



MEDITATIONS ON

R E S I S T I N G

*Passivity*

ELEVATE



*I*ndifference breeds deterioration.

Silence is the cause of retrogression.

Thoughtlessness leads to forgetfulness.

Passivity, inaction, produce oblivion.

Consequently do ye not seek one moment of rest by day or by night.

Nay, rather strive after composure of heart in the heaven of Unity.

Do ye not for one moment obey  
the instinct of the worldly consciousness for ease.

Seek ye divine happiness  
through the hardships and sorrows of this physical world,  
and behold spiritual well-being in the struggles of this fleeting existence.

Attributed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá

*C*reation is the expression of motion. Motion is life.

A moving object is a living object,  
whereas that which is motionless and inert is as dead.

All created forms are progressive in their planes, or kingdoms of existence,  
under the stimulus of the power or spirit of life. The universal energy is dynamic.

Nothing is stationary in the material world of outer phenomena  
or in the inner world of intellect and consciousness.

Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality.  
Therefore, it must be living, vitalised, moving and progressive.

If it be without motion and nonprogressive,  
it is without the divine life; it is dead.

The divine institutes are continuously active and evolutionary;  
therefore, the revelation of them must be progressive and continuous.  
All things are subject to reformation. This is a century of life and renewal.

Sciences and arts, industry and invention have been reformed.

Law and ethics have been reconstituted, reorganised.

The world of thought has been regenerated.

Sciences of former ages and philosophies of the past are useless today.

Present exigencies demand new methods of solution;  
world problems are without precedent.

Old ideas and modes of thought are fast becoming obsolete.

Ancient laws and archaic ethical systems will not meet the requirements of modern conditions,  
for this is clearly the century of a new life, the century of the revelation of reality  
and, therefore, the greatest of all centuries.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*B*e anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in,  
and centre your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.

Bahá'u'lláh

*T*hey who are the people of God must,  
with fixed resolve and perfect confidence,  
keep their eyes directed towards the Day Spring of Glory,  
and be busied in whatever may be conducive  
to the betterment of the world and the education of its peoples.

Bahá'u'lláh

*P*assivity is bred by the forces of society today.

A desire to be entertained is nurtured from childhood, with increasing efficiency, cultivating generations willing to be led by whoever proves skillful at appealing to superficial emotions. Even in many educational systems students are treated as though they were receptacles designed to receive information.

That the Bahá'í world has succeeded in developing a culture which promotes a way of thinking, studying, and acting, in which all consider themselves as treading a common path of service—supporting one another and advancing together, respectful of the knowledge that each one possesses at any given moment and avoiding the tendency to divide the believers into categories such as deepened and uninformed—is an accomplishment of enormous proportions. And therein lie the dynamics of an irrepressible movement.

The Universal House of Justice

Guard against idleness and sloth,  
and cling unto that which profiteth mankind...

Baha'u'llah

*N*ow must the friends work on with heart and soul  
and put forth a mighty effort,  
until the ramparts of dissension are toppled down  
and the glories of the oneness of humanity lead all to unity.

'Abdu'l-Bahá



Ours is the duty to fix our gaze with undeviating attention on the duties and responsibilities confronting us at this present hour, to concentrate our resources, both material and spiritual, on the tasks that lie immediately ahead, to insure that no time is wasted, that no opportunity is missed, that no obligation is evaded, that no task is halfheartedly performed, that no decision is procrastinated.

The task summoning us to a challenge, unprecedented in its gravity and force, is too vast and sacred, the time too short, the hour too perilous, the workers too few, the call too insistent, the resources too inadequate, for us to allow these precious and fleeting hours to slip from our grasp, and to suffer the prizes within our reach to be endangered or forfeited.

Shoghi Effendi

*T*his is not a Cause which may be made a plaything for your idle fancies,  
nor is it a field for the foolish and faint of heart.  
By God, this is the arena of insight and detachment,  
of vision and upliftment,  
where none may spur on their chargers  
save the valiant horsemen of the Merciful,  
who have severed all attachment to the world of being.

Bahá'u'lláh

*T*here is no time to lose.

The masses, greatly tried by the calamities of the age,  
restless, disappointed, and eager to obtain real and complete relief  
in their hour of trial, hunger for the Message of the new Day,  
and will, if properly approached and appealed to,  
embrace the great verities it enshrines.

Shoghi Effendi

*A*rise and, armed with the power of faith,  
shatter to pieces the gods of your vain imaginings,  
the sowers of dissension amongst you.  
Cleave unto that which draweth you together and uniteth you.

Bahá'u'lláh



*T*hough single-handed,  
and no matter how great the apathy of the people around you may be,  
you should have faith that the hosts of the Kingdom are on your side,  
and that through their help you are bound to overcome  
the forces of darkness that are facing the Cause of God.  
Persevere, be happy and confident, therefore.

Shoghi Effendi

*W*hy then are ye quenched, why silent, why leaden and dull?

Ye must shine forth like the lightning,  
and raise up a clamouring like unto the great sea.....

Now is the time to serve, now is the time to be on fire.

Know ye the value of this chance, this favourable juncture that is limitless grace,  
ere it slip from your hands. Soon will our handful of days, our vanishing life,

be gone, and we shall pass, empty-handed,  
into the hollow that is dug for those who speak no more;  
wherefore must we bind our hearts to the manifest Beauty,  
and cling to the lifeline that faileth never.

We must gird ourselves for service, kindle love's flame, and burn away in its heat.

We must loose our tongues till we set the wide world's heart afire,  
and with bright rays of guidance blot out the armies of the night,  
and then, for His sake, on the field of sacrifice, fling down our lives.

'Abdu'l-Bahá



Thou kind God! In the utmost state of humility and submission  
do we entreat and supplicate at Thy threshold,  
seeking Thine endless confirmations and illimitable assistance.

O Thou Lord! Regenerate these souls, and confer upon them a new life.

Animate the spirits, inform the hearts,  
open the eyes, and make the ears attentive.

From Thine ancient treasury confer a new being and animus,  
and from Thy preexistent abode assist them to attain to new confirmations.

O God! Verily, the world is in need of reformation.  
Bestow upon it a new existence. Give it newness of thoughts,  
and reveal unto it heavenly sciences.  
Breathe into it a fresh spirit, and grant unto it a holier and higher purpose.

O God! Verily, Thou hast made this century radiant,  
and in it Thou hast manifested Thy merciful effulgence.  
Thou hast effaced the darkness of superstitions and permitted the light of assurance to shine.

O God! Grant that these servants may be acceptable at Thy threshold.  
Reveal a new heaven, and spread out a new earth for habitation...  
Bestow new thoughts, new life upon mankind.  
Endow souls with new perceptions, and confer upon them new virtues.  
Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful. Thou art the Giver, the Generous.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*R*est not, even for an instant,  
and seek not comfort, even for a moment;  
rather labour with heart and soul  
that thou mayest render devoted service  
to but one amongst the friends  
and bring happiness and joy  
to but one luminous heart.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá



*M*ake ye a mighty effort, and choose for yourselves a noble goal...

Raise ye a clamour like unto a roaring sea;  
like a prodigal cloud, rain down the grace of heaven.  
Lift up your voices and sing out the songs of the Abhá Realm.  
Quench ye the fires of war, lift high the banners of peace,  
work for the oneness of humankind  
and remember that religion is the channel of love unto all peoples...

The portals of His blessings are opened wide and His signs are published abroad  
and the glory of truth is blazing forth; inexhaustible are the blessings.

Know ye the value of this time. Strive ye with all your hearts,  
raise up your voices and shout, until this dark world be filled with light,  
and this narrow place of shadows be widened out,  
and this dust heap of a fleeting moment be changed into a mirror  
for the eternal gardens of heaven, and this globe of earth  
receive its portion of celestial grace.

Then will aggression crumble away,  
and all that maketh for disunity be destroyed,  
and the structure of oneness be raised.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

1. Attributed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá', in *Baha'i Scriptures: Selections from the Utterances of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá'*, ed. Horace Holley, (New York: Brentano Inc., 1923), no.798, p.439. ↵
2. *The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Talks Delivered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His Visit to the United States and Canada in 1912* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982), pp. 140. ↵
3. Bahá'u'lláh, 'Lawh-i-Mánikchí-Sáhib', published in *The Tabernacle of Unity* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 2006), p.5. ↵
4. *Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1990), no. 126, p.270. ↵
5. From the Ridván 2010 message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the world. ↵
6. Baha'u'llah, 'Tablet of Wisdom', *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas* (Wilmette: US Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1988), p.138. ↵
7. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1982), no. 210, pp.277. ↵
8. Shoghi Effendi, 'A God-Given Mandate', a letter dated 15 June 1946, published in *This Decisive Hour: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the North American Baha'is, 1932 - 1946* (Wilmette, US Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2003). ↵
9. Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1992), p.84. ↵
10. *Letters from the Guardian to Australia and New Zealand 1923-1957* (Sydney: National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia Incorporated, 1970), p. 62. ↵
11. *Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, no.111, p.217. ↵
12. From a letter dated 30 June 1937 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, published in 'Guidelines for Teaching', *Compilation of Compilations* (1991), vol.2, no.1948. ↵
13. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, no. 210, pp.266-267. ↵
14. *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p.276. ↵
15. From a Tablet of 'Abdu'l-Bahá—translated from the Persia, in *Compilation for the 2018 Counsellors' Conference*. ↵
16. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, no. 17, pp.35-36. ↵



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