

TABLET ADDRESSED TO MIRZA BADI'U'LLAH, YOUNGEST SON OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH.

"Be generous in prosperity, grateful in poverty, considerate of the rights of others. Wear a smiling face. Be a treasure to the poor, a councilor to the rich. Give that which is asked of you. Be faithful in your promise, equitable in your affairs, quiet in reunions, just in your judgments, humble toward men. Be a torch in the darkness, a joy for grief, a sea for the thirsty, a refuge for the unfortunate, as assistance, an arm, a support for the oppressed. Be honest in your actions. Be a home for the stranger, a remedy for the sick, a fortress for him who seeks protection. Be sight for the blind, a path to the strayed, a beauty for the face of truth, an ornament for the body of fidelity, a throne for the residence of good habits, a soul for the temple of the world, a banner for the army of justice, a light for the horizon of virtue, a dew for the earth of kindness, a bark for the sea of knowledge, a sun for the heaven of generosity, a diadem for the head of wisdom, a white point upon the brow of the world, a fruit upon the tree of humility. I beseech God to preserve you from the heat of jealousy, and from the cold of hatred; verily, He is near to us and listens.

(Son of the Wolf, Epistle from Bahá'u'llah)

Question: "What can I do to become the real servant of God?"

Abdu'l Baha: "Live thou in accord with the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Do not only read them. There is a vast difference between the soul who merely reads the words of Baha'u'llah and the one who tries to live them. Read thou the HIDDEN WORDS. Ponder over their meanings and embody their behests into thy life. All that I might say is only one drop of that illimitable sea. My duty is to explain, to elucidate to interpret the writings of Baha'u'llah. For example: we must investigate the reality; we must show real love to the world of humanity; we must work for the establishment of universal peace; we must sacrifice our lives in the guidance of mankind; we must be kind to all the creatures of God; we must raise the call of the Kingdom; we must characterize ourselves with the spiritual characteristics; we must show forth in our words and deeds the attributes of the holy ones.

"I declare by him beside there is naught else, if we live in accord with one of the teachings we will become radiant like unto this lamp. If we confess verbally that Baha'u'llah's principles are the cause of eternal salvation and the means of nearness unto the throne of God and yet do not live according to their instructions we are not Baha 'is. Therefore day and night we must pray for each other, so that we may be assisted to express in our lives the universal spirit of Baha'u'llah."

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As to the seven qualifications of the divinely enlightened soul of which thou hast asked an explanation, it is as follows:

KNOWLEDGE. Man must acquire the knowledge of God.

FAITH.

STEADFASTNESS.

TRUTHFULNESS. Truthfulness is the foundation of all the virtues of the world of humanity. Without truthfulness progress and success in all the worlds of God is impossible for a soul. When this holy attribute is established in man all the other divine qualities will also become realized.

UPRIGHTNESS. And this is also a beautiful trait of the heavenly man.

FIDELITY. This is one of the greatest divine attainments.

EVANESCENCE OR HUMILITY. That is to say, man must become evanescent in God. Man must forget his own selfish conditions that he may thus arise to the station of sacrifice.

(Abdu'l Baha)

(Divine Art of Living).

Bc# 402

WORDS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

"Be thankful to God for having enabled you to recognize His Cause. Whoever has received this blessing must, prior to his acceptance, have performed some deed which, though he himself was unaware of its character, was ordained by God as a means whereby he has been guided to find and embrace the Truth. As to those who have remained deprived of such a blessing, their acts alone have hindered them from recognizing the truth of this Revelation. We cherish the hope that you, who have attained to this light, will exert your utmost to banish the darkness of superstition and unbelief from the midst of the people. May your deeds proclaim your faith and enable you to lead the erring into paths of eternal salvation. The memory of this night will never be forgotten. May it never be effaced by the passage of time, and may its mention linger for ever on the lips of men."

(The Dawn Breakers, page 386)

BC# 403

STATEMENT OF BAHAI FAITH.

BAHA'I WORLD BOOK - 1926-1928.

"The root 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!"

BAHA'U'LLAH: Words of Wisdom.

ONENESS OF MANKIND.

It is in the light of this principle that all the Baha'i writings are to be viewed and the purpose of this Movement considered. That a spiritual Power has been breathed into the soul of humanity in this age which shall remove all causes of difference, misunderstanding, discord and disagreement - causes resident in customs and institutions as well as in personal opinions and emotions - and establish the means and methods as well as the desire of unity - is of the essence of the Baha'i teaching and faith. The rapidly altering character of human life throughout the world is one of the proofs of the mission of Baha'u'llah.

The principle of oneness involves so many readjustments, mental, social and spiritual, that the wars and strifes of these latter times have been inevitable. In the life and writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha we have the supreme effort to prepare humanity for the understanding of Baha'u'llah and the power manifest in Him. 'Abdu'l-Baha gave to Baha'u'llah's message an interpretation directly and immediately applying to the nature of those

readjustments. The interpretation is one with the message, as the sunlight is one with the sun. 'Abdu'l-Baha has revealed the significance of the Baha'i Cause in setting forth the following Principles :

1. Unfettered search after truth and the abandonment of all superstition and prejudice.
2. The Oneness of Mankind : all are "leaves of one tree, flowers in one garden."
3. Religion must be the cause of love and harmony, else it is no religion.
4. All religions are one in their fundamental principles.
5. Religion must conform with science. Faith and reason must be in full accord.
6. Universal Peace : the establishment of a universal League of Nations, of international arbitration and an International Parliament.
7. The adoption of an auxiliary international language which shall be taught in all the schools of the world.
8. Compulsory education especially for girls, who will be the mothers and the first educators of the next generation.
9. Equal opportunities of development and equal rights and privileges for both sexes.
10. Work for all: no idle rich and no idle poor. "Work in the spirit of service is worship."
11. Abolition of extremes of poverty and wealth: care for the needy.

12. Recognition of the Unity of God and obedience to His commands as revealed through His divine Manifestations.

The history of the Baha'i Cause, mirroring as it does the spiritual history of modern times, confirms these principles and shows how they have permeated the minds and hearts of its followers throughout the world.

Seven Candles - The Century of Light.

The Prophets of God one and all, Christ Himself, as well as the Blessed Beauty (Baha'u'llah), have all appeared and raised the call with the one purpose of transforming the world of man into the Kingdom Of God. Their common aim was to turn the earthly into heavenly, darkness into light, things that are satanic into things Divine. They strove to establish the reign of harmony and love amongst the children of men, to unfold to their eyes the fundamental unity of all mankind, to demolish the foundations of differences in the world, and to confer upon it the imperishable blessings of eternal life.

O thou honored one! Ponder in thine heart the world of being. Association, harmony and union are the source of life, whilst difference and division are the cause of ultimate destruction. Shouldst thou reflect on all created things, thou wilt observe that the existence of every being dependeth upon the association and combination of divers elements the disintegration of which will terminate the existence of that being.

O esteemed one! In cycles gone by, though harmony was established, yet, owing to the absence of means, the unity of all mankind was not achieved. Continents remained sundered and divided, nay even among peoples of one and the same continent association and interchange of thought were well-nigh impossible. Consequently intercourse, understanding and unity amongst

all the peoples and kindreds of the earth were unattainable. In this day, however, means of communication have multiplied, and the five continents of the earth have virtually merged into one. For every individual travels in every land, intercourse with all nations and exchange of thought with all sorts and conditions of men are rendered most easy, so much so that every person, through the medium of world publications, is enabled to acquaint himself with the conditions, the faiths and the thoughts of all the peoples and nations of the world. In like manner, all the members of the human family, whether peoples or governments, cities or villages, stand in need one of the other. For none, is absolute independence henceforth possible, inasmuch as political ties unite all peoples and nations, and the bonds of trade and industry, of agriculture and education are being strengthened every day. Hence the unity of all mankind can in this day be achieved. Verily this is none other but one of the marvels of this wondrous age, this glorious century. Of this past ages have been deprived, for this century - the century of light - has been endowed with unique and unprecedented glory, power and illumination. Hence the miraculous unfolding of a fresh marvel every day. Eventually it will be seen how bright its candles will burn in the assemblage of man.

Behold how even as the dawning light of the morn this century is casting illumination upon the world's darkened horizon. The first candle is union in the political world the early glimmerings of which can now be discerned. The second candle is unity of thought in world undertakings, the consummation of which will ere long be witnessed. The third candle is unity in

freedom which will surely come to pass. The fourth candle is unity of religion which is the corner-stone of the foundation itself, and which, by the power of God, will be revealed in all its splendor. The fifth candle is national unity which in this century will be securely established, causing all peoples and nations of the world to regard themselves the citizens of one common fatherland. The sixth candle is racial unity making of all that dwell on earth peoples and kindreds of one race. The seventh candle is unity of language, i.e., the choice of a universal tongue in which all peoples will be instructed and converse. All that hath been mentioned will inevitably come to pass for the power of heaven will aid and assist in their realization.

Consider how great and unexampled have been the diversity of race, the antagonisms of faiths and the conflict of opinions in Persia. In this day, however, the fragrance of holiness has produced so complete a fusion of the diverse elements in that land that its varied peoples, its opposing sects and hostile races have become even as one soul. Reflect how great is their (Baha'is) love one for the other, how firm their union, how unified their interests, how close their association and intercourse. Christian, Jew, Zoroastrian and Muslim, having all banished every trace of estrangement and difference from their midst, have all gathered together in perfect harmony and understanding, with all affection, happiness and freedom.

Ponder in thine heart what the power of the Most Great Name (Baba'u'llah) hath wrought!

Shoghi Effendi says: Today is the Judgment Day. Today we are being tested as never before, and we are given a freedom of choice such as we have never had before; and in that freedom of choice we are making our own judgment every day. "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." We must see the ray of Light, which has entered the cavern of self in which we have been living, and we must see and recognize that Light in the Day and Age in which it comes.

Shoghi Effendi stressed the need of Prayer and Meditation, (such as we have never practiced before) and the earnest, sincere turning of the whole soul toward GOD. And then Shoghi Effendi said, "And this is the Mystical Key - we may call it - for the solution of our problems: - Shoghi Effendi gave it in five sections:

- (First) "When you have a problem, pray and meditate." He did not say prayer alone, but PRAY and MEDITATE.
- (Second) "Then he said, Decide: and without any doubts, hold your decision.
- (Third) "Then have determination to carry out that decision."
- (Fourth) "Have confidence that the right thing will come at the right moment." After this fourth step and not until the fourth step did he put this one in:  
"Have confidence then that the power will flow through you, the gate will open, the right door will open for you, the right book, the right message, the right thought, the right principle will be given to you at the right time. Have confidence and the right thing will come to you in your need."
- (Fifth) "Then act. Act as though it had all been answered. Act with tireless, ceaseless energy. And, as you act, you yourself will become a magnet, which will attract more power into your being, until you become an unobstructed channel for the Divine Power to flow through."

Notes taken December 13, 1927.

From an address of Mrs. Moffatt.  
- returning from Haifa.

TABLET REVEALED BY BAHÁ'U'LLAH TO ALI GABIL AKBAR OF PERSIA  
WHEN HE WAS IN GREAT TROUBLE. HE DIED WHILE STILL YOUNG.

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IN THE NAME OF HIM WHO IS FROM EVERLASTING THE GREATEST.

Verily the sincere are burning from the fire of separation.  
Where are the Rays of the Light of Thy Meeting?  
O Beloved of the world!

Verily the near ones are overwhelmed by the darkness of their distance.  
Where is the Dawn of the Morn of Thy Meeting?  
O Desire of the world!

Verily the bodies of the elect are trembling on the earth of distance.  
Where is the Ocean of Thy Nearness?  
O Attractor of the world!

Verily the hand of hope has been to the Heaven of Bounty and Mercy.  
Where is the Shower of Thy Benevolence?  
O Receptor of the world!

Verily the poletheists are in every direction.  
Where is the Conquering Pen of fate?  
O Subduer of the world!

Verily the barking of the dogs came from everywhere.  
Where is the Lion of the Forest of Thy Dominion?  
O Avenger of the world!

Verily coldness has seized upon the people.  
Where is the Warmth of Thy Love?  
O Fire of the world!

Verily calamity has reached its utmost.  
Where is Thy Comforting?  
O Comforter of the world!

Verily darkness has enveloped most of the people.  
Where is Thy Illumination?  
O Illuminator of the world!

Verily the necks are stiffened by hypocrisy.  
Where is the Sword of Thy Vengeance.  
O Annihilator of the world!

Verily sadness has seized the Dawning Place of Thy Merciful Name.  
Where is the Joyful sight of Thy Manifestation?  
O Joy-giver of the world!

Verily grief has overtaken all nations.  
Where is the Standard of Thy Joy?  
O Solacer of the world!

Behold the Dawning Point of the Revelator behind the Curtain of Signs  
Where is Thy Powerful Finger?  
O Mighty One of the world!

Verily the intensity of thirst has seized upon all in the earth.  
Where is the Euphrates of Thy Benevolence and Mercy?  
O Merciful One of the world!

Verily the greedy have taken all the possessions of the world.  
Where is the Dawning-place of Thy Generosity?  
O Lord of the world!

Behold this Injured One! alone, in exile.  
Where is the army of the Heaven of Thy Cause?  
O Sultan of the world!

Verily I am abandoned, alone in the city of exile.  
Where is the Dawning Place of Faith?  
O Faith-giver of the world!

Verily the agony of death hath encompassed all the horizons.  
Where are the drops of the Ocean of Life?  
O Life of the world!

Verily the evil suggestions of Satan hath taken whatever is in the world.  
Where is the Comet of Thy Light?  
O Lamp of the world!

Verily the world has been entirely changed by the intoxication of passion.  
Where are the Dawning Places of Righteousness?  
O Desire of the world!

Behold this injured One in the veil of darkness among the people of Syria.  
Where is the Dawning Place of Morning?  
O Illuminator of the world!

Behold me! I am speechless! From whence comes thy singing?  
O Vargha of the world!

Verily most of the people are veiled by doubts and imaginations.  
Where is the Horizon of Assurance?  
O Tranquility of the world!

Verily Baha is drowned in the ocean of calamity.  
Where is Thy Ship of Rescue?  
O Savior of the world!

Behold the Dawning-Point of Revelation in the dense darkness of  
hypocritical existence.  
Where is the Sun of Thy Horizon of Mercy?  
O Illuminator of the world!

Verily the Lamp of Truth, Purity, Zeal and Faithfulness are extin-  
guished.  
Where is Thy Station of Emulation?  
O Mover of the world!

Dost Thou see any one to help Thy Soul, or to think what happens  
to it in Thy Love?  
Behold the Pen stops!  
O Beloved of the world!

Behold! the Branches of the Sadrat-el-Muntaha are broken by the  
hurricanes of Destiny.  
Where are the Standards of Thy Victory?  
O Conquerer of the world!

Verily the Face remains under the dust of calumny.  
Where are the winds of Thy Mercy?  
O Merciful One of the world!

Verily the Sacred Garment is soiled by the people of calumny.  
Where are the Ornaments of Purification?  
O Decorator of the world!

Verily the Ocean of Mercy has been made turbid by the work of the  
hands of the people.  
Where are the Waves of Thy Bounty?  
O Desire of the world!

Verily the Door of Meeting has been closed by the injustice of the  
enemies.  
Where is the Key of Thy Bounty?  
O Beneficent One of the world!

Verily all existent things are soiled by the dust of sin.  
Where are the Breezes of Thy Forgiveness?  
O Forgiver of the world!

Verily this Servant was exiled in the land of Adrianople.  
Where is the Rain of the Heaven of Thy Bounty?  
O Thou who giveth Succor to the world!

O Supreme Pen! Verily We heard Thy sweet call from the Omnipotent Eternity!

Listen to what it tells from the Tongue of Grandeur!  
O oppressed One of the world!

If there was no coldness, how could the warmth of Thy Explanation be manifested?

O Explainer of the world!

And if there were no affliction, how could the Sun of Thy Patience shine?

O Light of the world!

Be not troubled by the wicked, verily Thou art created for Patience.

O Patient One of the world!

How beautiful are Thy Rays from the Horizon of the Covenant among the people of hypocrisy, and Thy Longing for God!

O Lover of the world!

By Thee the Standard of independence will be raised on the highest mountain of the world and the Ocean of Bounty will surge.

O Joy of the world!

By Thy Oneness, the Sun of Oneness is shining and by Thy exile the Land of Separation is decorated. Be patient!

O Stranger of the world!

Verily We have made misery the garment of Glory and misfortune the adornment of Thy Body.

O Glory of the world!

Behold! the hearts are filled with enmity, but Thou art the Judge.

O Veiler of the world!

When Thou seest the sword advance, when Thou seest the arrow coming, go to meet it!

O Sacrificed One of the world!

Art Thou lamenting, grieving, groaning because Thou hast no Helper?

O Thou for whom is raised all the lamentation of the world!

Verily I heard Thy cry, O Beloved of Abha! Behold the Face of Baha aflame from the Fire of calamity and from the Radiance of Thy Words, which are Light and He is standing in fidelity in the Arena of Sacrifice awaiting Thy Will!

O Decree of the world!

O Ali Gabil Akbar! be filled with thankfulness to God for this Tablet from which is wafted the odor of My oppression and what I am in it in the Way of God!

O Adored One of the world!

If all the people read this Tablet and meditate upon it, from every artery of all their arteries a pulse will beat that will set fire to the whole world.

(Translated by Dr. Moody of Tihnan, Persia.)

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O brother, 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 whole-heartedly 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.

- IQAN - page 217.

THE PURE WORD.

According to the clear text of the Book of Akdas and the explicit contents of the Book of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l Baha is the interpreter of all the works and the Books of the Blessed Perfection, and not only of the Book of Akdas. This question is clear and evident to those who are informed of the Writings and Tablets (of Baha'u'llah).

Were this not the case, every one would have given an interpretation according to his own inclination and considered his interpretation preferable to the interpretation of others; this would naturally lead to great differences. If some one interprets one verse of the Verses of God, and his interpretation is not approved by 'Abdu'l Baha, it is not authoritative.

Now is not the time for interpretation. This is the time of teaching. All the believers must unloose the tongue of teaching the Cause of God. For teaching is the cause of guidance of all the inhabitants of the earth. Teaching is the means of the illumination of mankind; Teaching is conducive to the enlightenment of the world of humanity; Teaching is promotive of the confirmations of the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. This is the most great affair.

But if a soul on reading one of the blessed verses utters an explanation which does not harm the Cause, do not oppose him; for his talk is based on explanation and not interpretation.  
(Star of the West, Vol. V, page 137)

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Whenever any soul explains any matter he must have authority from the Verses of God and the Words of the Supreme -- either from the Book of Akdas or other divine Tablets. If he is asked for the proof of his statement he must show the text of the Book. This is his evidence.

Briefly, every statement and word which is not based upon the divine texts is not truth. No one must listen to it. No one must interfere with it. This is the irrefutable Command.

Expatriate in detail upon this subject in every meeting.  
(Mrs. Brittingham's Tablet)

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According to the clear texts of the Kitab-el-Akdas and the other Tablets, the Center of the Covenant is the Remover of all the difficulties, for He is the Interpreter of the Books. Not one soul has the right to say one word on his own account or to explain anything or to elucidate the text of the Book, whether in public or private.

His Holiness, the Christ, says no one should hide the Light under a cover. One should explain plainly and utter penetrative speech.

(Tablet to San Francisco)

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WORDS OF SHOGHI EFFENDI ---

It was chiefly in view of the misleading nature of the reports of the informal conversations of 'Abdu'l Baha with visiting pilgrims, that I have insistently urged the believers of the West to regard such statements as merely personal impressions of the sayings of their Master, and to quote and consider authentic only such translations as are based upon the authenticated text of His recorded utterances in the original tongue.

(From the World Order of Baha'u'llah, page 5)

Compiled by Doris Goodrick.

Through Mirza Ahmad to Mrs. Abbie B. Campbell.

HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received and its contents indicated that Mrs. Rice-Wray has become the Cause of thy guidance and led thee to the Lord of the Kingdom, so that thou mayest behold this world as ephemeral and perishing, and in the world of might thou mayest see the Beauty of the Desired One and attain to life eternal.

Therefore be thou thankful to her and serve her with all thy soul and heart, for she has become the motive of thy attainment to guidance.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Esphahani.  
Washington, D.C.  
October 17, 1908.

Bc # 4118

Through his honor Mr. Chase and Mirza Ahmad Sohrab to  
Mrs. Abbie B. Campbell, St. Louis, Mo.

HE IS GOD!

O thou seeker of Truth!

Thy letter was received. Thou hast complained of thy son and brother. Be thou patient with their defections, and exercise thou toward them the utmost kindness. Look thou not upon their errors. A day will come when they will glorify thy name, saying: "She is the one who in the beginning of the spreading of the Cause of God in America became attracted by the Holy Spirit." Such has been the way of the world. The people in the beginning will oppress; nay, they will consider it a disgrace and dishonor to associate with the believers, but afterwards they will glory in their names.

I beg inexhaustible bounty from the Kingdom of God in behalf of thy brother and thy son. God willing, they will become mindful and awakened.

Upon thee be Baha-e'l-Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by M. Ahmad Sohrab.  
Washington, D. C.  
December 14, 1909.

Through Mirza Ahmad to Margaret Campbell.

HE IS GOD!

O thou seeker of Truth!

Praise be to God that through the guidance of Mrs. Rice-Wray thou hast heard the Divine Call, beheld the Light of Truth, perused the verses of Oneness and attained to the Knowledge of the Glorious Lord.

Now that you may render thanks for these bounties, spread the news of the Most Great Peace among the people of those regions and arise in the service of the Cause that thou mayest become the Herald of the Kingdom and the Promoter of the teachings and instructions of the Beauty of Abha.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

October 17, 1908.  
Washington, D. C.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Esphahani.

BC# 420

Through Dr. Fareed and Miss Juliet Thompson for  
Margaret Campbell, the maid-servant of God.

HE IS GOD!

O thou perfect Campbell:

Miss Juliet Thompson is extremely kind to thee and loves thee with life and conscience. I also with perfect spiritual love, beg for the Heavenly confirmation, so that thou mayest attain a share of the Boundless Grace, and find a portion of the Treasure of the Kingdom.

Raise thine endeavor and be not content with the ease and pleasure of this life. Find thou Eternal bliss and glory elsewhere in another Realm, and enter the Kingdom of Eternity by Divine Favor.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Dr. Ameen Fareed.  
Mount Carmel, November 25, 1908.

BC# 421

To Mrs. E. A. Rice-Wray.

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art attracted to the Kingdom!

The doors of the Kingdom are open; and the sons of the Kingdom are in the utmost joy and happiness. The glad-tidings of GOD are proclaimed and hearts are attracted and illumined.

I supplicate and entreat on the Treshold of GOD, that thou mayest be accepted in the Court of the Lord of Hosts; open thy insight; be engaged with an eloquent tongue in the praise and glorification of GOD, and become assisted in the service of the Kingdom.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated Dec. 12, 1906.  
Washington, D. C.

BC# 422

Through Mr. Chase to E. A. Rice-Wray.

He is God!

O thou who art guided by the Light of Guidance!

Thy letter was received. Its contents were of the utmost beauty and its significance far reaching. It contained the glad tidings of the steadfastness and firmness of the Believers of St. Louis. This news created the utmost happiness that, Praise be to God! the Call of the Kingdom is raised in that country and that the friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful have arisen to serve with the greatest effort so that they may educate the souls of humanity, awaken those who are heedless and make intelligent those who are ignorant.

Convey on My behalf the utmost love and kindness to Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Bartlett and Prof. Greenwood and say:

"When a firm and steadfast soul arises in the service of the Kingdom, the Lights of Holiness shall shine, the Breath of the Holy Spirit shall display an effect. Therefore rest ye assured that ye are confirmed and assisted."

Console and show great love on My behalf to the maid-servant of God, thy daughter, Ella Rice-Wray, and say:

"The meeting of worship that thou didst establish will undoubtedly bring important results. It will become the cause of promotion of the Cause of God and the motive of firmness and steadfastness, unity and concord."

Convey the most wonderful Abha greeting to Theron C. Rice-Wray and say:

"Do not be discouraged and lose spirit in teaching the Cause of God. If thou didst not become assisted in guiding some soul in New York, God willing thou shalt become assisted in other cities."

O thou maid-servant, Mrs. Rice-Wray, all members of the Holy Household, the Blessed Leaves, send to you the wonderful Abha greeting.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated June 9, 1911, by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, Washington, D.C.

BC # 423

To Ella Rice-Wray. (Upon her be BAHA'U'LLAH EL ABHA )

He is God!

O thou, my heavenly daughter:

Thy letter has been received.

Its contents showed that thou art a true believer and assured and firm in the Covenant and Testament.

Anyone, turning his face to the Kingdom of Abha today, will find that confirmation shall surround him from all directions; and that the doors of Heaven shall be opened by the showers of the Rain of Mercy. He will grow up like a new shoot and shine forth like a star from the firmament of Eternal Honor.

Thou hast written about thy intention of getting married. Marry thou a wise, perfect, learned, experienced and faithful person; so that thy time may pass in joy and happiness from beginning up to the end. My hope is that thou mayest be assisted in all thy affairs.

Convey my utmost kindness to thy respected mother. I beg of God she will be assisted to render a good service to the Cause of Baha'u'llah; so that it may make her face to shine brilliantly in both worlds.

The Holy Leaves are much obliged for your greeting. They send most wonderful Abha greetings.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha.

(Signed) E. E.  
(Abdu'l Baha).

BEH#424

To the maid-servants of God,  
Ella and Ellah A Rice-Wray, Detroit, Michigan.  
Upon them be Baha'u'llah El-Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O ye two dear maid-servants of God!

Your letter dated December 4, 1918, was received. Praise be to God, His Holiness Baha'u'llah, may my life be a sacrifice to His friends, hath expounded and fully explained everything in the manifest Book, hath not given to any soul the chance to be confounded, hath designated the expounder of the Book that he may fully explain and expose the manifest teachings of God, and hath devolved the ordinances which are not literally recorded in the Book, to the Universal House of Justice which, whenever it is organized, will engage in the service of promulgating those ordinances which are not manifestly mentioned.

Indeed, as thou hast written, the trials are severe. I, however, entertain the hope that as the winds of tests wax more severe, the friends of God exhibit and assert more firmness and steadfastness; that souls will be assisted through the confirmations of the Abha Kingdom and will conquer and quench the uproar of self and worldly desire which is nothing but the world of nature to which man is enslaved and from which he can be emancipated only through the Power of God.

Concerning the effect of translation, it is evident that it is not as effective as the original. For instance, the Tablets of His Holiness Baha'u'llah which have been translated from the Persian or Arabic, the Original Text exerts a wonderful power while the translation may produce certain effect but cannot be measured with the Original. The delicacy, smoothness and sweetness of the Words of His Holiness Baha'u'llah are beyond any human conception. It is however conditioned upon one's knowledge of Persian and Arabic.

Convey greetings to all the friends.

Upon ye be greetings and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.  
(Original Tablet was signed in English)

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
House of Abdu'l Baha, Haifa, Palestine.  
January 26, 1919.

Received in Detroit March 26, 1919.

BC # 425

To the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Brooker, Akron, Ohio, U.S.A.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah el Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

The letter thou hadst written on January 22nd, 1919, was received. Praise thou the Lord that thou hadst been ushered into the Divine Kingdom as one of the chosen people of God, and the light of guidance hath been reflected upon thy pure heart like unto a light which is ignited in a lamp and a candle which bestows bestows light to a gathering; thou hast organized a meeting and hast been engaged in the promulgation of Divine Teachings.

Rest thou assured that Divine confirmations shall reach (thee) and heavenly cohorts shall assure (thee) the victory, and that thyself and thy respected husband shall attain unto everlasting life and shall serve the Oneness of the world of humanity and shall bring together other souls under the shade of the Pavilion of the Kingdom.

At present engage in service and you will have permission to present yourself.

Convey longing greeting to Mr. Russell Brooker and tell him: "Praise the Lord for He hath flung open to thy face the doors of Solomon's wisdom, and pray God that He may bestow upon thee an everlasting sovereignty, for Solomon's kingship was ephemeral, it passed away and did not remain forever, while the sovereignty of the Love of God is permanent and endless. I hope that thou mayest sit on this throne and that is firmness and steadfastness in the Love of God. As to thy new business, the former trade is the cause of thy comfort. The new business will engage greatly your mind. It is advisable for thee to engage in the previous trade and devote the rest of your time to spiritual matters."

Upon thee be Baha el Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani.  
House of Abdu'l Baha, Haifa, Palestine.  
March 20, 1919.

To Mr. Sigurd Russell.      BAHA'U'LLAH is upon him.

HE IS GOD!

O thou tender branch who is planted by the Merciful Hand in the  
Vineyard of God!

I mention thee day and night, and shall never forget  
neither thy kind and smiling face nor thy heart which is re-  
joicing by the glad-tidings of God.

O my son! Look always to the Kingdom of thy Lord, and ask  
for confirmation and success, and be confident through the  
Favor of thy Lord.

Be certain that He will assist thee with the Power of the  
Spirit and, therefore, let the Fire of the Love of God kindle  
thee in such a degree that the heart of all the regions be burnt  
by the fire.

O my son! Be tender-hearted, loving and beloved amongst  
all the people of the earth and endeavor to learn the Divine  
Teachings that thou mayest rejoice through the Fragrances which  
pass by thee from the Garden of El-Abha.

O my son! Be a glorious lamp, a fruitful tree, a dazzling  
star, and a brilliant pearl shining in the Shell of the Realm of  
Craetion, that thy crown of glory may be armed by the pre-  
cious pearl of thyself.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Through Mr. Thornton Chase to Dr. Sylvia A. Pfeiffer.

HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received. In reality thou art my daughter and a beloved daughter, for thou art supplicating to the Divine Kingdom. Thy face is illumined with the love of God and thy heart is purified with the attraction of the Divine affection.

All thy conditions are known.

It is my hope through the bounties of Baha'u'llah that thou mayest progress day by day in the Kingdom so that like unto a candle thou mayest become ignited with the light of the love of God!

Upon thee be Baha el Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.  
June 8, 1911.  
Washington, D. C.

To the maid-servant of God, Helen Whitney, Portland, Oregon.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah el Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O thou daughter of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received. Thou hast asked about fate, predestination and will. Fate and predestination consist in the necessary and indispensable relationships which exist in the realities of things. These relationships have been placed in the realities of existent beings through the power of creation and every incident is a consequence of the necessary relationships. For example, God created a relation between the sun and the terrestrial globe that the rays of the sun should shine and the soil should yield. These relationships are predestination and its manifestation on the plane of existence is fate.

Will is that active force which controls these relationships and these incidents. The epitome of the explanation of fate and predestination is this. I have no time for a detailed explanation. Ponder thou over this; the reality of fate, predestination and will will be made manifest.

As to thy presence at the Holy Land, at present travel is difficult. Postpone it until the time when it is made easy.

I supplicate from the Threshold of God assistance and bounty for thee, for thy father, thy mother and thy brother.

Upon thee be Baha el Abha.

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani,  
Haifa, Palestine.  
July 18, 1919.

Prayer revealed by 'Abdu'l Baha, to be said by the believers before entering the Nineteen Day Feast.

"Turn to God and say:

O God! Dispel all those elements which are the cause of discord, and prepare for us those things which are the Cause of Unity and agreement.

O God! Cause to descend upon us Heavenly Fragrances, and change this gathering into a gathering of Heaven.

Grant us every benefit and every food. Prepare for us the Food of Love! Give us the Food of Knowledge! Bestow upon us the Food of Heavenly Illumination!

In your hearts remember these things and then enter the Unity Feast."

- 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

FROM A TALK WITH ABDU'L BAHA IN NEW YORK CITY JUNE 7, 1912.

In reply to a question regarding the institution of marriage, Abdu'l Baha answered:

"The marriage bond is very important. Very, very important. Marriage must be strict and pure. You must all be very careful about this."

He continued: "Men and women must not embrace each other when not married, or about to be. They must not kiss each other. If women kiss women it is not bad. If men kiss men that is not bad. But men and women must not embrace. Such conduct is not taught in the Baha'i Revelation, and must not be done. It is not permitted. If they wish to greet each other, they may take each other by the hand. Describe how you have seen the women of the East, as in Haifa. The Blessed Beauty (Baha'u'llah) directed that there should be great modesty in the women; that they should not bare the neck and bosom and that women in the East should wear a veil. The conditions in the West are different; but the women of the West must see the spiritual significance of this teaching. Do not distress them by saying that they should not have done this or that. They will see for themselves. Talk about this only, so to speak, one by one with the friends, when you have opportunity."

Notes by A. M. B.

935 Eastern Parkway.  
Brooklyn, N. Y. Feb. 5, 1921.

Allah'u'Abha.

Mr. Roy C. Herrick.  
4358 Fountain Ave.  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Baha'i Brother,

Both your letters - 22nd and 29th lie upon my desk - their long flight ended - "doves of peace" indeed. When that pure symbol of the Spirit went forth from the Ark of Noah, it found no resting place, no congenial environment, and so it returned. Afterward it went forth again, and never came back; for conditions had changed; violence, hatred and wickedness had disappeared and love prevailed. So attracted - it lingered.

Your letters bring me uplift and strengthening, reflecting as they do the Light of Unity and brilliant Radiance of the Kingdom. Especially do I welcome the evidences of your living faith in God, your firmness and steadfastness in this Eternal Covenant, your conscious perception of the Ancient Glory, the Abha Splendor. What treasure could equal this? What replace it or destroy? In these days the Mighty Center of Effulgences is bestowing with unsparing and unending Generosity "The hidden fruits of the Tree of Reward which descend from the Heavens of Justice and Mercy." This is a food whereby brilliant souls and minds attain Eternal Life" etc. etc. (Aghan - early pages) "O my Brother! Effort is needful while yet the days remain, in order to taste the Cups of Eternity. Therefore avail thyself of the opportunity." Praise be to God for these divine days of Visual Reality!

Herewith I am sending you a copy of a Tablet received the first part of the year. It has overwhelmed me.

(Signed) Howard Mac Nutt.

Bc# 432

To His Honor Mr. Mac Nutt.  
Unto him be the Glory of God, the Most Glorious.

HE IS GOD!

O thou my dear heavenly friend and old associate!

Although communication and correspondence have not been continuous, yet be thou assured that I have not for a moment forgotten thee. Thou art always in my memory, for the bonds of the Kingdom of Sanctity are between us. This bond is like unto two mirrors which are facing each other. It is not possible that a picture can be reflected in this one mirror unless it appears in the other.

Then it is clear and evident that when two hearts become attracted to each other continuous communication will be established between them; the breathings of the Holy Spirit will envelop them and the Grace of the Bounty of the Kingdom will shine forth in such a way that it will permeate all the limbs and organs. When a lamp is lighted, it projects its light upon the reflector, from which the light is reflected to all sides.

In brief: - it is my hope that in front of the effulgence of the Sun of Reality - that Eternal Grace - Thou art in the utmost luminosity which shall illumine the eternal ages and centuries. What Bounty can be greater than this? What Bestowal can be better than this? It is my hope that thou wilt always upraise the melody of Reverence and Sanctity, bestowing enjoyment upon the ears of the Spiritual Concourse to such an extent that it may reach the hearing of these longing ones.

Convey the utmost kindness in my behalf to the assured maid-servant of God, Mrs. Mac Nutt.

Unto thee be the Glory of Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Aziz Ullah S. Bahavar of Bahje, Akka, Oct. 6, 1920.

"Consider thou with what a Baha'i spirit and kindness this letter has been written."

(Signed) E. E.  
(Abbreviation for Abdu'l Baha Abbas.)

BC# 433

TABLET OF 'ABDU'L BAHA.

He is God!

To his honor Husayn Effendi Iabal, Alexandretta. (Syria)

Upon him be the Glory of God, the Most Glorious!

He is the Most Glorious!

O my dear beloved!

Trust thou in the favor of thy Master and be not saddened by anything. In all affairs be thou patient, dignified, thankful, calm, kind, tender, tolerant, self-restrained; for this is the quality of the near ones.

Whatsoever thou mayest hear of different and conflicting heresy, be thou silent and do not reply, except that which God inspireth thee of kindly words, which indicate the abundance of thy humbleness to God, and thy abhorrence of every talk that concerns worldly affairs. Nay, rather thou shouldst be pleased with all the friends because of their relation to God. Thou wouldst not like to listen to them, except such talks as prove their perfection. Besides that, verily thy ear heareth not and would not like to hear it. This is that which will bring thee nearer to God and make thy business profitable.

Beware, beware of thy being saddened by anything, because sadness will dampen the glow of thy love. Be thou rather joyful over that which God hath given unto thee of His love and His knowledge. Ere long He will open for thee the door of blessing from all directions.

Upon thee be greetings and praise.

(Signed) E. E.

Translated by Dr. Bagdadi, Dec. 4, 1932.  
Revealed about 20 years ago for brother of Dr. Bagdadi.

Haifa, Palestine, Jan. 10, 1919.

To the maid-servant of God, Mabel A. Nickerson, Chicago, Ill.

Upon her be Baha'u'llah-El-Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O maid-servant of His Holiness, Baha'u'llah:

Thy letter, dated Dece. 10, 1918, was received. Thou hadst solicited confirmation. Know thou, verily, that the magnet of confirmation is the promulgation of Divine Teachings. Whosoever arises for the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, the confirmation of the Kingdom will assuredly surround him to such an extent that he will himself remain confounded.

However, this is conditioned upon the conformity of words with deeds. The people of Baha must strive to diffuse the fragrances through deeds more than through words; for a single deed motivated by the Essence of Sanctity, so promulgates (the word) that its sweet-scented fragrances are transmitted to all regions of the world. My hope is that thou mayest be confirmed and assisted.

Thou hadst asked for permission to attain the Court of Presence; whenever travel, with comfort and ease, is made possible, thou art then granted permission.

Convey to all the friends and maid-servants of God respectful greeting.

Upon thee be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Bc# 430

A Communion in supplication for forgiveness for Mr. Nickerson,  
Care - His Honor, Dr. Zia M. Bagdadi,

Upon him be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O my God! O my God!

Verily Thy servant humble before the majesty of Thy Lordship, lowly at the door of Thy Oneness, has believed in Thee and in Thy Verses, has testified to Thy Word, has been enkindled with the fire of Thy Love, has been immersed in the depths of the oceans of Thy Knowledge, has been attracted by Thy Breezes, has relied upon Thee, has turned his face to Thee, has entreated in Thy Presence and has assured of Thy pardon and forgiveness.

He has abandoned this mortal life and has flown to the Kingdom of Immortality, yearning for the favor of Thy Meeting.

O Lord! glorify his station, shelter him under the pavilion of Thy Supreme Mercy, cause him to enter in Thy glorious Paradise and perpetuate his existence in Thy thick-treed Rose-garden; that he may plunge into the sea of Light in the world of Mysteries.

Verily, Thou art the Generous, the Powerful, the Forgiver and the Bestower!

.....

O thou assured soul, the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Mabel Nickerson:

Do not be grieved at the death of thy respected husband. Verily, he has attained the meeting of his Lord in the seat of Truth in the presence of the Potent King. Do not suppose thou hast lost him. The veil shall be lifted and thou shalt behold his face illumined in the Supreme Concourse. Just as God the Exalted has said: "Him will We surely quicken to a happy life." Supreme importance should be attached therefore, not to this first creation but rather to the future life.

Upon thee and upon him be greeting and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Effendi.  
House of Abdu'l Baha, Haifa, Palestine.  
April 25, 1919.

THE BAHAI CALENDAR AND THE FEAST OF THE NAWRUZ.

From "The Beyan" of the BAB.

The Lord of the Universe hath created all the years by His Command, and by the Manifestation of the Beyan hath appointed the number of all things ( 19 X 19 equals 361) as the number of every year, and hath appointed it to consist of nineteen months, and hath appointed each month nineteen degrees of the "Letters of the Unity" from the Point of the entrance into (the sign of) the Ram to the limit of its course which terminates in (the sign of) the Fish.

And He hath called the First Month BAHA and the Last ALA. And the first month is the month of the "Point" and around it revolve the months of "The Living" (18) and it is like unto the Sun amidst the months, the other months being like mirrors wherein shineth forth the Light of that Month, and wherein naught is seen save that month. And it hath been named by the Lord "The Month of Baha (i.e. Splendor or Brightness) in this sense that the Brightness of all the months is in that Month.

The Ancient Festival - The Nawruz - named "The Day of God!" is defined as "The Day when the Sun passes from the sign of the Fish into the Ram", and it is ordained that the Actual Moment of this Passage, "whether it occurs during the night or day" shall be the Signal for the Inauguration of these Ceremonies.

Given to me by Rosella Dennis.

Tablet to Mrs. Brittingham.

O maid-servant of God!

There shall be a resounding name for the maid-servants of the Merciful One in the course of the future ages and cycles. Ponder! Mary, the Magdalene, spake but a few words for the Cause of God, and how those words did spread, promulgate and become of great importance in the ears of the people.

And now the maid-servants of the Merciful One utter most wonderful explanation: each one of them has compiled a treatise (concerning the teachings) which shall be of paramount importance in the coming ages. This is a bounty from thy Lord, the Merciful, the Clement, (bestowed upon) those who are chosen for it. Verily He chooses for His Mercy whomsoever He desires, and verily, He is the Possessor of great Power.

As to the trials (tests in the Path of God), verily, they are necessary. Hast thou not heard and read how there appeared the trials from God in the Day of Jesus, and thereafter, and how the whirlwinds of tests became severe? Even the glorious Peter was not rescued from the flames of trials, and wavered; then repented and mourned, the mourning of a bereaved one, and his lamentation raised unto the Supreme Concourse. Is it, then, possible to be saved from the trials of God? No, verily! There is a great wisdom therein, of which no one is aware save the Wise and Knowing.

Were it not for the tests, genuine gold could not be distinguished from the counterfeit.

Were it not for tests the courageous could not be known from the coward.

Were it not for tests, the people of faithfulness could not be known from those of selfishness.

Were it not for tests, the intellects and faculties of the scholars in the great colleges would not be developed.

Were it not for tests, the sparkling gems could not be known from worthless pebbles.

Were it not for tests, the fishermen could not be distinguished from Annas and Caiphas who were amid glory (worldly dignity)

Were it not for tests the face of Mary, the Magdalene, would not glisten with the light of firmness and certainty unto all the horizons.

These are some of the mysteries of tests which We have unfolded unto thee, that thou may thus become cognizant of the Mysteries of God in every cycle. Verily. I pray God to illumine (the) faces (through trials) as pure gold in the fire of test.

(Mrs. Brittingham)

Convey my spiritual greeting to the maid-servant of God, ---, and say to her that, "Verily, for each one of the Manifestations of the previous cycles there was a certain station in existence, and a particular degree in the creation of man. But the Manifestation of the Greatest Name, (may my spirit be a sacrifice for His beloved ones) was an expression of Maturity and Perfection in the essence of humanity and the world of existence. Such as the sun is the center of light, the source of heat and the point of illumination, comprising all the perfections which were manifested from the shining stars unto the world. Endeavor so that thou mayest attain an abundant portion and a great share from the Manifest Light. Verily, I say unto thee, if thou arrive at that station, thou shalt behold all the Holy People humble and submissive at that station.

Make haste in life before death, spring before autumn, healing before sickness. Thus thou mayest become a spiritual physician, healing all manner of diseases, by the breaths of the Holy Spirit, in this Glorious Century and Manifest Age."

O maid-servant of God, Mrs. Brittingham: Intellect and the faculty of comprehension are gifts from God whereby man is distinguished from other animals. Therefore will a wise man hide this Light by the darkness of intoxication? No, verily, By God, his heart cannot be contented, but rather, will do that whereby he develops his power of understanding, and not indulge in that which causes ignorance, stupidity and drunkenness. This is an evident text in the Manifest Book, wherein He differentiates all good matters from bad.

O maid-servant of God: Study and teach the Old and the New Testaments, so that thou mayest explain some of the meanings and the interpretations according to the condition of the listeners. Verily, rest assured in that thy Lord will confirm thee in the service of His Cause, in His Great Vineyard.

O maid-servant of God: Be rejoiced by this address and gladden every attentive listener. But those whose eyes are veiled, whose hearts shaded, whose ears deafened, do not understand the speech, although the Breath of the Spirit revive the hearts and spirits.

Upon thee be greetings and praise.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Mirza Ameen'Ullah, Chicago, Ill.  
Received December 3, 1902.

BC# 439

TABLETS TO MRS. BRITTINGHAM.

Extract, received January 5, 1904.

There is no wonder when a soul advances unto God, but (there is) when he remains firm in the straight Path, increases the Fire of the Love of God constantly, bears trials and difficulties and withstands every great storm. For, in a calm day, every man unfurls the sail of the ship and sails upon the sea without fear of drowning, though he be of the most weak. But the sailor is he who sets out and sails in the ocean even when it is stormy, and winds howling and waves raging.

There is no wonder in confessing the Appearance of the Kingdom of God, but true wonder consists in good deeds, obedience to the Commands and teachings of the True Lord, and firmness in this Path, even when the storm is at its height.

Convey My greeting to those maid-servants of the Merciful One who have believed in God, in this Manifest Day, who have entered under the protection of the Established Pavilion and who have become constant and firm in the Station of the Good.

Convey My greeting to the maid-servant of God, Mrs....., so that she may be attracted to the Lights shining forth from the Altar of Sacrifice. Surely she has heard how the spiritual people hastened to martyrdom in Iran (Persia) while they gave praise and thanks when under the sword, for having been blessed and granted the gift of shedding their blood in the True Way.

Since the beginning of the world, no one had ever heard of a hundred souls, whose possessions have been plundered, homes destroyed, women captured, and whose children were killed, and (who) yet were in great joy. While their bodies were cut to pieces they proclaimed His Name and gave thanks and glory to their Supreme Lord for His Favor of granting this suffering and for blessing them with great sorrow.

This is naught save the power of God, great love of God, and attraction of the hearts to the Beauty of Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

.....

-9-

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art attracted to the Beauty of God!

I have considered thy letter and have answered the letters thou hast sent.

BC# 440

(Brittingham)

Praise be to God! Thou art confirmed and aided! Rest assured in the help of the Holy Spirit, which will make itself manifest in every condition, and will enlighten thy sight.

Invite thou, as long as thou canst, the beloved of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful to firmness and steadfastness, so that they may be able to withstand trials. For temptation is great!

It was trial (or temptation) which caused Peter - the great - to deny thrice, His Holiness Christ. Consider how great is the trial! How severe is the temptation!

If the foundation of the building is not solid and firm, the building will not stand.

Convey greeting to Anna Douglas and tell her: "Be not disappointed, for the Beloved of the world, the Beauty of Abha, is kind, and the source of repose to the friends."

Declare thy kindness to the maid-servant of God, Corinne True, and say to her that: "I hope she will be greatly confirmed."

Give My regards to the maid-servant of God, Aimee Jaxon, and tell her that: "I hope, through the help and mercy of God, thy private wish may be realized to thee."

Give My spiritual greeting to the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Tobin and tell her: "The Reality will be made manifest and the Mysteries will be unfolded."

Give abundant greeting to Mrs. Mitchell and tell her: "Through the Fragrance of God the Orient was perfumed, and by the Light of Guidance the Occident became enlightened."

Convey My love to the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Cecelia Harrison, and say to her: "Serve God all thou canst, for this service is eternal and everlasting."

Give to the maid-servant of God, Nellie Phillips, My respects and say: "Appreciate the value of this Day. Such a Day you will find no more. Strive to reap the fruits of this Day and thou wilt find results."

O dear maid-servant of God, Isabella Brittingham! Strengthen the bond of love and harmony among the maid-servants of the Merciful.

Lead them to unity, oneness, spirituality, meekness and obedience and to the service of one another. Thus each ~~day~~ may become the servant of the other, rather glory in service!

Bc# 441

Brittingham)

Until such Divine Attributes become manifest from the reality of humanity, the Great Peace will not be realized; the Sun of Truth will not dawn from the Horizon of spiritual and material Peace; the Kingdom of God will not be established in the Center of the Universe; the Fountain of Life will not be streaming and the East and the West will not be enlightened!

Upon thee be greeting and praise!

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Received January 29, 1904.

.....  
Upon her be Baha'u'llah El Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O thou who art firm in the Covenant!

Thy letter was received. According to the clear text of the Book of Akdas and the explicit contents of the Book of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l Baha is the interpreter of all the Works and Books of the Blessed Perfection, and not only of the Book of Akdas. This question is clear and evident to those who are informed of the Writings and Tablets (of Baha'u'llah)

Were this not the case, every one would have given an interpretation according to his own inclination and considered his interpretation preferable to the interpretation of others; this would naturally lead to great differences. If some one interprets one verse of the Verses of God, and his interpretation is not approved by 'Abdu'l Baha, it is not authoritative. Now is not the time for interpretation. This is the time of teaching. All the believers must unloose the tongue of teaching the Cause of God. For teaching is the cause of the guidance of all the inhabitants of the earth; Teaching is the means of the illumination of mankind; Teaching is conducive to the enlightenment of the world of humanity; Teaching is promotive of the confirmation of the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. This is the most great affair.

But if a soul on reading one of the blessed verses utters an explanation which does not harm the Cause, do not oppose him; for his talk is based upon explanation and not interpretation.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated July 12, 1914.

BC # 442

(Brittingham)

Whenever any soul explains any matter he must have authority from the Verses of God and the Words of the Supreme -- either from the Book of Akdas or other divine Tablets. If he is asked for the proof of his statements, he must show the text of the Book. This is his evidence.

Briefly, every statement and word which is not based upon the divine texts is not Truth. No one must listen to it. No one must interfere with it. This is the irrefragable Command.

Expatiate in detail upon this subject in every meeting.

Extract from a Tablet received May, 1910.

.....

The maid-servant of God, Mrs. Brittingham.  
Upon her ne Baha'u'llah)

HE IS GOD!

O thou dear maid-servant of God!

Blessed art thou, for having been the cause of unity and love among the beloved ones of God.

Today there is no greater service to the Kingdom of God than endeavor in uniting the friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful One.

By all means, strive to lay the foundation of love and harmony among all. Should the friends of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful One unite as they should, they will receive the Heavenly Confirmations as successive as the spring rain. They may be so united as to surprise the people, even themselves.

If they do not attain this unity and harmony, they shall eventually meet with manifest loss; confirmation and strength shall cease.

This is the fact and truth of this condition.

They must not complain about God. For discord is like unto fire cast amid the harvest. Therefore, expecting harvest under such conditions is a foolish desire.

Thus the harvest should be saved and protected from fire, that our hope may be realized. This is the example of this condition of the Kingdom.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Received April 19, 1904.

BC# 443

(Brittingham)

The attracted maid-servant of God, Mrs. Brittingham.  
(Upon her be Bahat'u'llah)

HE IS GOD!

O herald of the Kingdom!

Thy long letter has been carefully read and the contents understood. It proved that thou art not reposing in heart, not still in body and not silent in tongue; nay, rather, that thou art ever occupied, day and night, in serving at the Threshold of the Beauty of Abha; that thou art employed in teaching the Instructions and the Precepts of God, awakening the sleeping ones, arousing the negligent, satisfying the thirsty with pure water, and guiding those who have gone astray to the pathway of salvation. These actions are those which are in reality worthy of a beloved maid-servant of the Blessed Perfection.

Thou hast asked Me to pray and supplicate for thee at the Threshold of God and to desire for thee a great blessing, that thou mayest become a Divine Sign in this Illustrious Cycle, so that thou mayest minister unto the real spirituality and cast a glow of agitation and activity which will exhilarate the souls with the Breezes of the Paradise of Abha. According to thy wish, I prayed and implored at the Threshold of Oneness and asked for thee this great Blessing and these Illustrious Bounties.

O maid-servant of God! Know that the Blessings of the Kingdom of Abha are not dependent upon the capacity and the worthiness of any one; the Blessings themselves are the worthiness. As the action itself, when it reaches the thing acted upon, makes it (that which is acted upon) the action -- so the Blessings themselves then become identical with worthiness. In like manner, when the Action itself descends upon the recipient, the recipient becomes the Action. For example, when an object is broken, the Action realized in it. Under such circumstances the recipient and that which is received - or capacity and Blessings - are one. Therefore, the Blessings of the Kingdom of Abha are not enchained by any fetters. It (the Kingdom) gives the drop the influence of the Sea, and the mote that of a sun. As thou hast already beheld, God has arisen, and some souls who were less than drops became like the waves of the great sea and manifested a storm equal to that of the ocean; in such cases worthiness is of no importance.

Give My yearning greetings to thy beloved and honorable husband. I will always pray to the Great Kingdom for him and ask for his blessings and assistance.

Thou hast written that thy health was broken. Give thanks unto God that thy soul is in great health and strength and that thou hast attained to the Eternal Cure.

Convey My longing greetings to Dr. Moody and be very kind and loving to her. I hope that she will sow some seeds which

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(Brittingham)

will produce a harvest. The kindness she has shown to you and the attention she has paid you are the cause of her advancement towards the Kingdom.

Give My best greetings, with perfect spirituality to Mr. and Mrs. Dahl, and give them also My warmest and indescribable love. I am very pleased with them for having been so kind to you.

Give My respectful greetings to Mrs. Herman and say to her that the captive of the Holy Spirit is exempt from every captivity, and when the eyes attain to the real perception they will realize the greatness of this Great Cause.

Deliver My longing greetings to Dr. Berlin and say to him that although he is old in body, yet, thanks be to God, he is young in spirit, and, although the eyes have become feeble, thanks be to God, the perception is strong; and, although the power of the body is decreasing, yet, thanks be to God, the spiritual power is developing and increasing.

Upon thee be Baha'u'llah.

(Signed) E. E.  
Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Received August 13, 1908.

.....

Verily, thy letter reached Me, and I noted its contents, and the severe trials which surround thee from all sides.

Be not sorrowful on this account! For this is a glorious proof of the fact that thou art drawing nigh unto God.

It is the law (or method) of God to test the sincere ones with great trials.

Make firm thy feet in this Path, and stand the severest calamity, for this is conducive to progress and attainment to Life Eternal and Unchangeable.

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Extract from Tablet received March 3, 1903.

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(Brittingham)

Thou hast written in regard to the tests and trials to be manifested in the American Countries. Know this, that hardships and misfortunes shall increase day by day, and the people will be distressed. The doors of joy and happiness shall be closed upon all sides; terrible wars shall happen. Disappointment and the frustration of hopes shall surround the people from every direction, until they are obliged to turn to God. Then the Lights of great happiness will enlighten the horizons so that the cry of "Ya Baha El Abha" may arise upon all sides.

This will happen.

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

.....

I ask Thee, O Ruler of existence and Beloved of all who are in the world of creation, to assist me in all conditions, that I may advance toward the Goal of Thy Command, and that I may ever show forth Thy Love among Thy creatures. Then assist me through Thy Bounty, that which will benefit me in this world and in the world to come. Thou art the Almighty, the Supreme, the Precious, the Powerful!

(Old Hidden Words, page 71)

O God! I ask Thee, by Thy Supreme Pen and by Thy Name, the Most Holy, the Greatest, the Impregnable, the Most High, the Most Glorious, to forgive me my debts through Thy Grace and Bounty, and to overlook and pardon my trespasses by Thy Benevolence and Mercy. Then make me steadfast in Thy service and an utterer of Thy Name and praise. Verily Thou art the Exalted, the For-giver, the Clement.

(Old Hidden Words, page 82)

BAHA'U'LLAH.

.....

Christmas Day - 1918.

To Abdu'l Baha Abbas.  
Through Shahnaz Waite.

To you I have many times sent my thoughts and my questions,  
and my love. Often in the lesser ministries we turn with tender  
love to you and gratitude that expands the heart.

Through your beloved child Mrs. Waite, I have been given  
the opportunity to direct this line of joyous greeting and reverent  
thanks.

Often in the freer consciousness of the night I feel that I  
am with you and that I am working hand in hand with your ignited  
devotees, in this country, with whom including Miss Thompson and  
Mrs. Waite I am very close. I bow for your blessing.

(Signed) Will Levington Comfort.

Haifa, Palestine.  
March 15, 1919.

To his honor, Will Levington Comfort.  
Through Shahnaz Waite.

Upon him be Baha El Abha.

HE IS GOD!

O thou son of the Kingdom!

Praise be to God, like unto a Torch thou hast been ignited  
and like unto a star thou hast shone. This Light is the Light  
of Reality, which is Divine Guidance, and not a material one.  
It is a Heavenly Lamp and not an earthly one, which though it  
reveals objects yet it does not discover and comprehend them, i.e.  
it is unaware of the world of things, and simply reveals them  
to the eye, while on the other hand the Light of Truth both re-  
veals and discovers objects and does, more-over, comprehend  
them. Praise be to God that thou hast attained to such a Light.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha.

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated by Shoghi Rabbani,  
Home of Abdu'l Baha, Haifa, Palestine.  
March 15, 1919.

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Extract from a Tablet to an American believer.

Upon him be Baha'u'llah.

HE IS GOD!

Your last letter was received, and I was informed of all of its contents. You had written concerning the beloved of God, and the slight difference of opinion.

You must know this: That the principle of the Divine Foundation is LOVE, ONENESS and the PURITY of INTENTION.

When LOVE is attained, the mystery of Truth will become manifest.

No one should adhere to different titles. One title (or station) is enough, and it is 'Abdu'l Baha. All must agree in this word. Until the difference of opinions may be entirely removed from their midst. But that which is essential to the acknowledgment of this word ( i.e. 'ABDU'L BAHA) is ATTRACTION, the LOVE OF GOD, SERVICE TO THE CAUSE OF GOD, diffusing the WORD OF GOD, SEVERENCE from all else save GOD, AFFINITY, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS, NOTHINGNESS, and SERVITUDE TO THE BELOVED OF GOD.

If one does not become characterized with these attributes, he has not acknowledged the title (or station) of ABDU'L BAHA.

Because: ABDU'L BAHA is the BANNER of the LOVE OF GOD, the LAMP of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, the HERALD of the KINGDOM OF GOD, the COMMANDER of the HOSTS of PEACE and RECONCILIATION, and the ORB of UNION and HARMONY among all the nations of the world.

Consequently, every one in whose heart the LOVE of ABDU'L BAHA has irradiated, must act in this manner; and when persons walk and move in this path, all differences shall be removed.

O dear one! This dispensation of the Beauty of Abha is the time of deeds, not words. The purpose is not words, but deeds!

All the beloved of God must be characterized with the heavenly attributes and appear in such conduct that the Brilliancy of Mercifulness may pervade all regions.

Every person who is strengthened in these Heavenly virtues is my partner and associate in the service of the HOLY THRESHOLD.

O dear one! All nations await two MANIFESTATIONS, and the two Manifestations signify the Blessed Beauty (BAHA'U'LLAH) and HIS HOLINESS the BAB. Words are different, but the purpose is one. One hath called Him "MAHDI", and another hath called Him "CHRIST." One hath named the Blessed Beauty the LORD OF HOSTS, and another hath called Him the "HEAVENLY FATHER".

(American believer)

Briefly, you should adhere to that which hath issued from MY PEN and TONGUE.

It is just as thou hadst written, when the people recognize the Beauty of Abha and arise to HIS TEACHINGS, they have recognized all the Prophets and have arisen in Their Teachings; but if they do not recognize HIM (BAHA'U'LLAH), and acknowledge all the Prophets, it will impart no fruit, nay, they will fall in manifest loss.

Consider that in the Day of Christ whosoever acknowledged Christ, was a believer in all the Prophets and Messengers. And whosoever denied Christ was deprived of all (of them).

Consequently you should know the Blessed Beauty (BAHA'U'LLAH) and call in HIS NAME, and promote HIS TEACHINGS.

All have sought Light from that SUN and are illumined with that Light.

Consider if the sun cast rays upon a thousand mirrors, the brilliancy of those mirrors is received from the same (one) sun; and when thou knowest the sun, thou hast known all the mirrors, for they are all under its shadow (i.e. subordinate to the sun).

.....

A message to Mrs. Claudia Coles.

Say on my behalf to the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Claudia Coles: "The end of every material work is without result because it is perishable and inconstant; but the first real work is attraction to the Fragrances of God, enkindlement with the Fire of the Love of God, reading the verses of Unity and beholding the Lights from the Dawning-place of Mystery. After that comes the training of souls, purification of the character and service to humanity. If thou art able to accomplish any of these, the result is eternal and the fruit is everlasting."

(Signed) 'Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated February 16, 1907.

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To a California Assembly.

Upon them be Baha'u'llah el Abha!

HE IS GOD!

O ye people of the Kingdom!

The letter you have written after the Feast of Nawruz was received and perused. It produced great joy and happiness, and the shining of light was beheld.

I hope during the next year you may have a better and more beautiful Feast and adorn the Meeting with Affinity and Oneness, while turning your faces toward the Kingdom of Signs and receiving the Bounties of the Holy Spirit.

'Abdu'l Baha, with His heart and soul, was present at your Nawruz Feast; associated and took part in your happiness, joy and harmonious union. Therefore, thank ye God that ye had such a Friend and Caller! Notwithstanding the distance of thousands of miles, He was present in Spirit at your Feast of Love, and He obtained spiritual emotions.

I hope this New Year will be happy and blessed and the cause of attainment of Divine Assistance and Confirmation, so that ye may become the cause of the agreement of the world, proclaim the unity of the human race, change the enemies into friends and make those who are deprived of the Confidants of the Mysteries of the Most Great Peace.

Ye have expressed words of solicitude and anxiety over the troubles and persecutions which have fallen upon this imprisoned One. Be not at all sad, be ye not affected. Do not worry, for incarceration to this Prisoner is a feast of bliss and perpetual Paradise.

Persecutions and adversities are the merciful gifts. If these persecutions and sufferings did not exist in the Path of God, how could Abdu'l Baha obtain happiness and peace?

Through the appearance of Tests, My heart is consoled, and through the experience of dire afflictions My soul is calmed.

Convey to the believers of God greetings and praise on My behalf, saying: Day and night this longing One is supplicating toward the Kingdom of the Luminary of Regions, begging Him that the friends may attain the Most Great Bounty, that they may become the cause of spreading the Love of God in the East and in the West, train the souls of humanity, and make this nether world the Court of the Gifts of His Highness the Almighty, this mound of earth become illumined, and the face of the entire world become as the Heavenly Paradise.

Upon you be Baha el Abha!

(Signed) Abdu'l Baha Abbas.

Translated July 17, 1908.

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