O thou who hast been sore afflicted on the pathway of the Covenant!

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

نسخه اصل فارسی

— 191 —

O thou who hast been sore afflicted on the pathway of the Covenant! Anguish and torment, when suffered on the pathway of the Lord, Him of manifest signs, is only favor and grace; affliction is but mercy, and grief a gift from God. Poison is sugar on the tongue, and wrath is kindness, nourishing the soul.

Then praise thou Him, the loving Provider, for having ordained this dire affliction, which is but bounty unalloyed.

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If      I,      like      Abraham,      through      flames      must      go,
Or     yet     like     John[^1]     a     bloodstained     road     must     run;
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If, Joseph-like, Thou’d cast me in a well, Or shut me up within a prison cell — Or make me e’en as poor as Mary’s Son — I will not go from Thee, But ever stand My soul and body bowed to Thy command. {.verse id="15f" type="par" language="en"} [1]: John the Baptist