



Love

Divine Power of Attraction

Issues for Discourse with Youth

Bahá'í Discourse - Love

Love

Love is too often applied only to sexual attraction, but this is never more than superficial and temporary.

In spiritual terms, it refers to the paternal benevolence and affection of God, to the affectionate devotion due to God from his creatures, and to the affection of one created being to another. (Oxford Universal Dictionary)

This Divine Love has many dimensions.

Divine Love

Love is, in reality, the first effulgence of Divinity and the greatest splendor of God.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), p.397)



Love

Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul.

(Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá §12)

Love

Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world, and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation.

(Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá §12)

Manifestations of Divine Love

Consider to what extent the love of God makes itself manifest. Among the signs of His love which appear in the world are... His Manifestations. What an infinite degree of love is reflected by the divine Manifestations toward mankind! For the sake of guiding the people They have willingly forfeited Their lives to resuscitate human hearts.... To enable human souls to attain the supreme degree of advancement, They have suffered during Their limited years extreme ordeals and difficulties.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), p.256)

Four Kinds of Love

There are four kinds of love.

(a) The love of God towards the identity of God. Christ has said God is Love.

(b) The love of God for His children—for His servants.

(c) The love of man for God and

(d) the love of man for man. These four kinds of love originate from God.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p.181)

Four Kinds of Love

The first is the love that flows from God to man; it consists of the inexhaustible graces, the Divine effulgence and heavenly illumination. Through this love the world of being receives life. Through this love man is endowed with physical existence, until, through the breath of the Holy Spirit—this same love—he receives eternal life and becomes the image of the Living God. This love is the origin of all the love in the world of creation.

Divine Love

O Son of Man!

Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty.

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Hidden Words, Arabic, §3)

Four Kinds of Love

The second is the love that flows from man to God. This is faith, attraction to the Divine, enkindlement, progress, entrance into the Kingdom of God, receiving the Bounties of God, illumination with the lights of the Kingdom.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p.180)

Divine Love

O Son of Man!

I loved thy creation, hence I created thee.

*Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may
name thy name and fill thy soul with the
spirit of life.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Hidden Words*, Arabic, §4)

Four Kinds of Love

The third is the love of God towards the Self or Identity of God. This is the transfiguration of His Beauty, the reflection of Himself in the mirror of His Creation. This is the reality of love, the Ancient Love, the Eternal Love. Through one ray of this Love all other love exists.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p.181)

Divine Love

*O Son of Being!
Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly
home, reunion with Me. Enter therein and
tarry not. This is that which hath been
destined for thee in Our kingdom above and
Our exalted dominion.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, [The Hidden Words](#), Arabic, §6)

Four Kinds of Love

The fourth is the love of man for man. The love which exists between the hearts of believers is prompted by the ideal of the unity of spirits. This love is attained through the knowledge of God, so that men see the Divine Love reflected in the heart. Each sees in the other the Beauty of God reflected in the soul, and finding this point of similarity, they are attracted to one another in love. This love will make all men the waves of one sea, this love will make them all the stars of one heaven and the fruits of one tree.

Love for all humanity

We must love God, and in this state, a general love for all men becomes possible. We cannot love each human being for himself, but our feeling towards humanity should be motivated by our love for the Father who created all men.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 4 October 1950, in *Living the Life*, p.32)

Not True Love

But the love which sometimes exists between friends is not (true) love, because it is subject to transmutation; this is merely fascination.... This kind of love is originated by the accidental conditions of life. This is not love, it is merely acquaintanceship; it is subject to change.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p.181)

Divine Love

O Son of Being!

*Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest
Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee.
Know this, O servant.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, The Hidden Words, Arabic, §5)

Divine Love

...love is the cause of the existence of all phenomena and... the absence of love is the cause of disintegration or nonexistence. Love is the conscious bestowal of God, the bond of affiliation in all phenomena.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), p.255)

Love and Peace

Love is greater than peace, for peace is founded upon love. Love is the objective point of peace, and peace is an outcome of love. Until love is attained, peace cannot be; but there is a so-called peace without love. The love which is from God is the fundamental. This love is the object of all human attainment, the radiance of heaven, the light of man.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), p.169)

Divine Love

Real love is the love which exists between God and His servants, the love which binds together holy souls. This is the love of the spiritual world, not the love of physical bodies and organisms.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), p.256)



Showing Love

...ignite a candle of love in every meeting, and with tenderness rejoice and cheer ye every heart. Care for the stranger as for one of your own; show to alien souls the same loving kindness ye bestow upon your faithful friends. Should any come to blows with you, seek to be friends with him; should any stab you to the heart, be ye a healing salve unto his sores; should any taunt and mock at you, meet him with love.

(Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá §16)

Power of Love

What a power is love! It is the most wonderful, the greatest of all living powers.

Love gives life to the lifeless. Love lights a flame in the heart that is cold. Love brings hope to the hopeless and gladdens the hearts of the sorrowful.

In the world of existence there is indeed no greater power than the power of love.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p.179)

Love and Unity

...each one of you concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love. Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content. Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship, and happiness.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p.29)

Love

The essence of Bahá'u'lláh's Teaching is all-embracing love, for love includeth every excellence of humankind. It causeth every soul to go forward. It bestoweth on each one, for a heritage, immortal life. Erelong shalt thou bear witness that His celestial Teachings, the very glory of reality itself, shall light up the skies of the world.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá §31)



Love of God

All things are beneficial if joined with the love of God; and without His love all things are harmful, and act as a veil between man and the Lord of the Kingdom. When His love is there, every bitterness turneth sweet, and every bounty rendereth a wholesome pleasure. For example, a melody, sweet to the ear, bringeth the very spirit of life to a heart in love with God, yet staineth with lust a soul engrossed in sensual desires.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá §154)

Love of God

And every branch of learning, conjoined with the love of God, is approved and worthy of praise; but bereft of His love, learning is barren—indeed, it bringeth on madness. Every kind of knowledge, every science, is as a tree: if the fruit of it be the love of God, then is it a blessed tree, but if not, that tree is but dried-up wood, and shall only feed the fire.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá §154)

Love and Fortitude

O Son of Man!

For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Hidden Words*, Arabic, §48)

Lovers of God

O ye lovers of God, make firm your steps in His Cause, with such resolve that ye shall not be shaken though the direst of calamities assail the world. By nothing, under no conditions, be ye perturbed. Be ye anchored fast as the high mountains, be stars that dawn over the horizon of life, be bright lamps in the gatherings of unity, be souls humble and lowly in the presence of the friends, be innocent in heart.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá §199)

Lovers of God

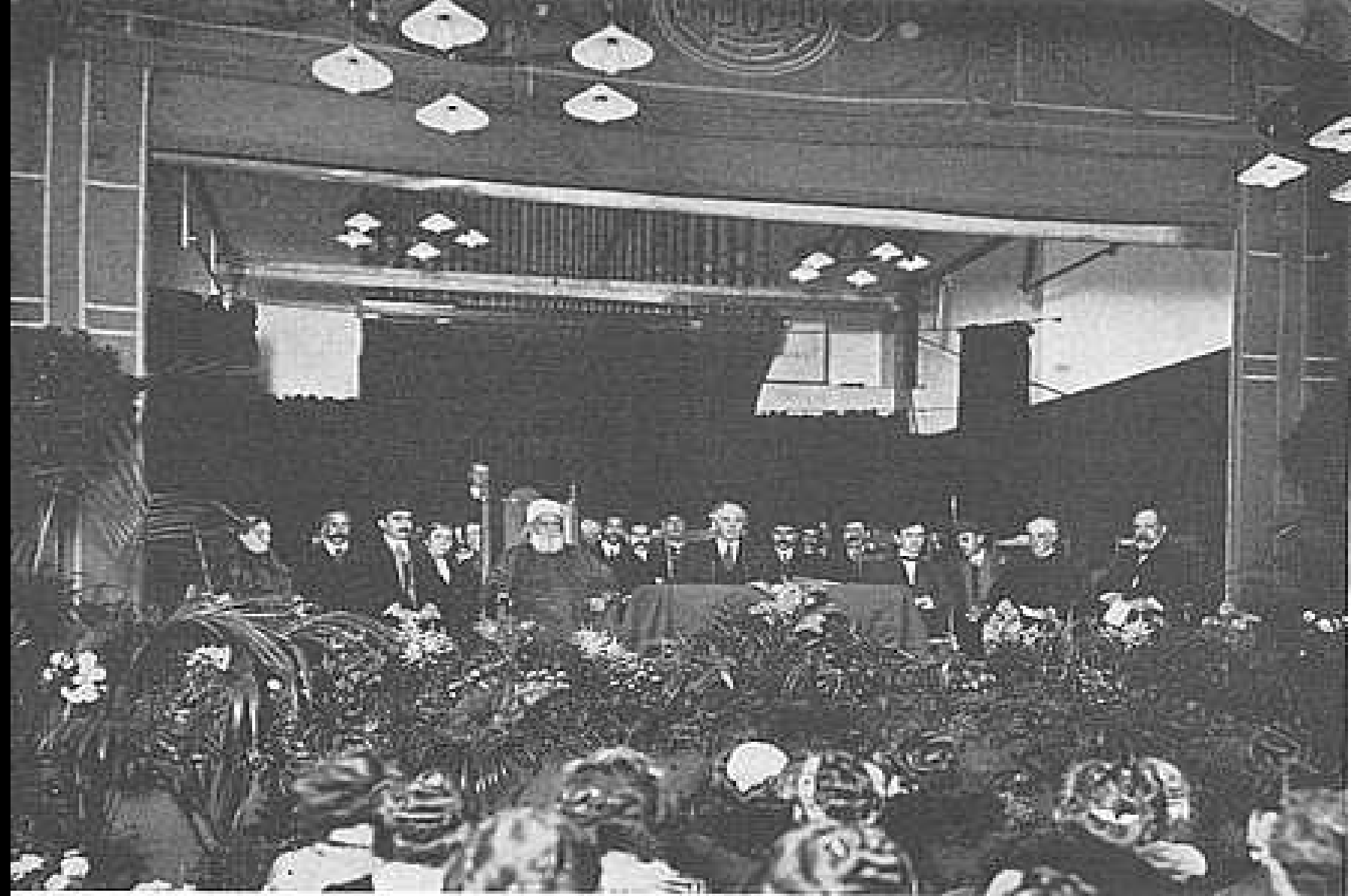
Only he who is severed from the world shall achieve this ultimate grace, he who is a captive of divine love, empty of passion and self, from every aspect true unto his God, humble, lowly, supplicating, in tears, submissive in the presence of the Lord.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá §199)

Showing Love

...ignite a candle of love in every meeting, and with tenderness rejoice and cheer ye every heart. Care for the stranger as for one of your own; show to alien souls the same loving kindness ye bestow upon your faithful friends. Should any come to blows with you, seek to be friends with him; should any stab you to the heart, be ye a healing salve unto his sores; should any taunt and mock at you, meet him with love.

(Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá §16)



Love and Happiness

Happiness consists of two kinds; physical and spiritual. The physical happiness is limited; its utmost duration is one day, one month, one year. It hath no result. Spiritual happiness is eternal and unfathomable. This kind of happiness appeareth in one's soul with the love of God and suffereth one to attain to the virtues and perfections of the world of humanity. Therefore, endeavor as much as thou art able in order to illumine the lamp of thy heart by the light of love.

Love gives the power to teach

One must never consider one's own feebleness, it is the strength of the Holy Spirit of Love, which gives the power to teach. The thought of our own weakness could only bring despair. We must look higher than all earthly thoughts; detach ourselves from every material idea, crave for the things of the spirit; fix our eyes on the everlasting bountiful Mercy of the Almighty, who will fill our souls with the gladness of joyful service to His command "Love One Another."

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p.39)

