BAHAI THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

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Bahai the spirit of the age by Horace Holley

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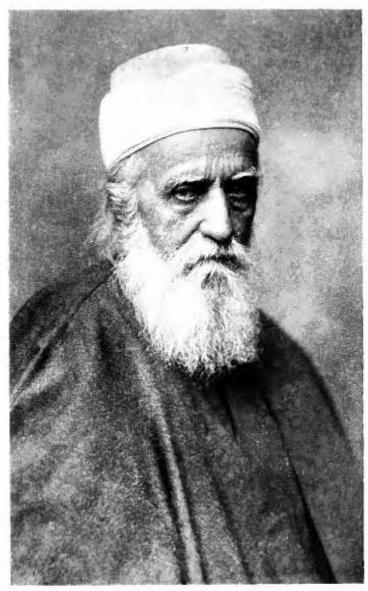
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HORACE HOLLEY

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ABDUL BAHA
The Servant of God

BAHAI



The Spirit of the Age

HORACE HOLLEY

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"Say, the fecundation of Bounty has been wasted over all things in this day and everything has generated and brought forth its own kind, but verily the majority of the people have turned away from it—the trees bring forth the beautiful fruit; the seas, the brilliant jewels; man, knowledge and science; the universe, the Transsiguration of the Merciful; and the earth, that which no one comprehendeth save the True One, the knower of secrets and unseen things."

- BAHA'O'LLAH.

INTRODUCTION

The new translation of an ancient classic contains one very significant change. A prophetic passage formerly interpreted "the end of the world" reads now "the end of the age."

In this sense, the world has indeed come to an end in our day — the foundations of a new age, a new civilization, a new science and a new faith have visibly been laid. The inspiration of this new age, for many people in all parts of the world, has one source, one password, one mystery: the name Bahai.

The word Bahai is like a jewel with many facets, a fountain with many pitchers, a mansion with many rooms.

For some, it means a set of principles necessary for the peace of the world, for economic stability, for the true progress of the sciences and the arts.

For others, Bahai means the privilege of belonging to an active movement already spread throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and large portions of the East; a movement spreading the ideals of fellowship and service irrespective of race, creed, nationality and class.

Still others feel in the word Bahai the reality, the consummation of the Sermon on the Mount, the return of the Divine Love for the purpose of raising mankind from its animal condition to the level of conscious spirituality.

Behind this word for many there stands also a glorious Presence, a Divine Being whose title this word is: The Glory of God. These persons feel this Presence as the controlling force behind every event of this time. Thus is Bahai the cause of a new spirit of reverence and devotion, written as it is upon a Bible, a World Bible, revealed in cosmic utterances which gather together those who seem to be a nucleus of the future, spiritual race.

Still others, having heard Abdul Baha during his travels through Europe and America immediately preceding the War, see the word Bahai in terms of his wisdom, his graciousness, his untiring efforts to awaken the slumbering soul to realize the opportunities and responsibilities of life in this age.

Behind this word Bahai, finally, there is one of the most astonishing chapters History has ever had occasion to record. From its beginnings in the glorious Babi martyrdoms which occurred in Persia only about eighty years ago; to that forty-year exile and imprisonment suffered by Baha'o'llah and Abdul Baha, with seventy faithful followers; witnessing then the renaissance of the Holy Land as the "Mount of Revelation," and arriving at the present hour with Abdul Baha's unique mission made fruitful by the commencement of work on the Bahai Temple at Chicago, by the deeper comprehension of the meaning of this Cause awakened