Bahá’í hymns[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Bahá’í hymns offer an excellent method of teaching the fundamentals of the Bahá’í Revelation, not only to the child, but the adult as well. As a means of teaching the Station of Bahá’u’lláh, and the greatness of this Day to the child, they have proven their value in children’s classes in different Assemblies in America and also in the Orient. Each hymn emphasizes some vital truth of the Bahá’í Message.

The “Great Day of God” teaches the child that this DAY—or dispensation, foretold in all the Sacred Scriptures has dawned. The Day or 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 “One 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 Bahá’u’lláh, 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—ALLÁH’U’ABHÁ—. When the child has sung this hymn through, it has repeated the Greatest Name 9 times, and obeyed the instruction of Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, 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 Bahá’u’lláh telling of the coming of universal Peace [and] 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 Bahá’u’lláh. “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 “The 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 Bahá’u’lláh 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. OH! God Thou hast created me to know Thee and ADORE Thee—should be taught the child in connection with this hymn.

“ALLELUIA 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—Bahá’u’lláh is that GREAT SHEPHERD—come to fulfil 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 Bahá’í 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 WONDROUS STORY”—gives the full Message of just WHO Bahá’u’lláh 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 Bahá’u’lláh.

“SOFTLY HIS VOICE IS CALLING”—Sung in the Presence of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá 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 race of the Master as He listened to the children singing “His Song” with true realization of its meaning. “‘Abdu’l-Bahá 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 Bahá’í children. It turns their hearts to the heart of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá—and this bids them listen for His Voice from within their own souls.

“AT EVENTIDE”—brings the child at the close of day to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as tired children seek their mother’s breast, to turn to Thee and feel Thy Spirit o’er us, and in Thy love we find our home and rest.” ‘Abdu’l-Bahá we turn our hearts to Thee, for Thou art Love Divine—Eternally.” ‘Abdu’l-Bahá has written “Turn with thy breast to the heat of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and then this concealed fact will be disclosed, and the hidden mystery unveiled unto thee.” (*Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, vol. I, p. 163) And “Verily I have not forgotten thee. Trust thou in the love of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, for nothing equals it.” (*Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, vol. I, p. 201) Teach the child the comfort in the peace which comes from turning unto ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, 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 him visualize this symbol whenever the “Peace of God” is mentioned. It will have a strong influence with that mind and will never be forgotten.

“ANTHEM OF ALL NATIONS”—i.e., 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 (Bahá’u’lláh) 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 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá—“A Prayer for All Nations”, should be taught in connection with this hymn.

“THE BENEDICTION”—and last of all the Benedictions, which seems to be the climax of all that has gone before. The “Benediction” of which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá 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 al-Abhá” and feels the wings of the Holy Spirit hovering [over him], learning that “here and now” in love abiding in the realms of al-Abhá in 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.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá has written that these hymns [so that they] “will be sung in the Center of worship (the Mashriqu’l-Adhkár) forever more”, and “Let them be read and sung in the Assemblies”. These hymns belong to all the Bahá’ís of the world and especially do they belong to the children of the Kingdom—i.e., the Bahá’í children, for they tell of and teach the Bahá’í 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 for every Bahá’í child’s heart.

Questions

What does the “GREAT DAY OF GOD” teach? Read ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s talk on this subject in *Bahá’í Scripture*s, pp. 266–7. Read in *The Kitáb-i-Íqán* of this Day of God. Read in *Bahá’í Proofs* of this Great Day.

Hymn of Praise—Read of the value of “PRAISE” throughout ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s talks and Tablets. “Praise be unto God”. How often does He write this?

THE GREATEST NAME—Read of its meaning in *Bahá’í Scripture*s (pp. 478–9) as symbolized on the [Bahá’í] ringstones—and throughout Bahá’u’lláh’s Writings.[[2]](#footnote-2) Also in Revelations of St. John. Learn to define its Power and answer the question: “What is the Greatest Name?”

AWAKE YE NATIONS ALL—What does this hymn call the nations to do?

HIS GLORIUS 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 Kitáb-i-Íqán*, which is the “Book of Certainty”, or Assurance.

PRAISE THEE OH GOD—For what does this hymn “Praise God”? Analyze each verse and find in ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s talks related subjects. Make a compilation of them.

ALLELUIA SONG—What does this song teach? Who is the “GREAT SHEPARD”? 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 [to] 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 to? Who manifests “Love Divine Eternal1y”?

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 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Tablet of the “New Year” in *Tablets of Abdul-Baha Abbas*, vol. I, pp. 38–40, beginning “O ye children of the Kingdom”.

THE BENEDICTION—What inscription did ‘Abdu’l-Bahá 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 al-Abhá”?

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. See also *Explanation of the symbol of the Greatest Name*, A. Q. Faizi. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)