

## Raising the Tent of Unity

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## Raising the Tent of

## Unity

The influence exerted by the Revelation of Baha'u'llah upon the physical world as well as the realm of the heart.

THE Revelation of the Bab, as testified by 'Abdu'l-Baha, is likened to the sun when it enters the Vernal Equinox; the station of Baha'u'llah, on the other hand, is commemorated when the sun reaches its highest point at midsummer. Thus these two successive Revelations which have shed illumination upon the earth from the unseen Realm, can be regarded as two distinct seasons. The

Revelation of the Bab is similar to the regenerating and life-giving springtime which brings freshness and fertility to the earth, while the second Revelation is likened to the period of fruitfulness in the summer. i

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The inception of the former, the

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life-giving Revelation of the Bab caused the soil of men's hearts and minds to be prepared through the love of God, so that the spiritual seeds and flowers could be planted therein; while the advent of the latter in the "year eighty" ushered in the fruit-laden summer, when, the sun reaches its highest station. This spiritual summer adorned the trees of the seeking and receptive souls with wondrous fruits

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and delectable bounties.

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Now if we survey the course of man's intellectual development in recent centuries, we shall notice that since the advent of the Revelation of the Bab in 1844 (1260 A.H.), the world of being has entered upon a new phase, that intellectual and spiritual powers of man have been quickened enormously and that an unprecedented potentiality has been infused in man, enabling him to perceive spiritual truths, to understand and discover hidden things and to study and formulate the laws of science. Thus the year 1844 may be said to have marked the termination of the phase of man's childhood and signalized the "coming of age" of the human race.

Here is an analogy. If we place the water on the fire and heat it, it begins to absorb the heat from the moment it is put on the fire. It gradually approaches the boiling point, and if we -Q continue the act of heating, the temperature rises steadily to 100°

C. when

l the water begins to boil. In a similar  
nu manner, the world of humanity has  
advanced gradually throughout ages  
and centuries as a result of the guidance and education bestowed upon it  
by the Divine Manifestations. Then  
in the year 1844, the glorious effulgence  
of the Sun of Truth shone upon the  
world of creation in its utmost splendor  
and brought about mankind's "coming  
of age". During the past centuries man  
has been groping along the path of  
material and spiritual progress as a  
caravan trudges along the road in the  
dark with the aid of the stars and the  
moon. Today the Sun of Truth is  
shining in the plenitude of its glory  
and the caravan of human civilization  
j

is advancing by leaps and bounds in  
the dazzling light of the Sun.

Those detached and devoted souls  
who turned to the Sun of Truth and  
received divine bounties and confirmations directly from the Manifestation of  
God, became imbued with  
wondrous powers and displayed many  
amazing deeds. The evidence of their  
spiritual power has caused all men to  
wonder. A careful study of the history  
of the Faith would acquaint us with  
those momentous events which stand  
associated with their prodigious lives.

It is remarkable that even the rest  
of humanity who showed indifference  
to the Call of God and failed to receive  
illumination from the Day-Star of His  
Revelation should have been also  
affected by the Light of this New Day.  
They have been prompted unconsciously to make wonderful progress in  
various stages of material civilization  
within a brief period. Imagine anewly -¢\_—‘

born babe flashing past a hundred  
years' life-span overnight ! g

It is evident that when the spring

season comes and the vernal showers fall abundantly everywhere, the whole earth becomes verdant automatically, grass grows everywhere and the trees blossom forth in luxuriant beauty. If you go to the top of a rocky mountain in springtime, you can find lots of green plants growing even out of tiny crevices in the solid rock.

#### The Momentous Influence of the Baha'i Revelation

Now let us elaborate the point about the momentous influence of the

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Baha'i Revelation. We note that from the remote past which goes back to 6,000 years B.C. until the year 1844, the total number of inventions that the men of learning and science succeeded in bringing to light were no more than about seventy. Some of these inventions are very significant, others are secondary. The former comprise such inventions as: papyrus, waterclocks, draw-bridge, gunpowder, printing press, telescope, microscope and others. This means that during this vast stretch of time which runs into many centuries only about seventy inventions were given to us by the men of learning. On the average it comes to only one new invention for every 150 years.

Let us now consider the space of time between 1844 and 1949. In the course of one hundred and five years no less than 90 important inventions have appeared, that is to say roughly one new invention per year. To enumerate but a few, we have : photography and the many developments related to it including motion pictures in color; engines powered by various fuels which drive trains, automobiles, airplanes, ships and submarines; the many devices for recording and reproducing sound with ever increasing fidelity; the X Ray, radio, television, and the host of other inventions made possible through the discovery of

electricity and the harnessing of the power in the atom.

This amazing outburst of inventive talent which has manifested itself since 1844 arrests our attention and is unmistakably attributable to the divine

creative power released through the Revelation of Baha'u'llah.

The Day that the Sun of Truth Has Shone

In a Tablet revealed by 'Abdu'l-Baha

we read as follows : "O ye the friends and handmaids of the Merciful ! This

is the Day that the Sun of Truth has shone from the horizon of existence.

Its dawn is so resplendent and its rays

are so brilliant that the heavy clouds were dispersed and the Sun shone

with the utmost brightness from the

horizon of the world. That is why a

new regeneration is witnessed in all the

created things. Consider how much

the sphere of sciences and arts has been

expanded in this age. How many wonderful discoveries and innovations have

appeared ; to what extent the powers of

thought have progressed and what

great inventions have been materialized. This century is equal to one

hundred centuries. That is to say if

one were to put together the achievements of a hundred centuries against

those which have appeared in this

century, the latter would far exceed

those of the past hundred centuries.

For example, if you collected all the

books that were written and compiled

throughout the past ages and similarly

gathered together all the books and

publications that have appeared in this

century, the volume of the books published in this age would be many times

more than the volume of the books

written in the past ages.

"Consider what a great influence

has the Daystar of the world exerted

upon the realities of all beings. But

a thousand times alas! that the eyes

are blind, the ears are deaf and the

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minds and hearts are heedless to this

sublime Grace. Therefore, strive with  
all your hearts to awaken those who  
slumber. And upon you be the Glory  
of the Most Glorious !”

However, it is noteworthy that since  
the appearance of the Bab, as human  
capacity of perception increased and  
enormous strides were made in material  
progress, mankind has been, to a corresponding degree, increasingly tormen-  
I       ted by the devastating fires of its highly  
l       materialistic civilization.

We Baha’is believe that the sole  
remedy for all the ills and afflictions  
which have assailed humanity today  
lies in following the Teachings of  
Baha’u’llah—a remedy for the application of which His Holiness the Bab  
ofl’ered up His life and thousands of  
Baha’is have been persecuted to death.

The fact is that the longer men  
delay in accepting this holy Cause, the  
longer they hesitate to utilize this  
divinely-bestowed healing Remedy,  
l l     the more distant will grow their hour  
il     of deliverance from the ills and suiTerings that afflict them and the  
farther  
l ofl’ will be the Day when the Ark of  
l  
human prosperity and salvation, havii  
,l     ing weathered grave dangers, would  
1:  
l’     reach the haven of security.

Experience shows that nothing else  
but the priceless Faith of Baha’u’llah,  
nothing short of His world-encircling,  
world-redeeming Order could bring  
salvation to man and release him from  
the fetters of prejudice. This mighty  
Cause is fed by the Power supplied  
from the Kingdom of God, its vigor is  
sustained by heavenly might, its wond-

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rous spirit has flowed into the hearts  
of men and has uprooted age-old superstitions and vain imaginings.  
’--ad!

## To Succeed in Uniting the Heart of Men

History bears witness that none of the world's potentates, kings or emperors, notwithstanding their invincible power, their vast armies, their unlimited wealth and resources, did ever succeed in uniting the hearts of men or in creating harmony between two religious sects. This is because only the divine Manifestations have the power to establish fellowship and concord among men. In the Quran it is written: "And if thou should have given all that is on earth, thou could not have brought reconciliation and unity among their hearts, but God verily united them." (Sura 8, verse 63). And that is how in this holy Dispensation, through the power of the Word of God and the outpourings of His exalted Pen, people from diverse religions, creeds and factions, who previously bore hatred against one another; people from every race and culture, whether eastern or western, are now all united under the unfurled banner of the Cause of Baha'u'llah with the utmost unity and love as the members of a single family. One cannot observe the slightest evidence of estrangement or alienation amongst them.

The Meaning of Isaiah's Prophecy "Universal Peace," 'Abdu'l-Baha affirms, "is a momentous enterprise, but it requires unity of conscience which is the foundation for this mighty enterprise." Thus the meaning of

Isaiah's prophecy becomes evident, where it says :

"And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it;

"and many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the

God of Jacob, and He will teach us  
of His ways, and we will walk in His  
path : for out of Zion shall go forth the  
law, and the word of the Lord from  
Jerusalem.

“And He shall judge among the  
nations, and shall rebuke many people;  
and they shall beat their swords into  
ploughshares, and their spears into  
pruning hooks; nation shall not raise  
sword against nation, neither shall they  
learn war any more.” (Isaiah II 2 2-4)

Now the Baha’i world is a fine  
replica of this glorious world to come,  
the advent of which is but the ardent  
desire of all mankind. If the inhabitants of this earth assembled beneath  
the Tent of Unity and drank the  
Water of everlasting life from this  
Fountain, then every trace of enmity,  
strife and discord would disappear and  
all men would abide in perfect freedom  
and security.

The Word of God Is Able to Unite  
In one of His Tablets ‘Abdu’l-Baha  
says : “Today nothing but the potency  
of the Word of God, which dominates  
the realities of things, is able to unite  
and harmonize the minds, thoughts,

hearts and souls of the world of humanity under the shade of one tree. This  
power pervades all things and motivates  
all men ; it coordinates and organizes  
the world of humanity.

“Praise be to God ! In this Day the  
radiant light of the Word of God has  
dawned upon all the horizons, and  
people from every group, tribe, nation,  
race and community have gathered  
beneath the shade of the Word and are  
united and assembled together in  
utmost harmony.

“How numerous are the meetings  
that are embellished by the presence  
of peoples from different countries,  
races and tribes! Should a soul enter  
this meeting, he would think that those

present must have come from the same fatherland, the same country, the same tribe, having a single thought, a single opinion, a single object, while in fact one comes from America, one from Africa, one from Asia, another from Europe, from India or from Turkistan; one is an Arab, a Turk, a Persian, a Greek ; and notwithstanding this, they meet together with the utmost harmony, unity, love, freedom, oneness and joy. All this is due to the influence of the Word. If all the earthly powers join together, they cannot establish even one such gathering that could turn the different nations into a single community through the same love, fellowship, joy and enthusiasm; and by raising a melody in the inmost heart of the world, it is able to abolish strife, quarrel, war and bloodshed and to establish the universal peace, reconciliation and oneness of mankind. Is there any power that can withstand the in-

fluence of the Word of God ? No, by the Almighty God! The evidences are obvious and the proof is conclusive. An unbiased observer will be amazed and astonished. He would bear witness that all the nations, races, tribes and governments of the world should be very joyous, grateful and contented on account of the Teachings and Exhortations of Baha'u'llah, since these divine

Teachings change the beasts of prey into grazing animals and transform the creeping creatures into the fowls of the air. They change human beings into heavenly angels and enable the world of humanity to become a repository of the divine perfections.”

V The Guardian of the Baha'i Faith, /Shoghi Effendi wrote: “These momentous events have all transpired in the world during the few years after the termination of the first Baha'i Century. Therefore it is obvious how great are the events that will gradually unfold themselves in the course of this stupendous century—the century associated

with the rise of the divinely-ordained  
New World Order—and in the subsequent centuries of this blessed second  
Age of the Baha’i Era as well as in the  
Golden Age which constitutes the last,  
the crowning Age of the first Era of this  
Holy Cycle.”

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