The Divine Plan skit [[1]](#footnote-1)

Narrator: This skit, the building of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, has been planned to show the origin and early beginning of the Divine Plan, its unfoldment through the past fifty years, its spread throughout the world, and the challenging requirements of the present hour. The purpose is to awaken interest in the vital need of our age for one Universal Faith raised above historic differences of race, class, nation and creed, and to celebrate World Religion Day which affirms the principle of progressive revelation, and provides an expression of confident hope that the human soul today, as in the age of Moses, Christ, Muḥammad, has power to respond to new spiritual inspiration and new truth. These words of Shoghi Effendi sounded the keynote:

Voice: “This New World Order, whose promise is enshrined in the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh, whose fundamental principles have been enunciated in the writings of the Center of His Covenant, involves no less than the complete unification of the entire human race.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

Narrator: And Bahá’u’lláh has said:

Voice: “*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 any one can seek, except Him*.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Narrator: The importance of the establishment of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh in the North American continent was foreshadowed by the Báb in 1844:

Voice: “… the Báb had … directly addressed the ‘*peoples of the West*,’ and significantly bidden them ‘*issue forth*’ from their ‘*cities*’ to aid God, and ‘*become as brethren*’ in His ‘*one and indivisible religion*.’”[[4]](#footnote-4)

Narrator: In anticipation of this development Bahá’u’lláh Himself has written:

Voice: “*Say: In the East the light of His Revelation hath broken; in the West have appeared the signs of His dominion. Ponder this in your hearts, O people, and be not of those who have turned a deaf ear to the admonitions of Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Praised*.[[5]](#footnote-5)

 “*Should they attempt to conceal its light on the continent, it will assuredly rear its head in the midmost heart of the ocean, and, raising its voice, proclaim: ‘I am the life-giver of the world!’”*[[6]](#footnote-6)

Narrator: ‘Abdu’l-Bahá has singled out for his special favor the great Republic of the West in words such as these:

Voice: The American people “*… are, indeed, worthy of being the first to build the Tabernacle of the Most Great Peace and proclaim the oneness of mankind*.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

Narrator: On 23 September 1893, the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh was first mentioned in America by Dr Henry Jessup at the World Congress of Religions in Chicago, in the following words taken from Dr Jessup’s talk.

Voice: “In the Palace of Bahjí, or Delight, just outside the Fortress of ‘Akká, on the Syrian coast, there died a few months since, a famous Persian sage, the Bábí Saint, named Bahá'u'lláh—the ‘Glory of God’—the head of

 that vast reform party of Persian Muslims, who accept the New Testament as the Word of God and Christ as the Deliverer of men, who regard all nations as one, and all men as brothers. Three years ago he was visited by a Cambridge scholar and gave utterance to sentiments so noble, so Christ-like, that we repeat them as our closing words.[[8]](#footnote-8)

 “*That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religions should cease and differences of race be annulled. What harm is there in this? … Yet so it shall be. These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come. … Do not you in Europe need this also? … Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind.*”[[9]](#footnote-9)

Voice: The following year the first American believer, Thornton Chase, embraced the Faith.

2nd voice: Today, there are several thousand believers in America and there are believers in 94 countries of East and West, and the Bahá’í sacred literature has been translated into 56 different languages.

Narrator: Now we will be told what the American people are creating in the Bahá’í House of worship now coming to completion at Wilmette, Illinois, with an estimated total expenditure of $2,500,000.

Voice: The followers of Bahá’u’lláh are creating for the American people a spiritual symbol of the fellowship and peace that our age desperately requires.

2nd voice: Consecrated to the Oneness of Humanity, the Bahá’í Temple admits no word or deed reflecting prejudice of race, class or creed.

Narrator: “Beneath its dome the holy utterances of all the prophets are read and pondered as revelation of the one supreme God”. Some of these will now be given.

Voice: The Hindus: “He who hates no living creature, who is loving and compassionate, without selfishness and self-seeking, who holds pain and pleasure for equal, who is patient, contented, always loyal, full of self-control and steady determination, who fixes his mind and his reason on Me end loves Me, he is dear to Me.”

Narrator: Next is a verse from the Bhagavad-Gita, one of the holy books of Krishna, showing the belief in the succession of the Manifestations of God;

Voice: “Whenever there is a decline of righteousness and uprising of unrighteousness, then I project Myself into creation.”

2nd voice: Buddha says: “Who so himself desires joy and hurts them who love it, shall not obtain it hereafter.”

Narrator: Pickthall speaks of the Qur’án, the Book of Muḥammad, as “… the Glorious Koran, that inimitable symphony, the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy.”[[10]](#footnote-10) In so many of the beautiful hymns of praise one is reminded of the Psalms and of the words of Christ to His disciples.

Voice: “If God help you, none shall overcome you; but if He abandon you, who is he that shall help you when He is gone? In God, then, let the faithful trust.”[[11]](#footnote-11) This is the counsel of Muḥammad.

Narrator: We will close our program with prayers from several of the great religions. First from Zoroaster, then Judaism, Christian and the Bahá’í World Faith.

Voice:

I invite and invoke
The wise Lord, the Creator
The Radiant, and Glorious
The Greatest and Best,
The most Beautiful, most firm, most wise,
Who attains His ends the most Infallibility
Becomes of His righteous order,
Who disposes our minds aright,
Who sends His joy-creating Grace afar,
Who made us and has fashioned us
Who has nourished us and protected us,
Who is the most bounteous spirit;
We worship that Deity and Lord
Who is the Wise Lord, the Creator,
The Gracious Helper,
The Maker of all things good.

Voice: Judaism

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;
For, His Mercy endureth forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom He bath redeemed from out of the lands,
From the East end from the West,
From the North and from the South.
They cried unto the Lord in their trouble;
And He led then forth by the right way.
Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Voice: Christian

Read “Lord’s prayer” from the Bible or recite it.

Narrator: Read prayer page 78 “Prayer for all Nations” Bahá’í world Faith.[[12]](#footnote-12)

End

1. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma\_maxwell\_jones\_collection , prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 162. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 203. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Shoghi Effendi, *God Passes By*, p. 253. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bahá’u’lláh, *Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 13; & Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 78. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 79. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 36. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Henry Jessup in Shoghi Effendi, *Appreciations of the Bahá’í Faith*, p. 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. E. G. Brown, Introduction in *A Traveller’s Narrative Written to Illustrate the Episode of the Báb*, vol. 2, p. xl. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Pickthall M. Marmaduke, Translator’s Foreword in [*The Meanings of the Glorious Qur’an*](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/57436902), p. vii. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Sura 3:154 Rodwell (trad. 3:160). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Unknown. This is a possibility: *Bahá’í Prayers*, pp. 101–2. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)