

*Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*Think ye of love and good fellowship as the delights of heaven, think ye of hostility and hatred as the torments of hell.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*But the paradise and hell of existence are found in all the worlds of God, whether in this world or in the spiritual heavenly worlds.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*Those souls that, in this day, enter the divine kingdom and attain everlasting life, although materially dwelling on earth, yet in reality soar in the realm of heaven. Their bodies may linger on earth but their spirits travel in the immensity of space. For as thoughts widen and become illumined, they acquire the power of flight and transport man to the kingdom of God.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*I hope that in this nether world thou shalt attain unto heavenly light, thou wilt free the souls from the gloom of nature, which is the animal kingdom, and cause them to reach lofty stations in the human kingdom. Today all people are immersed in the world of nature. That is why thou dost see jealousy, greed, the struggle for survival, deception, hypocrisy, tyranny, oppression, disputes, strife, bloodshed, looting and pillaging, which all emanate from the world of nature. Few are those who have been freed from this darkness, who have ascended from the world of nature to the world of man, who have followed the divine Teachings, have served the world of humanity, are resplendent, merciful, illumined and like unto a rose garden. Strive thine utmost to become godlike, characterized with His attributes, illumined and merciful, that thou mayest be freed from every bond and become attached at heart to the Kingdom of the incomparable Lord. This is Bahá'í bounty, and this is heavenly light.*

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

**O SON OF BEING!**

*Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly home,*

*reunion with Me. Enter therein and tarry not. This is that which hath been destined for thee in Our Kingdom above and Our exalted dominion.*

Bahá'u'lláh

*In the utterances of the divine Luminaries the term "heaven" hath been applied to many and divers things; such as the "heaven of Command," the "heaven of Will," the "heaven of the divine Purpose," the "heaven of divine Knowledge," the "heaven of Certitude," the "heaven of Utterance," the "heaven of Revelation," the "heaven of Concealment," and the like. In every instance, He hath given the term "heaven" a special meaning,...*

Bahá'u'lláh

*Humility exalteth man to the heaven of glory and power, whilst pride abaseth him to the depths of wretchedness and degradation.*

Bahá'u'lláh

*The heaven of divine wisdom is illumined with the two luminaries of consultation and compassion and the canopy of world order is upraised upon the two pillars of reward and punishment.*

Bahá'u'lláh

*And likewise He saith: The heaven of true understanding shineth resplendent with the light of two luminaries: tolerance and righteousness.*

Bahá'u'lláh

*Heaven and hell are conditions within our own beings.*

Shoghi Effendi

*To 'get to heaven' as you say is dependent on two things—faith in the Manifestation of God in His Day, in other words in this Age in Bahá'u'lláh; and good deeds, in other words living to the best of our ability a noble life and doing unto others as we would be done by. But we must always remember that our existence and everything we have or ever will have is dependent upon the Mercy of God and His Bounty, and therefore He can accept into His heaven, which is really nearness to Him, even the lowliest if He pleases. We always have the hope of receiving His Mercy if we reach out for it.*

Shoghi Effendi

# Heaven and Hell

A brief selection from the

*Bahá'í Writings*