

O SON OF MAN!

I loved thy creation, hence I created thee.
Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy
name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life.

O SON OF BEING!

Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou
lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee.
Know this, O servant.

O SON OF BEING!

Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly
home, reunion with Me. Enter therein and tarry
not. This is that which hath been destined for thee
in Our kingdom above and Our exalted dominion.

O SON OF MAN!

If thou lovest Me, turn away from thyself;
and if thou seekest My pleasure, regard not thine
own; that thou mayest die in Me and I may
eternally live in thee.

O SON OF SPIRIT!

There is no peace for thee save by
renouncing thyself and turning unto Me; for it
behooveth thee to glory in My name, not in thine
own; to put thy trust in Me and not in thyself, since
I desire to be loved alone and above all that is.

O SON OF BEING!

My love is My stronghold; he that entereth
therein is safe and secure, and he that turneth away
shall surely stray and perish.

O SON OF SPIRIT!

My claim on thee is great, it cannot be
forgotten. My grace to thee is plenteous, it cannot
be veiled. My love has made in thee its home, it
cannot be concealed. My light is manifest to thee, it
cannot be obscured.

from *Some Answered Questions*:

...that which is the cause of everlasting life,
eternal honor, universal enlightenment, real
salvation and prosperity is, first of all, the

knowledge of God. It is known that the knowledge
of God is beyond all knowledge, and it is the greatest
glory of the human world. For in the existing
knowledge of the reality of things there is material
advantage, and through it outward civilization
progresses; but the knowledge of God is the cause of
spiritual progress and attraction, and through it the
perception of truth, the exaltation of humanity,
divine civilization, rightness of morals and
illumination are obtained.

Second, comes the love of God, the light of
which shines in the lamp of the hearts of those who
know God; its brilliant rays illuminate the horizon
and give to man the life of the Kingdom. In truth,
the fruit of human existence is the love of God, for
this love is the spirit of life, and the eternal bounty. If
the love of God did not exist, the contingent world
would be in darkness; if the love of God did not
exist, the hearts of men would be dead, and deprived
of the sensations of existence; if the love of God did
not exist, spiritual union would be lost; if the love of
God did not exist, the light of unity would not
illuminate humanity; if the love of God did not exist,
the East and West, like two lovers, would not
embrace each other; if the love of God did not exist,
division and disunion would not be changed into
fraternity; if the love of God did not exist, indifference
would not end in affection; if the love of God did not
exist, the stranger would not become the friend. The love
of the human world has shone forth from the love of God
and has appeared by the bounty and grace of God.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 300

Local Meetings:
<http://www.meetup.com/Bahai-Faith-Palm-Beach-County-south/>

whitefootedant@gmail.com

SOURCES: info.bahai.org, and
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J. Warner



Bahá'í Faith

Love

Love is the most great law that
ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle,
the unique power that bindeth together
the divers elements of this material
world, the supreme magnetic force that
directeth the movements of the spheres
in the celestial realms.

—Selections from the Writings
of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul. Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world, and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation.

Whatsoever people is graciously favoured therewith by God, its name shall surely be magnified and extolled by the Concourse from on high, by the company of angels, and the denizens of the Abhá Kingdom. And whatsoever people turneth its heart away from this Divine Love—the revelation of the Merciful—shall err grievously, shall fall into despair, and be utterly destroyed. That people shall be denied all refuge, shall become even as the vilest creatures of the earth, victims of degradation and shame.

O ye beloved of the Lord! Strive to become the manifestations of the love of God, the lamps of divine guidance shining amongst the kindreds of the earth with the light of love and concord.

All hail to the revealers of this glorious light!

Selections From the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



THE FOUR KINDS OF LOVE

What a power is love! It is the most wonderful, the greatest of all living powers.

Love gives life to the lifeless. Love lights a flame in the heart that is cold. Love brings hope to the hopeless and gladdens the hearts of the sorrowful.

In the world of existence there is indeed no greater power than the power of love. When the heart of man is aglow with the flame of love, he is ready to sacrifice all—even his life. In the Gospel it is said God is love.

There are four kinds of love. The first is the love that flows from God to man; it consists of the inexhaustible graces, the Divine effulgence and heavenly illumination. Through this love the world of being receives life. Through this love man is endowed with physical existence, until, through the breath of the Holy Spirit—this same love—he receives eternal life and becomes the image of the Living God. This love is the origin of all the love in the world of creation.

The second is the love that flows from man to God. This is faith, attraction to the Divine, enkindlement, progress, entrance into the Kingdom of God, receiving the Bounties of God, illumination with the lights of the Kingdom. This love is the origin of all philanthropy; this love causes the hearts of men to reflect the rays of the Sun of Reality.

The third is the love of God towards the Self or Identity of God. This is the transfiguration of His Beauty, the reflection of Himself in the mirror of His Creation. This is the reality of love, the Ancient Love, the Eternal Love. Through one ray of this Love all other love exists.

The fourth is the love of man for man. The love which exists between the hearts of believers is prompted by the ideal of the unity of spirits. This love is attained through the knowledge of God, so that men see the Divine Love reflected in the heart. Each sees in the other the Beauty of God reflected in



the soul, and finding this point of similarity, they are attracted to one another in love. This love will make all men the waves of one sea, this love will make them all the stars of one heaven and the fruits of one tree. This love will bring the realization of true accord, the foundation of real unity.

But the love which sometimes exists between friends is not (true) love, because it is subject to transmutation; this is merely fascination. As the breeze blows, the slender trees yield. If the wind is in the East the tree leans to the West, and if the wind turns to the West the tree leans to the East. This kind of love is originated by the accidental conditions of life. This is not love, it is merely acquaintanceship; it is subject to change.

Today you will see two souls apparently in close friendship; tomorrow all this may be changed. Yesterday they were ready to die for one another, today they shun one another's society! This is not love; it is the yielding of the hearts to the accidents of life. When that which has caused this 'love' to exist passes, the love passes also; this is not in reality love.

Love is only of the four kinds that I have explained. (a) The love of God towards the identity of God. Christ has said God is Love. (b) The love of God for His children—for His servants. (c) The love of man for God and (d) the love of man for man. These four kinds of love originate from God. These are rays from the Sun of Reality; these are the Breathings of the Holy Spirit; these are the Signs of the Reality.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, 1913, *Paris Talks*

From the Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh:

O SON OF MAN!

Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty.

