The Baha'is of the Lehigh Valley Little Pond, November 27, 2011

IS PEACE POSSIBLE?



1. Prayer—Abdu'l Baha

Now is the time for the lovers of God to raise high the banners of unity, to intone, in the assemblages of the world, the verses of friendship and love and to demonstrate to all that the grace of God is one. Thus will the tabernacles of holiness be upraised on the summits of the earth, gathering all peoples into the protective shadow of the World of Oneness. This great bounty will dawn over the world at the time when the lovers of God shall arise to carry out His Teachings, and to scatter far and wide the fresh sweet scents of universal love.

2. Psalm 133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for breathren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron. Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing of life for evermore.

3. Isaiah 64:1-9

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

4. Ojibway Prayer Grandfather Look at our brokenness

We know that in all creation Only the human family Has strayed from the Sacred Way.

We know that we are the ones who are divided And we are the ones Who must come back together To walk the Sacred Way

Grandfather, Sacred One, Teach us love, compassion, and honor That we may heal the earth And heal each other.

5. Poem/Song—Emily Dickinson

Will there really be a "Morning"? Is there such a thing as "Day"? Could I see it from the mountains If I were as tall as they?

Has it feet like Water lilies? Has it feathers like a Bird? Is it brought from famous countries Of which I have never heard?

Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor! Oh some Wise Man from the skies! Please to tell a little Pilgrim Where the place called "Morning" lies!

6. from Abdu'l Baha in London 1911

O NOBLE friends; seekers after God! Praised be to God! Today the light of Truth is shining upon the world in its abundance; the breezes of the heavenly garden are blowing throughout all regions; the call of the Kingdom is heard in all lands, and the breath of the Holy Spirit is felt in all hearts that are faithful. The Spirit of God is giving eternal life. In this wonderful age the East is enlightened, the West is fragrant, and everywhere the soul inhales the holy perfume. The sea of the unity of mankind is lifting up its waves with joy, for there is real communication between the hearts and minds of men. The banner of the Holy Spirit is uplifted, and men see it, and are assured with the knowledge that this is a new day. This is a new cycle of human power. All the horizons of the world of are luminous, and the world will become indeed as a garden and a paradise. It is the hour of unity of the sons of men and of the drawing together of all races and all classes. You are loosed from the ancient superstitions which have kept men ignorant, destroying the foundation of true humanity. The gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind and of the fundamental oneness of religion. War shall cease between the nations, and by the will of God the Most Great Peace shall come; the world will be seen as a new world, and all men will live as brothers.

7. from Artarva Veda

From that which we fear, make us fearless O bounteous One, assist us with your aid. May the atmosphere we breathe Breathe fearlessness into us: Fearlessness on earth And fearlessness in heaven! May fearlessness surround us Above and below! May we live without fear By night and day! Let all the world be my friend

8. Prayer—Gerald Heard (Christian Prayers and Meditations)

O God, who has revealed to us that of all virtues Love may for us most clearly describe Thy infinite nature, and that when we selflessly love we approach most nearly to Thy presence: Grant to us therefore this the supreme virtue; for Thou hast shown us that, without it, persistence hardens into pride, peace chills to cold-heartedness and even humility sinks to despair. But enkindled by loving kindness all these virtues become alive, bearing us up into Thy presence where alone our hearts may rest.

Samar Fishermen's Song—Philappines

Brothers of the sea Look at the stars Look at the deep blue And set the world free. Our right is to live and be free; Freedom will not come from the outside. It is only in ourselves united. My hope is that all the handmaids of God in that region will unite like unto the waves of one unending sea; for although blown about as the wind listeth, these are separate in themselves, yet in truth are they all at one with the boundless seep.

How good it is if the friends be as close as sheaves of light, if they stand together side by side in a firm unbroken line. For now have the rays of reality from the Sun of the world of existence, united in adoration al the worshippers of this light; and these rays have, through infinite grace, gathered all peoples together within this wide-spreading shelter; therefore must all souls become as one soul, and all hearts as one heart. Let all be set free from the multiple identities that were born of passion and desire, and in the ones of their love for Go find a new way of life.

10. Song—Mozart—Dona Nobis Pacem

(Give us Peace)

9. Prayer- Abdu'l Baha