

## The Divine Plan

Narrator: This skit, the building of the World Order of Baha'u'llah, 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, Muhammad, 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 Baha'u'llah, whose fundamental principles have been enunciated in the writings of the Center of the Covenant, involves no less than the complete unification of the entire human race."

Narrator: And Baha'u'llah 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 anyone can seek, except HIM."

Narrator: The importance of the establishment of the Faith of Baha'u'llah in the North-American continent was for-shadowed by the Bab in 1844.

Voice: "He directly addressed the peoples of the West and significantly bid them issue forth from their cities to aid God and become as brethren in His one and indivisible religion."

Narrator: In anticipation of this development Baha'u'llah Himself has written.

Voice: "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. 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."

Narrator: 'Abdu'l-Baha 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."

Narrator: On September 23, 1893, the Faith of Baha'u'llah 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.

"In the Palace of Bahji, or Delight, just outside the fortress of Akka, on the Syrian coast, there died a few months since a famous Persian sage, the Babi saint, named Baha'u'llah-"The Glory of God"- the head of

that vast reform party of Persian Moslems, 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 utterances to sentiments so noble, so Christ-like, that we repeat them as our closing words.

"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 religion 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."

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 Baha'i sacred literature has been translated into 56 different languages.

Narrator: Now we will be told what the American people are creating in the Baha'i House of Worship now coming to completion at Wilmette, Illinois with an estimated total expenditure of \$2,500,000.

Voice: The followers of Baha'u'llah are creating for the American people a spiritual symbol of the fellowship and peace our age desperately requires.  
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2nd. Voice: Consecrated to the Oneness of Humanity, the Baha'i 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 Hindu: "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 and loves Me, he is dear to Me.

Narrator: The 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 Koran, the Book of Muhammad, as

"The Glorious Koran that inimitable symphony, the very sounds of which move men to tears and ecstasy." 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 Allah (God) is your helper none can overcome you, and if He withdraw His help from you, who is there who can help you? In Allah (God) let believers put their trust." This is the counsel of Muhammad.

Narrator: We will close our program with prayers from several of the Great Religions. First from Zoroaster, then Judaism, Christian and The Baha'i World Faith.

Voice: I invite and invoke  
 The wise Lord, the Creator  
 The Raident, 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 Diety 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 hath redeemed from out of the lands,  
 From the East and from the West,  
 From the North and from the South.  
 They cried unto the Lord in their trouble;  
 And He led them 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"  
 Baha'i World Faith.

end.