

*If This is a
New Day,
Why Are
People Sleeping?*



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If This is a New Day, Why are People Sleeping?

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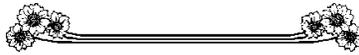


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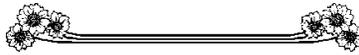
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The Advent of the One Promised in All Scriptures

The poor man is not he who is without a cent, but he who is without a dream.

Many people find religion out of touch with a changing world. They sense a need for a faith that can rekindle God's love in the heart of humanity, that can lead the diverse peoples of our planet to peace and unity. They dream of a faith that can:

- Satisfy both their hearts and minds.
- Respond to their quest for purpose and meaning in a rational way.
- Uplift them from the monotony of "just making a living and keeping up with everyone else" to a new vision and a new world, to spiritual wellness and fulfillment.

For millions, that dream, that world and vision are now a reality. They are the followers of a new faith with a new name:

...thou shalt be called by *a new name*... Thou shalt also be a crown of *glory*... Isaiah 63:2-3

Him who overcomes [apathy, fear, distrust] I will make a pillar in the temple of my God...*I will also write on him my new name*. Christ (Rev. 3:12 NIV)

The new name is *Bahá'í*, which simply means the enlightened and the glorified. A Bahá'í is one who follows *Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God*, and lives the "Bahá'í, or the enlightened, life." This statement portrays a segment of that life:

Bahá'ís live in more than two hundred countries and territories of the world. They are people who formerly had different and conflicting religious backgrounds. They had

been Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Protestants, Catholics, or else they had no religion at all. They have found in the Bahá'í Faith a basis of unity that makes the competition of sects and denominations seem unimportant to them.

Bahá'u'lláh invites anyone who would like to see the banquet of the Kingdom, anyone who has a desire to investigate the fulfillment of God's promises, anyone who thirsts for a new spiritual awareness:

Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Christ (Rev. 22:17 NIV)

...forfeit not thy portion from My wondrous fountain, lest thou shouldst thirst for evermore.¹ Bahá'u'lláh

The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth for him.² Bahá'u'lláh

Once again God is extending His hand to all those who are weary of living in the darkness of dissension, disorder, and the stress of a demanding world. He calls all those who have a desire to arise to the dawning of a glorious day and bathe in the light of His unspeakable splendor:

...the Day Star of Truth hath, in this Day, shed upon the world a radiance, the like of which bygone ages have never witnessed. Let the light of His glory, O people, shine upon you...³ Bahá'u'lláh

Come...let us walk in the light of the Lord. Isaiah 2:5 NIV

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you...Lift up your eyes and look about you...Then you will...be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy...
Isaiah 60:1,4,5 NIV
See also Rev. 21:23-24

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die...But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief...

Christ (Rev. 3:2-3 NIV)

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Christ (John 1:5 NIV)

The Dawn hath broken, yet the people understand not.⁴

Bahá'u'lláh

The followers of Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God) are not only called by a new name, they also live in a new city:

The city does not need the sun or the moon, for *the glory of the Lord* gives it light.

Christ (Rev. 21:23 NIV)

The sun shall no longer be your light by day...the Lord shall be your everlasting light, your *God shall be your glory*.

Isaiah 60:19 NEB

And I...am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see My glory [Glory of God].

Isaiah 66:18

The new city is ruled by a new order:

...the old order of things has passed away..."I am making everything new!"

Christ (Rev. 21:4-5 NIV)

Soon will the present-day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead.⁵

Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'ís of today are the seekers and dreamers of yesterday with this hope and dream: that there had to be more to life than what most people assume and accept. They believe that in the Bahá'í Faith you will discover a breadth of knowledge you have never known before. They maintain that by following their example, you will be able to restore and strengthen your love of God and renew your hope for a better world and a richer and more abundant life for yourself. The investments you need to make are these:

- To have a dream,
- To trust that the dream will come true, and
- To pursue your dream.

The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn; the bird waits in the egg; and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities.

James Allen

We grow great by dreams. All big men are dreamers. They see things in the soft haze of a spring day or in the red fire of a long winter's evening. Some of us let these great dreams die, but others nourish and protect them; nurse them through bad days till they bring them to the sunshine and light which comes always to those who sincerely hope that their dreams will come true.

Woodrow Wilson

Until one is committed,
there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back,
always ineffectiveness.

Concerning acts of initiative...
there is one elementary truth
the ignorance of which kills countless ideas
and splendid plans:

That the moment one definitely commits oneself
then Providence moves too.

All sorts of things occur to help one
that would otherwise never have occurred.

A whole stream of events issues from the decision...
which no man could have dreamt
would come his way.

Goethe

Even as a sail, our longing desire for truth catches the breath of God and guides us to our glorious destiny.

The Glory of Being Human

Few people realize the greatness of human beings and the enormous capacities they have for self-development and a sense of wellness and perfect harmony with life.

How resplendent the luminaries of knowledge that shine in an atom, and how vast the oceans of wisdom that surge within a drop! To a supreme degree is this true of man, who, among all created things, hath been invested with the robe of such gifts, and hath been singled out for the glory of such distinction. For in him are potentially revealed all the attributes and names of God to a degree that no other created being hath excelled or surpassed. All these names and attributes are applicable to him. Even as He hath said: “Man is My mystery, and I am his mystery.”⁶ Bahá’u’lláh

But by far the greatest segment of human capacities remain dormant, languishing and perishing in the bonds of stagnation. Their distress call and their constant cry for expression and freedom can be heard in every part of our planet. The signs of their anguish and stress are apparent in the lives of people of every persuasion from the simplest to the most sophisticated.

The winds of despair are, alas, blowing from every direction...⁷ Bahá’u’lláh

What can set human capacities free and make them thrive is the light of “the knowledge of God” a light that dawns in every new age, each time more intensely.

The spirit that animateth the human heart is the knowledge of God...⁸ Bahá’u’lláh

As soon as we allow the radiance and glory of the new dawning to reach us, a sudden transformation occurs within us—one as drastic as the growth of a humble seed into a magnificent flower. The dormant powers unfold and burst into full bloom. Every human being is capable of this transformation.

Psychologist Dr. Wayne Dyer notes “Your thoughts are so powerful they shape your life. The only thing more powerful is the power that controls the universe. When your own thought get in harmony with the higher power, you achieve the ‘awakened life.’”

The potentialities inherent in the station of man, the full measure of his destiny on earth, the innate excellence of his reality, must all be manifested in this promised Day of God.⁹
Bahá’u’lláh

But sadly, the perfect seeds of human capacities are seldom allowed to bask in the new dawning, in the spring and splendor of God’s ever-unfolding glory. Most of them perish in the winter of discontent and despair. Some social scientists maintain that no loss on our planet, however vast its magnitude, can compare with the enormous loss of human potential. The eminent psychologist Abraham Maslow estimates that only one percent of the population attains self-actualization.

Bahá’u’lláh reveals:

- A vast store of knowledge about man’s nature and his ever-unfolding destiny.
- A knowledge that unveils life’s beauty and perfection in ever-increasing measures.
- A knowledge that sets the individual free from the negative and trivial images that surround him and lifts him up into a vast and wondrous dimension, unspeakably glorious.

This knowledge stirs a vision of greatness in the hearts of even the lowliest human beings. The following anecdote¹⁰ illustrates how this vision can transform and elevate a lonely and forgotten being to glory and self-fulfillment.

Do you see yourself as a weed or as a flower? Suppose you thought you were a weed. You saw beautiful flowers growing

all around you, and wondered why you were not one of them. Sometimes you dreamed about being a flower, but you knew that you were only dreaming—riding upon the soft arch of a rainbow.

You felt the flowers around you needed more space. So you bent a little here, a little there. And you thought they needed more food. So you starved yourself a little to allow them more. The hardest time for you was the spring, when the air stirred the flowers to grow tall and blossom into blazing beauty and splendor.

Now suppose that one day the gardener came to pick some tulips, and he suddenly saw you bending and shivering under the shade of towering trees and flowers. Then you heard him say, “This lovely, little flower needs more sun!” At first you would not believe the gardener, but you wanted to, and you began to wonder. Then you looked carefully at yourself and suddenly saw what you could only have believed in your dreams. You saw yourself as a beautiful, budding flower!

First you felt sad that so many springs of your life had passed away without ever looking carefully at yourself, without ever seeing and knowing who you really were. But then the stir of the spring filled your soul and removed all your grief and sorrow. The April showers came and washed away all your past memories. You said “I am a new creature now. I am a beautiful, budding flower. Someday the gardener will pick me and put me on his heart, or take me to his home to put in a beautiful bouquet. I will fill his house with my fragrance. I will dance to his breath, smile on his face, and thank him for showing me what I really was, for calling me by a new name, and planting in my soul the seed of a new destiny.”

We are wanderers and seekers in this vast universe. Our goal is God. The light that leads us to Him is truth and knowledge. As soon as we allow the glimmer of truth to touch our souls, a sudden transformation takes place. Our dormant powers begin

to flower and burst into full bloom. As ordained by God, each person must seek the light for himself; it is not done for him. That which kindles the soul is “longing desire:”

Only when the lamp of search, of earnest striving, of longing desire, of passionate devotion, of fervid love, of rapture, and ecstasy, is kindled within the seeker’s heart, and the breeze of His [God’s] loving-kindness is wafted upon his soul, will the darkness of error be dispelled, the mists of doubts and misgivings be dissipated, and the lights of knowledge and certitude envelop his being. At that hour will the mystic Herald, bearing the joyful tidings of the Spirit, shine forth from the City of God resplendent as the morn, and, through the trumpet-blast of knowledge, will awaken the heart, the soul, and the spirit from the slumber of negligence. Then will the manifold favors and outpouring grace of the holy and everlasting Spirit confer such new life upon the seeker that he will find himself endowed with a new eye, a new ear, a new heart, and a new mind. He will contemplate the manifest signs of the universe, and will penetrate the hidden mysteries of the soul. Gazing with the eye of God, he will perceive within every atom a door that leadeth him to the stations of absolute certitude.¹¹

Bahá’u’lláh

The dust of illusions has tarnished the joys and wonders of being human. Bahá’u’lláh draws a new image of man, an image immersed in splendor, shimmering in love and hope.

The heights which, through the most gracious favor of God, mortal man can attain, in this Day, are as yet unrevealed to his sight. The world of being hath never had, nor doth it yet possess the capacity for such a revelation.¹²

Bahá’u’lláh

Life is a divine investment. It should be savored and used for service, self-growth, and spiritual fulfillment, for the unfolding of beauty and perfection laid in every soul. It should not be buried under illusions—indecision, apathy, cynicism, and despair.

Dawn of a New Age

All sacred Scriptures predict the coming of a New Age, which will mark the crowning point in the life of the world. It is an age when peace and prosperity prevail, when love, hope, and harmony encircle the heart of humanity, when the earth becomes one country and all nations its citizens:

“When that time comes...I will gather all the nations together” (Joel 3:1-2 NEB). “I removed the boundaries of nations...as men gather abandoned eggs, so I gathered all the countries” (Isa. 10:13-14 NIV). “Every wall will fall to the ground” (Eze. 38:20 NIV, see also Zeph. 2:1-3).

Has the time of fulfillment come? Is the promised day on the horizon?

Surely, as I have planned, so it will be...This is the plan [of unity and peace] determined for the whole world; this is the hand [of God] stretched out over all nations. For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back? Isaiah 14:24-27 NIV

Yet so it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the “Most Great Peace” shall come...Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind...¹³ Bahá’u’lláh

...the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord...the times of the restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by all his holy prophets... Acts 3:19-21

Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship...So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The one true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words.¹⁴ Bahá’u’lláh

Has the time come for a new “order of things”? A few have sensed the stirring of the spring:

“A new partnership of nations has begun...A new world order...stronger in the pursuit of justice and more secure in the quest for peace...A hundred generations have searched for this elusive path to peace...where the rule of law supplants the rule of the jungle. A world in which nations recognize the shared responsibility...and...the strong respect the rights of the weak.” “We are blessed by the promise of peace.” “Out of these troubled times...a New World Order can emerge.”

U.S. President George Bush

This is the end of one road but also a milestone on a new road to a new and harmonious world.

Douglas Hurd
British Foreign Secretary

...we have started counting the time of the new age.

Eduard A. Shevardnadze
Soviet Foreign Minister

Bahá'ís believe that the new age began in 1844 with the birth of a global faith with this radical message: the time has come to “make everything new” (Rev. 21:5), to gather all the nations together, to turn our planet into one country, and declare all its peoples the citizens of one world.

“The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.”¹⁵
Bend your minds and wills to the education of the peoples and kindreds of the earth, that haply the dissensions that divide it may, through the power of the Most Great Name, be blotted out from its face, and all mankind become the upholders of one Order, and the inhabitants of one City.”¹⁶

Bahá'u'lláh

This message of global unity seemed radical in the 19th century, but no longer. Indeed it is being increasingly declared by enlightened thinkers of our time as the only path to a peaceful world, as an idea, indeed a necessity whose time has come.

There is nothing quite so powerful in the world as an idea
whose time has come. Victor Hugo

We live in a new age, and we must learn a new mode of “global” thinking. Our very survival depends on it. We must learn to think *first* “planetary” and *then* “parochial or provincial.” Conventional thinking cannot remedy an unconventional crisis: an emerging family of nations intimately intertwined and interdependent, yet constantly in conflict and at war, and on the brink of a catastrophe:

The splitting of the atom has changed everything save our mode of thinking, and thus we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking...to survive. Albert Einstein

On this shrunken globe, men can no longer live as strangers. Adli Stevenson

Mankind’s salvation lies exclusively in everyone’s making everything his business, in the people of the East being anything but indifferent to what is thought in the West, and in the people of the West being anything but indifferent to what happens in the East. Alexander Solzhenitsyn

We need to cultivate a global perspective for yet another reason: for our own sense of well-being, for our own feelings of harmony and peace, for our own spiritual enrichment. As Einstein declares, to attain self-fulfillment, and experience life’s beauty and perfection, we must see ourselves as part of the whole universe. But because of “an optical delusion of our consciousness” we feel separated from the whole. “This delusion,” Einstein maintains, “is a prison restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task is to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in all its beauty.”

And the splendor of that light [of truth, beauty, and perfection] is in the hearts, yet it is hidden...even as a candle within a lantern of iron, and only when the lantern is removed doth the light of the candle shine out.

In like manner, when thou strippest the wrappings of illusion...the lights of oneness will be made manifest.¹⁷

Bahá'u'lláh

Lift up the veil that obscureth your vision, and dispel the darkness...that ye may...behold that which no eye hath beheld, and hear that which no ear hath heard.¹⁸

Bahá'u'lláh

The Bahá'í Faith is “the light of oneness” that reveals life’s beauty in all its splendor. It is a perspective that inspires cosmic consciousness by lifting the hearts to higher dimensions of harmony and perfection. It is the flash of insight that eliminates all the “optical delusions” of separation; it is the attitude that expands “the me” into “the we,” “the mine” into “the ours,” the small circle of family bond to the entire human family.

Among “the optical delusions of consciousness” that separate humankind is the concept of racial superiority.

...the prejudice of race: it is an illusion...¹⁹

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord. If you meet those of different race and color from yourself, do not mistrust them and withdraw yourself into your shell of conventionality, but rather be glad and show them kindness.²⁰

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Another “optical delusion” that divides the world and distorts reality is the concept of religious superiority. In the light of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings, this distortion also fades away. The Bahá'í Faith demonstrates the oneness of all great faiths and establishes their absolute interrelatedness and harmony.

Their unity is absolute. God, the Creator, saith: There is no distinction whatsoever among the Bearers of My Message.²¹
Bahá'u'lláh

One Light, Many Lamps

This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past,
eternal in the future.²²
Bahá'u'lláh

Although the “oneness of race” is acknowledged by many, especially the educated, the “oneness of religion” still stands beyond the scope of universal recognition. Each of the great faiths of the world stands as a single “word,” meaningful in itself but seemingly unrelated to other “words.” Although the followers of these faiths worship the same God, the one Creator of the universe, each of them acknowledges and glorifies only one of His “words” as the ultimate truth, and ignores, scorns, or underrates the others.

All prejudices, whether of religion, race, politics or nation,
must be renounced...²³
‘Abdu’l-Bahá

O ye that dwell on earth! The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension.²⁴
Bahá'u'lláh

We desire... That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers... that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be annulled... These strifes and this bloodshed and discord must cease, and all men be as one kindred and one family.²⁵
Bahá'u'lláh

All great faiths, like the gateways of a temple, have equally led people to God. Our sense of separation and superiority result from looking at the gateways, instead of stepping into the temple and basking in the light of oneness.

Is not My [God’s] way equal? Are not your ways unequal?
Ezekiel 18:25

God is one, religion is one, truth is one:

This is the way, walk ye in it. Isaiah 30:21

I am the way—and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Christ (John 14:6 NIV)

Just this path, there is no other.²⁶ Buddha

This is the true Path of God...²⁷ The Báb

...this Book is verily the Straight Path. This is the Way of God unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth.²⁸ Bahá'u'lláh

This is the right Faith, but the greater part of them know it not. Qur'án 30:29

There is only one religious way. This one way is that of good thoughts, good words, and good deeds, the way of heaven, of light and of purity, of the infinite Creator.²⁹ Zoroaster

The knowledge that Bahá'u'lláh has disclosed, and the understanding and insight that He has inspired, have set in motion a cycle of change and evolution that in time will revolutionize the spiritual life of the entire planet.

We have, at the bidding of the omnipotent Ordainer, breathed a new life into every human frame, and instilled into every word a fresh potency. All created things proclaim the evidences of this world-wide regeneration.³⁰ Bahá'u'lláh

The knowledge that Bahá'u'lláh has bestowed, like a spiritual kaleidoscope, suddenly reveals a vast and magnificent image, unspeakably glorious: God's grand design of creation. It shows that the seemingly disjointed "words" are the outpouring and unraveling of the thoughts of a single and supreme Author with an ever-advancing message of hope and harmony. It generates a sudden flash of insight that dispels the illusions of separation and superiority, and allows the splendor of "the light of oneness" to break out with dazzling brightness.

Truth is like a candle inside a multicolored lamp. Every religion reveals a unique color, but the candle is one.

The following story, adopted from a great poet, illustrates the role of the Bahá'í Faith in reconciling the diverse religions, races, and nations of the world. Three travelers found a coin, that they wanted to share. A simple solution was to buy something and then divide it equally. But they faced this problem: they spoke different languages and could not fully communicate. While they were talking in vain and getting nowhere, another traveler who was listening to them, and knew all three languages, found their trivial but seemingly serious problem quite amusing. He saw them “disagreeing” on something about which they had perfect agreement. Each of them was saying in his own language that he wanted grapes!

Not only among family members, but also among nations and religions, much conflict comes from miscommunication and misunderstanding. The three travelers carried “the light of oneness” in the hearts, but that light was obscured and distorted by language. When Bahá'u'lláh's teaching on the adoption of an auxiliary universal language becomes a reality, this obstacle of distortion will also fade away.

The day is approaching when all the peoples of the world will have adopted one universal language and one common script.³¹

Bahá'u'lláh

The Epidemic Spread of Apathy

A spiritual disease prevalent in our time is apathy. The first stage of medical treatment is diagnosis: an assessment of the symptoms and the severity and the spread of the disease. A serious symptom of apathy is a lack of symptoms! The patient loses the ability to feel or transmit any electric currents, any

spiritual sensations. No news can excite him. Even if he hears from a highly reliable source the Greatest and Most Joyous News—the News of the return of his Lord—he responds with indifference as if he has been told that the forecast for the next day is rain!

The following verses are addressed specifically to the people of this age, those who live at the time of the Second Advent:

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are [spiritually] dead. Wake up!...But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief... Revelation 3:1-3 NIV

That is the day when I come like a thief! Happy the man who stays awake... Revelation 16:15 NEB

Our Creator's judgment of those who live in this age is that they appear to be alive but they are not. A robot may walk, talk, and even solve problems, but has no spirit. What can be expected from believers who have lost their soul? Do they have the power or desire to look, to watch, and to pay attention to the news of the coming of their Lord in the "garb of a thief," as an ordinary human being?

A person stricken with apathy denies being sick, let alone being dead. In fact, he may think he is quite healthy! In the following statement, our Creator speaks to him in the most moving language. Seldom can we find such a harsh and blunt reprimand in sacred Scriptures:

These are the words of...the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful

nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes [his apathy], I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3:14-22 NIV

Consider what Christian scholar, Dr. John White states about the Second Advent:

We ought to study about His coming, sing about it, preach it, talk about it, write about it and spread the precious word of hope everywhere.³²

Now that He has come, most Christians are doing nothing! Why? Because He has not come the way they thought He would! Should He go back and return from the sky according to their desire? Should He conform to their ways?

The Most Joyful Tidings

O SON OF SPIRIT!

With the joyful tidings of light I hail thee: rejoice! To the court of holiness I summon thee; abide therein that thou mayest live in peace for evermore.³³

Bahá'u'lláh

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them...for he comes...

Psalms 96:11-13 NIV

Verily this is the Day in which both land and sea rejoice...³⁴

Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh assures us that a new capacity, a new potential is infused into every human being. Every soul is bursting with a

new power. Every heavenly dream can now blossom forth into splendid splendor.

...the sweet savors of God...made all things new...³⁵ Bahá'u'lláh

This is the Day whereon naught can be seen except the splendors of the Light that shineth from the face of Thy Lord... We have...called into being a new creation, as a token of Our grace...³⁶ Bahá'u'lláh

...be glad and rejoice in what I will create. Isaiah 65:18 NIV

This is the Day of great rejoicing. It behoveth everyone to hasten towards the court of His nearness with exceeding joy...³⁷ Bahá'u'lláh

Our only task is to awaken to the new dawning, to unveil the splendor of the light hidden in our hearts, to activate the glory of the divine dormant in our souls.

Many people feel despondent. Like the small “weed” in the shade, they see little if any lasting hope and purpose in their lives. They live in the bare winter of gloom and despair; they shiver in the cold of unawareness, apathy, and silence. Their only goal is survival, their only dream and glory is to meet the demands of the day. They are unaware that the long-awaited spring has dawned with awesome splendor. It is bursting with a power that can transform every seed into breathless beauty, every “weed” into exquisite fragrance.

Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create...

Isaiah 65:17-18 NIV

We have...called into being a new creation...³⁸ Bahá'u'lláh

When we replace our ways with God's ways and see everything through His eyes, we become a new creation. We need to leave the self behind and rejoice in receiving God's gift of a new heart and soul:

I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them (Eze. 11:19 NIV). Like clothing you will change them (Psa. 102:26 NIV).

The transformation of the soul is of such a grand scale that it astonishes the seeker of truth:

At every moment he beholdeth a wondrous world, a new creation, and goeth from astonishment to astonishment, and is lost in awe at the works of the Lord of Oneness.³⁹

Bahá'u'lláh

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will...all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye... I Cor. 15:51-52 NIV

Such is the potency of the Divine Elixir, which, swift as the twinkling of an eye, transmuteth the souls of men!⁴⁰

Bahá'u'lláh

Without God, life is but a glittering illusion embedded in despair and darkness. Knowing Him and unraveling the mysteries of His wisdom in earth and heaven is the first and the last step to an awakened life.

Seize, O friends, the chance which this Day offereth you, and deprive not yourselves...of His grace.⁴¹

Bahá'u'lláh

Seize thy chance, for it will come to thee no more.⁴²

Bahá'u'lláh

If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink.

Christ (John 7:37)

...O my God...where is the thirsty one who can direct his face towards the living waters of Thy love?⁴³

Bahá'u'lláh

It is incumbent in this Day, upon every man to place his whole trust in the manifold bounties of God...⁴⁴

Bahá'u'lláh

Imperishable glory I have chosen for thee... While there is yet time, return, and lose not thy chance.⁴⁵

Bahá'u'lláh

References

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3. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 319.
4. *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 75.
5. *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 122.
6. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 177.
7. *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 113.
8. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 291.
9. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 340.
10. I wish to acknowledge my debt for the basic theme of this anecdote to an anonymous writer.
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14. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 288.
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18. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 320.
19. *Paris Talks*, p. 148.
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29. Books of Quotations.
30. *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 84.
31. *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 115.
32. White, John Wesley. *Re-entry*, Minneapolis, MN: World Wide Publications, 1971, p. 179.
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36. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 29-30.
37. *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 78-79.
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39. *The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys*, p. 32.
40. *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 157.
41. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 206.
42. *The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh* (Persian), no. 40.
43. *Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 8.
44. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 13-14.
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