

Tablet from 'Abdu'l-Bahá, 1905

Translated by Ali Kuli Khan

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by Duane L. Herrmann, 2006

The following is the text of the Tablet from 'Abdu'l-Bahá sent in response to a petition signed by American believers in 1905. Two of those believers lived in Enterprise, Kansas: Rose Hilty and Mary M. F. Miller. Rose received a printed copy of the Tablet which included the names of all those who signed. It was among her books given after her death by her daughter to start the Topeka Bahá'í Library.

The text of the Tablet is reprinted as it was in the original printed form, spelling, etc. An attempt was made by the U.S. National Bahá'í Archives to find the text of the petition, but it was unsuccessful; many petitions were sent in those years. It should be regarded as a provisional translation, it has not been authenticated. The explanatory notes at the end appear in the original.

To the Beloved of God in General in America
(Upon them be Baha Ullah)

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He is God!

O ye my divine friends!

At a time when the sea of tests had become tempestuous, the waves of calamity were heaving, the hosts of nations were in the utmost violence, and the people of oppression dealt with infinite injustice, some of the calumniators, united with our unkind brother, wrote a letter replete with false accusations, and engaged in seditions and calumnies.

They confused the mind of the government and agitated the State authorities. From this it is evident how a prisoner in this ruined walled city would fare, and how the conditions are so full of perplexity and confusion as to baffle all description! Notwithstanding, this imprisoned exile is in the utmost firmness and calmness, trusts in His Highness the Peerless God, and wishes for every calamity and affliction in the Path of the Love of God!

(To us) The arrow of oppression is in rich flow of Divine Bounty, and deadly poison is a swift-healing antidote.

We were in such a state when a letter came from the friends in America. The whole of its contents showed an agreement on their part to be in unity and harmony in all respects, and it was signed by all determined to be self-sacrificing in the Path of the Love of God – in order thus to secure Eternal Life.

Upon perusing that letter and looking at the names signed to it, such a joy and gladness came over Abdul Baha as is beyond description, and he thanked God that such friends are found in that country, who, in the utmost joy and fragrance, are in union and accord, and one in agreement with each other. The more this covenant is strengthened, the happier, the better, the sweeter it will be and it will thus attract the Divine confirmations. If the friends of God are wishing for confirmation in order to enjoy the friendship of the Supreme concourse, they must exert themselves to confirm and strengthen this covenant; for the making of a covenant, and an alliance for brotherhood and unity is like unto the irrigation of the Tree of Life (which is conducive to) Eternal Life!

Briefly, O ye friends of God! Make your feet firm, make a firm compact, and in union and accord, endeavor to diffuse the fragrance of the Love of God and to spread the Divine Teachings, in order that ye may impart life to the dead body of this world, and bestow a real healing on every one diseased (in soul).

O ye friends of God! The world is like the body of man – it has become sick, feeble and infirm. Its eye is devoid of sight, its ear has become destitute of hearing and its faculties of sense are entirely dissolved. The friends of God must become as wise physicians and care of and heal this sick person, in accord with the Divine Teachings, in order that – God willing – it may perchance gain health, find eternal healing, and that its lost powers may be restored; and that the person of the world may find such health, freshness, and purity that it will appear in the utmost beauty and charm.

The first remedy is to guide the people, so that they may turn unto God, hearken unto the Divine Commandments and go forth with a hearing ear and seeing eye. After this swift and certain remedy has been applied, then according to the Divine Teachings, they ought to be trained in conduct, morals and deeds of the Supreme concourse and encouraged and inspired with the gifts of the Kingdom of Abha. The hearts should be purified and cleaned from every trace of hatred and rancor and enabled to engage in truthfulness, conciliation, uprightness and love toward the world of humanity; so that the East and the West may embrace each other like

unto two lovers, enmity and animosity may vanish from the human world, and the Universal Peace be established!

O ye friends of God! Be kind to all peoples and nations, have love for all of them; exert yourselves to purify the hearts as much as you can, and bestow abundant effort in rejoicing the souls, Be ye a sprinkling of rain to every meadow and a water of life to every tree. Be ye as fragrant musk to every nostril and a soul-refreshing breeze to every invalid. Be ye salutary water to every thirsty one, a wise guide to every one lead astray, an affectionate father or mother to every indigent one; consider love and union as a delectable paradise, and count annoyance and hostility as the torment of hell-fire. Exert with your soul; seek no rest in body; supplicate and beseech with your heart and search for Divine Assistance and Favor; in order that ye may make this world the Paradise of Abha and this terrestrial globe the Arena of the Supreme Kingdom. If ye make an effort, it is certain that these lights shall shine, this cloud of mercy shall rain, this soul-nourishing breeze shall waft, and the scent of this most fragrant musk be offered.

O ye friends of God! Be ye not concerned with the events transpiring at this Blessed spot, and give no thought thereto. Whatever may happen is good, for calamities are Bestowal itself, hardship is the reality of mercy, discomposure is but composure of mind, and sacrifice of life is a manifest Gift. Whatever may happen is a bounty from God, the Most High. Be ye engaged in your own affairs; be employed in guiding the people; train the souls in the qualities and nature of Abdul Baha, and convey the glad tidings of the Kingdom of Abha to the people. Do not seek rest during night and day and do not sit tranquil for a minute. Bring these glad tidings to the hearing of mankind with the utmost exertion, and accept every calamity and affliction in your love for God and reliance on Abdul Baha. Endure the censure of enemies and bear the reproaches of the people of oppression with patience. Follow the example of Abdul Baha and at every moment wish for offering yourselves in the Path of the Beauty of Abha. Shine ye like unto the Sun and roar and move like unto the Sea; impart life to mountain and desert like unto clouds; and, similar to the vernal breeze, bestow freshness, grace and elegance on the trees of human temples.

I long for all the friends with all my soul and heart.

Upon ye be greetings and praise.

(signed) Abdul Baha-Abbas

[Translated by Ali Kuli Khan, January 3, 1906, Cambridge, Mass. The above Tablet was revealed by the Master Abdul-Baha in response to a supplication signed by four hundred twenty-two Believers and sent to Him on July 4th, 1905.]