

Pleioses Sylvan Boeuer
 Alhammeh
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Dear friends!

"What do you expect the Bahais to accomplish in this world?" asked a stranger.

The Blessed One answered:- "The Bahais must be the servant of universal Peace, the workers for the Cause of the Oneness of the world of humanity, the spreaders of heavenly Love amongst the children of men, the promulgators of the principles of the progress of mankind, the dispellers of the clouds of religious, national, patriotic and political prejudices, the upholders of the inviolable rights of equality between men and women. They must correspond religious ideals with the deductions of science and reason and discard all such theories which cannot stand the test of intellect and empirical knowledge. This is the work of the Bahais. Dost thou not desire to accomplish this work? Art thou in favor ^{of} it? Dost thou like to enlist in this army? Yes? Then, come and escher under this tent, Make thou also an effort so that the world of humanity may attain

to the highest summit of perfection. Strive that religion may be cleansed from ignorant prejudices. Strive that bias may be removed. Strive that warfare and strife may become non-existent. Strive that love and good-fellowship may replace intolerance and the narrowness of dogmatism. Strive to scatter the seeds of kindness in the hearts. These are the teachings of Baha-Allah. We are striving in this path. His Holiness Baha-Allah has opened a great Door of inter-dependence of all nations before the faces. For example the strict adherents of the present day religions consider each other as infidels and contaminating, as apostates in the sight of God and man, as deserving to be thrown to the bottom of hell and in the jaws of Satan; but Baha-O Allah addressing the world of humanity says:- "Ye are the leaves of one branch and the fruits of one tree."

"What is your belief as regards the origin of evil?"
The Blessed One answered:- "There is no origin of evil. The origin of evil is non-existent. For example darkness is evil. It is the absence of light. Whenever there is no light there is darkness. Consequently it has no existence. Poverty is the absence of wealth. Ignorance is the absence of knowledge. Evil is the absence of good. All evils are non-existences and have no outward forms and shapes. Creation is good."

"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good," "

"How can one understand the object of his life?"

The Blessed one answered: - "There are two kinds of understandings: subjective and objective. To illustrate; thou seest this glass or this water and thou dost comprehend in a subjective manner their constituent parts. On the other hand thou canst not see Love, Intellect, hate, Anger, Sorrow, but thou dost recognize them in a subjective way through their signs and manifestations. The first is material, the second is spiritual. The first is outward, the second is intuitive. I hope that thou mayest make great advancement in the second kind of understanding. Turn thou thy face toward God and say: - '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 not be sorrowful and grieved any more. I will be a happy and joyful being. O God! I will worry no more. I will not let trouble harrass me any longer. I will not dwell on the unpleasant thing of life. O God! Thou art Kinder to me than myself. I dedicate myself to Thee: O Lord!' Beg everything

thou desirest from Baha-Allah. If thou art seeking Faith, ask of him. If thou art yearning for knowledge, He will grant unto thee. If thou art longing for the Love of God, He will bestow upon thee. He will descend upon thee all His blessings."

"Is this the golden age?"

The Blessed One answered:

This is not ~~only~~ ^{the} golden age but the age of Diamond. This is the Century of Lights! This is the cycle of Love. This is the glorious Dawn of the Sun of Reality.

"What is Hell?"

The Blessed One said: - "Is there a hell more direful than Ignorance? a hell worse than deprivation from the Divine Nearness? a hell lower than negligence and inadvertence?"

"What are your objects?"

The blessed One answered: - "My objects are the establishment of the Cause of international arbitration, the promotion of the oneness of the world of humanity, the conformity of religion with science and reason, the elucidation of the essential unity of the divine religions, the explanation of the continuity of the prophetic revelation, the instruction of mankind in the knowledge of human brotherhood, the inculcation of the primordial oneness of all phenomena, the up-raising of the standard of the solidarity of the human race,

the creation of a nucleus for bringing about the universal peace, the spread of the precepts of spiritual civilization, the teaching of the synthesis of the heavenly philosophy, the readjustment of the economic relations of between the capitalists and labors, so that each individual member of the world of humanity may enjoy the utmost welfare and prosperity, the organization of the Arbitral Court of justice - in order that all the nations of the world may settle before that Court their international disputes and thus remove all the traces of enmity and hatred and the upholding of the principle of an auxiliary, universal language. This is my duty. This is my work! These are my objects."

"Are you the leader of the Bahais?"

The Blessed One answered:- "I do not like the word 'leader'. I am Abdu'l Baha. I am the servant of the world of humanity."/>

This morning the Beloved asked us to go into his Acreshah and drink tea with him. The sun ^{had} just arisen from the East, the gentle breeze was wafting by and innumerable birds were singing most melodiously. "Hark!" the Master said "How many sweet-singing birds

have broken into joyous songs of rapture! It is a heavenly Concert of divine music!" Then the Commander came in and again the Master started to speak with him and it continued ^{through} all day. The Beloved was very happy and well and although I could not understand all that he said I could get now and then the drift of long and interesting conversation.

Speaking about the Editor of the Journal Hekmat who published a book a few years ago against the Cause he said:—"He was caught sleeping by our enemies and they deceived him. He thought after writing and publishing this book all the Persians ^{would} honor and respect him and it ^{will} elevate his station in the estimation of the public. But none of his expectations became true. Today he is fallen in great disgrace and shame. Notwithstanding this, whosoever reads his book must of a necessity acknowledge the superiority of the divine vision of Baha-Allah, Because he quotes in the pages of his book certain prophecies uttered by the Blessed Perfection concerning the downfall of despotism in Turkey and the deposition of the Sultan. His book was published many years before the declaration of ^{the} Constitution in 1908 so that no one can refute the validity of ^{their} authenticity as quoted therein."