

SOURCES – ESSAY 2

“... regard ye not one another as strangers. Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch.” (Baha’u’llah)

“Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from the same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest.” (Baha’u’llah)

“... false distinctions of race and nativity, which are factors and causes of warfare, must be abandoned.” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“But there is need of a superior power to overcome human prejudice, a power which nothing in the world of mankind can withstand and which will overshadow the effect of all other forces at work in the human conditions. That irresistible power is the love of God.” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

“The black man must ever be grateful to the white man, for he has manifested great courage and self-sacrifice in behalf of the black race. For years he fought their cause, enduring severe hardships, sacrificing life, family, treasure, all for his black brother until the great war ended in the proclamation of freedom.” (‘Abdu’l-Baha)

"Let the white make a supreme effort in their resolve to contribute their share to the solution of this problem, to abandon once for all their usually inherent and at times subconscious sense of superiority, to correct their tendency towards revealing a patronizing attitude towards the members of the other race, to persuade them through their intimate, spontaneous and informal association with them of the genuineness of their friendship and the sincerity of their intentions, and to master their impatience of any lack of responsiveness on the part of a people who have received, for so long a period, such grievous and slow-healing wounds. Let the Negroes, through a corresponding effort on their part, show by every means in their power the warmth of their response, their readiness to forget the past, and their ability to wipe out every trace of suspicion that may still linger in their hearts and minds. Let neither think that the solution of so vast a problem is a matter that exclusively concerns the other." (Shoghi Effendi)

"Even if such a community were to focus the entirety of its resources on the problem of racial prejudice, even if it were able to heal itself to some extent of that cancerous affliction, in the face of such a monumental social challenge the impact would be inconsequential. Therefore, the friends must effectively assess the forces at work in their society and, beginning in neighborhoods and clusters, contribute their share to the process of learning and systematization which, as their numbers, knowledge, and influence grow, will transform their lives, families, and communities. Only if the efforts to eradicate the bane of prejudice are coherent with the full range of the community's affairs, only if they arise naturally within the systematic pattern of expansion, community building, and involvement with society, will the American believers expand their capacity, year after year and decade after decade, to make their mark on their community and society and contribute to the high aim set for the Baha'is by 'Abdu'l-Baha to eliminate racial prejudice from the face of the earth." (UHJ)