

STAR OF THE WEST

"We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; that all nations shall become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men shall be strengthened, that diversity of religion shall cease and differences of race be annulled. So it shall be; these fruitless strifes; these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the 'Most Great Peace' shall come."—BAHA'O'LLAH.

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The Dawn of the Sun of Reality and the Power of the Influence of Baha'o'llah

Address of JENABE FAZEL, delivered at the Bahai Congress, held in the Auditorium Hotel, Chicago, Wednesday evening, April 27th, 1921.
Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, Interpreter.

IT IS indeed a source of great pleasure and joy that again we find ourselves in this splendid audience tonight to speak on the principles of peace, love, and amity which have come to encircle the globe.

It is an incontrovertible fact that the world of humanity today is sick, and the greatest need of this sickness is to have a Divine physician so that He may diagnose the disease and prescribe the medicine.

This disease, however, is not characteristic of our age—the further we advance toward the primitive ages the more we find the traces and the signs of this disease handed to us from age to age, cycle to cycle.

As we study universal history, and scan the pages of those ancient records, we find that the world of humanity in all ages and cycles, has been afflicted with the satan of war, struggle, vicissitude, and carnage.

Long before mankind began to develop sociological groups, and various nation and state feelings—when men were living in the trees and the caves and the rivers, in those primitive ages, still this satan of hatred, animosity and ill feeling held its rein over the minds and hearts of men; but today it has made its appearance under other names, such as,

racial, patriotic, and religious distinctions.

Even when the people of the world grew in intelligence and intellectual faith, and began to establish the foundations of states and governments, thinking that these states and governments would protect the people from the ravages of the satanic suggestions of each other—lo and behold, these very governments became the farmers or the sowers of the seeds of suspicion, discontent and ill feeling amongst their own subjects and amongst the subjects of each other.

No one can compute the millions of innocent souls that were killed in order to advance the rapacity and the greed of these governments—except the earth which was crimsoned with the blood of these people and the stars rolling in the immensity of heaven, looking down with wonder and astonishment at the intolerance, ignorance and rapacity of man.

The more science advanced, the greater the display of human intelligence and genius became manifest, the wider became the circle of human bloodshed, carnage, and spoilation.

Science brought into the arena of activity its deadly engines of warfare. Whereas, formerly, in the Dark Ages, in a few years or in a few months only a few thousand people were killed by the two combatants—today, with these

perfected instruments of carnage, in a few days millions of men can be dispatched into the Unknown.

From a philological standpoint, if we compare the conditions of those people, whom we call savages and barbarians, and our own people, especially in this age, calling ourselves civilized and enlightened—the only difference between us is that whereas formerly we killed the people with those primitive instruments, with javelins, darts and others; today we kill them with these perfected scientific instruments and we call ourselves civilized (laughter and applause).

This is, therefore, self-evident that intellectual accomplishments, scientific achievements, by themselves, and through themselves, will not bring about human felicity and prosperity—nay, rather, they increase discontent, turmoil, and conflict; setting class against class and bringing havoc and disorder.

The last world war is the greatest demonstration of this fact; that this war in itself was the result of the human, so-called, enlightenment and civilization.

Can we imagine that we are through with war! Or we are through forever with human greed, passion and conflict! Any man, studying with seeing eyes and intelligent mind the conditions before his eyes and the events transpiring in different parts of the world—any man, I say, coming to such a conclusion is devoid of intelligence.

Having already traveled for one year throughout the various cities of the United States and Canada and speaking before ever so many clubs, schools, colleges, universities and churches, I have come to a rather startling conclusion; that, nationalism, which is the cause of all warfare, is today more active in the schools and in the colleges of this country than ever before, and we call this country the home of peace, the most progressive, and the most liberal democratic government on the face of the earth.

In many of these so-called common

schools I observed with my own eyes that the teachers sowed the seeds of national superiority, or what we call prejudices, in the pure, virgin soil of the minds and the hearts of these children who have to grow in this age with an international mind and a universal conscience. But, they grow up under the present conditions with narrow-minded ideas, with simple thoughts concerning the almost perfection of the conditions of their own country and environment.

The remedy for these diseases is to extricate the very root of these prejudices from the minds and the hearts of the people of the world (applause).

No matter how far we may go back into the dim history of the past, we find spiritual teachers, divine prophets, heavenly poets, who are shining in the heavens of human consciousness like scintillating stars, leading and guiding men to the fountain head of peace, brotherhood, and solidarity.

These holy souls were those who, though surrounded by many difficulties and persecutions and sufferings, stood firm and steadfast, and called the attention of their fellow men to the practice of those primal laws of fellowship and comradeship, and heavenly association.

Although in those ages it was impossible for these inspired teachers to practically lay the foundation of universal peace, yet they did not sleep, they did not rest; they worked and taught, day in and day out, and sowed the seeds of brotherhood, of unity and love in the hearts of men.

Some of these prophets were exiled from their homes through the ignorance of men, others were cut into pieces by the swords of intolerance, some were put on the cross, like His Holiness, Christ—
notwithstanding all these insurmountable difficulties they arose to the situation and spread the light and the rays of the Sun of Oneness and Truth.

Then this new age dawned. The breezes of Providence wafted; the nightingales of the love of God sang; the sun

of universal consciousness dawned; and the highway of the Kingdom of God was paved and His Holiness, BAHÁ'O'LLAH, appeared in the land of Teheran.

When this divine super-human being appeared in that ancient country, then and not till then did the Sun of Reality shine forth; then and not till then did universal peace become the most important problem before the face of the people.

His divine teachings, his spiritual principles, his celestial instructions, shining like unto the refulgent rays of the sun, were spread throughout the East and the West, the North and the South like the leaping forth of the sun from the eastern horizon.

First, through his spiritual power and divine life, BAHÁ'O'LLAH removed from amongst the religions of the Orient religious prejudice and hatred which had been expressed toward one another for ages.

It is almost impossible for the Western, American, people, who are accustomed to live in a liberal country with practically no religious prejudice, to conceive of that hatred, of that religious intolerance exercised in Oriental countries.

Their fanaticism and dogmatic narrow-mindedness went to such an extent that they did not associate with one another; they thought that they were contaminated if they even shook hands with a man who belonged to a contrary faith. They would not even go into the streets when it was raining for the fear that their wet clothing might come in contact with the clothing of another man walking there who did not belong to their own faith (laughter).

This is not an exaggeration. It happened often in the Orient that if a man was sick, lying in bed, thirsty for a cup of water and some one would come and offer him a cup, he would open his eyes and ask him, "To what religion do you belong?" And if the answer was not to his liking he would rather die, and

he actually would die by not drinking the water, because this man did not belong to his own religion (laughter).

Only the power of God could transform the hearts of these people, and throw away these prejudices, which had poisoned the very fountain of their lives for many thousand years.

Through the appearance of BAHÁ'O'LLAH these people were so united, so well-knit together, their hearts and minds were cemented to one another to such an extent that if a stranger entered in a meeting where these people were, while formerly they belonged to different religions, at that time, their love, their amity, their friendship toward one another was so genuine and so manifest that he could not distinguish them and he could not find out to what religion they belonged in former days.

When, last year, I arrived in this country, I heard that a large number of Christian ministers had arisen to unite to bring together the various sects and denominations of Christianity under the name of the Inter-Allied Church Movement. It made me extremely happy, because any attempt to bring about unity is indeed praiseworthy.

But, when I investigated the matter a little more, I found that these worthy gentlemen had very interesting conventions, they had banquets, they sat around decorated tables, they ate chicken salad (laughter) and ice cream, they gave very eloquent speeches on the necessity of unity, and agreed; but once they left those halls, they left, likewise, their talks, with the withered flowers on the tables, and thus they continued to practice the same old dogmas, creeds, and traditions, as though there was no attempt whatsoever to unite the churches. Nay, rather, we added another denomination to the Christian churches under the name Inter-Allied Church Movement (laughter and applause).

It is as evident as sunlight, that these denominations and sects are the results of dogmas and creeds. As long as the

leaders of the churches hold fast to these dogmas and creeds, and think they are the essential foundations of their churches, there shall never be unity or agreement.

What did BAHÁ'O'LLAH accomplish? He simply washed the slate of the religions of the world clean from all caste, creeds and dogmas. He attracted the attention of mankind from exterior sanctimony to interior devotion and worship. He suggested to them to ascend on the top of the mountain where he had given his divine sermons, and once the people of the world gather on the summit of that mountain with those beatitudes, there are no differences, there are no creeds, there are no traditions; but, here, deep in the valley, in the shadow of the mountain there are all kinds of misunderstandings, sorrows and miseries.

BAHÁ'O'LLAH brought into this world the Water of Life from the Paradise of the Kingdom, and with that Water of Life he washed from the hearts all traces of religious, racial and national prejudices—these hearts which were created by God pure and translucent in the beginning but that became filled with these dark clouds and vapors, he caused to return to their original state.

He baptized the hearts and the souls of men with the fire of the love of God

and with the spirit of the Word of God.

As long as this eternal idea of universal peace is not planted in the hearts of men, no matter how many thousand Leagues of Nations we may have, how many Parliaments of Man we may establish, they will be used simply as in the play of checkers; these various nations will be used as excuses and pretexts, and these various organizations for no other purpose but to further the schemes and machinations of the plotting governments.

His Holiness, BAHÁ'O'LLAH, planted the seeds of love, fraternity, brotherhood, humanity and kindness in the field of the universe, and day by day, we see with our own eyes that these seeds are being watered with the heavenly rain; they are growing and sprouting, little by little, till some day a great harvest will be gathered.

This is, therefore, the glorious cycle in which these universal ideals must be fully practiced; this is the age in which the hopes, the dreams, of all the prophets must come to pass; this is the time in which the flowers of intelligence must spread their perfumes throughout the world, making the world of humanity one home; the people as the members of one family and the growing plants of one garden.

“In this Dispensation consultation with expert doctors is highly advisable”

WORDS OF ABDUL-BAHA ON PHYSICAL HEALTH

ONE of the pilgrims to Abdul-Baha sends the following to the STAR OF THE WEST: “I am enclosing a most remarkable message of Abdul-Baha to my mother about her physical health. It seems that during my two interviews with him, I neglected to speak about her condition, so when I left I wrote Shoghi Rabbani and explained fully that the doctors disagreed as to what was her trouble, how some advised an operation while others did not. She did

not know what to do. Shoghi has just sent me a letter saying he has explained fully mother's case to the Master and his answer is this:

“*I ever pray on her behalf and beg from God His divine remedy and healing. As in this Dispensation consultation with expert doctors is highly advisable and acting in accordance with their prescriptions obligatory, it is well for her to undergo an operation if deemed necessary by such doctors.*”