

STATEMENTS OF THE GUARDIAN PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK OF EVENTS DESTINED
TO OCCUR BETWEEN THE TIME OF HIS WRITING AND THE YEAR 2000

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The Master has stated emphatically that the Lesser Peace would come in this century. The Guardian stated the following events would take place prior to the coming into being of the Lesser Peace.

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The most powerful quotation which I know of on this subject is found on pp. 103 and 104 in Messages to the Bahá'í World. The Guardian chose to present this summary view in his last message to the Bahá'í conventions in April 1957 prior to his death in November of that same year. Considering the remarks made at the Youth Convention by Ruḥíyyih Khánum relative to how careful the Guardian was in his choice of words to convey the exact meaning he wished to impart, I think one must read these words with singular attention. The underlining is my own.

"Against the background of these afflictive disturbances--the turmoil and tribulations of a travailing age--we may well ponder the portentous prophecies uttered well-nigh fourscore years ago, by the Author of our Faith, as well as the dire predictions made by Him Who is the unerring Interpreter of His teachings, all foreshadowing a universal commotion, of a scope and intensity unparalleled in the annals of mankind.

"The violent derangement of the world's equilibrium; the trembling that will seize the limbs of mankind; the radical transformation of human society; the rolling up of the present-day Order; the fundamental changes affecting the structure of government; the weakening of the pillars of religion; the rise of dictatorships; the spread of tyranny; the fall of monarchies; the decline of ecclesiastical institutions; the increase of anarchy and chaos; the extension and consolidation of the Movement of the Left; the fanning into flame of the smouldering fire of racial strife; the development of infernal engines of war; the burning of cities; the contamination of the atmosphere of the earth--these stand out as the signs and portents that must either herald or accompany the retributive calamity which, as decreed by Him Who is the Judge and Redeemer of mankind, must, sooner or later, afflict a society which, for the most part, and for over a century, has turned a deaf ear to the Voice of God's Messenger in this day--a calamity which must purge the human race of the dross of its age-long corruptions, and weld its component parts into a family-knit world-embracing Fellowship--a Fellowship destined, in the fullness of time, to be incorporated in the framework, and to be galvanized by the spiritualizing influences, of a mysteriously expanding, divinely appointed Order, and to flower, in the course of future Dispensations, into a Civilization, the like of which mankind has, at no stage in its evolution witnessed.

"Parallel with this process of progressive deterioration in human affairs, now visibly gathering momentum outside the pale of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and recalling the convulsions which, on a far more restricted scale, seized a declining empire in the opening centuries of the Christian era, far less spectacular in its manifestation, has been the process of integration, as demonstrated by the increasing cohesion, the multiplication, and the reinforcement of the foundations, of the institutions of the embryonic Bahá'í World Order, which, now, under the impact of the forces released by a World Spiritual Crusade, deriving its authority from the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and launched for the express purpose of executing the Divine Plan bequeathed by Him to His followers in the evening of His life, is contributing, unnoticed by a generation forgetful of its God, and already in the shadow of His Visitation, to the building up, slowly but irresistibly, of that Ark of human

salvation, ordained as the ultimate haven of a society destined, for the most part, to be submerged by the tidal wave of the abuses and evils which its own perversity has engendered."

Two other quotations similar to the above can be found in Cited 1 of Faith, pp. 122 to 132 and pp. 56 and 58.

The Guardian wrote the following statement to the American N.S.A. in July, 1953, in which he explicitly cites a chain of events to take place:

"This flow, moreover, will presage and hasten the advent of the day which as prophesied by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, will witness the entry by troops of peoples of divers nations and races into the Bahá'í world--a day which, viewed in its proper perspective, will be the prelude to that long awaited hour when a mass conversion on the part of these same nations and races, and as a direct result of a chain of events, momentous and possibly catastrophic in nature, and which cannot as yet be even dimly visualized, will suddenly revolutionize the fortunes of the Faith, derange the equilibrium of the world, and reinforce a thousandfold the numerical strength as well as the material power and the spiritual authority of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh." Cited 1 of Faith, p. 117.

In a letter written on the Guardian's behalf in July, 1957, prior to his passing in November 1957, the following view is set forward regarding the proper emphasis of Bahá'í endeavor in these days of world gloom. It is included in the compilation sent to N.S.A.s engaged in mass teaching by the Universal House of Justice.

"As the situation in the world, and in your part of it (S. & W. Africa) is steadily worsening no time can be lost by the friends in rising to higher levels of devotion and service, and particularly of spiritual awareness. It is our duty to redeem as many of our fellow-men as we possibly can, whose hearts are enlightened, before some great catastrophe overtakes them, in which they will either be hopelessly swallowed up or come out purified and strengthened, and ready to serve. The more believers there are to stand forth as beacons in the darkness whenever that time does come, the better; hence the supreme importance of the teaching work at this time."

The Guardian wrote in 1930 regarding a matter which has taken on particularly importance today, for the Universal House of Justice cites portions of it (the Master's Prophecy) in their letter p. 115, in Wellspring of Guidance. It is found on pp. 17 and 18 in World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

"For let every earnest upholder of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh realize that the storms which this struggling Faith of God must needs encounter, as the process of the disintegration of society advances, shall be fiercer than any which it has already experienced. Let him be aware that so soon as the full measure of the stupendous claim of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh comes to be recognized by those time-honored and powerful strongholds of orthodoxy, whose deliberate aim is to maintain their stranglehold over the thoughts and consciences of men, this infant Faith will have to contend with enemies more powerful and more insidious than the cruellest torturemongers and the most fanatical clerics who have afflicted it in the past. What foes may not in the course of the convulsions that shall seize a dying civilization be brought into existence, who will reinforce the indignities which have already been heaped upon it!

"We have only to refer to the warnings uttered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in order to realize the extent and character of the forces that are destined to contest with God's holy Faith. In the darkest moments of His life, under 'Abdu'l-Hamíd's regime, when He stood ready to be deported to the most inhospitable regions of Northern Africa, and at a time when the auspicious light of the

Bahá'í Revelation had only begun to break upon the West, He, in His parting message to the cousin of the Báb, uttered these prophetic and ominous words: 'How great, how very great is the Cause! How very fierce the onslaught of all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. Ere long shall the clamor of the multitude throughout Africa, throughout America, the cry of the European and of the Turk, the groaning of India and China, be heard from far and near. One and all, they shall arise with all their power to resist His Cause. Then shall the knights of the Lord, assisted by His grace from on high, strengthened by faith, aided by the power of understanding, and reinforced by the legions of the Covenant, arise and make manifest the truth of the verse: 'Behold the confusion that hath befallen the tribes of the defeated!'

"Stupendous as is the struggle which His words foreshadow, they also testify to the complete victory which the upholders of the Greatest Name are destined eventually to achieve. Peoples, nations, adherents of divers faiths, will jointly and successively arise to shatter its unity, to sap its force, and to degrade its holy name. They will assail not only the spirit which it inculcates, but the administration which is the channel, the instrument, the embodiment of that spirit. For as the authority with which Bahá'u'lláh has invested the future Bahá'í Commonwealth becomes more and more apparent, the fiercer shall be the challenge which from every quarter will be thrown at the verities it enshrines."

Following this statement, the Guardian provides us with the only complete understanding of the verities destined to be attacked. For nine pages he describes the questions which will be asked of us, and provides us with the proper answers. The very questions he cites as being the ones which will be raised by the clerics were asked me following a talk I gave at Duke University Theology School in 1962. It was the most hostile audience I have ever spoken to. If we are to be aided by the 'power of understanding', we should ponder pp. 18 through 26 in World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.....especially since the Universal House of Justice has called the above prophecy of the Master to our attention in their message which has already been referred to.

I have found the following excerpts from the Guardian's letters to Stanwood Cobb to be helpful in pondering the process of progressive deterioration in human affairs. I spoke to Mr. Cobb about them in Milwaukee in February of this year. They are on file at the National Center in Wilmette.

"Indeed the condition of this world is truly disheartening, and one wonders what ray of hope thoughtful minds can find these days, who are deprived of a knowledge of the teachings...for were it not for the prophecies of Bahá'u'lláh, His Wisdom, and the perfect integration of His teachings in one great, plausible whole, the outlook would indeed seem hopeless. The Godlessness of mankind is rampant, and all the deep evils we see on every side certainly spring from this source. Not believing in a Creator, and, even if some do still believe in Him, clinging at best to a weak and blurred concept of His nature and purposes, men are like a rudderless ship exposed to the worst storm in history." February 15, 1945. +

(+ continues on p. 9)

The following statement of the Guardian explains why it is necessary for mankind to suffer. It is found on p. 1, Bahá'í News 58, January, 1932.

"In the spiritual development of man a stage of purgation is indispensable, for it is while passing through it that the overrated material needs are made to appear in their proper light. Unless society learns to attribute more importance to spiritual matters, it would never be fit to enter the Golden Era foretold by Bahá'u'lláh. The present calamities are parts of this process of purgation, through them alone will man learn his lesson. They are to teach the nations that they have to view things internationally, they are to make the individual attribute more importance to his moral and his spiritual welfare.

"In such a process of purgation, when all humanity is in the throes of dire suffering, the Bahá'ís should not hope to remain unaffected. Should we consider the beam that is in our own eye, we would immediately find that these sufferings are also meant for ourselves, who claim to have attained. Such world crisis is necessary to awaken us to the importance of our duty and the carrying on of our task. Suffering will increase our energy in setting before humanity the road to salvation; it will move us from our repose, for we are far from doing our best in teaching the Cause and conveying the Message with which we have been entrusted."

The Guardian makes a similar statement about American believers caught up in this turmoil in Citidel of Faith, p. 127:

"The American Bahá'í Community, the leaven destined to leaven the whole, cannot hope, at this critical juncture in the fortunes of a struggling, perilously situated, spiritually moribund nation, to either escape the trials with which this nation is confronted, nor claim to be wholly immune from the evils that stain its character."

A general statement setting forth the Guardian's view in lucid frankness, a view he repeated in countless messages throughout his ministry, is found on p. 46, in World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. He states:

"Great and far-reaching as have been those changes in the past, they cannot appear, when viewed in their proper perspective, except as subsidiary adjustments prelude that transformation of unparalleled majesty and scope which humanity is in this age bound to undergo. That the forces of a world catastrophe can alone precipitate such a new phase of human thought is, alas, becoming increasingly apparent. That nothing short of the fire of a severe ordeal, unparalleled in its intensity, can fuse and weld the discordant entities that constitute the elements of present-day civilization, is a truth which future events will increasingly demonstrate."

"The prophetic voice of Bahá'u'lláh's warning, in the concluding passages of the Hidden Words, 'the peoples of the world' that 'an unforeseen calamity is following them and that grievous retribution awaiteth them' throws indeed a lurid light upon the immediate fortunes of sorrowing humanity. Nothing but a fiery ordeal out of which humanity will emerge, chastened and prepared, can succeed in implanting that sense of responsibility which the leaders of a newborn age must arise to shoulder."

Helpful guidance is given regarding the relation of the Second World War in the following quotation from Citidel of Faith, p. 127; many people reading some of the Guardian's statements regarding the calamity prior to that war feel his remarks were limited to that conflict:

"It is this same cancerous materialism, born originally in Europe, carried to excess in the North American continent, contaminating the Asiatic peoples and nations, spreading its ominous tentacles to the borders of Africa, and now invading its very heart, which Bahá'u'lláh in unequivocal and emphatic language denounced in His Writings, comparing it to a devouring flame and regarding it as the chief factor in precipitating the dire ordeals and world-shaking crises that must necessarily involve the burning of cities and the spread of terror and consternation in the hearts of men. Indeed a foretaste of the devastation which this consuming fire will wreak upon the world, and with which it will lay waste the cities of the nations participating in this tragic worldengulfing contest, has been afforded by the last World War, marking the second stage in the global havoc which humanity, forgetful of its God and heedless of the clear warnings uttered by His appointed Messenger for this day, must, alas, inevitably experience." Date of this message was 1954.

STATEMENTS OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
ON THE DISORDER CONVULSING HUMAN LIFE

Each of the following quotations are taken from Wellspring of Guidance:

"That the violent disruption which has seized the entire planet is beyond the ability of men to assuage, unaided by God's Revelation, is a truth repeatedly and forcibly set forth in our writings. The old order cannot be repaired; it is being rolled up before our eyes. The moral decay and disorder convulsing human society must run their course; we can neither arrest nor divert them. Our task is to build the Order of Bahá'u'lláh. Undeflected by the desperate expedients of those who seek to subdue the storm convulsing human life by political, economic, social, or educational programs, let us, with single minded devotion and concentrating all our efforts on our objective, raise His Divine system and, sheltered within its impregnable stronghold, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, demonstrate the Bahá'í way of life." Aug. 1968, W.G., p. 147.

"...we are called upon to proclaim once again that Divine Message to the leaders and masses of the world, to aid the Faith of God to emerge from obscurity into the arena of public attention, to demonstrate through steadfast adherence to its laws the independent character of its mission, and to brace ourselves in preparation for the attacks that are bound to be directed against its victorious onward march. Upon our efforts depends in very large measure the fate of humanity. The hundred years' respite having ended, the struggle between the forces of darkness--man's lower nature--and the rising sun of the Divine Teachings which draw him on to his true station, intensifies day by day." Oct. 1967, W.G., p. 120.

"As humanity enters the dark heart of this age of transition our course is clear--the achievement of the assigned goals and the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh's healing Message." Oct. 1967, W.G., pp. 120-121.

"The confusion of the world is not diminishing, rather does it increase with each passing day, and men and women are losing faith in human remedies. Realization is at last dawning that 'there is no place to flee to' save God. Now is the golden opportunity; people are willing, in many places eager, to listen to the divine remedy." Ridván 1965, W.G., p. 63.

"As humanity plunges deeper into that condition of which Bahá'u'lláh wrote 'to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly,' so must the believers increasingly stand out as assured, orientated, and fundamentally happy beings, conforming to a standard which, in direct contrast to the ignoble and amoral attitudes of modern society, is the source of their honor, strength, and maturity. It is this marked contrast between the vigor, unity, and discipline of the Bahá'í community on the one hand, and the increasing confusion, despair, and feverish tempo of a doomed society on the other, which during the turbulent years ahead, will draw the eyes of humanity to the sanctuary of Bahá'u'lláh's world-redeeming Faith." Ridván 1966, W.G., pp. 79-80.

The entire Nov. 16, 1969 message to each individual believer from the House of Justice focuses the believer's attention to his basic duty within the context of this framework of disintegration. You will notice that their infallible guidance in that message did not begin by painting a pretty picture. Rather they chose to go straight to the point, and ended by pointing out three qualities which we must strive to develop to deal with the times if we are to be victorious.

STATEMENTS OF THE GUARDIAN REGARDING A PROPER RESPONSE TO THE
GREATEST CRISIS THE WORLD HAS EVER FACED OR WILL EVER HAVE TO FACE

"The Guardian feels that if the friends would meditate a little more objectively upon both their relationship to the Cause and the vast non-Bahá'í public they hope to influence, they would see things more clearly. The friends are not being forced to do anything, either by the Guardian or by the National Assembly. However, the condition that the world is in is bringing many issues to a head. It would be perhaps impossible to find a nation of people not in a state of crisis today. The materialism, the lack of true religion and the consequent baser forces in human nature which are being released, have brought the whole world to the brink of probably the greatest crisis it has ever faced or will have to face. The Bahá'ís are a part of the world. They too feel the great pressures which are brought to bear upon all people today, whoever and wherever they may be. On the other hand, the Divine Plan, which is the direct method of working toward the establishment of Peace and World Order, has perforce reached an important and challenging point in its unfoldment; because of the desperate needs of the world, the Bahá'ís find themselves, even though so limited in numbers, in financial strength and in prestige--called upon to fulfill a great responsibility. They must, at all times, remember that when the Guardian makes his appeals to the friends, he is only presenting the situation to them. Each one must evaluate what his own response can be and should be; nobody can do this for him. There is no other pressure than the pressure of historical circumstances. He fully realizes that the demands made upon the Bahá'ís are great, and that they often feel inadequate, tired and perhaps frightened in the face of the tasks that confront them. This is only natural. On the other hand, they must realize that the power of God can and will assist them; and that because they are privileged to have accepted the Manifestation of God for this Day, this very act has placed upon them a great moral responsibility to which the Guardian is constantly calling their attention, as he too cannot but obey the compelling force of circumstances and fulfill his paramount duty of calling to the attention of the believers their opportunity, their privileges, and their responsibilities.

"The American Bahá'ís have so far never failed in any mission they undertook, and he hopes and believes there will be no failure this time. He has the greatest confidence in their loyalty, their faith, and their devotion, and he feels sure that with the help of Bahá'u'lláh they will arise to the occasion which history has literally thrust upon them." Written on behalf of the Guardian by his secretary, and published in Bahá'í News, No. 307, p. 2, Sept. 1956.

"People are so markedly lacking in spirituality these days that the Bahá'ís should consciously guard themselves against being caught in what one might call the undertow of materialism and atheism, sweeping the world these days. Skepticism, cynicism, disbelief, immorality and hard-heartedness are rife, and as the friends are those who stand for the antithesis of all these things they should be aware lest the atmosphere of the present world affects without their being conscious of it." Bahá'í News 210, p. 3, Aug. 1948.

"He is quite serious in stating that he believes that even in the large cities, such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, Baltimore, etc., the Cause would not suffer if the membership were reduced to fifteen. The Bahá'ís, who have been struggling for practically fifty years to attract people to the Faith in these immense cities, have been wholly unsuccessful, when one considers the slight numerical increase in the voting lists. He therefore feels that they had better go out and teach in towns and villages. They will be safer, in case war should break out, and they will be

better off spiritually, away from these centers of intense materialism, where so much time is wasted on trivialities and non-essentials." Bahá'í News 282, p. 2, Aug. 1954. The Guardian refers to this same matter in Citidel of Faith, p. 128.

"He quite agrees that the dangers facing the modern youth are becoming increasingly grave, and call for immediate solution. But, as experience clearly shows, the remedy to this truly sad and perplexing situation is not to be found in traditional and ecclesiastical religion. The dogmatism of the church has been discarded once for all. What can control youth and save it from the pitfalls of the crass materialism of the age is the power of a genuine, constructive and living Faith such as the one revealed to the world by Bahá'u'lláh. Religion, as in the past, is still the world's sole hope, but not that form of religion which our ecclesiastical leaders strive vainly to preach. Divorced from true religion, morals lose their effectiveness and cease to guide and control man's individual and social life. But when true religion is combined with true ethics, then moral progress becomes a possibility and not a mere ideal.

"The need of our modern youth is for such a type of ethics founded on pure religious faith. Not until these two are rightly combined and brought into full action can there be any hope for the future of the race." Bahá'í News 104, p. 1, December 1936.

"We have no indication of exactly what nature the apocalyptic upheaval will be; it might be another war but as students of our Bahá'í writings it is clear that the longer the 'Divine Physician' is withheld from healing the ills of the world, the more severe will be the crisis, and the more terrible the sufferings of the patient." Bahá'í News 230, p. 1, April 1950.

"The Guardian is well aware that the American believers are heavily committed, that they have been doing for years the lion's share of the work, that they have achieved brilliant victories for the Faith. However, he sometimes feels that due to the very characteristics so praiseworthy in them, their openness, their sincerity and a certain credulity in their nature, they are more prone to being disturbed by the currents abroad in the world than are older and maturer races. He feels the very disturbing political conditions all around us are troubling them more than they should. He feels they should think about this and reorient themselves on their Bahá'í work. For, after all, the very essence of the reason a person has accepted Bahá'u'lláh is that he has decided this Way alone is the solution to the absolutely hopeless problems facing humanity. A Bahá'í must be wholly a Bahá'í, concentrate on the work of the Cause, and put aside from his mind the distracting influences that scream at him from every newspaper these days. Naturally, this does not mean he must be insular, it means he must concentrate more consciously on doing the work of the Cause." U.S. Supplement 82, p. 5, Dec. 1964; reprint from Nov. 23, 1951 letter.

"He has been told that some of the friends are disturbed over reports brought back by the pilgrims concerning the dangers facing America in the future whenever another world conflagration breaks out. He does not feel that the Bahá'ís should waste time dwelling on the dark side of things. Any intelligent person can understand from the experiences of the last war, and keeping abreast of what modern science has developed in the way of weapons for any future war, that big cities all over the world are going to be in tremendous danger. This is what the Guardian has said to the pilgrims.

"Entirely aside from this, he has urged the Bahá'ís, for the sake of serving the Faith, to go out from these centers of intense materialism, where life nowadays is so hurried and grinding and, dispersing to towns and villages, carry the Message far and wide through the cities of the American Union. He

strongly believes that the field outside the big cities is more fertile, that the Bahá'ís in the end will be happier for having made this move, and that, in case of an outbreak of war, it stands to reason they will be safer, just the way any other person living in the country, or away from the big industrial areas, is safer. It is remarks such as these that the pilgrims have carried back in their notes. He sees no cause for alarm, but he certainly believes that the Bahá'ís should weigh these thoughts, and take action for the sake of spreading the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and for their own ultimate happiness as well. Indeed the two things go together." Bahá'í News 283, p. 2, Sept. 1954.

"He urges you to make up your minds to do great, great deeds for the Faith; the condition of the world is steadily growing worse, and your generation must provide the saints, heroes, martyrs and administrators of future years. With dedication and will power you can rise to great heights." Bahá'í News 253, p. 1, March 1952.

"Now is not the time for the friends to seek to establish a Bahá'í village; they have definite tasks confronting them of the utmost importance and urgency, and on these they should concentrate their attention. Nor does the Guardian feel that it is necessary for the friends to buy land at this time. In the future, when they have accomplished the goals set out for them by the beloved Master Himself, they will be able to develop more community projects, but now such enterprises would merely dissipate their strength which should all be directed into the teaching work." Bahá'í News 171, p. 2, Dec. 1944.

Many new believers question the authority of letters written on behalf of the Guardian by his secretary. The following quote is helpful in this regard: "I wish to add and say that whatever letters are sent in my behalf from Haifa are all read and approved by me before mailing. There is no exception whatever to this rule." Bahá'í News 52, p. 5, May 1931.

The underlining in these quotations are my own to give emphasis. The headings and remarks made between quotes are also my own, and merely express my personal view. I have tried to keep these remarks in line with the following statement of the Guardian:

"As regards the statement of our own views and explanations: Shoghi Effendi believes that we should not restrict the liberty of the individual to express his own views so long as he makes it clear that these views are his own. In fact, such explanations are often helpful and are conducive to a better understanding of the teachings. God has given man a rational power to be used and not killed.

"This does not, however, mean that the absolute authority does not remain in the revealed Words. We should try and keep as near to the authority as we can and show that we are faithful to it by quoting from the Words of Bahá'u'lláh in establishing our points. To discard the authority of the revealed Words is heretic and to suppress completely individual interpretation of those Words is also bad. We should try to establish a happy medium between these two extremes." Bahá'í News 68, p. 3, November 1932.

When Bahá'í News has been used as the reference, the United States Bahá'í News is the publication being referred to.

I have found the following quote from the Guardian and the Master to be very meaningful to me in these days of tests and trials:

"To His valiant combatants on earth, who at times may feel disheartened, our ever-victorious Commander, 'Abdu'l-Bahá gives us the following assurance:

'O ye servants of the Sacred Threshold! The triumphant Hosts of the Celestial Concourse, arrayed and marshalled in the Realms above, stand ready and expectant to assist and assure victory to that valiant horseman who with confidence spurs on his charger into the arena of service. Well is it with that fearless warrior, who armed with the power of true Knowledge, hastens unto the field, disperses the armies of ignorance, and scatters the hosts of error, who holds aloft the Standard of Divine Guidance, and sounds the Clarion of victory. By the righteousness of the Lord! He hath achieved a glorious triumph and obtained the true victory.'

"With such inspiring words as these, are we to remain any longer unmoved and inactive? His trumpet-call resounds on every side, and summons us to service; are we to tarry and hesitate? His voice is calling aloud from every land; let us march on, unfettered and unafraid, and fulfill our glorious Destiny." Bahá'í Administration, p. 43.

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(+continues from p. 3) "He feels that you should guard against one impression (which unfortunately many of the zealous friends do give), and that is that the worst is over, humanity out of the woods, and the millenium just around the corner!--It is becoming increasingly obvious that the world crisis is not yet over, and may not yet have reached its highest point. People must be made to realize that until they learn the true nature of man, and abide by the spiritual laws governing him, the convulsions, the economic and political strife torturing the world, the immorality, will not get better, but will go on until out of the ashes--if necessary--the Phoenix of the New World will rise." October 18, 1948.

"No doubt there is a tremendous spiritual inertia to be overcome, which only an act of God, in other words, the great suffering that lies ahead of the human race, can overcome; but there is still a wide field for Bahá'ís right now, and many precious souls waiting to be found and taught." April 11, 1955.