingers, shall never attain My everlasting dominion, nor inhale the sweet savors of holiness breathing from My kingdom of sanctity.
- 7 *O Son of Love!* Thou art but one step away from the glorious heights above and from the celestial tree of love. Take thou one pace and with the next advance into the immortal realm and enter the pavilion of eternity. Give ear then to that which hath been revealed by the Pen of Glory.
- 8 *O Son of Glory!* Be swift in the path of holiness, and enter the heaven of communion with Me. Cleanse thy heart with the burnish of the spirit, and hasten to the court of the Most High.

- 9 *O Fleeting Shadow!* Pass beyond the baser stages of doubt and rise to the exalted heights of certainty. Open the eye of truth, that thou mayest behold the veilless Beauty and exclaim: Hallowed be the Lord, the most excellent of all creators!
- 10 *O Son of Desire!* Give ear unto this: Never shall mortal eye recognize the everlasting Beauty, nor the lifeless heart delight in aught but in the withered bloom. For like seeketh like, and taketh pleasure in the company of its kind.

- 11 *O Son of Dust!* Blind thine eyes, that thou mayest behold My beauty; stop thine ears, that thou mayest hearken unto the sweet melody of My voice; empty thyself of all learning, that thou mayest partake of My knowledge; and sanctify thyself from riches, that thou mayest obtain a lasting share from the ocean of My eternal wealth. Blind thine eyes, that is, to all save My beauty; stop thine ears to all save My word; empty thyself of all learning save the knowledge of Me; that with a clear vision, a pure heart and an attentive ear thou mayest enter the court of My holiness.
- 12 *O Man of Two Visions!* Close one eye and open the other. Close one to the world and all that is therein, and open the other to the hallowed beauty of the Beloved.

- 13 *O My Children!* I fear lest, bereft of the melody of the dove of heaven, ye will sink back to the shades of utter loss, and, never having gazed upon the beauty of the rose, return to water and clay.
- 14 *O Friends!* Abandon not the everlasting beauty for a beauty that must die, and set not your affections on this mortal world of dust.
- 15 *O Son of Spirit!* The time cometh, when the nightingale of holiness will no longer unfold the inner mysteries and ye will all be bereft of the celestial melody and of the voice from on high.
- 16 *O Essence of Negligence!* Myriads of mystic tongues find utterance in one speech, and myriads of hidden mysteries are revealed in a single melody; yet, alas, there is no ear to hear, nor heart to understand.

17 *O Comrades!* The gates that open on the
Placeless stand wide and the habitation
of the loved one is adorned with the lovers'
blood, yet all but a few remain bereft of this
celestial city, and even of these few, none but
the smallest handful hath been found with
a pure heart and sanctified spirit.

18 *O Ye Dwellers in the Highest Paradise!*
Proclaim unto the children of assurance that
within the realms of holiness, nigh unto
the celestial paradise, a new garden hath
appeared, round which circle the denizens
of the realm on high and the immortal
dwellers of the exalted paradise. Strive,
then, that ye may attain that station, that ye
may unravel the mysteries of love from its
windflowers and learn the secret of divine
and consummate wisdom from its eternal
fruits. Solaced are the eyes of them that enter
and abide therein!

19 *O My Friends!* Have ye forgotten that true
and radiant morn, when in those hallowed
and blessed surroundings ye were all gathered
in My presence beneath the shade of the tree
of life, which is planted in the all-glorious
paradise? Awestruck ye listened as I gave
utterance to these three most holy words:
O friends! Prefer not your will to Mine, never
desire that which I have not desired for you,
and approach Me not with lifeless hearts,
defiled with worldly desires and cravings.
Would ye but sanctify your souls, ye would
at this present hour recall that place and those
surroundings, and the truth of My utterance
should be made evident unto all of you.

In the eighth of the most holy lines, in the fifth Tablet of Paradise, He saith:

- 20 *O Ye That Are Lying as Dead on the Couch of Heedlessness!* Ages have passed and your precious lives are well-nigh ended, yet not a single breath of purity hath reached Our court of holiness from you. Though immersed in the ocean of misbelief, yet with your lips ye profess the one true faith of God. Him whom I abhor ye have loved, and of My foe ye have made a friend. Notwithstanding, ye walk on My earth complacent and self-satisfied, heedless that My earth is weary of you and everything within it shunneth you. Were ye but to open your eyes, ye would, in truth, prefer a myriad griefs unto this joy, and would count death itself better than this life.

- 21 *O Moving Form of Dust!* I desire communion with thee, but thou wouldst put no trust in Me. The sword of thy rebellion hath felled the tree of thy hope. At all times I am near unto thee, but thou art ever far from Me. Imperishable glory I have chosen for thee, yet boundless shame thou hast chosen for thyself. While there is yet time, return, and lose not thy chance.
- 22 *O Son of Desire!* The learned and the wise have for long years striven and failed to attain the presence of the All-Glorious; they have spent their lives in search of Him, yet did not behold the beauty of His countenance. Thou without the least effort didst attain thy goal, and without search hast obtained the object of thy quest. Yet, notwithstanding, thou didst remain so rapt in the veil of self, that thine eyes beheld not the beauty of the Beloved, nor did thy hand touch the hem of His robe. Ye that have eyes, behold and wonder.

23 *O Dwellers in the City of Love!*

Mortal blasts have beset the everlasting
 candle, and the beauty of the celestial
 Youth is veiled in the darkness of dust.
 The chief of the monarchs of love is wronged
 by the people of tyranny and the dove of
 holiness lies prisoned in the talons of owls.
 The dwellers in the pavilion of glory and
 the celestial concourse bewail and lament,
 while ye repose in the realm of negligence,
 and esteem yourselves as of the true friends.
 How vain are your imaginings!

24 *O Ye That Are Foolish, Yet Have a Name
 to Be Wise!* Wherefore do ye wear the guise
 of shepherds, when inwardly ye have become
 wolves, intent upon My flock? Ye are even
 as the star, which riseth ere the dawn, and
 which, though it seem radiant and luminous,
 leadeth the wayfarers of My city astray into
 the paths of perdition.

25 *O Ye Seeming Fair Yet Inwardly Foul!*

Ye are like clear but bitter water, which to
 outward seeming is crystal pure but of which,
 when tested by the divine Assayer, not a
 drop is accepted. Yea, the sunbeam falls alike
 upon the dust and the mirror, yet differ they
 in reflection even as doth the star from the
 earth: nay, immeasurable is the difference!

26 *O My Friend in Word!* Ponder awhile.
 Hast thou ever heard that friend and foe
 should abide in one heart? Cast out then the
 stranger, that the Friend may enter His home.

27 *O Son of Dust!* All that is in heaven and earth I have ordained for thee, except the human heart, which I have made the habitation of My beauty and glory; yet thou didst give My home and dwelling to another than Me; and whenever the manifestation of My holiness sought His own abode, a stranger found He there, and, homeless, hastened unto the sanctuary of the Beloved. Notwithstanding I have concealed thy secret and desired not thy shame.

28 *O Essence of Desire!* At many a dawn have I turned from the realms of the Placeless unto thine abode, and found thee on the bed of ease busied with others than Myself. Thereupon, even as the flash of the spirit, I returned to the realms of celestial glory and breathed it not in My retreats above unto the hosts of holiness.

29 *O Son of Bounty!* Out of the wastes of nothingness, with the clay of My command I made thee to appear, and have ordained for thy training every atom in existence and the essence of all created things. Thus, ere thou didst issue from thy mother's womb, I destined for thee two founts of gleaming milk, eyes to watch over thee, and hearts to love thee. Out of My loving-kindness, 'neath the shade of My mercy I nurtured thee, and guarded thee by the essence of My grace and favour. And My purpose in all this was that thou mightest attain My everlasting dominion and become worthy of My invisible bestowals. And yet heedless thou didst remain, and when fully grown, thou didst neglect all My bounties and occupied thyself with thine idle imaginings, in such wise that thou didst become wholly forgetful, and, turning away from the portals of the Friend didst abide within the courts of My enemy.

- 30 *O Bondslave of the World!* Many a dawn hath the breeze of My loving-kindness wafted over thee and found thee upon the bed of heedlessness fast asleep. Bewailing then thy plight it returned whence it came.
- 31 *O Son of Earth!* Wouldst thou have Me, seek none other than Me; and wouldst thou gaze upon My beauty, close thine eyes to the world and all that is therein; for My will and the will of another than Me, even as fire and water, cannot dwell together in one heart.
- 32 *O Befriended Stranger!* The candle of thine heart is lighted by the hand of My power, quench it not with the contrary winds of self and passion. The healer of all thine ills is remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My love thy treasure and cherish it even as thy very sight and life.

- 33 *O My Brother!* Hearken to the delightful words of My honeyed tongue, and quaff the stream of mystic holiness from My sugar-shedding lips. Sow the seeds of My divine wisdom in the pure soil of thy heart, and water them with the water of certitude, that the hyacinths of My knowledge and wisdom may spring up fresh and green in the sacred city of thy heart.
- 34 *O Dwellers of My Paradise!* With the hands of loving-kindness I have planted in the holy garden of paradise the young tree of your love and friendship, and have watered it with the goodly showers of My tender grace; now that the hour of its fruiting is come, strive that it may be protected, and be not consumed with the flame of desire and passion.

- 35 *O My Friends!* Quench ye the lamp of error,
and kindle within your hearts the everlasting
torch of divine guidance. For ere long
the assayers of mankind shall, in the holy
presence of the Adored, accept naught but
purest virtue and deeds of stainless holiness.
- 36 *O Son of Dust!* The wise are they that speak
not unless they obtain a hearing, even as the
cup-bearer, who proffereth not his cup till
he findeth a seeker, and the lover who crieth
not out from the depths of his heart until
he gazeth upon the beauty of his beloved.
Wherefore sow the seeds of wisdom and
knowledge in the pure soil of the heart, and
keep them hidden, till the hyacinths of divine
wisdom spring from the heart and not from
mire and clay.

*In the first line of the Tablet it is recorded
and written, and within the sanctuary
of the tabernacle of God is hidden:*

- 37 *O My Servant!* Abandon not for that which
perisheth an everlasting dominion, and cast
not away celestial sovereignty for a worldly
desire. This is the river of everlasting life that
hath flowed from the wellspring of the pen
of the merciful; well is it with them that drink!
- 38 *O Son of Spirit!* Burst thy cage asunder,
and even as the phoenix of love soar into the
firmament of holiness. Renounce thyself and,
filled with the spirit of mercy, abide in the
realm of celestial sanctity.

- 39 *O Offspring of Dust!* Be not content with the ease of a passing day, and deprive not thyself of everlasting rest. Barter not the garden of eternal delight for the dust-heap of a mortal world. Up from thy prison ascend unto the glorious meads above, and from thy mortal cage wing thy flight unto the paradise of the Placeless.
- 40 *O My Servant!* Free thyself from the fetters of this world, and loose thy soul from the prison of self. Seize thy chance, for it will come to thee no more.
- 41 *O Son of My Handmaid!* Didst thou behold immortal sovereignty, thou wouldst strive to pass from this fleeting world. But to conceal the one from thee and to reveal the other is a mystery which none but the pure in heart can comprehend.

- 42 *O My Servant!* Purge thy heart from malice and, innocent of envy, enter the divine court of holiness.
- 43 *O My Friends!* Walk ye in the ways of the good pleasure of the Friend, and know that His pleasure is in the pleasure of His creatures. That is: no man should enter the house of his friend save at his friend's pleasure, nor lay hands upon his treasures nor prefer his own will to his friend's, and in no wise seek an advantage over him. Ponder this, ye that have insight!

44 *O Companion of My Throne!* Hear no evil, and see no evil, abase not thyself, neither sigh and weep. Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken unto thee, and magnify not the faults of others that thine own faults may not appear great; and wish not the abasement of anyone, that thine own abasement be not exposed. Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment, with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified, so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame, and repair unto the mystic paradise and abide in the eternal kingdom forevermore.

45 *Alas! Alas! O Lovers of Worldly Desire!*
Even as the swiftness of lightning ye have passed by the Beloved One, and have set your hearts on satanic fancies. Ye bow the knee before your vain imagining, and call it truth. Ye turn your eyes towards the thorn, and name it a flower. Not a pure breath have ye breathed, nor hath the breeze of detachment been wafted from the meadows of your hearts. Ye have cast to the winds the loving counsels of the Beloved and have effaced them utterly from the tablet of your hearts, and even as the beasts of the field, ye move and have your being within the pastures of desire and passion.

- 46 *O Brethren in the Path!* Wherefore have ye neglected the mention of the Loved One, and kept remote from His holy presence? The essence of beauty is within the peerless pavilion, set upon the throne of glory, whilst ye busy yourselves with idle contentions. The sweet savors of holiness are breathing and the breath of bounty is wafted, yet ye are all sorely afflicted and deprived thereof. Alas for you and for them that walk in your ways and follow in your footsteps!
- 47 *O Children of Desire!* Put away the garment of vainglory, and divest yourselves of the attire of haughtiness.

- In the third of the most holy lines writ and recorded in the Ruby Tablet by the pen of the unseen this is revealed:*
- 48 *O Brethren!* Be forbearing one with another and set not your affections on things below. Pride not yourselves in your glory, and be not ashamed of abasement. By My beauty! I have created all things from dust, and to dust will I return them again.
- 49 *O Children of Dust!* Tell the rich of the midnight sighing of the poor, lest heedlessness lead them into the path of destruction, and deprive them of the Tree of Wealth. To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues.
- 50 *O Quintessence of Passion!* Put away all covetousness and seek contentment; for the covetous hath ever been deprived, and the contented hath ever been loved and praised.

51 *O Son of My Handmaid!* Be not troubled in poverty nor confident in riches, for poverty is followed by riches, and riches are followed by poverty. Yet to be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift, belittle not the value thereof, for in the end it will make thee rich in God, and thus thou shalt know the meaning of the utterance, "In truth ye are the poor," and the holy words, "God is the all-possessing," shall even as the true morn break forth gloriously resplendent upon the horizon of the lover's heart, and abide secure on the throne of wealth.

52 *O Children of Negligence and Passion!*
 Ye have suffered My enemy to enter My house and have cast out My friend, for ye have enshrined the love of another than Me in your hearts. Give ear to the sayings of the Friend and turn towards His paradise. Worldly friends, seeking their own good, appear to love one the other, whereas the true Friend hath loved and doth love you for your own sakes; indeed He hath suffered for your guidance countless afflictions. Be not disloyal to such a Friend, nay rather hasten unto Him. Such is the daystar of the word of truth and faithfulness, that hath dawned above the horizon of the pen of the Lord of all names. Open your ears that ye may hearken unto the word of God, the Help in peril, the Self-Existent.

- 53 *O Ye that Pride Yourselves on Mortal Riches!* Know ye in truth that wealth is a mighty barrier between the seeker and his desire, the lover and his beloved. The rich, but for a few, shall in no wise attain the court of His presence nor enter the city of content and resignation. Well is it then with him, who, being rich, is not hindered by his riches from the eternal kingdom, nor deprived by them of imperishable dominion. By the Most Great Name! The splendor of such a wealthy man shall illuminate the dwellers of heaven even as the sun enlightens the people of the earth!
- 54 *O Ye Rich Ones on Earth!* The poor in your midst are My trust; guard ye My trust, and be not intent only on your own ease.
- 55 *O Son of Passion!* Cleanse thyself from the defilement of riches and in perfect peace advance into the realm of poverty; that from the wellspring of detachment thou mayest quaff the wine of immortal life.

- 56 *O My Son!* The company of the ungodly increaseth sorrow, whilst fellowship with the righteous cleanseth the rust from off the heart. He that seeketh to commune with God, let him betake himself to the companionship of His loved ones; and he that desireth to hearken unto the word of God, let him give ear to the words of His chosen ones.
- 57 *O Son of Dust!* Beware! Walk not with the ungodly and seek not fellowship with him, for such companionship turneth the radiance of the heart into infernal fire.
- 58 *O Son of My Handmaid!* Wouldst thou seek the grace of the Holy Spirit, enter into fellowship with the righteous, for he hath drunk the cup of eternal life at the hands of the immortal Cupbearer and even as the true morn doth quicken and illumine the hearts of the dead.

59 *O Heedless Ones!* Think not the secrets of hearts are hidden, nay, know ye of a certainty that in clear characters they are engraved and are openly manifest in the holy Presence.

60 *O Friends!* Verily I say, whatsoever ye have concealed within your hearts is to Us open and manifest as the day; but that it is hidden is of Our grace and favour, and not of your deserving.

61 *O Son of Man!* A dewdrop out of the fathomless ocean of My mercy I have shed upon the peoples of the world, yet found none turn thereunto, inasmuch as everyone hath turned away from the celestial wine of unity unto the foul dregs of impurity, and, content with mortal cup, hath put away the chalice of immortal beauty. Vile is that wherewith he is contented.

62 *O Son of Dust!* Turn not away thine eyes from the matchless wine of the immortal Beloved, and open them not to foul and mortal dregs. Take from the hands of the divine Cupbearer the chalice of immortal life, that all wisdom may be thine, and that thou mayest hearken unto the mystic voice calling from the realm of the invisible. Cry aloud, ye that are of low aim! Wherefore have ye turned away from My holy and immortal wine unto evanescent water?

63 *O Ye Peoples of the World!* Know, verily, that an unforeseen calamity followeth you, and grievous retribution awaiteth you. Think not that which ye have committed hath been effaced in My sight. By My beauty! All your doings hath My pen graven with open characters upon tablets of chrysolite.

64 *O Oppressors on Earth!* Withdraw your hands from tyranny, for I have pledged Myself not to forgive any man's injustice. This is My covenant which I have irrevocably decreed in the preserved tablet and sealed with My seal of glory.

65 *O Rebellious Ones!* My forbearance hath emboldened you and My long-suffering hath made you negligent, in such wise that ye have spurred on the fiery charger of passion into perilous ways that lead unto destruction. Have ye thought Me heedless or that I was unaware?

66 *O Emigrants!* The tongue I have designed for the mention of Me, defile it not with detraction. If the fire of self overcome you, remember your own faults and not the faults of My creatures, inasmuch as every one of you knoweth his own self better than he knoweth others.

67 *O Children of Fancy!* Know, verily, that while the radiant dawn breaketh above the horizon of eternal holiness, the satanic secrets and deeds done in the gloom of night shall be laid bare and manifest before the peoples of the world.

68 *O Weed that Springeth Out of Dust!* Wherefore have not these soiled hands of thine touched first thine own garment, and why with thine heart defiled with desire and passion dost thou seek to commune with Me and to enter My sacred realm? Far, far are ye from that which ye desire.

- 69 *O Children of Adam!* Holy words and pure and goodly deeds ascend unto the heaven of celestial glory. Strive that your deeds may be cleansed from the dust of self and hypocrisy and find favour at the court of glory; for ere long the assayers of mankind shall, in the holy presence of the Adored One, accept naught but absolute virtue and deeds of stainless purity. This is the daystar of wisdom and of divine mystery that hath shone above the horizon of the divine will. Blessed are they that turn thereunto.
- 70 *O Son of Worldliness!* Pleasant is the realm of being, wert thou to attain thereto; glorious is the domain of eternity, shouldst thou pass beyond the world of mortality; sweet is the holy ecstasy if thou drinkest of the mystic chalice from the hands of the celestial Youth. Shouldst thou attain this station, thou wouldst be freed from destruction and death, from toil and sin.

- 71 *O My Friends!* Call ye to mind that covenant ye have entered into with Me upon Mount Páran, situate within the hallowed precincts of Zamán. I have taken to witness the concourse on high and the dwellers in the city of eternity, yet now none do I find faithful unto the covenant. Of a certainty pride and rebellion have effaced it from the hearts, in such wise that no trace thereof remaineth. Yet knowing this, I waited and disclosed it not.
- 72 *O My Servant!* Thou art even as a finely tempered sword concealed in the darkness of its sheath and its value hidden from the artificer's knowledge. Wherefore come forth from the sheath of self and desire that thy worth may be made resplendent and manifest unto all the world.

73 *O My Friend!* Thou art the daystar of the heavens of My holiness, let not the defilement of the world eclipse thy splendor. Rend asunder the veil of heedlessness, that from behind the clouds thou mayest emerge resplendent and array all things with the apparel of life.

74 *O Children of Vainglory!* For a fleeting sovereignty ye have abandoned My imperishable dominion, and have adorned yourselves with the gay livery of the world and made of it your boast. By My beauty! All will I gather beneath the one-colored covering of the dust and efface all these diverse colors save them that choose My own, and that is purging from every color.

75 *O Children of Negligence!* Set not your affections on mortal sovereignty and rejoice not therein. Ye are even as the unwary bird that with full confidence warbleth upon the bough; till of a sudden the fowler Death throws it upon the dust, and the melody, the form and the color are gone, leaving not a trace. Wherefore take heed, O bondslaves of desire!

76 *O Son of My Handmaid!* Guidance hath ever been given by words, and now it is given by deeds. Everyone must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourselves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent tablet.

77 *O Son of Justice!* In the night-season the beauty of the immortal Being hath repaired from the emerald height of fidelity unto the Sadratu'l-Muntahá, and wept with such a weeping that the concourse on high and the dwellers of the realms above wailed at His lamenting. Whereupon there was asked, Why the wailing and weeping? He made reply: As bidden I waited expectant upon the hill of faithfulness, yet inhaled not from them that dwell on earth the fragrance of fidelity. Then summoned to return I beheld, and lo! certain doves of holiness were sore tried within the claws of the dogs of earth. Thereupon the Maid of heaven hastened forth unveiled and resplendent from Her mystic mansion, and asked of their names, and all were told but one. And when urged, the first letter thereof was uttered, whereupon the dwellers of the celestial chambers rushed forth out of their habitation of glory. And whilst the second letter was pronounced they fell down, one and all, upon the dust. At that moment a voice was heard from the inmost shrine: "Thus far and no farther." Verily We bear witness to that which they have done and now are doing.

78 *O Son of My Handmaid!* Quaff from the tongue of the merciful the stream of divine mystery, and behold from the dayspring of divine utterance the unveiled splendor of the daystar of wisdom. Sow the seeds of My divine wisdom in the pure soil of the heart, and water them with the waters of certitude, that the hyacinths of knowledge and wisdom may spring up fresh and green from the holy city of the heart.

79 *O Son of Desire!* How long wilt thou soar in the realms of desire? Wings have I bestowed upon thee, that thou mayest fly to the realms of mystic holiness and not the regions of satanic fancy. The comb, too, have I given thee that thou mayest dress My raven locks, and not lacerate My throat.

80 *O My Servants!* Ye are the trees of My garden; ye must give forth goodly and wondrous fruits, that ye yourselves and others may profit therefrom. Thus it is incumbent on every one to engage in crafts and professions, for therein lies the secret of wealth, O men of understanding! For results depend upon means, and the grace of God shall be all-sufficient unto you. Trees that yield no fruit have been and will ever be for the fire.

81 *O My Servant!* The basest of men are they that yield no fruit on earth. Such men are verily counted as among the dead, nay better are the dead in the sight of God than those idle and worthless souls.

82 *O My Servant!* The best of men are they that earn a livelihood by their calling and spend upon themselves and upon their kindred for the love of God, the Lord of all worlds.

The mystic and wondrous Bride, hidden ere this beneath the veiling of utterance, hath now, by the grace of God and His divine favour, been made manifest even as the resplendent light shed by the beauty of the Beloved. I bear witness, O friends! that the favour is complete, the argument fulfilled, the proof manifest and the evidence established. Let it now be seen what your endeavors in the path of detachment will reveal. In this wise hath the divine favour been fully vouchsafed unto you and unto them that are in heaven and on earth. All praise to God, the Lord of all Worlds.

DAILY
READINGS

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

AWAKENING

The purpose of God in creating man hath been, and will ever be, to enable him to know his Creator and to attain His Presence. To this most excellent aim, this supreme objective, all the heavenly Books and the divinely-revealed and weighty Scriptures unequivocally bear witness.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One. The Call of God hath been raised, and the light of His countenance hath been lifted up upon men. It behooveth every man to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of his heart, and to gaze, with an open and unbiased mind, on the signs of His Revelation, the proofs of His Mission, and the tokens of His glory. Great indeed is this Day!

Great, immeasurably great is this Cause!
Mighty, inconceivably mighty is this Day! Blessed indeed is the man that hath forsaken all things,

and fastened his eyes upon Him Whose face hath shed illumination upon all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The Word of God hath set the heart of the world afire; how regrettable if ye fail to be enkindled with its flame! Please God, ye will regard this blessed night as the night of unity, will knit your souls together, and resolve to adorn yourselves with the ornament of a goodly and praiseworthy character. Let your principal concern be to rescue the fallen from the slough of impending extinction, and to help him embrace the ancient Faith of God. Your behavior towards your neighbour should be such as to manifest clearly the signs of the one true God, for ye are the first among men to be recreated by His Spirit, the first to adore and bow the knee before Him, the first to circle round His throne of glory.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Incline your hearts, O people of God, unto the counsels of your true, your incomparable Friend. The Word of God may be likened unto a sapling, whose roots have been implanted in the hearts of men. It is incumbent upon you to foster its growth through the living waters of wisdom, of sanctified and holy words, so that its root may become firmly fixed and its branches may spread out as high as the heavens and beyond.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Set your faces towards Him (Bahá'u'lláh), on this Day which God hath exalted above all other days, and whereon the All-Merciful hath shed the splendor of His effulgent glory upon all who are in heaven and all who are on earth. Arise thou to serve God and help His Cause.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

They say: 'Where is Paradise, and where is Hell?' Say: 'The one is reunion with Me; the other thine own self, O thou who dost associate a partner with God and doubttest.'

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths. Take heed that ye do not vacillate in your determination to embrace the truth of this Cause—a Cause through which the potentialities of the might of God have been revealed, and His sovereignty established.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Know thou that whoso seeketh to scale the summits of the divine mysteries must needs strive to the utmost of his power and capacity for his Faith, that the pathway of guidance may be made clear unto him.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

In all thine affairs put thy reliance in God, and commit them unto Him. He will render thee a reward which the Book hath ordained as great. Occupy thyself, during these fleeting days of thy life, with such deeds as will diffuse the fragrance of Divine good pleasure, and will be adorned with the ornament of His acceptance.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Whensoever he hath fulfilled the conditions implied in the verse: "Whoso maketh efforts for Us," he shall enjoy the blessing conferred by the words: "In Our ways shall We assuredly guide him." Only when the lamp of search, of earnest striving, of longing desire, of passionate devotion, of fervid love, of rapture, and ecstasy, is kindled within the seeker's heart, and the breeze of His loving-kindness is wafted upon his soul, will the darkness of error be dispelled, the mists of doubts and misgivings be dissipated, and the lights of knowledge and certitude envelop his being.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Wert thou to perceive, be it less than a needle's eye, the breaths of Mine utterance, thou wouldst abandon the world and all that is therein, and wouldst set thy face towards the lights of the countenance of the Desired One.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

So blind hath become the human heart that neither the disruption of the city, nor the reduction of the mountain in dust, nor even the cleaving of the earth, can shake off its torpor.

The allusions made in the Scriptures have been unfolded, and the signs recorded therein have been revealed, and the prophetic cry is continually being raised. And yet all, except such as God was pleased to guide, are bewildered in the drunkenness of their heedlessness! Witness how the world is being afflicted with a fresh calamity every day. Its tribulation is continually deepening.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The peoples of the world are fast asleep. Were they to wake from their slumber, they would hasten with eagerness unto God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. They would cast away everything they possess, be it all the treasures of the earth, that their Lord may remember them to the extent of addressing to them but one word...

Say: Rejoice not in the things ye possess; tonight they are yours, tomorrow others will possess them. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Say: Can ye claim that what ye own is lasting or secure? Nay! By Myself, the All-Merciful. The days of your life flee away as a breath of wind,

and all your pomp and glory shall be folded up as were the pomp and glory of those gone before you. Reflect, O people! What hath become of your bygone days, your lost centuries? Happy the days that have been consecrated to the remembrance of God, and blessed the hours which have been spent in praise of Him Who is the All-Wise...

What advantage is there in the earthly things which men possess? That which shall profit them, they have utterly neglected. Erelong, they will awake from their slumber, and find themselves unable to obtain that which hath escaped them in the days of their Lord, the Almighty, the All-Praised. Did they but know it, they would renounce their all, that their names may be mentioned before His throne.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDÁS

Exultest thou over the treasures thou dost possess, knowing they shall perish? Rejoicest thou in that thou rulest a span of earth, when the whole world, in the estimation of the people of Bahá, is worth as much as the black in the eye of a dead ant?

Abandon it unto such as have set their affections upon it, and turn thou unto Him Who is the Desire of the world. Whither are gone the proud and their palaces? Gaze thou into their tombs, that thou mayest profit by this example, inasmuch as We made it a lesson unto every beholder. Were the breezes of Revelation to seize thee, thou wouldst flee the world, and turn unto the Kingdom, and wouldst expend all thou possessest, that thou mayest draw nigh unto this sublime Vision.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Yet it behoveth the people of truth that the signs of humility should shine upon their faces, that the light of sanctity should radiate from their countenances, that they should walk upon the earth as though they were in the presence of God and distinguish themselves in their deeds from all the dwellers of the earth. Such must be their state that their eyes should behold the evidences of His might, their tongues and hearts make mention of His name, their feet be set towards the lands of His nearness, and their hands take fast hold upon His precepts. And were they

to pass through a valley of pure gold and mines of precious silver, they should regard them as wholly unworthy of their attention.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

The world and its vanities, and its glory, and whatever delights it can offer, are all, in the sight of God, as worthless as, nay, even more contemptible than, dust and ashes. Would that the hearts of men could comprehend it! Cleanse yourselves thoroughly ... from the defilement of the world, and of all that pertaineth unto it. God Himself beareth Me witness. The things of the earth ill beseem you. Cast them away unto such as may desire them, and fasten your eyes upon this most holy and effulgent Vision. That which beseemeth you is the love of God, and the love of Him Who is the Manifestation of His Essence, and the observance of whatsoever He chooseth to prescribe unto you, did ye but know it.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Put thy whole confidence in the grace of God, thy Lord. Let Him be thy trust in whatever thou doest, and be of them that have submitted themselves to His Will. Let Him be thy helper and enrich thyself with His treasures, for with Him are the treasures of the heavens and of the earth. He bestoweth them upon whom He will, and from whom He will He withholdeth them.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

It behoveth him who is a wayfarer in the path of God and a wanderer in His way to detach himself from all who are in the heavens and on the earth.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

Now We have, for the sake of God, the Lord of Names, set Ourselves the task of mentioning in this Tablet some accounts of the sages, that the eyes of the people may be opened thereby and that they may become fully assured that He is in truth the Maker, the Omnipotent, the Creator, the Originator, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He must renounce all save God, that perchance the portals of mercy may be unlocked before his face and the breezes of providence may waft over him.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

When a true seeker determineth to take the step of search in the path leading to the knowledge of the Ancient of Days, he must, before all else, cleanse and purify his heart, which is the seat of the revelation of the inner mysteries of God, from the obscuring dust of all acquired knowledge, and the allusions of the embodiments of satanic fancy. He must purge his breast, which is the sanctuary of the abiding love of the Beloved, of every defilement, and sanctify his soul from all that pertaineth to water and clay, from all shadowy and ephemeral attachments. He must so cleanse his heart that no remnant of either love or hate may linger therein, lest that love blindly incline him to error, or that hate repel him away from the truth.

That seeker must, at all times, put his trust in God, must renounce the peoples of the earth, must detach himself from the world of dust, and cleave

unto Him Who is the Lord of Lords. He must never seek to exalt himself above any one, must wash away from the tablet of his heart every trace of pride and vain-glory, must cling unto patience and resignation, observe silence and refrain from idle talk. For the tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century.

That seeker should, also, regard backbiting as grievous error, and keep himself aloof from its dominion, inasmuch as backbiting quencheth the light of the heart, and extinguisheth the life of the soul. He should be content with little, and be freed from all inordinate desire. He should treasure the companionship of them that have renounced the world, and regard avoidance of boastful and worldly people a precious benefit.

At the dawn of every day he should commune with God, and, with all his soul, persevere in the quest of his Beloved. He should consume every wayward thought with the flame of His loving mention, and, with the swiftness of lightning,

pass by all else save Him. He should succour the dispossessed, and never withhold his favour from the destitute. He should show kindness to animals, how much more unto his fellow-man, to him who is endowed with the power of utterance.

He should not hesitate to offer up his life for his Beloved, nor allow the censure of the people to turn him away from the Truth. He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfil. With all his heart he should avoid fellowship with evil-doers, and pray for the remission of their sins. He should forgive the sinful, and never despise his low estate, for none knoweth what his own end shall be.

Our purpose in revealing these convincing and weighty utterances is to impress upon the seeker that he should regard all else beside God as transient, and count all things save Him, Who is the Object of all adoration, as utter nothingness.

The true seeker hunteth naught but the object of his quest, and the lover hath no desire save union with his beloved. Nor shall the seeker reach

his goal unless he sacrifice all things. That is, whatever he hath seen, and heard, and understood, all must he set at naught, that he may enter the realm of the spirit, which is the City of God.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Yea, the seeker reacheth a station wherein that which hath been ordained for him knoweth no bounds. The fire of love so blazeth in his heart that it seizeth the reins of constraint from his grasp. At every moment his love for his Lord increaseth and draweth him nearer unto his Creator, in such wise that if his Lord be in the east of nearness, and he dwell in the west of remoteness and possess all that earth and heaven contain of rubies and gold, he would forsake it all and rush forth to the land of the Desired One.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

If ye become aware of a sin committed by another, conceal it, that God may conceal your own sin. He, verily, is the Concealer, the Lord of grace abounding.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Know thou, moreover, that in this most hallowed and resplendent city thou shalt find the wayfarer to be lowly before all men and humble before all things. For naught doth he behold save that he perceiveth God therein.

In this station the wayfarer must not claim the seat of honour in any gathering or walk before others in the desire to vaunt and exalt himself. Rather must he regard himself as standing at all times in the presence of his Lord. He must not wish for anyone that which he doth not wish for himself, nor speak that which he would not bear to hear spoken by another, nor yet desire for any soul that which he would not have desired for himself. It befitteth him, rather, to walk upon the earth with undeviating steps in the kingdom of His new creation.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

They who are the beloved of God, in whatever place they gather and whomsoever they may meet, must evince, in their attitude towards God, and in the manner of their celebration of His praise and glory, such humility and submissiveness that every atom of the dust beneath their feet may attest the

depth of their devotion. The conversation carried by these holy souls should be informed with such power that these same atoms of dust will be thrilled by its influence.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Every man of discernment, while walking upon the earth, feeleth indeed abashed, inasmuch as he is fully aware that the thing which is the source of his prosperity, his wealth, his might, his exaltation, his advancement and power is, as ordained by God, the very earth which is trodden beneath the feet of all men. There can be no doubt that whoever is cognizant of this truth, is cleansed and sanctified from all pride, arrogance, and vainglory.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

In the Name of God, the Exalted, the Most High.

The source of all good is trust in God, submission unto His command, and contentment with His holy will and pleasure.

The essence of wisdom is the fear of God,
the dread of His scourge and punishment,
and the apprehension of His justice and decree.

The essence of religion is to testify unto that
which the Lord hath revealed, and follow that
which He hath ordained in His mighty Book.

The source of all glory is acceptance of whatsoever
the Lord hath bestowed, and contentment with
that which God hath ordained.

The essence of love is for man to turn his heart
to the Beloved One, and sever himself from all else
but Him, and desire naught save that which is the
desire of his Lord.

True remembrance is to make mention of the Lord,
the All-Praised, and forget aught else beside Him.

True reliance is for the servant to pursue his
profession and calling in this world, to hold fast
unto the Lord, to seek naught but His grace,
inasmuch as in His Hands is the destiny of all
His servants.

The essence of detachment is for man to turn
his face towards the courts of the Lord, to enter

His Presence, behold His Countenance, and stand
as witness before Him.

The essence of understanding is to testify to one's
poverty, and submit to the Will of the Lord,
the Sovereign, the Gracious, the All-Powerful.

The source of courage and power is the promotion
of the Word of God, and steadfastness in His Love.

The essence of charity is for the servant to recount
the blessings of his Lord, and to render thanks
unto Him at all times and under all conditions.

The essence of faith is fewness of words and
abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his
deeds, know verily his death is better than his life.

The essence of true safety is to observe silence,
to look at the end of things and to renounce
the world.

The beginning of magnanimity is when man
expendeth his wealth on himself, on his family
and on the poor among his brethren in his Faith.

The essence of wealth is love for Me; whoso
loveth Me is the possessor of all things, and he
that loveth Me not is indeed of the poor and

needy. This is that which the Finger of Glory
and Splendour hath revealed.

The source of all evil is for man to turn away
from his Lord and set his heart on things ungodly.

The most burning fire is to question the signs
of God, to dispute idly that which He hath
revealed, to deny Him and carry one's self proudly
before Him.

The source of all learning is the knowledge
of God, exalted be His Glory, and this cannot
be attained save through the knowledge of His
Divine Manifestation.

The essence of abasement is to pass out from
under the shadow of the Merciful and seek the
shelter of the Evil One.

The source of error is to disbelieve in the One true
God, rely upon aught else but Him, and flee from
His Decree.

True loss is for him whose days have been spent
in utter ignorance of his self.

The essence of all that We have revealed for
thee is Justice, is for man to free himself from

idle fancy and imitation, discern with the eye
of oneness His glorious handiwork, and look
into all things with a searching eye.

Thus have We instructed thee, manifested
unto thee Words of Wisdom, that thou mayest
be thankful unto the Lord, thy God, and glory
therein amidst all peoples.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

A good character is, verily, the best mantle for
men from God. With it He adorneth the temples
of His loved ones. By My life! The light of a good
character surpasseth the light of the sun and
the radiance thereof. Whoso attaineth unto it
is accounted as a jewel among men. The glory
and the upliftment of the world must needs
depend upon it.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in
adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour,
and look upon him with a bright and friendly
face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher
to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy,

a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgement, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression.

Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

O ye rich ones on earth! If ye encounter one who is poor, treat him not disdainfully. Reflect upon that whereof ye were created.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Say: Beware ... lest ye walk in the ways of them whose words differ from their deeds. Strive that ye may be enabled to manifest to the peoples of the earth the signs of God, and to mirror forth His commandments. Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind, for the professions of most men, be they high or low, differ from their conduct. It is through your deeds that ye can distinguish yourselves from others. Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth. Happy is the man that heedeth My counsel, and keepeth the precepts prescribed by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

They that are just and fair-minded in their judgement occupy a sublime station and hold an exalted rank. The light of piety and uprightness shineth resplendent from these souls. We earnestly hope that the peoples and countries of the world may not be deprived of the splendors of these two luminaries.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquillity and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We, verily, have chosen courtesy, and made it the true mark of such as are nigh unto Him. Courtesy is, in truth, a raiment which fitteth all men, whether young or old. Well is it with him that adorneth his temple therewith, and woe unto him who is deprived of this great bounty.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

A kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men. It is the bread of the spirit, it clotheth the words with meaning, it is the fountain of the light of wisdom and understanding.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

For the tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endure a century.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Purge your hearts from love of the world, and your tongues from calumny, and your limbs from whatsoever may withhold you from drawing nigh unto God, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Say: By the world is meant that which turneth you aside from Him Who is the Dawning-Place of Revelation, and inclineth you unto that which is unprofitable unto you. Verily, the thing that deterreth you, in this day, from God is worldliness in its essence.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

KNOWLEDGE

O Son of Dust! Blind thine eyes, that thou mayest behold My beauty; stop thine ears, that thou mayest hearken unto the sweet melody of My voice; empty thyself of all learning, that thou mayest partake of My knowledge; and sanctify thyself from riches, that thou mayest obtain a lasting share from the ocean of My eternal wealth. Blind thine eyes, that is, to all save My beauty; stop thine ears to all save My word; empty thyself of all learning save the knowledge of Me; that with a clear vision, a pure heart and an attentive ear thou mayest enter the court of My holiness.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Weigh not the Book of God with such standards and sciences as are current amongst you, for the Book itself is the unerring balance established amongst men. In this most perfect balance whatsoever the peoples and kindreds of the earth possess must be weighed, while the measure of its weight should be tested according to its own standard, did ye but know it.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Say: So great is the glory of the Cause of God that even the blind can perceive it, how much more they whose sight is sharp, whose vision is pure. The blind, though unable to perceive the light of the sun, are, nevertheless, capable of experiencing its continual heat. The blind in heart, however ... are impotent, no matter how long the Sun may shine upon them, either to perceive the radiance of its glory, or to appreciate the warmth of its rays.

He hath endowed every soul with the capacity to recognize the signs of God.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We have revealed Ourselves unto men, have unveiled the Cause, guided all mankind towards God's Straight Path, promulgated the laws and have enjoined upon everyone that which shall truly profit them both in this world and in the next...

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The purpose of the one true God in manifesting Himself is to summon all mankind to truthfulness and sincerity, to piety and trustworthiness, to resignation and submissiveness to the Will of God, to forbearance and kindness, to uprightness and wisdom. His object is to array every man with the mantle of a saintly character, and to adorn him with the ornament of holy and goodly deeds.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The excellence of this Day is immensely exalted above the comprehension of men, however extensive their knowledge, however profound their understanding. How much more must it transcend the imaginations of them that have strayed from its light, and been shut out from its glory! Shouldst thou rend asunder the grievous veil that blindeth thy vision, thou wouldst behold such a bounty as naught, from the beginning that hath no beginning till the end that hath no end, can either resemble or equal. What language should He Who is the Mouthpiece of God choose to speak, so that they who are shut out as by a veil from Him can recognize His glory?

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Look ye upon the Sun of Truth. Ye, verily, depend upon it, were ye to perceive it. Ye are all as fishes, moving in the waters of the sea, veiling yourselves therefrom, and yet asking what it is on which ye depend.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

The vitality of men's belief in God is dying out in every land; nothing short of His wholesome medicine can ever restore it. The corrosion of ungodliness is eating into the vitals of human society; what else but the Elixir of His potent Revelation can cleanse and revive it? Is it within human power ... to effect in the constituent elements of any of the minute and indivisible particles of matter so complete a transformation as to transmute it into purest gold? Perplexing and difficult as this may appear, the still greater task of converting satanic strength into heavenly power is one that We have been empowered to accomplish. The Force capable of such a transformation transcendeth the potency of the Elixir itself. The Word of God, alone, can claim the distinction of being endowed with the capacity required for so great and far-reaching a change.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Give ear unto the Voice of this Wronged One and hasten towards the ocean of divine knowledge that perchance thou mayest be adorned with the ornament of comprehension and mayest renounce all else but God. Harken unto the Voice of this benevolent Counsellor, calling aloud, unveiled and manifest, before the faces of kings and their subjects, and summon the people of the world, one and all, unto Him Who is the Lord of Eternity. This is the Word from Whose horizon the daystar of unfailing grace shineth resplendent.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Say: This is the Day when every ear must needs be attentive to His voice. Harken ye to the Call of this wronged One, and magnify ye the name of the one true God, and adorn yourselves with the ornament of His remembrance, and illumine your hearts with the light of His love. This is the key that unlocketh the hearts of men, the burnish that shall cleanse the souls of all beings.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

I swear by the life of Him Who is the Desire of the world! Were a man to ponder in his heart

he would, free of all attachment to the world, hasten unto the Most Great Light and would purge and purify himself from the dust of vain imaginings and the smoke of idle fancy.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We cherish the hope that through the loving-kindness of the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, obscuring dust may be dispelled and the power of perception enhanced, that the people may discover the purpose for which they have been called into being. In this Day whatsoever serveth to reduce blindness and to increase vision is worthy of consideration. This vision acteth as the agent and guide for true knowledge. Indeed in the estimation of men of wisdom keenness of understanding is due to keenness of vision.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The source of error is to disbelieve in the One true God, rely upon aught else but Him, and flee from His Decree.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Son of Desire! Give ear unto this: Never shall mortal eye recognize the everlasting Beauty, nor the lifeless heart delight in aught but in the withered bloom. For like seeketh like, and taketh pleasure in the company of its kind.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

How long will ye persist in your waywardness? How long will ye refuse to reflect? How long ere ye shake off your slumber and are roused from your heedlessness? How long will ye remain unaware of the truth?

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O My Children! I fear lest, bereft of the melody of the dove of heaven, ye will sink back to the shades of utter loss, and, never having gazed upon the beauty of the rose, return to water and clay.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Utterance! Thou art My stronghold; enter therein that thou mayest abide in safety. My love is in thee, know it, that thou mayest find Me near unto thee.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Fleeting Shadow! Pass beyond the baser stages of doubt and rise to the exalted heights of certainty. Open the eye of truth, that thou mayest behold the veiless Beauty and exclaim: Hallowed be the Lord, the most excellent of all creators!

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Perchance we may divest ourselves of all that we have taken from each other and strip ourselves of such borrowed garments as we have stolen from our fellow men, that He may attire us instead with the robe of His mercy and the raiment of His guidance, and admit us into the city of knowledge.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

The Celestial Youth hath, in this Day, raised above the heads of men the glorious Chalice of Immortality, and is standing expectant upon His seat, wondering what eye will recognize His glory, and what arm will, unhesitatingly, be stretched forth to seize the Cup from His snow-white Hand and drain it.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The divine Luminary shineth, His Cause
is manifest and His signs are all-embracing.
Set thy face towards God, the Help in Peril,
the Self-Subsisting. Renounce thy leadership for the
sake of God and leave the people unto themselves.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Watch over thyself, and follow not the footsteps
of these people. Meditate diligently upon the
Cause of thy Lord. Strive to know Him through
His own Self and not through others. For no one
else besides Him can ever profit thee.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Children of the Divine and Invisible Essence!
Ye shall be hindered from loving Me and souls
shall be perturbed as they make mention of
Me. For minds cannot grasp Me nor hearts
contain Me.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

The straight path is the one which guideth
man to the dayspring of perception and to the
dawning-place of true understanding and leadeth
him to that which will redound to glory, honor
and greatness.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

They that valiantly labor in quest of God's will, when
once they have renounced all else but Him, will be
so attached and wedded to that City that a moment's
separation from it would to them be unthinkable.
They will hearken unto infallible proofs from the
Hyacinth of that assembly, and receive the surest
testimonies from the beauty of its Rose and the
melody of its Nightingale. Once in about a thousand
years shall this City be renewed and readorned.
Wherefore, O my friend, it behooveth Us to exert
the highest endeavor to attain unto that City, and,
by the grace of God and His loving-kindness, rend
asunder the "veils of glory"; so that, with inflexible
steadfastness, we may sacrifice our drooping souls
in the path of the New Beloved. We should with
tearful eyes, fervently and repeatedly, implore
Him to grant us the favour of that grace.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Were he that treadeth the path of guidance
and seeketh to scale the heights of righteousness
to attain unto this glorious and supreme station,
he would inhale at a distance of a thousand leagues
the fragrance of God, and would perceive the
resplendent morn of a divine Guidance rising
above the dayspring of all things. Each and every
thing, however small, would be to him a revelation
leading him to his Beloved, the Object of his quest.

So great shall be the discernment of this seeker
that he will discriminate between truth and
falsehood even as he doth distinguish the sun
from shadow. If in the uttermost corners of the
East the sweet savors of God be wafted, he will
assuredly recognize and inhale their fragrance,
even though he be dwelling in the uttermost ends
of the West. He will likewise clearly distinguish
all the signs of God—His wondrous utterances,
His great works, and mighty deeds—from the
doings, words and ways of men, even as the
jeweller who knoweth the gem from the stone,
or the man who distinguisheth the spring from
autumn and heat from cold.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Take ye good heed, O peoples of the world,
lest ye flee from His face. Nay, make haste
to attain His presence, and be of them that have
returned unto Him. Pray to be forgiven, O people,
for having failed in your duty towards God, and
for having trespassed against His Cause, and
be not of the foolish. He it is Who hath created
you; He it is Who hath nourished your souls
through His Cause, and enabled you to recognize
Him Who is the Almighty, the Most Exalted,
the All-Knowing.

He it is Who hath unveiled to your eyes the
treasures of His knowledge, and caused you
to ascend unto the heaven of certitude—the
certitude of His resistless, His irrefutable, and
most exalted Faith. Beware that ye do not deprive
yourselves of the grace of God, that ye do not
bring to naught your works, and do not repudiate
the truth of this most manifest, this lofty, this
shining, and glorious Revelation. Judge ye fairly
the Cause of God, your Creator, and behold that
which hath been sent down from the Throne on
high, and meditate thereon with innocent and
sanctified hearts. Then will the truth of this Cause
appear unto you as manifest as the sun in its

noontide glory. Then will ye be of them that have believed in Him.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

And when he hath inscribed upon his soul that which We have vouchsafed unto him of the quintessence of inner meaning and explanation, he will fathom all the secrets of these allusions, and God shall bestow upon his heart a divine tranquillity and cause him to be of them that are at peace with themselves.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

When the channel of the human soul is cleansed of all worldly and impeding attachments, it will unfailingly perceive the breath of the Beloved across immeasurable distances, and will, led by its perfume, attain and enter the City of Certitude. Therein he will discern the wonders of His ancient wisdom, and will perceive all the hidden teachings from the rustling leaves of the Tree—which flourisheth in that City. With both his inner and his outer ear he will hear from its dust the hymns of glory and praise ascending unto the Lord of

Lords, and with his inner eye will he discover the mysteries of “return” and “revival.”

How unspeakably glorious are the signs, the tokens, the revelations, and splendors which He Who is the King of names and attributes hath destined for that City! The attainment of this City quencheth thirst without water, and kindleth the love of God without fire. Within every blade of grass are enshrined the mysteries of an inscrutable wisdom, and upon every rosebush a myriad nightingales pour out, in blissful rapture, their melody. Its wondrous tulips unfold the mystery of the undying Fire in the Burning Bush, and its sweet savors of holiness breathe the perfume of the Messianic Spirit. It bestoweth wealth without gold, and conferreth immortality without death. In every leaf ineffable delights are treasured, and within every chamber unnumbered mysteries lie hidden.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

CONVERSATION

At the dawn of every day he should commune with God, and with all his soul persevere in the quest of his Beloved. He should consume every wayward thought with the flame of His loving mention, and, with the swiftness of lightning, pass by all else save Him.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Intone, O My servant, the verses of God that have been received by thee, as intoned by them who have drawn nigh unto Him, that the sweetness of thy melody may kindle thine own soul, and attract the hearts of all men. Whoso reciteth, in the privacy of his chamber, the verses revealed by God, the scattering angels of the Almighty shall scatter abroad the fragrance of the words uttered by his mouth, and shall cause the heart of every righteous man to throb. Though he may, at first, remain unaware of its effect, yet the virtue of the grace vouchsafed unto him must needs sooner or later exercise its influence upon his soul.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

In like manner, those words that have streamed forth from the source of power and descended from the heaven of glory are innumerable and beyond the ordinary comprehension of man. Ponder a while those holy words in your heart, and, with utter detachment, strive to grasp their meaning...

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

...we should open our eyes, meditate upon His Word, and seek the sheltering shadow of the Manifestations of God, that perchance we may be warned by the unmistakable counsels of the Book, and give heed to the admonitions recorded in the holy Tablets; that we may not cavil at the Revealer of the verses, that we may resign ourselves wholly to His Cause, and embrace wholeheartedly His law, that haply we may enter the court of His mercy, and dwell upon the shore of His grace. He, verily, is merciful, and forgiving towards His servants.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Do thou meditate on that which We have revealed unto thee, that thou mayest discover the purpose of God, thy Lord, and the Lord of all worlds. In these words the mysteries of Divine Wisdom have been treasured...

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The wine of renunciation must needs be quaffed, the lofty heights of detachment must needs be attained, and the meditation referred to in the words "One hour's reflection is preferable to seventy years of pious worship" must needs be observed...

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Were any man to ponder in his heart that which the Pen of the Most High hath revealed and to taste of its sweetness, he would, of a certainty, find himself emptied and delivered from his own desires, and utterly subservient to the Will of the Almighty. Happy is the man that hath attained so high a station, and hath not deprived himself of so bountiful a grace.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Pride not yourselves on much reading of the verses or on a multitude of pious acts by night and day; for were a man to read a single verse with joy and radiance it would be better for him than to read with lassitude all the Holy Books of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Read ye the sacred verses in such measure that ye be not overcome by languor and despondency. Lay not upon your souls that which will weary them and weigh them down, but rather what will lighten and uplift them, so that they may soar on the wings of the Divine verses towards the Dawning-place of His manifest signs; this will draw you nearer to God, did ye but comprehend.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Occupy thyself in remembrance of the Beauty of Him Who is the Unconstrained at early morn, and seek communion with Him at the hour of dawn ... Remembrance of Me is a healing medicine to the souls and a light to the hearts of men.

..... THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

L A W S

O Son of Man! Neglect not My commandments
if thou lovest My beauty, and forget not My counsels
if thou wouldst attain My good pleasure.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Whenever My laws appear like the sun in the
heaven of Mine utterance, they must be faithfully
obeyed by all, though My decree be such as to
cause the heaven of every religion to be cleft
asunder. He doeth what He pleaseth. He chooseth;
and none may question His choice. Whatsoever
He, the Well-Beloved, ordaineth, the same is,
verily, beloved.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Give ear, O peoples of the earth, unto that which
the Pen of the Lord of all nations commandeth
you. Know ye of a certainty that the Dispensations
of the past have attained their highest, their final
consummation in the Law that hath branched out
from this Most Great Ocean. Haste ye thereunto
at Our behest. We, verily, ordain as We please.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

We announce unto everyone the joyful tidings
concerning that which We have revealed in
Our Most Holy Book—a Book from above whose
horizon the day-star of My commandments
shineth upon every observer and every observed
one. Hold ye fast unto it and fulfil that which is
revealed therein. Indeed better is this for you than
whatsoever hath been created in the world, did
ye but know it. Beware lest the transitory things
of human life withhold you from turning unto
God, the True One.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The first duty prescribed by God for His servants
is the recognition of Him Who is the Day Spring
of His Revelation and the Fountain of His laws,
Who representeth the Godhead in both the
Kingdom of His Cause and the world of creation.
Whoso achieveth this duty hath attained unto
all good; and whoso is deprived thereof, hath
gone astray, though he be the author of every
righteous deed.

It behoveth every one who reacheth this most sublime station, this summit of transcendent glory, to observe every ordinance of Him Who is the Desire of the world. These twin duties are inseparable. Neither is acceptable without the other. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the Source of Divine inspiration.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Think not that We have revealed unto you a mere code of laws. Nay, rather, We have unsealed the choice Wine with the fingers of might and power. To this beareth witness that which the Pen of Revelation hath revealed. Meditate upon this, O men of insight!

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

By Him Who holdeth in His grasp the kingdom of the entire creation! Nowhere doth your true and abiding glory reside except in your firm adherence unto the precepts of God, your wholehearted observance of His laws, your resolution to see that they do not remain unenforced, and to pursue steadfastly the right course.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Observe ye the injunctions laid upon you by Him Who is the Dawning-place of Utterance. The sincere among His servants will regard the precepts set forth by God as the Water of Life to the followers of every faith, and the Lamp of wisdom and loving providence to all the denizens of earth and heaven.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

In formulating the principles and laws a part hath been devoted to penalties which form an effective instrument for the security and protection of men. However, dread of the penalties maketh people desist only outwardly from committing vile and contemptible deeds, while that which guardeth and restraineth man both outwardly and inwardly hath been and still is the fear of God. It is man's true protector and his spiritual guardian. It behoveth him to cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the appearance of this supreme bounty. Well is it with him who giveth ear unto whatsoever My Pen of Glory hath proclaimed and observeth that whereunto he is bidden by the Ordainer, the Ancient of Days.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

In all these journeys the wayfarer must stray not a hair's breadth from the Law, for this is indeed the secret of the Path and the fruit of the Tree of Truth. And in all these stages he must cling to the robe of obedience to all that hath been enjoined, and hold fast to the cord of shunning all that is forbidden, that he may partake of the cup of the Law and be informed of the mysteries of Truth.

..... THE CALL OF THE DIVINE BELOVED

The distinguishing feature that marketh the preeminent character of this Supreme Revelation consisteth in that We have, on the one hand, blotted out from the pages of God's holy Book whatsoever hath been the cause of strife, of malice and mischief amongst the children of men, and have, on the other, laid down the essential prerequisites of concord, of understanding, of complete and enduring unity. Well is it with them that keep My statutes.

Time and again have We admonished Our beloved ones to avoid, nay to flee from, anything whatsoever from which the odor of mischief can be detected.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Say: True liberty consisteth in man's submission unto My commandments, little as ye know it. Were men to observe that which We have sent down unto them from the Heaven of Revelation, they would, of a certainty, attain unto perfect liberty. Happy is the man that hath apprehended the Purpose of God in whatever He hath revealed from the Heaven of His Will that pervadeth all created things. Say: The liberty that profiteth you is to be found nowhere except in complete servitude unto God, the Eternal Truth. Whoso hath tasted of its sweetness will refuse to barter it for all the dominion of earth and heaven.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

O ye peoples of the world! Know assuredly that My commandments are the lamps of My loving providence among My servants, and the keys of My mercy for My creatures. Thus hath it been sent down from the heaven of the Will of your Lord, the Lord of Revelation. Were any man to taste the sweetness of the words which the lips of the All-Merciful have willed to utter, he would, though the treasures of the earth be in his possession, renounce them one and all, that

he might vindicate the truth of even one of His commandments, shining above the Dayspring of His bountiful care and loving-kindness.

Say: From My laws the sweet-smelling savour of My garment can be smelled, and by their aid the standards of Victory will be planted upon the highest peaks. The Tongue of My power hath, from the heaven of My omnipotent glory, addressed to My creation these words: "Observe My commandments, for the love of My beauty." Happy is the lover that hath inhaled the divine fragrance of his Best-Beloved from these words, laden with the perfume of a grace which no tongue can describe.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

The source of all good is trust in God, submission unto His command, and contentment with His holy will and pleasure.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The ordinances of God have been sent down from the heaven of His most august Revelation. All must diligently observe them. Man's supreme distinction, his real advancement, his final victory, have always depended, and will continue to depend, upon them. Whoso keepeth the commandments of God shall attain everlasting felicity.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

JUSTICE

O Friends! Verily I say, whatsoever ye have concealed within your hearts is to Us open and manifest as the day; but that it is hidden is of Our grace and favour, and not of your deserving.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Rebellious Ones! My forbearance hath emboldened you and My long-suffering hath made you negligent, in such wise that ye have spurred on the fiery charger of passion into perilous ways that lead unto destruction. Have ye thought Me heedless or that I was unaware?

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Oppressors on Earth! Withdraw your hands from tyranny, for I have pledged Myself not to forgive any man's injustice. This is My covenant which I have irrevocably decreed in the preserved tablet and sealed with My seal of glory.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Suffer not yourselves to be rapt in the dense veils of your selfish desires, inasmuch as I have perfected in every one of you My creation, so that the excellence of My handiwork may be fully revealed unto men. It follows, therefore, that every man hath been, and will continue to be, able of himself to appreciate the Beauty of God, the Glorified. Had he not been endowed with such a capacity, how could he be called to account for his failure?

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Know verily that the essence of justice and the source thereof are both embodied in the ordinances prescribed by Him Who is the Manifestation of the Self of God amongst men, if ye be of them that recognize this truth. He doth verily incarnate the highest, the infallible standard of justice unto all creation. Were His law to be such as to strike terror into the hearts of all that are in heaven and on earth, that law is naught but manifest justice. The fears and agitation which the revelation of this law provokes in men's

hearts should indeed be likened to the cries of the suckling babe weaned from his mother's milk, if ye be of them that perceive. Were men to discover the motivating purpose of God's Revelation, they would assuredly cast away their fears, and, with hearts filled with gratitude, rejoice with exceeding gladness.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

To enforce the laws of God is naught but justice, and is the source of universal content. Nay more, the divine statutes have always been, and will ever remain, the cause and instrument of the preservation of mankind...

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

It is incumbent upon everyone to observe God's holy commandments, inasmuch as they are the wellspring of life unto the world. The heaven of divine wisdom is illumined with the two luminaries of consultation and compassion and the canopy of world order is upraised upon the two pillars of reward and punishment.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Consider: who is to be preferred, he who preserveth his body, his life and his possessions or the one who surrendereth his all in the path of God? Judge thou fairly and be not of the unjust. Take fast hold of justice and adhere unto equity that perchance thou mayest not, for selfish motives, use religion as a snare, nor disregard the truth for the sake of gold.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Were the mysteries, that are known to none except God, to be unraveled, the whole of mankind would witness the evidences of perfect and consummate justice. With a certitude that none can question, all men would cleave to His commandments, and would scrupulously observe them.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He will never deal unjustly with anyone, neither will He task a soul beyond its power.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men. The ocean of divine wisdom surgeth within this exalted word, while the books of the world cannot contain its inner significance. Were mankind to be adorned with this raiment, they would behold the daystar of the utterance, "On that day God will satisfy everyone out of His abundance," shining resplendent above the horizon of the world.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Set thy heart firmly upon justice, and alter not the Cause of God, and be of them whose eyes are directed towards the things that have been revealed in His Book. Follow not, under any condition, the promptings of thine evil desires. Keep thou the law of God, thy Lord, the Beneficent, the Ancient of Days. Thou shalt most certainly return to dust, and shalt perish like all the things in which thou takest delight. This is what the Tongue of truth and glory hath spoken.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

No light can compare with the light of justice. The establishment of order in the world and the tranquillity of the nations depend upon it.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbour. Ponder this in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be. Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving-kindness. Set it then before thine eyes.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

SERVICE & SELFLESSNESS

I confess that Thou hast no desire except the regeneration of the whole world, and the establishment of the unity of its peoples, and the salvation of all them that dwell therein. Reflect awhile, and consider how they who are the loved ones of God must conduct themselves, and to what heights they must soar.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Ye are the stars of the heaven of understanding, the breeze that stirreth at the break of day, the soft-flowing waters upon which must depend the very life of all men, the letters inscribed upon His sacred scroll. With the utmost unity, and in a spirit of perfect fellowship, exert yourselves, that ye may be enabled to achieve that which beseemeth this Day of God.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O My Servants! Ye are the trees of My garden; ye must give forth goodly and wondrous fruits, that ye yourselves and others may profit therefrom.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Happy is the man who will arise to serve My Cause, and glorify My beauteous Name. Take hold of My Book with the power of My might, and cleave tenaciously to whatsoever commandment thy Lord, the Ordainer, the All-Wise, hath prescribed therein.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Son of Man! Humble thyself before Me, that I may graciously visit thee. Arise for the triumph of My cause, that while yet on earth thou mayest obtain the victory.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Beseech ye the one true God to grant that ye may taste the savour of such deeds as are performed in His path, and partake of the sweetness of such humility and submissiveness as are shown for His sake. Forget your own selves, and turn your eyes towards your neighbour. Bend your energies to whatever may foster the education of men.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Thy day of service is now come. Countless Tablets bear the testimony of the bounties vouchsafed unto thee. Arise for the triumph of My Cause, and, through the power of thine utterance, subdue the hearts of men. Thou must show forth that which will ensure the peace and the well-being of the miserable and the downtrodden. Gird up the loins of thine endeavour, that perchance thou mayest release the captive from his chains, and enable him to attain unto true liberty.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Judge fairly, I adjure thee, and arise to serve thy Lord. He, verily, shall reward thee with a reward which neither the treasures of the earth nor all the possessions of kings and rulers can equal. In all thine affairs put thy reliance in God, and commit them unto Him. He will render thee a reward which the Book hath ordained as great. Occupy thyself, during these fleeting days of thy life, with such deeds as will diffuse the fragrance of Divine good pleasure, and will be adorned with the ornament of His acceptance.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Be not dismayed, O peoples of the world, when the day star of My beauty is set, and the heaven of My tabernacle is concealed from your eyes. Arise to further My Cause, and to exalt My Word amongst men. We are with you at all times, and shall strengthen you through the power of truth. We are truly almighty. Whoso hath recognized Me, will arise and serve Me with such determination that the powers of earth and heaven shall be unable to defeat his purpose.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

How lofty is the station which man, if he but choose to fulfil his high destiny, can attain! To what depths of degradation he can sink, depths which the meanest of creatures have never reached! Seize, O friends, the chance which this Day offereth you, and deprive not yourselves of the liberal effusions of His grace.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is incumbent upon every man of insight and understanding to strive to translate that which hath been written into reality and action ... That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth

himself to the service of the entire human race. The Great Being saith: Blessed and happy is he that ariseth to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth. In another passage He hath proclaimed: It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Now is the time to cheer and refresh the down-cast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behaviour.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind, for the professions of most men, be they high or low, differ from their conduct. It is through your deeds that ye can distinguish yourselves from others. Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Children of Adam! Holy words and pure and goodly deeds ascend unto the heaven of celestial glory. Strive that your deeds may be cleansed from the dust of self and hypocrisy and find favour at the court of glory; for ere long the assayers of mankind shall, in the holy presence of the Adored One, accept naught but absolute virtue and deeds of stainless purity. This is the daystar of wisdom and of divine mystery that hath shone above the horizon of the divine will. Blessed are they that turn thereunto.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: To act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit

his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

One righteous act is endowed with a potency that can so elevate the dust as to cause it to pass beyond the heaven of heavens. It can tear every bond asunder, and hath the power to restore the force that hath spent itself and vanished ... Be pure, O people of God, be pure; be righteous, be righteous...

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The fruits of the tree of man have ever been and are goodly deeds and a praiseworthy character.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

It behooveth, likewise, the loved ones of God to be forbearing towards their fellowmen, and to be so sanctified and detached from all things, and to evince such sincerity and fairness, that all the peoples of the earth may recognize them as the trustees of God amongst men.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Amity and rectitude of conduct, rather than dissension and mischief, are the marks of true faith. Proclaim unto men what He, Who speaketh the truth and is the Bearer of the Trust of God, hath bidden thee observe.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth for him. Let none, therefore, consider the largeness or smallness of the receptacle. The portion of some might lie in the palm of a man's hand, the portion of others might fill a cup, and of others even a gallon-measure.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Now is the time to arise and magnify the Lord, your God. Strive not after bodily comforts, and keep your heart pure and stainless ... led by the light of the name of the one true God, deliver yourselves from the darkness that surroundeth you. Centre your thoughts in the Well-Beloved, rather than in your own selves.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Be not careless of the virtues with which ye have been endowed, neither be neglectful of your high destiny. Suffer not your labours to be wasted through the vain imaginations which certain hearts have devised.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He that seeketh to be a helper of God in this Day, let him close his eyes to whatever he may possess, and open them to the things of God. Let him cease to occupy himself with that which profiteth him, and concern himself with that which shall exalt the all-compelling name of the Almighty. He should cleanse his heart from all evil passions and corrupt desires, for the fear of God is the weapon that can render him victorious, the primary instrument whereby he can achieve his purpose.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The incomparable Creator hath created all men from one same substance, and hath exalted their reality above the rest of His creatures. Success or failure, gain or loss, must, therefore, depend upon man's own exertions. The more he striveth, the greater will be his progress. We fain would

hope that the vernal showers of the bounty of God may cause the flowers of true understanding to spring from the soil of men's hearts, and may wash them from all earthly defilements.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

They whose hearts are turned towards Him Who is the Object of the adoration of the entire creation must needs, in this Day, pass beyond and be sanctified from all created things, visible and invisible. If they arise to teach My Cause, they must let the breath of Him Who is the Unconstrained, stir them and must spread it abroad on the earth with high resolve, with minds that are wholly centred in Him, and with hearts that are completely detached from and independent of all things, and with souls that are sanctified from the world and its vanities. It behooveth them to choose as the best provision for their journey reliance upon God, and to clothe themselves with the love of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. If they do so, their words shall influence their hearers.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is incumbent in this Day, upon every man to place his whole trust in the manifold bounties of God, and arise to disseminate, with the utmost wisdom, the verities of His Cause. Then, and only then, will the whole earth be enveloped with the morning light of His Revelation.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Consort with all men, O people of Bahá, in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship. If ye be aware of a certain truth, if ye possess a jewel, of which others are deprived, share it with them in a language of utmost kindliness and goodwill. If it be accepted, if it fulfil its purpose, your object is attained. If anyone should refuse it, leave him unto himself, and beseech God to guide him. Beware lest ye deal unkindly with him.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Beware lest ye contend with anyone, nay, strive to make him aware of the truth with kindly manner and most convincing exhortation. If your hearer respond, he will have responded to his own behoof, and if not, turn ye away from him, and set your faces towards God's sacred Court,

the seat of resplendent holiness. Dispute not with anyone concerning the things of this world and its affairs, for God hath abandoned them to such as have set their affection upon them. Out of the whole world He hath chosen for Himself the hearts of men—hearts which the hosts of revelation and of utterance can subdue.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It followeth, therefore, that rendering assistance unto God, in this day, doth not and shall never consist in contending or disputing with any soul; nay rather, what is preferable in the sight of God is that the cities of men's hearts, which are ruled by the hosts of self and passion, should be subdued by the sword of utterance, of wisdom and of understanding.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Say: Let truthfulness and courtesy be your adorning. Suffer not yourselves to be deprived of the robe of forbearance and justice, that the sweet savors of holiness may be wafted from your hearts upon all created things. Say: Beware, O people of Bahá, lest ye walk in the ways of them

whose words differ from their deeds. Strive that ye may be enabled to manifest to the peoples of the earth the signs of God, and to mirror forth His commandments.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Proclaim the Cause of thy Lord unto all who are in the heavens and on the earth. Should any man respond to thy call, lay bare before him the pearls of the wisdom of the Lord, thy God, which His Spirit hath sent down unto thee, and be thou of them that truly believe. And should anyone reject thine offer, turn thou away from him, and put thy trust and confidence in the Lord, thy God, the Lord of all worlds.

By the righteousness of God! Whoso openeth his lips in this Day and maketh mention of the name of his Lord, the hosts of Divine inspiration shall descend upon him from the heaven of My name, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. On him shall also descend the Concourse on high, each bearing aloft a chalice of pure light.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Would that pure and stainless hearts could be found, that I might impart unto them a sprinkling from the oceans of knowledge which My Lord hath bestowed upon Me, so that they may soar in the heavens even as they walk upon the earth and speed over the waters even as they course the land, and that they may take up their souls in their hands and lay them down in the path of their Creator.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

O Son of Being! Make mention of Me on My earth, that in My heaven I may remember thee, thus shall Mine eyes and thine be solaced.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Whoso ariseth, in this Day, to aid Our Cause, and summoneth to his assistance the hosts of a praiseworthy character and upright conduct, the influence flowing from such an action will, most certainly, be diffused throughout the whole world.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Should there be ignited in thy heart the burning brand of the love of God, thou wouldst seek neither rest nor composure, neither laughter nor repose, but wouldst hasten to scale the highest summits in the realms of divine nearness, sanctity, and beauty. Thou wouldst lament as a soul bereaved and weep as a heart filled with longing. Nor wouldst thou repair to thy home and abide unless God would lay bare before thee His Cause.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

Now is the moment in which to cleanse thyself with the waters of detachment that have flowed out from the Supreme Pen, and to ponder, wholly for the sake of God, those things which, time and again, have been sent down or manifested, and then to strive, as much as lieth in thee, to quench, through the power of wisdom and the force of thy utterance, the fire of enmity and hatred which smouldereth in the hearts of the peoples of the world.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

This is the day to make mention of God, to celebrate His praise, and to serve Him; deprive not yourselves thereof. Ye are the letters of the words, and the words of the Book. Ye are the saplings which the hand of Loving-kindness hath planted in the soil of mercy, and which the showers of bounty have made to flourish. He hath protected you from the mighty winds of misbelief, and the tempestuous gales of impiety, and nurtured you with the hands of His loving providence. Now is the time for you to put forth your leaves, and yield your fruit.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Let thy soul glow with the flame of this undying Fire that burneth in the midmost heart of the world, in such wise that the waters of the universe shall be powerless to cool down its ardour. Make, then, mention of thy Lord, that haply the heedless among Our servants may be admonished through thy words, and the hearts of the righteous be gladdened.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Be as brilliant as the light, and as splendid as the fire that blazed in the Burning Bush. The brightness of the fire of your love will no doubt fuse and unify the contending peoples and kindreds of the earth, whilst the fierceness of the flame of enmity and hatred cannot but result in strife and ruin.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Dwellers of My Paradise! With the hands of loving-kindness I have planted in the holy garden of paradise the young tree of your love and friendship, and have watered it with the goodly showers of My tender grace; now that the hour of its fruiting is come, strive that it may be protected, and be not consumed with the flame of desire and passion.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches. Take heed that your words be purged from idle fancies and worldly desires and your deeds be cleansed from craftiness and suspicion. Dissipate not the wealth of your precious lives in the pursuit of evil and

corrupt affection, nor let your endeavors be spent in promoting your personal interest.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Gird up the loins of thine endeavor, that haply thou mayest guide thy neighbour to the law of God, the Most Merciful. Such an act, verily, excelleth all other acts in the sight of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High. Such must be thy steadfastness in the Cause of God, that no earthly thing whatsoever will have the power to deter thee from thy duty. Though the powers of earth be leagued against thee, though all men dispute with thee, thou must remain unshaken.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Mine eyes are cheered, O my God, when I contemplate the tribulations that descend upon me from the heaven of Thy decree, and which have encompassed me on every side according to what Thy pen hath irrevocably established. I swear by Thy Self! Whatsoever is of Thee is well pleasing unto me, though it involve the bitterness of mine own death.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

I yield Thee thanks, O my God, for that Thou hast offered me up as a sacrifice in Thy path, and made me a target for the arrows of afflictions as a token of Thy love for Thy servants, and singled me out for all manner of tribulation for the regeneration of Thy people.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Blessed is he who hath heard of My grief and hath arisen to aid Me among My people. Blessed is he who hath laid down his life in My path and hath borne manifold hardships for the sake of My Name.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

By the glory of Thy might, O Thou my Well-Beloved! To have sacrificed my life for the Manifestations of Thy Self, to have offered up my soul in the path of the Revealers of Thy wondrous Beauty, is to have sacrificed my spirit for Thy Spirit, my being for Thy Being, my glory for Thy glory. It is as if I had offered up all these things for Thy sake, and for the sake of Thy loved ones.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

By the righteousness of God! If thou wert present before My Throne and didst hearken unto the Tongue of might and grandeur, thou wouldst sacrifice thy body, thy soul, thine entire being as a token of thy love for God, the Sovereign, the Protector, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, and wouldst so thrill to the fascination of His Voice that every pen would be powerless to recount thy station and every eloquent speaker would be confounded in his attempt to describe it.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Couldst thou but know the things sent down by My Pen, and discover the treasures of My Cause, and the pearls of My mysteries which lie hid in the seas of My names and in the goblets of My words, thou wouldst for longing after His glorious and sublime Kingdom, lay down thy life in the path of God. Know thou that though My body be beneath the swords of My foes, and My limbs be beset with incalculable afflictions, yet My spirit is filled with a gladness with which all the joys of the earth can never compare.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Should the greatness of this Day be revealed in its fullness, every man would forsake a myriad lives in his longing to partake, though it be for one moment, of its great glory—how much more this world and its corruptible treasures! Be ye guided by wisdom in all your doings, and cleave ye tenaciously unto it. Please God ye may all be strengthened to carry out that which is the Will of God, and may be graciously assisted to appreciate the rank conferred upon such of His loved ones as have arisen to serve Him and magnify His name.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It behooveth the people of Bahá to die to the world and all that is therein, to be so detached from all earthly things that the inmates of Paradise may inhale from their garment the sweet smelling savour of sanctity, that all the peoples of the earth may recognize in their faces the brightness of the All-Merciful, and that through them may be spread abroad the signs and tokens of God, the Almighty, the All-Wise.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Blessed is he that hath expended in Thy path what Thou didst bestow upon him through Thy bounty and favour. Blessed is he who, in his sore longing after Thee, hath cast away all else except Thyself. Blessed is he who hath enjoyed intimate communion with Thee, and rid himself of all attachment to anyone save Thee.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Blessed is the man who hath detached himself from all else but Me, hath soared in the atmosphere of My love, hath gained admittance into My Kingdom, gazed upon My realms of glory, quaffed the living waters of My bounty, hath drunk his fill from the heavenly river of My loving providence, acquainted himself with My Cause, apprehended that which I concealed within the treasury of My Words, and hath shone forth from the horizon of divine knowledge engaged in My praise and glorification. Verily, he is of Me. Upon him rest My mercy, My loving-kindness, My bounty and My glory.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ONENESS OF GOD

God testifieth to the unity of His Godhood and to the singleness of His own Being. On the throne of eternity, from the inaccessible heights of His station, His tongue proclaimeth that there is none other God but Him. He Himself, independently of all else, hath ever been a witness unto His own oneness, the revealer of His own nature, the glorifier of His own essence. He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Beauteous.

..... DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Enable, then, Thy servants, O my God, to recognize the Day-Star that hath shone forth above the horizon of Thine irrevocable decree and purpose, and suffer them not to be deprived of the Paradise which Thou, by Thy name, the All-Glorious, hast called into being in the heavens of Thine exalted omnipotence. Cause them, moreover, O my God, to hearken to Thy most sweet voice, that they may all hasten to recognize Thy unity and acknowledge Thy oneness...

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God. The difference between the ordinances under which they abide should be attributed to the varying requirements and exigencies of the age in which they were revealed. All of them ... were ordained of God, and are a reflection of His Will and Purpose. Arise and, armed with the power of faith, shatter to pieces the gods of your vain imaginings, the sowers of dissension amongst you. Cleave unto that which draweth you together and uniteth you.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He is indeed a true believer in the unity of God who, in this Day, will regard Him as One immeasurably exalted above all the comparisons and likenesses with which men have compared Him. He hath erred grievously who hath mistaken these comparisons and likenesses for God Himself. Consider the relation between the craftsman and his handiwork, between the painter and his painting. Can it ever

be maintained that the work their hands have produced is the same as themselves? By Him Who is the Lord of the Throne above and of earth below! They can be regarded in no other light except as evidences that proclaim the excellence and perfection of their author.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

All praise to the unity of God, and all honor to Him, the sovereign Lord, the incomparable and all-glorious Ruler of the universe, Who, out of utter nothingness, hath created the reality of all things, Who, from naught, hath brought into being the most refined and subtle elements of His creation, and Who, rescuing His creatures from the abasement of remoteness and the perils of ultimate extinction, hath received them into His kingdom of incorruptible glory. Nothing short of His all-encompassing grace, His all-pervading mercy, could have possibly achieved it. How could it, otherwise, have been possible for sheer nothingness to have acquired by itself the worthiness and capacity to emerge from its state of non-existence into the realm of being?

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Tear asunder, in My Name, the veils that have grievously blinded your vision, and, through the power born of your belief in the unity of God, scatter the idols of vain imitation. Enter, then, the holy paradise of the good-pleasure of the All-Merciful. Sanctify your souls from whatsoever is not of God, and taste ye the sweetness of rest within the pale of His vast and mighty Revelation, and beneath the shadow of His supreme and infallible authority.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The Pen of the Most High hath, at all times and under all conditions, remembered, with joy and tenderness, His loved ones, and hath counselled them to follow in His way. Well is it with him whom the changes and chances of this world have failed to deter from recognizing the Day Spring of the Unity of God, who hath quaffed, with unswerving resolve, and in the name of the Self-Subsisting, the sealed wine of His Revelation. Such a man shall be numbered with the inmates of Paradise, in the Book of God, the Lord of all worlds.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Thou art He Whom all things worship and Who worshipeth no one, Who is the Lord of all things and is the vassal of none, Who knoweth all things and is known of none. Thou didst wish to make Thyself known unto men; therefore, Thou didst, through a word of Thy mouth, bring creation into being and fashion the universe. There is none other God except Thee, the Fashioner, the Creator, the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

From eternity Thou hast, in Thy transcendent oneness, been immeasurably exalted above Thy servants' conception of Thy unity, and wilt to eternity remain, in Thine unapproachable singleness, far above the praise of Thy creatures. No words that any one beside Thee may utter can ever beseem Thee, and no man's description except Thine own description can befit Thy nature.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Whoso accepteth and recognizeth that which is written down at this moment by the Pen of Glory is indeed reckoned in the Book of God, the Lord of the beginning and the end, among the exponents

of divine unity, they that uphold the concept of the oneness of God.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Whither shall I turn, O my God, powerless as I am to discover any other way except the way Thou didst set before Thy chosen Ones? All the atoms of the earth proclaim Thee to be God, and testify that there is none other God besides Thee. Thou hast from eternity been powerful to do what Thou hast willed, and to ordain what Thou hast pleased.

..... PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Bear thou witness in thine inmost heart unto this testimony which God hath Himself and for Himself pronounced, that there is none other God but Him, that all else besides Him have been created by His behest, have been fashioned by His leave, are subject to His law, are as a thing forgotten when compared to the glorious evidences of His oneness, and are as nothing when brought face to face with the mighty revelations of His unity.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ONENESS OF RELIGION

The door of the knowledge of the Ancient Being hath ever been, and will continue for ever to be, closed in the face of men. No man's understanding shall ever gain access unto His holy court.

As a token of His mercy, however, and as a proof of His loving-kindness, He hath manifested unto men the Day Stars of His divine guidance, the Symbols of His divine unity, and hath ordained the knowledge of these sanctified Beings to be identical with the knowledge of His own Self.

Whoso recognizeth them hath recognized God. Whoso hearkeneth to their call, hath hearkened to the Voice of God, and whoso testifieth to the truth of their Revelation, hath testified to the truth of God Himself. Whoso turneth away from them, hath turned away from God, and whoso disbelieveth in them, hath disbelieved in God. Every one of them is the Way of God that connecteth this world with the realms above, and the Standard of His Truth unto every one in the kingdoms of earth and heaven. They are the Manifestations of God amidst

men, the evidences of His Truth, and the signs of His glory.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

...it hath been made indubitably clear that in the kingdoms of earth and heaven there must needs be manifested a Being, an Essence Who shall act as a Manifestation and Vehicle for the transmission of the grace of the Divinity Itself, the Sovereign Lord of all. Through the Teachings of this Day Star of Truth every man will advance and develop until he attaineth the station at which he can manifest all the potential forces with which his inmost true self hath been endowed. It is for this very purpose that in every age and dispensation the Prophets of God and His chosen Ones have appeared amongst men, and have evinced such power as is born of God and such might as only the Eternal can reveal.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

He hath in every age and cycle, in conformity with His transcendent wisdom, sent forth a divine Messenger to revive the dispirited and despondent souls with the living waters of His utterance, One Who is indeed the Expounder, the true Interpreter, inasmuch as man is unable to comprehend that which hath streamed forth from the Pen of Glory and is recorded in His heavenly Books.

Men at all times and under all conditions stand in need of one to exhort them, guide them and to instruct and teach them. Therefore He hath sent forth His Messengers, His Prophets and chosen ones that they might acquaint the people with the divine purpose underlying the revelation of Books and the raising up of Messengers, and that everyone may become aware of the trust of God which is latent in the reality of every soul.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The essence of belief in Divine unity consisteth in regarding Him Who is the Manifestation of God and Him Who is the invisible, the inaccessible, the unknowable Essence as one and the same. By this

is meant that whatever pertaineth to the former, all His acts and doings, whatever He ordaineth or forbiddeth, should be considered, in all their aspects, and under all circumstances, and without any reservation, as identical with the Will of God Himself. This is the loftiest station to which a true believer in the unity of God can ever hope to attain.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Know thou that they who are truly wise have likened the world unto the human temple. As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom. Its robe is the Revelation vouchsafed unto it by God. Whenever this robe hath fulfilled its purpose, the Almighty will assuredly renew it. For every age requireth a fresh measure of the light of God. Every Divine Revelation hath been sent down in a manner that befitted the circumstances of the age in which it hath appeared.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

If thou be of the inmates of this city within the ocean of divine unity, thou wilt view all the Prophets and Messengers of God as one soul and one body, as one light and one spirit, in such wise that the first among them would be last and the last would be first. For they have all arisen to proclaim His Cause and have established the laws of divine wisdom. They are, one and all, the Manifestations of His Self, the Repositories of His might, the Treasuries of His Revelation, the Dawning-Places of His splendour, and the Daysprings of His light.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

Beware, O believers in the Unity of God, lest ye be tempted to make any distinction between any of the Manifestations of His Cause, or to discriminate against the signs that have accompanied and proclaimed their Revelation. This indeed is the true meaning of Divine Unity, if ye be of them that apprehend and believe this truth.

Be ye assured, moreover, that the works and acts of each and every one of these Manifestations

of God, nay whatever pertaineth unto them, and whatsoever they may manifest in the future, are all ordained by God, and are a reflection of His Will and Purpose. Whoso maketh the slightest possible difference between their persons, their words, their messages, their acts and manners, hath indeed disbelieved in God, hath repudiated His signs, and betrayed the Cause of His Messengers.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men. Suffer it not to become a source of dissension and discord, of hate and enmity.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Consider the sun. Were it to say now, "I am the sun of yesterday," it would speak the truth. And should it, bearing the sequence of time in mind, claim to be other than that sun, it still would speak the truth. In like manner, if it be said

that all the days are but one and the same, it is correct and true. And if it be said, with respect to their particular names and designations, that they differ, that again is true. For though they are the same, yet one doth recognize in each a separate designation, a specific attribute, a particular character.

Conceive accordingly the distinction, variation, and unity characteristic of the various Manifestations of holiness, that thou mayest comprehend the allusions made by the Creator of all names and attributes to the mysteries of distinction and unity, and discover the answer to thy question as to why that everlasting Beauty should have, at sundry times, called Himself by different names and titles...

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying Their revelation hath been to educate all men, that they may, at the hour of death, ascend,

in the utmost purity and sanctity and with absolute detachment, to the throne of the Most High.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

In truth, religion is a radiant light and an impregnable stronghold for the protection and welfare of the peoples of the world, for the fear of God impelleth man to hold fast to that which is good, and shun all evil. Should the lamp of religion be obscured, chaos and confusion will ensue, and the lights of fairness and justice, of tranquillity and peace cease to shine. Unto this will bear witness every man of true understanding.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Every Prophet Whom the Almighty and Peerless Creator hath purposed to send to the peoples of the earth hath been entrusted with a Message, and charged to act in a manner that would best meet the requirements of the age in which He appeared.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is clear and evident to thee that all the Prophets are the Temples of the Cause of God, Who have appeared clothed in divers attire. If thou wilt observe with discriminating eyes, thou wilt behold Them all abiding in the same tabernacle, soaring in the same heaven, seated upon the same throne, uttering the same speech, and proclaiming the same Faith. Such is the unity of those Essences of Being, those Luminaries of infinite and immeasurable splendor

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same. Their unity is absolute. God, the Creator, saith: There is no distinction whatsoever among the Bearers of My Message. They all have but one purpose; their secret is the same secret. To prefer one in honor to another, to exalt certain ones above the rest, is in no wise to be permitted. Every true Prophet hath regarded His Message as fundamentally the same as the Revelation of every other Prophet gone before Him.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Bearers of the trust of God are made manifest unto the peoples of the earth as the Exponents of a new Cause and the Bearers of a new Message. Inasmuch as these Birds of the Celestial Throne are all sent down from the heaven of the Will of God, and as they all arise to proclaim His irresistible Faith, they therefore are regarded as one soul and the same person. For they all drink from the one Cup of the love of God, and all partake of the fruit of the same Tree of Oneness.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

The All-Knowing Physician hath His finger on the pulse of mankind. He perceiveth the disease, and prescribeth, in His unerring wisdom, the remedy. Every age hath its own problem, and every soul its particular aspiration. The remedy the world needeth in its present-day afflictions can never be the same as that which a subsequent age may require. Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and centre your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.

..... THE TABERNACLE OF UNITY

The Purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, in revealing Himself unto men is to lay bare those gems that lie hidden within the mine of their true and inmost selves. That the divers communions of the earth, and the manifold systems of religious belief, should never be allowed to foster the feelings of animosity among men, is, in this Day, of the essence of the Faith of God and His Religion.

These principles and laws, these firmly-established and mighty systems, have proceeded from one Source, and are the rays of one Light. That they differ one from another is to be attributed to the varying requirements of the ages in which they were promulgated.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The religion of God and His divine law are the most potent instruments and the surest of all means for the dawning of the light of unity amongst men. The progress of the world, the development of nations, the tranquillity of peoples, and the peace of all who dwell on earth are among the principles and ordinances of God. Religion bestoweth upon man the most precious of all gifts, offereth the cup

of prosperity, imparteth eternal life, and showereth imperishable benefits upon mankind.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Religion is, verily, the chief instrument for the establishment of order in the world, and of tranquillity amongst its peoples. The weakening of the pillars of religion hath strengthened the foolish, and emboldened them, and made them more arrogant. Verily I say: The greater the decline of religion, the more grievous the waywardness of the ungodly. This cannot but lead in the end to chaos and confusion.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

In like manner, every time the Prophets of God have illumined the world with the resplendent radiance of the Day Star of Divine knowledge, they have invariably summoned its peoples to embrace the light of God through such means as best befitted the exigencies of the age in which they appeared. They were thus able to scatter the darkness of ignorance, and to shed upon the world the glory of their own knowledge.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is towards the inmost essence of these Prophets, therefore, that the eye of every man of discernment must be directed, inasmuch as their one and only purpose hath always been to guide the erring, and give peace to the afflicted ... These are not days of prosperity and triumph. The whole of mankind is in the grip of manifold ills. Strive, therefore, to save its life through the wholesome medicine which the almighty hand of the unerring Physician hath prepared.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

These sanctified Mirrors, these Daysprings of ancient glory are one and all the Exponents on earth of Him Who is the central Orb of the universe, its Essence and ultimate Purpose. From Him proceed their knowledge and power; from Him is derived their sovereignty. The beauty of their countenance is but a reflection of His image, and their revelation a sign of His deathless glory. They are the Treasuries of divine knowledge, and the Repositories of celestial wisdom. Through them is transmitted a grace that is infinite, and by them is revealed the light that can never fade. Even as He hath said: "There is no distinction whatsoever between Thee and them; except that they are Thy

servants, and are created of Thee." This is the significance of the tradition: "I am He, Himself, and He is I, myself."

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

With faces beaming with joy, hasten ye unto Him. This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future. Let him that seeketh, attain it; and as to him that hath refused to seek it—verily, God is Self-Sufficient, above any need of His creatures.

..... THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

ONENESS OF HUMANITY

He Who is your Lord, the All-Merciful, cherisheth in His heart the desire of beholding the entire human race as one soul and one body.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

O Children of Men! Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Let your vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to your own self.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

My object is none other than the betterment of the world and the tranquillity of its peoples. The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established. This unity can never be achieved so long as the counsels which the Pen of the Most High hath revealed are suffered to pass unheeded. Through the power of the words He hath uttered the whole of the human race can be illumined with the light of unity, and the remembrance of His Name is able to set on fire the hearts of all men, and burn away the veils that intervene between them and His glory.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Through Him the light of unity hath shone forth above the horizon of the world, and the law of oneness hath been revealed amidst the nations...

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Glory not in love for your country, but in love for all mankind.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Daystar of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behaviour.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

The time must come when the imperative necessity for the holding of a vast, an all-embracing assemblage of men will be universally realized. The rulers and kings of the earth must needs attend it, and, participating in its deliberations, must consider such ways and means as will lay the foundations of the world's Great Peace amongst men. Such a peace demandeth that the Great Powers should resolve, for the sake of the tranquillity of the peoples of the earth, to be fully reconciled among themselves ... This will ensure the peace and composure of every people, government and nation.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

This span of earth is but one homeland and one habitation. It behoveth you to abandon vainglory which causeth alienation and to set your hearts on whatever will ensure harmony.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity. Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the well-being and tranquillity of all mankind.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is Our wish and desire that every one of you may become a source of all goodness unto men, and an example of uprightness to mankind. Beware lest ye prefer yourselves above your neighbours. Fix your gaze upon Him Who is the Temple of God amongst men. He, in truth, hath offered up His life as a ransom for the redemption of the world. He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the Gracious, the Most High.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Indeed through the power of good words, the righteous have always succeeded in winning command over the meads of the hearts of men. Say, O ye loved ones! Do not forsake prudence. Incline your hearts to the counsels given by the Most Exalted Pen and beware lest your hands or tongues cause harm unto anyone among mankind.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Son of Man! If thine eyes be turned towards mercy, forsake the things that profit thee, and cleave unto that which will profit mankind. And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou chooseth for thyself. Humility exalteth man to the heaven of glory and power, whilst pride abaseth him to the depths of wretchedness and degradation.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Look not upon the creatures of God except with the eye of kindliness and of mercy, for Our loving providence hath pervaded all created things, and Our grace encompassed the earth and the heavens.

..... DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Strive, O people of God, that haply the hearts of the divers kindreds of the earth may, through the waters of your forbearance and loving-kindness, be cleansed and sanctified from animosity and hatred, and be made worthy and befitting recipients of the splendors of the Sun of Truth.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Nothing whatever can, in this Day, inflict a greater harm upon this Cause than dissension and strife, contention, estrangement and apathy, among the loved ones of God. Flee them, through the power of God and His sovereign aid, and strive ye to knit together the hearts of men, in His Name, the Unifier, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

How vast is the tabernacle of the Cause of God! It hath overshadowed all the peoples and kindreds of the earth, and will, ere long, gather together the whole of mankind beneath its shelter.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

They that are endued with sincerity and faithfulness should associate with all the peoples and kindreds of the earth with joy and radiance, inasmuch as consorting with people hath promoted and will continue to promote unity and concord, which in turn are conducive to the maintenance of order in the world and to the regeneration of nations.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We, verily, have come to unite and weld together all that dwell on earth. Unto this beareth witness what the ocean of Mine utterance hath revealed amongst men, and yet most of the people have gone astray. If anyone revile you, or trouble touch you, in the path of God, be patient, and put your trust in Him Who heareth, Who seeth.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

It beseemeth all men, in this Day, to take firm hold on the Most Great Name, and to establish the unity of all mankind. There is no place to flee to, no refuge that anyone can seek, except Him.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Every verse which this Pen hath revealed is a bright and shining portal that discloseth the glories of a saintly and pious life, of pure and stainless deeds. The summons and the message which We gave were never intended to reach or to benefit one land or one people only. Mankind in its entirety must firmly adhere to whatsoever hath been revealed and vouchsafed unto it. Then and only then will it attain unto true liberty. The whole earth is illuminated with the resplendent glory of God's Revelation.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness. It behoveth them to cleave to whatsoever will, in this Day, be conducive to the exaltation of their stations, and to the promotion of their best interests.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

If any man were to meditate on that which the Scriptures, sent down from the heaven of God's holy Will, have revealed, he would readily recognize that their purpose is that all men shall be regarded as one soul, so that the seal bearing the words "The Kingdom shall be God's" may be stamped on every heart, and the light of Divine bounty, of grace, and mercy may envelop all mankind.

..... TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

THE SOUL

Know, verily, that the soul is a sign of God, a heavenly gem whose reality the most learned of men hath failed to grasp, and whose mystery no mind, however acute, can ever hope to unravel. It is the first among all created things to declare the excellence of its Creator, the first to recognize His glory, to cleave to His truth, and to bow down in adoration before Him. If it be faithful to God, it will reflect His light, and will, eventually, return unto Him.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Verily I say, the human soul is, in its essence, one of the signs of God, a mystery among His mysteries. It is one of the mighty signs of the Almighty, the harbinger that proclaimeth the reality of all the worlds of God. Within it lieth concealed that which the world is now utterly incapable of apprehending.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

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

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Ye Sons of Spirit! Ye are My treasury, for in you I have treasured the pearls of My mysteries and the gems of My knowledge. Guard them from the strangers amidst My servants and from the ungodly amongst My people.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Being! Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee. Get thou from it thy radiance and seek none other than Me. For I have created thee rich and have bountifully shed My favour upon thee.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Man! Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of the Throne! Thy hearing is My hearing, hear thou therewith. Thy sight is My sight, do thou see therewith, that in thine inmost soul thou mayest testify unto My exalted sanctity, and I within Myself may bear witness unto an exalted station for thee.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Spirit! I created thee rich, why dost thou bring thyself down to poverty? Noble I made thee, wherewith dost thou abase thyself? Out of the essence of knowledge I gave thee being, why seekest thou enlightenment from anyone beside Me? Out of the clay of love I moulded thee, how dost thou busy thyself with another? Turn thy sight unto thyself, that thou mayest find Me standing within thee, mighty, powerful and self-subsisting.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Dust! All that is in heaven and earth I have ordained for thee, except the human heart, which I have made the habitation of My beauty and glory; yet thou didst give My home and dwelling to another than Me; and whenever the manifestation of My holiness sought His own abode, a stranger found He there, and, homeless, hastened unto the sanctuary of the Beloved. Notwithstanding I have concealed thy secret and desired not thy shame.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Being! Thy heart is My home; sanctify it for My descent. Thy spirit is My place of revelation; cleanse it for My manifestation.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of the Wondrous Vision! I have breathed within thee a breath of My own Spirit, that thou mayest be My lover. Why hast thou forsaken Me and sought a beloved other than Me?

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Man! The temple of being is My throne;
 cleanse it of all things, that there I may be
 established and there I may abide.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Cleanse then thy soul with the waters of
 detachment. Verily, this is the Remembrance that
 hath shone forth above the horizon of creation,
 which shall purge thy soul from the dross of the
 world. Abandon thy palaces to the people of the
 graves, and thine empire to whosoever desireth it,
 and turn, then, unto the Kingdom.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

Purify thou, first, thy soul with the waters
 of renunciation, and adorn thine head with the
 crown of the fear of God, and thy temple with
 the ornament of reliance upon Him.

..... EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Say: Deliver your souls, O people, from the bondage
 of self, and purify them from all attachment to
 anything besides Me. Remembrance of Me cleanseth
 all things from defilement, could ye but perceive it.

Say: Were all created things to be entirely divested
 of the veil of worldly vanity and desire, the Hand
 of God would in this Day clothe them, one and all,
 with the robe “He doeth whatsoever He willeth in
 the kingdom of creation,” that thereby the sign of
 His sovereignty might be manifested in all things.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O My Friend! Thou art the daystar of the heavens
 of My holiness, let not the defilement of the world
 eclipse thy splendor. Rend asunder the veil of
 heedlessness, that from behind the clouds thou
 mayest emerge resplendent and array all things
 with the apparel of life.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

When the channel of the human soul is cleansed
 of all worldly and impeding attachments, it will
 unfailingly perceive the breath of the Beloved
 across immeasurable distances, and will, led by its
 perfume, attain and enter the City of Certitude.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Hear Me, ye mortal birds! In the Rose Garden of changeless splendor a Flower hath begun to bloom, compared to which every other flower is but a thorn, and before the brightness of Whose glory the very essence of beauty must pale and wither.

Arise, therefore, and, with the whole enthusiasm of your hearts, with all the eagerness of your souls, the full fervour of your will, and the concentrated efforts of your entire being, strive to attain the paradise of His presence, and endeavor to inhale the fragrance of the incorruptible Flower, to breathe the sweet savors of holiness, and to obtain a portion of this perfume of celestial glory.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Whoso followeth this counsel will break his chains asunder, will taste the abandonment of enraptured love, will attain unto his heart's desire, and will surrender his soul into the hands of his Beloved. Bursting through his cage, he will, even as the bird of the spirit, wing his flight to his holy and everlasting nest.

..... DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

O Son of Man! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O My Servant! Thou art even as a finely tempered sword concealed in the darkness of its sheath and its value hidden from the artificer's knowledge. Wherefore come forth from the sheath of self and desire that thy worth may be made resplendent and manifest unto all the world.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

Know thou that the soul of man is exalted above, and is independent of all infirmities of body or mind. That a sick person showeth signs of weakness is due to the hindrances that interpose themselves between his soul and his body, for the soul itself remaineth unaffected by any bodily ailments.

Consider the light of the lamp. Though an external object may interfere with its radiance, the light itself continueth to shine with undiminished power. In like manner, every malady afflicting the body

of man is an impediment that preventeth the soul from manifesting its inherent might and power. When it leaveth the body, however, it will evince such ascendancy, and reveal such influence as no force on earth can equal. Every pure, every refined and sanctified soul will be endowed with tremendous power, and shall rejoice with exceeding gladness.

Consider the lamp which is hidden under a bushel. Though its light be shining, yet its radiance is concealed from men. Likewise, consider the sun which hath been obscured by the clouds. Observe how its splendor appeareth to have diminished, when in reality the source of that light hath remained unchanged. The soul of man should be likened unto this sun, and all things on earth should be regarded as his body. So long as no external impediment interveneth between them, the body will, in its entirety, continue to reflect the light of the soul, and to be sustained by its power. As soon as, however, a veil interposeth itself between them, the brightness of that light seemeth to lessen.

Consider again the sun when it is completely hidden behind the clouds. Though the earth is still illumined with its light, yet the measure

of light which it receiveth is considerably reduced. Not until the clouds have dispersed, can the sun shine again in the plenitude of its glory. Neither the presence of the cloud nor its absence can, in any way, affect the inherent splendor of the sun. The soul of man is the sun by which his body is illumined, and from which it draweth its sustenance, and should be so regarded.

Consider, moreover, how the fruit, ere it is formed, lieth potentially within the tree. Were the tree to be cut into pieces, no sign nor any part of the fruit, however small, could be detected. When it appeareth, however, it manifesteth itself, as thou hast observed, in its wondrous beauty and glorious perfection. Certain fruits, indeed, attain their fullest development only after being severed from the tree.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O My Servant! Free thyself from the fetters of this world, and loose thy soul from the prison of self. Seize thy chance, for it will come to thee no more.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

LIFE AFTER DEATH

O Son of Being! Bring thyself to account each day ere thou art summoned to a reckoning; for death, unheralded, shall come upon thee and thou shalt be called to give account for thy deeds.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Children of Negligence! Set not your affections on mortal sovereignty and rejoice not therein. Ye are even as the unwary bird that with full confidence warbleth upon the bough; till of a sudden the fowler Death throws it upon the dust, and the melody, the form and the colour are gone, leaving not a trace. Wherefore take heed, O bondslaves of desire!

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

It is clear and evident that all men shall, after their physical death, estimate the worth of their deeds, and realize all that their hands have wrought. I swear by the Day Star that shineth above the horizon of Divine power! They that are the followers of the one true God shall, the moment they depart out of this life, experience

such joy and gladness as would be impossible to describe, while they that live in error shall be seized with such fear and trembling, and shall be filled with such consternation, as nothing can exceed. Well is it with him that hath quaffed the choice and incorruptible wine of faith through the gracious favour and the manifold bounties of Him Who is the Lord of all Faiths.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

We behold the generality of mankind worshipping names and exposing themselves, as thou dost witness, to dire perils in the mere hope of perpetuating their names, whilst every perceiving soul testifieth that after death one's name shall avail him nothing except insofar as it beareth a relationship unto God, the Almighty, the All-Praised.

..... THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

...the life of the flesh is common to both men and animals, whereas the life of the spirit is possessed

only by the pure in heart who have quaffed from the ocean of faith and partaken of the fruit of certitude. This life knoweth no death, and this existence is crowned by immortality. Even as it hath been said: “He who is a true believer liveth both in this world and in the world to come.” If by “life” be meant this earthly life, it is evident that death must needs overtake it.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

Know then that “life” hath a twofold meaning. The first pertaineth to the appearance of man in an elemental body, and is as manifest to thine eminence and to others as the midday sun. This life cometh to an end with physical death, which is a God-ordained and inescapable reality. That life, however, which is mentioned in the Books of the Prophets and the Chosen Ones of God is the life of knowledge; that is to say, the servant’s recognition of the sign of the splendours wherewith He Who is the Source of all splendour hath Himself invested him, and his certitude of attaining unto the presence of God through the Manifestations of His Cause. This is that blessed and everlasting life that perisheth not: whosoever is quickened

thereby shall never die, but will endure as long as His Lord and Creator will endure.

..... GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

It is clear and evident that when the veils that conceal the realities of the manifestations of the Names and Attributes of God, nay of all created things visible or invisible, have been rent asunder, nothing except the Sign of God will remain—a sign which He, Himself, hath placed within these realities. This sign will endure as long as is the wish of the Lord thy God, the Lord of the heavens and of the earth.

If such be the blessings conferred on all created things, how superior must be the destiny of the true believer, whose existence and life are to be regarded as the originating purpose of all creation. Just as the conception of faith hath existed from the beginning that hath no beginning, and will endure till the end that hath no end, in like manner will the true believer eternally live and endure. His spirit will everlastingly circle round the Will of God. He will last as long as God, Himself, will last.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH

Blessed is the soul which, at the hour of its separation from the body, is sanctified from the vain imaginings of the peoples of the world. Such a soul liveth and moveth in accordance with the Will of its Creator, and entereth the all-highest Paradise. The Maids of Heaven, inmates of the loftiest mansions, will circle around it, and the Prophets of God and His chosen ones will seek its companionship. With them that soul will freely converse, and will recount unto them that which it hath been made to endure in the path of God, the Lord of all worlds.

If any man be told that which hath been ordained for such a soul in the worlds of God, the Lord of the throne on high and of earth below, his whole being will instantly blaze out in his great longing to attain that most exalted, that sanctified and resplendent station...

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

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

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

The nature of the soul after death can never be described, nor is it meet and permissible to reveal its whole character to the eyes of men.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

How often hath a sinner attained, at the hour of death, to the essence of faith, and, quaffing the immortal draught, hath taken his flight unto the Concourse on high! And how often hath a devout believer, at the hour of his soul's ascension, been so changed as to fall into the nethermost fire!

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

O Son of Man! Thou art My dominion and My dominion perisheth not; wherefore fearest thou thy perishing? Thou art My light and My light shall never be extinguished; why dost thou dread extinction? Thou art My glory and My glory fadeth not; thou art My robe and My robe shall never be outworn. Abide then in thy love for Me, that thou mayest find Me in the realm of glory.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

O Son of Worldliness! Pleasant is the realm of being, wert thou to attain thereto; glorious is the domain of eternity, shouldst thou pass beyond the world of mortality; sweet is the holy ecstasy if thou drinkest of the mystic chalice from the hands of the celestial Youth. Shouldst thou attain this station, thou wouldst be freed from destruction and death, from toil and sin.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

...regarding the soul of man and its survival after death. Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

I swear by Him Who hath caused Me to reveal whatever hath pleased Him! Ye are better known to the inmates of the Kingdom on high than ye are known to your own selves. Think ye these words to be vain and empty? Would that ye had the power to perceive the things your Lord, the All-Merciful,

doth see—things that attest the excellence of your rank, that bear witness to the greatness of your worth, that proclaim the sublimity of your station! God grant that your desires and unmortified passions may not hinder you from that which hath been ordained for you.

..... GLEANINGS FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

By the terms “life” and “death”, spoken of in the scriptures, is intended the life of faith and the death of unbelief. The generality of the people, owing to their failure to grasp the meaning of these words, rejected and despised the person of the Manifestation, deprived themselves of the light of His divine guidance, and refused to follow the example of that immortal Beauty.

..... THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

O Son of Man! If thou lovest Me, turn away from thyself; and if thou seekest My pleasure, regard not thine own; that thou mayest die in Me and I may eternally live in thee.

..... THE HIDDEN WORDS

SYNOPSIS

BOOKS OF
BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Bahá'u'lláh (1817–1892), Prophet and Founder of the Bahá'í Faith is the fulfilment of all previous Messengers of God. He was exiled from His native land, Persia (Iran) to Baghdád, Istanbul, Edirne and finally to the prison city of Akká.

Due to His spiritual teachings, which were considered a threat by the religious establishment, Bahá'u'lláh spent forty years of His life in exile and imprisonment. During His lifetime, Bahá'u'lláh revealed more than one hundred volumes of commentaries, prayers, letters and teachings.

His teachings are relevant to the contemporary needs and requirements of humanity. They are attractive because of their profound beauty and simplicity, and because of the practical solutions they provide to the challenges currently faced by all of humanity.

THE CALL OF THE DIVINE BELOVED

The Call of the Divine Beloved comprises seven Tablets, all revealed before Bahá'u'lláh announced in 1863, that He was the Manifestation of God. It includes the *The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys*; a poem revealed while Bahá'u'lláh was in a notorious Tehran prison known as the Black Pit; and four other Tablets which elucidate aspects of the mystic journey of the soul towards its Divine Beloved.

The Seven Valleys is Bahá'u'lláh's greatest mystical composition. It follows the path of the soul on a spiritual journey from this world to other realms which are closer to God. Bahá'u'lláh explains the meanings and the significance of the seven stages.

The Four Valleys describes the qualities and grades of four types of mystical travellers: Those who journey through strict observance of religious Laws; those who journey to God through the use of logic and reason; those who journey purely by the love of God; those who journey by combination of the three approaches of obedience, reason, and inspiration. The last is considered the highest or truest form of mystic union.

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DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Days of Remembrance comprises forty-five selections from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh revealed for, or relating to, nine Bahá'í Holy Days. These Holy Days include Naw-Rúz (New Year) celebrated in March; three days associated with the announcement by Bahá'u'lláh in April–May 1863 that He is the Manifestation of God for this time; the anniversary of the Declaration of the Báb in May 1844 that He is the Promised One destined to precede and prepare the way for Bahá'u'lláh; the anniversary of the Ascension (passing) of Bahá'u'lláh in May 1892; the anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb in July 1850; and the celebration of the Births of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh in 1819 and 1817.

The selections were revealed at various times and for various recipients throughout the Ministry of Bahá'u'lláh.

The purpose of bringing together these Writings in one volume is to uplift the hearts and to enrich the gatherings held in commemoration of those days that stand apart from all other days through their association with Bahá'u'lláh and His Herald, the Báb.

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EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf is an epistle addressed to a prominent Muslim cleric who persecuted the Bahá'ís, just as his father had done before him. The viciousness of his father's persecution earned him the title "the Wolf". The recipient of this epistle, who continued the persecution of the Bahá'ís initiated by his father, was therefore called by Bahá'u'lláh the "Son of the Wolf".

The Tablet was revealed around 1891 and was the last major work to flow from the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh. It marks the end of forty years of divine revelation. In the epistle, Bahá'u'lláh quotes "some of the most characteristic and celebrated passages" from His own revelation and proclaims to the world clearly and without hesitation Who He is and why He has come.

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GEMS OF DIVINE MYSTERIES

Gems of Divine Mysteries is an epistle revealed to an individual in response to questions he posed seeking to understand how the promised Mihdí of Islamic traditions could have become transformed into the Báb.

Bahá'u'lláh revealed it sometime in the decade preceding 1863, while living in Baghdad.

A number of important themes are addressed in this work: the cause of the rejection of the Prophets of the past; the danger of a literal reading of scripture; the meaning of the signs and portents of the Bible concerning the advent of the new Manifestation; the continuity of divine revelation; intimations of Bahá'u'lláh's own approaching declaration; the significance of such symbolic terms as "the Day of Judgement", "the Resurrection", "attainment to the Divine Presence", and "life and death"; and the stages of the spiritual quest through "the Garden of Search", "the City of Love and Rapture", "the City of Divine Unity", "the Garden of Wonderment", "the City of Absolute Nothingness", "the City of Immortality", and "the City that hath no name or description".

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GLEANNING FROM THE WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh is a selection of passages from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, compiled and translated by Shoghi Effendi, and includes extracts from *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, and *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, as well as other Tablets.

The collection fits into five broad categories: the Day of God; the Manifestation of God; the soul and its immortality; the World Order and the Most Great Peace; and the duties of the individual and the spiritual meaning of life.

Because of its broad scope, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh* is particularly suitable for those just beginning their journey through the ocean of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation.

Of it was written that “even doubters would find a powerful strength in it, if they would read it alone, and would give their souls time to expand.”

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THE HIDDEN WORDS

The Hidden Words is written in the form of a collection of short utterances, in Arabic and Persian. Bahá'u'lláh has taken the essence of universal spiritual truths and written them in brief form, thus providing a distillation of the spiritual guidance contained in the successive Revelations of God.

It is recommended that *The Hidden Words* be read every day and night with the objective of implementing them in thought, word, and action.

The themes of *The Hidden Words* include justice, purity of heart, turning to God, humility, detachment, life after death, sacrifice, unity, the nobility of the human being, selflessness, and the importance of spiritual sight.

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THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

The *Kitáb-i-Aqdas* is the Most Holy Book and the Book of Laws for this period of humanity's history. It was revealed in 1873 while Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned within the city of 'Akká, and was supplemented and elucidated by additional Writings and responses to questions.

The *Kitáb-i-Aqdas* reiterates those eternal truths enunciated by all the Divine Messengers: the unity of God, love of one's neighbour, and the moral purpose of earthly life. At the same time it removes those elements of past religious codes that now constitute obstacles to the emerging unification of the world and the reconstruction of human society.

The laws themselves govern three areas: the individual's relationship to God; physical and spiritual matters which benefit the individual directly; and relations among individuals and between the individual and society. It includes spiritual and ethical exhortations, social principles, abrogations, and prophecies.

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THE KITÁB-I-ÍQÁN

The Book of Certitude

The *Kitáb-i-Iqán* is a treatise revealed by Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdád in 1861–62 in response to questions posed by one of the maternal uncles of the Báb. Prior to reading the *Kitáb-i-Iqán*, the Báb's uncle did not accept the Báb's claim. The *Kitáb-i-Iqán* led him to clarity and certitude.

The book is in two parts: The first part shows that Divine Revelation is progressive and ongoing. It makes it clear that the Manifestations and Holy Books of previous dispensations contribute to the “changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future.”

The second part of the *Kitáb-i-Iqán* deals with specific proofs, both theological and logical, of the mission of the Báb.

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PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh is a selection of prayers and meditations revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, compiled and translated by Shoghi Effendi.

Prayer—or conversation with God—is central to individual and collective Bahá'í practice. Prayers may be offered in one's own words, though the most potent prayers are those revealed by the Manifestation of God, some of which are contained in *Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh*. Prayers may be offered alone or with others; silently or out loud; spoken or sung.

Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh includes prayers with a focus on spiritual awakening, protection while travelling, healing, spiritual growth, detachment, protection, forgiveness, assistance, unity, and many other themes.

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THE SUMMONS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS

The Summons of the Lord of Hosts comprises six Tablets written by Bahá'u'lláh during His exile in Adrianople and during the early years of His banishment to 'Akká, in the late 1860s. Each one addressed the monarchs and leaders of His time, collectively and individually. He wrote to Napoleon III of France, Czar Alexander II of Russia, Queen Victoria of England, Náṣiri'd-Dín Sháh of Persia, and Pope Pius IX.

Thus, Bahá'u'lláh summoned the monarchs of East and West to recognize the Day of God and to acknowledge the One promised in the scriptures of the religions professed by the recipients of His summons.

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THE TABERNACLE OF UNITY

The Tabernacle of Unity comprises five Tablets addressed to individuals of Zoroastrian background. Such individuals in Persia and India were the first people, outside the Islamic community, to be attracted to Bahá'u'lláh's teachings, presaging the flow of people of all faiths and origins into its universal embrace.

In these Tablets, Bahá'u'lláh discusses the nature of creation; the connection between faith and reason; the reconciliation of the differences that exist among the laws and ordinances of various religions; their respective claims to exclusivity; and their differing degrees of eagerness to welcome others into their fold.

The Tabernacle of Unity enables a deeper appreciation of the fundamental principle of the oneness of religion and lend a fresh impetus to the efforts of those who strive to promote its understanding in an age that needs it more acutely with every passing day.

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TABLETS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH REVEALED AFTER THE KITÁB-I-AQDAS

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas comprises sixteen tablets revealed by Bahá'u'lláh during the later years of His life.

These Tablets focus on the enunciation of precepts and principles which lie at the core of His Faith; the reaffirmation of truths He had previously proclaimed; the elaboration and elucidation of some of the laws He had already laid down; the revelation of further prophecies and warnings; and the establishment of subsidiary ordinances designed to supplement the provisions of His Most Holy Book.

He addresses themes such as the oneness and wholeness of the human race; collective security; justice; moderation; consultation; knowledge; consorting with all men in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship; the need for a universal language; agriculture; journalism; governance; the abolition of Holy War; and true philosophy.

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TITLES BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Writings of Bahá'u'lláh which have been translated and published into English are listed below:

HOLY WRITINGS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH	DATE READ
The Call of the Divine Beloved	
Days of Remembrance	
Epistle to the Son of the Wolf	
Gems of Divine Mysteries	
Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh	
The Hidden Words	
The Kitáb-i-Aqdas	
The Kitáb-i-Íqán	
Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh	
The Summons of the Lord of Hosts	
The Tabernacle of Unity	
Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas	

