

reinterpret accounts of physical miracles as metaphors for the more important spiritual miracles. Speaking of the New Testament stories of Jesus's miracles, Bahá'u'lláh states that

through Him [Jesus] the leper recovered from the leprosy of perversity and ignorance. Through Him, the unchaste and wayward were healed. Through His power, born of Almighty God, the eyes of the blind were opened, and the soul of the sinner sanctified. Leprosy may be interpreted as any veil that interveneth between man and the recognition of the Lord, his God. Whoso alloweth himself to be shut out from Him is indeed a leper (Gleanings, 86).

In addition to the theological understanding of miracles explained above, the Bahá'í scriptures use the word "miracle" as a metaphor or a powerful adjective. `Abdu'l-Bahá, referring to the great material and spiritual progress of the twentieth century, says "truly this can be called the miracle of centuries" (Foundations of World Unity, 16). `Abdu'l-Bahá also referred to the powers of science and technology as a "miracle" (Promulgation of Universal Peace, 309, 351). Shoghi Effendi noted that the Bahá'í Holy Places in Palestine, during the Arab-Jewish conflicts of the 1930s were "vouchsafed a preservation little short of miraculous" (Advent of Divine Justice, 5).

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