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HIDDEN WORDS

OF

BAHA'U'LLAH



TRANSLATED BY

SHOGHI EFFENDI

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PUBLISHED BY
BAHAI ASSEMBLY, LONDON
1923

Printed by
WILHELM HEPPELER, STUTTGART.

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LIBRARY

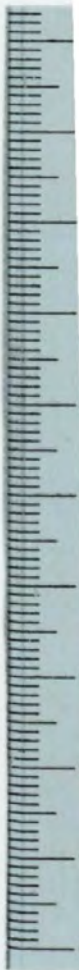


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Introductory Note.

These two books of verses, to which the name of Hidden Words was given, were revealed through the pen of His Holiness Baha'u'llah in Arabic and Persian respectively, during the period of his exile in Baghdad in the year 1274 of the Hegira, i. e. 1857/1858 A. D.

The present translation is that made by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Cause, from the original manuscripts.



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HIDDEN WORDS

From the Arabic.

He is the Glory of Glories.

This is that which hath descended from the Realm of Glory, uttered by the Tongue of Power and Might and revealed unto the Messengers of old, the quintessence whereof We have taken and arrayed in the garment of brevity, as a token of grace unto the righteous that they may stand faithful unto the Covenant of the Lord, that they may fulfil in their lives His Trust, and may in the Realm of the Spirit obtain for themselves the priceless gem of Divine Virtue.

1. O SON OF SPIRIT!

My first counsel is this:- Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty, heavenly, ancient, imperishable and everlasting.

2. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Of all things Justice is the best beloved in My Sight; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide My Trust to Thee. By its aid thou shalt see with

thine own eyes and not with the eyes of others, and shalt know by thy own understanding and not by the understanding of thy neighbour. Ponder this in thy heart; how it behoveth thee to be. In truth Justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving-kindness unto thee. Set it then before thine eyes.

3. O SON OF MAN!

Veiled in My immemorial Being and in the ancient eternity of My Self, I felt My Love for thee; hence, I created thee, have graven on thee the Image of My Likeness and revealed to thy sight the beauty of My Countenance.

4. O SON OF MAN!

I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the Spirit of Life.

5. O SON OF BEING!

Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant.

6. O SON OF BEING!

Thy Eden is My Love, and reunion with Me thy heavenly home. Enter

there-in and tarry not. This is that which hath been destined for thee in Our Kingdom above and Our Exalted Paradise.

7. O SON OF MAN!

If thou lovest Me, turn away from thyself; and if thou seekest My Pleasure, regard not thy own; that thou mayest utterly die in Me and I eternally live in thee.

8. O SON OF SPIRIT!

There is no rest for thee except if thou dost renounce thyself and turn unto Me; for it behoveth thee to glory in My Name and not in thine, and to put thy trust in Me and not in thyself. For I desire to be loved alone above all else.

9. O SON OF BEING!

My Love is My Stronghold; he that entereth therein shall be safe and secure, and he that turneth away shall surely stray and perish.

10. O SON OF UTTERANCE!

Thou art My Stronghold; enter therein that thou mayest abide in safety. My Love is in thee, know it,

that thou mayest find Me nigh unto thee.

11. O SON OF BEING!

Thou art My Lamp and My Light is in thee. Get thee light therefrom and seek none other than Me, for I have created thee rich and have bountifully favoured thee.

12. O SON OF BEING!

With the Hands of Power I made thee and with the Fingers of Might I created thee; and in thee have I placed the essence of My Light. Be thou content with it above all else, for My Work is perfect and My Command is binding. Question it not and have thou no doubt.

13. O SON OF SPIRIT!

I have created thee rich, wherefore impoverish thyself? Noble I made thee, wherewith dost thou abase thyself? Out of the essence of Knowledge I manifested thee, why seekest thou any one beside Me? Of the clay of Love I moulded thee, why dost thou busy thyself with another? Turn thine eyes unto thyself, that in thee thou mayest find Me abiding, Mighty, Powerful and Self-Subsisting.

14. O SON OF MAN!

Thou art-My Dominion and My Dominion perisheth not, wherefore fearest thou thy perishing? Thou art My Light and My Light shall never be extinguished, why darest thou extinction? Thou art My Glory and My Glory fadeth not; thou art My Robe and My Robe shall never be destroyed. Abide then in thy love for Me, that thou mayest find Me in the Realm of Glory.

15. O SON OF UTTERANCE!

Turn thy face unto Mine and renounce all else but Me; for My Sovereignty endureth and My Dominion perisheth not. Wert thou to seek another than Me, surely thou shalt fail, shouldst thou search the universe for evermore.

16. O SON OF LIGHT!

Forget all else but Me and commune with My Spirit. This is the essence of My Command, turn unto it.

17. O SON OF MAN!

Be thou content with My Self and seek no helper but Me, for none but Me can ever suffice thee.

18. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Ask not of Me that which thou desirest not for thyself and be content with that which We have ordained for thee, for this is that which profiteth thee, if therewith thou dost content thyself.

19. O SON OF THE WONDROUS VISION!

I have breathed in thee a Breath of My Spirit, that thou mayest love Me. Why hast thou forsaken Me and sought a beloved other than Me?

20. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Great is My Claim upon thee, it can not be forgotten. Abounding is My Grace unto thee, it can not be veiled. My Love is dwelling in thee, it cannot be concealed. Manifest is My Light unto thee, it cannot be hidden.

21. O SON OF MAN!

From the Tree of effulgent Glory I have ordained for thee the choicest Fruit; wherefore hast thou turned away and contented thyself with that which is baser? Return then unto that which is better for thee in the Realm of Glory.

22. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created.

23. O SON OF THE SUPREME!

To the Imperishable I call thee, yet thou dost seek that which perisheth. What hath made thee turn away from Our Desire and seek thine own?

24. O SON OF MAN!

Transgress not thy limits, nor claim that which beseemeth thee not. Prostrate thyself before the Countenance of thy God, the Lord of Might and Power.

25. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Vaunt not thyself over the poor, for I lead him on his way and behold thee in thy grievous plight and confound thee for evermore.

26. O SON OF BEING!

Why hast thou forgotten thine own faults and busied thyself with the faults of others? Who doeth this, is condemned by Me.

27. O SON OF MAN!

Breathe not the sins of others so long as thou art a sinner. Shouldst

thou do otherwise, accursed art thou,
and to this I testify.

28. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Of a truth, know thou:- He that bid-
deth men to be just and committeth
iniquity assuredly is not of Me, even
though he bear My Name.

29. O SON OF BEING!

Attribute not to any soul that which
thou desirest not for thyself, and say
not that which thou doest not. This
is My Command unto thee, do thou
observe it.

30. O SON OF MAN!

Turn not away My *Abdul-Baha* **Servant** should
he ask anything from thee; for his
face is My Face; be then ashamed be-
fore Me.

31. O SON OF BEING!

Bring thyself to account each day ere
thou art summoned to a reckoning;
for Death, unheralded, shall come
upon thee and thou shalt be called to
give account for thy deeds.

32. O SON OF THE SUPREME!

Death have I ordained even as glad
tidings for thee; wherefore dost thou

sorrow? Light have I made to illumine thee, why veil thyself from it?

33. O SON OF THE SPIRIT!

With the joyful tidings of Light I hail thee; do thou rejoice therein. To the Court of Holiness I summon thee; abide therein that thou mayest repose for evermore.

34. O SON OF SPIRIT!

The Spirit of Holiness beareth unto thee the joyful tidings of Reunion; wherefore dost thou grieve? The Spirit of Power giveth thee grace in His Cause; why dost thou veil thyself? The Light of His Countenance is lifted upon thee; how canst thou go astray?

35. O SON OF MAN!

Sorrow not save at thy remoteness from Us, and rejoice not save in thy nearness and thy returning unto Us.

36. O SON OF MAN!

Rejoice in the gladness of thine heart, that thou mayest be worthy to gaze upon Me and mirror forth My Beauty.

37. O SON OF MAN!

Divest not thyself of My Beauteous Robe, and forfeit not thy portion from

My wondrous Fount, that thirst to all eternity may not afflict thee.

38. O SON OF BEING!

Walk in My Statutes as a token of thy love for Me and deny thyself that which thou desirest if thou seekest My Pleasure.

39. O SON OF MAN!

Wert thou to scan the immensity of space and traverse the expanse of the heavens, surely thou shalt find no rest save in submission to Our Command and humbleness before Our Countenance.

40. O SON OF MAN!

Magnify My Cause, that I may make manifest unto thee the Secret of My Greatness and shine upon thee with everlasting Light.

41. O SON OF MAN!

Humble thyself before Me, that I may deign to visit thee. Arise for the triumph of My Cause, that in the Realm below thou mayest obtain the victory.

42. O SON OF BEING!

Make mention of Me on My earth, that in My Heaven I may remember thee; thus shall Mine eyes and thine be solaced.

43. O SON OF THE WONDROUS THRONE!

Thy hearing is My Hearing; do thou hear therewith. Thy sight is My Sight; do thou observe therewith, that in thy inmost soul thou mayest testify unto My Sanctity and Glory, and that I may bear witness unto a glorious station for thee.

44. O SON OF BEING!

Seek martyrdom in My Path, content with My Pleasure and thankful unto My Decree, that thou mayest repose with Me beneath the Canopy of Majesty beyond the Tabernacle of Glory.

45. O SON OF MAN!

Ponder and reflect. Desirest thou to die upon thy couch or to be martyred in My Path upon the dust, and so become the manifestation of My Cause and the revelation of My Light in the All-Highest Paradise? Judge, O servant!

46. O SON OF MAN!

By My Beauty! The tingeing of thy hair with thy blood is greater in My Sight than the creation of the Universe and the light of both worlds. Strive then to attain it, O Servant!

47. O SON OF MAN!

Unto everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude in My Decree, and patience in My trials.

48. O SON OF MAN!

The true lover yearneth for tribulation even as doth the rebellious for forgiveness and the sinful for Mercy.

49. O SON OF MAN!

If adversity befall thee not in My Path, how canst thou walk in the ways of them that are content with My Pleasure? Were not trials to afflict thee in thy longing to meet Me, how wilt thou attain the Light in thy love for My Beauty?

50. O SON OF MAN!

My calamity is My Providence; outwardly it is but fire and vengeance, yet inwardly it is naught but Light

and Mercy. Hasten thereunto, that thou mayest become an eternal Light and an immortal Spirit. This is My Command unto thee, do thou observe it.

51. O SON OF MAN!

Should prosperity befall thee, rejoice not; and should abasement come upon thee, grieve not; for both shall pass away and be no more.

52. O SON OF BEING!

If poverty overtake thee, grieve not; for the Lord of Wealth shall visit thee. Fear not abasement, for His Glory shall one day rest upon thee.

53. O SON OF BEING!

Shouldst thou love this eternal and imperishable Dominion, and this ancient, everlasting Life, forsake this mortal and fleeting sovereignty.

54. O SON OF BEING!

Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We assay gold, and with gold test Our servants.

55. O SON OF MAN!

Thou desirest gold, and I desire thy purification therefrom. Thou hast re-

cognized the wealth of thy soul therein, and I have recognized thy wealth as being thy sanctity therefrom. By My Life! this is My Knowledge, and that is thine imagining; how can My view agree with thine?

56. O SON OF MAN!

Bequeath My Wealth to My poor, that in Heaven thou mayest draw from stores of unfading Glory and treasures of imperishable Power. But, by My Life! to offer up thy soul is a more glorious thing if with Mine Eye thou seest.

57. O SON OF MAN!

The temple of being is My Tabernacle; cleanse it of all things, that therein I may abide and thereon be enthroned.

58. O SON OF BEING!

Thy heart is My Habitation; sanctify it for My Descent. Thy Spirit is My Vision; cleanse it for My Revelation.

59. O SON OF MAN!

Put thy hand into My Bosom, that I may rise above thee, radiant and resplendent.

60. O SON OF MAN!

Ascend unto My Heaven, that thou mayest obtain the joy of eternal Reunion and quaff the peerless Wine from the Chalice of imperishable Glory.

61. O SON OF MAN!

Many a day hath passed over thee, whilst thou hast busied thyself with thy fancies and idle imaginings. How long art thou to slumber upon thy couch? Lift up thy head from slumber for the Sun is at the Zenith, haply it may shine upon thee with the Light of Beauty.

62. O SON OF MAN!

The Light hath shone upon thee above the horizon of the Sacred Mount and the Spirit of Purity hath breathed in the Sinai of thy heart. Wherefore, free thyself from the veils of idle fancies and enter into My Court, that thou mayest be fit for everlasting Life and worthy to gaze upon My Face, so that Death may not come upon thee, neither toil nor sorrow.

63. O SON OF MAN!

My Eternity is My Creation; I have created it for thee. Make it the gar-

ment of thy temple. My Unity is My Work; I have designed it for thee. Attire thyself therewith, that thou mayest be to all eternity the revelation of My eternal Being.

64. O SON OF MAN!

My Majesty is My Bestowal to thee, and My Grandeur the token of My Mercy unto thee. That which beseemeth Me none shall understand, nor can any one recount. Verily! I have treasured it in My hidden storehouses and in the Tabernacle of My Command, as a token of My loving-kindness unto My servants and Mercy unto My people.

65. O CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE
AND INVISIBLE ESSENCE!

Ye shall be hindered from loving Me, and souls shall be perturbed at My mention; for minds cannot grasp Me nor hearts contain Me.

66. O SON OF BEAUTY!

By My Spirit and My Favour! By My Mercy and My Beauty! All that I have revealed unto thee with the Tongue of Power, and have written for thee with the Pen of Might, hath been

according to thy measure and thine understanding and not after My State and My Utterance.

67. O CHILDREN OF MEN!

Do ye know why We have created you from one clay? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder in your hearts, how ye were created. It behoveth you, since We have created you all from the same Substance to be even as one soul, in such wise that ye may walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land; that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. This is My Counsel unto you, O ye concourse of Light! Heed ye this Counsel, that ye may obtain the Fruit of Holiness from the Tree of Wondrous Glory.

68. O YE SONS OF THE SPIRIT!

Ye are My treasures, for in you I have treasured the Pearls of My Mysteries and the Gems of My Knowledge. Guard them from the strangers amidst My servants and the ungodly amongst My people.

69. O SON OF HIM THAT STOOD
BY HIS OWN ENTITY IN THE
KINGDOM OF HIS SELF!

Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee the sweet savours of Holiness, and given thee forth My Utterance, have perfected through thee My Favour and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My Pleasure and thankful unto Me.

70. O SON OF MAN!

Write that which We have revealed unto thee with the Ink of Light upon the tablet of thy spirit. Should this not be in thy power, then make thine ink the essence of thy heart, and if thou canst not do this, then write with that crimson Ink that hath been shed in My Path. Sweeter indeed is this to Me than all else, that thereby its Light may endure for ever.

HIDDEN WORDS

From the Persian.

*In the Name of the Lord of
Utterance, the Mighty*

1. O YE PEOPLE OF INSIGHT AND DISCERNMENT!

The first Call of the Beloved is this :
O mystic Nightingale! Abide not but
in the Rose-garden of the Spirit; O
Messenger of the Solomon of Love!
Seek thou no shelter except in the
Sheba of the Well-Beloved; and O im-
mortal Phoenix! dwell not save on the
Mount of Faithfulness. Therein is thy
habitation, if on the wings of thy soul
thou soarest to the Realm of the Infi-
nite.

2. O SON OF SPIRIT!

The bird seeketh its nest; the night-
ingale the charm of the rose; whilst
those birds, the hearts of men, con-
tent with mortal dust, have strayed
from their eternal Nest, and with eyes
turned towards the mire of negligence
are bereft of the splendour of the Di-
vine Presence. Alas! how strange and
pitiful: for a mere cupful, they have

turned away from the billowing Ocean of the Realms above, and remained far from the Heaven of Glory.

3. O FRIEND!

In the garden of thy heart, plant not but the Rose of Love, and from the Nightingale of desire and yearning loosen not thy hold. Treasure the companionship of the righteous, and withdraw thyself from fellowship with the ungodly.

4. O SON OF JUSTICE!

Whither can a lover go but to the land of his beloved? and what seeker findeth rest away from his heart's desire? To the true lover, reunion is life, and separation is death. His breast is void of patience and his heart hath no peace. A myriad lives he would forsake to hasten to the retreat of his beloved.

5. O SON OF DUST!

Verily I say unto thee: of all men the most negligent is he that disputeth idly and seeketh to advance himself over his brother. Say, O brethren! Let deeds, not words, be your adorning.

6. O SON OF EARTH!

Know, verily, the heart wherein the least remnant of envy yet lingers, shall never attain My everlasting Dominion, nor inhale the sweet savours of Sanctity breathing from My Holy Kingdom.

7. O SON OF LOVE!

But one step separateth thee from the glorious Heights above and from the celestial Tree of Love. Take thou one step, and with the next advance toward the immortal Realm and enter the Tabernacle of Eternity. Give ear then to that which hath been revealed by the Pen of Glory.

8. O SON OF GLORY!

Be alert in the path of holiness, and enter the heaven of communion with Me. Cleanse thy heart with the burnish of the Spirit, and hasten to the Court of the Most High.

9. O FLEETING SHADOW!

Pass from the baser stages of doubt, and rise to the exalted heights of certainty. Open the eye of truth, that thou mayest behold the manifest Beauty and exclaim: Hallowed be the

Lord, the most Excellent of all Creators!

10. O SON OF DESIRE!

Give ear unto this: Never shall mortal eye recognize the everlasting Beauty, and the lifeless heart shall delight in naught but in the withered bloom. For like seeketh like, and taketh pleasure in the company of its kind.

11. O SON OF DUST!

Blind thine eyes, that thou mayest behold My Beauty; stop thine ears, that thou mayest hearken unto the sweet accents of My Voice; empty thyself from all learning, that thou mayest partake of My Knowledge; and sanctify thyself from riches, that thou mayest obtain a lasting share from the Ocean of My Eternal Wealth. Blind thine eyes, that is, to all save My Beauty; stop thine ears to all save My Call; empty thyself from all learning save the knowledge of Me; that with a clear vision, a pure heart and an attentive ear thou mayest enter the Court of My Holiness.

12. O MAN OF TWO VISIONS!

Close one eye, and open the other. Close the one to the world and all

that is therein, and open the other to the hallowed Beauty of the Beloved.

13. O MY CHILDREN!

I fear, lest bereft of the melody of the celestial Dove, ye should repair to the realms of perdition, and not having gazed upon the beauty of the Rose, return to water and clay.

14. O FRIENDS!

Abandon not the everlasting Beauty for a charm that fadeth, and set not your affections on this mortal world of dust.

15. O SON OF SPIRIT!

The time cometh, when the Nightingale of Sanctity shall no longer unfold the inner mysteries, and ye will all be bereft of the celestial Melody and the Voice from on High.

16. O ESSENCE OF NEGLIGENCE!

Myriads of mystic tongues are made vocal in one Speech, and myriads of hidden mysteries are revealed in a single Melody; yet, alas! there is no ear to hear, nor heart to understand.

17. O COMRADES!

The portals of the Placeless are open and the Habitation of the Loved One

is adorned with the lovers' blood, yet, all but a few remain bereft of this celestial City, and even of these few, naught but the smallest handful hath been beheld with a pure heart and sanctified spirit.

18. O YE DWELLERS IN THE HIGHEST PARADISE!

Proclaim unto the assured ones that within the realms of Holiness, nigh unto the celestial Paradise, a new Garden hath been made manifest, round which circle the denizens of the Realm on High and the immortal dwellers of the Exalted Paradise. Strive then, that ye may attain that station, that ye may unravel from its wind-flowers the mysteries of Love and know from its eternal Fruit the Secret of Divine and consummate Wisdom. Solaced are the eyes of them that enter and abide therein!

19. O MY FRIENDS!

Have ye forgotten that true and radiant Morn, when in those hallowed and blessed surroundings ye were all gathered in My Presence, neath the shade of the Tree of Life, planted in the All-Glorious Paradise? Ye all heark-

ened in bewilderment, as I gave utterance to these three most holy Words: O friends! Prefer not your will to Mine, never desire that which I have not desired for you, and approach Me not with lifeless hearts, defiled with wordly hopes and desires. If ye but sanctify your souls, ye would, at this present hour, recall that place and those surroundings, and the truth of My Utterance shall unto all of you be made manifest.

In the eighth of the most holy lines, in the fifth Tablet of paradise, he saith:

20. O YE THAT ARE LYING AS
DEAD ON THE COUCH OF
HEEDLESSNESS!

Ages have passed away, and your precious lives are well-nigh at their end, yet no pure breath of yours hath reached Our Court of Holiness. Though immersed in the ocean of misbelief, yet with your lips ye profess the one true Faith of God. He whom I abhor ye have loved, and of My foe ye have made a friend. Notwithstanding, ye walk on My earth vain and self-satisfied, heedless that My land is weary of you, and everything therein

shunneth you. Were ye but to open your eyes, ye would, in truth, prefer a myriad griefs unto this joy, and account death itself better than this life.

21. O MOVING FORM OF DUST !

I desire communion with thee, but thou wouldst have no trust in Me. The sword of thy rebelliousness hath felled the tree of thy hope. At all times I am near unto thee, but thou art ever far from Me. Imperishable Glory I have chosen for thee, yet boundless degradation thou hast chosen for thyself. While there is yet time, return, and lose not thy chance.

22. O SON OF DESIRE !

The learned and the wise have for years striven and failed to attain the Presence of the All-Glorious; they spent their lives in their search for Him, yet did not behold the beauty of His Countenance. Whereas, with no effort, thou didst attain thy aim, and with no search hast obtained the object of thy quest. Yet, notwithstanding, thou didst remain so wrapt in the veil of self, that thine eyes beheld not the beauty of the Beloved, nor did thy hand touch the hem of His Robe. Wonder thereat, O ye people of insight!

23. O DWELLERS OF THE CITY OF
LOVE!

Mortal blasts have beset the everlasting Candle and the beauty of the celestial Youth is veiled with the darkness of dust. The Chief of the monarchs of Love is wronged by the subjects of tyranny and the Dove of Holiness lies prisoned in the clutch of owls. The dwellers in the Pavilion of Glory and the celestial Concourse bewail and lament, and yet ye repose in the realm of negligence, and count yourselves among the faithful friends. How vain are your imaginings!

24. O YE THAT ARE FOOLISH, YET
HAVE A NAME TO BE WISE!

Wherefore wear ye the guise of the shepherd, yet inwardly are but wolves, intent upon My fold? Ye are even as the star that precedeth the dawn, which appeareth radiant and luminous, and yet leadeth the wayfarers of My City astray into the paths of perdition.

25. O FAIR IN SEMBLANCE YET IN-
WARDLY FOUL!

Ye are even as clear yet bitter water, which to outward seeming is but

crystal pure, but when proved by the Divine Assayer, not a drop thereof shall be accepted. Yea, the sunbeam is cast alike upon the dust and the mirror, yet differ they in reflection even as doth the star from the earth: nay immeasurable is the difference!

26. O MY FRIEND IN WORD!

Ponder a while. Hast thou ever heard that friend and foe should abide in one heart? Cast out then the stranger, that the friend may enter his home.

27. O SON OF DUST!

All that is in Heaven and on earth I have ordained for thee, except the human heart which I have made the habitation of My Beauty and Glory; yet thou didst give My Home and Dwelling to another than Me; and whensoever the Manifestation of My Holiness repaired unto His Abode a stranger found He there, and, homeless, hastened unto the Sanctuary of the Beloved. Notwithstanding, I have refused to divulge thy secret and desired not thy shame.

28. O ESSENCE OF DESIRE !

At many a dawn have I turned from the Realms of the Placeless unto thine abode, and found thee upon the bed of ease occupied with others than Myself. Thereupon, even as the flash of the spirit I repaired to the Realms of celestial Glory and breathed it not in My Retreats above unto the Hosts of Holiness.

29. O SON OF BOUNTY !

Out of the wastes of nothingness, with the clay of my Command I made thee to appear, and have ordained for thy training every atom in existence and the essence of all created things. Thus, ere thou didst issue from thy mother's womb, I have destined for thee two founts of radiant milk, eyes to watch thee and hearts to love thee. Out of My lovingkindness, neath the shade of My Mercy I nurtured thee, and by the essence of My grace and favour protected thee. And My purpose in all this was that thou mayest attain My everlasting Dominion, and become worthy of My unseen bestowals. And yet heedless thou didst remain, and when attaining maturity, thou didst neglect all My bounties and

busied thyself with thine idle imaginings, in such wise that thou didst become wholly forgetful, and hast turned away from the portals of the Friend to abide within the courts of My enemy.

30. O BOND-SLAVE OF THE WORLD!

Many a dawn hath the breeze of my lovingkindness wafted over thee and found thee upon the bed of negligence fast asleep; and bewailing then thy plight, it returned whence it came.

31. O SON OF EARTH!

Wouldst thou have Me, seek none else but Me; and wouldst thou gaze upon My Beauty, close thine eyes to the world and all that is therein, for My Will and the will of another than Me, even as fire and water, cannot abide in one heart.

32. O BEFRIENDED STRANGER!

The candle of thine heart is lit with the hand of My power; quench it not with the adverse winds of self and passion. The healer of all thy ills is thy remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My Love thy all-precious treasure and cherish it even as thine own sight and life.

33. O MY BROTHER!

Hearken to My delightsome Words from My honeyed Tongue, and quaff the Stream of mystic Holiness from My sugar-shedding Lips. Sow the seeds of My Divine Wisdom in the pure soil of thy heart, and water them with the Water of Certitude, that the hyacinths of My Knowledge and Wisdom may spring up verdantly in the sacred city of thy heart.

34. O DWELLERS OF MY PARADISE!

I have planted with the Hands of loving-kindness the sapling of your love and friendship in the holy Garden of Paradise, and have watered it with the goodly showers of My tender Grace; now that its hour of yielding fruit is at hand, strive that it may be protected, and be not consumed with the flame of desire and passion.

35. O MY FRIENDS!

Quench ye the lamp of error, and kindle within your hearts the everlasting torch of Divine Guidance. For ere long the Assayers of mankind shall, in the Holy Presence of the

Adored One, accept naught but the essence of virtue and pure and holy deeds.

36. O SON OF DUST!

The wise are they that speak not unless they obtain a hearing, even as the cup-bearer who proffereth not his cup till he findeth a seeker, and the lover who yearneth not till he gazeth upon the beauty of his beloved. Wherefore sow ye the seeds of My Wisdom and Knowledge in the pure soil of the heart, and conceal them from view, till the hyacinths of Divine Wisdom may spring from the heart and not from mire and clay.

In the first line of the Tablet, it is recorded and written, and within the sanctuary of the tabernacle of God is hidden.

37. O MY SERVANT!

Abandon not for carnal lusts an imperishable Dominion, and forfeit not celestial Sovereignty for a worldly desire. This is the Stream of everlasting Life that hath flowed from the well-spring of the Pen of the Merciful; well is it with them that drink!

38. O SON OF SPIRIT!

Burst thy cage asunder, and even as the Phoenix of Love soar into the Heavens of Holiness. Renounce thyself, and, filled with the Spirit of Mercy, abide in the Realm of celestial Sanctity.

39. O OFFSPRING OF DUST!

Content not thyself with the ease of a passing day, and deprive not thyself from the everlasting Rest. Barter not the Garden of eternal delight for the dust-heap of a mortal world. Up from thy prison ascend unto the glorious Meads above, and from thy mortal cage wing thy flight unto the Paradise of the Placeless.

40. O MY SERVANT!

Free thyself from the fetters of this world, and loose thy soul from the prison of self. Seize thy chance, for it will come to thee no more.

41. O SON OF MY HAND-MAID!

Didst thou behold immortal Sovereignty, thou wouldst strive to pass from this fleeting world. But to conceal the one from thee, and reveal the other unto thee, is a mystery

which none but the pure in heart can comprehend.

42. O MY SERVANT!

Purge thy heart from malice, and, free from all envy, hasten to the celestial Court of Holiness.

43. O MY FRIENDS!

Walk ye in the ways of the Good-Pleasure of the Friend, and know that His Pleasure is but the pleasure of His people; that is, none shall enter the house of his friend save at his pleasure, nor lay his hands upon his treasures, nor advance his will over that of his friend, and in no wise prefer himself unto him. Ponder thereon, O men of insight!

44. O COMPANION OF MY
THRONE!

Hear no evil, and see no evil; abase not thyself, nor bewail and lament. Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken unto thee, and magnify not the faults of others that thine own faults may not appear as great; and wish no abasement for anyone, that thine own abasement may not be made manifest. Live then the days of thy life that are less than a fleeting moment,

with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified; so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame and repair unto the Mystic Paradise, and abide in the eternal Kingdom for evermore.

45. ALAS! ALAS! O LOVERS OF
WORLDLY DESIRE!

Even as the swiftness of lightning ye have passed by the Beloved One, and have set your hearts on satanic fancies. Ye bow the knee before your vain imaginings, and call it Truth. Ye turn your eyes towards the thorn, and name it a flower. Not a pure breath have ye breathed, nor hath the breeze of detachment been wafted from the meadows of your hearts. Ye have cast to the winds the loving counsels of the Beloved and have effaced them utterly from the tablet of your hearts, and even as the beasts of the field, ye move and have your being within the pastures of desire and passion.

46. O BRETHREN IN THE PATH!

Wherefore have ye neglected the mention of the loved One, and kept remote from His holy Presence? The

essence of Beauty is within the peerless Pavilion, set upon the Throne of Glory, whilst ye busy yourselves with idle contentions. The sweet savours of Holiness are breathing and the breath of Bounty is wafted, yet ye are all sorely afflicted and deprived thereof. Alas for you and for them that walk in your ways and follow in your footsteps!

47. O CHILDREN OF DESIRE!

Put away the garment of vainglory, and divest yourselves of the attire of haughtiness.

In the third of the most holy lines, writ and recorded in the ruby Tablet by the pen of the unseen, this is revealed:

48. O BRETHREN!

Forbear one with the other and set not your affections on things below. Pride not yourselves in glory, and be not ashamed of abasement. By My Beauty! From dust I have created all things, and to dust will I return them all.

49 O CHILDREN OF DUST!

Tell the rich of the midnight sighing of the poor, lest haply negligence may lead them unto the path of destruction; nor deprive them of their share of the Tree of Wealth. Mine is benevolence and bounty; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues.

50 O QUINTESSENCE OF
PASSION!

Put thou away all greed and seek contentment; for the greedy hath ever been deprived and the contented ever loved and praised.

51. O SON OF MY HAND-MAID!

Be not troubled in poverty nor confident in riches, for poverty is followed by riches, and riches are followed by poverty. But to be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift, belittle not the value thereof for in the end it shall make thee rich in God, and thus shalt thou know the secret of the Utterance: "In truth, ye are the poor", and the holy Words: "God is the All-Possessing" shall even as the true morn break forth gloriously resplendent, from the horizon of the lover's

heart, and abide secure on the throne of wealth.

52. O CHILDREN OF NEGLIGENCE
AND PASSION!

Ye have let My enemy enter My House and cast out My Friend, for ye have enshrined the love of another than Me in your hearts. Give ear to the sayings of the Friend and turn towards His Paradise. Outward friends in search of their own good, appear to love one the other, whereas the true Friend hath loved and doth love you for your own sakes; nay, He hath suffered for your guidance countless afflictions. Be not unfaithful to such a Friend, nay rather hasten unto Him. Such is the day-star of the Word of Truth and Faithfulness, that hath dawned above the horizon of the Pen of the Lord of all Names. Open ye your ears that ye may hearken unto the Word of God, the Help in peril, the Self-Subsisting.

53. O YE THAT PRIDE
YOURSELVES ON MORTAL RICHES!

Know ye in truth that wealth is a mighty barrier betwixt the seeker and his desire, the lover and his beloved.

The rich, but for a few, shall in no wise attain unto the Court of His Presence nor enter the City of Content and Resignation. Well is it then with that rich one whose riches hinder him not from the eternal Kingdom, nor deprive him of the imperishable Dominion. By the Most Great Name! The splendour of such a wealthy man shall illumine the dwellers of Heaven, even as the sun shineth upon the people of the earth.

54. O YE RICH ONES ON EARTH!

The poor in your midst are My Trust; guard ye My Trust, and busy not yourselves wholly with your ease.

55. O SON OF PASSION!

Purge thyself from the defilement of riches, and, in perfect confidence, advance into the Realm of Poverty; that from the well-spring of detachment thou mayest quaff the Wine of Immortal Life.

56. O MY SON!

The companionship of the ungodly increaseth sorrow, whilst fellowship with the righteous cleaneth the rust from off the heart. He that seeketh

to commune with God let him betake himself to the companionship of His loved ones; and he that desireth to hearken unto the Word of God, let him give ear to the Words of His chosen ones.

57. O SON OF DUST!

Beware! Walk not with the ungodly and seek not fellowship with him, for such companionship turneth the radiance of the heart into infernal fire.

58. O SON OF MY HAND-MAID!

Wouldst thou seek the Grace of the Holy Spirit, enter then into fellowship with the righteous, for he hath quaffed the Cup of Eternal Life at the hands of the immortal Cup-Bearer and doth quicken and illumine, even as doth the true morn, the hearts of the dead.

59. O HEEDLESS ONES!

Think not the secrets of hearts are hidden, nay, know ye of a certainty that in clear characters they are engraved and stand manifest in the Holy Presence.

60. O FRIENDS!

Verily I say, whatsoever ye have concealed within your hearts is to us

open and manifest as the day; but that it is hidden is of Our Grace and Favour, and not of your deserving.

61. O SON OF MAN!

A dewdrop out of the fathomless Ocean of My Mercy I have shed upon the peoples of the world, yet found none turn thereunto, inasmuch as every one hath turned away from the celestial Wine of Oneness into the foul dregs of impurity, and, content with mortal cup, hath put away the Chalice of Immortal Beauty. Vile is that wherewith he is content!

62. O SON OF DUST!

Turn not away thine eyes from the peerless Wine of the Immortal Beloved, and open them not to foul and mortal dregs. Take at the hands of the Divine Cup-Bearer the Chalice of immortal delight, that all wisdom may be thine, and that thou mayest hearken unto the mystic Voice calling from the unseen Realm. Say, ye that are of low aim! Wherefore have ye turned away from My Voice and immortal Wine unto mortal waters?

63. O YE PEOPLES OF THE
WORLD!

Know verily that an unforeseen calamity followeth you and grievous retribution awaiteth you. Think not that which ye have committed hath been effaced in My sight. Nay, by My Beauty! all your doings hath My Pen graven with open characters upon Tablets of Chrysolite.

64. O OPPRESSORS ON EARTH!

Withold your hands from tyranny, for I have pledged Myself not to forgive any man's injustice. This is My Covenant which I have irrevocably decreed in the preserved Tablet, and set thereon My Seal of Glory.

65. O REBELLIOUS ONES!

My forbearance hath emboldened you and My long-suffering made you negligent, in such wise that ye have spurred on the fiery charger of passion into perilous ways that lead unto destruction. Have ye thought Me negligent or unaware?

66. O EMIGRANTS!

The tongue I have designed for the mention of Me, defile not with slander.

Were the fire of self to overcome you, remember your faults and not the faults of My creatures, as every one of you knoweth his own self better than others.

67. O CHILDREN OF FANCY!

Know verily, that as the radiant Dawn breaketh above the horizon of eternal Holiness, the satanic secrets and deeds wrought in the gloom of night, shall be revealed and made manifest unto the peoples of the world.

68. O WEED THAT SPRINGETH
OUT OF DUST!

Wherefore have not thy soiled hands touched first thine own garment, and wherefore with thine heart defiled with desire and passion dost thou seek to commune with Me and enter My sacred Realm? Remote are ye from that which ye desire.

69. O CHILDREN OF ADAM!

Holy words and pure and goodly deeds ascend unto the Heaven of celestial Glory; strive, haply your deeds may be cleansed from the dust of self and pretence and find favour at the Court of Glory; for ere long, the Assayers of mankind shall in the holy

presence of the Adored One accept naught but the essence of virtue and pure and holy deeds. This is the Day-Star of Wisdom and Divine Mystery that hath shone above the horizon of the Divine Will. Well is it with them that turn thereunto.

70. O SON OF WORLDLINESS!

Pleasant is the realm of being, wert thou to attain thereunto; glorious is the realm of Eternity, shouldst thou pass beyond this mortal world; sweet is the holy ecstasy, if thou quaffest the mystic Chalice from the Hands of the celestial Youth. Shouldst thou attain this station thou shalt be freed from death and perdition, from toil and sin.

71. O MY FRIENDS!

Call ye to mind the Covenant ye have entered into with Me upon the Mount of Paran, situate within the hallowed precincts of Zaman. Thereunto have I taken to witness the celestial Concourse and the dwellers of the immortal City, yet now none do I find faithful unto the Covenant. Of a certainty, pride and rebelliousness have effaced it from the hearts, in such wise that no trace thereof remaineth. Yet,

knowing this, I waited and revealed it not.

72. O MY SERVANT!

Thou art even as a well-tempered sword that lieth concealed in the darkness of its sheath and the value thereof is unknown to the expert eye. Wherefore unsheath thyself from desire and passion, that thy merit may be made resplendent and manifest unto all the world.

73. O MY FRIEND!

Thou art the Day-star of the Heavens of My Holiness, let not the defilement of the world eclipse thy splendour. Rend asunder the veil of negligence, that from behind the clouds thou mayest emerge resplendent and array all things with the Robe of Life.

74. O CHILDREN OF VAINGLORY!

For a fleeting sovereignty ye have abandoned My imperishable Dominion, and have adorned yourselves with mortal hues, and pride yourselves therein. By My Beauty! All will I gather neath the unicoloured canopy of dust, and efface all these diverse colours save them that choose My

own, and that is purging from all colours.

75. O CHILDREN OF NEGLIGENCE!

Set not your affections on mortal sovereignty and rejoice not therein. Ye are even as the heedless bird that with full confidence warbleth upon the bough; yet of a sudden the Fowler Death hurleth it upon the dust, and no trace of the melody, the form, and the colour thereof remaineth. Wherefore, take you good heed, O bond-slaves of passion!

76. O SON OF MY HAND-MAID!

Guidance hath ever been in words, and now it is given by deeds. That is every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for in words all partake, whereas such deeds as these are special to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourselves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent Tablet.

77. O SON OF JUSTICE!

In the night-season, the Beauty of the immortal Being hath repaired from the emerald height of Fidelity unto the Sadratu'l-Muntaha, and wail-

ed with such a wailing, that the celestial Concourse and the Dwellers of the Realms above wailed at His lamenting. Whereupon there was asked, why the wailing and weeping? He made reply: As bidden, I waited expectant upon the Hill of Faithfulness, yet inhaled not from the dwellers on earth the fragrance of fidelity. Then summoned to return, I beheld, and lo! certain Doves of Holiness were sore-tried in the claws of dogs of earth. Thereupon the Maid of Heaven hastened forth, unveiled and resplendent, from Her mystic Mansion, and asked of their Names, and all were told but One. And when urged, the first letter thereof was uttered, whereupon the Dwellers of the celestial Chambers rushed forth out of their habitation of Glory. And whilst the second letter was pronounced they fell down, one and all, upon the dust. At that moment a Voice was heard from the Inmost Shrine: „Thus far, and no further“. Verily we bear witness to that which they have done and which they are doing.

78. O SON OF MY HAND-MAID!

Quaff from the Tongue of the Merciful the Stream of Divine Mystery,

and behold from the Dayspring of Divine Utterance the manifest Splendour of the Day-Star of Wisdom. Sow the seeds of My Divine Wisdom in the pure soil of the heart, and water them with the water of Certitude, that the hyacinths of Knowledge and Wisdom may spring verdantly from the holy city of the heart.

79. O SON OF DESIRE!

How long wilt thou soar in the realms of passion? Wings have I bestowed upon thee, that thou mayest fly to the Realms of mystic Holiness and not to the regions of satanic fancy. The comb, too, have I given thee that thou mayest tend My raven locks, and not to wound My Throat.

80. O MY SERVANTS!

Ye are the trees of My Garden; ye must give forth goodly and wondrous fruits, that ye yourselves and others may profit therefrom. Thus it is incumbent upon every one to engage in crafts and professions, for therein lies the secret of wealth, O men of understanding! For things are dependent upon their means, and the Grace of God shall be all sufficient unto you.

Trees that yield no fruit have been and will ever be fit for fire.

81. O MY SERVANT!

The basest of men are they that yield no fruit on earth, and they verily are accounted among the dead, nay better are the dead in the Sight of God than those idle and worthless souls.

82. O MY SERVANT!

The best of men are they that earn their livelihood by a profession and expend on themselves and on their kindred, for the Love of God, the Lord of all worlds.

The mystic and wondrous Bride, hidden neath the veiling of Utterance, hath by the Grace of God and His Divine Favour, been made manifest even as the resplendent Light shed by the Countenance of the Beloved. I bear witness, O friends! that the Favour is complete, the Argument fulfilled, the Proof manifest and the Evidence established. Let it now be seen what your endeavours in the path of detachment will reveal. In this wise hath the Divine Favour been fully vouchsafed unto you and unto them that are in Heaven and on earth. All-praise to God, the Lord of all worlds.

WORDS OF WISDOM

*In the Name of God, the Exalted,
the Most High.*

The Sun of Truth is the Word of God, upon which depends the training of the people of the country of thought. It is the Spirit of Reality and the Water of Life. All things owe their existence to It. Its manifestation is ever according to the capacity and coloring of the mirror through which it may reflect. For example: Its Light, when cast on the mirrors of the wise, gives expression to wisdom; when reflected from the minds of artists it produces manifestations of new and beautiful arts; when it shines through the minds of students it reveals knowledge and unfolds mysteries.

All things of the world arise through man and are manifest in him, through whom they find life and development; and man is dependent for his (Spiritual) existence upon the Sun of the Word of God. All the good names and lofty qualities are of the Word. The Word is the Fire of God, which, glowing in the hearts of people, burns away all things that are not of God.

The minds of the lovers are ever aflame with this fire. It is the essence of water, which has manifested itself in the form of fire. Outwardly it is the burning fire, while inwardly it is calm light. This is the Water which giveth life to all things.

We beg of God that we may partake of this Life-Giving Water of Heaven and quaff from the Spiritual chalice of rest, and thus be free from all that tends to withhold us from approaching His Love.

Glory be upon the people of Glory!

O Son of Man! Wert thou to observe Mercy thou wouldst not regard thine own interest, but the interest of mankind. Wert thou to observe Justice, choose thou for others what thou choosest for thyself.

Verily, man is uplifted to the heaven of glory and power through Meekness; again, through Pride, is he degraded to the lowest station.

O ye discerning ones of the people: Verily the Words which have descended from the heaven of the Will of God are the source of unity and har-

mony for the world. Close your eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of Oneness. Be the cause of comfort and promotion of humanity. This handful of dust, the world, is one home: let it be in unity. Forsake pride, it is a cause of discord. Follow that which tends to harmony.

Consort with all the people with love and fragrance. Fellowship is the cause of unity, and unity is the source of order in the world. Blessed are they who are kind and serve with love.

In this day he who seeks the Light of the Sun of Truth must free his mind from the tales of the past, must adorn his head with the crown of severance, and his temple with the robe of virtue. Then shall he arrive at the ocean of Oneness and enter the presence of Singleness. The heart must become free from the fire of superstitions, that it may receive the light of Assurance, and that it may perceive the Glory of God.

Oneness, in its true significance, means that God alone should be realized as the One Power which animates and

dominates all things, which are but manifestations of Its energy.

God, singly and alone, abideth in His Own Place which is Holy above space and time, mention and utterance, sign, description and definition, height and depth.

O my God! O my God! Adorn the heads of Thy chosen ones with the crown of Love, and their temples with the robes of virtue.

The people of Baha must serve the Lord with wisdom, teach others by their lives and manifest the Light of God in their deeds. The effect of deeds is in truth more powerful than that of words.

The progress of man depends upon faithfulness, wisdom, chastity, intelligence and deeds. He is ever degraded by ignorance, lack of faith, untruth and selfishness. Verily, man is not called man until he be imbued with the attributes of the Merciful. He is not man because of wealth and adornment, learning and refinement. Blessed is he who is free from the names, seeking the shore of the sea of Purity, and loving the melody of the dove of Virtue.

In this day all must serve God with purity and virtue. The effect of the word spoken by the teacher depends upon his purity of purpose and his severance. Some are content with words, but the truth of words is tested by deeds and dependent upon life. Deeds reveal the station of the man. The words must be according to what has proceeded from the Mouth of the Will of God and is recorded in Tablets.

The source of all good is trust in God, submission unto His Command, and contentment with His holy Will and Pleasure.

The essence of wisdom is the fear of God, the dread of His scourge and punishment, and the apprehension of His Justice and Decree.

The essence of religion is to testify unto that which the Lord hath revealed, and follow that which He hath ordained in His mighty Book.

The source of all glory is acceptance of whatsoever the Lord hath bestowed, and contentment with that which God hath ordained.

The essence of Love is for man to turn his heart to the Beloved One, and sever himself from all else but

Him, and desire naught save that which is the desire of his Lord.

True remembrance is to make mention of the Lord, the All-Praised, and forget aught else beside Him.

True reliance is for the servant to pursue his profession and calling in this world, to hold fast unto the Lord, to seek naught but His grace, inasmuch as in His Hands is the destiny of all His servants.

The essence of detachment is for man to turn his face towards the courts of the Lord, to enter His Presence, behold His Countenance, and stand as witness before Him.

The essence of understanding is to testify to one's poverty, and submit to the Will of the Lord, the Sovereign, the Gracious, the All-Powerful.

The source of courage and power is the promotion of the Word of God, and steadfastness in His Love.

The essence of charity is for the servant to recount the blessings of His Lord, and to render thanks unto Him at all times and in all conditions.

The essence of wealth is love for Me; whose loveth Me is the possessor of all things, and he that loveth Me not is indeed of the poor and needy.

This is that which the Finger of Glory and Splendour hath revealed.

The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life.

The source of all evil is for man to turn away from his Lord and set his heart on things ungodly.

The most burning fire is to question the signs of God, to dispute idly that which He hath revealed, to deny Him and carry one's self proudly before Him.

The source 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.

The essence of abasement is to pass out from under the shadow of the Merciful, and seek the shelter of the Evil One.

The source of error is to disbelieve in the One True God, rely upon aught else but Him, and flee from His Decree.

True loss is for him whose days have been spent in utter ignorance of his self.

The essence of all that We have revealed for thee is Justice, is for man to free himself from idle fancy and imitation, discern with the eye of oneness His glorious handiwork, and look into all things with a searching eye.

Thus have We instructed thee, manifested unto thee Words of Wisdom, that thou mayest be thankful unto the Lord, Thy God, and glory therein, amidst all peoples.

WORDS OF BAHA'U'LLAH.

Extracts from other writings.

O ye beloved of the Lord!

It is incumbent upon you to be submissive to all monarchs who are just, and to show your fidelity to every righteous king. Serve ye the sovereigns of the world with the utmost truthfulness and loyalty. Show obedience unto them and be their well-wishers. Without their leave and permission do not meddle with political affairs, for disloyalty to the sovereign is disloyalty to God Himself. This is my counsel and the commandment of God unto you. Well is it with those who act accordingly.

He is the Most Glorious.

O ye friends of God! Ye must not only have kind and merciful feelings for mankind, but ye should exercise also the utmost kindness towards every living creature. Physical instincts and sensibilities are common to man and animal alike. Man however is negligent; therefore he practises cruelty to animals. In reality what difference is there in physical sensation? Sensibility is the same, whether you harm man or animal, there is no difference. Nay rather cruelty to the animal is more painful because man has a tongue, and he sighs, complains and groans when he receives an injury, and complains to the law, and the law protects him from cruelty; but the poor animal cannot speak; it can neither express its suffering, nor can it appeal to the law. If it is harmed a thousand times by man, it is unable to defend itself in words, nor can it seek justice. Therefore one must be very considerate towards animals and show greater kindness to them than to men. Educate children in their infancy in such way that they may become exceedingly kind and merciful to all ani-

mals. If an animal is sick, they should try to cure it; if it is thirsty they should satisfy its thirst; if it is hungry, they should feed it; if it is tired they should give it rest.

(Abdu'l Baha 1920).

NOTES TO HIDDEN WORDS FROM THE PERSIAN.

1. The rubrics preceding verses 20, 37 and 48 refer to the Tablets of the Kingdom written by the Supreme Pen in the Preserved Tablet. Such Tablets have not descended from the Realm of the Kingdom to the earthly world; nay, they are preserved and protected in the invisible treasury. If at any time a soul show such Tablets attributing them to God saying that it is the Ruby Tablet or the Fifth Tablet of Paradise, it is without truth. (Abdu'l-Baha).

2. Verse 71. „Mount of Pàràn". This is the covenant and testament which Baha'u'llah established through the Supreme Pen in the Holy Land under the shade of the tree of Anissa, and which was promulgated after the Ascension. (Abdu'l Baha). Zaman is the Hebrew word for time, and is used as a symbol for eternity.

3. Verse 77. „Sadratu'l - Muntaha” means the furthestmost tree, that is a tree planted by the Arabs in ancient times at the end of a road to serve as a guide to travellers. Here it refers to the Manifestations of God on earth.

The one name not told is the Greatest Name. By this is intended Baha'-u'llah. What we have today is the meanings of two of the letters of the Greatest Name; they are B. and H.

COMMUNES AND PRAYERS

MORNING PRAYER

Praise to Thee, O my God! For Thou hast awakened me after my sleep, restored me after my absence, and raised me after my death.

I arose this morning facing the light of the dawn of Thy Manifestation, which shone upon the horizon of the heavens of Thy Power and Majesty, confessing the truth of Thy Word, believing in Thy Book, and holding to Thy Robe.

I beg of Thee—by the power of Thy Will and the completion of Thy Wish

—to make what Thou hast revealed to me in my vision a solid foundation for the house of Thy Love in the hearts of Thy chosen ones, and the best cause for the manifestation of Thy Generosity and Providence.

O my God! Let my destiny, which is written by Thy Greatest Pen, be to attain the blessings of the worlds to come and of the present one.

I hereby bear witness that in Thy Hands are the reins of all things; that Thou changest them according to Thy Will, and that there is no God but Thee, for Thou art the One, the Almighty, the Faithful.

Thou art the One who changes by His Command the dishonored to the highest state of honor, the weak to be strong, the failing to have power, the confused to be in peace, and the doubtful to have strong faith.

There is no God but Thee! Thou art the Precious, the Generous! The heavens of Thy Mercy and the oceans of thy Bounty are so vast that Thou hast never disappointed those who begged of Thee, nor refused those who willed to come to Thee.

Thou art the Most Powerful, the Almighty!

Obbligatory Prayers

THE DAILY PRAYER

Whoso wisheth to pray, let him wash his hands and while he washeth, let him say:

„Give strength, O Lord, my God! unto my hand, that it may take hold of Thy Book with a firmness that the hosts of the world shall not hinder, Guard it then lest it interfere in that which doth not concern it. Thou art verily the Powerful, the Mighty!”

Then washing his face, let him say:

„Lord! I have turned my face unto Thee; illumine it with the Lights of Thy Face, Guard it then from turning to any but Thee“.

Then let him rise upright and facing the Point of Adoration, let him say:

„The Lord is witness that there is none other God but He. His is the command and His is the creation. Verily, hath He made manifest the Day-spring of Revelation. He, the Speaker of the Mount; through whom the Realm of Glory hath been made effulgent, the Voice of the Celestial Lote-Tree hath been raised and the Call proclaimed betwixt earth and Heaven:- „Lo! The Lord is come“! The realms of earth and Heaven, glory and

dominion are His! He is the Lord of all men, the Possessor of the Throne on High and the earth below!"

Let him then bend down, in adoration, with hands resting on the knees, and say:

„Exalted art Thou, O Lord! above my mention and the mention of all beside me; Thou art above my praise and the praise of all that dwell in Heaven and on earth!"

Then standing, with hands half-upraised, with palms opened and turned towards the face, let him say:

„Shatter not, O Lord, my God! the hope of him that hath with imploring hands clung to the hem of Thy Mercy and Grace, O Thou the most Merciful of the Merciful!"

Let him then seat himself, with bended knees and say:

„I bear witness, O Lord! to thy Unity and Thy Oneness that Thou art God, and there is none other God but Thee. Verily, Thou hast revealed Thy Cause, fulfilled Thy Covenant and flung open the portals of Thy Grace unto all that dwell in Heaven and on earth. Peace and Salutation, greeting

and glory, rest upon Thy Saints, whom the changes and chances of the world have withheld not from turning unto Thee, who have given their all, in the hope of obtaining that which is with Thee. Thou art in truth, the Pardoner, the All Bountiful!" X

X THE SHORT PRAYER

Which may be used instead of the longer "Daily Prayer." After ablution of hands and face, turn toward the east and say:

I bear witness, O Lord my God! that thou hast created me to know thee and to adore thee. I testify at this moment to my weakness and to thy Might, to my poverty and to thy Wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. X

X *It sufficeth for him who reciteth this, the All Glorious verse*

The Lord is witness that there is none other God but He, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

In like manner it sufficeth him, who when seating himself saith:

I bear witness to Thy Unity and Thy oneness, and that there is none other God but Thee. X

To-day, O Lord, deliver us from all temptations, tests and evil suggestions of those who have turned their faces from Thee: Then, O Thou Merciful God, confirm us through Thine invisible hosts, and reinforce us through Thy heavenly angels.

O Lord! We are weak, poor, submissive and humble: Strengthen us, enrich us, and uplift us above all earthly conditions. O Thou God! As Thou hast illumined our hearts with the Light of knowing Thee, make us firm in Thy Blessed Covenant. Verily Thou art the Clement, the Forgiver!

PRAYER WHEN ASSUMING DAILY DUTIES

He is the Exalted and the Truthful!

I have come to this day, O my God, by Thy Generosity, and I depart from the house, depending upon Thee and delivering my affairs unto Thee.

Send down upon me from the heavens of Thy Mercy a special blessing from Thy Presence: Then bring me back in peace and righteousness, as Thou hast sent me forth.

There is no God but Thee! Thou art the One of Knowledge and Wisdom!

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 grant 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!

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

He is The Most Glorious!

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beg of Thee—by the radiance of Thy Beauty, the Exalted, the Supreme; by the appearance of the might of Thy Dominion between the heaven and earth, and by the Glory of Thy Face whereby the denizens of the cities of Eternity are illumined—to withhold me not from the wonders of the sunrise of Thy Knowledge, and deprive me not from entering the sacred influence of Thy Presence. Verily Thou art powerful in that which Thou willest: Thou art the Mighty, the Powerful!

O my God! I am he who has turned away his face from the faces of all the

created beings, and has turned unto the Holy Face of Thy Oneness; who fled from himself and from all else save Thee, and sought shelter in the shadow of the Tree of Thy Singleness. Therefore, O my God, leave me not to myself, nor to anything which is created between the heavens and the earth.

Then, O my God, usher me into the tents of Thy Love: Then unfold to me, O my God, that which is concealed from the sight of Thy servants and that which is veiled from the knowledge of Thy creatures: Grant, O my God, that I may be of those who have entered the fortress of Thy Assistance and who abide in the neighborhood of Thy Mercy. Verily Thou art the doer of whatsoever Thou willest, and ruler over that which Thou desirest.

Protect me, O my God, from my enemies and from all that is not loved by Thy Will: Then send down upon me from the heaven of Thy Generosity that which may sever me from all the creatures and may cause me to reach unto Thyself, the Supreme, in this most pure and brilliant Garment.

COMMUNES BEFORE SLEEP

He is the Creator of All the Names!

O my God! my God! How can I choose to sleep, and the eyes of Thy chosen ones are awakened because of Thy Departure: How can I take my rest upon my bed, and the hearts of Thy beloved are aching because Thou hast left them.

O my God! I put my spirit, my soul and myself into the right hand of Thy Power and Safety. I lay my head upon my pillow under the power of Thy Protection, and I lift it up according to Thy Wish and Will. Thou art the Protector, the Watcher, the Almighty and the Powerful!

By Thy Glory, I do not want, sleeping or waking, but what Thou wishest me to be. I am Thy servant and in Thy hand: Confirm me to do that which brings the wave of the sweet fragrance of Thy Pleasure. This is my hope, and the hope of every one who is near to Thee.

Praise to Thee, O God of all the worlds!

Thou art He who praises and is Praised!

O my God, my Lord and my Desire: This, thy servant, desireth to sleep un-

der the shelter of Thy Mercy and to rest under the Dome of Thy Favor, protected by Thy Watchful Presence. O my Lord, I invoke Thee—by Thine Eye which sleepeth not—to protect my sight from looking to aught beside Thee: Then increase its light by witnessing Thy Signs, and by looking to the Horizon of Thy Manifestation.

Thou art He before Whose Manifestation of Might the existence of power is subdued. There is no God but Thee, the Almighty, the Conqueror, the Free One.

MIDNIGHT PRAYER

O Lord! I have turned my face towards Thy Kingdom of Oneness, and am drowned in the sea of Thy mercy.

O Lord! illumine my spirit, that I may see Thy Light in this dark night, and make me happy with the wine of Thy love in this wonderful age.

O Lord! make me to hear Thy call. Open before my face the door of Thy Heaven, that I may see Thy Glory, and be attracted to Thy Beauty. Verrily Thou art the Generous, the Merciful, the Forgiving.

Thou art the All-Remembering,
the All-Praised!

This, Thy servant, O Lord, my God, my Master, and my desire, seeketh slumber within the precincts of Thy Mercy and fain would rest neath the Canopy of Thy Grace, trusting in thy Care, and Thy Protection.

By Thine eye that sleepeth not, O Lord, I beseech Thee, to shield my sight from all but Thee and make it clear to behold Thy wonders and gaze upon the Dayspring of Thy Revelation.

Thou art in Truth He, in the face of Whose tokens of Omnipotence, the essence of power doth wane; there is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Conquering, the Unconditioned. Baha'u'llah.

PRAYER OF AWAKENING

O my God! I arise in Thy shelter, and it is fitting for him who seeketh Thy protection to be under the shield of Thy care and in the fortress of Thy defense. O my Lord! Illumine me within by the lights of the dawn of Thy Manifestation, as Thou hast illumined me without by the light of the sunrise of Thy Favor.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

I ask Thee, O my God—by Thy Power, Might and Dominion, which have encompassed all who are in Thy heaven and earth—to point out to Thy servants Thy straight pathway, that they may acknowledge Thy Oneness and Singleness with a certainty that shall not be clouded by the imaginations of doubters, nor veiled by the conjectures of straying wanderers.

O God, illumine the eyes and the hearts of Thy servants with the light of Thy Knowledge, that they may know of this, the Highest Station and Glorious Horizon, that they may not be withheld by false voices from beholding the effulgence of the light of Thy Oneness, nor prevented from turning unto the horizon of Renunciation.

“THE DAY OF GOD”

Praise be to Thee, O God of Names and Creator of Heaven! Praise be to Thee, for Thou hast made known unto Thy servants Thy Day, wherein the River of Life streamed forth from the finger of Thy Generosity, and the Fountain of Revelation and Unity became manifest by Thy Manifesta-

tion, to all who are in Thy earth and heaven.

O God! This is a Day, the Light of which Thou hast sanctified above the sun and its effulgence. I testify that this Day is illumined by the Light of Thy Face and by the effulgence of the dawning Lights of Thy Manifestation.

O Thou, my God, and the Beloved of my heart! With the name of this Day Thou hast adorned Thy Tablet, which is known only to Thee. Thou hast called it „The Day of God“. Nothing is to be seen therein but Thy Supreme Self, and naught is to be remembered save Thy sweetest Name. Wherefore, when He appeared, the foundations of nations trembled, the learned were bewildered and the wise men were confounded, save those who came near unto Thee, took from the hand of Favor the pure wine of Thy Inspiration, and drank in Thy Name, saying: “Praise be unto Thee, O Desire of the nations! Praise be to Thee, O Beloved of the hearts of the yearning!”

PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

Praise be to Thee, O my God, for Thou hast made me to hear Thy

Voice, to know the Manifestation of Thy Signs and to walk in Thy straight Path. I ask Thee to deprive me not of that which Thou hast ordained unto Thine elect and beloved. All living things testify of Thy Benevolence, Bounty, Beneficence, Mercy and Might, that: "There is no God but Thee, the Precious, the Wise!"

PRAYER FOR STEADFASTNESS

Glory be to Thee, my God and my Beloved! Thy Fire is burning in me, O my Lord, and I feel its glowing in every member of my weak body. Every organ of my temple declares Thy Power and Thy Might, and every member testifies that Thou art powerful over all things. By Thy Strength I feel strong to withstand all trials and all temptations. Make firm Thy Love in my heart, and then I can bear all the swords of the earth. Verily every hair of my head says, "Were it not for trials in Thy Path I should not have appreciated Thy Love." O my Lord, strengthen me to remain firm, and to uphold the Hands of Thy Cause, to serve Thee among Thy people. Thou art Loving! Thou art Bountiful!

SUPPLICATION

Praise be unto Thee, O my God! I pray to Thee—by the fragrance of Thy Mercy and the sunrise of Thy Love—to give to me and to those who sought Thy Glorious Face all that befits Thy Bounty and Abundance. O Lord, I am poor—immerse me in the ocean of Thy wealth; and I am thirsty—grant me the chalice of Thy favor. I ask Thee—by Thyself and by Him whom Thou hast chosen to manifest Thee—to gather Thy servants together under the shelter of Thy Love, to feed them from its fruits, and to teach them Thy melodies. Verily Thou art God, and there is no God but Thee!

SUPPLICATION

In the Name of God! the
Supreme! the High!

I ask Thee—by the sorrow of the hearts of the beloved, and by the tears of the eyes of the lovers—to deprive me not from the fragrances of Thy Godliness in Thy Days, and from the melodies of the Dove of Thy Oneness at the appearance of the Lights of Thy Face.

O Thou, my God! I am poor, wherefore I hold to the robe of Thy Name, the Rich. I am mortal, wherefore I grasp the rope of Thy Name, the Immortal.

I ask Thee, by Thyself, the Supreme, the High—leave me not alone to myself and my desire: Take my hand by the hand of Thy Might, and save me from superstitions and imaginations: Purge me from all that is not approved by Thy Will: Then cause me to direct myself unto Thee, fleeing to Thee and trusting in Thee.

Verily Thou doest whatever Thou wishest by Thy Power, and dost command what Thou willest by Thy Might! Verily, Thou art the Mighty, the Precious, the Bountiful!

SUPPLICATION

Thou art my God and my Beloved. Shower upon me from the right-hand of Thy Mercy and Providence the holy waves of Thy Goodness, and draw me from myself and from the world unto the shore of Thy Presence and Communion. For thou art powerful to do whatever Thou wishest, and Thou art ever pervading the universe.

SUPPLICATION

O my God! Make Thy Beauty to be my food and let Thy Presence be my drink: Let my trust be in Thy Will, and my deeds according to Thy Command: Let my service be acceptable to Thee, and my action a praise to Thee: Let my help come only from Thee, and ordain my home to be Thy Mansion, boundless and holy.

Thou art the Precious, the Ever-Present, the Loving.

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

In the name of the Most Merciful!

Praise to Thee, O God, my Lord! Every time I try to mention Thee my awful sins and dreadful crimes prevent me, and by them I find myself removed far from Thee and prevented from calling on Thee for help: But my assurance of Thy Generosity, and my full trust in Thy Bounty enables me to mention Thee and ask of Thee what Thou hast to give.

O my God! I beg of Thee—by Thy Mercy, which before all things existing, and to which all those who are in the depths of the seas of Names did bear witness—leave me not to my

encouraged me

self, for it always desires to do what is wrong. Keep me in the stronghold of Thy Shelter and amid the surroundings of Thy Protection.

O my God! I do not want but what was appointed to me by Thy Power; and this is what I have chosen to myself—that Thy Good Destiny and Judgment may confirm me, and that I may be exalted by what Thou hast written and ordained for me.

I beg of Thee, O Thou, Beloved of the hearts of Thy lovers—by the manifestation of Thy Commandments, by the depths of Thine Inspiration, by the heights of Thine Exaltation, and by the stores of Thy Wisdom—forbid me not from visiting Thy Sacred House and Holy Abode. Permit me, O my God, the privilege to drink from the fountain of its holy place, to wander around its courts, and to stand beside its gates: For Thou art He, who is, was and ever shall be, Powerful and Mighty! Nothing can be hidden from Thy Knowledge! Thou art He who has all the Power, the Majesty and the Glory! Praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds!

SUPPLICATION

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 trespases 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 Forgiver, the Clement.

PRAYERS FOR GUIDANCE

Praise be to Thee, O God, my hope, my protection, my home, my glory, my wealth and my poverty. I ask of Thee—through Thy Name which has conquered the earth, and by Thy Power which is manifest in all things—to help those who are ignorant of Thee and who are far from Thy Presence. Thou art, O God, the Answerer of all prayers, the Helper of the poor and the Lover of Thy creatures.

And now, O God, I pray to Thee and ask of Thee to make this servant one of those who walk only in Thy path and seek only Thy Will. Verily

Thou art the Supplier of all necessities, and Mighty in all things.

O my God! O my God! Thou seest me seeking Thy Will and gazing to the horizon of Thy Mercy, praying for Thy Light and looking for Thy Illumination.

I ask of Thee, O Thou Beloved of the hearts and the Hope of the Lovers, to make us pure and without desire, following Thy Command, and leaving our delights to seek Thy Good Pleasure. O God, adorn us with the robe of Thy virtues and illumine us with the light of severance. Assist us, O God, with the hosts of wisdom and utterance, that we may spread Thy Word among Thy people, and establish Thy Command among Thy servants. Thou art He who is powerful in all things, and in Thy Hand is the rule of all affairs.

There is no God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Loving!

O my God! Thy Face is the goal of the lovers: Thy Meeting is the hope of the sincere: Thy Countenance radiates Light: Thy Name is the Spirit of Life: All that proceedeth from

Thy Lips is the Water of Life to the thirsty ones in the heavens and in the earths.

I ask Thee—by the griefs laid upon Thee—to send upon me from Thy Heaven Thy blessings, and to purge me with showers from Thy clouds of Mercy.

O Lord, strengthen me to serve Thy beloved and to help those who need Thee. Reveal Thyself to them, and illumine them with Thy Light. Thou hast ever been the Helper of him who sought Thee, and the Giver to him who begged of Thee, and Thou art full of Bounty and Mercy.

Glory is Thine, O my God, and praise is to Thee, O my Lord. I ask Thee—by Thy Name which manifested Thy Power and Thy Strength—to purify the mirrors of the hearts of Thy servants from the dross of doubt and uncertainty, and to lead the wandering souls to Thy Light, that they may realize Thy Oneness and acknowledge Thy Singleness. O my God! There is no refuge save Thee, and there is no pathway but leadeth to Thy Abode. When Thy people learn of Thee, O God, they will not leave

Thy way. Help them to remain constant and faithful while in this journey to Thee, so that they may reach Thy Kingdom and attain Thy Will. Thou art the Almighty, the Merciful!

O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy Great Purpose. May they follow Thy Commandments and abide in Thy Law. Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee. O God, leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of Knowledge, and cheer their hearts by Thy Love. Verily Thou art their Helper and their Lord!

COMMUNES.

O my God! Thy Nearness is my hope, and to commune with Thee is my joy: Thy Love is my comfort: Thy Name is my prayer: Thy Presence is my peace: Thy Word is my healing: Thy Mercy is my light: and to serve before Thee is my utmost desire.

O my God! I ask Thee—by Thy Name, which strengthened those who learned of Thee to soar in the atmosphere of Thy Knowledge, and

which brought the righteous to Thy Sanctuary—to reveal Thyself to me and to help me to look evermore to Thy Beauty.

O my Lord! This is he who has severed himself from all save Thee, hoping to draw near unto Thee. O Thou, my Beloved! Give unto me Thy sign of assurance to guard me from the doubts of the wandering. Thou art my Helper, the Powerful, the Mighty!

O Thou, by whose Name the sea of joys moveth and the fragrances of happiness waft: I beg Thee to show me from the wonders of Thy Favor that which shall brighten my eyes and gladden my heart.

In the Name of the Lord!

O Lord, my God and my Haven in my distress! My Shield and my Shelter in my woes! My Asylum and Refuge in time of need and in my loneliness my Companion! In my anguish my Solace, and in my solitude a loving Friend. The Remover of the pangs of my sorrows and the Pardoner of my sins!

Wholly unto Thee do I turn, fervently imploring Thee with all my heart, my

mind and my tongue, to shield me from all that runs counter to Thy Will, in this, the Cycle of Thy Divine Unity, and to cleanse me of all defilement that will hinder me from seeking, stainless and unsullied, the shade of the Tree of Thy Grace.

Have Mercy, O Lord, on the feeble, make whole the sick, and quench the burning thirst.

Gladden the bosom wherein the Fire of Thy Love doth smoulder and set it aglow with the Flame of Thy Celestial Love and Spirit.

Robe the tabernacles of Divine Unity with the vesture of holiness and set upon my head the crown of Thy Favour.

Illumine my face with the radiance of the Orb of Thy Bounty and graciously aid me in ministering at Thy Holy Threshold.

Make my heart overflow with love for Thy creatures and grant that I may become the sign of Thy Mercy, the token of Thy Grace, the promoter of concord amongst Thy loved ones, devoted unto Thee, uttering Thy commemoration and forgetful of self but ever mindful of what is Thine.

O God! My God! Stay not from me the gentle gales of Thy Pardon and

Grace, and deprive me not of the well-springs of Thine aid and Favour.

Neath the shade of Thy Protecting wings let me nestle, and cast upon me the glance of Thine All-Protecting Eye.

Loose my tongue to laud Thy Name amidst Thy people, that my voice may be raised in great assemblies, and from my lips may stream the flood of Thy Praise.

Thou art, in all truth, the Gracious, the Glorified, the Mighty, the Omnipotent!
Abdul Baha.

O God, refresh and gladden my spirit. Purify my heart. Illumine my powers. I lay all my affairs in Thy Hand. Thou art My Guide and My Refuge. I will no longer be sorrowful and grieved, I will be a happy and joyful being. O God, I will no longer be full of anxiety, nor will I let trouble harass me. I will not dwell on the unpleasant things of life.

O God: Thou art more friend to me than I am to myself. I dedicate myself to Thee, O Lord. Abdul Baha.

O God, my God! Shield Thy trusted servants from the evils of self

and passion, protect them with the watchful Eye of Thy loving-kindness from all rancour, hate, and envy; shelter them in the impregnable stronghold of Thy care, and safe from the darts of doubtfulness, make them the manifestations of Thy glorious Signs, illumine their faces with the efulgent rays shed from the Dayspring of Thy Divine Unity, gladden their hearts from the verses revealed from Thy Holy Kingdom, strengthen their loins by Thy all-swaying power that cometh from Thy Realm of Glory.

Thou art the All-Bountiful, the Protector, the Almighty, the Gracious!

(From Will and Testament of Abdul Baha)

Lord! Pitiful are we, grant us Thy Favour; poor, bestow upon us a share from the Ocean of Thy Wealth; needy, do Thou satisfy us; abased, give us Thy Glory. The fowls of the air and the beasts of the field receive their meat each day from Thee and all beings partake of Thy Care and Lovingkindness.

Deprive not this feeble one from Thy wondrous Grace and vouchsafe by Thy Might unto this helpless soul Thy Bounty.

Give us our daily bread and grant Thy increase in the necessities of life; that we may be dependent on none other but Thee, may commune wholly with Thee, may walk in Thy Ways and declare Thy Mysteries.

Thou art Almighty and Loving and the Provider of all mankind.

Abdul Baha.

COMMUNE OF HEALING

(Repeat Nine Times)

O my God! Thy Name is my healing, Thy remembrance is my remedy, Thy nearness is my hope, Thy love is my joyous companion, and Thy mercy is my healer in this world and in all the world. Thou art the Giver, the Knower, the Wise!

Baha'u'llah.

(From Tablet to a Doctor of medicine).

COMMUNE OF HEALING

In the Name of God, the Healer,
the Sufficer, the Helper!

Praise be unto Thee, O God! O my God and my Beloved: I ask Thee—in Thy Name through which Thy Mercy anticipated all things, and by the Sun of the Beauty of Thy Hidden Name, which hath shone forth from

the horizon of Thy Appearance and by which Thy Grace was perfected upon those who are in earth and in heaven—to shower upon this sick one, from the clouds of Thy Mercy, that which shall purify him from every disease, weakness and trial. Immerse him in the ocean of Thy Healing, O Thou in whose grasp is the kingdom of destiny and the power of execution.

Verily Thou art the doer of that which Thou wishest and of what Thou willest. Verily Thou art the Forgiver, the Compassionate!

COMMUNE OF HEALING

O my God! my God! I beg of Thee—
By the ocean of Thy Healing Power:
By the dawning lights of the Orb of
Thy Generosity:

By Thy Name which enables Thy ser-
vants to perform Thy Orders:

By the executive power of Thy Su-
preme Word:

By the might of Thy Greatest Pen:

By Thy Glorious Sun of Righteous-
ness:

And by Thy Mercy which existed be-
fore the creation of the heavens and
the earth—

To shower upon me (*and upon—*)
Thy gifted waters to purify me (*us*)
from every affliction and disease, from
every defect and weakness.

Thou seest, O my God, that the
needy one is standing at the door of
Thy Bounty, and the waiting one is
holding on to the robe of Thy Gener-
osity. I beg of Thee, disappoint him
not in what he desires from the sea
of Thy Favor and from the shining
sun of Thy Providence. For Thou art
the Omnipotent. There is no God but
Thee! Thou art the Most Powerful
and Mighty!

PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

Written by Abdu'l-Baha, February 1902

O my God! O Thou forgiver of sins!
Bestower of gifts! Dispeller of afflictions!

Verily I beseech Thee to forgive the
sins of such as have abandoned the
physical garment and have ascended
to the Spiritual World.

O my Lord! purify them from tres-
passes, dispel their sorrows, and
change their darkness into light.
Cause them to enter the Garden of

Happiness, cleanse them with the most pure water, and grant them to behold Thy Splendours on the Loftiest Mount.

PRAYER FOR ONE RECENTLY DEAD

He is God, exalted is He, the
Lord of lovingkindness and Bounty.

Glory be unto Thee, O Thou My God, the Lord Omnipotent. I testify to Thine omnipotence and Thy might, Thy sovereignty and Thy lovingkindness, Thy grace and Thy power, the oneness of Thy Being and the unity of Thine Essence, Thy sanctity and exaltation above the world of being and all that is therein.

O my God! Thou seest me detached from all save Thee, holding fast unto Thee and turning unto the Ocean of Thy Bounty, to the Heaven of Thy favour, to the Day-Star of Thy Grace.

Lord! I bear witness that in Thy servant Thou hast reposed Thy Trust, and that is the Spirit wherewith Thou hast given life to the world.

I ask of Thee by the splendour of the Orb of Thy Revelation, mercifully to accept from him that which he hath achieved in Thy days. Grant then that

he may be invested with the glory of Thy good pleasure and adorned with Thy acceptance.

O my Lord! I myself and all created things bear witness unto Thy might and I pray Thee not to turn away from Thyself this spirit that hath ascended unto Thee, unto Thy Heavenly Place, Thine exalted Paradise and Thy Retreats of Nearness.

O Thou who art the Lord of all men!

Grant then O my God, that Thy servant may consort with Thy chosen ones, Thy saints and Thy Messengers in heavenly places that the pen cannot tell nor the tongue recount.

O my Lord the poor one hath verily hastened unto the Kingdom of Thy Wealth, the stranger unto his home within Thy precincts, he that is sore athirst to the heavenly river of Thy Bounty. Deprive him not, O Lord, from his share of the banquet of Thy Grace and from the favour of Thy Bounty. Thou art in truth the Almighty, the Gracious, the All-Bountiful!

O my God, Thy Trust hath been returned unto Thee. It behoveth Thy Grace and Thy Bounty that have compassed Thy dominions on earth and

in Heaven to vouchsafe unto Thy newly welcomed one Thy gifts and Thy bestowals and the fruits of the Tree of Thy Grace! Powerful art Thou to do as Thou willest, there is none other God but Thee, the Gracious, the Most Bountiful, the Compassionate, the Bestower, the Pardon-er, the Precious, the All-knowing.

I testify O my Lord that Thou hast enjoined upon men to honour their guest, and he that hath ascended unto Thee hath verily reached Thee and attained Thy Presence. Deal with him then according to Thy Grace and Bounty! By Thy Glory, I know of a certainty that Thou wilt not deny Thyself from that which Thou hast commanded to Thy servants, nor wilt Thou deprive him that hath clung to the Cord of Thy Bounty and hath ascended to the realm of Thy Wealth.

There is none other God but Thee, the One, the Single, the Powerful, the Omniscient, the Bountiful.

Baha'u'llah.

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