

REFERENCES - ESSAY 12

"If the deceased should leave children who are under age, their share of the inheritance must be entrusted to a reliable individual, or to a company, that it may be invested on their behalf in trade and business until they come of age." (Baha'u'llah)

"Because if there were no prospect for gaining interest, the affairs of men would suffer collapse or dislocation. ... as a token of favour towards men We have prescribed that interest on money should be treated like other business transactions that are current amongst men. Thus, now that this lucid commandment hath descended from the heaven of the Will of God, it is lawful and proper to charge interest on money, that the people of the world may, in a spirit of amity and fellowship and with joy and gladness, devotedly engage themselves in magnifying the Name of Him Who is the Well-Beloved of all mankind. Verily He ordaineth according to His Own choosing. He hath now made interest on money lawful, even as He had made it unlawful in the past. Within His grasp He holdeth the kingdom of authority. He doeth and ordaineth. He is in truth the Ordainer, the All-Knowing." (Baha'u'llah)

"They who are possessed of riches, however, must have the utmost regard for the poor, for great is the honor destined by God for those poor who are steadfast in patience. By My life! There is no honor, except what God may please to bestow, that can compare to this honor. Great is the blessedness awaiting the poor that endure patiently and conceal their sufferings, and well is it with the rich who bestow their riches on the needy and prefer them before themselves." (Baha'u'llah)

"O ye that are possessed of riches! Take heed lest outward appearance deter you from benevolent deeds in the path of God ... Pride not yourselves on earthly riches ye possess. ... Blessed is the rich man whom earthly possessions have been powerless to hinder from turning unto God, the Lord of all names. Verily he is accounted among the most distinguished of men before God, the Gracious, the All-Knowing." (Baha'u'llah)

“Be not troubled in poverty nor confident in riches, for poverty is followed by riches, and riches are followed by poverty. Yet to be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift ...” (Baha’u’llah)

“Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him.... Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful.” (Baha’u’llah)

“Thou hast written that they have pledged themselves to observe maximum austerity in their lives with a view to forwarding the remainder of their income to His exalted presence. This matter was mentioned at His holy court. He said: Let them act with moderation and not impose hardship upon themselves. We would like them both to enjoy a life that is well-pleasing.” (Baha’u’llah)

“... all effort and exertion put forth by man from the fullness of his heart is worship, if it is prompted by the highest motives and the will to do service to humanity.” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“I desire distinction for you. ... But this distinction must not depend upon wealth ... (or being) more affluent than other people. I do not desire for you financial distinction. It is not an ordinary distinction I desire; not scientific, commercial, industrial distinction. For you I desire spiritual distinction – that is, you must become eminent and distinguished in morals. In the love of God you must become distinguished from all else. You must become distinguished for loving humanity, for unity and accord, for love and justice. In brief, you must become distinguished in all the virtues of the human world – for faithfulness and sincerity, for justice and fidelity, for firmness and steadfastness, for philanthropic deeds and service to the human world, for love toward every human being, for unity and accord with all people, for removing prejudices and promoting international peace. Finally, you must become distinguished for heavenly illumination and for acquiring the bestowals of God. I

desire this distinction for you. This must be the point of distinction among you." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"O Friends of God! Be ye assured that in place of these contributions, your agriculture, your industry, and your commerce will be blessed by manifold increases, with goodly gifts and bestowals. He who cometh with one goodly deed will receive a tenfold reward. There is no doubt that the living Lord will abundantly confirm those who expend their wealth in His path." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"It should not be imagined that the writer's earlier remarks constitute a denunciation of wealth or a commendation of poverty. Wealth is praiseworthy in the highest degree, if it is acquired by an individual's own efforts and the grace of God, in commerce, agriculture, art and industry, and if it be expended for philanthropic purposes." ('Abdu'l-Baha)

"... the progress and extension of spiritual activities is dependent and conditioned upon material means ..." (Shoghi Effendi)

"We must be like the fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has and is continually being refilled from an invisible source. To be continually giving out for the good of our fellows undeterred by fear of poverty and reliant on the unfailing bounty of the Source of all wealth and all good – this is the secret of right living." (Shoghi Effendi)

"... whatever investment the friends make they should do it with the utmost caution, as economic and financial conditions are at present most unstable and even precarious." (Shoghi Effendi)

"As to your fear over money, the acquisition of wealth is not in itself a fearsome objective, it is a practical necessity. The problem with wealth arises from inappropriate attitudes toward possessing and using it. ... As in so many other aspects of personal life, Baha'u'llah's teachings provide a means for safeguarding us from the test of wealth by ordaining the law of Huququ'llah, providing

the opportunity to contribute to the Baha'i Funds, and encouraging philanthropic endeavors for the well-being of all." (Universal House of Justice)

"... (the Baha'i Writings) is replete with warnings of its perilous allure, that wealth is a 'mighty barrier' ... No wonder, then, that Baha'u'llah extols the station of the wealthy one who is not hindered by riches ... such a soul 'shall illuminate the dwellers of heaven even as the sun enlightens the people of the earth!' 'Abdu'l-Baha declares that 'if a judicious and resourceful individual should initiate measures which would universally enrich the masses of the people, there could be no undertaking greater than this, and it would rank in the sight of God as the supreme achievement'. ... Examining one's life to determine what is a necessity and then discharging with joy one's obligation in relation to the law of Huququ'llah is an indispensable discipline to bring one's priorities into balance, purify whatever wealth one possesses, and ensure that the share which is the Right of God provides for the greater good." (Baha'u'llah & 'Abdu'l-Baha, as quoted by Universal House of Justice)

"The Universal House of Justice further stated ... 'The National Spiritual Assembly itself must ensure that proper provision is made for preserving the value of financial reserves by wise and careful management.' The National Spiritual Assembly has ... taken this guidance to mean that investment instruments must reflect the very best risk available in the market; return is a less important criterion. Further, with the rapid proliferation of investment vehicles, not all of whose effects are known or predictable even to highly accomplished financial professionals, an extra measure of caution is called for ..." (National Spiritual Assembly, USA)