

Not to Be Hypocritical

Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi

Partial translation



Not to Be Hypocritical

*"To none is it permitted to mutter sacred verses before the public gaze as he walketh in the street or marketplace. This is an allusion to the practice of certain clerics and religious leaders of earlier Dispensations who, out of hypocrisy and affectation, and in order to win the praise of their followers, would ostentatiously mutter prayers in public places as a demonstration of their piety. Bahá'u'lláh forbids such behaviour and stresses the importance of humility and genuine devotion to God."*¹

*"Assist ye, O My people, My chosen servants who have arisen to make mention of Me among My creatures and to exalt My Word throughout My realm. These, truly, are the stars of the heaven of My loving providence and the lamps of My guidance unto all mankind. But he whose words conflict with that which hath been sent down in My Holy Tablets is not of Me. Beware lest ye follow any impious pretender. These Tablets are embellished with the seal of Him Who causeth the dawn to appear, Who lifteth up His voice between the heavens and the earth. Lay hold on this Sure Handle and on the Cord of My mighty and unassailable Cause."*²

*"Strive that your deeds may be cleansed from the dust of self and hypocrisy and find favor at the court of glory; for ere long the assayers of mankind shall, in the holy presence of the Adored One, accept naught but absolute virtue and deeds of stainless purity."*³

*"Honesty, virtue, wisdom and a saintly character redound to the exaltation of man, while dishonesty, imposture, ignorance and hypocrisy lead to his abasement."*⁴

"Verily, this is the Point which God hath ordained to be an ocean of light for the sincere among His servants and a flame of fire to the froward amidst His creatures and the impious among His people -- they who bartered away the gift of God for unbelief, and the celestial food for hypocrisy, and led their associates to a wretched abode. These are the people who have manifested sedition throughout the world and have violated His Covenant on the Day when

1. Bahá'u'lláh, The Most Holy Book, para 108

2. Bahá'u'lláh, The Most Holy Book, para 117

3. Bahá'u'lláh, The Persian Hidden Words no. 69

4. Bahá'u'lláh, Kalimát-i-Firdawsíyyih (Words of Paradise)



*the immortal Being mounted His throne and the Crier raised His Voice from the haven of security and peace in the holy Vale.”*⁵

“Bahá'u'lláh has clearly said in His Tablets that if you have an enemy, consider him not as an enemy. Do not simply be long-suffering; nay, rather, love him. Your treatment of him should be that which is becoming to lovers. Do not even say that he is your enemy. Do not see any enemies. Though he be your murderer, see no enemy. Look upon him with the eye of friendship. Be mindful that you do not consider him as an enemy and simply tolerate him, for that is but stratagem and hypocrisy. To consider a man your enemy and love him is hypocrisy. This is not becoming of any soul. You must behold him as a friend. You must treat him well. This is right.”⁶

“It is also essential to abstain from hypocrisy and blind imitation, inasmuch as their foul odour is soon detected by every man of understanding and wisdom.”⁷



5. Bahá'u'lláh, *Ishráqát* (Splendors)

6. Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, pp. 267

7. Shoghi Effendi, *The Compilation of Compilations* vol II, pp. 1