

The Feast of Sharaf (Honor)

Music/Persian chant

1. O thou who seekest the Kingdom of heaven! This world is even as the body of man, and the Kingdom of God is as the spirit of life. See how dark and narrow is the physical world of man's body, and what a prey it is to diseases and ills. On the other hand, how fresh and bright is the realm of the human spirit. Judge thou from this metaphor how the world of the Kingdom hath shone down, and how its laws have been made to work in this nether realm. Although the spirit is hidden from view, still its commandments shine out like rays of light upon the world of the human body. In the same way, although the Kingdom of heaven is hidden from the sight of this unwitting people, still, to him who seeth with the inner eye, it is plain as day. Wherefore dwell thou ever in the Kingdom, and be thou oblivious of this world below. Be thou so wholly absorbed in the emanations of the spirit that nothing in the world of man will distract thee.

Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, #161

۱. ای طالب ملکوت الهی اینجهان مانند جسم انسانست و ملکوت الله مانند روح حیات
ملاحظه نما که عالم جسمانی انسان چه قدر تنگ و تاریکست و بعقل و امراض مبتلا و عالم
روحانی انسان چه قدر لطیف و نورانیست باین مثال ادراک نما که جهان ملکوت چگونه در
این عالم ناسوت جلوه نموده و احکامش چگونه جاری گشته روح هر چند پنهانست ولی
احکامش در عالم جسد ظاهر و باهر بهمچنین ملکوت الهی هر چند از بصر این خلق نادان مستور
ولکن در نزد اهل بصیرت واضح و مشهود پس تو بکلی ملکوتی شو تا ناسوترا فراموش نمائی و
در احساسات رحمانیه چنان مستغرق گردی که از عالم بشریت خبر شوی.

2. Pay thou no heed to the humiliation to which the loved ones of God have in this Day been subjected. This humiliation is the pride and glory of all temporal honor and worldly elevation. What greater honor can be imagined than the honor conferred by the Tongue of the Ancient of Days when He calleth to remembrance His loved ones in His Most Great Prison? The day is approaching when the intervening clouds will have been completely dissipated, when the light of the words, "All honor belongeth unto God and unto them that love Him," will have appeared, as manifest as the sun, above the horizon of the Will of the Almighty.

All men, be they high or low, have sought and are still seeking so great an honor. All, however, have, as soon as the Sun of Truth shed its radiance upon the world, been deprived of its benefits, and have been shut out as by a veil from its glory, except them that have clung to the cord of the unfailing providence of the one true God, and have with complete detachment from all else but Him turned their faces towards His holy court.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 305-306

۲. ناظر باین مباش که احبای الهی در این ایام بذلت ظاهره مبتلی شده‌اند این ذلت فخر عزت‌هاست کدام عزتست اعظم از آنکه لسان قدم در سجن اعظم بذکر احبای خود مشغول شود زود است که سحاب مانعه خرق شود و شمس کلمهء مُشرقهء العزّة لله و لِاحِبَّائِهِ از افق سماء مشیت مُشرق و طالع گردد. جمیع ناس از وضع و شریف طالب این مقام بوده و هستند و لکن بعد از اشراق شمس حقیقت کلّ ممنوع و محتجب مگر نفوسی که بجبل عنایت حق متمسک شده‌اند و منقطعاً عمّا سواه بشطر احدیه توجّه نموده‌اند.

3. Gird up the loins of thine endeavor, that haply thou mayest guide thy neighbor to the law of God, the Most Merciful. Such an act, verily, excelleth all other acts in the sight of God, the All-Possessing, the Most High. Such must be thy steadfastness in the Cause of God, that no earthly thing whatsoever will have the power to deter thee from thy duty. Though the powers of earth be leagued against thee, though all men dispute with thee, thou must remain unshaken.

Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying the Message of Him Who hath caused the Dawn of Divine Guidance to break. Consider, how the wind, faithful to that which God hath ordained, bloweth upon all the regions of the earth, be they inhabited or desolate. Neither the sight of desolation, nor the evidences of prosperity, can either pain or please it. It bloweth in every direction, as bidden by its Creator. So should be every one that claimeth to be a lover of the one true God. It behoveth him to fix his gaze upon the fundamentals of His Faith, and to labor diligently for its propagation. Wholly for the sake of God he should proclaim His Message, and with that same spirit accept whatever response his words may evoke in his hearer. He who shall accept and believe, shall receive his reward; and he who shall turn away, shall receive none other than his own punishment.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, #161

۳. جهد کن که شاید نفسی را بشریعهء رحمن وارد نمائی این از افضل اعمال عند غنیّ متعال مذکور و بشأنی بر امر الهی مستقیم باش که هیچ امری تو را از خدمتی که بآن مأموری منع ننماید اگر چه من علی الأرض بمعارضه و مجادله برخیزند. مثل اریاح باش در امر فائق الأصباح چنانچه مشاهده مینمائی که اریاح نظر بمأموریت خود بر خراب و معمر مرور مینماید نه از معمر مسرور و نه از خراب محزون و نظر بمأموریت خود داشته و دارد احباء حقّ هم باید ناظر باصل امر باشند و بتبلیغ آن مشغول شوند لله بگویند و بشنوند هرنفسی اقبال نمود آن حسنه باو راجع و هر نفسی که اعراض نمود جزای آن باو واصل.

Music/Persian chant

4. Then it is clear that the honor and exaltation of man must be something more than material riches. Material comforts are only a branch, but the root of the exaltation of man is the good attributes and virtues which are the adornments of his reality. These are the divine appearances, the heavenly bounties, the sublime emotions, the love and knowledge of God; universal wisdom, intellectual perception, scientific discoveries, justice, equity, truthfulness, benevolence, natural courage and innate fortitude; the respect for rights and the keeping of agreements and covenants; rectitude in all circumstances; serving the truth under all conditions; the sacrifice of one's life for the good of all people; kindness and esteem for all nations; obedience to the teachings of God; service in the Divine Kingdom; the guidance of the people, and the education of the nations and races. This is the prosperity of the human world! This is the exaltation of man in the world! This is eternal life and heavenly honor!

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions, pp. 79-80

۴. پس معلوم شد که عزّت و علویّت انسان مجرد بلذائذ جسمانیّه و نعم دنیویّه نه بلکه این سعادت جسمانیّه فرع است و اما اصل علویّت انسانیّه خصائل و فضائلی است که زینت حقیقت انسانست و آن سنوحات رحمانیّه و فیوضات سمائیّه و احساسات وجدانیّه و محبت الهیّه و معرفت ربّانیّه و معارف عمومیّه و ادراکات عقلیّه و اکتشافات فنیّه است عدل و انصاف است صدق و الطاف است شهامت ذاتیّه است مروّت فطریّه است صیانت حقوق است محافظهء عهد و میثاق است راستی در جمیع امور است و حقیقت پرستی در جمیع شؤون جانفشانی بجهت خیر عموم است و مهربانی و رأفت با جمیع طوائف انسانی و اتباع تعالیم الهیست و خدمت ملکوت رحمانی هدایت خلق و تربیت ملل و امم است. این است سعادت عالم انسانی اینست علویّت بشر در عالم امکانی اینست حیات ابدی و عزّت آسمانی.

5. My wish is that these children should receive a Bahá'í education, so that they may progress both here and in the Kingdom, and rejoice thy heart. In a time to come, morals will degenerate to an extreme degree. It is essential that children be reared in the Bahá'í way, that they may find happiness both in this world and the next. If not, they shall be beset by sorrows and troubles, for human happiness is founded upon spiritual behaviour.

Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, #100

۵. این اطفال را تربیت بهائی خواهم تا در ملک و مملکت ترقی نمایند و سبب سرور دل و جان تو گردند در آینده اخلاق عمومی بسیار فاسد گردد باید اطفال را تربیت بهائی نمود تا سعادت دو جهان یابند و آلا در زحمت و مشقات افتند زیرا سعادت عالم انسانی باخلاق رحمانیست.

6. O thou who art attracted to the Kingdom of God! Every soul seeketh an object and cherisheth a desire, and day and night striveth to attain his aim. One craveth riches, another thirsteth for glory and still another yearneth for fame, for art, for prosperity and the like. Yet finally all are doomed to loss and disappointment. One and all they leave behind them all that is theirs and empty-handed hasten to the realm beyond, and all their labours shall be in vain. To dust they shall all return, denuded, depressed, disheartened and in utter despair. But, praised be the Lord, thou art engaged in that which secureth for thee a gain that shall eternally endure; and that is naught but thine attraction to the Kingdom of God, thy faith, and thy knowledge, the enlightenment of thine heart, and thine earnest endeavour to promote the Divine Teachings. Verily this gift is imperishable and this wealth is a treasure from on high!

Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, #176

۶. ای منجذب بملکوت الله هر نفسی را فکری و مقصدی شب و روز در تحصیل مقصود میکوشد. یکی نهایت آرزویش ثروت است و دیگری عزت است و دیگری شهرت است و دیگری صنعت است و دیگری تجارت است و امثال اینها. لکن عاقبت کلّ خائب و خاسر گردند جمیع این امور را بگذارند و معّ صفر الید بجهان دیگر شتابند همه زحمات بباد رود برهنه و افسرده و پژمرده و مایوس زیر خاک روند. الحمد لله تو تجارتی داری که ریحش الی الأبد باقی و برقرار و آن انجذاب بملکوت الله و ایمان و عرفان و نورانیت وجدان و سعی و کوشش در ترویج تعالیم الهی. این موهبت ابدی است و این ثروت کنز مملکتی است.

Music/Persian chant