

THE BAHAI' I HYMNS

The Baha'i hymns offer an excellent method of teaching the fundamentals of the Baha'i Revelation, not only to the child, but the adult as well. As a means of teaching the Station of Baha-u-llah, and the greatness of this Day to the child, they have proven their value in the childrens classes in the different Assemblies in America and also in the Orient. Each hymn emphasizes some one vital truth of the Baha'i Message.

The "Great Day of God" teaches the child that this DAY--or dispensation, foretold in all the Sacred Scriptures, has dawned. The Day of Unity and Love, of Might and Power. The "Great Day--of the unveiling of Truth's deep mysteries, "the Great Day--of "One religion when ALL are understood, One faith in Life Eternal, One GOD, one Brotherhood." In this hymn the child learns the great truths concerning this "Great Day of God, all Glorious," and begins to realize what it means to live in it. The prayer of "THE GREAT DAY OF GOD" should be learned by the child in connection with this hymn.

"HYMN OF PRAISE"--This is a song of Praise of Baha-u-llah, as the "Father of us all", whose "Word of Might and Power which sets the captive free, to man now is given in all Its purity", and "Creation now doth sing--to Thee loving FATHER and Everlasting King."

THE GREATEST NAME"--This hymn brings the child into the realization of the Power and Might which proceeds from Its utterance. "To say it over is to pray, and angels listen and obey--ALLAL'O'ABHA--. When the child has sung this hymn through, it has repeated the Greatest Name 9 times, and obeyed the instruction of Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha, so to do.

"AWAKE YE NATIONS ALL"--This hymn teaches the child to realize the need of awaking the nations of the world and spreading the Glad tidings of the Message of Baha-u-llah telling of the coming of universal Peace Unity through the "Knowledge of our God as One-- and calling the nations to "Gather round His Board, and of His Feast partake--drink deeply of the Wine of Love, the Bread of Peace now break".

"HIS GLORIOUS SUN HAS RISEN"--Tells the story of the coming of Baha-u-llah.. "He came and dwelt amongst us, with all His wondrous Power" and "King of a Royal Kingdom--we praise Thy Holy Name". The music of this hymn depicts the gradual rising of the Sun of Truth--to be sung softly at first, then swelling in strength and power to the end of each verse. The child feels this fact if he has been given a mental picture to visualize from.

"THE DAY OF CERTAINTY"--This hymn teaches the child that in this "Day of God" and "Certainty"--the "Night of doubt must flee", that "When Sun of Truth has risen--Its rays reach every shore". This is the Day in which man shall see the Light of Truth--shall KNOW for a "certainty"--and that this day "shall not be followed by any night", as Baha-u-llah has assured us.

It creates the spirit of PRAISE in the heart of the child which is of vital import. It teaches REVERENCE--and the spirit of Worship and Adoration. O! God Thou hast created us to know Thee and ADORE Thee--should be taught the child in connection with this hymn.

"ALLEGRIA SONG"--tells the child the whole story of the "Great Shepherd" who was promised by all the Prophets to come and call the sheep or humanity into One Fold--and there shall be One Shepherd and One Fold--Baha-u-llah is that GREAT SHEPHERD--come to fulfill the Word of Prophet--come in love to save us. He has come to set us free. "He the Shepherd now is calling, gently calling to His Fold; Glad are we who KNOW our Shepherd, glad are we who KNOW our KING." The story from the Bible of the "GOOD SHEPHERD" told by Jesus of the "Ninety and nine sheep that were in the fold and the one who went astray and the Good Shepherd's loving care of that wayward one, bringing it home on His bosom. The 23rd Psalm should be taught with this song--and the Baha'i prayer for Guidance. The utter dependence of the sheep upon their shepherd makes a strong mental picture in the child's mind, and shows the need of the Manifestation.

"TELL THE WONDERFUL STORY"--gives the full Message of just WHO Baha-u-llah is and of His Kingdom come on earth, as in heaven in above. Tells that He is the "Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father" of whom Isaiah foretold. Again tells of the "Father of ALL Nations"--which is the Station of Baha-u-llah.

"SOFTLY HIS VOICE IS CALLING"--. Sung in the Presence of Abdul Baha by 45 children of the Chicago Sunday School when He was in that city. A never to be forgotten event by all those who were privileged to be present to hear the sweet voices of the children and see the Love-light which glorified the face of the Master as He listened to the children singing "His Song" with true realization of its meaning. "Abdul Baha we turn to Thee, Thou art the PERFECT WAY". His Voice calling them to "abide in love" to be "tender and true". This song has ever been the favorite of all of the Baha'i children. It turns to their hearts to the heart of Abdul Baha--and this bids them listen for His Voice from within their own souls.

"AT EVENTIDE"--brings the child at the close of day to Abdul Baha as tired children seek their mother's breast, we turn to Thee and feel Thy Spirit o'er us, and in Thy love we find our home and rest." Abdul Baha we turn our hearts to Thee, for Thou art Love Divine--Eternally." Abdul Baha has written "Turn with thy breast to the heart of Abdul Baha, and then this concealed fact will be disclosed, and the hidden mystery unveiled unto thee." (Vol I Tablets of Abdul Baha--page 163.) and "Verily I have not forgotten thee. Trust thou in the love of Abdul Baha, for nothing equals it." (Vol I--page 201--Tablets) Teach the child the comfort and peace which comes from turning unto Abdul Baha, trusting in His Love, which is indeed "Divine".

"SWEET PEACE"--comes also at the close of day. that Peace which bringeth comfort, which "follows grief and pain", which "cometh as a dove, and in its sacred presence we find God's perfect Love." Teach the child of the symbol of Peace--namely the DOVE--let it visualize this symbol whenever the "Peace of God" is mentioned. It will have a strong influence with a child's mind and will never be forgotten.

"ANTHEM OF ALL NATIONS"--is like an evening prayer -praying God to bring all the nations together, and that One World Anthem be sung-- that the "God of every Nation and Father of us All (Baha-u-llah) may let His Benediction upon each country fall". This teaches the child to have "a universal consciousness" and to pray for all nations. The prayer revealed by Abdul Baha--"A Prayer for All Nations", should be taught in connection with this hymn.

"THE BENEDICTION"--and last of all the Benediction, which seems to be the climax of all that has gone before. The "Benediction" of which Abdul Baha wrote "I pray God this song may be sung eternally, and this melody and anthem become everlasting". Here, the child is raised to the "Realms of El Abha" and feels the wings of the Holy Spirit hovering it, ~~to~~ learning that "here and now" in love abiding in the realms of El Abha is the Kingdom of His Love, the child will feel the touch of the Supreme Concourse and be harmonized and put in tune with the Infinite.

Abdul Baha has written that these hymns "will be sung in the Center of worship (the Mashriqu'l-Adkar) forever more," and "Let them be read and sung in the Assemblies". These hymns belong to all the Baha'is of the world and especially do they belong to the the Children of the Kingdom--i.e., the Baha'i children, for they tell of and teach the Baha'i Revelation, and its Divine Realities in a simple, melodic and rhythmic way which is one of the most acceptable methods to a child's mind. The funds raised from their sale goes always to the TEMPLE which is so dear forevery Baha'i child's heart.

QUESTIONS

What does the "GREAT DAY OF GOD" teach? Read Abdul Baha's talk on this subject in B. S. par. 55I. Read in the Ighan of this Day of God Read in Baha'i Proofs of this Great Day.

Hymn of Praise--Read of the value of "PRAISE" throughout Abdul Baha's talks and Tablets. "Praise be unto God? " How often does He write this?

THE GREATEST NAME--Read of its meaning in the B. S. as symbolized on the ringstones--par 9I4, and throughout Baha-u-llah's writings. Also in Revelations. Learn to define its Power and answer the question-- "WHAT IS THE GREATEST NAME?".

AWAKE YE NATIONS ALL--What does this hymn call to the Nations to do?

HIS GLORIOUS SUN HAS RISEN--What "SUN" is meant in this hymn? Who is "THE SUN OF TRUTH?"

THE DAY OF CERTAINTY--What is meant by this? Read in the Ighan which is the "BOOK OF CERTAINTY, or ASSURANCE?".

PRAISE THEE O'. GOD--For what does this hymn "Praise God?" Analyze each verse and find in Abdul Baha's talks correlated subjects. Make a compilation of them.

ALLELULIA SONG--What does this song teach? Who is the "GREAT SHEPHERD?" and who are His sheep?

TELL THE WONDROUS STORY--of Whom does this hymn tell? Read in the Bible of the "PRINCE OF PEACE--the EVERLASTING FATHER".

SOFTLY HIS VOICE IS CALLING--WHOSE VOICE does this hymn tell of? What is it calling His children to do? How live?

AT EVENTIDE--What does a "tired child do when it is weary at the close of day? To whom does this hymn tell us to turn? Who manifests "Love Divine Eternally?"

SWEET PEACE--What symbol is used for Divine Peace? What does Peace bring to one's heart? Within it what do we find?

ANTHEM OF ALL NATIONS--For what are we praying God to bring to the world and to the hearts of all nations in this hymn? What flag do we want unfurled? What anthem do we want to sing? Read Abdul Baha's Tablet of the "New Year" in vol I, Book of Tablets, beginning "O ye children of the Kingdom"--page 38.

THE BENEDICTION--What inscription did Abdul Baha write on this song? What did He pray for it? What does it ask of God? In what realms does it carry one? Just what is the "Realm of El Abha"?