

Tablets, Communes and Holy Utterances

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E R R A T A:

Page 14, read Tablet written by EláBeha
(not to Americans).

Page 17. third line, read "Victory" is this
that no one, etc. Other minor errors will
be corrected in next edition.

Tablets, Communes
and

Holy Utterances

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THE T E A C H I N G S C L E A R L Y D E F I N E D B Y
THE MASTER.

These teachings are simplicity itself. To accept
the glad tidings of the coming of God, to confess
His Oneness and Singleness, to be naturalized with
the attributes of God, to come neare- to the knowl-
edge of God; to attain these great aims is all that is
necessary for man.

These are the words of the Blessed Master to An-
ton Haddad for the benefit of all.

FIRST COMMUNE.

O God, give me Knowledge, Faithá and Love.
Adorn my head, O God, with the crown of Thy
Providence, my heart with the light of knowing
Thee, my tongue with the utterance of Thy Great-
est Name * * *. and mine ear with listen-
ing to Thy Holy Word, for Thou art the only One
whose action was, is and ever shall be glorified, and
whose commands shall ever be obeyed.

O God, help me to be just! Lift me up from the
ocean of superstitions and imaginations, and g rant
me an iron sight (spiritual perception) to see and
realize from the surrounding existence Thy Oneness
and Thy Truth.

DAILY MORNING PRAYER.

O my God, strengthen Thou these hands to
take hold of Thy Book with such rectitude and up-

rightness that all the soldiers of the world will fail to hinder it; and protect them, O my Lord, from disposing of anything not owned by them. Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty!

O my God, I have turned my face to Thee, and pray Thee to illuminate it with the Lights of Thy Face, and keep it from turning to any but Thee! God has testified that there is no God but He (the affairs and creations are in His Hands). He has manifested the Sun of the Manifestation, the Speaker of Mount Sinai, through whom He made the Supreme Horizon shine, and the Lote Tree (of Life) speak; and between the heaven and the earth a call was vociferously raised, saying: "The Ruler, who is the Lord of the Worlds, and the King of earth and heaven, has come, and His is the Kingdom, Glory and Omnipotence!"

Praise be to Thee, Thou art the Most Glorified above all my prayers and those of others, and above all my exaltation and those of heaven and earth!

O my God, do Thou not disappoint the one, who, by the fingers of hope, has held fast to the trail of Thy Mercy and Bounty, O Thou, the Most Merciful of the Merciful !

I confess Thy Oneness and Singleness, and that Thou art God, and there is no God but Thee. Thou hast manifested Thy affair, fulfilled Thy promise, and opened the door of Thy Bounty upon those in heaven and earth. Prayer, peace, glory and praise be upon Thy friends and beloved, who, notwithstanding the affairs of the world and its vanity, nothing could prevent them from clinging to Thee; but, on the contrary, spent everything within their power and provision in Thy Cause, with the hope of receiving a higher reward from Thy Bounty. Thou art the Forgiving, the Generous.

MORNING PRAYER.

Praise to Thee, O my God, for Thou hast awakened me after my sleep, made me appear after my absence, and raised me after my death. I arose this morning, facing the light of the dawn of Thine Appearance, which lightened the horizon of the heavens of Thy Power and Majesty, confessing the truth of Thy Word, believing in Thy Book and holding to Thy Robe. I beg of Thee, by the power of Thy Will and the performance of Thy Wish, to make what Thou didst show me in my VISION-a

solid foundation for the house of Thy love in the hearts of Thy favorites, and the best cause for the manifestation of Thy Generosity and Providence. O my God, let my destiny, which is written by Thy Greatest Pen, be to obtain the blessings of the worlds to come and the present one. I hereby bear witness that in Thy Hands are the reins of all things, and Thou changest them according to Thy Will, and that there is no God but Thee, for Thou art the One, the Almighty and the Faithful. Thou art the One who changest by His command the dishonored to the highest state of honor, the weak to be strong, the failing to have power, the confused to be in peace, and the doubting to have strong faith.

There is no God but Thee, who art the Dearest and the most Generous. The heavens of Thy Charity and the oceans of Thy Bounty are so vast that Thou hast never disappointed those who beg of Thee, nor refused those who willed to come unto Thee. Thou art the most Powerful and Mighty.

COMMUNE.

I beg of Thee, Most High is Thy Name-by that Letter (Power) which, when it was pronounced by the Mouth of Thy Will, the seas moved, the winds did blow, the fruits appeared, the trees began to thrive, the traces were destroyed, the Curtains were torn asunder, and the faithful hurried to the lights of the Face of their God, the Chosen-to teach me what is hidden in the treasures of Thine Understanding secluded in the stores of Thy Knowledge.

Thou seest me, O my God, that I am depending on Thy Name, which is the Most Sacred, the Brightest, the Dearest, the Greatest, the Highest and the Most Brilliant, and that I am holding on to the lower part of that Garment, which is being grasped by all the creatures in this and all other worlds.

PRAYER WHEN ASSUMING DAILY DUTIES.

He is the Exalted and the Truthful One.

By Thy Generosity, O my God, I come to this morning, and I leave the house, depending on Thee and delivering all my concerns to Thy Hand.

Therefore send down upon me, from the heavens

of Thy Mercy, a special blessing from Thy Presence ; bring me back in peace and righteousness, as Thou has sent me out.

There is no God but Thee. Thou hast all the knowledge and the wisdom.

EVENING PRAYER.

HE is THE CREATOR OF ALL THE NAMES.

O my God, my God, how can I choose to sleep, and the eyes of Thy favorites are awakened because of Thy Deoarture. and how can I take my rest upon my bed, and the hearts of Thy favorites are aching because Thou has left them. O my God. I put my spirit, my soul and myself in the right hand of Thy Power and Safety, and I lay my head upon my pillow under the Power of Thy Protection, and I lift it up according to Thy Wish and Will, for Thou art the Protector, the Watcher, the Almighty and the Powerful. By Thy Glory I do not want, sleeping or waking, but what Thou wishest me to be. I am Thy servant, and in Thy Hand, confirm me to do that which brings the wave of the sweet fragrance of Thy Pleasure. This is my hope, and the hope of every one who is near to Thee. Praise to Thee, O God of all the worlds.

HE IS THE LISTENER AND THE ANSWERER.

A token issued from the presence of the Opáá pressed; to him who confesses the Oneness of God and His Singleness, and that He is the First and the Last, the Manifested and the Secluded. There is no God but He who is the Single One, the perfect in knowledge and wisdom. We have heard your supplications and granted them to you, and remembered you with such a remembrance that attracts the hearts to you. We command you, and all my redeemers, to keep yourself in favor and love with all the people; to be righteous, pious, and to do what will draw you nearer to God your Lord, and the Lord of all the world. Say:

Praise to Thee, O God my Lord, I beg of Thee, by the prophets, redeemers and the chosen, to send down upon me, through the showers descending from the heavens of Thy Bounty, a special providence and a particular mercy from Thy Majestic Presence. Open upon my face the doors of Thy Gifts and Benignities, Thou who art the most

Bounteous, most Pitiful, most Benevolent and most Generous. There is no God but Thee. Thou art the great Forgiver and the most Merciful.

HEALING TABLET.

I beg of Thee, O my God! my God! by the ocean of Thy Healing Power ; by the dawning lights of the Orb of Thy Generosity; by Thy Name, which commands Thy servants to perform Thy orders; by the executive power of Thy Supreme Word; by the Might of Thy Greatest Pen; by Thy Glorious Sun of Righteousness, and by Thy Mercy, which existed before the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, to shower upon me (and upon * * *) Thy gifted waters to purify me (or us) from every affliction and disease, and from every defect and weakness.

Thou seest, O my God, that the needy one is standing at the door of Thy bounty, and that the waiting one is holding on to the robe of Thy generosity. I beg of Thee not to disappoint him in what he desires from the sea of Thy favor and from the shining sun of Thy providence. For Thou art the Omnipotent. There is no God but Thee, for Thou art the most Powerful and Mighty.

A PRAYER WRITTEN BY THE MASTER.

My God, my God, Thou art my Beloved and my Hope, my intended Aim and my Desire. With great humbleness and entire devotion I whisper to Thee to make me the minaret amongst Thy creatures and the banner of Thy Gift in Thy Kingdom. Make me one of Thy worshipers, and one who cuts himself from everything but Thee, one who sanctifies himself from every worldly thing, and be diverted from the defects of the suspicious.

Let my bosom be dilated with joy through the Spirit of Confirmation from Thy Kingdom: Illuminate my sight, so that I may behold the hosts of success following one another and descending upon me from Thy Omnipotence. Thou art the Almighty, the Invincible, the Powerful.

A PRAYER WRITTEN BY THE MASTER.

Praise be to Thee, O my God, for Thou hast made me drink the Wine of Knowledge from that beautiful Cup at the meeting of the Beloved of God, enabled me to enter Thy Kingdom, caused me to

hear the call of the angels of Thy Holiness, attracted me with the Magnet of Thy Love, illuminated my face with the Light of Thy Oneness, helped me utter Thy Name, kindled me with the fire of Thy Love, dilated my breast with joy through the Light of Thy Knowledge, awakened me by Thy Breeze and quickened me by Thy Spirit.

O my God, make me true and sincere to Thy Face, to diffuse Thy Fragrance. A promoter of Thy Word, a servant to Thy Beloved, a supplicator for Thy Kingdom and a pleader at the Doors of Thy Singleness, that I may be enabled to characterize myself with Thy Attributes and Characteristics. Thou art the Merciful. Thou art the Compassionate. Thou art the Righteous, the Pitiful, the Bountiful.

IN THE NAME OF THE MOST MERCIFUL.

Praise to Thee, O God my Lord! Every time I try to mention Thee my dreadful sins* and awful *Doubt and denial of God. Spiritual ignorance. crimes prevent me, and by them I find myself removed from Thee and prevented from calling upon Thee for help. But my assurance of Thy Generosity encourages me, and my full trust in Thy Bounty enables me to mention Thee, and ask of Thee what Thou hast to give. I ask Thee, O my God, by Thy Mercy, which was before all things existing, and to which all those who are in the depths of the seas of names did bear witness, not to leave me to myself, for I long always to do what is wrong. Keep me in the stronghold of Thy Shelter and amidst the surroundings of Thy protection. I do not want, O my God, but that which was appointed for me by Thy Power, and this is what I have chosen to myself, that Thy good Destiny and Judgment may confirm me, and that I may be exalted by what Thou hast written and ordained for me.

I beg of Thee, O Beloved of the hearts of Thy lovers, by the manifestation of Thy Commandments, by the depths of Thine Inspiration, by the heights of Thine Exaltation, and by the stores of Thine Understanding, not to forbid me from visiting Thy Sacred House and Holy Abode. Admit me, O God, to be so fortunate as to drink from the • fountain of its Holy Courts, to wander around it

and to stand beside its Gate, for Thou art He who is, was and ever shall be Powerful and Mighty. Nothing can be hidden from Thy Knowledge. Thou art He who has all the Power and the Glory and the Majesty. Praise to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

TO THE AMERICANS-A DECLARATION.

I

HE IS GOD.

O ye, the beloved of God and the children of God, the new Heaven is already come, the new earth is already established, and the new Holy Jerusalem is already descended from Heaven, from the presence of the Almighty, in the form of a glorious virgin. excellent in her beauty, an unequalled gem among the other virgins, secluded in the tent. ready to receive. The angels of the Highest of the Kingdom have called in the ears of the inhabitants of the earth and heaven with a loud and melodious voice, saying: "This is the city. of God and His residence with the holy and sanctified souls of His servants. He shall live with them, for they are His people and He is their God. " He has wiped their tears, lighted their candles, given peace to their hearts and widened their breasts ; therefore, the roots of death were rooted out, sorrow. wailing and crying have ceased, and the lesser King of Majesty (Abbas) occupies the Throne of the Kingdom. and renews the performance of untold actions. This is the absolute truth, and of a higher certainty than what was said in the Revelation by St. John: . " He is the Alpha and the Omega." This is He who quenches the thirst from the spring of life. This is He who heals the sick with the antidote of safety and confirms with a flood of grace from this Kingdom. He is of the greatest heirs to the apostles .and saints, the Lord is His God and He is His dearest Son. (Abdul-Beha.)

Good tidings to you, O beloved of God, His people, His children and His party! Raise your voices in praising and glorifying the glorious Lord, for the lights have shone, the traces appeared, the seas moved, and gave out every precious gem.

AN ASSURANCE TO THE TEACHER .

HE IS GOD.

Oh, you who have been drawn by the fragrant waves, spreading from the Gardens of the gifts of God:

God has already opened by His powerful and mighty Hand the doors of prosperity, and the herald has proclaimed tidings of happiness, saying:

"Salute the advance, oh you, essence of the Spirit, living in the shell of phantoms! Happiness to you in this triumphant day, the day of the spring of life, and the day of the gracious light descending on thee by the benevolence of thy loving God."

By God, it is the truth that the fire burning in the Blessed and Sinaitic Tree, spread its blaze, lifted up its waves, rolled its glorious flames, declared its brilliancy and its glow, wove a network of rays from the east to the west of the earth!

And oh you, who are expecting this grace and preaching in .. this mercy, let your breast be expanded and your heart refreshed, because God has strengthened you to spread these fragrant waves, which gave a sweet scent to the surrounding horizons.

The Highest of the Kingdom of the Most Glorious call upon you from the highest heaven, and they converse thus with you: A blessing to you, oh you who are heralding the Name of God! Gladness to you, oh you who are attracted toward God! Glory to you, oh you who are proclaiming the mentioning of God! Happiness to you, oh you who were confirmed by the Holy Spirit from the highest heaven! Let your loins be girt with strength, your back with iron, your eye with brilliancy, your soul with ease, and your heart with delight by that greatest gift you are assured to obtain, which shall appear and illuminate more brightly than the beautiful Venus and the shining Sun in horizons of the chiefest magnificence, in the first dawning of witnesses and in the chief sources of existence. And kings shall glorify you in the empyrean space, and El Abha is upon the enlightened faces of those who were adorned by the victory of the Most Merciful in this highest step.

TABLET TO THE AMERICANS.

HE IS THE LIVING AND THE ANCIENT OF DAYS.

O ye beloved of God, and His sincere friends!

By the Life of God, the hearts are cheered when-

ever you are mentioned, and the souls are comforted in your love, and the holy spirits are captivated by your fragrance, and that the eyes are expecting to see you, and the hearts are longing to meet you: owing to the fact that your hearts were kindled with the fire of the Love of God, and your eyes satisfied in witnessing the Word of God, and your ears were charmed by hearing the Word of God, and your souls were rested in the appearance of the mysteries of God; blessed are ye, oh children of the Kingdom of God; glad tidings to you, oh friends of God, as He has made your destiny great, and your share victory and happiness, your lamp lit, and your spring yields supply.

You are the most brilliant stars, you are the most dazzling lamps, you are the green branches, you are the ripe fruits, you are the beautiful gardens. you are the overflowing bowl. God is merciful and compassionate: His bounty is great and great; He appropriates with His mercy those whom He likes, and chooses for His Love those whom He approves of. This is in accordance with what Christ said (peace and praise be on Him) .: "Many are called, but few chosen."

God makes your endeavor praiseworthy and your reward great, and your days, by El-Beha, be feasts and pleasure for casting aside the imaginary God and accepting the knowable; and for discarding every evil spirit, craving to the witnessed light and turning your faces to the exalted position. God will show forth your endeavors and increase your spirit and fragrance, and perfume the different directions with your odors, enlighten the horizon with your lights, quicken the hearts with that which is treasured within you, cheer the souls with what you have accomplished, cause the verses of thankfulness to be recited in all places, the banner of remembrance of you to wa ve through the ages. your fame and praise encircle the horizon and the tongues speak of your virtues and good endeavor. By the Living Truth, that bounty is great and great, and the Lord is Supreme in Majesty. The confirmation is successive, and success is contináá nous, and the kindness of your God, the Merciful. the Compassionate, will surround you from all sides

TABLET FROM THF MASTERTO THE

\ AMERICANS

Oh ye people of El-Behal Ye have been and are the dawns of affection and the day-springs of Divine Grace; defile not the tongue with cursing or execration of any one, and guard the eye from that which is not seemly. Shew forth that which ye have; if it be accepted the object is attained; if not, interference is vain; leave him to himself while advancing toward God, the Protective, the Self-Subsisting. Be not a cause of grief, much less of strife and sedition. It is hoped that ye will be nurtured in the shade of the lotus tree of Divine Grace, and practice that which God desireth. Ye are all leaves of one tree and drops of one sea.

Oh friends, consort with all the people of the world with joy and fragrance. If there be to you a word or essence whereof others than you are devoid, communicate it and shew it forth in the language of affection and kindness: if it be received and be effective the object is attained; and if not, leave it to him and with regard to him, deal not harshly, but pray. The language of love is the lodestone of hearts and the food of the soul; it stands in the relation of ideas to words, and is as a horizon for the shining of the Sun of Wisdom and Knowledge.

A NNOU NCEMENT OF THE DEPARTURE OF BERA 'ULLAH.

Oh friend of my heart and delight of my soul! In these days the showers of affliction do so descend from the clouds of the firmament of fate, and the thunderbolts of griefs and sorrows do so succeed one another, that neither hath the tongue strength to describe nor the pen power to utter them-for the horizon of the Phenomenal world is bereft of the effulgence of the Sun of Wisdom and Revelation, and the throne of the Universe is deprived of the radiance of the Most Mighty Luminary. The ears of the friends are, to outward appearance, debarred from harkening to the cry of the Supreme Pen, and the eyes of the longing are veiled from the contemplation of the Most Glorious Horizon. Great God! how dire a catastrophe is this which has arisen in the world, and how grievous a calamity is this which has appeared in the Universe. The Sun of Truth hath bidden farewell to this earthly sphere

and now shines with a brightness which waneth not in the regions of Might and Glory. Albeit this supreme affliction transcends endurance, and this most dire disaster lays in ruins the edifice of resignation and patience-yet having regard to the authoritative command and binding behest revealed from the Holy Angel World in the Kitab-i-Akdas, we and you alike must adorn ourselves with the ornament of patience and resignation; lay hold of the firm rope of submission and acquiescence; apply ourselves with strong hearts and tranquil souls to what will conduce to the progress of mankind, the peace and prosperity of the world, the amelioration of characters and the appearance of charity and concord, and attach ourselves with our whole being to the counsels of the Lord of the Visible and Invisible, so that the Phenomenal world may, by the Grace of that Beneficent Being, be beheld an envy to the Garden of Paradise . . . Nor is this thing difficult with God. The blessed text revealed in the Kitab-i-Akdas shall here be cited. He says (great is His Glory and universal His Bounty):

"Oh people of the earth! When the Sun of my Beauty sets and the firmament of My Form is hidden, be not troubled, a rise for the helping of my work and the advancement of my word throughout the worlds. Verily, we are with you under all conditions and will help you with the Truth. Verily we can do this. Whosoever knoweth me will rise up to serve me with such uprising that the Hosts of Heaven and earth shall not put him down."

And in another place He says:

"Say, oh people, let not trouble take possession of you when the kingdom of my Epiphany becomes concealed and the waves of the ocean of my Utterances are hushed. Verily, there is in my Epiphany a reason, and in my Occultation another reason, which none knoweth, save God, the Incomparable and the All-Knowing, and we shall see you from the Most Glorious Horizon and will help whomsoever riseth up for the helping of our work, with Hosts from the Supreme Concourse and a Cohort of the Cherubim."

HE IS GOD, EXALTED IS HE.

(A Command of Non-Resistance.)

It hath been known that God (glorious is His

mention) is sanctified from the world and what is therein, and that the meaning of "victory" is this-that no one should fight or strive with another. The Lord, He doeth what He Will. He hath committed the kingdoms of creation, both land and sea, into the hand of kings, and they are the manifestations of the Divine Power according to the degree of their rank-verity, He is the Potent, the Sovereign. But that which God (glorious is His mention) hath desired for himself, is the hearts of His servants, which are treasures of praise, love of the Lord, stores of divine knowledge and wisdom. The will of the Eternal King hath ever been to purify the hearts of His servants from the promptings of the world and what is therein, so that they may be prepared for illumination by the effulgences of the Lord of the Names and Attributes. Therefore, no stranger should find his way into the city (possession) of the heart, so that the Incomparable Friend may come unto His own place-that is, the effulgence of His Names and Attributes, not His Essence (exalted is He), for that Peerless King hath been and will be holy for everlasting, above ascent or descent. Therefore, to-day, "victory" neither hath been, nor will be opposition to any one, nor strife with any person; but rather what is well-pleasing-i. e., that the cities of men's hearts, which are under the dominion of the hosts of selfishness and lust, should be subdued by the sword of the Word of Wisdom, and of Exhortation. Every one, then, who desireth "victory" must first subdue the city of his own heart with the sword of spiritual truth and of the Word, and must protect it from remembering aught beside God; afterward let him turn his concern toward the cities of other's hearts. This is what is intended by "victory"; sedition hath never been nor is pleasing to God, and that which certain ignorant persons formerly wrought was never approved. If ye be slain for His good pleasure, verily, it is better for you than that ye should slay. To-day the friends of God must appear in such fashion, amidst God's servants, that by their actions they may lead all unto the pleasure of the Lord of Glory. I swear by the Sun of the Horizon of Holiness that the real friends of God never have regarded nor will regard the earth and its transitory riches. God hath ever regarded the hearts of His servants, and this,

too, by reason of His most great favor, that perchance mortal souls may be cleansed and sanctified from earthly statutes and may attain unto everlasting places. But that Real King is in Himself sufficient unto Himself and independent of all; neither doth any advantage accrue to Him from the love of contingent beings, nor doth any hurt befall Him from their hatred. All earthly places appear thorough Him and unto Him return, and God singly and alone abideth in His own place, which is holy above space and time, mention and utterance, sign, description, definition, height and depth. And none knoweth this save Him and whosoever hath knowledge of the Book. (Holy utterances.) There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

*HE IS EL-ABHA.

From the lights of that Shining Brilliance and Brightness, the horizons have already shone; blessed are they who are successful. From that Blessed Tree in Mount Sinai a call has been vociferously raised: blessed are they who are hearing. From that Holy Fragrance in that White Spot all sides and regions have been perfumed; blessed are they who inhale the odor thereof. The Light of Unity has been transfigured in the Temple of Seclusion; blessed are they who are wishing for Light. The Face of El-Beha has been uncovered; blessed are they who are thereby attracted. The Cup of Giving, overflowing with the Wine of Fulfillment, is passing round; blessed are they who are drinking. The Kingdom of El-Abha and the Supreme God have been honored and glorified; blessed are they who are winning a place in the Kingdom. The clouds of Generosity are overflowing with the Greatest Abundance; truly, it is a Great Abundance! The hearts have been enlightened from the Lights of the Face of the Beloved; truly, it is a clear Light! Abdul-Beha, the Servant of Beha, has clad Himself in the mantle of servitude and devotion, for the beloved of El-Beha; truly, this is a Great Victory! -Abbas-Abdul-Beha.

*The above Tablet was expressly written by the Master, and chanted into the phonograph by Him at my long and earnest pleading. The original writing and the phonograph records were given to me by Him on March 23, 1899, at Aca. I took the

phonograph there for this purpose and left it there.

-E. C. Getsinger.

TO THE AMERICANS.

(He Is the Most Merciful Lord.)

Oh ye children of the Kingdom, let it be known that the Sultan of the Kingdom has already established Himself on the throne of humanity, and that the Sun of the Worlds of Divinity has already arisen and shone from the horizon of His Majesty. The exaltation is to Him, the authority is to Him, the greatness is to Him, and to those who were enlightened by His Light, and who were flooded by the flood of His Generosity. And that the Lord of Hosts, who was promised in the Bible and by the tongue of David, has already directed the multitudes of His angels and the battalions of His hosts with His blessing to the eastern parts of this earth, and to the western parts of it. And that they marched to the battlefields and to the challenging grounds and attacked the parties of darkness and the soldiers of infidelity by flashing arrows of light--and so they broke their lines and defeated them by thousands. And thus the different directions were lighted, the face of the heavens shone, the lights displayed their brightness, and the darkness was dispersed by a shining light spread from the fire of the Blessed Tree in the Paradise of the Glorious God. Therefore, the faces of the faithful beamed, and the tongues of the godly praised, and the faces of the pharisees were darkened. Praise to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

And you, oh children of the Kingdom, your example is that which was declared by the Holy Spirit in the revered Gospel, that a generous Prince had spread a rare and excellent table, adorned with different kinds of graces and gifts, containing what the soul longs for, what the eyes of the friends would enjoy, that which tastes delicious to the great, and which makes the hearts of the pious happy. And He invited to it the great, the princes and the learned. But when the appointed time came and the different foods were prepared, of many most delicious varieties, those who were invited refused to be present, and showed their great treachery, and hesitated to come with those crowds who drank from that Spring of Life. At that time the Prince

called the high, the low, the neighbor and the stranger, and set them at the table, and fed them with the best food with great benevolence and bounty, because those heads had no portion from that grace, but the others were fit to receive these gifts.

And you, oh sons of the Kingdom, in those far away parts and wide lands, as you were fit for these merciful gifts and godly graces, God, the Almighty, sent to you a chosen soul to guide you to this sacred and heavenly table, and to show you those lights shining from the Kingdom of your God; also showing you these gifts descending from the heavens of the Majesty of your Creator.

Oh you people, what a great enjoyment is coming to you from these gifts, what a great happiness is coming to you from these coveted blessings, what a great exaltation is coming to you from this food, and what a great blessing is coming to you from this benevolence, which is the breeze of God to awaken every sleeper, and the Spirit of God will give life to every moldering bone.

Good tidings to you! Good tidings to you!

Awake! Awake! for in a short time these fragrances, which give life to the soul, shall be diffused and the lights, which disperse the darkness, shall shine universally. Blessed are the nostrils which shall inhale these sweet odors, and gladness to every eye which shall be enlightened by this light, sooner or later!

SELECTED PRECEPTS OF EL-HAK.

(The Manifestation.)

This manuscript contains fifteen clauses called "Good Tidings," each of which indicates some reform, or law conducive to the general well-being of mankind. As indicating the ideals held up by El-Hak for the guidance of His followers, it is interesting and important. The inscription at the top is as follows:

"The Divine ordinances and commands, formerly revealed in sundry epistles, have, agreeably to the Supreme and Most Holy Command, been collected, that ail may become cognizant of the grace, mercy and favor of God in this Most Mighty Manifestation and this Great Announcement, and may engage in praise and thanksgiving to the Desired

Object of all the inhabitants of the world. Verily, He helpeth His servants unto that which He will-eth, for He is the \Vise Orctainer."

In substance the reforms enacted in the fifteen clauses are as follows:

1. Abolition of religious warfare.
2. Permission of all sects and peoples to unite in friendly intercourse.
3. Permission to study foreign languages, coupled with a recommendation that one language and writing (either of those already existing or especially devised for the purpose). should be selected by general consent as a medium of international communication.
4. All El-Hak's followers are bound loyally to serve and support any king who extends his protection to their faith.
5. The followers of El-Hak, in whatever land they dwell, must cheerfully and ungrudgingly submit to the laws and conform to the customs of that country.
6. Promise of the "Most Great Peace."
7. All are permitted, subject to the dictates of decency and good taste, to follow their own inclination as to dress and the wearing of the hair.
8. The good works and devotions of Christian priests (and ministers) are recognized and will be accepted, but they must henceforth abandon their seclusion and "engage in that which shall advantage them and whereby mankind shall be benefited." (See text 12.) They are also permitted to marry.
9. Confession of sins to one's fellowmen and seeking absolution from them is not permitted. To God only should confession be made, and from Him only should pardon be sought. A form of prayer suitable for such confession is given.
- IO. The Bab's command to destroy certain classes of books (e. g., books of logic, philosophy and other sciences, conducing, in his opinion, only to self-conceit and disputation) and to "renew" all books after a certain period is abrogated.
11. The study of sciences and arts is commended and encouraged, but they should be such as conduce to the welfare of mankind.
12. All men must learn and practice some craft, trade or profession. The diligent and conscientious

practice of some craft, trade or profession is in itself an act of worship. Mendicity and idleness are hateful to God.

13. The settlement of differences, the apportionment of alms and the ordering of the affairs of the commonwealth generally are intrusted to the "House of Justice."

14. Visitation of the tombs of martyrs and pilgrimages to the, shrine of saints are no longer to be regarded as obligatory. Nevertheless it is a pious work for rich men to leave money to the "House of Justice" to enable their poorer brethren to perform these pilgrimages.

15. Though a republic conduces most to the general welfare. it is not desired that kings, who are the "Signs of God's Power," should cease to exist. If statesmen can combine these two things in this cycle their reward with God shall be great.

— Tablets, Communes and Holy Utterances (Used by permission of the curator)