

This presentation contains quotes from Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, as well as His forerunner, the Bab. Unless otherwise noted, all quotes are from authoritatively translated texts that may be found at the Baha'i reference library- bahai.org/library.

Provisional translations are noted. These should not be considered authoritative translations but represent the translations of the individual so noted. Special thanks to Adib Masumian at adibmasumian.com, Dr Nader Saiedi and bahaiteachings.org, and Dr Hussein Ahdieh at nayriz.org for some of the quotes used in this presentation.

Images are from the Baha'i Media library and the wonderful images available on unsplash.com. Special thanks to the creators of those images and their willingness to make them available to all.

Two minor corrections to note-

1. Baha'u'llah was born in Teheran, not Nur. His family was from Nur.
2. The language of the Persian people is known in English as "Persian". Farsi is the name of the language as expressed by native speakers.



*Sifter
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A Philadelphia-based Baha'i Website

Who is Baha'u'llah?





So what exactly is going on here?...





“I and the Father are one.”

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”

Who is Baha'u'llah?



It's happened again....



*“Naught is seen in my temple but the
Temple of God,
and in my beauty but His Beauty,
and in my being but His Being,
and in myself but Himself,
and in my movement but His Movement,
and in my acquiescence but His
acquiescence,
and in my pen but His Pen....*

*There has not been in my soul but the
Truth, and in myself naught can be seen
but God.”*

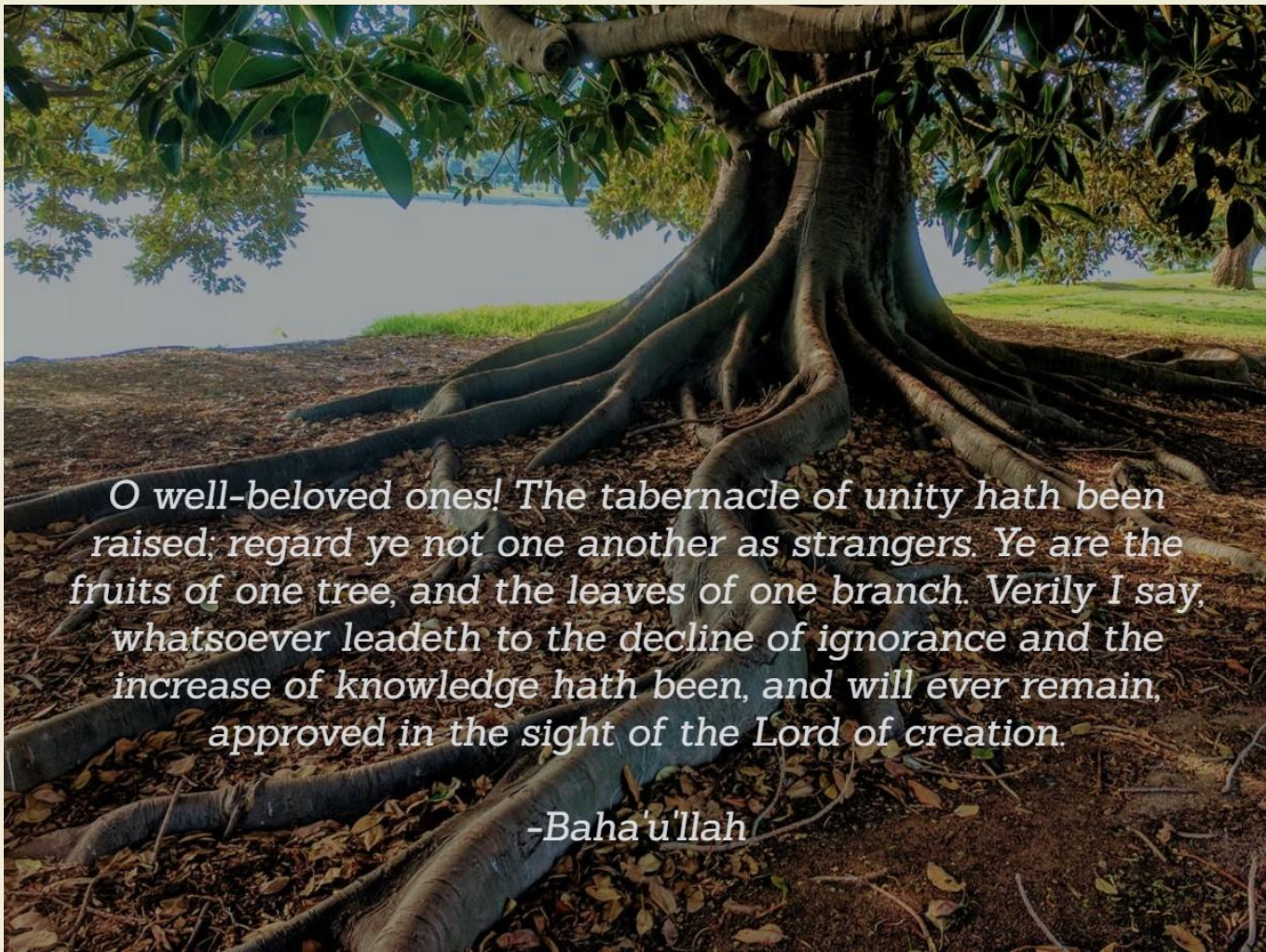




This is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One. The Call of God hath been raised, and the light of His countenance hath been lifted up upon men. It behoveth every one to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of his heart, and to gaze, with an open and unbiased mind, on the signs of His Revelation, the proofs of His Mission, and the tokens of His glory.



O ye that dwell on earth! The distinguishing feature that marketh the preeminent character of this Supreme Revelation consisteth in that We have, on the one hand, blotted out from the pages of God's holy Book whatsoever hath been the cause of strife, of malice and mischief among the children of men, and have, on the other, laid down the essential pre-requisites of concord, of understanding, of complete and enduring unity... Mankind in its entirety must firmly adhere unto what hath been vouchsafed unto it.



O well-beloved ones! The tabernacle of unity hath been raised; regard ye not one another as strangers. Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Verily I say, whatsoever leadeth to the decline of ignorance and the increase of knowledge hath been, and will ever remain, approved in the sight of the Lord of creation.

-Baha'u'llah



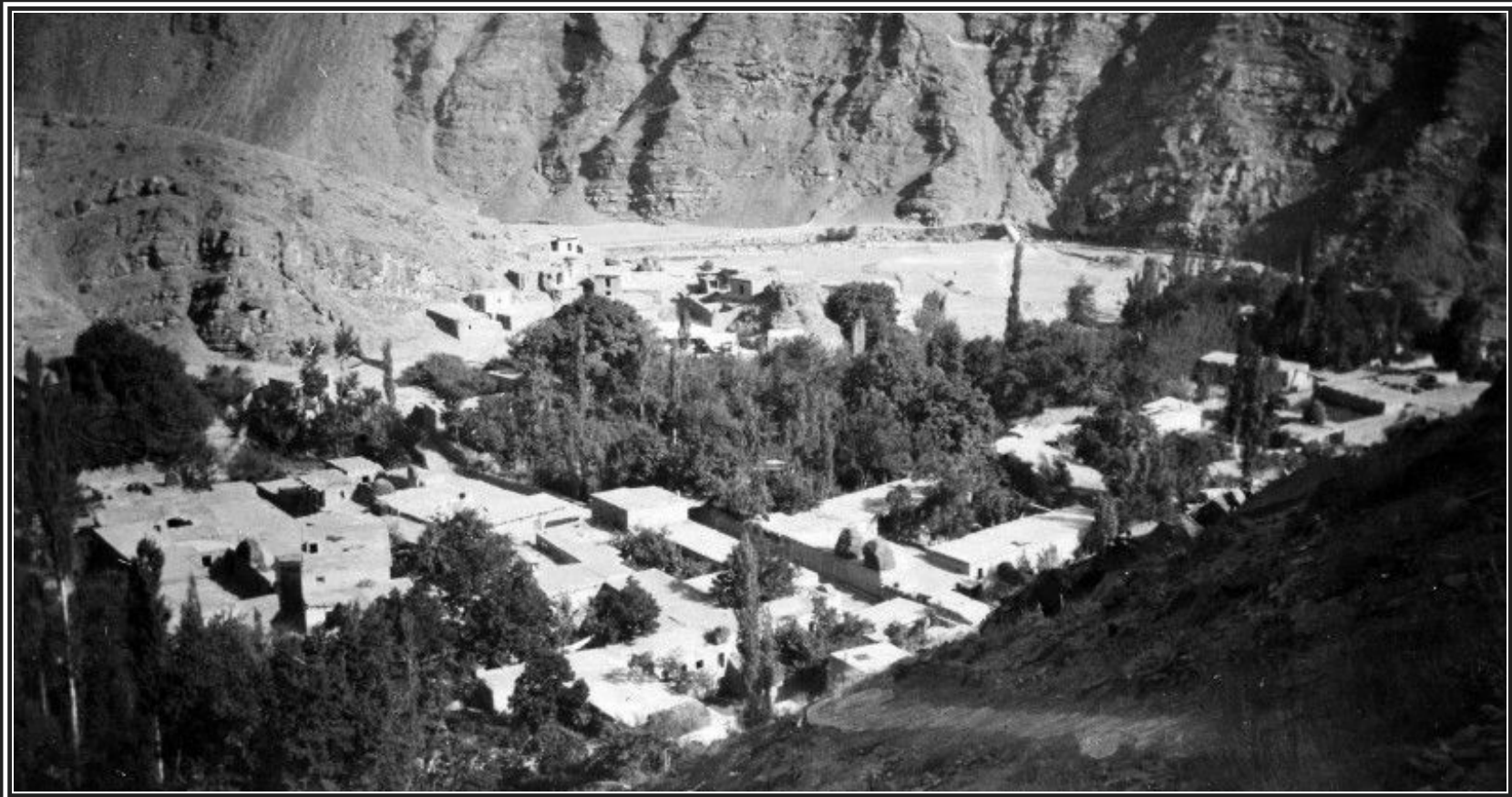
Who is Baha'u'llah?



1. Who was Baha'u'llah?
2. Who is Baha'u'llah theologically?
3. Who is Baha'u'llah experientially?











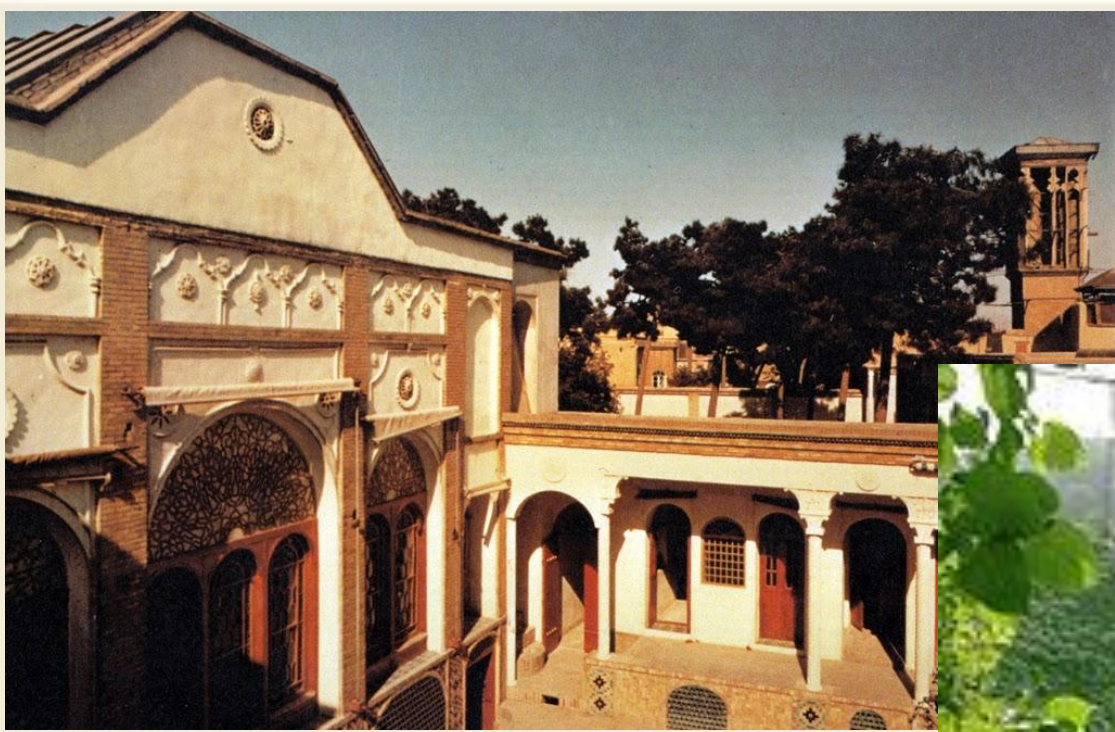
To outward seeming, I am but a child, and lack the ability to read or write. Yet because this unlettered One cleaveth tenaciously to the Divine Lote-Tree, he reads without acquired knowledge and writes without having learned how to do so.



“Yet, as I beheld the limitless ocean of pardon and mercy surging before Me, I would, in those days, implore God...to bring about that which would foster love, fellowship, and unity among all the peoples of the earth.

Thereafter, through the agency of the Pen of the Most High, We removed, at Our irresistible and irrevocable bidding, all mention of whatsoever had been the cause of affliction, calamity, and strife, and have revealed only that which will conduce to concord and unity. “

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O Lord my God! Behold how one slave hath stood at the door of another, seeking from him his freedom, and this despite the fact that his owner is himself by Thy thrall and Thy servant...How then, can this thrall claim himself ownership of any other human being?

1839

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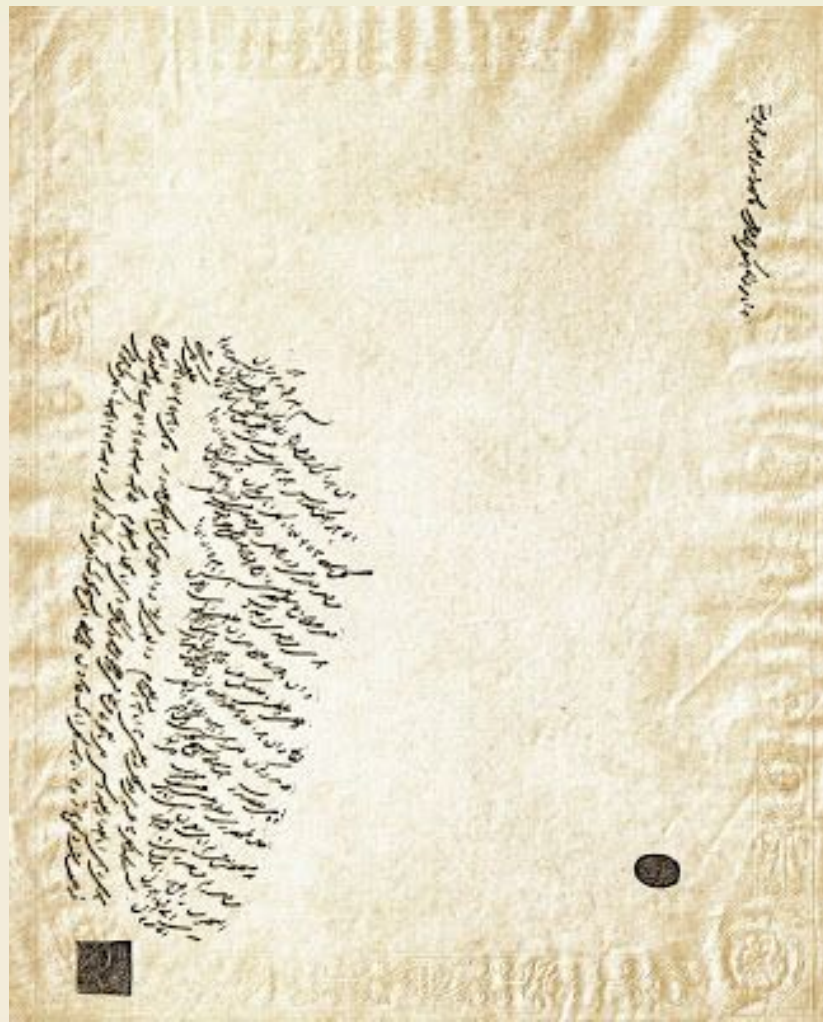
It is not for him who is himself a servant to buy another of God's servants, and this hath been prohibited in His Holy Tablet. Thus, by His mercy, hath the commandment been recorded by the Pen of justice. Let no man exalt himself above another; all are but bondslaves before the Lord, and all exemplify the truth that there is none other God but Him.

1873



All praise be to God Who hath, through the power of Truth, sent down this Book unto His servant, that it may serve as a shining light for all mankind... Verily this is none other than the sovereign Truth; it is the Path which God hath laid out for all that are in heaven and on earth.

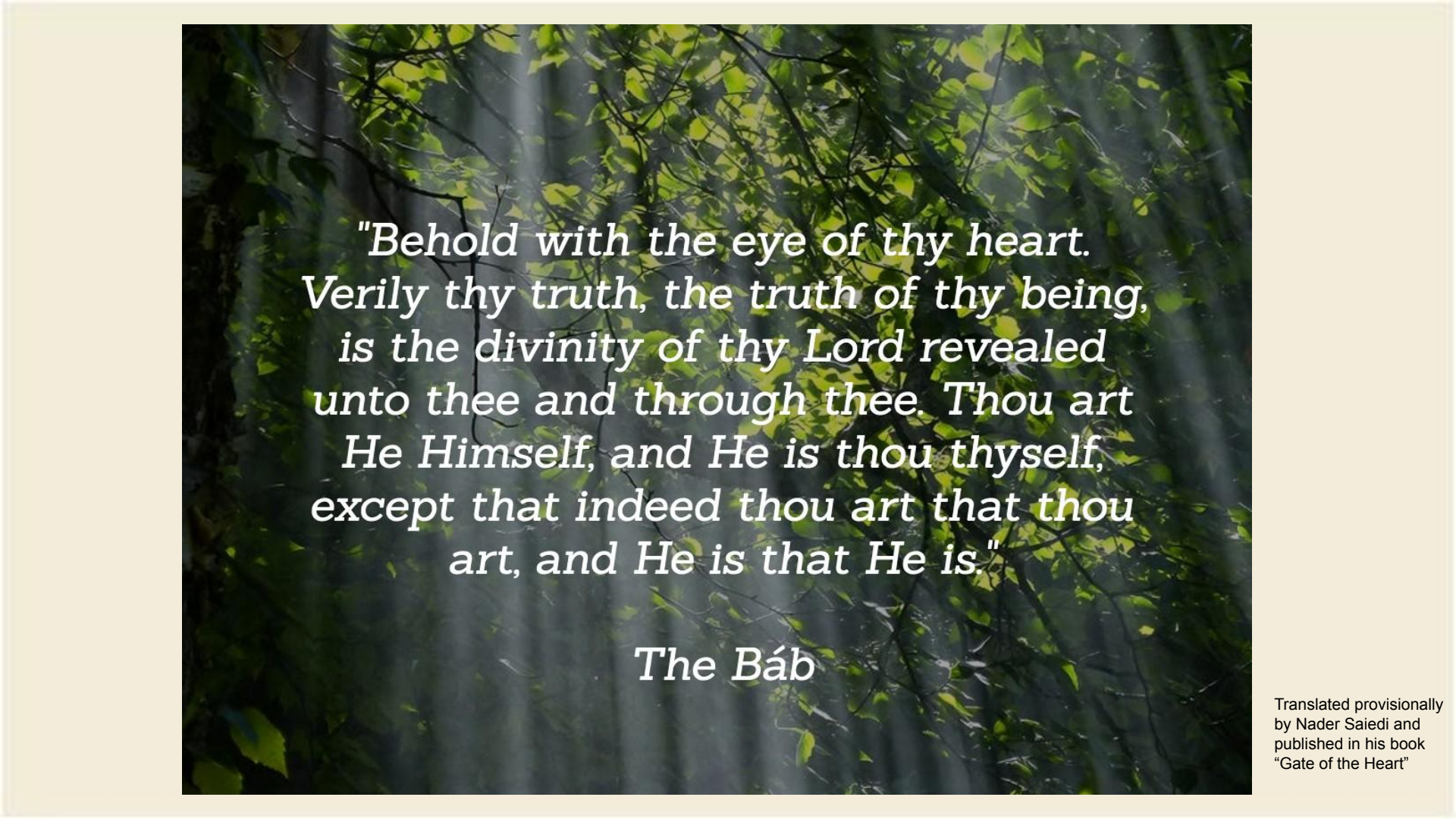
- The Bab









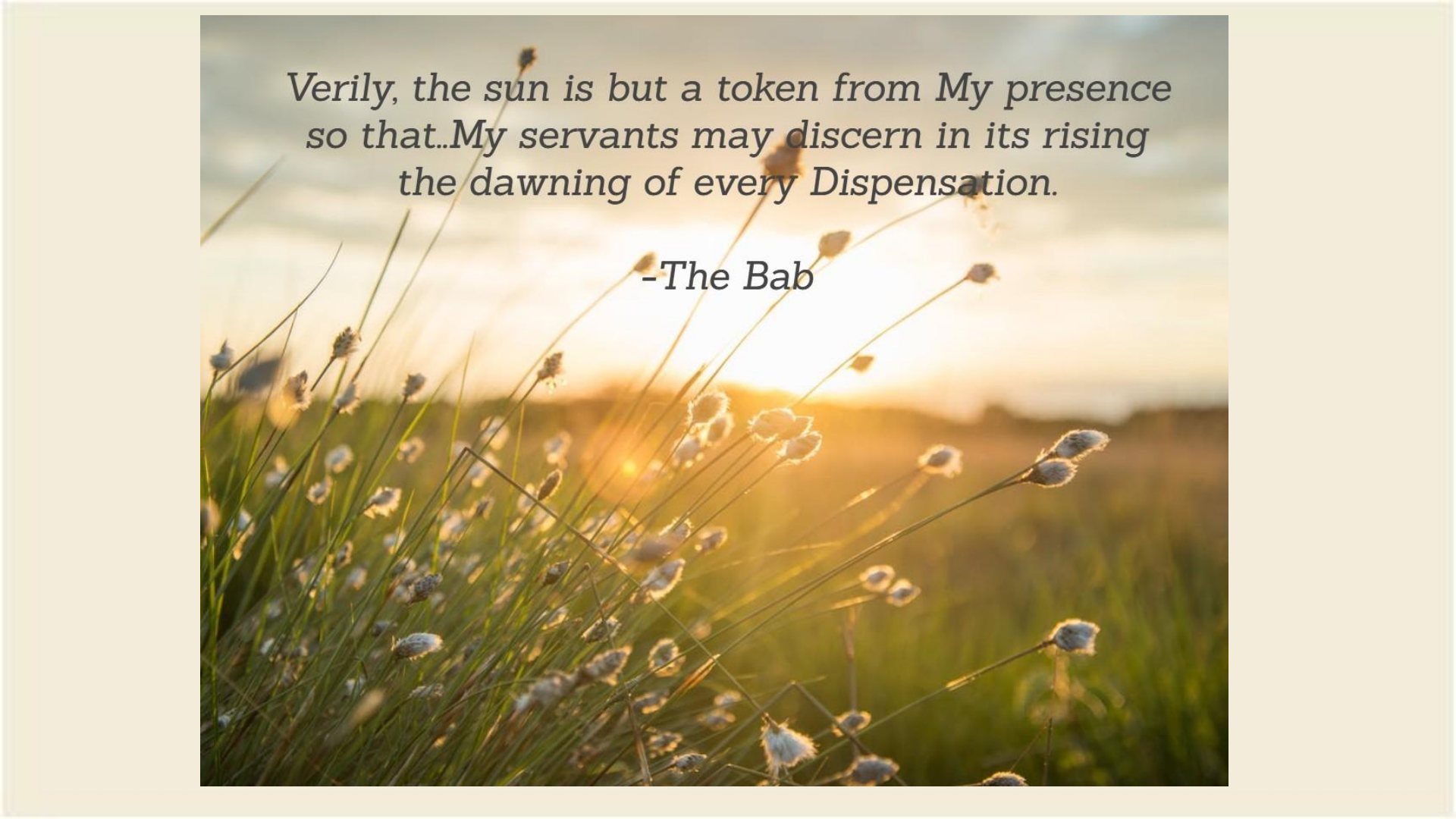


*"Behold with the eye of thy heart.
Verily thy truth, the truth of thy being,
is the divinity of thy Lord revealed
unto thee and through thee. Thou art
He Himself, and He is thou thyself,
except that indeed thou art that thou
art, and He is that He is."*

The Báb

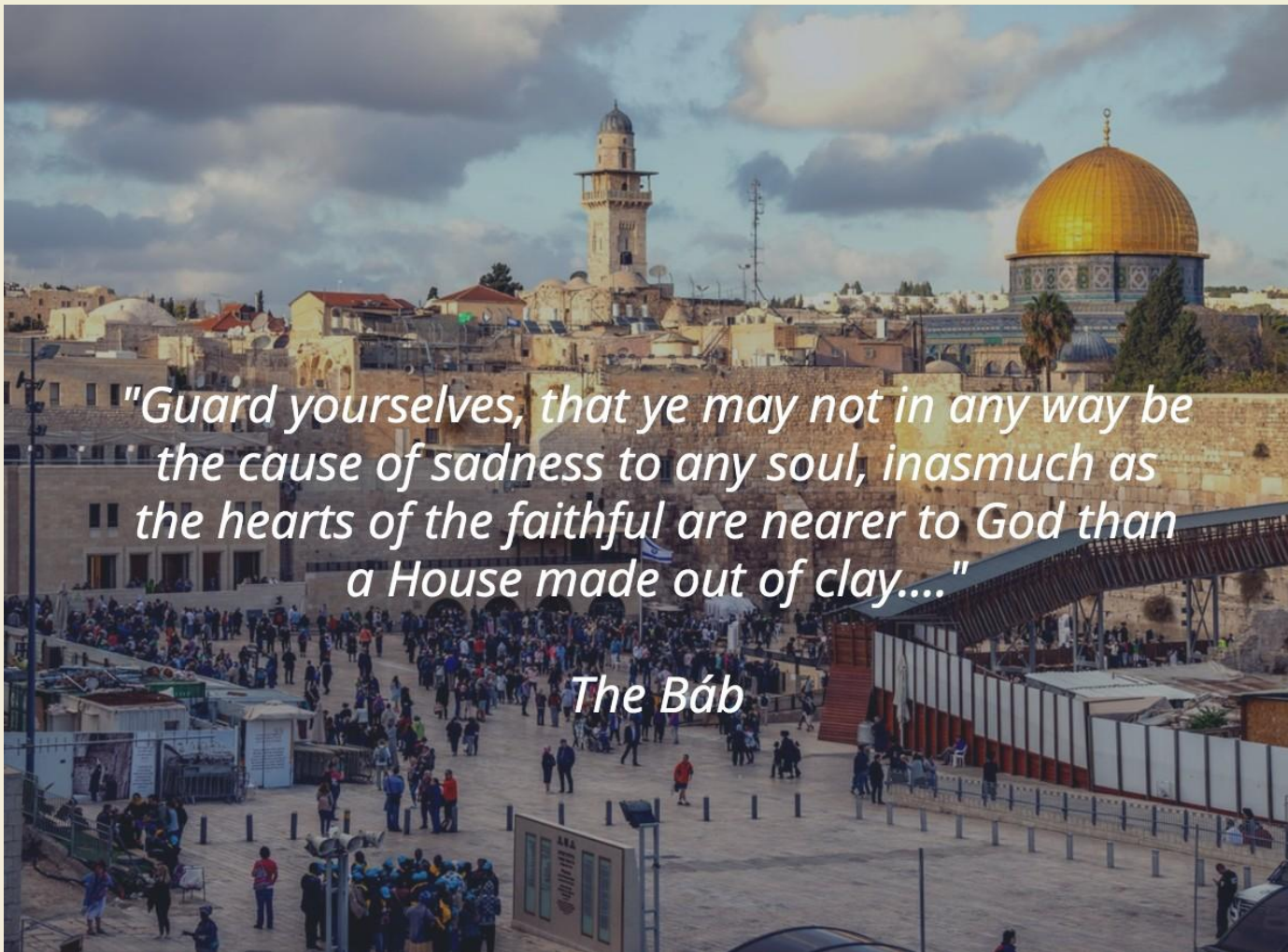
Translated provisionally
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published in his book
"Gate of the Heart"



A photograph of a field of tall grasses with white, fluffy seed heads. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. The grasses are in the foreground, some in focus and some blurred.

*Verily, the sun is but a token from My presence
so that..My servants may discern in its rising
the dawning of every Dispensation.*

-The Bab

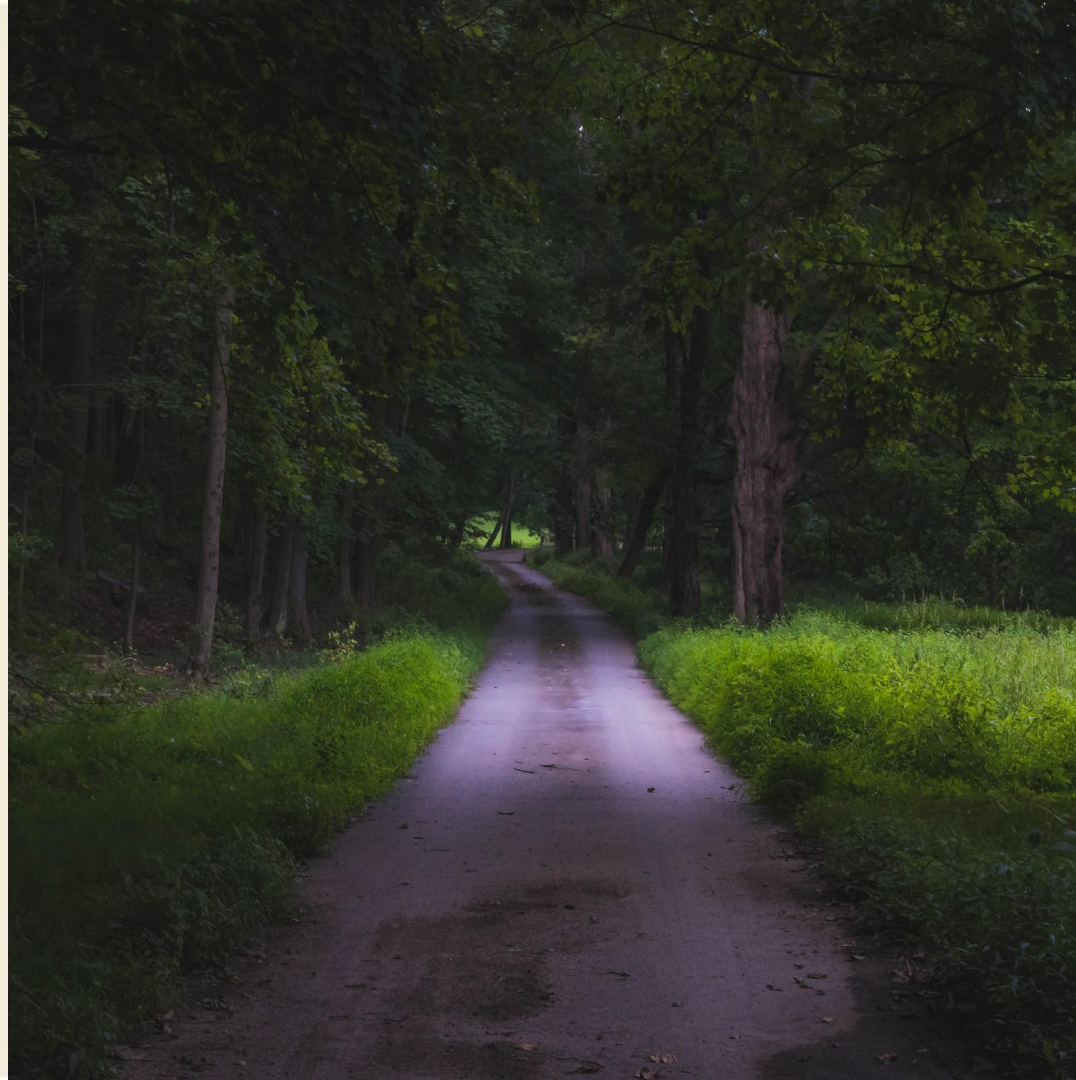


"Guard yourselves, that ye may not in any way be the cause of sadness to any soul, inasmuch as the hearts of the faithful are nearer to God than a House made out of clay...."

The Báb

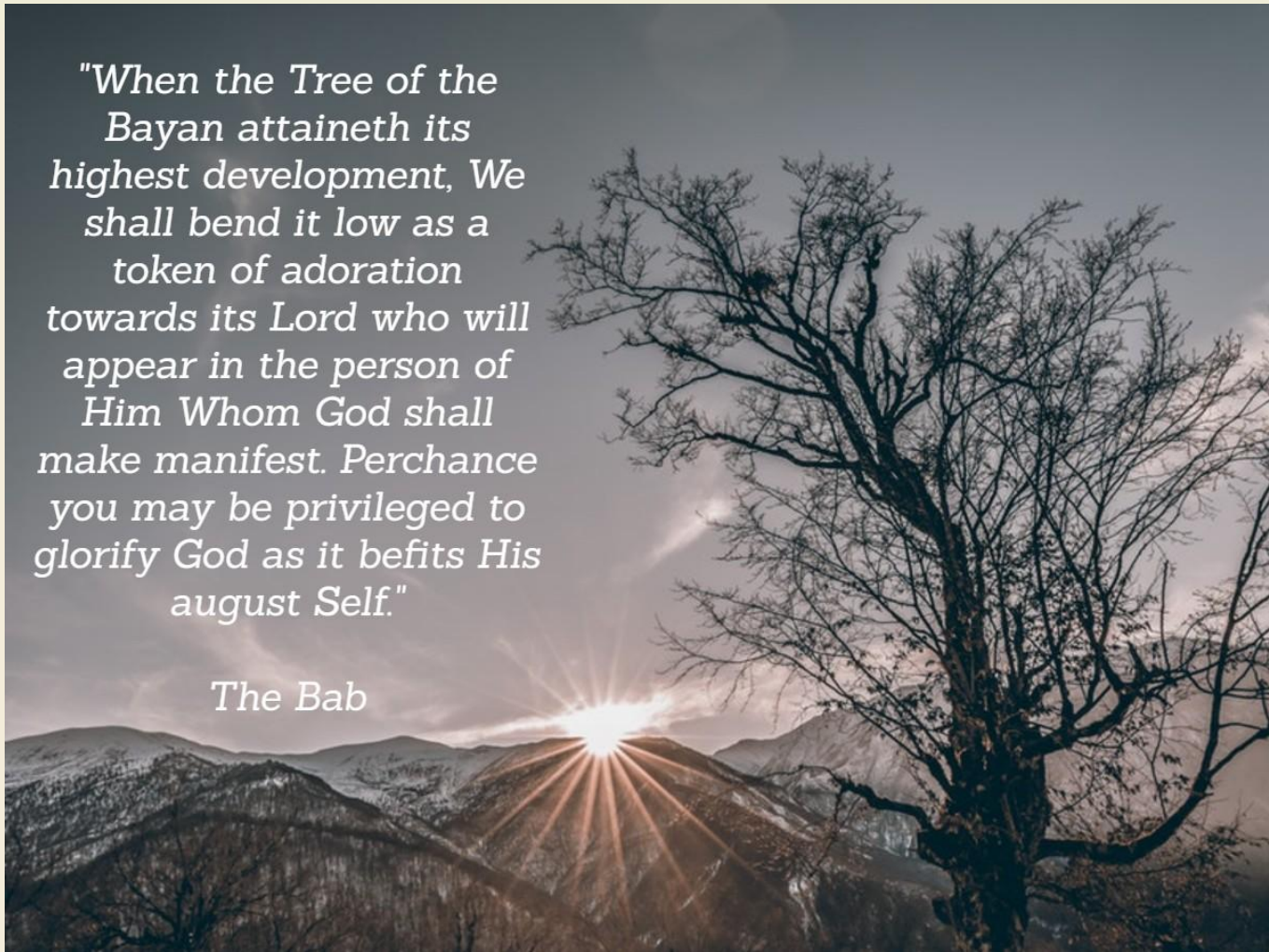
Translated provisionally by Nader Saiedi and published in his book "Gate of the Heart"

“He Whom God Shall Make Manifest”



"When the Tree of the Bayan attaineth its highest development, We shall bend it low as a token of adoration towards its Lord who will appear in the person of Him Whom God shall make manifest. Perchance you may be privileged to glorify God as it befits His august Self."

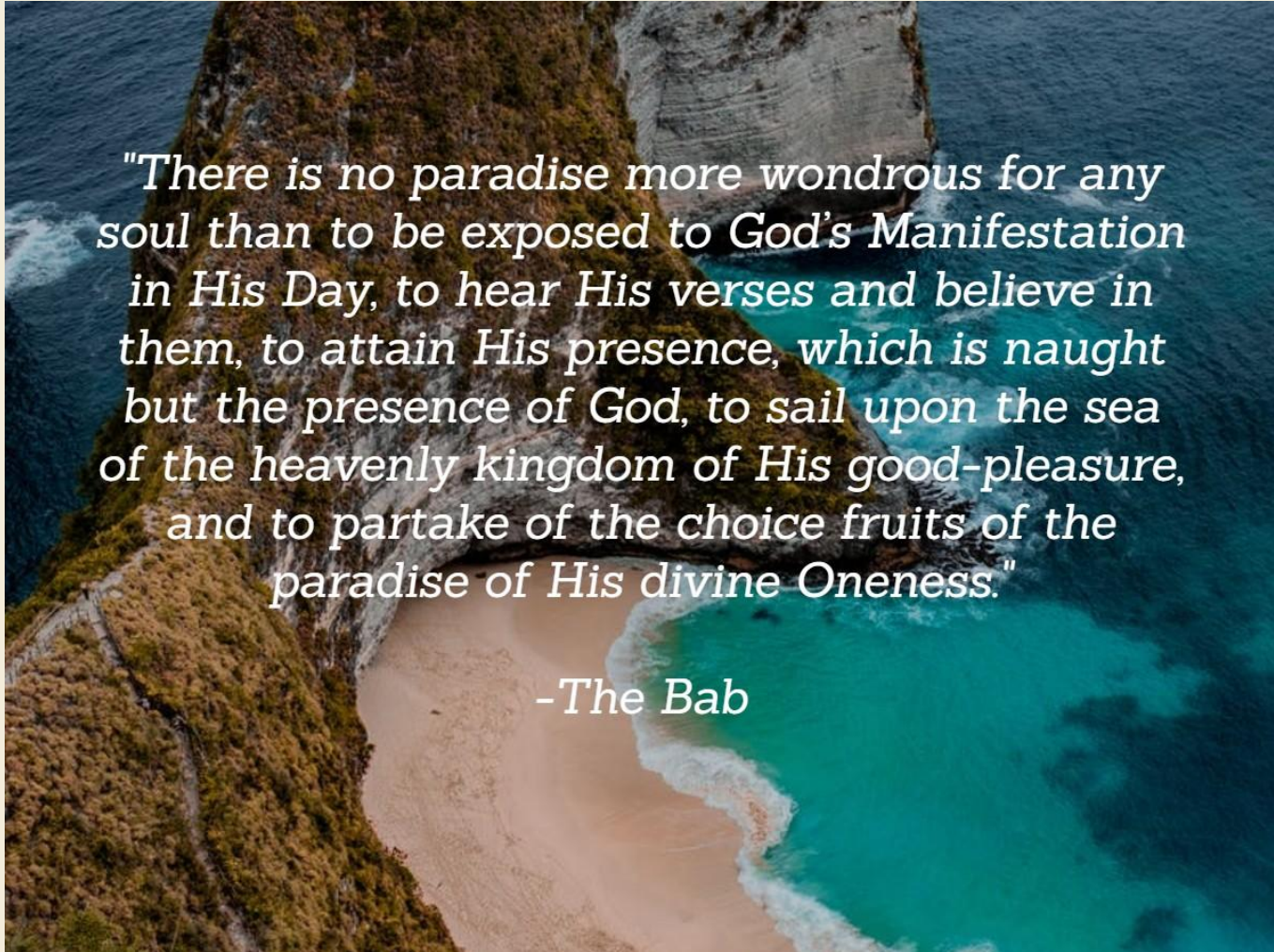
The Bab



"If, on the day of His Revelation, all that are on earth bear Him allegiance, Mine inmost being will rejoice, inasmuch as all will have attained the summit of their existence, and will have been brought face to face with their Beloved, and will have recognized, to the fullest extent attainable in the world of being, the splendor of Him Who is the Desire of their hearts."



-The Bab, on Baha'u'llah



"There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation in His Day, to hear His verses and believe in them, to attain His presence, which is naught but the presence of God, to sail upon the sea of the heavenly kingdom of His good-pleasure, and to partake of the choice fruits of the paradise of His divine Oneness."

-The Bab











“While engulfed in tribulations, I heard a most wondrous, a most sweet voice calling above My head. Turning My face, I beheld a Maiden- the embodiment of the remembrance of the name of My Lord- suspended in the air before Me...Pointing her finger unto My head, saying:

By God! This is the best beloved of the worlds, and yet ye comprehend not. This is the Beauty of God among you, and the power of His sovereignty within you, could ye but understand.”



“What is it that you advise me now to do?”, he inquired of Baha’u’llah.

“Command the governors of the realm to cease shedding the blood of the innocent, to cease plundering their property, to cease dishonoring their women, and injuring their children”.



My God, My Master, My Desire! ... Thou hast created this atom of dust through the consummate power of Thy might, and nurtured Him with Thine hands which none can chain up....The throat Thou didst accustom to the touch of silk Thou hast, in the end, clasped with strong chains, and the body Thou didst ease with brocades and velvets Thou hast at last subjected to the abasement of a dungeon...until, finally, Thy decree was irrevocably fixed, and Thy behest summoned this servant to depart out of Persia, accompanied by a number of frail-bodied men and children of tender age, at this time when the cold is so intense that one cannot even speak, and ice and snow so abundant that it is impossible to move.







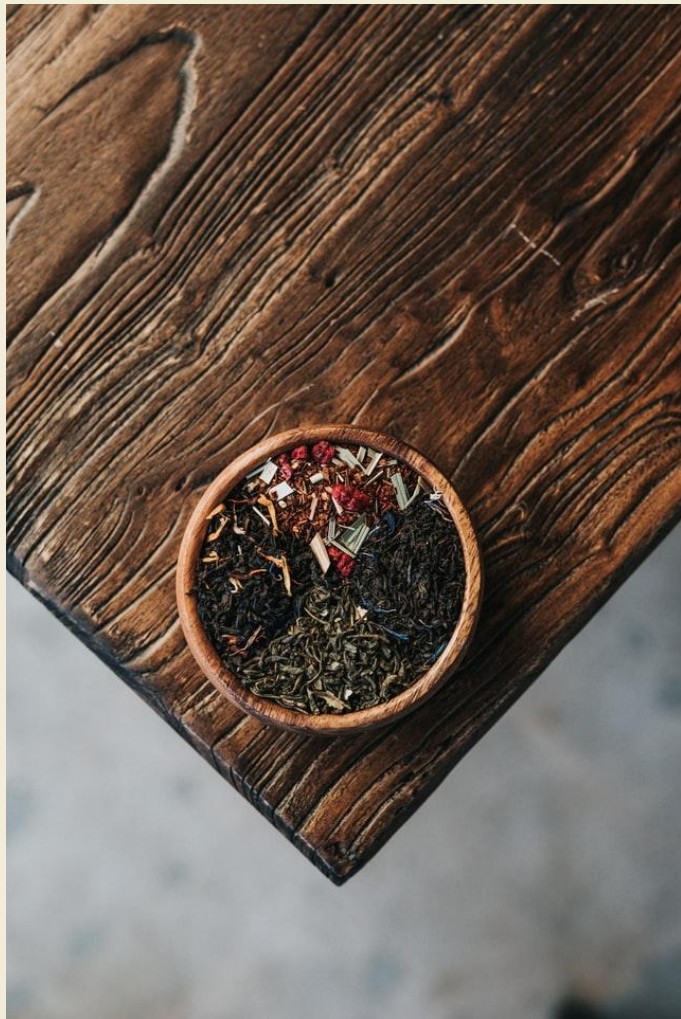
Alone, We communed with Our spirit, oblivious of the world and all that is therein...



“The room of the Most Great House, that was set apart for the reception of Baha’u’llah’s visitors, though dilapidated, and having long since outgrown its usefulness, vied with the Most Exalted Paradise.

Low-roofed, it yet seemed to reach to the stars, and though it boasted but a single couch, fashioned from the branches of palms...it drew to itself, even as a loadstone, the hearts of princes.”

-Nabil’s Narrative



“Dost thou know what My purpose is in coming to this world and in proclaiming My Cause among the people?”

I have come to establish openly- through the strength and power of God- justice, protection, trustworthiness and piety in every corner of this world, which is so replete with defilement and in which the oppression of the oppressors and the treachery of the treacherous have sealed the door of tranquility to all creation.”


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These I shall establish in such wise that a woman secluded behind the veil—to a ray of whose beauty even the sun itself would fail to compare..., a woman adorned with every precious gem..can step out from behind that veil with manifest splendor and travel, alone and without guardian or escort, from the uttermost corners of the East to the uttermost ends of the West...

The state of trustworthiness, piety, equity, and justice—free of any treachery, baseness, injustice, and oppression—will be such that not a single rapacious hand would stretch out to encroach upon her riches, nor would one look of perfidy or perversity upon her beauty.

Indeed, with a heart unsullied and countenance filled with joy, she would conclude her journey through every land and return to her native home.



“It behoveth...the loved ones of God to be forbearing towards their fellow-men, and to be so sanctified and detached from all things, and to evince such sincerity and fairness, that all the peoples of the earth may recognize them as the trustees of God amongst men...

Blessed are they who, on the wings of certitude, have flown in the heavens which the Pen of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, hath spread.”

-Baha'u'llah

THE WRITINGS
OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The Kitáb-i-Íqán
THE
BOOK
OF
CERTITUDE

*"Sanctify your souls,
O ye peoples of the world, that haply
ye may attain that station
which God hath destined for you..."*

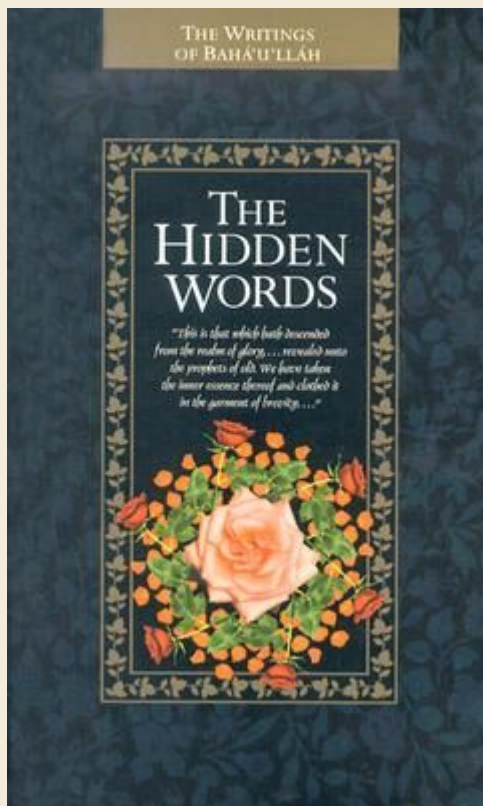


“Every one of them is the Way of God that connects this world with the realms above, and the Standard of His Truth unto every one in the kingdoms of earth and heaven. They are the Manifestations of God amidst men, the evidences of His Truth, and the signs of His glory.”

The Call of the Divine Beloved

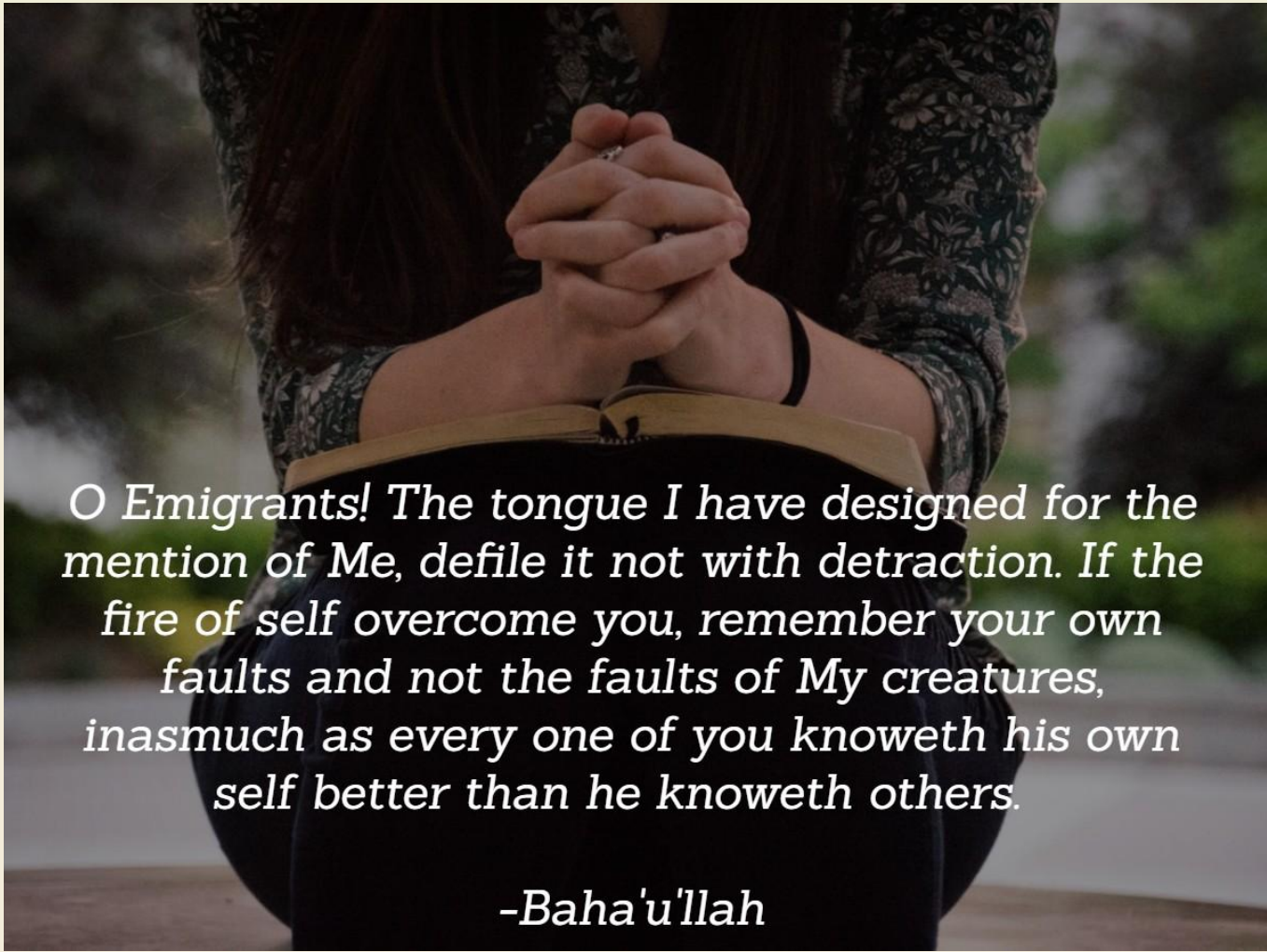
SELECTED MYSTICAL WORKS
OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

“In this journey, the seeker reaches a station wherein he seeth all created things wandering distracted in search of the Friend...How many a lover will he behold hastening towards the Well-Beloved; a world of adoring souls will he witness tracing the path of the Adored One. “



“This is that which hath descended from the realm of glory, uttered by the tongue of power and might, and revealed unto the Prophets of old.

We have taken the inner essence thereof and clothed it in the garment of brevity as a token of grace unto the righteous, that they may stand faithful unto the Covenant of God, may fulfill in their lives His trust, and in the realm of spirit obtain the Gem of Divine virtue.”



O Emigrants! The tongue I have designed for the mention of Me, defile it not with detraction. If the fire of self overcome you, remember your own faults and not the faults of My creatures, inasmuch as every one of you knoweth his own self better than he knoweth others.

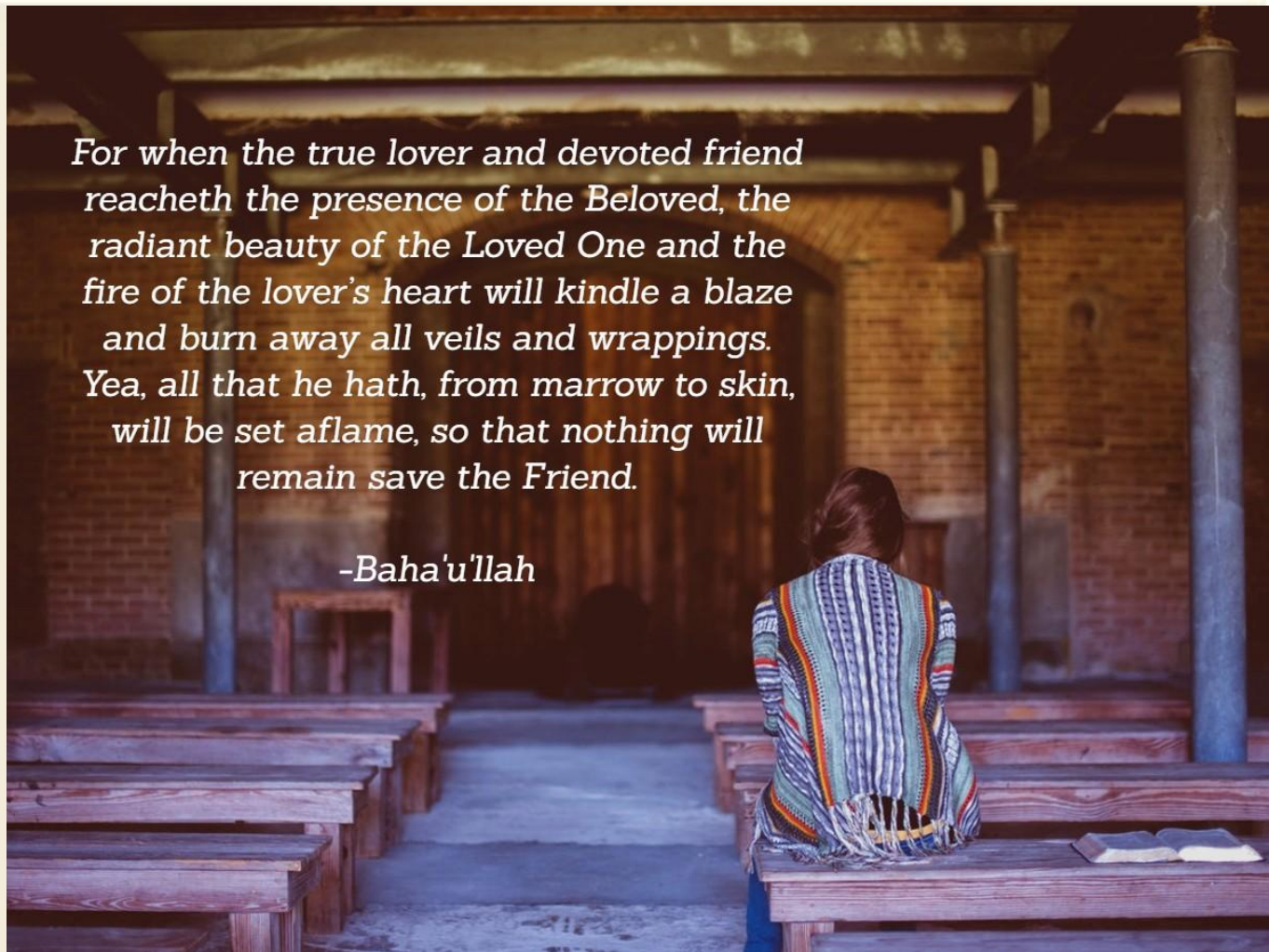
-Baha'u'llah

*Thou shalt love thy
God with all thy heart,
with all thy soul, and
with all thy mind.*

-Jesus Christ

*For when the true lover and devoted friend
reacheth the presence of the Beloved, the
radiant beauty of the Loved One and the
fire of the lover's heart will kindle a blaze
and burn away all veils and wrappings.
Yea, all that he hath, from marrow to skin,
will be set aflame, so that nothing will
remain save the Friend.*

-Baha'u'llah

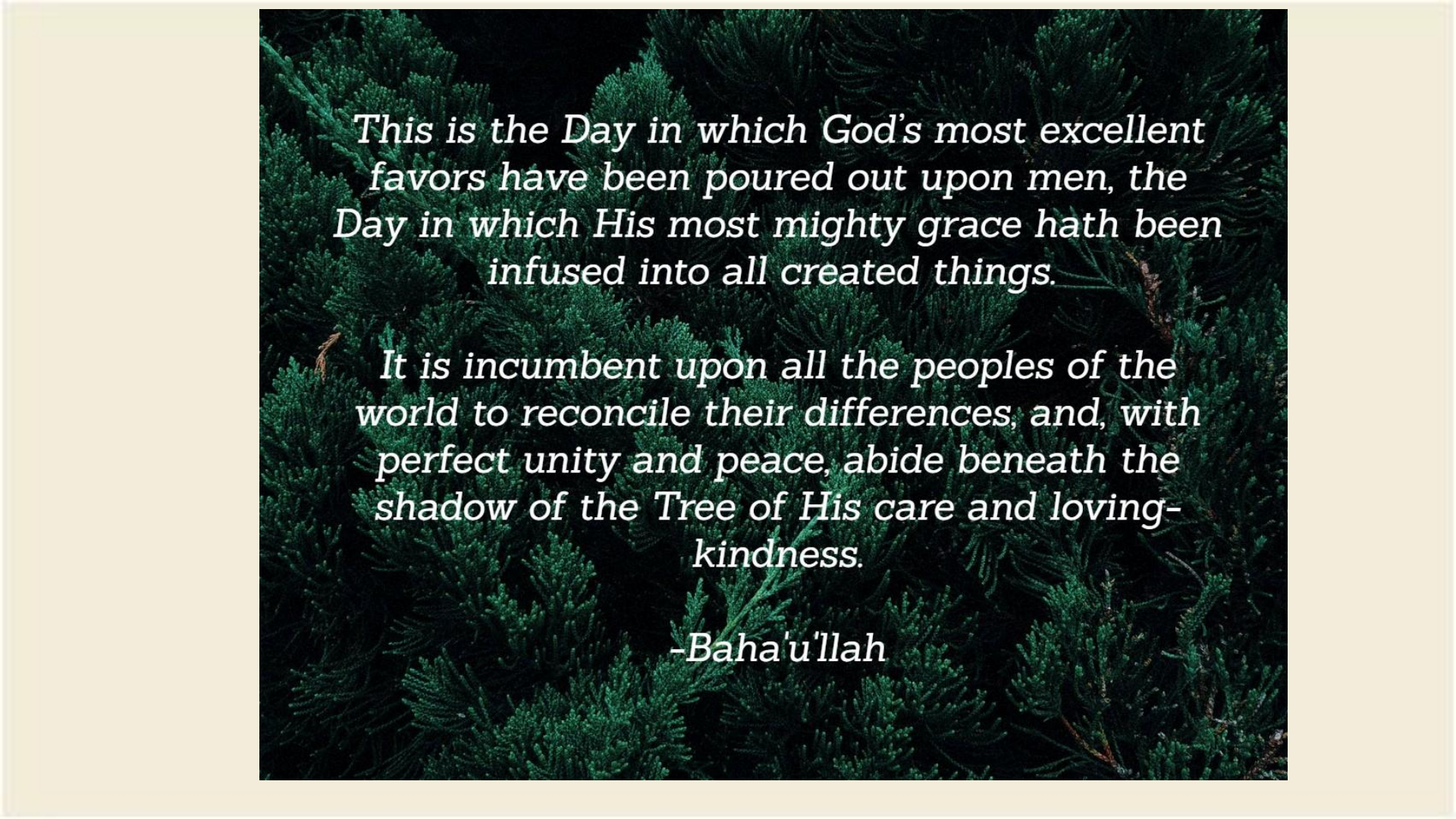






This is the Day whereon the Ocean of God's mercy hath been manifested unto men, the Day in which the Daystar of His loving kindness hath shed its radiance upon them, the Day in which the clouds of His bountiful favor have overshadowed the whole of mankind.

Now is the time to cheer and refresh the down-cast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity.



This is the Day in which God's most excellent favors have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things.

It is incumbent upon all the peoples of the world to reconcile their differences, and, with perfect unity and peace, abide beneath the shadow of the Tree of His care and loving-kindness.

-Baha'u'llah



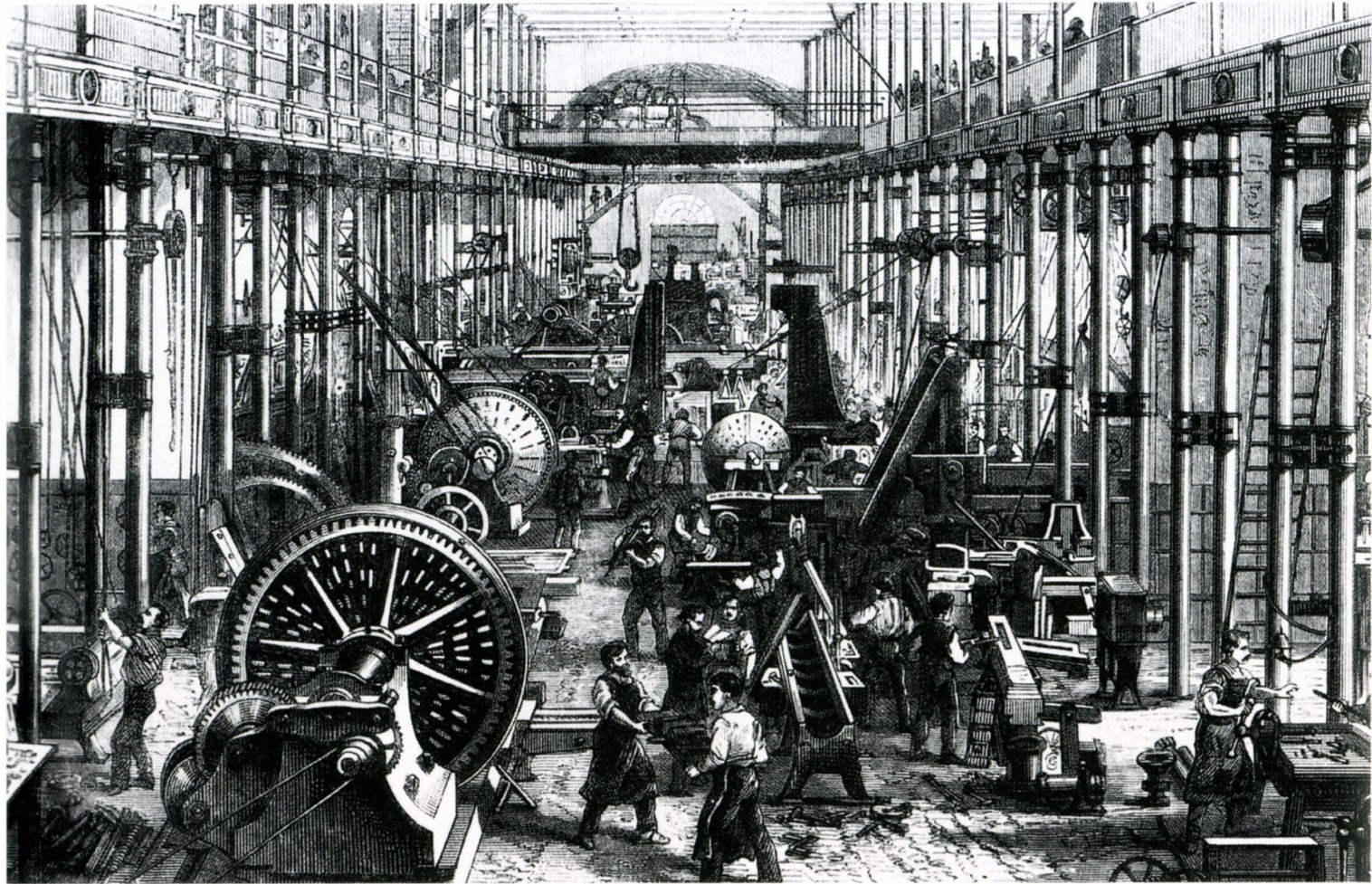


“Lay not aside the fear of God, O kings of the earth, and beware that ye transgress not the bounds which the Almighty hath fixed...Be vigilant, that ye may not do injustice to anyone, be it to the extent of a grain of mustard seed. Tread ye the path of justice, for this verily, is the straight path. Compose your differences and reduce your armaments...Heal the dissensions that divide you, and ye will no longer be in need of any armaments except what the protection of your cities and territories demands.”



“O Supreme Pontiff.....Consider a pearl which shineth by virtue of its inherent nature. If it be covered with silk, its luster and beauty will be concealed. Likewise, man’s distinction lieth in the excellence of his conduct and the pursuit of that which beseemeth his station, not in childish play and pastimes.

Know that thy true adornment consisteth in the love of God and in thy detachment from all save Him, and not in the luxuries thou dost possess. Abandon them unto those who seek them and turn unto God, He Who causeth the rivers to flow...”





-Zulu wars

-French conquest of Algeria



-Russian conquest



-Opium Wars



Ocmulgee National Monument








The time must come when the imperative necessity for the holding of a vast, an all-embracing assemblage of men with 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.

That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicates himself to the service of the entire human race...Blessed and happy is he that arises to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth...It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world.

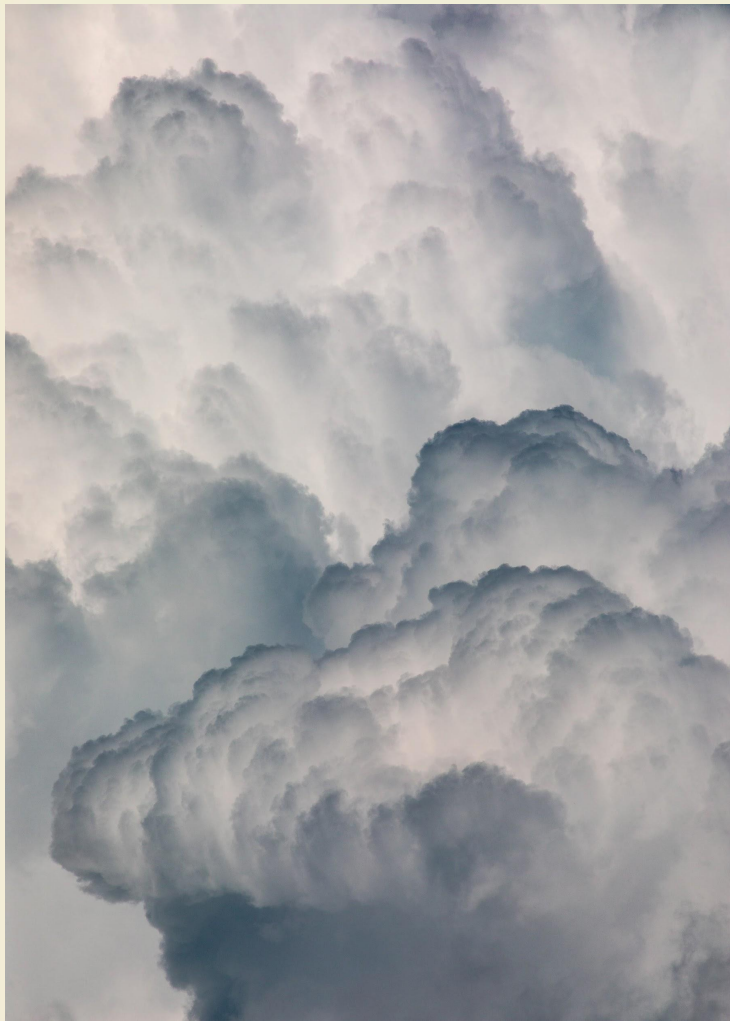
The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens.



The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men. The ocean of divine wisdom surgeth within this exalted word, while the books of the world cannot contain its inner significance..

-Baha'u'llah





“The world is in despair and its agitation waxeth day by day...Its perversity will long continue.”

“The winds of despair are, alas, blowing from every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts the human race is daily increasing. The signs of impending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned, inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lamentably defective”.




World War I



World War II




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"God is Dead"
- Nietzsche

"There is no place for the weak. The weak crumble, are slaughtered and are erased from history while the strong, for good or for ill, survive."

"Survival of the fittest"
- Darwin

"Workers of the world unite!...Religion is the opiate of the people."
- Marx



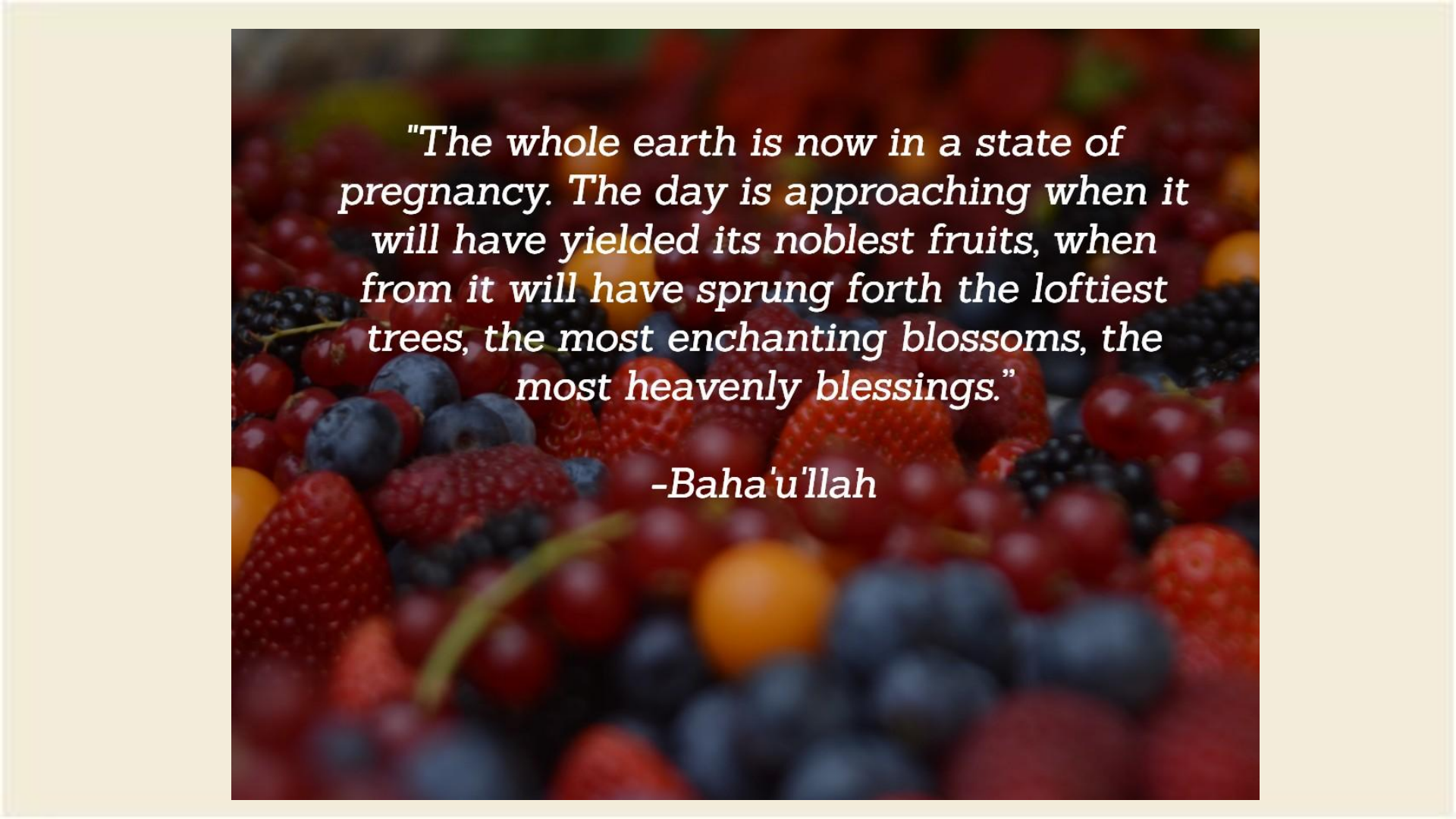
*To act like the beasts of the field is
unworthy of man.*

*Those virtues that befit his dignity are
forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-
kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds
of the earth.*



A black and white photograph of a newborn baby being held by several hands of different ages, symbolizing care and support. The baby is in the center, eyes closed, with its hands and feet visible. The hands around it are from various people, some appearing older and some younger, all gently cradling the infant. The background is dark, making the hands and the baby stand out.

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



"The whole earth is now in a state of pregnancy. The day is approaching when it will have yielded its noblest fruits, when from it will have sprung forth the loftiest trees, the most enchanting blossoms, the most heavenly blessings."

-Baha'u'llah



Accelerating Growth in Technology

“Erelong We shall bring into being exponents of new and wondrous sciences, of potent and effective crafts, and shall make manifest through them that which none of our servants have conceived.”



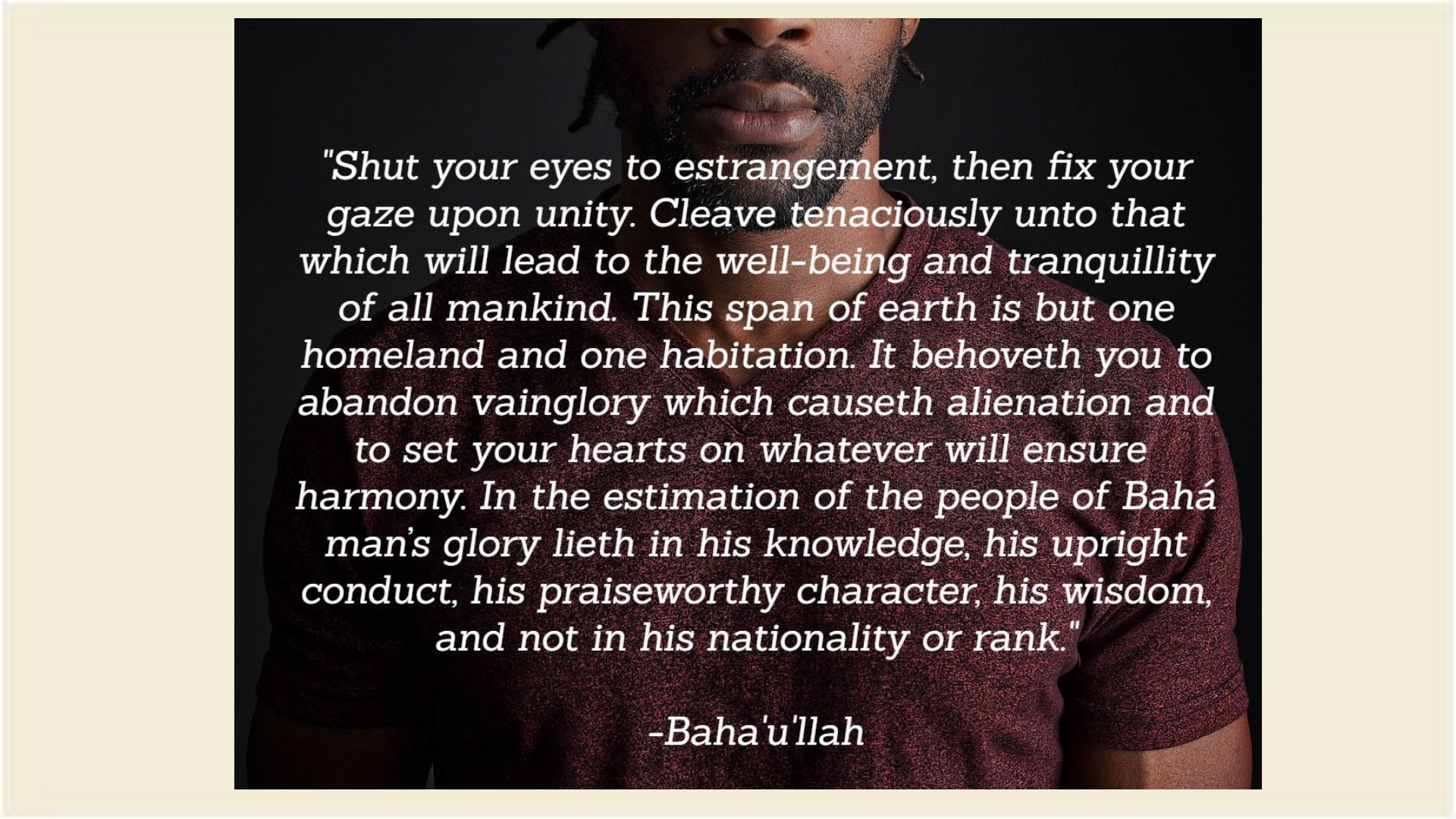


“We shall cause wisdom to spread amongst the people”

“From two ranks of men hath power been seized- kings and priests.”

“Soon will the present day Order be rolled up, and new one spread out in its stead. Verily, thy Lord speaketh the truth and is the Knower of things unseen”





"Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity. Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the well-being and tranquillity of all mankind. This span of earth is but one homeland and one habitation. It behoveth you to abandon vainglory which causeth alienation and to set your hearts on whatever will ensure harmony. In the estimation of the people of Bahá man's glory lieth in his knowledge, his upright conduct, his praiseworthy character, his wisdom, and not in his nationality or rank."

-Baha'u'llah











“What is this box”, I asked him, “and what was the nature of this display”.

“All this lavish display and these elaborate devices”, he replied, “the king, the princes, and the ministers, their pomp and their glory, their might and their power, everything you saw are now contained in this box”.

Ever since that day, all the trappings of the world have seemed in the eyes of this Youth akin to that same spectacle. They have never been, nor will they ever be, of any weight and consequence, be it to the extent of a grain of mustard seed. How greatly I marveled that men should pride themselves on such vanities, while those possessed of insight, ere they witness any evidence of human glory, perceive with certainty the inevitability of its waning.

“It behoveth everyone to traverse this brief span of life with sincerity and fairness. Should one fail to attain unto the recognition of Him Who is the Eternal Truth, let him at least conduct himself with reason and justice.

Erelong these outward trappings, these visible treasures, these earthly vanities, these arrayed armies, these adorned vestures, these proud and overweening souls, all shall pass into the confines of the grave, as though into that box. In the eyes of those possessed of insight, all this conflict, contention and vainglory hath ever been, and will ever be, like unto the play and pastimes of children.”



“Nature in its essence is the embodiment of My Name, the Maker, the Creator.

Nature is God’s Will and its expression in and through the contingent world.

It is a dispensation of Providence, ordained by the Ordainer, the All-Wise.”





“O My Handmaid! Concern not thyself with that which is outwardly apparent. Fix thy gaze, rather, upon that which lieth within. Look thou upon the beauty of God’s loved ones with His eye. Should one not be possessed of an attractive appearance, know thou that inwardly they possess a beauty that arouses the envy of every beloved one. Physical beauty is loved by self and passion, while spiritual beauty is loved by God. Which then wouldst thou choose?”

Translated provisionally by Adib Masumian adibmasumian.com

“Thou hast mentioned Husayn. We have attired his temple with the robe of forgiveness and adorned his head with the crown of pardon...Be not despondent. After the revelation of this blessed verse, it is as though thou hast been born anew from thy mother’s womb..”

*"Service to the Almighty is teaching His Cause.
Guiding the people has been and will continue to
be achieved by pure and goodly deeds performed
in a spirit of compassion and love."*

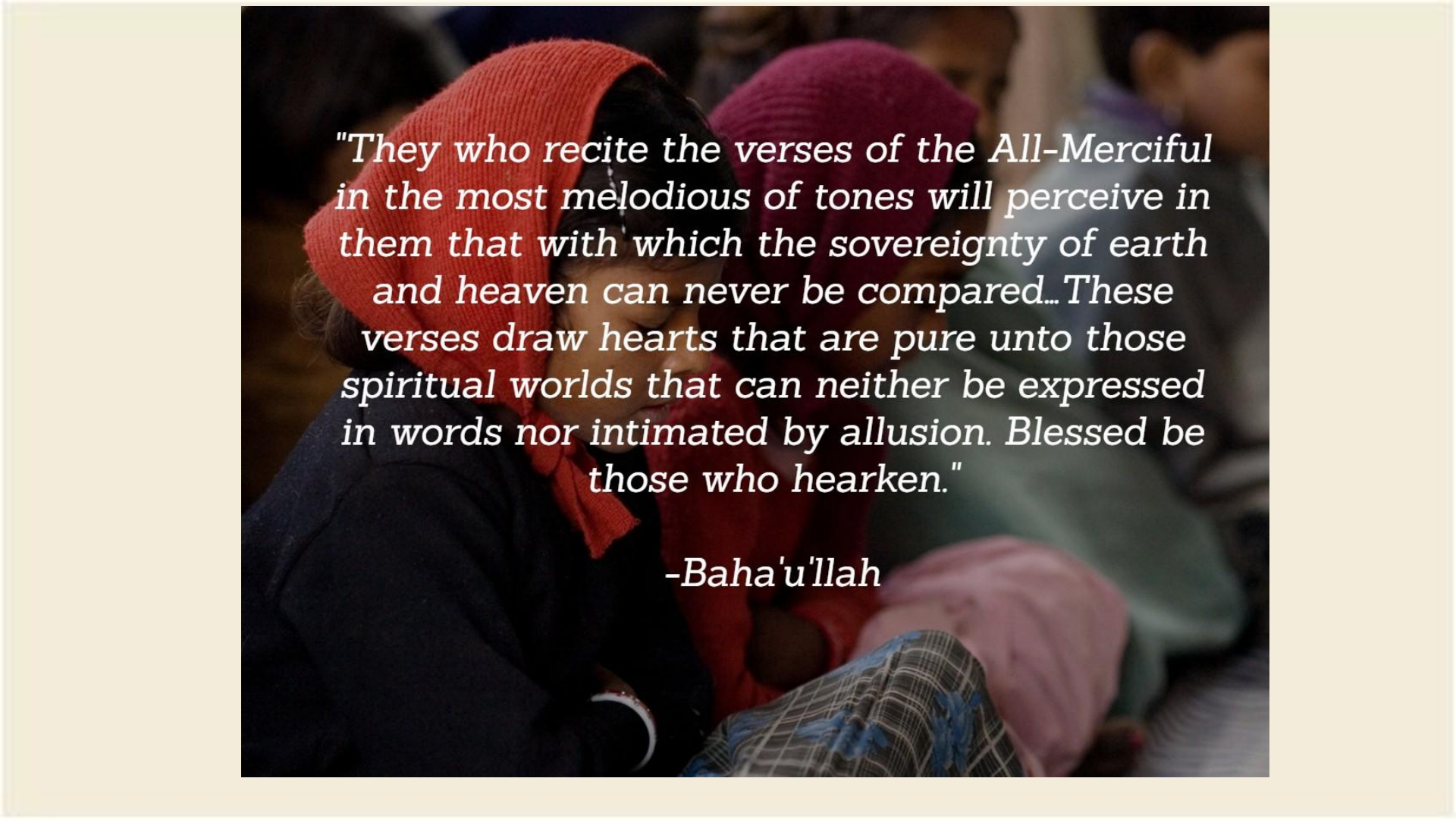


-Baha'u'llah



Know that that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things....The deepest wisdom which the sages have uttered, the profoundest learning which any mind hath unfolded, the arts which the ablest hands have produced, the influence exerted by the most potent of rulers, are but manifestations of the quickening power released by His transcendent, His all-pervasive and respendent spirit....

...Blessed is he who with a face beaming with light, hath turned towards Him.



"They who recite the verses of the All-Merciful in the most melodious of tones will perceive in them that with which the sovereignty of earth and heaven can never be compared...These verses draw hearts that are pure unto those spiritual worlds that can neither be expressed in words nor intimated by allusion. Blessed be those who hearken."

-Baha'u'llah





“O ye that dwell on earth! The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension...Conflict and contention are categorically forbidden in His Book.

This is a decree of God...It is divinely preserved from annulment and is invested by Him with the splendor of His confirmation. Verily He is the All-Knowing, the All Wise.

That which is conducive to the regeneration of the world and the salvation of the peoples and kindreds of the earth hath been sent down from the heaven of the utterance of Him Who is the Desire of the world. Better is this for you than all that is on earth...”



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