

The first duty prescribed by God for His servants is the recognition of Him Who is the Dayspring of His Revelation and the Fountain of His laws, Who representeth the Godhead in both the Kingdom of His Cause and the world of creation. Whoso achieveth this duty hath attained unto all good; and whoso is deprived thereof hath gone astray, though he be the author of every righteous deed. It behoveth every one who reacheth this most sublime station, this summit of transcendent glory, to observe every ordinance of Him Who is the Desire of the world. These twin duties are inseparable. Neither is acceptable without the other. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the Source of Divine inspiration.

Bahá 'u'lláh

We pray God—exalted be His glory—and cherish the hope that He may graciously assist the manifestations of affluence and power and the daysprings of sovereignty and glory, the kings of the earth—may God aid them through His strengthening grace—to establish the Lesser Peace. ... It is their duty to convene an all-inclusive assembly, which either they themselves or their ministers will attend, and to enforce

whatever measures are required to establish unity and concord amongst men.

Bahá 'u'lláh

Please God, the poor may exert themselves and strive to earn the means of livelihood. This is a duty which, in this most great Revelation, hath been prescribed unto every one, and is accounted in the sight of God as a goodly deed. Whoso observeth this duty, the help of the invisible One shall most certainly aid him.

Bahá 'u'lláh

Whatever duty Thou hast prescribed unto Thy servants of extolling to the utmost Thy majesty and glory is but a token of Thy grace unto them, that they may be enabled to ascend unto the station conferred upon their own inmost being, the station of the knowledge of their own selves.

Bahá 'u'lláh

The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth for him. Let none, therefore, consider the largeness or smallness of the receptacle. The portion of some might lie in the palm of a man's hand, the portion of

others might fill a cup, and of others even a gallon-measure.

Bahá 'u'lláh

We must not be content with simply following a certain course because we find our fathers pursued that course. It is the duty of everyone to investigate reality, and investigation of reality by another will not do for us.

Abdu'l-Bahá

There are certain pillars which have been established as the unshakeable supports of the Faith of God. The mightiest of these is learning and the use of the mind, the expansion of consciousness, and insight into the realities of the universe and the hidden mysteries of Almighty God.

To promote knowledge is thus an inescapable duty imposed on every one of the friends of God.

Abdu'l-Bahá

It is for this reason that, in this new cycle, education and training are recorded in the Book of God as obligatory and not voluntary. That is, it is enjoined upon the father and mother, as a duty, to strive with all effort to train the daughter and the son,

*to nurse them from the breast of knowledge
and to rear them in the bosom of sciences
and arts.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*For this day the most necessary duty is to
purify your morals, to correct your manners,
and to improve your deeds.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*in this new century the attainment of
science, arts and belles lettres, whether
divine or worldly, material or spiritual, is a
matter which is acceptable before God and a
duty which is incumbent upon us to
accomplish.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the duty
incumbent upon all to investigate reality.
What does it mean to investigate reality? It
means that man must forget all hearsay and
examine truth himself, for he does not know
whether statements he hears are in
accordance with reality or not. Wherever he
finds truth or reality, he must hold to it,
forsaking, discarding all else; for outside of
reality there is naught but superstition and
imagination.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

Duty

A brief selection from the

Bahá'í Writings