

Not to Contend With One's Neighbour

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

Partial translation



Not to Contend With One's Neighbour

*"Ye have been forbidden in the Book of God to engage in contention and conflict, to strike another, or to commit similar acts whereby hearts and souls may be saddened."*¹

*"Conflict and contention are categorically forbidden in His Book. This is a decree of God in this Most Great Revelation. It is divinely preserved from annulment and is invested by Him with the splendour of His confirmation. Verily He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."*²

*"Every eye, in this Day, should seek what will best promote the Cause of God. He, Who is the Eternal Truth, beareth Me witness! Nothing whatever can, in this Day, inflict a greater harm upon this Cause than dissension and strife, contention, estrangement and apathy, among the loved ones of God. Flee them, through the power of God and His sovereign aid, and strive ye to knit together the hearts of men, in His Name, the Unifier, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."*³

*"O contending peoples and kindreds of the earth! Set your faces towards unity, and let the radiance of its light shine upon you. Gather ye together, and for the sake of God resolve to root out whatever is the source of contention amongst you. Then will the effulgence of the world's great Luminary envelop the whole earth, and its inhabitants become the citizens of one city, and the occupants of one and the same throne."*⁴

"O peoples of the earth! By My life and by your own! This Wronged One hath never had, nor hath He now any desire for leadership. Mine aim hath ever been, and still is, to suppress whatever is the cause of contention amidst the peoples of the earth, and of separation amongst the nations, so that all men may be sanctified from every earthly attachment, and be set free to occupy themselves with their own interests... In the Book of God, the Mighty, the Great, ye have been forbidden to engage in contention and conflict... On the one hand the Pen of the Most High hath forbidden all men to engage in sedition, contention or conflict, and on the other that same Pen hath sent down these most sublime words: 'Should anyone, in the

1. Baha'u'llah, The Most Holy Book, para 148

2. Baha'u'llah, Kitab-i-Ahd (Book of the Covenant)

3. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, V

4. Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, CXI



*presence of the Manifestation, discover an evil intention on the part of any soul, he must not oppose him, but must leave him to God.”*⁵

“In short, in all the meetings, whether public or private, nothing should be discussed save that which is under consideration, and all the articles be centered around the Cause of God. Promiscuous talk must not be dragged in and contention is absolutely forbidden.”⁶

“Apart from these provisions Bahá'u'lláh exhorts His followers to consort, with amity and concord and without discrimination, with the adherents of all religions; warns them to guard against fanaticism, sedition, pride, dispute and contention”⁷



5. Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

6. Abdul-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan

7. Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By