

Some passages from Bahá'í scripture

Unity

“All the Prophets of God proclaim the same Faith.”

“The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens.”

“The purpose of religion... is to establish unity... amongst the peoples of the world.”

“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.”

“Beware lest ye offend the feelings of anyone, or sadden the heart of any person, or move the tongue in reproach of, and finding fault with anybody...”

“See ye no strangers; rather see all men as friends.”

“Humanity may be likened unto the varicoloured flowers of one garden. There is unity in diversity. Each sets off and enhances the other's beauty.”

“The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord.”

The Soul

“To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed if the cage is broken... Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird... if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist. Its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increase... for the thankful birds there is no paradise greater than freedom from the cage.”

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Spiritual Growth

“Man is, in reality, a spiritual being, and only when he lives in the spirit is he truly happy.”

“Tests are either stumbling-blocks or stepping-stones, just as we make them.”

“Breathe not the sins of others whilst thou art thyself a sinner.”

“Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things ye would not desire for yourselves.”

“Meditation is the key for opening the doors of mysteries.”

“Strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers.”

“All efforts and exertion put forth by man from the fullness of his heart is worship, if it is prompted by the highest motives and the will to do service to humanity. This is worship: to serve mankind and to minister to the people.”

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A Guide to Behaviour

“Turn all your thoughts toward bringing joy to hearts.”

“Shed the light of boundless love on every human being whom you meet.”

“Be ye trustworthy on earth, and withhold not from the poor the things given unto you by God through His grace.”

“Let truthfulness and courtesy be your adorning.”

“Think ye at all times of rendering some service to every member of the human race. Pay ye no heed to aversion and rejection, to disdain, hostility, injustice: act ye in the opposite way. Be ye sincerely kind, not in appearance only. Let each one of God's loved ones centre his attention on this: to be the Lord's mercy to man; to be the Lord's grace. Let him do some good to every person whose path he crosseth, and be of some benefit to him.”

“Be generous in prosperity and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgement and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.”

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The Status of Women

“As long as women are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to achieve the greatness which might be theirs.”

“The world of humanity has two wings -- one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly.”

“If it be considered through the eye of reality, the training and culture of daughters is more necessary than that of sons, for these girls will come to the station of motherhood and will mould the lives of the children.”

“The happiness and stability of human societies and their peace and unity will be established only when the equality of men and women is achieved and women are given equal opportunities to participate fully in the administration of human affairs.”

Marriage

“The true marriage of Baha'is is this, that husband and wife should be united both physically and spiritually, that they may ever improve the spiritual life of each other, and may enjoy everlasting unity throughout all the worlds of God.”

Education

“Every child is potentially the light of the world...”

“Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.”

“Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent.”

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Science

“Religion and science are the two wings upon which man's intelligence can soar into the heights, with which the human soul can progress. It is not possible to fly with one wing alone! Should a man try to fly with the wing of religion alone he would quickly fall into the quagmire of superstition, whilst on the other hand, with the wing of science alone he would also make no progress, but fall into the despairing slough of materialism.”

“Science and religion, the two most potent forces in human life, will be reconciled, will cooperate, and will harmoniously develop.”

“Know thou that every fixed star has its own planets, and every planet its own creatures, whose number no man can compute.”

“Know that it is one of the most abstruse spiritual truths that the world of existence, that is to say this endless universe, has no beginning...”

“Weigh carefully in the balance of reason and science everything that is presented to you as religion.”

Working Together

“Take ye counsel together in all matters, inasmuch as consultation is the lamp of guidance which leadeth the way, and is the bestower of understanding.”

“The shining spark of truth cometh forth only after the clash of differing opinions.”

“True consultation is spiritual conference in the attitude and atmosphere of love.”

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Peace

“Peace must first be established among individuals, until it leadeth in the end to peace among nations.”

“I charge you that when a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.”

“The time must come when the imperative necessity for the holding of a vast, an all-embracing assemblage of men will be universally realized. The rulers and kings of the earth must needs attend it, and, participating in its deliberations, must consider such ways and means as will lay the foundations of the world's Great Peace amongst men. Such a peace demandeth that the Great Powers should resolve, for the sake of the tranquillity of the peoples of the earth, to be fully reconciled among themselves. Should any king take up arms against another, all should unitedly arise and prevent him. If this be done, the nations of the world will no longer require any armaments, except for the purpose of preserving the security of their realms and of maintaining internal order within their territories. This will ensure the peace and composure of every people, government and nation.”

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Social Change

“Choose one of the divers languages, and likewise one of the existing scripts, or else ... create a new language and a new script to be taught children in schools throughout the world.”

“The day is approaching when all the peoples of the world will have adopted one universal language and one common script.”

“A world script, a world literature, a uniform and universal system of currency, of weights and measures, will simplify and facilitate intercourse and understanding among the nations and races of mankind.”

“The fundamental basis of the community is agriculture, tillage of the soil. Special regard must be paid to agriculture.”

“Laws and regulations should be established which would permit the workmen to receive from the factory owner their wages and a share in the fourth or the fifth part of the profits.”

“A world federal system... is the goal towards which humanity, impelled by the unifying forces of life, is moving.”

“The unity of the human race ... implies the establishment of a world commonwealth in which all nations, races, creeds and classes are closely and permanently united, and in which the autonomy of its state members and the personal freedom and initiative of the individuals that compose them are definitely and completely safeguarded. This commonwealth must... consist of a world legislature, whose members will, as the trustees of the whole of mankind, ultimately control the entire resources of all the component nations, and will enact such laws as shall be required to regulate the life, satisfy the needs and adjust the relationships of all races and peoples. A world executive, backed by an international Force, will carry out the decisions arrived at, and apply the laws enacted by, this world legislature, and will safeguard the organic unity of the whole commonwealth. A world tribunal will adjudicate and deliver its compulsory and final verdict in all and any disputes that may arise between the various elements constituting this universal system. A mechanism of world inter-communication will be devised, embracing the whole planet, freed from national hindrances and restrictions, and functioning with marvellous swiftness and perfect regularity.”