

Program for the Feast of Jalál (Glory)

By Susan Gammage ¹

Meaning of Glory:

- very great praise, honour, or distinction
- something that is a source of honour, fame, or admiration
- adoring praise or worshipful thanksgiving - give glory to God
- resplendent beauty or magnificence: the glory of autumn
- to exult with triumph; rejoice proudly
- the beauty and bliss of heaven
- a state of extreme happiness or prosperity

Names of God and other expressions using the word Glory:

- The Countenance of Glory
- The Day-Star of Thy glory
- The Glory of God
- The King of Glory
- The Lord of Glory
- Pen of Glory
- Glory be to God!
- Thou Glory of the Most Glorious (Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá)

Opening Music: Song of Glory: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1VTcaE5TWA>

God has created the world as one -- the boundaries are marked out by man. God has not divided the lands, but each man has his house and meadow; horses and dogs do not divide the fields into parts. That is why Bahá'u'lláh says: "Let not a man glory in that he loves his country, but that he loves his kind." All are of one family, one race; all are human beings. Differences as to the partition of lands should not be the cause of separation among the people. (ʿAbdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 55)

By My Lord! Were I given the choice between, on the one hand, the wealth and opulence, the ease and comfort, the honour and glory which they enjoy, and, on the other, the adversities and trials which are Mine, I would unhesitatingly choose My present condition and would refuse to barter a single atom of these hardships for all that hath been created in the world of being. (Bahá'u'lláh, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 135)

Wherefore, O ye who are God's lovers, know ye the value of this precious Faith, obey its teachings, walk in this road that is drawn straight, and show ye this way to the people. Lift up your voices and sing out the song of the Kingdom. Spread far and wide the precepts and

¹ Prepared by David Bowie (2023) for posting, with permission of author, at https://bahai-library.com/gammage_feast_programs

counsels of the loving Lord, so that this world will change into another world, and this darksome earth will be flooded with light, and the dead body of mankind will arise and live; so that every soul will ask for immortality, through the holy breaths of God.

Soon will your swiftly-passing days be over, and the fame and riches, the comforts, the joys provided by this rubbish-heap, the world, will be gone without a trace. Summon ye, then, the people to God, and invite humanity to follow the example of the Company on high. (Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pp. 2-3)

All mankind will dwell together as one family, blend as the waves of one sea, shine as stars of one firmament and appear as fruits of the same tree. This is the happiness and felicity of humankind. This is the illumination of man, the glory eternal and life everlasting; this is the divine bestowal. I desire this station for you and I pray God that the people of America may achieve this great end in order that the virtue of this democracy may be insured and their names be glorified eternally. ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 230)

Today there is no greater glory for man than that of service in the cause of the "Most Great Peace." ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 231)

Without doubt each being is the center of the shining forth of the glory of God: that is to say, the perfections of God appear from it and are resplendent in it. It is like the sun, which is resplendent in the desert, upon the sea, in the trees, in the fruits and blossoms, and in all earthly things. The world, indeed each existing being, proclaims to us one of the names of God, but the reality of man is the collective reality, the general reality, and is the center where the glory of all the perfections of God shine forth. That is to say, for each name, each attribute, each perfection which we affirm of God, there exists a sign in man; if it were otherwise, man could not imagine these perfections, and could not understand them. So we say that God is the seer, and the eye is the sign of His vision; if this sight were not in man, how could we imagine the vision of God? for the blind, that is one born blind, cannot imagine sight; and the deaf, that is one deaf from birth, cannot imagine hearing; and the dead cannot realize life. Consequently the Divinity of God, which is the sum of all perfections, reflects itself in the reality of man; that is to say, the Essence of Oneness is the gathering of all perfections, and from this unity He casts a reflection upon the human reality. Man then is the perfect mirror facing the Sun of Truth, and is the center of radiation: the Sun of Truth shines in this mirror. The reflection of the divine perfections appears in the reality of man, so he is the representative of God, the messenger of God. If man did not exist, the universe would be without result, for the object of existence is the appearance of the perfections of God. ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions, pp. 195-196)

The glory of God rest upon thee, and upon him whose face is illumined with that everlasting light that shineth from His Kingdom of Glory. (Selections From the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 252)

Souls are like unto mirrors, and the bounty of God is like unto the sun. When the mirrors pass beyond all coloring and attain purity and polish, and are confronted with the sun, they will reflect in full perfection its light and glory. In this condition one should not consider the

mirror, but the power of the light of the sun, which hath penetrated the mirror, making it a reflector of the heavenly glory. ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 367)

The souls who have been enlightened with the light of the Kingdom, however, have founded eternal sovereignty. They shine, like unto the stars, upon the horizon of everlasting glory. The Apostles were fishers. Consider thou to what a high station they did rise; and to what great sovereignty they did attain, whose duration and permanence runs to eternity! Mary Magdalen was a peasant woman. She was without any name and fame or consequence. But her candle is, in the assemblage of the world, lighted till eternity. ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 385)

O God, my God! Thou seest this wronged servant of Thine, held fast in the talons of ferocious lions, of ravening wolves, of bloodthirsty beasts. Graciously assist me, through my love for Thee, that I may drink deep of the chalice that brimmeth over with faithfulness to Thee and is filled with Thy bountiful Grace; so that, fallen upon the dust, I may sink prostrate and senseless whilst my vesture is dyed crimson with my blood. This is my wish, my heart's desire, my hope, my pride, my glory. Grant, O Lord my God, and my Refuge, that in my last hour, my end, may even as musk shed its fragrance of glory! Is there a bounty greater than this? ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith, p. 440)

Closing Music: Glory Be Unto Me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5BDsE2tH6q#aid=P9BDJkDI7zQ>