

"The first station, which is related to His innermost reality, representeth Him as One Whose voice is the voice of God Himself... The second station is the human station..."

This is why a Messenger sometimes speaks with the authority of God, and sometimes as a human being. For example, at one time Christ said, "I and my Father are one," (John 10 v30) and at another time He said, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God." (Mark 10 v18)

The Messengers of God manifest, or show, the face of God. For this reason, Bahá'ís refer to Them as "Manifestations of God". They are like mirrors reflecting the light of God. If we look at the sun in a mirror, we can say we have seen the sun. But the sun has not come down into the mirror, what we have really seen is a reflection of the sun. This, to Bahá'ís, explains the reality of Christ and the other Holy Messengers.

The Coming of "The Father"

Bahá'ís believe that Bahá'u'lláh was the One promised by Christ. Christ's own sayings point repeatedly to a time when the Son of Man would return, "in the glory of the Father":

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels." (Matt 16 v27)

Christ also made it clear that He was the path to "the Father":

"I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14 v6)

A further title given to the divine figure promised by Jesus is that of "Comforter":

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever?" (John 14 v16)

Another title which Jesus used when referring to the Promised One is the "Spirit of Truth":

"I

have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth?" (John 16 v13)

Bahá'u'lláh

fearlessly made His claim:

"This

is the Father foretold by Isaiah, and the Comforter concerning Whom the Spirit [Christ] had covenanted with you."

Bahá'u'lláh

was born in the 19th century in the country now known as Iran, thereby fulfilling many Biblical prophecies as to time and place. Details of some of these prophecies can be found in the companion leaflet "The Return of Christ".

Progressive Revelation

In

the same way that Christ's teachings built on the laws of Moses, the Writings of

Bahá'u'lláh take forward the teachings of Christ. For

example, Christ said "Love thy neighbour as thyself", whereas Bahá'u'lláh said "Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself."

Each Messenger, speaking as

the Voice of God, builds on the Messages of those who have gone before. For instance, in ancient times, goodwill was shown only within the tribe. Christ taught that someone from another group was also to be considered as a neighbour.

Now Bahá'u'lláh has made it quite clear that every person in the world is our neighbour, for "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

In the time

of Christ, the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh on world peace, world government and a

world currency would not have made sense. World unity was impossible because half the world did not know that the other half existed. Likewise,

Bahá'u'lláh's

teachings on investigating truth for oneself would have been difficult when most

people could not read. Also, at that time society was not sufficiently developed

to accept the principle of the equality of men and women. Now that we have instant worldwide communications, the need in this age is to create a world in which the whole of mankind lives together in harmony.

For a

fuller explanation of the progressive revelation of Divine Teachings, see the

leaflet "All Religions are One".

A
Selfless Sacrifice

Each

Person Whom God entrusts with His Message is persecuted by those who do not believe and accept His Message. Their suffering, however, only serves to make the cause of God progress. Bahá'u'lláh explains:

"Know

thou that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole of creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself, however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things."

Bahá'u'lláh, likewise, endured extensive suffering at the hands of His persecutors:

"The

Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner within this most mighty Stronghold that the whole world may attain unto true liberty. He hath drained to its dregs the cup of sorrow, that all the peoples of the earth may attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness?"

The Promised One of All Religions

It was not

only Christ Who promised that He would return. Every one of the major world religions has the expectation of a world teacher. He has many titles in Judaism, including the "Everlasting Father" and the "Lord of Hosts". Shíah Islám promises the return of Imám Husayn. Sunní Islám promises the "Spirit of God".

The Zoroastrians expect the Sháh-Bahrám. The Hindus expect the reincarnation of

Krishna and the Buddhists expect the "Fifth Buddha", the Buddha of Universal Fellowship. Despite the different titles by which the Divine Messenger is known,

all religions have similar prophecies of a time when all mankind will come together. As Christ promised:

"And

other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

(John 10 v16)

Surely,

this is the time of fulfilment for which Jesus taught us to pray:

"Thy

kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt 6 v10)

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