A Compilation of Baha’u’llah’s Writings — Volume 03 (1868–1873)

Translated Using GPT-4

Baha’u’llah

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A Compilation of Baha'u'llah's Writings

Translated Using GPT-4. Each writing is identified by its BH reference number.

Volume 038: Edirne II (year unknown, 1864–1868) (4 of 6)

BH01702: God hath heard that wherewith thou art concerned…

He is the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy

God hath heard that wherewith thou art concerned, and therefore doth He make mention of thee through His grace. There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing. Blessed is he who hath attained unto these days and recognized the Manifestation of God's Self in this wondrous garment, and whom nothing between the heavens and earth hath withheld from God. Blessed is the eye that hath beheld His beauty, and blessed is the ear that hath heard His melodies, and blessed are the tongues that have voiced His praise, and blessed are the hearts which God hath made receptacles of His love and mirrors of His radiant and luminous countenance.

Remember Him, O people, for His remembrance is better for you than the remembrance of all mankind, for true worship is realized after His love and knowledge, and without this naught shall be accepted from anyone even if he should bring forth the deeds of all the world. Say: O people, fear God, then shun the hosts of Satan who have taken vain imaginings as their lord instead of God, and who recite His words at all times yet when the verses of God, the Just King, the All-Wise, are recited unto them, they deny them and return unto their households in abasement.

Say: O people, associate not partners with God, for such association is a grievous wrong. Bear witness unto that which God Himself witnessed before the creation of all things, that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. Say: He hath appeared with the truth and with Him are the proofs of all the Prophets and Messengers, and whoso hath hesitated in His Cause hath verily hesitated in the Cause of God from time immemorial and was recorded among the idolaters in the Preserved Tablet.

Say: O people, this is the glance of Ali which in truth from this horizon beholdeth what ye do, and He is the Witness over all created things. And this is the ear of Ali which from this horizon hearkeneth unto that which ye dispute concerning His Cause, O heedless ones. And this is the tongue of ʿAli which speaketh among you with the verses of God, the Mighty King, the All-Praised, and saith: O people of the Bayan! The Most Merciful Himself hath come unto you, and by Him have been attracted the realities of all creation—

they who have purified their vision from the limitations of the wicked ones and turned their gaze toward the scene of their Lord, the Chosen One, and were numbered among the triumphant.

Beware lest ye object unto Him as did the peoples of old object unto God's Messengers, and as did the people of the Furqan object unto My wronged and lonely Self. We revealed the Bayan for His sake and made it as a leaf among the leaves of the gardens of His knowledge, were ye to be of them that know. Yet ye deny Him and make mention of My Name, and imagine that ye are of them who sought My presence and attributed themselves unto My Self. Nay, by the Lord of all worlds! Whoso denieth Him hath denied Me, and whoso objecteth unto Him hath objected unto My Self, and whoso turneth away from Him hath turned away from God, the Mighty King, the All-Knowing. I verily disavow those who have hesitated in His Cause. Do ye make mention of My Name while ye slay My Being and My Beloved? What aileth you, O ye that turn aside! Thus hath the Tongue of the All-Merciful spoken from the right hand of the Throne, that His sincere servants might hear it.

O Taqi, hold fast unto the cord of righteousness, then detach thyself from self and passion, then turn thy face toward the precincts of God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers of old. Say: O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having made known unto me the Manifestation of Thy Self. I beseech Thee, then, not to withhold from me that which Thou hast ordained in this Most Great, Most Mighty Revelation, and leave me not to myself, but make me to voice His praise and celebrate His remembrance and turn toward the Kaaba of His good-pleasure and the sanctuary of His glory. Verily, Thou art powerful to do what Thou willest, and Thou art, in truth, the All-Compelling, the Mighty, the Powerful.

O my Lord! Purify me from the allusions of them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, then dedicate me wholly to Thy radiant and resplendent countenance. Then send greetings from God upon thy mother and thy kindred and upon them who are established upon the thrones of certitude in this All-Wise Remembrance. And praise be to God, my Beloved and the Beloved of all the worlds.

BH01704: This is an epistle from a penitent servant…

In the Name of God, the Manifest, the Most Manifest!

This is an epistle from a penitent servant to those who have soared in the atmosphere of the love of the All-Merciful and have detached themselves from all created things. These are among the most exalted of creatures in the sight of God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. You shall hearken unto the words of this Prisoner and become acquainted with what hath befallen Him at the hands of the hosts of the idolaters.

O servants of God! Be steadfast in the Cause and follow not every sinful infidel. Remember God, your Creator, then walk in the ways of His good-pleasure and be not of the heedless. Know ye that there hath befallen Us that which hath befallen no one else in creation, were ye of them that hear. Those who were in My service have risen against Mine own Self, and thereby have they violated the sanctity of God amongst His hesitant servants. They have attached themselves to every soul and entered every house to seize dirhams and dinars, and yet they claim detachment for themselves. Behold then the servants who follow them without any clear proof or enlightening Book.

O people! Make your vision penetrating, lest matters become confused to you and ye be numbered with them that perceive. Know ye that the Truth and whatsoever hath appeared from Him shall be distinguished from the deeds of all created things. O people! Fear God and spread not corruption in the land after it hath been set in order, and be not of them that slumber. Lift up your heads from sleep, for the sun hath risen to its zenith. Glorified be God, the King, the Mighty, the Most High, the Great!

O My Name! Thou wert with Us for a number of years, and We concealed from thee that which was hidden, and We were of them that conceal. We informed thee not of that which was concealed from the eyes of certain servants, preserved for His sake, which the idolaters took for themselves as a lord besides God, the King, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Although thou didst become acquainted with some of his affairs, We concealed most of his deeds from the eyes of men, out of a wisdom known to none save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

By God, O My Name! He was in the land of Ta standing before My face, and We were revealing verses unto him while he would write them and send them to the servants. Thus was the matter in the innermost mystery, and none was aware of this save God, my Lord and your Lord and the Lord of all worlds, lest any should turn their attention to the seat of the Cause, and thus were We doing. Whoso possesseth understanding and insight will be convinced that the matter was as We have cast it unto thee in truth, requiring no proof, and will be of them that are assured.

When his name was elevated amongst the servants, he committed that which none in all the worlds had committed. Would that thou hadst known that which he decreed against thyself, but We concealed it from thee. When he turned against God, We turned against him and revealed the hidden aspects of his secret and his deceit amongst Our knowing servants. Were We to mention what he hath committed in this land, the Tablets and pens would not suffice, and God is witness to what I say.

Leave these ones and their like, then turn wholly toward God. Remember the people and be not of them that remain silent. Soon will Satan come to you with tablets of fire—leave him and what he possesseth in the depths of hell. Say: By God! We have been made independent of the worlds through His Own Self, and through Him have We become independent of all things, and through His praise have We become independent of the praise of every praiser who knoweth.

Let the loved ones of God gather upon the Most Great Word—this is better for them than whatsoever hath been created between the heavens and the earth. Thus have We commanded thee in this Tablet and mentioned thee out of love for thyself, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Creator, and remain steadfast in the Cause of God, the King, the Truth, the Mighty, the Wise. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy kindred whom God hath specially chosen for thee and made them to be of the believers. Then convey Our greetings to the faces of My loved ones who have remained steadfast in the Cause and have detached themselves from the worlds.

BH01706: This is an epistle from the Prisoner unto him…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

This is an epistle from the Prisoner unto him who hath believed in God, the All-Possessing, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting, and who answered God when He said "Am I not your Lord?" by saying "Yea, verily Thou art God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Best-Beloved." Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as thou hast attained unto the recognition of God in these days wherein God came in the name of ʿAli with the truth, accompanied by hosts of angels who circle round the Throne, glorifying Him, and all who are in the heavens and earth were thunderstruck save those who at that time made mention of the name of the Bayan.

But when the Beloved came once again with His Most Great Name, most of them denied Him, and all in the kingdom of creation and command were terror-stricken, save His honored servants. Say: Verily, He liveth now in the Most Glorious Horizon, beholding and witnessing what ye do, and He saith:

> "O people! I have come to you from the Dayspring of Revelation with the tidings of God, the All-Possessing, the Self-Subsisting, and this Return is the Return whereat the people of the Mount were thunderstruck."

Thus have We informed you in the Tablets, would that ye might know.

O people! Do ye read My verses, yet slay My Self and My Beloved? Why do ye not understand? Say: O people! Should ye prostrate yourselves upon the surface of the entire earth before God, your Lord and the Lord of all that was and shall be, and should ye worship God at every spot on earth for seventy thousand years, it would profit you naught except through love of the Youth, would that ye might know. Did that which the people of the Gospel wrought profit them when Muhammad, the Apostle of God, came to them with manifest sovereignty? And did that which the people of the Furqan possessed profit them when the Sovereign of the Messengers came with the signs of God, the All-Possessing, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting? Nay, by My life! Nothing profited anyone save through faith. Thus hath the Pen of Command inscribed upon preserved tablets of glory.

Say: O people! Fear God and dispute not with Him through Whom the Sun of Utterance hath shone forth from the horizon of His name, the All-Merciful, with manifest radiance. Deny not the signs of God after their revelation, nor His power which hath encompassed all that was created between the Kaf and the Nun. And thou, O servant, stand firm in the Cause with authority from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved. Say: By God! The Sun of inner meanings and utterance hath risen from the horizon of this exalted heaven, and hath appeared upon the temple of the Youth. How wonderful is this Beauty, manifest, apparent, yet concealed!

Say: O people! Fear God and be not veiled by what ye possess. Turn ye unto His merciful countenance which hath appeared at the center of creation and speaketh in all things that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Beloved. Say: He is God's trust among you and His covenant within you. Beware lest ye break it.

Arise for the Cause of God and His victory, which is to teach His Cause among the servants. Thus was the command revealed aforetime and now, would that ye might understand.

Beware of shedding blood, for it hath been forbidden unto you in all the Tablets, would that ye might perceive. Sanctify your souls and your deeds in such wise that all atoms shall testify to your sanctification, and this verily is the true victory, would that ye might know.

Say: Beware, O people, lest ye commit that which would dishonor the Cause of your Lord, the Mighty, the Loving, for whatsoever ye commit, the people attribute to the Source of the Cause, as ye yourselves witness. Should the people gather in the religion of God, then impart unto them that which God hath imparted unto thee, that their faces might be illumined. Thus have We commanded thee in truth. Act according to what thou hast been commanded and be not of those who tarry after receiving the command.

Arise for the victory of God and His Cause, and fear no one. He will assist thee in truth by a command from His presence, for He is the Almighty, the Powerful, the Compassionate, the All-Forgiving. Then convey Our greetings unto the faces of those who have believed in God, be they young or old, female or male.

BH01716: O concourse of ardent lovers! I swear by God!…

O concourse of ardent lovers! I swear by God! This is a Night the world of creation hath never seen its like. Such is the evidence of the heavenly grace vouchsafed by God, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

In this Night the divine Spirit did intone a melody which hath stirred up the souls of all mankind, proclaiming: Rejoice! ye dwellers of the realm of Glory within the retreats of Paradise! And the Voice of God was raised from behind the pavilion of holiness and tender mercy, exclaiming: This is indeed the Night in which He Who is the Manifestation of the Essence of the Merciful Lord hath been born, wherein the Pen of the All-Glorious hath set forth every eternal decree with clarity. Rejoice then and be of good cheer, O people of the Bayan! And therein the Nightingale hath warbled its notes upon the boughs and the branches crying out: Rejoice, O concourse of the people of Paradise!

Say, in this Night the veil of glory hath been rent asunder before the eyes of the faithful and the Bird of Heaven hath chanted and twittered in the midmost heart of Paradise. Rejoice then, O Tabernacle of holiness in the City of Zaman! And therein God did manifest Himself resplendent in the plenitude of the glory of all His mighty Names, and did establish His seat in every pure and radiant heart. Rejoice therefore, O people of the Bayan!

In this Night oceans of forgiveness have surged and the reviving breeze of His benevolence hath been diffused. Be then of good cheer, O companions of the Merciful Lord! And therein all the trespasses committed by the people of the earth have been forgiven. This is indeed a joyful tiding unto all those that dwell in the hidden recesses of the world.

Say, this is the Night wherein the assigned measure of God’s blessings and bounty hath been prescribed in the Scrolls of Glory and Faith, that thereby every trace of grief and sorrow may be banished form all created things, for all times and throughout all ages. Rejoice then in your hearts, O ye that have stepped into the realm of existence! Thereupon the Herald of the Spirit raised His Voice from the centre of the

Kingdom of Eternity, the celestial Seat of loftiness and glory, exclaiming: Such is the evidence of the heavenly grace vouchsafed by God, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

And the cups of the ruby-coloured wine have been borne round by the hand of the peerless Joseph. Such is the evidence of the heavenly grace vouchsafed by God, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

Make haste then, O members of the human race, and quaff your fill from this choice wine of eternal life. Such is the evidence of the heavenly grace vouchsafed by God, the Exalted, the Bountiful.

Say, O concourse of ardent lovers! The Countenance of the Desired One hath shone forth, unveiled and conspicuous. Such is the evidence of the heavenly grace vouchsafed by God, the Exalted, the Bountiful.

O company of the loved ones! The Beauty of the Beloved hath risen above the horizon of holiness. Hasten ye, then, and come with your souls, O companions of the Bayan! This is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful. The proof and the testimony have been made manifest, whereupon the Resurrection hath been established through the uprising of God, in the Person of His own eternal Manifestation; and this is of the bounty of God, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful. Ages have surged, and worlds have been shaken, and lights have exulted, through God's revelation upon every tree laden with branches; and this is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful. Come ye, O concourse of the pure, for souls have been raised, winds have been loosed, forms have been consumed, and the tongues of eternity have cried aloud upon every tree with boughs; and this is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful. By God! the veils have been consumed, the luminous barriers rent asunder, the signs disclosed, the allusions unveiled, and the hints uplifted by One puissant and sovereign; and this is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful.

Rejoice ye—and keep this hidden; conceal this subtle, most hidden, most secret symbol, lest the strangers come to know of what ye are drinking from this wine, which is full of delight and attraction; and this is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful.

O concourse of the Bayan! By God! the bounty hath been completed, mercy hath been perfected, and the Countenance hath shone forth with spirit and sweet savours; and this is of the bounty of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful.

Drink ye, O concourse of companions, and rejoice ye, O company of the loved ones, of this Salsabil—luminous, pearl-like, and resplendent. This, verily, is of the grace of God, the Most High, the All-Bountiful.

BH01726: The remembrance of God in the Tree of Paradise…

He is the Sovereign, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower

The remembrance of God in the Tree of Paradise: God, there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing, Who hath ordained the measures of the Cause in the Tablets of a watchful Glory. In His hand is the dominion of all things, and He is powerful over all things. His is the bounty and grace, His the power and justice. He singles out whom He willeth through His command, and He encompasseth all things.

O Beauty of Holiness in the Most Great Word! Rend asunder the veils and fear no one. Place thy trust in God, the Mighty, the Most High, the All-Wise. Cast upon the people that which We have cast upon thee from beyond the ocean of destiny. Tarry not for less than a moment, and be not of the patient ones. Come forth from behind the veils of light with the adorning of God, then arise from the horizon of holiness with manifest lights of glory. And if thou art touched with tribulation and adversity in My love, grieve not, for this is My way with the Messengers. Remind the servants of that which will cause them to turn to the direction of an assured holiness. Then recount unto the people the bounty of thy Lord.

And if these unbelievers object to thee, say:

> "By God! The Spirit of Holiness hath appeared in a novel holy vesture, and verily the pebbles do at this moment glorify in this sacred, luminous Hand. The Call hath returned in this blessed Tree which hath been raised upon the Mount of Musk, and this is indeed a mighty trial."

Say: "This is the Cave wherein took refuge the Youth of Eternity when they said: ʿOur Lord! Grant us mercy from Thy presence and dispose our affair aright,' and Thou art the Forgiving, the Merciful. We heard their cry and sheltered them therein, and made them a remembrance for all the worlds." Say: "This is the Cave wherein Muhammad, the Apostle of God, was preserved from the hands of the hateful ones." Say: "This is the Ark wherein the Son of Mary ascended in truth, if ye be of them that know." Say: "We have believed in God and in what hath been sent down unto us and what was sent down unto God's Messengers aforetime, and what was sent down unto Ali before Nabil." Say: "He is the Sovereign of the Messengers, and God created by one letter from Him all who are in the heavens and the earth, if ye be of the assured ones."

Say: "We were behind seventy thousand veils and We concealed the Face lest anyone of the worlds should behold it. But when the ungodly imprisoned Us, We unveiled the Face and manifested it like the sun from behind thick clouds. When they turned away, We turned against them to spite them and spite those who waxed proud before God and were among the opposing ones."

Know then that We have found the fragrances of love from thy letter and have sent thee this Tablet that thine eyes might be solaced thereby, and the eyes of those who have turned unto God and are of them that return. But beseech God that He cut not off from thee these fragrances sent forth by the Mighty, the Generous, for the bird of sedition hath taken flight from the direction of destiny. Thus hath the matter been decreed from the Pen of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Sovereign, the Subduer, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

And thou, preserve this Tablet, then recite it with wondrous melody every day, that God may preserve thee through His grace, for He is the Best Preserver and Helper. And if thou findest pure hearts, cast upon them that which We have cast upon thee of the gems of the Cause, that thereby the hearts of the sincere may rejoice. We have indeed sent thee what hath been revealed in this Prison that thou mayest become aware of the mysteries within the veils of light and be of them that know. Then write it in thy finest hand and send it to near and far places, then spread it before Our servant Ja'far that he may give glad tidings unto the people through the signs of his Lord and be of them that give glad tidings.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves wholly unto God and are of the doers of good. Then convey Our greetings to all who are in thy land, both male and female, that Our grace may be completed upon them from Our presence, and this is indeed a mighty grace.

BH01729: Glorified be He Who sendeth down verses anew…

He is the Mighty, the Powerful, the Inaccessible, the Exalted!

Glorified be He Who sendeth down verses anew, in a manner that draweth unto Him all them that are nigh unto God, and hath ordained therein the measures of all things in such wise that all who are in the heavens and on earth are powerless before it. Thus hath the matter been inscribed at this hour by the Pen of Glory upon the Tablet of eternity with majesty.

Verily, they who have ascended unto God and turned away from earthly dominion, and have drunk from the ocean of life—these are they who recognize the melodies of Paradise and bear witness that all this is a revelation from the presence of One Who is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. These are they from whose faces radiance doth shine forth, and from whose hearts the remembrance of God is heard, and who have been enraptured in the atmosphere of the spirit by the melodies of God. They drink deep from the chalice of beauty, and move at the mention of God's name, and partake of the wine that hath descended from the clouds of knowledge.

Thus do We relate unto thee from the chronicles of truth, and cast upon thee the melodies of Paradise, that they may attract thee unto thyself and turn thee toward the shore of eternity in the Most Exalted Pavilion, and raise thee to a station that transcendeth all knowledge.

O beloved! Hear what the deniers say: "We find no spirit in these melodies." Say: "Woe unto you, and to how Satan hath made your deeds seem fair in your own eyes, for verily the spirit of life from this Paradise hath been sent unto all the worlds." Say: "When We found none in the kingdom worthy, We concealed the Beauty of the Divine Identity in camel's hair, lest ye should recognize Me. When ye turned away with the fetters of your hearts, We revealed the Face from behind the pavilion of light, and ordained the matter in a tablet that was hidden from all eyes."

Say: "Cast, then, the ropes of your sorcery and the staves of your idle fancies, that this Serpent might, by God's leave, swallow them up, that the power of God might be witnessed by all the worlds, even as this sun in the midst of heaven." Say: "We had restrained the Pen of Power lest it move across the Tablet, but when We perceived from you the odor of hypocrisy, We moved it less than the beating of a gnat's wing, that ye might witness the surging of this ocean, and perchance the beacons of love might be kindled in your hearts, and ye might become like moths circling round the flame by God's leave."

Say: "O people! Fear God and fabricate not against His servant. Then have mercy upon yourselves and deprive not your souls of the breezes that blow from the right hand of sanctity. This world shall pass away, and all that groweth and is planted therein, and ye shall return to the place wherein the balance of God shall be set up by the hands of power, whereby all deeds of every soul shall be weighed on the day when the sun of justice shall shine forth from the horizon of divine decree, and God shall come with a matter that transcendeth all comprehension."

Hear, O people of the earth, My words, and occupy not yourselves with that which profiteth you not in this vain life, neither grieve for what hath passed you by of earthly ornaments, but soar in the atmosphere of detachment on the wings of submission. And thou, remind the people of what We have cast upon thee, and forget not God's covenant with thee, but hold fast unto His protection, for this is better for thee than all that hath been amassed in the kingdom.

Thus do We teach thee through grace and cast upon thee that which is dearer unto God than all wisdom that hath been mentioned. And peace be upon thee and upon all who are steadfast in their love for their Lord, and upon every grateful servant.

Although no letter was observed from you, nevertheless this servant sent a reply. In any case, he has been striving with the utmost diligence to preserve the Cause of God, lest any new developments that might cause the extinction of the Cause should become manifest. From Iran, someone wrote two brief words about you and Mirza Mihdi. Mirza Aqa Jan is sending a copy of it, but the purpose was not clear and perplexity arose.

BH01781: He is the Mighty! We remember the veiled ones…

He is the Mighty! We remember the veiled ones of the City in a land that is sanctified from nearness to anyone and purified from union with any soul, and in remoteness and separation has reached such a state that the hands of the hopeful and feet of the seekers fall short of reaching it. Although for those ascending to the heaven of nearness and rising to the atmosphere of love, no distance proves far and no barrier becomes an obstacle, for though the earthly path may be distant, the heart's path is nearer than the jugular vein. This is the path of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

In any case, these days we reside in Adrianople. Although it is a great city and vast country, yet the heart finds no rest or tranquility due to separation from friends, and the heart's agitation has made all affairs agitated and scattered. In any case, O friends and companions, do not forget these emigrants and captives. The clouds of divine destiny and the mists of heavenly decree have risen from every direction, and the rains of tribulations and calamities have poured down in such measure that neither can the eye find relief in weeping to comfort withered hearts, nor can the tongue find strength in lamentation to provide solace.

Each day we passed over a mountain and arrived at another mountain and hill. We traversed a hundred thousand deserts and crossed a hundred thousand mountains. How many unseen things were seen and how many unheard matters were heard. We never heard of such glorious captivity nor saw such mighty abasement. Outwardly we were in the utmost glory, majesty and sovereignty, although we were afflicted among enemies. The power and ascendancy of the true Sovereign was evident in this journey.

After traversing all these aforementioned stages, we reached the sea. Glory be to God! What transpired and occurred with the waves of the sea, the various winds, and these small children! Until by the aid of the Most Great Sea we crossed the Lesser Sea and arrived at the seashore which is the city of Constantinople. From there we took a carriage to the residence assigned by the government. We

remained four months in that unillumined city and left there the fruit of the divine Tree and the leaf of the heavenly Lote-Tree.

From there like captives we arrived in another city named Adrianople. Forty days of captivity had been heard of, but six months had never been heard of. Throughout this period several children were sick and ill until we found residence beyond Qaf. And now strange and alone, without companion or friend, without associate or helper, in this dark city we pass these transient days. This is the detailed account of our affairs. Now whoever has a true eye should weep, and whoever has opened the spiritual ear should hear the moaning and lamentation, for the metaphorical eye is not worthy of this weeping nor is the physical ear worthy of this hearing.

All this was decreed for Us by God, the Mighty, the Beautiful. We thank Him in all this and praise Him for all of this and for all that was ordained from His presence, and We shall be, God willing, among the patient ones. O dear sister without expression, if you send a letter, send it detailed and extensive like this blessed letter, otherwise even that one word will remain in mouth and tongue. Why do you leave the poor helpless one without shelter and home and send him on a distant journey? Thus does He teach you with truth that you may be among the doers. And praise be to God, Lord of the worlds.

BH01783: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful! This is a Book from Us to him for whom God hath ordained a lofty and glorious station, that he may hearken unto that which the Tongue of Grandeur doth speak from the direction of a mighty Throne, and act according to that which the Spirit teacheth him of the verses of his Lord, and be among the God-fearing in this Cause.

Say: Knowledge is within Our grasp; We bestow it upon whomsoever We wish among Our servants, and verily We have power over all things. Whoso feareth God, him shall We teach of the wonders of His knowledge, for He is the One Who hath power over whatsoever He pleaseth, and He encompasseth all things. Verily, the highest of all knowledge is His recognition and the recognition of His Manifestations on the Day when He appeared in truth with manifest sovereignty.

Say: Knowledge is a light We cast into the heart of whomsoever We wish—thus was it sent down aforetime from the presence of the Mighty, the Wise. Apart from this knowledge, that which profiteth men not are mere words that breed naught but heedlessness and pride.

Say: O people! Fear God and be not veiled by your learning from Him Who, should He wish, could expound from a single Point the knowledge of what hath been and what shall be, and what lieth concealed behind the pavilions of glory. Beware lest ye approach Him with your learning, for in these days nothing shall profit you, even if ye should come with all the knowledge of earth combined. Say: O people! Purify your hearts from the allusions of men, then turn with radiant hearts to the treasury of knowledge.

And thou, O thou who gazeth toward the direction of the Cause, hearken unto the call of this Prisoner from this horizon which shineth with truth resplendent, that the words of thy Lord may draw thee nigh unto a glorious and holy seat. Know thou that from every verse of thy Lord there waft the breezes of life upon all created things, whereby the dead are raised from the graves of allusions and advance with great

lights toward the seat of holiness. Thus have We sent down the verses unto thee that they may draw thee to a mighty and glorious kingdom.

Arise to serve the Cause of God and to praise Him, then guide the people to this Paradise wherein hath been established the throne of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, round which circle the hosts of revelation with wondrous standards. Tarry not within thyself, neither be silent. Deliver unto the people this Great Announcement which hath been inscribed in all the Tablets by the Pen of God.

Say: He it is Who sent down the Bayan unto Himself, and He is the Beloved enshrined within the heart of Baha. He hath come unto you from the horizon of the Cause with manifest signs. O people! Fear God and spread not corruption in the land after its reformation, and be not among those who tarry about the Path. Pass by it in the name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most High, and be not among the doubtful concerning this Cause which hath appeared in truth with mighty sovereignty.

That the servants of God should gather together upon the law of His Cause is better for thee than all that is on earth. Say: O people! Unite in the Cause of God, then drink from this Salsabil which floweth in truth from the direction of the throne of your Lord, the All-Merciful, in this Paradise which shineth in truth with the lights of beauty. Convey Our greetings unto the faces of them that have believed in God and His signs, on whose countenances can be seen the radiance of a glorious name.

Thus have We commanded thee in truth. Act thou according to that which thou hast been commanded, and fear not any overbearing doubter. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy kindred and upon those who have burned away the veils of self and desire through the heat of their love for their Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, and who have severed themselves from every remote idolater.

BH11715: O Kalim! Hearken unto the voice of the Ancient…

In the name of the peerless Lord!

O Kalim! Hearken unto the voice of the Ancient Beauty and stand firm in the Cause of God with such steadfastness that the feet of the perturbed ones may be made firm on the Straight Path. Say: O servants! I swear by the Manifestation of Creation and the Sovereign of the Day of Return that what ye have heard from the Mouth of God by His leave, ye shall never hear from anyone else, even should ye traverse forever the wildernesses of vain desires and wander therein. The value of the days of attainment was veiled, for all were soaring in the atmosphere of passion and wandering in the desert of fancy and blindness. When the Kalim of the horizons disappeared from the horizon of Iraq, most turned to the Samiri and that which he fashioned, although We had previously informed all of subsequent events, even as was recorded by the Pen of Power in the Tablets of Migration, and likewise all the events of this land were mentioned in the Tablet that was inscribed by the Finger of Power in Ushshash. Alas for the people of the Bayan! How quickly did they alter the divine favor! I know not in what valley they are wandering.

Say: O servants! Not every bird is capable of soaring in the pleasant atmosphere of the All-Merciful. Let not the divine Cause become dubious to you, for His Cause is distinguished and manifest from all else. Can the cooing of the dove and the tracing of the Most Exalted Pen be confused with the croaking of the raven of the desert? Nay, by the Most High Self of God! Strive that ye may not regard creation as truth,

and know Him to be sanctified from all else. The light of day is clearly distinguished from the darkness of night. Set not your hearts on the world, and turn not to the tree of annihilation, for such has been and shall ever be the reality of this world.

Say: O servants! In the days of trial it is beloved to walk in the path of the All-Merciful with the feet of certitude. Otherwise, in the days when the breeze of might wafteth from the Ridvan of the All-Glorious, there shall be many claimants to faith, but such faith hath no merit and dependeth upon another decisive word. In brief, O Kalim, soon thou shalt behold most to be sick, drinking from the cup of hell-fire, and turning away from the Garden of Delight. God willing, thou shalt ever be seen before God as one who drinketh from the Tasnim of eternity and dispenseth it, that perchance mortal frames may drink the Kawthar of divine knowledge from thy loving fingers and, becoming intoxicated, may turn their gaze toward the dwelling-place of "Am I not your Lord?"

O Kalim! Give thanks to God that thou hast been adorned with the ornament of faith and blessed with the new-born child—and this is what We foretold thee aforetime in preserved Tablets of glory. This is one of those tidings that were ordained in the Kingdom of Destiny and were later revealed and made manifest after the completion of its appointed time. Observe the previous Tablets that thou mayest be well informed and be convinced that with Him is the knowledge of all things, and the knowledge which none hath known save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Although thou hast been and, God willing, shall continue to be assured through God's grace—excellent is that which thou hast entitled and named, and We have accepted what hath proceeded from thee—therefore be thankful and be of the thankful ones.

God willing, may you be joyous at all times, and should any sorrow touch you, know with certainty that after it joy is ordained. Indeed, divine bounty towards thee is beyond reckoning. And if any sorrow should touch you, know with certainty that after it joy is ordained. Indeed, divine bounties bestowed upon you have been limitless and beyond counting, and if in certain matters some deficiency hath appeared, it hath been due to your own negligence in your affairs. And the spirit and glory and splendor be upon you and upon those who are with you and upon those who counsel each other regarding this firm, unshakeable, and mighty Cause.

BH01802: In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Sorrowful, the Most Glorious!

O thou Manifestation of Bounty! Hearken unto that which the Pen, encompassed by sorrows from the hosts of Satan, imparteth unto thee. By God, the True One! Wert thou to become aware of that which hath befallen the Beauty of the All-Merciful, thou wouldst weep at all times. Verily, he whom We created by a word of Our command doth every day commit that which causeth the hearts of the denizens of Paradise to burn and the eyes of the All-Merciful to shed tears. He hath risen in opposition and stingeth, like unto a serpent, the Beauty of the All-Glorious every day, and in every moment there appeareth from him that which causeth the Cause of God to be lost, although His Cause is sanctified above all that His good-pleasure abhorreth. But the people, being seized by veils, regard the matter through other eyes.

Thus do We impart unto thee, O Manifestation of Bounty, that which hath set aflame the realities of the people of the Ridvan.

One day he writeth unto his like, with whom it beseemeth not the loved ones of God to converse—may my spirit be a sacrifice unto thee—and another day he sendeth his representative to the chief of the city to lodge a complaint against the Beauty of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Bountiful. By God! Were We to recount unto thee that which hath appeared and continueth to appear from him at every moment, thou wouldst cry out within thyself and weep continuously, by God, the King, the Supreme, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Glorious. In all this he seeketh naught but to beg from his like and to cause the Cause of God to be lost amongst His servants. Reflect then upon that which hath befallen Us from him who, by God the True One, causeth even the people of reckoning to flee from his deeds.

The matter hath reached such a pass that We desired to give him all that We possessed, that perchance the fire of his greed might be stilled. By God, it shall never be quenched, but shall blaze forth at every moment like unto flames of fire. By God, the True One! The eye of creation hath not witnessed his like, nor have the eyes of invention beheld his peer. He committeth the deed of Nimrod, then crieth out within himself; he severeth at every moment the head of the Wronged One, yet calleth out amongst men. Such hath been his deed, and he is not ashamed before God Who created him by a command from His presence. Thus doth he write unto various lands without any evidence or proof. Behold then the state of those who have taken him as a friend instead of God. Alas for them and for him, by reason of that which they have committed in their vain life and were numbered with the people of tyranny and unbelief.

Reflect then upon My tribulations: Hath their like been witnessed in former ages? Nay, by My Self, Which hath encompassed all contingent things in the kingdoms of earth and heaven! And thou, grieve not, but arise to serve the Cause of God, then be patient and long-suffering, and put thy trust in God. Verily, He is with thee, through thee, and for thee. Grieve not on account of the hosts of Satan.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, and take not unto yourselves at every moment a lord besides God. Fear ye the Day whereon all things shall be terrified and all who are in the heavens and on earth shall tremble, save him whom God hath preserved through His power and sovereignty. Beware lest ye join partners with God. Verily, He hath ever been One in His Essence, and hath taken unto Himself neither partner nor likeness nor kinship nor offspring. All before Him are equal, and whoso ascendeth unto Him and cleaveth unto Him is of those who have attained the highest Paradise, and whoso denieth and joineth partners with God, verily, he is not of Him and He is quit of him, whereunto the realities of all things bear witness, but the people comprehend not a word from God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Merciful.

And sorrow be upon thee from these sorrows which have encompassed the Pen of the All-Glorious.

BH01803: O Najaf-ʿAli! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord…

He is the Ever-Abiding, the Eternal, the All-Powerful, the Most Glorious!

O Najaf-ʿAli! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord from the right hand of the Throne, and be thou enraptured by the holy melodies. Beware lest thou hearken with the ear wherewith thou hearest the sounds of created things, but rather with that hearing which God hath made specially for His melodies, that He may

strengthen thee in His Cause and raise thee to the heaven of glorious love, and bring thee to that station wherein thou shalt stand before Him, even though thou be far removed from the gardens of nearness. And thou shalt drink at all times from the cup of His bounty such that none shall be able to prevent thee from attaining this station which is, in truth, praiseworthy.

Beware lest thou turn to anyone save thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Place thy trust in Him, and He shall suffice thee against all who dwell on earth. Know thou that We have loved thee aforetime and now, and have ordained for thee in the Tablet a station which none can attain save those who have attained the presence of their Lord and have been illumined by the lights of manifest glory. This is of God's bounty unto thee, that thou remain steadfast in His love at a time when the feet of the mystics slip from the straight path of exalted glory.

Therefore, render thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having made thee to know the Manifestation of His Self, and caused thee to be among those who associate with His Beauty, and made thee to journey with Him through months and years, and acquainted thee with mysteries whereof none are aware save those who have followed His good-pleasure and have detached themselves from every rebellious rejecter. Thou hast witnessed the sovereignty of God with thine own eyes and heard the melodies of God with thine own ears, and wert in the pavilion of eternity and the tabernacle of glory both evening and morn. And thou hast reckoned His sovereignty and His power and His might and His grandeur, such that all who are on earth were in the grasp of His power like a handful of dust.

Beware lest thou forget the bounty of thy Lord or doubt His power and sovereignty, for He will not leave thee to thyself but will preserve thee from every rejected satan. Act thou according to what We have counselled thee aforetime, and follow the words of God after their revelation, and walk thou the paths of justice.

O My servant! Hearken unto the counsels of thy Beloved Who loveth thee, that thou mayest be, through thy Lord's grace, victorious amongst the peoples of the world. First, forget not the bounty of thy Lord, then walk thou the paths of His good-pleasure in this Path which is, in truth, manifest. Beware lest thou associate partners with God, thy Lord, or pride thyself over anyone, and stand thou upon the path of courtesy before thy Lord. Though thou seest Him not, verily He seeth thee, and with Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and the knowledge of what was and what will be, and He doth encompass all things.

Then be thou steadfast in the love of thy Lord to such a degree that if all who are on earth were to gather against thee otherwise, nothing would enter thy mind, and thou wouldst stand firm like unto the letter "alif" at the end of My name. Thus doth the Pen of counsel teach thee from these Fingers which were, through grace, extended. Be thou possessed of the attributes of thy Lord, and humble before those who love thy Master—this is My command unto thee and unto every possessor of sublime love. Be thou as fire unto His enemies and as light unto His loved ones, that thy fragrance may be diffused throughout the East and West of the earth, and thou mayest become a luminous lamp among the worlds.

Then remind every soul that hath submitted to thy Lord with that wherewith We have reminded thee, and inform them that the Ancient Beauty hath entered into two prisons, one of which thou knowest and

every possessor of knowledge knoweth with insight, and the other none knoweth save God, thy Lord and the Lord of all things and the Lord of all the worlds.

BH01816: O honored Siyyid Mirza Aqa! He is the Mighty…

O honored Siyyid Mirza Aqa! He is the Mighty, the Beloved. Your letter has come before Us and We have read it, for verily We are the All-Reading. Bear thou witness in thy inmost heart that there is none other God but Him, and that Ali before Muhammad was the Manifestation of His Self and the Dawning-Place of His Beauty unto all in the kingdom. Through Him did the Dove warble upon the branch of eternity, and the Light shine forth from the Lamp of holy radiance. Through Him did the Fire appear from this lofty, blessed, eternal, most holy and bountiful Tree.

Say: By God! Were but a single letter of the Bayan to descend upon every lofty and towering mountain, and every mighty and elevated peak, thou wouldst behold it humbled and submissive before the sovereignty of God. Such are the examples We offer thee that thou mayest be of the assured ones. Say: With Him is the knowledge of the unseen, and the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and knowledge of what was and what shall be, if ye be of those who know. His are the most beautiful names, the most exalted Word, and the most glorious sovereignty. All who are in the heavens and earth glorify Him.

Therefore hearken thou to the Call of God from this Tree of Unity in this blessed spot, from this Primal Beauty, that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Then read what hath been revealed unto thee in this Tablet, for verily a single letter thereof is more precious in the sight of God than the worship of both humans and jinn. Soon shalt thou witness how the deniers turn away from this Light whereby the Sun of Glory hath shone forth from the horizon of a manifest dawn. But thou, be patient within thyself and turn not to anyone, nor be thou of the perturbed. Stand firm as thou hast been commanded by the Truth from the presence of One mighty and ancient, until the breezes of glory waft from the paradise of God, the Mighty, the Wise. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth and sent thee the fragrances of musk from this garment, that thou mayest magnify God thy Lord in thy days and be of the content. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon His sincere servants.

Then know thou that We have heard how thou didst supplicate God thy Lord that He might enable thee to attain such station wherein thou wouldst never deny the signs of God at the time of their revelation, and be of the assured ones. Excellent is what thou hast desired for thyself, for this is a matter greater and more glorious in the sight of God thy Lord than any other matter, if thou be of those who perceive, and nothing that hath been created between the heavens and earth can compare with it. We beseech God to assist thee in this and raise thee to such station wherein thou recognizest His verses apart from all else and art firmly grounded therein. And praise be to God, Lord of the worlds.

Then know thou that there hath reached Us the page bearing the trace of God, and this is more beloved to Me than all who are in the heavens and earth and all that was and shall be. We beseech God to reward thee with the most excellent reward from His presence, to raise thee to a praiseworthy station of glory, to grant thee the good of this world and the next, to enable thee to attain such station as is beyond the reach of any outstretched hands, and to honor thee with His presence in His subsequent Manifestation. This indeed is the most excellent good and the most noble of all matters.

And grieve thou not that God hath placed between Us and thee the paths of land and sea and towering mountains raised high. For all this only comes between the hearts of those who are heedless of God's remembrance, who turn away from Him, deny His verses, and are of those who join partners with their Lord. As for those whose hearts are purified through the love of God, nothing can come between them and their Creator. But God intervenes between a man and his heart when He willeth and desireth, for He is the Powerful, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

BH01823: This is a Tablet from which waft the breezes…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great!

This is a Tablet from which waft the breezes of forgiveness upon all beings and mercy descends upon those who have believed in God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent. Say: Should God so desire, He would renew all created things through a word from His presence. He, verily, is the One Who has power over whatsoever He willeth and Who ruleth over whatsoever He desireth. Say: Should He wish to adorn all things with the ornament of His names, He would be able—there is no God but He, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Whither do ye flee? The word of chastisement hath been fulfilled against him who hath denied the All-Merciful in this Revelation which hath shone forth from the horizon of all existence with manifest sovereignty. Say: Do ye imagine within yourselves that were ye to deny this Revelation, your faith in any of God's Messengers would remain firm? Nay, by your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great! Ye have no escape save either to deny all the Messengers of God or to acknowledge this Ambassador upon whose brow the Hand of Grandeur hath, with the seal of might, inscribed upon all things that, by God, this is the Beloved of the worlds. By God the Truth! There hath been inscribed by the Most Glorious Pen upon the cheek of all things:

> "This, verily, is He through a mere sign from Whose eyebrow was created the kingdom of names, and those who abide behind the pavilions of grandeur, and the denizens of the Concourse on High, and the dwellers of the cities of eternity."

Thus was the matter decreed in the Tablet of Destiny by your Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

O servant! Arise to serve the Cause of God and leave those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, for they are like unto children who ought to play with clay. Indeed, those endowed with keen vision behold them as worthless rabble. Leave them to their vain imaginings and take what hath been sent down unto thee from the heaven of God's dominion, the Protector, the Mighty, the Ancient of Days. Purify thy heart from all allusions and sanctify thy breast from the whisperings of the deniers, that the effulgences of thy Lord may be reflected therein, and that there may appear from thy countenance the radiance of the All-Merciful and from thy tongue the Salsabil of utterance in commemoration of this Most Great, Most Momentous News. When the clamor of the ungodly is raised, grieve not. Place thy trust in God—He will suffice thee in truth and make thee independent of all created things. All things are within

the grasp of His power, and He, verily, is none other than the Single One, the One, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

Arise to aid the Cause of God by Our command. He will, verily, assist thee in truth. He is with His servants who remember Him—those whom nothing hath prevented from the remembrance of God, their Creator. Upon such as these do the inhabitants of the Concourse on High shower their blessings, and around them circle the realities of those brought near. Whoso is established in this Cause—all that hath been created between the heavens and earth cannot equal him. Thus was it inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen in a previous Manifestation, if thou be of them that comprehend. He spoke—and His word is the truth—"A drop in the subsequent Revelation shall be mightier than all that was created in the Bayan."

Yea, by thy Lord, the All-Merciful! Were it not so, He would not be able to rend asunder that which hath caused the hearts of the people of the Bayan to tremble. This is God's decree from aforetime. Now behold what issueth from the mouths of these people—they speak that of which they are unaware, thinking themselves to be among the guided ones. All things disavow them and atoms curse them, while they remain dead within the veils of their own selves. Thus have We explained to thee that which most people have neglected, that thou mayest aid thy Lord through utterance and be among those endowed with certitude.

Convey Our remembrance to thy wife and then to thy children, and impart unto them the glad-tidings of God, that they may be among those who rejoice. God hath ordained for thee and for them an exalted and glorious station. Glory be upon thee, then spirit be upon thee and upon those who have believed in this Revelation, wherein the feet of the doubtful have slipped. Praise be to God, the Beloved of the sincere ones and the Goal of them that have knowledge.

BH01824: This is a Tablet sent down in truth…

He is the Mighty, the Triumphant, the Powerful, the Self-Subsisting!

This is a Tablet sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and powerful, wherein the measures of the Cause have been ordained by a holy and exalted Pen. It speaketh the truth in the heaven of eternity, even should all who are on earth oppose it. Say: They who have believed in God and in what hath been sent down from Him, these are guided by their Lord and are possessed of a mighty remembrance. The angels of the Cause shall receive them and give them glad tidings of a paradise which hath been opened in the sublime heights. Say: O people of the earth! Hearken unto My call, and deny not the signs of God after they have been sent down in truth, and be not oppressors and wretched ones. He it is Who aideth whomsoever He willeth with the hosts of the heavens and earth, and ordereth all things as He pleaseth. Who is more powerful in sovereignty than God, and more truthful in utterance? He it is Who causeth night to be succeeded by day and ordaineth the measure of all things, and He, verily, hath power over all things.

Know thou that thy letter hath come before Us in this prison, and We have learned of its contents and have answered thee with these verses which God hath made a proof unto all who are on earth. What thou didst mention regarding the occurrence of that which We had formerly told thee is truth from the

presence of One wise and informed. Yet thou dost not turn to this, nor to what the people possess; rather turn thy face unto a beauty mighty and beauteous. Know thou that all We have told thee is truth from God—it hath appeared and shall appear, and We, verily, have knowledge of all things. After this there shall appear a test which shall cause all who are in the heavens and on earth to burst asunder, save those who have ascended wholly unto a beauty mighty and resplendent. Be thou not disturbed by this, but find peace in this Tablet which hath been sent down in truth from a heaven sublime and exalted.

Say: We believe in what hath been sent down unto Us in this Tablet, and in what was sent down unto Moses and Jesus, and in what was sent down unto Muhammad the Messenger of God, and in what was sent down unto ʿAli before Nabil from holy and exalted verses. We make no distinction between any of them, and We are, verily, on a straight path. Should abasement overtake thee for My name's sake, grieve not but be patient within thyself, and put thy trust in God, and be clear-sighted in the Cause. Say: We were among you for many years, yet none of you recognized Us until the promise came and the matter was decreed by One powerful and wise. When We entered the prison We revealed Our countenance and lifted the veil with manifest sovereignty. Thus do We recount unto thee what was then sent down in truth, and We have revealed what was hidden behind a delicate and holy veil.

Know thou that the idolaters have denied God's favor and turned away from a path mighty and lofty. Say: O people of the Bayan! Do ye imagine that ye shall be left alone when ye say "We believe" and the test cometh not unto you from a quarter mighty and near? By God! This is the test whereby the sincere ones shall flee—how much more these people! And God doth take account of all things. None shall escape therefrom save he who holdeth fast unto this luminous cord, and God is witness unto this. Convey unto the people what thou art able, and turn not to thy right or thy left, but hold fast unto this mighty pillar which standeth firm in the Cause. We have indeed sent unto thee what was revealed in the prison, and verily a single letter thereof is greater than the creation of the heavens and earth, and through it God's proof, His evidence, His testimony and His signs have been perfected for all, whether small or great.

BH01827: He is established upon the throne of grace!…

He is established upon the throne of grace! The doors of My favors, which from the beginning that hath no beginning until now had remained sealed, are now opened in truth by the finger of ancient glory. And verily thou, say: In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. And after beginning with My blessed Name, give glad tidings to all created things and proclaim between earth and heaven that whosoever desireth to ask a question may present it to the Manifestation of ancient glory—an answer will descend from the heaven of grace. And any learned one who wisheth to inquire about knowledge, let him surely present it to the most holy and pure court, for he shall not be deprived. And any who thirsteth for the wine of verses and longeth for words and verses from the heaven of names and attributes of the King of attributes, let him ask and it shall be granted without delay or postponement.

I swear by My beauty that were it not for the prevention of preventers, the oppression of oppressors, and the obstruction of deniers from among the people of the Bayan, We would have commanded all things to seek knowledge of what was and what will be, and would have honored them all with this mighty robe and this most glorious garment. But how can these people be capable when they remain veiled by a mere

allusion to a letter of the Most Great Word, and are kept far from the subtle and delicate fountain of grace by a thick veil? And if anyone today should ask questions numbering as the drops of rain from the clouds, all would receive answers in a wondrous tongue in verses sent down and dispatched from the holy heaven of grace.

Exalted then is this breeze that hath encompassed the worlds! Exalted is this grace that hath become renowned among all created things! Exalted is this countenance at whose light's dawning the faces of the people of the highest paradise fell prostrate! There hath never been any delay in the wonders of My grace, but since people have veiled themselves with imaginary veils, they have remained deprived of the wonders of grace and the gems of glorious bounty.

For I made the servants the manifestation of My wealth and established in all things the sign of wealth above all else. And since they remained veiled from this mighty sign, they have been afflicted with accidental poverty. How excellent then is the state of those souls who free themselves from all else but God and turn with all their might to the Beauty of the One, that the wondrous manifestations of power which I have deposited within their souls may become apparent and evident, and they may witness themselves as wealthy and independent of all who are in the heavens and earth. And whosoever attaineth unto this station hath attained unto the presence of God within his own self, by his own self.

And let not the ignorant among the people cling to these words and step into the arena of pride and vainglory, as hath been observed in some who, after being called for years to absolute wealth by the melodies of the Spirit, have finally claimed independence from the Truth. We seek refuge in God from this! For all these riches appear from and return to the contingent Will. Beware lest at the time of manifestation ye cling to station and recognition or to all who are in the heavens and earth, becoming occupied with these and remaining deprived of My Beauty, Who with a single word can draw all who are in the heavens and earth to the treasury of wealth.

In brief, wealth apart from Me hath been beloved, not My Self; and severance from all save Me hath been sought, not My Beauty. Thus doth the Pen of God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Powerful, inform you.

BH01835: Rejoice in thy soul, O Muhammad, inasmuch…

He is the All-Powerful!

Rejoice in thy soul, O Muhammad, inasmuch as a noble and holy Book hath been sent down unto you. In it is that which shall detach thee from the dominion of heaven and earth and cause thee to attain unto the threshold of manifest glory.

Say: Praise be to Thee, O Lord my God! Thou seest my weakness and my powerlessness, my woes and my misery. Send down upon me, from the sweet-savors of Thy holiness that which, even if it doth waft in proportion to the black of an ant, is capable of drawing the former and latter generations nigh unto the sovereignty of Thy luminous Beauty and ennobling them by the lights of Thy resplendent Face. O my God! I am he who hath held fast unto Thy firm cord within the Most Perfect and Mighty Word and hath clung to the hem of Thy loving-kindness in Thy Name, the Exalted, the Most High, the All-Knowing. Therefore, O

my God, debar me not from this living water which Thou hast caused to flow from the spring of the noble Throne after Thou hadst honored me by Thy Presence and made known unto me the Manifestation of Thy Self. Suffer me not, O my God, to be kept back from Thy transcendent grace and Thine ancient and bountiful favors which Thou hath sent down from the clouds of Thy sublime Mercy.

Say: O people! I swear by God, the Truth, that the Primal Point hath been clearly set forth in this Word, if ye be of those who know, and the fire of oneness hath been manifested in this exalted Tree round which all the worlds circumambulate. Say: The Holy Spirit hath appeared in a new garment! Say: Verily, the pebbles glorify God in this luminous, white hand! Say: Verily, the Beauty of God hath come forth from behind the veil of light! Wherefore, glorify God, the Sovereign of Sovereigns. Say: The dense veils hath been rent asunder and the Youth hath risen from the dawning-place of His name, the Compassionate, the Merciful. This is that which none hath previously known, neither the inner light of the soul nor the wisdom of the wise. At this very moment He is speaking in the atmosphere of this heaven, calling aloud unto all who are in the heavens and on earth, and announcing the Paradise of God unto all created things and calling them unto a holy and praiseworthy station. Say: Whosoever doth not cleanse his heart of the veils of blind imitation shall be unable to approach this sublime, irradiant Face.

O Muhammad! Soar in this heaven with the wings of detachment and fear no one. Rely, then, upon God, Thy Lord, the Gracious, the Beneficent, the Almighty, the Most Powerful. Pay heed to no one, even if the most deleterious person in all of creation doth oppose you. Leave, then, the people to God and to that which hath been sent down in the Bayan and be not of those who fear.

Say: O people! Fear God and follow His precepts (sunan Allah) with both your inner and outer being and been not of the negligent, lest negligence debar you from each Court of divine nearness.

Say: Praise be to Thee, O Lord my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name, through which disobedience is blotted out by forgiveness, and wrath is replaced by mercy, and by which Thou doth usher the sinners into the Tabernacle of Thy beautiful clemency, not to abandon me to myself for less than a moment. Sever me not from the cord of Thy loving kindness nor withhold me from the knowledge of Thy Beauty in Thy latter resurrection. Suffer me not to be far removed from His Presence on a Day in which the eyes are glazed over and the minds of the negligent are stupefied and the feet of the mystic knowers falter.

O My God! Thou art He Who is the Sovereign over all creation and their Maker and the Ruler of all existent things and their Source. Verily, Thou art He Whose mercy hath encompassed all things and Whose loving kindness hath permeated all who are in heaven and on earth. Verily, Thou art the All-Compelling, the Almighty, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the All-Wise. Therefore, I have sought shelter, O my God, in Thy sovereignty and Thy might and I have taken refuge in Thy grace and Thy good favors. Deprive me not of Thy mercy and Thy kindness nor remove me far from the Paradise of Thy love and Thy remembrance. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful, and upon Thy servants be Thy mercy and forgiveness.

BH01841: He is the All-Knowing in the Heaven of Eternity…

He is the All-Knowing in the Heaven of Eternity. His honor Mihdi hath been specially favored with spiritual bounties, and after that Muhammad-ʿAli—upon him be the glory of his Lord—may he remain steadfast in the Cause, for the Cause today is from one perspective easy and from another impossible to grasp save by those endowed with knowledge and understanding.

O thou honored one! Today tarrying is not permitted. It is incumbent and obligatory upon all to convey the Message before the crowing. Then know that the Qaf is in the Qaf, and in this Name there is a lesson for those possessed of insight. The Truth hath summoned affliction to the hill, and in this there is wisdom for those who love.

Tablets have been sent—write them with utmost haste and dispatch them to all regions. A mighty missive was sent in the name of Fath along with copies of other Tablets. If it reaches him it would be most pleasing, that perchance the people may be freed from their veils and attain to the maturity of the Cause.

O friend! Pass beyond all contingent beings, gird up firmly the loins of service, and keep the victory of God's Cause before thine eyes at all times.

Tablets have been revealed to Sultan-Abad and Nayriz—assuredly deliver them quickly. And if someone specifically travels to those parts for the love of God to teach the Cause, it would be most pleasing. Likewise to Yazd, to Radi'r-Ruh, along with copies regarding Muhammad-ʿAli wherein mention is made of the people of that land.

Soon fiery Tablets will be dispatched to all regions, especially in company with the Name Qaf. Then say: This is naught but Thy trial. Assuredly they will write and send to your honor as well, but all are commanded to write words in response to those who have rejected God. Details are mentioned in the Tablets which you will become aware of. This much was known—that no one was aware of the root of this Cause before the return of Qaf. Send whatever mighty words are possible to all lands before that. Thus hath it been ordained by the All-Powerful, the Ancient.

His honor Muhammad-ʿAli will mention the details of what has transpired and you will become informed. Show forth unity and love toward him. Beware, beware lest ye differ among yourselves. Rather, unite in the Cause and be of those who are united.

Tablets have been revealed [to the land of Sad]—deliver them. Furthermore, his honor Muhammad-ʿAli Akbar—may God cause him to enter the Most Great Scene—requested the letter Qaf, therefore it was revealed and summoned.

No news has arrived from the beloved Mirza Aqa—assuredly write. Likewise from Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin. Soon what was mentioned in the Tablets will become manifest—blessed are they who are steadfast. No mention was made of his honor Mirza Ja'far and Muhammad-Sadiq—make mention of them. Convey greetings from God to all the friends, Arab and Persian, male and female.

A Tablet was revealed to Mulla Ja'far—if deemed advisable deliver it, otherwise not, for such souls who have opened the eye of leadership are never susceptible to guidance. In any case, be not secure from his craftiness for he is most cunning and deceitful. Therefore be on your guard and keep your distance.

Although the divine hand of change and transformation is encompassing and engaged, yet verily We have veiled the people with a mighty veil. Blessed are they who rend asunder the veils. Keep this missive concealed for mention of Qaf is in it, until that which is hidden becomes manifest.

A Tablet was revealed to Muhammad-Husayn in the land of Kaf—deliver it quickly. Show much love to Rasul for he is beloved of God.

BH01852: O Haji Siyyid Mihdi! The King of existence…

O Haji Siyyid Mihdi! The King of existence, the Herald of God, continuously calls from the right hand of the Throne, yet none but the hearing ear has hearkened. Consider the times of the appearance of the Manifestations of the All-Merciful in the past: although all appeared with clear verses and firm, impregnable proof, nevertheless in each Manifestation most people, through satanic whisperings, remained deprived of recognition of the Manifestation of the All-Merciful and were, in these transient days, forbidden from eternal, everlasting life.

The Point of the Bayan—may the spirit of all in the realms of existence and possibility be sacrificed for Him—appeared with divine decisive verses and took from all the covenant of this most wondrous, most exalted Manifestation, to such extent that He made all the Bayan and what was revealed therein contingent upon the confirmation of this Cause. Nevertheless, some among the people of the Bayan committed that which no religious community had ever committed. Woe unto them from the punishment of a barren day!

One must at all times take refuge in truth, lest the armies of ignorance prevail over knowledge and wisdom, and the hosts of conjecture and doubt triumph over certitude. Praise be to God that you are among the stars of the exalted heaven and among the branches of the divine Lote-Tree. You must, through the power of the Lord of Names and Attributes, rend asunder all veils completely, in such wise that should all the world arise in opposition, it would but increase your certitude.

The divine Sun has shed its effulgences upon you in sleep; if these have not faded from sight, then rend asunder the veils and gaze beyond them with a luminous countenance. Verily your Lord is with you and with Him is the knowledge of the first and the last. In every Manifestation of glorious divine revelation, He sheds His effulgences upon all, but upon some in sleep and upon others in wakefulness, and this is God's way in every Manifestation, and verily your Lord is knowing of all things. We beseech God to preserve you from trials, and verily He has power over all things.

In the days of God all else stands on one level, and the breezes of the All-Merciful waft equally from the paradise of grace and favor upon the peoples of all realms. Whosoever perceived from that sweet spiritual breeze the fragrance of the divine raiment attained unto eternal life, and all others returned to the fire by reason of what their hands had wrought.

The tests and trials are discriminating angels of God who are occupied with separation and gathering—this is the meaning of what was revealed aforetime: “By those who drag forth violently.” The intent is those discriminating angels who are charged with drawing forth and removing garments and spirits until distinction and separation become clear and evident.

How excellent is the state of those souls who have remained firm in this Most Great Manifestation and who act according to the blessed verse “Say: God; then leave them to their vain disputations.” To such degree that they have not been deprived by the world and all within it from the flowers of the garden of eternity. Those souls are preserved from all trials. Blessed are they!

God willing, in this divine dawn you will drink of the choice sealed wine from the hands of grace and gaze upon the Most Great Scene. Ere long the foul odors of malicious souls will waft over that land. God willing, you will remain preserved in those days. Verily God is with you if you turn to Him.

Today is the day of certitude and the obliterator of the doubts and fancies of the people of doubt, who have ever been deprived of the treasury of knowledge of the All-Glorious, while the people of certitude rest settled and at ease upon the throne of mighty assurance.

And glory be upon you, O branches of the Tree of the Cause, and upon those who love you for the sake of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

BH01855: O Preacher! In the Name of God, the Self-Subsisting…

O Preacher! In the Name of God, the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal! This is a Tablet from Us to him who hath desired the countenance of God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent, that he may give thanks unto God his Lord and make mention of Him amidst His heedless servants. We have created man and taught him utterance that he might make mention of his Lord between the heavens and the earth. And whoso looseth his tongue, it behooveth him to speak in praise of his Creator amidst the company of the veiled ones. All matters end in the remembrance and praise of God, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness.

Hearken unto the shrill voice of the Most Exalted Pen, then to the cooing of the Dove which speaketh upon the branches of the furthermost Lote-Tree at the appearance of the Spirit of God, the Most High, once again with this Most Holy, Most Exalted, Most Glorious Name, that there is no God but He, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

We have built mosques and attributed them to Our name, then placed pulpits therein that Our preaching servants might ascend them and counsel the people and advise them that they might take unto God a path. Yet they were heedless and perverted the words of God from their places, and changed God’s favor unto themselves, and altered what We had ordained for them to attain unto a station of mighty glory—to such extent that they ascend the pulpits and make mention of that which God hath not permitted them. Thus have they transgressed in the matter and changed and were changed and became among the lost. And We have not heard of anyone ascending them with the mention of Truth, and they were among those who committed what they were forbidden in a Tablet mighty and preserving.

And verily thou, ascend the pulpit by Our leave and be of them who make mention. Counsel the people and remind them of this Mighty News. Say: O people! The clouds have been rent asunder and the Lord of Lords hath come. Thereupon hath trembling seized all them that dwell on earth save such as have detached themselves from all things and turned unto God with power and might and sovereign authority.

Say: O people! Consider within yourselves by what proof ye believed in the Manifestations of the All-Merciful in the past—bring it forth if ye be of the truthful! That I might know what is with you. Nay, by the Lord of all worlds! What ye possess will not profit you this Day. Cast it all aside, then turn unto the Most Great Scene, the Seat of your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate. Beware lest ye reject the truth of God by what ye possess and deny Him in Whose grasp are the proofs of the Prophets and Messengers. Fear ye God, then have mercy upon yourselves and trust not in the vain life which will perish more swiftly than the twinkling of an eye, and ye shall return to dust with great regret and remorse. Do ye follow the desires of your souls and forsake the Best of Creators?

Say: O people! Hear My words and deprive not yourselves of the outpourings of this cloud which hath been raised up in truth and from which rain down the showers of mercy and loving-kindness upon the hearts of all who turn in repentance. Thus have We inspired thee and commanded thee to convey the Cause of thy Lord with wisdom and utterance such that no mischief may arise, for He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.

Then know thou that God hath ordained for thee in the Tablet a glorious and noble station if thou remainest firm in His love in such wise that the whisperings of Satan influence not thy heart, for they have appeared in every city in every form. Thus have We informed thee of the truth that thou mayest be of them who know. Shun every idolater and hold fast unto the Sure Handle—verily it will lead the servant unto the Most Glorious Ark which saileth upon the Crimson Sea by God's leave, the Creator of Names. And whoso entereth it shall behold all besides God beneath its shade. Thus hath moved the Most Exalted Pen upon the Tablet of Destiny from One All-Knowing, All-Informed.

And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon every discerning servant.

BH01866: This is a Tablet revealed for the first one…

This is a Tablet revealed for the first one who made pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of God, exalted be His Glory. He is the Mighty.

O Salman! May God magnify thy reward and accept thy obedience, inasmuch as thou hast journeyed unto God time and again, and hast migrated unto God, and hast endured hardship on the path such that thou wert exposed to the heat of the sword and the cold of winter, until thou didst enter this remote prison. Neither the length of the journey nor the lack of a guide deterred thee. Well is it with thee for having been preceded by grace and encompassed by mercy, and for having entered the spot of acceptance and the station of attainment.

Therefore give thanks to God, thy Creator, for having aided thee in this and provided thee with His love and the love of His friends, and caused thee to reach a station from which the hands of those who turned away, disbelieved and associated partners with God were cut off. By God! Thy name hath been

mentioned in the Supreme Concourse and the most exalted Horizon, at the Tree of Eternity, and verily the denizens of the realm of might and the inhabitants of the dominion of sovereignty and the kingdom know thee even as the people of earth know thee—nay, more than that.

Therefore strive within thyself to remain steadfast in thy love for thy Lord, lest thou be cut off from this everlasting, unified, eternal, perpetual dominion. Eschew thine own desires, O servant, and draw near unto the side of God, thy Lord. Grieve not over what hath befallen thee in the paths of thy Creator and what shall befall thee in the love of thy Lord, for unto Him is thy return and abiding place. With Him no deed of any doer is lost, nor the reward of any who earns reward, nor the truthfulness of any truthful one, nor the migration of any emigrant, nor the wayfaring of any wayfarer, nor the certitude of any possessor of certitude. Unto Him ascend good words and pure deeds. Thus have We imparted unto thee from the wisdom of God, Who hath perfected all things through His sovereignty and ordained therein consummate wisdom, that thou mayest thank Him in thy days and be of those who gave thanks, and persevered, and met their Lord, and sought, and attained, and aimed, and found.

As to what thou asked regarding the verse of triumph, know that God, thy Lord, hath ever been and shall ever be triumphant, standing, mighty. None can frustrate Him and no affair can prevent Him. He hath been and shall ever be in the heights of triumph, power and majesty, and in the summit of might, grandeur and independence. And verily, whatsoever thou hast heard and known regarding the mention of triumph pertaineth to My servants. Soon shalt thou behold them triumphant even as they triumph this day.

Hast thou not seen and heard how this Servant journeyed in His journey and migration with great power and manifest sovereignty, such that the necks of every mighty one bowed before Him and the heads of every proud one were humbled before Him, although all were Our enemies inasmuch as they turned away and opposed Us and showed pride towards God in relation to Us? Thus recognize thou the power of God, His triumph, His sovereignty and His glory. Say: By God! Through this journey the Cause of God hath been exalted. Soon shalt thou find those who turned away beneath the feet of the believers. Thus have We taught thee that thou mayest be of those possessed of certitude.

And withal, by God, O Salman, We would make peace with the people of the Bayan: if they will not love Me, let them not hate Me. By God! Thou shalt find their turning away from this Light which hath shone forth from the horizons with a luminous countenance, a mighty proof and a supreme evidence.

The Spirit and the light and the glory be upon thee and upon those who have recognized the mysteries of the Cause from this mighty quarter.

BH01867: O Ali Muhammad in the City! He…

O Ali Muhammad in the City! He is the Ever-Abiding, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting! O Ali, bear thou witness in thy soul, thy being and thy spirit that verily He is God, there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Say: O people, this is the Beauty of God which hath appeared in truth, and this is the Proof which hath been sent down through grace unto a people who are guided. There is no God but Him—His is the

creation and the command. He giveth life to whomsoever He willeth through His leave and causeth to die whomsoever He desireth through His power, and all shall return unto Him.

Say: O people, believe in God and in that which was revealed in the Bayan, and transgress not His bounds. Fear ye God and break not your covenants which ye made with Him in a praiseworthy station of nearness, and forget not God's favor when He reciteth unto you at every moment from the verses of God, the Mighty, the Beloved, and imparteth unto you the gems of knowledge and wisdom, and revealeth unto you the mysteries of a hidden knowledge.

Say: Verily the grace, knowledge and wisdom have all appeared in the temple of a concealed Name, Whose manifestation was veiled by His beauty in such wise that none among creation recognized Him, could ye but know it, though He moved among them all the days as one of them, as though they were veiled by their own selves and were as blind, deaf and dumb, in that they beheld not the Beauty of God nor heard the melodies of God, though all these were before their eyes morning and evening. Thus doth God withhold what He willeth through His command and extend mercy unto whom He pleaseth, for He is the Sovereign, the Single, the Exalted, the All-Powerful.

Say: When the idolaters opposed Us, We opposed them and manifested Our Self in spite of those who disbelieved in God's signs. O Ali, know thou that every wise command hath appeared from this firm, mighty and manifest Cause, and every decree wherewith God hath decreed in every age and dispensation hath dawned from this great and hidden Decree. Whoso denieth this Cause hath denied God's Cause in all ages and dispensations, and whoso turneth away from it hath turned away from the Manifestations of God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

As for those whom ye find walking in the darkness of their souls, associate not with them but shun them and turn unto God your Lord, then put your trust in Him, for in Him let the trusting put their trust. God shall soon raise up one who shall take My right from them and render them as scattered dust. Thus do We impart unto thee from the verses at which are bewildered the minds of those who ponder the signs of God.

I counsel thee to turn to none else and to hold fast unto naught save the cord of God, for this is better for thee and for those who set their faces toward this Countenance. Forget not what We counseled thee before, then stand firm in thy love for thy Lord and be not of those who forgot God's covenant during My absence in these numbered days. Rend asunder the veils from thy heart's face and fear no one in thy Lord's path, then burn away the shrouds of idle fancy and be as God's sword and His might against His enemies and those in whom thou findest hatred for this resplendent, exalted, transcendent and glorious Light.

Then convey Our greetings to those who are with thee, both men and women, and to thy spouse who hath believed in her Lord and remained upon a mighty extended path.

BH01869: In the Name of Him Who was sanctified beyond…

In the Name of Him Who was sanctified beyond mention and utterance! O servant! If thou desirest to know what befalleth Me of tribulations, reflect upon the state of the Spirit among the company of the

Jews, and Muhammad among the company of the wicked, and Ali among the people of the Qur'an, and His Beloved One among the people of the Bayan who recite His verses yet deny His own Self. Then know thou that the most grievous of all tribulations is the trial of Truth at the hands of one renowned by His name, as thou witnesseth in these days that Truth hath been tried at the hands of an oppressor who hath become known for justice. This is a tribulation wherewith no one hath been afflicted before. Therefore do I weep, and the realities of all things weep, and I lament, and the Prophets lament around thy Lord's throne. Yet the people are veiled from what they have wrought and are heedless of that for which they were created. Woe unto them and unto those who follow them!

If thou desirest to help this Wronged One, help Him through mention and utterance. Then prevent the loved ones of God from warfare and disputation. Say: By God! The Ancient Beauty hath been sent with mercy and loving-kindness. Whoso associateth himself with Him yet warreth with anyone—God is quit of him and We are quit of him. Thus hath the matter been decreed in this Revelation.

Say: O people! Fear God Who created you, and commit not what ye have been forbidden, and abandon not what ye have been commanded in the Tablets of God, your Creator. For He hath ordained that His victory shall come through the promotion of His Cause. Blessed is he who helpeth his Lord as He hath commanded. Say: Your help is first to detach yourselves from all save God, your Creator. And whoso detacheth himself from all else out of love for His Beauty and teacheth the people His Cause—him shall all in the heavens and earth assist, and the hosts of the seen and the unseen. Thus hath the matter been ordained, yet the people perceive not.

Say: O people! Commit not that which would destroy God's honor amongst His servants and extinguish the fire of His Cause in the hearts of His creatures. Fear God, O people, and be of them from whom waft the sweet fragrances of holiness and detachment, and to whose sanctity the Concourse on High bear witness. These are God's loved ones on earth and His trustees in all lands. By the light of their countenance are illumined worlds which none hath discovered save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Purify thou thy heart from all save God, thy Lord. Then drink thou the Most Pure Wine in this Paradise which hath been adorned with the mention of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Highest. Then speak forth His praise in the kingdom of creation, that perchance they who slumber on the couch of heedlessness may awaken and turn, then hasten at God's call to the Most Pure and Most Glorious Wine, and be of them who have drunk the Living Waters from the hand of the All-Merciful and have said:

> "Praise be to God Who hath fulfilled what He promised us and given us to drink a pure drink, and honored us with the fragrances of His days, and chosen us from among His creatures for the recognition of His Self, the Dominant, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!"

The Spirit be upon thee and upon those whom the veils of glory have not prevented from turning unto God, the Mighty, the Most High. Then know thou that this Tablet was not revealed in the manner of verses, nor in the manner of sermons and supplications and intimate communion, that it might tell of My tribulation and My trials through that which We have ordained for Our Self in the path of My Lord and My

Beloved and My Master and My Sovereign and My Purpose and My Worshipped One and My Refuge and My Shelter.

BH01870: In the City. O Ahmad of the people…

In the City. O Ahmad of the people of Kaf! He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

O Ahmad! At all times have conclusive proofs been made manifest unto thee, yet thou hast remained heedless. In every season hath the heavenly stream of divine grace been made to flow towards thee, yet thou hast not partaken of a single drop thereof. Would that matters had ended there! Certain statements proceeded from thee which were unworthy. Although at the time of thy presence thou wert counseled to speak naught but the truth and to become not the cause of people's perplexity, yet didst thou utter that which caused the people to be veiled, and at no time didst thou speak the truth. This servant hath never desired, nor will He ever desire, aught from God's servants save truthfulness and fairness—God is sufficient witness unto this. Thou didst cling to vain imaginings and become detached from the firm handle of certitude.

Hearken unto My call: Barter not religion for the world, and speak not according to idle fancy. We have passed over all else. Was it not evident to thee that this servant withholdeth not bread from anyone, nor hath He ever reproached any soul concerning bread, nor denied the riches of this world to any person? Nevertheless, when the letter from those people arrived containing those calumnies which they had attributed to the truth, why didst thou not speak such words as would make all people aware of the falsity of the statements they had attributed to the truth? For thou wert present and didst witness that were all the treasures of the earth to be gathered together, they would not be withheld from any soul, nor will they ever be. By God, O Ahmad! That very letter from those people completed God's proof against thee, for thou art certain they wrote falsely. Hearken, then, to the call of the True One, the Trusted One, and emerge from the darkness of fancy into the illumined realm of certitude.

O Ahmad! Hearken unto My call. Consider him to whom thou didst cleave—how he hath begged from the people, writing that they give him no bread, that they have cut off his stipend, and that they have housed him in a ruined dwelling. Thou knowest that whatsoever was possible in the visible realm was never withheld from him, and after thee I never associated with him. Reflect now somewhat upon the wealth and independence thou didst witness from the Truth, and upon his base conduct in writing such calumnies and displaying such meanness. Would that he had been content with what he wrote and sent to Iraq! He hath also written to the governor of this land, complaining and begging for bread. Thou art certain that were all the peoples of the world to come unto this servant, they would forever feast at the banquet of His bounty and would never be deprived or excluded. By God, O Ahmad! If thou wouldst but reflect upon these very deeds they have committed and words they have written to various quarters, thou wouldst distinguish truth from falsehood.

By God, O Ahmad! My love for thee hath caused this Tablet to be sent, else thy Lord is independent of all worlds. We hope that thou wilt soar in holy atmosphere and enter the realm of truth, becoming detached from all the world and them that are therein, and returning unto the Truth. Glory be upon thee if thou

hearest what thy Lord hath counseled thee and returnest from fancy to certitude. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH01878: Your letter hath come before Us and We have…

He is the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the Omniscient!

Your letter hath come before Us and We have taken note of the hidden expressions of thy love therein, and We were among the witnesses. We have answered thee with these words from which the sweet-scented breezes of holiness waft upon thee and upon all the worlds. Be thou thankful unto God for having arrived at the shore of the sea which none hath reached unto its beach, much less unto its depths. This is of the bounty wherewith God hath preferred thee above many of His servants, if thou be of them that are assured.

Therefore, beseech thou God with these words, that perchance He may bestow upon thee from His everlasting bounty in His most exalted Paradise, beneath the shadow of His Most Great Name, and may establish thee beneath the shade of the Tree of the Cause, and may detach thee from all that is in the heavens and the earth. And this, verily, is a great bounty.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst create all beings and didst send them down from the heaven of command unto the earth of destiny, and whereby Thou didst attract the hearts of them that have recognized Thee, and didst cause the minds of them that have professed Thy unity to ascend unto the court of Thy resplendent sanctity, that Thou withhold not from me the wondrous tokens of Thy gifts, nor debar me from the cloud of Thy gracious favor. O Lord! Return me not thirsty after Thou hast led me to the shore of Thy surging, billowing, mighty ocean. O Lord! Withhold me not from the breezes of the manifestations of Thy loving care, nor drive me from Thy door, from which none hath ever been turned away disappointed—even thus hath Thy mercy encompassed all the worlds.

O Lord! Purify my soul, then my heart, then my breast, my body and my frame, that I may be worthy of the revelations of the lights of Thy glorious Oneness and befitting for the manifestations of the signs of Thy holy Unity. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou art, in truth, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the All-Glorious, the All-Compelling. Then grant me, O my God, the good of this world and the next, and preserve me from all evil and from whatsoever is repugnant unto Thy good-pleasure, for Thy mercy hath preceded all things and Thy grace hath encompassed all created things.

Thus have We taught thee that whereby God may make thee independent of all else besides Him. This is of His grace upon thee and upon His sincere servants. And if thou hearest with the ear of thine inborn nature that which the Spirit hath now cast down of the verses of God, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the Powerful, thou shalt surely find thyself detached from all things and from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and shalt attain unto that which thou didst desire in the hidden recesses of thy heart, and shalt taste the delight of them that have recognized Him.

As to thy question about going to the city, excellent is that which thou hast intended and wert among those who desire it. Hold fast unto that which was sent down aforetime unto Muhammad, the Apostle of

God and Seal of the Prophets. Unto God belongeth the East and the West; whithersoever ye turn, there is the face of God. This was sent down from the heaven of God's might, the Powerful, the Omnipotent.

Strive then, O my brother, within thyself that Satan erase not from thy heart the remembrance of thy Lord. And when thou art adorned therewith, proceed to whatsoever land thou desirest, for nothing shall harm thee if thou be of them that are assured.

As to thy desire to serve me—verily, I am a servant among the servants of God and I love to serve, with my soul and my body, those who have believed in God and His signs, and God is witness unto what I say. How can one who is a servant take a servant for himself? This is a sin beyond compare, if thou be of them that know. I love to be a servant unto the loved ones of God and His chosen ones, and to lower my wing unto those who desire His face, according to His exalted Word: "And lower thy wing unto the believers." And peace be upon thee from this lonely, solitary prisoner.

BH01901: He hath revealed unto Qasim Khan of Sirjan…

He hath revealed unto Qasim Khan of Sirjan. In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great!

Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Prison, that there is none other God but Him. He hath ever been one God, Single, Self-Subsisting, the Eternal, and will forever remain as He hath been. There is none other God but Him, the Single, the One, the Mighty, the Generous.

O people! Dispute not concerning the Cause of God. Unite in His love and good-pleasure, then walk in the path of truth—this is indeed the straight path. Follow God's laws and ordinances, and be not of the transgressors. Purify your hearts from the allusions of those who have disbelieved, even should they come with the books of the ancients. Say: Today no soul's faith shall profit it unless it believeth in God in this Most Great, this Mighty Manifestation. Turn wholly unto God, then detach thyself from the doubtful ones who claim faith in Ali aforetime, yet when their Beloved came unto them they denied Him. The curse of God be upon the liars!

Grieve not at anything, but place thy trust in all matters in thy Ancient Lord. Say: O people! That which ye were promised in the Bayan hath come to pass. It behooveth you therefore to render thanks unto God at all times, yet ye are struck with terror in your souls. Alas for you and for those who have denied God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Powerful! Open your eyes that ye may behold the lights of your Lord's countenance shining forth from this manifest Horizon. Fear ye God, and commit not that which they committed who denied God from time immemorial and were deprived of Paradise after its gates were opened unto all in the heavens and earth.

O people! He hath appeared with the signs of Ali, the proof of Muhammad, the evidence of the Spirit, the testimony of Moses, the traces of the Friend, and the proofs of all the Prophets and Messengers. Think not of Him as ye have thought of God's Messengers of old. Follow your Lord, the All-Merciful, then cross the path through My Name and sovereignty, and be not of them that hesitate. Say: He hath been tried before all religions, and behind them the people of the Bayan and their leaders whom We nurtured in those days and protected from the harm of the oppressors.

O people! I have reached such a point in affliction that the very essence of affliction weepeth for My soul, were ye but to know. The evil ones of the Bayan have united with the evil ones of the Furqan to violate My honor, until I was prevented from mentioning God. Woe unto them! Then burning fire be upon them for having committed that which the oppressors never committed. At every moment they plot in God's Cause, but God is more subtle in His plotting. Soon will He seize them with His might, for He is the severest of avengers. Thus hath befallen the Youth in this Prison from His servants, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness.

Thou, therefore, aid thy Lord with all thy power, and follow not them that have disbelieved and associated partners with God. Follow thy Lord, the Almighty, the Powerful. He sufficeth thee against all who are in the heavens and earth, and He is the Protector of the sincere. Fear no one in the path of thy Lord. Protection is in His hand—He protecteth whom He willeth by His command. There is none other God but Him, the Protector, the Bestower, the Mighty, the Wise. Occupy thyself with His remembrance and praise amongst His creatures, then shun the hosts of Satan. And may the Light that hath shone forth from the horizon of the Cause be upon thee and upon Our assured servants.

BH01902: In the name of the Imprisoned Youth Who was…

In the name of the Imprisoned Youth Who was imprisoned in the path of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting

O Hasan! Hearken to the murmuring of the waters of inner meanings which flow in the paradise of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. By God! Through its murmuring the hearts of the Concourse on High were attracted and the hearts of those who drank the choice wine of the Most Glorious from the Youth Who was named with Our Most Exalted Name were set ablaze. We sent Him in truth and made Him a mercy to all the worlds. Say: He who was barred from this Revelation had not drunk of the Kawthar of the All-Merciful from the hand of the Point of the Bayan, and should he claim this, all who are in the heavens and earth would give him the lie. Say: He manifested Himself solely for My firm and wondrous Cause and came unto you only for My revelation and sovereignty, as attested by what We revealed unto Him, if ye be of those who perceive. Whoso hath believed in this Revelation hath verily drunk of the rivers of the Bayan from the hand of his Lord, the All-Merciful, and was among the triumphant. Say: Were it not for My remembrance, the Bayan would not have been revealed nor would the Beloved of the worlds have offered up His life.

Know then that thy letter hath come before Us and We have learned of its contents. We beseech God to draw thee nigh unto Him with a nearness after which no remoteness followeth. Verily He hath power over all things. Blessed art thou for having attained unto this Cause whereby the Names and their kingdoms were overturned, and the quaking of the Command and the might of divine wrath seized them all save whom God preserved through a sovereignty from Him and upheld through His grace. Verily He is the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

Make mention of My imprisonment and tribulation among My creatures that perchance they may make good what hath escaped them in this wondrous and exalted Cause. They who soared in the atmosphere of My nearness and ascended to the heights of My Cause—a single hair of one of them is better than all

previous peoples combined. He who hath not cast behind him all who are in the heavens and earth shall never be able to turn toward My shining and luminous countenance. And whoso turneth toward it, the dwellers of Paradise turn toward him and the angels drawn nigh circle round about him.

Say: O people! Purify your tongues from mention of these base ones and sanctify your hearts from remembrance of these transgressors who have taken their passions as a god besides God and disbelieved in Him in Whom they had believed. And when it is said unto them by what proof do they adduce what the peoples of old adduced, say: By God! Ye and what ye possess and that whereby ye seek to prove shall never be mentioned before God, and ye are now among the lowest of the low. Verily he who hath recognized this Revelation placeth his foot upon their heads and leaveth them to themselves, turning instead to Him through a mere gesture from Whose servant's finger the veils were rent asunder, the allusions were erased, and every lofty and towering mountain was crushed.

Rejoice thou in My love and grieve not save at My grief. Thus doth the Pen of My Command enjoin thee and the Tongue of My mercy and favor give thee glad-tidings, and We were ever watchful over thee. Know then that the Wanderer in the realm of Oneness was with Us, swimming in the depths of glorification and sanctification, and the Sun of Beauty dawned upon him from the horizon of grandeur with manifest radiance. And since he is now in another land, God sends greetings from him to thee and to thy wife and children, and to those who have believed in God, the One, the Peerless, the Unique, the Incomparable. Convey My greetings to My loved ones and kindle them with the heat of the mention of thy Lord's Name, the Most High, the Supreme, Who speaketh in all things saying:

> "There is no God but Me, the Ever-Abiding King, the Just, the All-Wise."

BH01904: He is the Mighty, the EverlastingO Breeze of Paradise!…

He is the Mighty, the EverlastingO Breeze of Paradise! Waft upon all created things even as the breezes of holiness have wafted upon thee from this transcendent, mighty and luminous Quarter. Fear no one in the Cause of thy Lord, but place thy trust in God, the Omnipotent, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Remind those who have believed of that wherewith We have reminded thee from behind the Mountain of the Spirit, the Spot of God, the All-Knowing, the Generous. Pay no heed to the people and what they possess, for they have clung only to a coarse rope. Thus do We cast upon thee from the verses of innovation according to the nature of God, the Supreme, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Impregnable.

Close thine eyes to all who are in the heavens and on earth, save those whom thou findest upon the straight line in this crimson Thread. Beyond this, turn not to anyone, but remain in a mighty sanctity. And if thou findest a pure, holy and luminous heart, cast upon it that which God hath cast upon thy heart, and inform it, in the inmost mystery, of this Most Great, Most Upright News concerning which most of the servants differ, and thereby return to the lowest fire in the depths of hell. And if thou findest not such a one, make no approach to anyone, for God is independent of the knowledge of these people and of all the worlds.

Say: O people! Deny not the verses of God after they have been sent down in truth, and be not of those who turn away. Say: Did We not take from you a covenant in the atoms of the Furqan, and before it in the Gospel, and before it in the Torah, and in the atoms of the Bayan, that ye should not change the favor of God nor oppose His verses nor wax proud against them, if ye be of those who know? Yet ye broke your covenant and cast the testament of God behind your backs, and were of those who believed and then disbelieved, and were a most evil and lost people.

By Him Who sent down the verses in truth! Were I to utter today but a single letter of truth, the heavens and earths would be rent asunder. But We were patient before and shall be patient hereafter, that what was sent down in tablets of exalted glory might be fulfilled. And We have ordained for thee from the good which none can reckon save God thy Lord, that He might bring forth the people from the darkness of fancy and cause them to enter the pavilion of assured dignity. Thus have We given thee glad tidings in truth, that thou mightest rejoice in thy soul and that all in the kingdom might rejoice therewith.

Then remind the letter Jim from Us and give him glad tidings of a holy, preserved tablet which We have sent down unto him, a single letter of which cannot be equaled by all that hath been created in the realm of Lahut, then in the realm of Jabarut, then in the realm of Malakut, then in the heavens and earths. It shall reach thee when God willeth and desireth, for He is verily the Ordainer, the Giver, the Raiser, the Single, the Transcendent, the Forgiving, the Generous.

Then glorify on Our behalf all in whose heart thou perceivest the fragrance of the All-Merciful and in whose countenance thou beholdest the radiance of paradise. And from those who emit not the breezes of love, turn away and face them not, but turn thy face toward the face of God thy Lord. He is with thee wheresoever thou art, and My Self sufficeth as a witness unto that. And the spirit and glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who are with thee every morn and eve.

If this Tablet be concealed from those who are not worthy of it, it would be most fitting, for the truly blind one is not capable of beholding the spiritual Sun, and the truly deaf one is not worthy of hearing the divine melody.

BH01915: The remembrance of God in the Divine Tree…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the Exalted, the Glorious, the Most Glorious

The remembrance of God in the Divine Tree in the spot which God hath blessed above all places on earth. God, there is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. He hath created creation out of nothing by His power and ordained for them through His knowledge whatsoever He hath willed and desired. This is a bounty from His presence and a grace from His court, did ye but know. He sent unto them Messengers and revealed with them the Book lest His servants go astray on earth and that they might be guided thereby. He hath detailed all things in the Book as guidance and mercy for people who believe.

Say: O people, fear ye God and spread not corruption in the land, and be not of those who are not guided by God's guidance. Be not like those who mention God with their tongues yet are veiled from the Beauty of the One remembered, and who worship God in cloisters and mosques yet flee from the countenance of the Worshipped One in His days. When asked "Who is your God?" they will say "God", yet they turn

away from His presence and His signs. It is as though they worship names for which God hath given no authority, and thus do they cleave to idols within themselves while perceiving not. They mention God without His authority being manifest to them, yet when it is manifested they turn back on their heels. Thus do ye recognize these people, O people, then turn away from them.

Turn ye with all your being unto God, then thank Him for having chosen you from among His creation and aided you in His Cause and made you know the Manifestation of His Self and taught you the paths of glory and piety and sheltered you on the sacred shore beyond the Sea of Spirit in the holy and beloved spot and rent asunder the veils from you and purified you from allusions and raised you to a station wherein ye heard holy melodies from the tongue of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, and sent upon you the fragrances of His days for which honored servants died in longing. By God, were we to possess a thousand souls and a thousand bodies and sacrifice them in His path it would be little compared to His bestowals, did ye but know.

Thus have We related unto you spiritual tales that ye might know God's grace upon you and not separate yourselves from this glorious and beloved Cause, and that ye might stand firm in the love of God and the Manifestations of His Self such that the evil whisperings of your souls mislead you not, nor the blame of the blamers veil you from this luminous and extended Path which hath been raised in the divine Paradise in the name of God, the Exalted, the Transcendent, the Witnessed.

O people of the Bayan! Remember within yourselves what We have mentioned unto you in truth from this hidden and luminous Pen, and grieve not over anything, and turn not to the world and its ornaments and all that pertaineth to it and is in it and upon it, but turn to what is with God for that is better for you, if ye approach the shore of this counsel with the foot of detachment. Thus do We expound the verses unto you in truth and reveal unto you that which will bring you to the divine Ridvan wherein ye shall enter by God's leave and wherein ye shall rejoice. Be not veiled, O people of the Bayan, from this bounty which hath descended from the holy heaven while ye witness it with your own eyes. Beware lest ye deny it as did nations of old who denied God's signs. And the Spirit be upon you and upon those who follow God's laws.

BH01921: In the Name of the Counselor! God testifieth…

In the Name of the Counselor! God testifieth that there is none other God but Him. His is the creation and the command; all worship Him. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him; all bow down before Him. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him; all seek Him. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him; all act according to His command. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him; all turn unto Him. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him, and whoso desireth to attain His presence must detach himself from whatsoever preventeth him from treading His manifest and evident path. God testifieth that there is none other God but Him, and whoso desireth to be mentioned must needs till the soil of certitude that the ears of divine knowledge may grow therefrom. Thus hath the decree been ordained in a preserved Tablet.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling. Be not heedless of the fruit of existence, nor occupy thyself with fruits that are produced by the tree of limitation. Plant thou the

divine tree of explanation in thy heart, then water it with the living waters of the mention of My Name, the All-Merciful, that it may yield thee the fruits of inner meanings which shall endure, while that with which thou art occupied shall perish and profit thee not save in the measure that is ordained. Art thou occupied with the outward earth while heedless of the holy, blessed and goodly earth wherein whatsoever groweth proclaimeth: There is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Glorious, the Best-Beloved?

We created thee that thou mightest cultivate the earth of divine knowledge wherefrom grow the ears of divine unity. Beware lest thou be veiled from that for which thou wert created and be among the heedless ones. By God the Truth! Should anyone purify his ear and hearken unto the call of God from the direction of the Prison, he would detach himself from whatsoever hath been created between earth and heaven and would offer up his soul in the path of this Prisoner.

If thou occupiest thyself with teaching the Cause of God, We shall assuredly plant for thee, by the hands of divine will in goodly soil, that which shall profit thee throughout the eternity of God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Glorious, the Most Loving. Hearken unto My words, then speak forth in praise of thy Lord—this is better for thee than what thou possessest, if thou be of them that are certain. Beware lest thou burn the enduring trees with perishable ones. Fear God and be of the God-fearing.

Occupy thyself with affairs to a known measure, in such wise that thou wilt not be in need. Be independent through His Name, the Self-Sufficing, then put thy trust in Him in all affairs. Verily thy Lord loveth those servants who earn their livelihood, but only to such measure as their earning preventeth them not from the remembrance of God, the Lord of what was and what shall be. Thus have We counseled thee in truth and chosen for thee what We have chosen for honored servants.

Cast behind thee whatsoever preventeth thee from mentioning thy Lord, then make mention of thy Lord amongst Our heedless servants, that they may arise to serve the Cause and glorify their Lord and be of the penitent ones. Verily He is independent of all mention and praise, and all things bear witness to His sanctification, yet none hear it save the hearing ear. That which We enjoin upon the servants is a bounty from God unto them, but few among His servants know this and render thanks.

Aid thy Lord through utterance and associate with those who make mention of God in private and in public, whose hearts are set ablaze by this Fire from whose sighing is heard:

> “He is God; there is none other God but Him, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.”

Convey Our greetings to the faces of those who have sought the Most Great Sanctuary and have detached themselves from the idolaters. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have passed over the Bridge. By God! They are honored servants.

BH01937: O Mulla ʿAbdu’r-Razzaq, in the QafIn the Name…

O Mulla ʿAbdu’r-Razzaq, in the QafIn the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most WondrousThis is a Book which hath been sent down in truth, that through it the light of God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful, may shine forth in the hearts of them that have believed.

O servant! Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the direction of thy Lord, the Most Merciful, that through thy Lord's revelation there may arise that which will establish thee in the assistance of God and His remembrance, and sever thee from them that have disbelieved and joined partners with God and were among the heedless.

By God! Whoso hearkeneth today unto the words of his Lord with the ear of his heart will be so attracted that he will never turn to the world and all that is therein, nor will aught but the remembrance of God, the True King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, ever rest within his soul.

Ascend the ladder of inner meanings unto that station which none hath entered save he who hath witnessed the sovereignty of his Lord and His all-encompassing power over all worlds. Purify thy soul and heart from those who affirm their faith in ʿAli through what was revealed unto him of the verses of God, the Single, the One, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, yet when His verses are recited unto them once again, they object to them and are not among those who perceive.

Soon will the clamor of the idolaters be raised in that place, and shouldst thou hear their uproar, be not perturbed in thy soul, but turn away from them and set thy face toward the sanctuary of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and be not of the perplexed. Drink the Kawthar of steadfastness and assurance from the wellspring of thy Lord's words, that it may attract thee to a station wherein the souls of the agitated find peace.

Say: O people! By God, the entire Bayan was revealed in My remembrance and praise. Be ye ashamed before God Who created you by His command and gave you glad tidings of this resplendent, luminous Beauty. Fear God, O people, and deny not Him Who hath come to you from the direction of the Spirit with a most great, mighty Name, and Who summoneth you at all times unto God, your Creator, desiring from you no recompense, for His reward is with God, the Powerful, the Most High, the All-Knowing.

O people! Be fair in the Cause of God and deny not His verses, and follow not the ways of the oppressors who utter falsehoods against God, then proclaim within themselves that they may cause the matter to appear dubious unto the servants, and thus do they plot at every moment and instant.

And thou, O servant, purify thy sight from gazing upon aught except Me, and sanctify thy heart from turning to anyone besides Me. Beware lest thou exchange the choice wine of My loving-kindness for scalding water. Leave the idolaters to themselves, then ascend at all times unto God, and verily He is with thee and heareth and seeth thy condition, and He is the Friend of the righteous.

Then make mention from Us of thy brother Mihdi and give him the glad tidings of Our remembrance of him, that he may be of them that rejoice. Say: O servant! Whenever thou findest thyself in thy native land, remember this Exile in this strange land. Then convey Our greetings unto thy other brother who is named ʿAbdu'llah, that he may remember within his soul and be among them that are firmly established in the Cause of Him Who hath appeared with the truth, from Whom every wicked sinner hath turned away.

We beseech God to assist thee and them both in praising His Self and to nourish you from the fruits of the Tree of His loving-kindness and shelter you beneath the shade of His mercy which hath preceded all

worlds. And the spirit and glory and splendor be upon you and upon your father and upon whoso is with you in your house, and verily when the breezes of holiness blow from the direction of grace, they take hold of everyone, young and old. And praise be to God, the Creator of all beings.

BH01956: In the Name of God, the Render of Veils!...

In the Name of God, the Render of Veils! God makes mention of His servant that he may be gladdened through His grace. Say: Through His remembrance hearts are purified from doubt and misgiving, and therein is kindled the fire of the love of God, and they speak forth that there is no God but Him and that He Who hath come with the truth is indeed a manifest sovereign.

Say: O people! Do ye doubt the Cause of God after He hath appeared with the truth with a mighty proof? Look ye at the proofs of the Prophets of old—have ye heard of an Appearance greater than this Appearance which hath appeared with the truth? Ponder, then be fair, that ye may take the Beloved as a friend unto yourselves. Cast doubt behind you and misgiving beneath your feet, that ye may soar on the wings of detachment in the atmosphere of your Lord, the All-Merciful. This is better for you than what ye possess, and God is witness unto this.

O servant! We behold thee wavering between two paths. Hearken unto the call of thy Lord and say: In the Name of God and by God! Then turn to the right. Thus have We ordained for thee in a Tablet which was mighty in truth. Beware lest thou deprive thyself of that which hath been ordained for thee. Seek thou in the days of thy Lord a way unto Him.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by the waters of Thy bounty which flowed from the clouds of Thy mercy and the heaven of Thy favors, whereby Thou didst purify whom Thou didst will from the dust of disobedience, that Thou mayest purify my heart from all doubt and misgiving, that I may detach myself wholly from all else save Thee and turn toward the sanctuary of Thy good-pleasure. O Lord! I have laid hold on the cord of Thy bounty and clung to the hem of the robe of Thy favor and grace. Deprive me not in these days of the fragrant breezes of Thy contentment, nor from hearing the warbling of the Dove of Thy Cause. And distance me not, O my Beloved, from the shore of the ocean of Thy nearness and presence.

Verily Thou art He Who hath ever been God before all things and will be God after all things. Thou didst create all contingent beings through Thy power and sovereignty and didst clothe them with the garment of existence through Thy command and decree. Then Thou didst cast upon them Thy most exalted Word as Thou didst ordain in the heaven of destiny. Thereby were the pillars of Thy servants shaken and their faces were transformed. Thereupon Thou didst raise Thy right hand and didst take the hands of certain of Thy servants through Thy sovereignty and power, according to what their hands had wrought before, and Thou didst leave other servants through Thy constraint and might.

Those whom Thou didst preserve, Thou didst make them helpers of Thy Cause, turning unto Thy face, drawing nigh unto the sanctuary of Thy union and presence, circling round the Kaaba of Thy beauty, and drinking from the choice wine of Thy bounty and gifts in the days wherein the Hidden Mystery and Thy treasured Secret were made manifest, whereby appeared that which had never appeared in creation.

Exalted then be this bounty which hath encompassed all worlds! And those whom Thou didst leave, Thou didst make them manifestations of negation and dawning-places of misbelief, and Thou didst make them accursed in this world and the next, deprived of every good thing and far removed from the gardens of nearness and reunion.

Therefore, O my God, I beseech Thee by this power which Thou hast extended over the worlds, that Thou make me not to hesitate in Thy Cause. Strengthen me through Thy sovereignty that I may pass over the Bridge through Thy might and power and bounty and grace, that my face may shine between earth and heaven and I may be mentioned among the Concourse on High as one of the people of Baha. Verily Thou art powerful over what Thou willest and Thou art encompassing all things and knowing and seeing Thy servants.

BH01961: Blessed be thy days which have been joined…

In the Name of God, the Wondrous!

Blessed be thy days which have been joined to the Days of God, and blessed be thine ear in that it hath heard wondrous melodies of glory. Blessed be thy faithfulness in that thou didst associate with He Who beareth My name, Who came unto you in days when every upright man was shaken. Through thee was the name of faithfulness adorned. Moreover, thou art he who gave shelter to the Manifestation of Our name, the All-Bountiful, when He came unto thee in grievous days. Say: God did verily deliver Him through the truth and aid Him with a sovereignty from His presence when He was in prison, and brought Him forth through His grace, and preserved Him through the hosts of heaven and earth, until He caused Him to enter the seat of a mighty throne. He attained the presence of the Countenance, and the lights of Beauty shone upon Him from the Dayspring of Glory. Thus doth God single out whom He willeth through His grace, and He, verily, hath power over all things.

Say: O people! We forewarned you aforetime of the tribulation that would occur in the days of adversity, that your souls might not be troubled at its appearance. Thus was the matter decreed in the Tablet. Say: The Spirit—were it not to be sacrificed in the path of God, would it profit you in aught? Nay, by His very Self, were ye but to know. Blessed is he who hath sacrificed himself in God's path and ascended unto a sublime heaven of glory. They who were not corrupted and were martyred—these have attained the heights of the Ridvan and say:

> "Praise be to God Who hath fulfilled His promise to us and made us inherit Paradise, and hath severed us from every remote misbeliever."

Were We to lift the veil, the people would assuredly be drawn away from their souls in their longing for the Concourse on High, and God is witness to this.

Say: O people! Mock not those who have been afflicted with trials in God's path. These are among the most exalted of creation, and through them doth mercy descend upon the peoples of the world, were ye but to know. Is one who eats and sits at ease like unto him who lieth under chains and fetters in God's path? Nay, by your Lord, the Mighty, the Most High! To this doth every just and discerning one bear witness. Say: O people! Consider ye the story of ʿAli, when he came with the truth and delivered My

messages, until he was martyred in My love with manifest joy. Then look upon those who believed in him—among them were those who were slain, those who were imprisoned, and those who forsook wealth and children and took unto God a path. All of these did We favor with Our favors, and We caused the believers to attain unto the most exalted and wondrous station of glory. Such hath been Our way in the past and in the future, and no change wilt thou find in Our way. Say: We desire that which ye flee from, as doth every informed and certain one.

Blessed art thou, O youth who sittest upon the throne of love! Then mercy be upon thee from the presence of One mighty and wise. Whoso hath love for the Youth in his heart is young though a thousand years should pass over him, while he who is deprived thereof is in the depths of age though he be in the prime of youth. Thus hath the Most High Pen inscribed upon this snow-white tablet from the presence of One all-knowing. Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then convey unto the people that which thou hast been commanded in the tablets from the presence of One wise. Be thou assured in thyself—by God, thou art with Me in a praiseworthy and glorious station. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy sons and thy daughter and those who are with thee. By My life! They are none other than in a garden of delight.

BH01976: This is a Book from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

This is a Book from the Prisoner to him who believed in the Spirit in His days and was quickened by the Most Great Word whereby all who are in the heavens and earth were terrified, except the servants of God, the near ones, whose faces shine between the heavens and earth even as the face of the sun shineth from a horizon of manifest glory. These are servants whose faces were not changed on the Day when the faces of those who hesitated in God's Cause, the King, the Mighty, the Great, were darkened. These are servants the like of whom the eye of creation hath not seen, and through them the clouds of inner meanings were raised up and rained upon the breasts of the chosen ones that which purified them from the allusions of the deniers.

Know then that most of the people of the Bayan rose up against God and denied Him in Whom they had believed, and were among the lost. Say: O people, do ye imagine within yourselves that ye believed in the Revelation of ʿAli (the Bab)? Nay, by His Self, the All-Knowing, the Wise! For had ye believed in Him, ye would not have denied these verses which have descended from the heaven of mighty glory. Say: Fear God and wrong not the Manifestation of His Cause. He hath indeed come to you with the truth and calleth you unto it, desiring naught save to draw you nigh unto God, your Lord and the Lord of your fathers of old. Fear God, O people, and dispute not about the verses of God after their revelation. Purify your ears from that which ye have heard that ye may hearken unto the melodies of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous, the Inaccessible. Say: O people, do ye adduce God's verses to prove what is with you, and then slay His very Self? What aileth you, O heedless ones!

And thou, O servant, hearken unto the words of thy Lord, then detach thyself from all else besides Him, then thank Him at all times for having caused thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self and made thee one of the sincere ones. Then convey the Cause of thy Lord with wisdom and utterance, that perchance the people may remember the mention of their Creator and be of the steadfast. God hath

prescribed unto everyone the duty of teaching His Cause. Verily there is no Commander but Him. His is the creation and the command, and all are preserved with Him in a mighty Book.

Grieve not over any matter but place thy trust in all things in Him. He sendeth down what is ordained for every soul, and He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. Not an atom's weight escapeth His knowledge, and with Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earths. Remember thy Lord throughout all days and be not veiled from Him. Indeed His remembrance is better than whatsoever hath been created in the realm of existence, wert thou of them that know. Through His remembrance souls find peace and the hearts of them that remember are gladdened.

Then remember this Prisoner and what hath befallen Him from those who circled round Him at eventide and at dawn. Thus hath God revealed what was hidden in their breasts before His servants who seek Him. He who prided himself on My name and whom We taught throughout days and nights hath pronounced sentence of death against Me out of hatred for God Who created him and created all things by His firm and mighty command.

And if thou findest the loved ones of God, remind them from Me, then glorify God before their faces, that perchance through this glorification they may turn with their hearts to the court of their Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate, and that they may remember My tribulation and My grief and My imprisonment and My trials at the hands of these oppressors. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them and upon those who have laid hold on the Sure Handle in the days of God, the King, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. And praise be to God, the Beloved of them that know.

BH01977: O Mulla Baqir! In the Name of God…

O Mulla Baqir! In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted, the Most High! This is an epistle from the Prisoner unto him who hath believed in God and hath been numbered among those who profess His unity in the Tablets.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One from the precincts of thy Lord's throne, the All-Merciful, that He may purify thee from the allusions of the peoples of the worlds, and sanctify thee from the manifestations of Satan, and cause thee to turn toward the countenance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, and enable thee to soar in an atmosphere which God hath sanctified from the winds of every malicious misbeliever.

Say: O people! By God, the Truth, the Most Great Treasure of God hath appeared, and the Primal Point hath been detailed, and the dominion of God hath been manifested with sovereign might and majesty. Fear ye God, O people, and be God-fearing in this Cause. If ye believe not in Him, oppose Him not, nor be ye tyrannical and wretched. He hath sacrificed His soul for all who are in the heavens and on earth out of His love for God Who created all things by His command—thus hath it been sent down in tablets of mighty, impregnable glory.

Say: Verily the Sun of the Primal One hath risen in truth from this Most Glorious Horizon and calleth out to you: O people! Be ye ashamed before My beauty and deny not Him of Whom We informed you in all

the Tablets—but for Him I would not have revealed a single letter nor uttered a single word, and God is witness unto this.

Say: When He appeared in truth, the ungodly opposed Him and spoke concerning Him that which those who disbelieved before had not spoken, and were rebellious against their Lord's command. Know then that God created the tongue for remembrance and utterance—emerge thou from behind the veils of silence and speak in praise of thy Lord. He will verily protect thee through hosts of the unseen with mighty power.

We have forbidden the servants from discord and corruption and commanded them to unity, yet they have abandoned that which they were bidden and committed that which they were forbidden in a mighty tablet. Say: O people! Fear ye God and commit not that which ye have been forbidden, for God hath sent Me to gather you upon an ancient shore of glory and draw you nigh unto the Self of the All-Merciful and bring you to a station wherefrom the Sun of utterance was witnessed from its horizon. I desire naught from you, for My reward is with Him Who sent Me and commissioned Me with the truth with manifest sovereignty.

And thou—arise thou in the Cause of God and His remembrance, leave all else behind thee, and place thy trust in Him. He will suffice thee against all who dwell on earth.

Say: O concourse of unbelievers! Die in your wrath! The clouds have been rent asunder and the Youth hath come with the hosts of divine inspiration with a white radiance that shineth with truth. Those who have denied these verses while claiming to believe in what was revealed in the Bayan—by God, the Primal Point curseth them and all things laugh at them, and none denieth this save one whose heart is aflame with the fire of hatred and hath taken Satan as his path.

I complain unto thee of those who have wrought corruption in the earth without leave from Us, and for this reason have We withheld the Tablets from being sent to every discerning believer. Be thou assured by thy Lord's grace, then gaze upon thy Lord's countenance, the Most High, with penetrating vision. Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth that thou mayest be at peace within thyself and stand firm in the truth.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from all else and have ascended to a luminous and glorious station.

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BH01978: This is a Book sent down in truth. Verily…

In the name of God, the Most High, the Single, the One, the Powerful

This is a Book sent down in truth. Verily it is a remembrance for all the worlds, wherein floweth that which shall quench their thirst with the Living Waters that stream forth by the command of God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the All-Compelling.

O people! Hear My call from the right side of the Divine Throne, the Spot from which hath appeared all goodness from time immemorial and from which shall appear every wondrous command unto the end that hath no end. God commandeth you to be submissive before His Most Great Gate and forbiddeth you from committing unseemly acts. Fear God, O people, and cast not My ways behind your backs, and be not of the heedless. Remember Me at eventide and at dawn, then at morn and at sunset. All things are quickened through His remembrance, were ye of those who know. Dispute not about any matter, but rather convey the Cause of your Lord, the All-Merciful, unto both the lowly and the noble. This hath been prescribed for every soul, if ye be of those who act. Convey the Message, O people, in a spirit of joy and fragrance. Beware lest ye dispute with anyone or be among the violent. Whoso guideth a soul through the Books of God shall have the recompense of one who hath striven in His path and been among the martyrs.

Blessed art thou, O Ashraf, in that thou hast been honored once again and hast entered the Garden of Paradise time after time, and art among the successful ones. God hath ordained for thee abundant good, and verily He rewardeth whomsoever He willeth with a goodly reward, and He is the Fulfiller of the recompense of those who turn unto Him.

Blessed art thou, O servant journeying towards God, inasmuch as thou hast trodden the path of guidance and turned thy face unto thy Ancient Lord.

We have caused thee to return to thy home as a token of Our mercy unto thy mother, inasmuch as We have found her overwhelmed with sorrow. We have enjoined you in the Book “to worship no one but God and to show kindness to your parents”. Thus hath the one true God spoken and the decree hath been fulfilled by the Almighty, the All-Wise. Therefore We have caused thee to return unto her and unto thy sister, that thy mother’s eyes may thereby be cheered, and she may be of the thankful.

Say, O My people! Show honour to your parents and pay homage to them. This will cause blessings to descend upon you from the clouds of the bounty of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great.

When We learned of her sadness, We directed thee to return unto her, as a token of mercy unto thee from Our presence, and as an admonishment for others.

Beware lest ye commit that which would sadden the hearts of your fathers and mothers. Follow ye the path of Truth, which indeed is a straight path. Should anyone give you a choice between the opportunity to render a service to Me and a service to them, choose ye to serve them, and let such service be a path leading you to Me. This is My exhortation and command unto thee. Observe therefore that which thy Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious, hath prescribed unto thee.

And when thou dost come into the presence of Our servant whom We have named Basir, magnify from My behalf his countenance, for verily he occupieth with Us a station of great eminence. Say: O loved ones of God, be ye intimate with him and depart not from his company, for he shall guide you unto God, the Sovereign, the One, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Then magnify from Our presence those souls who have believed in God and have remained steadfast in this Cause from which have slipped the feet of the wavering.

Then make mention, from the presence of the All-Merciful, of Our servant who hath been named Iman, and give him the glad-tidings of the waftings of the All-Glorious that blow from the direction of the mighty Throne. Say: Verily thou art of those who have attained unto the presence of God and have reached Him in this remote Prison.

And the Spirit from God be upon you, O concourse of the sincere ones. And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH01993: O servant! Hearken to the call of thy Lord…

O servant! Hearken to the call of thy Lord, the Most High, from the right hand of the Spot of Eternity, that thou mayest become aware of this Wronged One Who hath been imprisoned in this mighty prison, and beyond imprisonment hath been cast by the idolaters into this dark pit whose depths none can fathom save whom thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised, willeth. If thou art able, let down the rope of trust and faithfulness that perchance the Youth may be drawn up thereby and the worlds be illumined by the light of His countenance.

Know thou that were the Dove of Baha to speak of what hath befallen It, all existence, both seen and unseen, would cease to be. Therefore hath It concealed the mysteries of the Cause within Its breast, yet the people remain heedless.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Fear God and contend not with Him with Whom should anyone contend, all who dwell in the highest Paradise and the realities of the Prophets and Messengers would curse him. Say: Were ye to look with the eye of God, ye would witness how the Temple of Ali rent the garment of patience, how the Reality of Muhammad fell prostrate upon the dust, and how the Holy Spirit crieth out at what ye have wrought, O ye who are wrapped in veils! Do ye make mention of Ali while slaying Him Who sent him with the truth? Fie upon you, O heedless ones! Do ye deny Him Who created the Spirit through a movement of the Pen moved by the fingers of Power? Woe unto you, O idolaters!

By God! Through what hath proceeded from the Breath of the All-Merciful at the heart of all creation, the realities of the Prophets and the hearts of the Messengers are gathered together. Then ye who, though ye should soar with the wings of detachment for seventy thousand ages, could never attain to the heaven of their knowledge, how much less to their innermost reality, the inaccessible, the exalted, the transcendent, the holy, the mighty, the impregnable. Blind are your eyes, O ignorant ones!

The Sun of Eternity hath shone forth from the Most Glorious Horizon, yet ye have not been illumined by Its radiance, though both worlds have been enlightened thereby. Say: Think ye that ye can prevent the clouds of holiness from their rain, or the winds of grace from their wafting, or the breezes of God from their blowing? Nay, by the Self of God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Great! Should ye and all who are on earth deny, not a hair would be diminished from My servants who have prostrated themselves before My face, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

Say: Fear God, O people, and exchange not the good for the evil, nor light for darkness, nor the Spirit for what ye possess of satanic imaginings. Thus have We commanded thee that thou mayest remind the people with the words of thy Lord, the Most High, that they may turn towards the holy precincts at the

Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, and hearken to what the Dove singeth upon the twigs of exalted glory. Should they hear thy word, good shall return unto them; otherwise, turn away from them and turn not towards them. Put thy trust in God, thy Lord, and He shall suffice thee against all the worlds.

Be thou assured by the grace of thy Lord, then stand firm upon the carpet of steadfastness and independence, and fear no one, for He shall protect thee from the harm of devils. Thus do We mention thee and command thee to act according to what thou hast been bidden by the Ancient Sender. And the Spirit be upon thee, O servant who gazeth toward the holy precincts, and upon those who have believed in God in these days wherein all have opposed Him in Whom they took pride, and thereby their names were inscribed among the idolaters.

BH02016: In the name of Him Who hath established Himself…

In the name of Him Who hath established Himself between the heavens and the earth! This is an epistle from Him Who was in the hands of the enemies in the path of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and upon Whom fell the arrows of tribulation until He was imprisoned in this Most Great Prison—the station of Him from Whose robe's hem were severed the hands of those near unto God—unto him who hath heard the call of God, that he may stand firm in the Cause and be detached from those who believed and then denied God, the Most High, the Most Great.

O servant! Know thou that tribulations in the Cause of God are sweeter than all else that hath been created between earth and heaven, and none shall find their sweetness save the hearts of the lovers. How many nights did I find solace in the chains of iron, and I would kiss them for love of God, the King, the Protector, the Mighty, the Bountiful. And how many days did I address my neck beneath the fetters, saying:

> "Blessed art thou for having borne, in the path of the Beloved, the chains of the oppressors."

And I was grateful for all that befell Us, and We were among the thankful.

I bore such hardships as none had borne, until the Sun of the Cause shone forth upon all created things. Then rose up against Me those servants whom We had supported in all matters and taught throughout the months and years. And they reached such heights of opposition that they would read My words, then war against My Self, being unaware. They would seek help through My names, then shed holy blood with the swords of hatred. Thus dost thou witness the state of these people. Be thou possessed of keen insight.

O servant! Hear My counsel, then ponder what hath befallen My Self from previous peoples and what I have borne for God's sake. By God! It is a testimony unto all the worlds. Beware lest anything hold thee back from God. Be thou detached from all that veils thee from Him, then turn with all thy being to His shining, holy and luminous countenance. Verily, those who have denied God—God will seize them with a vengeance from His presence, and He is the most severe in retribution.

Then aid thy Lord through utterance. Say: O people! Have mercy upon yourselves and oppose not Him at Whose door the Faithful Spirit standeth, in Whose presence the denizens of the all-highest Paradise glory,

and Whom the inhabitants of Paradise serve at all times. O people! Do ye deny Him through Whom God granted you victory in truth and raised the pavilions of the Cause upon the shore of a mighty sea? O people! This is the Lamp of God among you, which He hath preserved through His Most Great Name from the winds that blow from the direction of your hearts, O company of unbelievers! Be ye ashamed before Him Who created and fashioned you, and render not your deeds vain, but be among the doers of good.

Thus do We counsel thee, O thou who doest good, that thou mayest be beneficent in God's Cause and remind thyself of what the Spirit hath cast upon thee, and also remind the veiled souls who have neglected God's Cause and shall never attain understanding, who cling to traditions in their possession even after they have not comprehended the Cause. Thus have their souls enticed them in a matter and made them to be among the deniers. And thou, avoid those from whose hearts the breezes of holiness have been entirely cut off, and place thy trust in God, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Verily, He sufficeth thee in truth, and He is the best Sufficing One and Helper. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy son and thy family, and upon those who have passed over the Path and were among the detached ones.

BH02018: O Siyyid Mirza, upon him be the Glory…

O Siyyid Mirza, upon him be the Glory of God! In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed! This is a Book from Us to him who hath been illumined by the lights that have shone forth from the horizon of his Lord's Will, the Most High, the Most Exalted, in the days when the Beauty of the Unseen cast aside the veil from His face and appeared with the sovereignty of His Most Glorious Name amidst the concourse of creation, and every thing proclaimeth that there is none other God but He, the Mighty, the Gracious.

Blessed art thou for having rent asunder the veils and for not having been hindered by the clouds of glory from turning towards thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. The Spirit of God hath quickened thee and the breezes whose fragrances have been wafted throughout the worlds have awakened thee. Blessed art thou for having associated with him whom We have chosen for Our remembrance and whom thou didst honor when he came unto thee with the mention of God, the Beloved of those who know.

Take thou the Tablet of God and its effects, then leave those who have disbelieved even if they should come unto you with the scriptures of the first and the last ones, for today nothing shall profit anyone save attachment to this Cord which hath been stretched between the heavens and the earth. They who are in doubt in these days of their Lord—these shall have no portion of this Kawthar which hath flowed from the mouth of the loving-kindness of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, at the midmost heart of Paradise. God shall soon seize them with a mighty grip from His presence, for He is the most severe in punishment.

Soon will come unto you one who will call you to Satan. Thus doth the Pen of the All-Merciful inform you beforehand in a Tablet of wondrous glory. Say: O people, shun him and follow not those who have disbelieved in Him in Whom they had believed. By God! They dwell in nothing but manifest delusion. Say: O people! Do ye worship names and deny their Creator? Woe unto you from the punishment of a grievous day!

We have ordained for thee in the heaven of Our command a glorious and noble station. He, verily, aideth those who have stood firm in His Cause, and He is the Rewarder of the doers of good. Vain imaginings have encompassed all men except such as have laid hold on the hem of thy Lord's robe, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. He is among the most exalted of creation—the denizens of the Supreme Paradise and the angels nearest to God send their prayers upon him. Say: With Him is the knowledge of all things. Not an atom's weight in the breasts of all created things can escape His knowledge. He recompenseth every soul for what it hath earned, and He knoweth all things.

We beseech God to manifest through thee that which shall bring joy to the eyes of them that have recognized His unity, and to make thee a standard of guidance among His creatures and a leader of His servants in this Day wherein the veils of glory have been rent asunder and God hath come with manifest beauty. At all times will He aid thee to remember and praise Him amongst His servants, for He hath power over all things.

Rejoice thou in God's loving-kindness and mercy, for His mercy hath encompassed thee through His grace—none can comprehend it save those who have soared in this atmosphere which God hath sanctified from the idle fancies of them that doubt. Were the veil to be lifted from what We have ordained for thee in this Tablet, the servants would be bewildered, nay thunderstruck. Therefore have We concealed it as a grace from Our presence, for He is the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

We beseech God that He change not His decree and that He send down upon thee at all times that which will draw thee unto Him and sever thee from all else. There is none other God but He, the Giver, the Bountiful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. The fragrance that hath been wafted from the garment of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, be upon thee and upon them that are with thee among God's sincere servants.

BH02019: O Muhammad-Sadiq! In the name of God, the Most…

O Muhammad-Sadiq! In the name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious! This is a letter from the Prisoner to him who hath believed in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, who came to Iraq and upon whom shone the Day-Star of the horizons with mighty splendors, who entered the Spot of Paradise and attained the presence of his Lord, the Most High, the All-Knowing, with Whom the Tongue of God conversed in words of impregnable glory whereby were created the heavens and earths, the treasures of inner meanings were revealed among His creation, and there emerged from the earth what God, the King, the Powerful, the Forgiving, the Merciful, had buried therein of His treasures.

Blessed art thou for having attained the Most Great Scene, the Spot wherein was established the throne of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, and thou wert among those who attained. However, in those days the appointed time for the Cause had not been fulfilled, therefore We concealed the Face lest the servants recognize it, though it was shining from the horizon of holiness with manifest radiance. When the appointed time was fulfilled, the veils were rent asunder and thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, appeared from behind them and spoke a word whereat all in the heavens and earth were struck with terror.

By God! Those who have purified their vision from names and turned to their Creator are among the choicest of creation—through them mercy descends from the clouds of the Cause and there grows from the earth the plants of knowledge and wisdom from the presence of One mighty and knowing.

Know thou that We have not forgotten thee—be thou assured by the grace of thy Lord. Verily He forgets not His sincere servants. We have sent down to thee a Tablet wherein is detailed all things, wert thou of those who know. However, when Satan lurked in every pathway, We were prevented from sending it. When the way was opened by Our power, We sent thee this mighty, impregnable Tablet that thou mayest find from it the fragrance of the Beloved and be independent of the tablets of the worlds.

Say: Through one word of this Tablet have all the Tablets of God been sent down aforetime. Beware, O people, lest ye deny it and be of the heedless. This is He of Whom the Bayan spoke, sent down by your Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful. Say: O people, be ye ashamed before Him Who created you by His command, and deny not Him but for Whom the Books of God, the Just King, the Wise, would not have been revealed.

Fear thou no one, but remember thy Lord—verily He will guard thee from the hosts of the wrongdoers.

Say: O loved ones! Ye dwell in your homes while the Youth is imprisoned by the hands of the heedless. Ye lie upon your couches while the Eye of God rains tears from the oppression of these unbelievers. Time hath brought Me so low that he who was created by My word hath risen to oppose Me and prideth himself in serving Me—God is witness to what I say. Soon shall they know, when death comes upon them and their frames tremble from the force of divine wrath—then shall they cry:

> "Alas for what we neglected toward our Lord, the All-Merciful! We were truly among the most lost!"

Though their souls be seized and they be among the dead before thy Lord, they are deaf, dumb and blind, though they witness things and speak what their selves and desires confirm unto them. Thus have We judged with truth, and I am the Doer of what I will.

Convey God's greetings to the faces of those who have turned to His Face and detached themselves from the ungodly. Praise be to God, thy Beloved and the Beloved of the mystics.

BH02025: O denizens of the Concourse on High! Other decrees…

In the name of God, the Holy, the Most Holy.

O denizens of the Concourse on High! Other decrees have been ordained for Us, and they are intending yet another Pit into which to hurl this eternal Joseph. That Pit is in the fortress of ʿAkka.

Very soon they will expel Us from this land and they will incarcerate Us there. In truth that city is decrepit, unclean; its air is bad, its waters are polluted and foul-smelling, and they wish to shut from His Face all bounties and gifts which have been ordained for His Self by God, the Omnipotent, the Almighty, the All-knowing. Very soon you shall see and hear that of which We inform you in this Tablet—things whereat the tears of the near ones will be shed, and mysteries of divine decree about which the lamentations of

the sincere ones will be raised—all by virtue of what will befall us yet another time. In all circumstances We thank God in all that will befall us in his love and his good pleasure.

As to Akka it is a City one direction of which is towards the River Jordan across which the Friend of God, Abraham, passed and in whose environs He called God His Lord using the melodies of the peoples of Paradise. In another direction it faces the Holy and Sacred Vale from which was raised the call of all the Prophets and Messengers saying: "Here we are! Here we are! O Lord our God!" Very soon We shall smell its air and We shall hear all that was raised therein. And yet from another direction ʿAkka faces the wilderness of Sinai. I swear by the righteousness of God! When this Youth turns towards it every atom of its earth, every leaf of its trees, and every pebble of its sands cries out saying: "there is none other God but He".

O my Friends when you shall hear of My calamities, the like of which the eye of creation has not seen, do not be saddened inasmuch as We have been created for all these afflictions and tribulations and God has ordained that they be the oil for My Lamp. Blessed is the one who understands My meaning and blessed is the one who is enraptured by the fragrances of the words of this Youth Who has always been the targets of the arrows of men in the path of God.

Say unto them: this is a Youth for if He were to be drowned in the sea He will praise God in the company of the fish of the sea, and if His head be raised on the cross He will make mention of His God, the All Merciful. And if every member of His body be cut, that cut member will raise its voice testifying:

> "in truth I have attained to that which was my highest hope and highest aspiration."

O My loved ones! Be not grieved. Rather walk over My traces and cling firmly to the Cord of God. If the veil be lifted you would all sacrifice yourselves to hear that Word that ascendeth from the mouth of the Well-Beloved, and so much will yearning enrapture your beings that chains and tumults will not deter you from turning to this Luminary of the entire world.

O My loved ones! You are the children of the Spirit. Be not grieved over your bodies. Rather be gladdened by the glad-tidings of the All-Merciful with spirit and fragrance. Then remain steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, then follow what hath been revealed in the Book and follow not every doubtful misbeliever. Thus doth the Youth counsel you at a time when He is immersed in an ocean of sorrows through what the hands of the heedless have wrought, while My tongue, My heart, My limbs and My hair all proclaim "Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds." The Youth hath been prevented from writing, else We would have sent to each one of the loved ones of God that which would cause him to be detached from all the worlds.

My Self hath been imprisoned, then My Pen, and the latter is greater than the former. This hath not occurred except due to lack of capacity in the realm of creation. Soon shall come a time when they shall become aware of some of what they have perpetrated; they shall weep and supplicate but shall find nothing for themselves to compensate for what hath passed them by. Thus doth the Pen of Truth inform you, and verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, is witness to what they have done and what they do, and He is indeed cognizant of what lieth within the breasts.

BH02038: O emigrant unto God! Hearken unto the voice…

In His Name, the Beloved One!

O emigrant unto God! Hearken unto the voice of this Bird of Immortality, who hath been afflicted beneath the talons of the wicked, and upon whom hath descended in the path of the Beloved that which hath descended upon no one else, who hath at every moment drunk from the cup of destiny and quaffed from the chalice of tribulation. Yet praise be to God that we have bowed our heads in acceptance of the Friend's good-pleasure and set our hearts upon His decree. We do not complain of the oppression of enemies nor do we protest the tyranny of the wicked. We eagerly seek the arrows of our Beloved's decree and yearn for the poison of tribulation in His path. We have attached our hearts to Him and become detached from all else. I swear by His beauty that all else hath been non-existent and all save Him shall cease to be.

And thou, O traveling servant and emigrant, hearken unto My call with the ear of thy soul. Be steadfast in the path of the All-Merciful in such wise that should all who are in the heavens and earth arise to turn thee away, thou wouldst not slip from the path of His love nor remain distant from the way of His good-pleasure. Purify thy heart from the world and all that is therein, and with holy detachment turn thy soul toward the All-Merciful. At all times be occupied with His remembrance and be severed from all else, for all else neither nourishes nor satisfies. All things are captive in the grasp of His power and all the wealthy are poor at the threshold of His riches. Strive that thou mayest drink from the pure crystal waters of His grace and enter beneath the shade of His all-encompassing mercy. At all times soar in the heaven of inner meanings and contemplate the wonders of His divine craftsmanship, that thou mayest not remain heedless of the wonders of His power nor be veiled from beholding the mysteries of His handiwork.

Adorn thy tongue with His remembrance and give peace to thy heart through His love. God willing, thou shouldst manifest thyself in such wise that the signs of God become evident and apparent in thy deeds, words and actions amongst His servants. For in this day most people remain veiled from God's Cause and are occupied with their own comfort. How many souls there are who claim attachment to the Truth yet remain far heedless of it, for association is not perfected through words alone and no claim is validated without proof. Thus those who claim attachment to the Truth must surely manifest signs of sanctity in their deeds and the radiance of joy must be witnessed in their countenances.

In any case, your honor must gather the loved ones of God upon the universal Word and ever remind them of the wondrous verses of His remembrance. Whosoever arises today to teach God's Cause shall be confirmed by the Holy Spirit and aided by the hidden divine power.

Convey wondrous greetings to all the friends of God who dwell in that land. God willing, we hope that thou shalt not remain deprived of the cloud of the All-Merciful's mercy nor be left hopeless of the rain-clouds of divine bounty, for His grace hath ever been and shall ever remain with His loved ones. And peace be upon him who followeth the Truth.

BH02047: Glorified is He Who sends down the verses…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

Glorified is He Who sends down the verses in truth for people who understand. Verily, there is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command. All were created by His command and all are prostrating before Him. Among them are those who recognize and prostrate, and among them are those who prostrate but do not recognize. Thus are all worshippers. And he who worships but does not recognize—his deeds are not accepted and return unto himself, if you but knew. And he who recognizes his Lord—his deeds have ascended unto God. Thus has the matter been ordained, but people do not understand.

Say: O people! Recognize God, then observe what He has ordained in the Tablets of His laws and ordinances, and be not of those who differ. Say: Deeds must follow recognition—thus have you been commanded in all the Tablets and in this blessed, mighty and praiseworthy Tablet. Say: All remembrances have ended in this Most Great Remembrance, and all paths have ended in this Straight Path. Say: Verily, He was Ali in a mighty and glorious Book, then Muhammad in the Furqan, if you be of those who know, then Husayn in a luminous and mighty Book.

Say: O people! Differ not in the Cause of God. Behold His Messengers in this Messenger, and His verses in these holy, mighty and wondrous verses. Beware lest you make distinctions between them. Bear witness to them all in this Most Great and Mighty Announcement. Say: This is a station beyond your allusions, O heedless ones! Thus was it revealed in the Bayan, if you be of those who testify.

O servant! Arise by God's leave and command. Cast names behind you, idols to your left, and vain imaginings beneath your feet. Take in My name the cup of My praise filled with the wine of My remembrance and My glory. Drink from it again and again, and pay no heed to the clamor of the idolaters. Whenever their outcry and screaming rises, drink again from the cup, again and yet again, to spite them. Thus have you been commanded by One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Walk in My footsteps and My way, and be not of the heedless ones.

In the days when the Luminary of the horizons arose with God's command in Iraq, the people of hypocrisy opposed Him and sought to shed His blood, having followed the evil ones. We did not withhold the Cause because of their opposition to the remembrance of God, your Lord and the Lord of all worlds. The more they increased in opposition, the more We increased in manifestation, to spite them. Thus was the matter decreed, if you be of those who hear.

Shatter the idols of vain imaginings by the command of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Then cut yourself off from every sinful misbeliever. Then the people gathered around His love and His Cause—and this is indeed a great bounty. Thus have We caused the Kawthar of utterance to flow from the finger of your Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, that you might drink and be of those who are thankful to God Who created you by His command and made you among His successful servants.

And the Spirit be upon you and upon those with you and upon those who turn toward the holy court with a pure and luminous heart. The Most Glorious! Therefore glorify God before the face of your father and mother and family, and by His glorification the people of Paradise and the angels of the highest heaven glorify Him.

BH02083: O thou whose name hath been named with My…

In the Name of God, the Most Glorious, the Most Splendid

He is the Peerless One in the dominion of Glory.

O thou whose name hath been named with My Name in the Kingdom of Names! Hearken unto that which the Spirit casteth upon thee from the heaven of a wondrous might. Then stand thou steadfast in the love of God and in His Faith; for We have beheld the people, in those days, sunk in a vain imagining that lay heavily upon the inmost veil. Do thou rend asunder the veils of idle fancy with the fingers of power, from One Who is mighty, all-powerful.

Beware lest thou turn thine eyes toward them that bid men to commit idolatry in regard to this Youth, above Whose head the Spirit speaketh; for, by God, this is a Beauty round Whom the Kingdom of transcendent holiness shall circle. Thus have We made mention of thee in the Tablet, that thou mayest remind the people of God, thy Lord, and bring them into the shore of a glorious Name. Say: By God, all that ye have heard from any one beside Me is My creation—and God is witness thereto. And what ye have heard among men proceedeth from My Cause; none hath been made aware of it save Mine own Self, the True One, and behind Me a few souls, numbered.

When pride seized them, and they waxed arrogant before God, then did We lift the veil and manifest the Cause, that the people might be God-fearing in the Faith of their Lord. Do thou, therefore, render thanks unto God that He hath concealed from thee that which hath befallen the Beauty of God at the hands of His servants; and be thou among them that yield abundant thanksgiving. By God, wert thou to behold it, thou wouldst weep within thy very soul, wouldst cut thyself off from all that walk upon the face of the earth, wouldst sit with none, wouldst take comfort with no soul, and wouldst choose for thyself a far-off retreat.

The oppression reached such a pitch that they would slay Me with their swords, and then would ascribe it unto their own selves, that they might cast hatred into the hearts of men. Thus do they devise schemes against the Cause of thy Lord. Say: Verily, it is the most grievous of plots, and the most terrible in its vengeance.

Beware lest thou falter in thy station. Call thou the people unto the direction of the Throne, and be manifest and clear in thine utterance. Should harm touch thee, be patient; yea, be thou patient with a patience within patience, for thy Lord shall come unto thee with a beauteous gladness. Say: O people! If ye disbelieve in that which hath been sent down from the direction of the Throne, then in what discourse have ye believed in God? Bring it forth, and tarry not, even for less than an instant. Thus have We commanded thee—this which the Ancient Beauty hath caused to descend upon this Pen which, in the realm of creation, by the leave of God, hath ever been beheld.

And the Spirit, and Glory, and Beauty be upon thee, and upon them that have entered the Spot of a wondrous might.

Grieve thou not for thy mother; for she hath been lifted up unto the Most Exalted Companion, in an impregnable holy abode. She hath entered the chambers of Paradise—an estate whose horizon the lights have made resplendent. The breezes of divine favor have encompassed her and cleansed her from transgression. Thus hath the grace of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, surrounded her; and His grace hath ever encompassed all worlds. Blessed is she, in that she hath drunk from the chalice of holiness and attained unto the presence of the Beauty of God in a Paradise of abiding glory. When her soul was borne aloft unto the Lote-Tree of Eternity, the maidens of the Most Splendid Realm came forth to meet her from their celestial chambers, and with them a company of angels. Thus doth God bestow what He willeth, and send down His grace upon His servants; and He, verily, is forgiving and merciful unto His loved ones.

BH02084: O Dervish! Hearken unto the call of this Dervish…

He is God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous

O Dervish! Hearken unto the call of this Dervish, that perchance the breezes of love wafting from the direction of the Beloved of all worlds may stir thee, may detach thee from all else save Him, may establish thee in His love, and cause thee to speak His praise amidst His heedless servants. Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of the Countenance in these latter days wherein the Sun of the horizons hath set from the horizon of Iraq and hath dawned from another horizon, as ordained in the preserved Tablets of glory.

Remember thou My days and what thou hast heard of the tales of the Youth. By God! The hearts of those near unto God are consumed by His tales. Say: O people! I am verily the Youth of God amongst you, His servant amidst you, and His mercy unto all created things. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves thereof, for whoso depriveth himself is in manifest loss.

When thou enterest the gathering of lovers, remember then the burning of the Youth's heart. When thou seest one who is joyful, remind him of My great sorrow. When thou findest one imprisoned, recall My imprisonment and tribulation. When thou beholdest a stranger, reflect upon My exile in this land wherefrom the feet of the unity-professing ones are severed.

O servant! By God, My suffering hath reached such a state that I cannot recount it, and there hath befallen Me that which none can reckon. Yet know thou that I complain not of what hath befallen Me, but rather give thanks unto God, the Beloved of the mystics. Would that all the tribulations of the first and the last might descend upon Me! By God, through His love I shall not be dismayed by anything, though the swords of the oppressors, the spears of the ungodly, and the arrows of the falsifiers rain down upon Me. Would that I had a thousand souls in every moment that I might sacrifice them in His path, even as He sacrificed in My path, if thou be of those who know.

Say: He spoke naught but My remembrance and praise, and I speak naught but His praise. He testified unto My Self, and I testify unto His Self, the Inaccessible, the Mighty. All that befalleth Me in His path is beloved of My heart—and God is witness unto what I say—and all that befalleth Him in My path was beloved of His Being, yet the people of the Bayan are in grievous heedlessness.

Say: By God, I have sacrificed My head in His path and await in every moment what is ordained in the preserved Tablet. Say: He is now living in this Most Holy and Mighty Horizon, and He saith:

> "O people of the Bayan! Have mercy upon your Lord, the All-Merciful, and oppose Him not after He hath come unto you with the verses of your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

Say: O people! Be fair within yourselves and deny not Him through Whom the Cause of God hath become renowned amongst all created things.

O people! Ye were behind the veils, fearful for yourselves. But when the Youth appeared, He rent asunder your veils and your faces were illumined amongst the worlds. Fear ye God and deny not this precious and wondrous blessing.

Say: He desireth naught for Himself, but rather desireth to draw you nigh unto God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Thus warbleth the Dove upon the twigs of the holy and lofty Paradise. And upon thee be the Spirit, and upon God's sincere servants.

BH02087: In the Name of our Lord, the Everlasting…

In the Name of our Lord, the Everlasting, the Eternal, the All-Encompassing! Blessed be He in Whose hands is the Kingdom of the heavens and earth. His are the most beautiful names and the most exalted attributes. He giveth to whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He pleaseth. None can gainsay His firm and mighty command. Were He to desire to adorn all things with the ornament of names, He would be able to do so through His sovereignty which hath encompassed all created things from the first to the last. And were He to desire to strip from them all names, He would be powerful to do so, and none may say "why" or "wherefore." Whoso sayeth this hath disbelieved in God and His signs and is accounted among the idolaters.

Say: Every first name hath been established through the mention of the Inaccessible, the Sublime, and every last name is raised up through His Word, if ye be of those who perceive. Say: The manifestations of primacy are created in His dominion and the manifestations of inwardness are owned by His Presence. He is in truth the Possessor Who doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He desireth. Beware lest ye be veiled by names from their Originator and Creator. He hath created them even as He created all things, and He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing.

Every name that boweth down today before His face is among the greatest and first of names, were ye of those who know. And were it to hesitate in His Cause for less than a moment, it would become among the lowest. This is what hath been sent down in truth in the Tablets of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Beware, O people, lest ye look to names, but rather to that whereby they subsist. Thus were ye commanded before and now, lest ye be among the heedless.

Whoso turneth to names because of their connection to God, he is indeed among the believers. And whoso fixeth upon them in themselves and for themselves, he is among the worshippers of names and is accounted among the idolaters. Say: O people! Leave what ye possess, then take what is with God, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers. He desireth for you naught save what draweth you nigh unto

Himself and His presence, and purifieth you from the hints of the opposers who seek to prove their cause through what We revealed before, yet have denied My Self, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Say: I am but a servant of God and the son of His maidservant. He hath sent Me with the truth to remind you of what ye have forgotten of the wondrous remembrance of His new creation. I speak not of Mine own self, but rather through what the Spirit uttereth within My breast, and God is witness to what I say. Say: O people! Would ye slay him whom the winds of your Lord's Will, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate, have seized and move as they please by His command? Fear God and be not among the corrupt. He hath sent him to you to make you united in His Cause and brethren upon facing thrones. Be united, O people, then make peace among yourselves. This is what God desireth for you, if ye be of those who act.

Say: He loveth not discord but desireth harmony among you. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of what your Lord, the Mighty, the Great, hath desired for you. Hearken, O people, unto what the tongue of counsel hath spoken, and be not among the transgressors. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon God's unified servants. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02102: My call hath been raised from around My throne…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Overshadowing, the Self-Subsisting!

My call hath been raised from around My throne—blessed are they that hear! The Face of God hath appeared, unveiled and unconcealed—blessed are they that behold! The Sun of Utterance hath dawned from the Most Glorious Horizon—blessed are they that attain! The breezes of grace have wafted from the right hand of justice—blessed are they that turn unto them! The Straight Path hath been raised by the hands of the All-Merciful—blessed are they that walk therein! The gates of the Most Exalted Paradise have been opened in My Name, the Most High, the Most Glorious—blessed are they that enter! The Youth hath come, bearing in His hand the cup of immortality, which He hath passed round among the company of the sincere—blessed are they that drink!

The strong and mighty rope of God hath appeared—blessed are they that grasp it! The hem of grace hath been lengthened—blessed are they that cling thereto! The Maid of inner meanings hath appeared in the chambers of thy Lord's words, the All-High, the All-Knowing—blessed are they that comprehend! The Tree of the All-Merciful hath yielded the fruits of utterance—blessed are they that take them! The fragrances of divine realities have been diffused in this garden—blessed are they that inhale them! The Youth's robe hath been suspended between earth and heaven—blessed is he who findeth from it the fragrance of holiness and is of them that are at peace!

Say: O people of the Bayan! The hearts of them that are nigh unto God are bewildered at you. I know not what ye desire, O ye heedless ones! If ye seek God's signs, by God they have descended in the most wondrous utterance, to which every thing beareth witness, if ye be of them that deny. If ye seek God's power, verily it hath appeared in truth, and ye have beheld it with your own eyes, would ye but be fair-minded. And if ye seek His beauty, verily it hath dawned in truth from the holy horizon with manifest sovereignty. And if ye seek knowledge, from it have appeared the treasuries of the knowledge of the first

and the last. Say: I know not what ye have made the standard for recognizing your Lord—consider this, O ye idolaters!

Blessed art thou, O My name, for having been named with this Name through which God hath distinguished between the believers and the idolaters. There hath befallen Me what befell not My previous name, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness. Say: Verily My previous name was martyred with his loved ones in a single day, and ascended to the Supreme Companion with gladness and manifest joy. But this Name witnesseth his enemies in every moment as they slay him with the swords of hatred. Thus hath the matter been ordained, and We have sent it down in truth as a reminder to them that know.

They are naught in thy Lord's sight but worthless rabble, nay more contemptible, and thy Lord is verily the Almighty, the Powerful. They have committed what none before them committed, even violating God's sanctity among His servants—yet they have only harmed themselves, though they perceive it not. Thus have We taken from them the spirit of understanding and left them in barren wastes, wherein they wander distracted.

But thou, be thou assured by thy Lord's grace and fear not the hosts of the oppressors. By My life! Wert thou to know what hath been ordained for thee, thou wouldst sacrifice thyself in love for that most wondrous and wonderful station. Grieve not at anything—verily thy Lord is with thee in all conditions and will aid thee through His power. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful. And the Spirit be upon thee, upon thy wife, and upon them that are with thee of God's sincere servants.

BH02104: O Muhammad-Ibrahim! In the Name of God, the Most…

O Muhammad-Ibrahim! In the Name of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Holy! Your letter has reached Our presence in this prison, and We have found the fragrance of your love and recognized your sincerity towards God, your Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Those who have believed in God and held fast to the cord of His favor—upon them do the denizens of Paradise pray, and this is indeed a great bounty inscribed in the Tablet. Give thanks unto God for having given thee to drink the Water of Life from the chalice of eternity, and for having caused thee to ascend to the heaven of inner meanings, and for having made thee to hear wondrous melodies of glory.

Leave the idolaters in the depths of the fire, then proclaim thy Lord's praise amongst His servants. Thus doth the Pen of glory and might command thee.

Say: O company of the heedless! Have ye forgotten that which God counseled you in all the Tablets, to fear God and not to be tyrannical and wretched in the land? Say: Be fair—if ye deny what hath been sent down in truth from God's heaven of grandeur, by what proof do ye find rest in your souls and seek to guide others? Fear God and refute not the truth by what ye possess—this would be better for you, did ye but know.

Sanctify yourselves from idle fancies and desires, then turn your gaze toward the Most Glorious Horizon. Thus doth your Lord, the Most High, command you in preserved Tablets of glory. Beware lest the world and what is therein delude you, or the intimations of the people of the clouds prevent you. Rend asunder the veils by a power that is mighty in truth.

Know thou that from thy letter wafted the fragrance of love to all regions, and the angels of the Cause have preserved it from One mighty and powerful. God shall resurrect it in the most beauteous form—with Him is the knowledge of all things and He encompasseth all things. Were We to acquaint thee with the station God hath ordained for thee in thy love for Him, thy spirit would depart thy body in its longing for what is destined for thee. But We have concealed this through a wisdom known only to God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creation.

Give thanks unto God for having made thee a repository of His love, but strive to preserve it from every accursed thief. For Satan and his manifestations have spread throughout the land, and should they find anyone heedless, in less than a moment they would steal what their Lord hath entrusted unto them. Thus hath the tongue of truth spoken faithfully. Be distinguished among the servants from all others, such that thy countenance shineth amidst all faces, and be among those whose faces are illumined by the lights of the Countenance.

O thou servant who hast turned unto God! Ask God to grant thee what thou desirest. He bestoweth upon whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He pleaseth by His command, and He is indeed cognizant of all things.

By God! It grieveth Me that thou shouldst seek to attain My presence and I must deny thee. But as We observe the decree of destiny, We have withheld the Pen from its ruling and suspended it in the heaven of the divine Will until God cometh with a manifest sovereignty. Should We remain in that land in such condition for a complete year, We shall reveal what hath been truly ordained, and He is indeed wise in all things.

Spirit, glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who are steadfast in love.

BH02115: This is the tablet of the Primal Point…

He is the Glorious in the Kingdom of Eternity

This is the tablet of the Primal Point for him who hath taken God as his protector. Who, when he perceived the Sun of Holiness from the horizon of that holy garment, lowered his gaze and fell to the ground.

Verily, those who have believed in God and in the return of His Primal Point in this Manifestation have been sanctified by God of all that is unseemly, and their Lord has enwrapped them in His mercy without bound. Say:

> “O people, fear God and follow not those who have fought Him, denied His testimony and away from Him have turned.”

Fear Him who is the Revealer of His Cause in this Day, arise to help Him who created you and fear not those who have disbelieved.

Say: “O people, do you still take your vain desires as your lord while casting aside Him of whom every atom in creation testifieth ‘there is no God but He, the One, the Only’?”

O thou who bearest my name, listen to what the dove in eternity's midst doth say, and turn not toward those in whose hearts is hatred for this Beauty, so faithful and exalted. The sweet scents of the Rizvan of the All Merciful have captivated those who have believed and stood fast, and from the loving kindness of the Spirit they are nurtured.

Praise be to Him who hath revealed Himself so gloriously that His light has through all creation shined. Those endowed with spiritual insight testify that there is no God but He, the Peerless, the Everlasting, for to them His light as proof of His cause hath sufficed.

He hath revealed His verses as he willeth and desireth and in such wise that the sweet fragrances of His spirit have encompassed every horizon, which none can deny save those in whose hearts is envy and hatred.

Say "O people, fear God and turn a just eye to the testimonies of the Prophets and the Messengers. Beware lest ye deprive your own souls of the holy threshold."

Do not dare to refute the Truth with what knowledge you possess, for through My command was the Truth created. This is known only to those with sight refined.

And whosoever would deny the bounty of this Day hath nothing. They are those whose sight has died. Say "O people, the mirrors of your hearts ye must purify, and your vision ye must rectify, ere you lose your way on this long and holy road."

And it is for this that we have given thee inspiration and revealed to thee our verses, that that mayest show thy mettle in the Cause of thy Lord, calling mankind to this path, for thee to be of those who are well guided.

Know then, that we have fallen beneath the sword of inequity brandished by those who have indeed replaced God with their vain desires, and so they have been scourged by One who is wise and well aided.

Thou must separate thyself from them and desire not their friendship. Seek for thyself, under the protection of thy Lord, a shelter fortified. Do not consort with those who have disbelieved and denied what they had accepted. Woe to the one who once believed and then rejected.

Rid thyself of all allusions that thou mayest speak plainly about the Possessor of all names and attributes. Well it is with them whom the veils of creation hindereth not from hearing the word of God, so the dove of the Spirit has warbled.

Upon thee be the Spirit of God and His might, and also upon all who have taken a lofty place within the shadow of their Lord.

BH02118: The Most Holy One!

The Most Holy One!

There has come before the Face a noble Book, which was read by a servant present in My court with the melodies of the sincere ones. When he read its first line, the eyes of the inhabitants of the cities of Names

wept. Then arose a cry that filled creation. And at another line, sighs of sorrow burst forth from the hearts of those near ones, and grief seized the dwellers of this Ridvan who circle round the Face—the Spot whence waft the breezes of the All-Merciful upon the peoples of the worlds and the breaths of glorification upon all creation. And grief reached such a degree that the eyes of the Youth wept, both secretly and openly, for His love of thee, and the eyes of the people of the pavilion of glory and the domes of holiness in the presence of fellowship shed tears, and God was witness to that. And he who read it wept, and by his weeping increased the weeping of those who had sought shelter beneath the shade of the mercy of their Lord, the Most High, the Supreme.

Blessed art thou for having been turned by the breezes of grace toward the right hand of justice and been made one of the sincere ones. Verily thy remembrance of thy Lord and thy seeking His pardon is better than the worship of most of the servants. To this beareth witness he who hath drunk of the most pure Salsabil from this wondrous Spring. And by thy sighing were consumed the hearts of those who soar in the atmosphere of nearness and holiness and beauty; then did the faces of the mystics turn pale. How wonderful are the winds of thy Lord's will, the All-Merciful, which blew upon thee and made thee purified from the defilement of the idolaters. I testify that thou wast born again from the breaths of the All-Merciful, and this is from the grace that nothing ordained in the heaven of destiny by the Mighty, the Powerful can equal.

We beseech God to make thee a leader of His servants unto the paradise of God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful, and to raise up in thee that whereby the hearts of His creatures shall be attracted, that they may enter into the tabernacle of His mercy that hath encompassed all created things. We have found from thee at all times the sweet savors of faith, and thus it is preserved in a guarded Tablet of glory. When the appointed time came, that which was treasured within thee was revealed, and verily thy Lord knoweth all things.

Arise and say: O people! Fear God and spread not corruption in the earth after it hath been set in order, and follow not those who desire naught but the desires of their own selves and have turned away from the Spot of nearness and are among the heedless. If they would heed that wherewith ye have been counseled in all the Tablets—thus doth this Youth command you from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise. He desireth naught in the kingdom save what God desireth. Open your eyes that ye may behold the Sun of Beauty of the Most High shining forth from this holy and luminous horizon. Soon shall ye arise from sleep and find not the Youth, and shall find yourselves in grievous loss. Seize ye the measure of My days and exchange them not for what ye possess. Fear Him in Whose grasp is the kingdom of all things. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Great.

Thus have We inspired thee and made mention of thee at a time when We were in grievous sorrow. The Spirit and glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who hearken unto thy word concerning God, thy Lord and the Lord of the noble Throne. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02135: O Hussein in Sad, He is the Mighty…

O Hussein in Sad, He is the Mighty, the Everlasting! O Hussein, bear witness with your self, then with your tongue, then with your heart, then with your essence that there is no God but Him and that Ali before

Muhammad was the Manifestation of His Beauty, the Dawning Place of His Glory, the Mine of His Revelation and the Source of His Knowledge for all who are in the heavens and earth. Through him was established the Divine Unity and appeared the Beauty of Divine Singleness, and the Dove sang upon the branches of the Lote-Tree of Eternity that there is no God but Him, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate.

Know then that your letter came before Us and We learned what was therein, for We were well-informed, and We answer you with these verses which have rendered the learned powerless. Say: O people, fear God and corrupt not the earth, and be not of the corrupt ones. And when the verses of God are sent down unto you, make them not an object of mockery, and be not of the heedless ones.

Know then that We desired not to reveal Our countenance to anyone while We were among the servants, and none knew Us, for We were behind a mighty veil. But when the idolaters imprisoned Us in this remote prison, We therefore rent asunder the veils of concealment and revealed the Face like the manifest, radiant Sun, that thereby might be consumed the hearts of the deceivers and might increase the faith of the believers.

Say: By God, from the Ancient Sovereign hath descended upon this Pen a word at which the heavens and earth would be cleft asunder, save whom thy Lord willeth, the Mighty, the Everlasting, the Inaccessible. Thus sang the Dove unto thee that thou mightest become aware of that which was concealed from every possessor of clear sight, and become steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord, and trustworthy in His messages, and find joy in thine essence and self, and be upon the Path with clear certitude.

Know then that We forgot thee not before, nor have We forgotten thee in this Prison which lieth behind mighty mountains. We beseech God that He may enable thee in the Cause and raise thee to the Holy Seat, a faithful station wherein thy foot shall not slip from the Cause than which nothing is more mighty, and was greater than every great thing. And the Spirit and Light and Glory and Radiance be upon thee and upon those with thee from this day unto the Day of Judgment.

O Hussein in Sad, He is the Mighty! It hath been known to that honored one that the purpose of creation hath ever been and shall ever be the knowledge of God, and this knowledge dependeth upon the recognition of His servants who perceive the Truth through their own vision and heart and nature, for imitation sufficeth not, whether in acceptance or rejection. If thou attainest unto this most glorious and most exalted station, thou shalt reach the Greatest Perspective, which is the station of steadfastness after striving in God. This is the guidance thou didst seek, and We have sufficed with these two words which are from the jewels of God's consummate wisdom, and were any to turn unto them he would be independent of all who are in existence. And God sufficeth as a witness.

BH02164: O Shaykh Sultan! In the Name of God…

O Shaykh Sultan! In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous! This is a Book from Us to him whom God has loved and ordained for him an exalted station in His presence, that he may give thanks to his Lord and be detached from all else and remember Him among His praising servants.

We have learned what has befallen you. Do not grieve. Be patient, then show forth ultimate patience, and be in great joy. Verily the world and its hardship and ease shall pass away, as every insightful and certain one bears witness. Grieve not over anything. We beseech God to bring about that which will set your affairs aright and comfort your eyes. He is verily the Guardian of the sincere ones. We grieved when We heard of the disorder in your affairs. Soon will your Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, bring them together. Grieve not except for My tribulation and affliction, and when sorrows intensify upon you, reflect on what has befallen My Soul at the hands of the oppressors.

O Sultan! Know that a great ransom has been ordained for Us which cannot be exchanged for another—neither for sheep nor for all that exists between the heavens and the earth. Thus has the Most Exalted Pen inscribed in the Tablet of Destiny by My binding and wise command.

O Sultan! The Cause of God has become obscure to most people, and We have veiled it from them when We found them wandering in the wilderness of delusion. Detach thyself from all else, then remember what has befallen My Soul, then speak My praise among the heedless, that they might recognize their Creator and become detached from the idolaters.

Say: O people! Know the worth of these days, then hearken to God's call from the direction of His prison. He calls you at all times to draw you to the station ordained for you in a preserved Tablet. Yet you have risen in opposition, and there issues from your tongues concerning His Cause that which causes the heart of every possessor of a heart to burn and the faces of the mystics to pale.

Say: O people! If the matter were as you claim, why did We send ʿAli before and sacrifice him in this clear and manifest path? If you were true to what you say, why did you change your religion? By God, you are of those who seek refuge from the frying pan in the fire. Woe unto you, O company of idolaters!

If you find one who is receptive, cast upon him the words of your Lord; otherwise conceal them and avoid those who have disbelieved in God, the King, the Mighty, the Peerless. Thus have We cast upon you that which causes tears to flow from the eyes of the believers.

By God, if you were to look upon Me with the eye of your heart, you would find in My outward and inward being naught but the wounds from the spears of the fettered ones. The evil ones of the Bayan have united with the evil ones of the Furqan for My harm and affliction. Fie upon them and that which they possess of satanic deception! Nay, Satan himself flees from these and seeks refuge with God from their evil and their plots. Your Lord is witness to what I say.

Convey My glorification to your son's face, then remind him of My remembrance, that the remembrance of God, the King, the Just, the Wise, may stir him. And the Glory be upon you and upon him and upon those who are with you among Our assured servants. And praise be to God, the Beloved of the worlds and the Goal of the mystics.

BH02165: This is a Book from Baha unto him who…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted

This is a Book from Baha unto him who dwelt within himself in the days of his Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Merciful, that perchance the sweet-scented breezes of the All-Glorious from this Paradise might seize him from himself and detach him from all creation and whatsoever hath been created in the realms of being, and draw him nigh unto the court of his Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful, and purify him from all that God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Compelling, loveth not.

Hearken unto the crowing of the Cock of the Throne and the cooing of the Dove of Paradise, then unto the rustling of the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, then the rushing of the winds that blow from the right hand of thy Lord's throne and the downpour of the rain of mercy which descendeth from the heaven of holiness upon all created things, that there might be kindled within thy heart such fire of the love of God that thou shalt be detached from the world and all that is therein and arise to praise the Manifestation of the Self of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

O servant! Hear My words, then efface from thy heart all allusions, that there might be imprinted thereon the lights of thy Lord's countenance and thou mightest behold with thine own eyes what hath been ordained for thee in the dominion of destiny by thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and be of them that attain. Cast away what is in the hands of men, then take what is with God, thy Lord. This indeed shall suffice thee above the kingdom of the dominion of the heavens and earth.

Say: O people! This is a servant of God and the son of His servant who hath come unto you with God's signs and His proof. Beware lest ye deny him by reason of what ye possess and be of the heedless. He desireth for you naught save that which is better for your own selves than whatsoever hath been created between the heavens and earth. Say: O people! Ponder within yourselves—have ye witnessed a Revelation more mighty than what hath appeared in truth? Fear God and be of the fair-minded. Should ye deny this bounty, by what proof then do ye affirm your faith in God your Lord? Bring it forth and tarry not even for a moment. Say: He hath come to quicken the world and gather all upon the ancient, eternal, fresh and verdant table.

Beware lest ye deprive yourselves thereof and be of them that are veiled. Say: Verily the Sun hath risen in truth and reached its zenith, yet ye have not turned to its rays but remain as dead ones within the veils of your selves. Therefore lift up your heads from the couch of heedlessness and passion, then turn toward the heaven that ye might behold with your own eyes what none before you hath ever witnessed. Thus do We set forth the verses and expound them in truth, that perchance there might be generated in the hearts of the servants that which shall draw them nigh unto the shore of grace, the spot wherein shine forth the lights of the countenance of thy Lord, the Powerful, the Most High, the Most Great.

Arise to fulfill the Cause and fear no one, then bring people into the religion of God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who, when they hear the verses of the All-Merciful, fall prostrate upon their faces before God, the King, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And praise be to God, the Beloved of them that know.

Cast then the greeting from thy Lord, the All-Merciful, upon the countenance of thy son, then upon the side of knowledge, then draw her through the breezes of thy Lord from the left of wisdom and standing unto the right of attraction and yearning, out of love for the face of God, the King, the Just, the All-Wise.

BH02168: This is a Book that speaketh the truth…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted

This is a Book that speaketh the truth, that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting. It summoneth all men unto God and guideth them to the right shore of this blessed spot, whose sand proclaimeth: There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved.

O people! Fear ye God and oppose not Him Who hath appeared with the truth by a manifest command. Say: The Youth desireth naught for Himself, but rather desireth for you that which God hath desired, did ye but know. Know ye that His will is the very Will of God, could ye but understand. He is indeed the One Who hath arisen in pure servitude unto God, your Lord, could ye but perceive. He loveth naught but servitude unto the True God, and unto this testifieth all things, even should ye deny it.

Say: He is the One Who hath called upon God in every tongue, yet ye comprehend not. Every mention that hath ascended unto God, in whatsoever tongue, hath appeared from His tongue, and this is a truth well-known. Every face that hath turned toward the Beloved of earth and heaven hath turned only through the turning of this imprisoned Servant. Say: He was prostrate before God ere the creation of the heavens and earth, and ere the pearls of divine knowledge emerged from the shells of hearts. Say: He fell prostrate with his face upon a spot of earth in submission unto God, Lord of what was and what shall be.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, deny Him not, and follow not every rejected ignorant one. Whensoever this Dove warbled upon the twigs of the Divine Lote-Tree in remembrance of His Most Exalted Self, this was only after God's command, your Lord, would ye but be certain. The Beloved of Baha hath previously informed you that He Who would come after Him with the name of the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, would proclaim in all things:

> "I am God, there is none other God but Me, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting."

And as I was beholding the direction of His Cause, there was revealed in this Manifestation that which hath caused every witness and the witnessed to tremble. By the life of the Beloved! Were I not beholding His wisdom, I would not have mentioned Myself save in pure servitude, for this is the desire of My heart, and unto this testify My spirit, My soul and My being, could ye but understand.

O servant! Worship thy Lord, then prostrate thyself before Him, and be not of those who disdain. Say: O people! Fear God and follow not those who mock at the signs of God. Soar upon two wings of detachment unto this atmosphere wherein hath been raised the mention of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Beware lest anything prevent thee from turning toward thy Lord, the Mighty, the Inaccessible.

Remember Him at all times, and He shall suffice thee against those who have disbelieved in God, mocked His Messengers, and were of the despairing ones. Thus have We counseled thee in truth, as a grace from Us unto thee and unto those who have shattered the idols and were of the detached ones. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH02195: To be typed

To be typed.

BH02200: O Majid!

O Majid!

Hear thou the call of this Wronged One. I swear by the Sun of the horizon of glory and detachment that from the beginning of creation until now such tyranny hath not been inflicted upon anyone. Why dost thou sit at ease? Hast thou forgotten My wondrous melodies, or hath association with people made thee heedless? Thou hast witnessed My patience, forbearance and tranquility. Now consider what hath occurred that hath caused the lamentation, crying and wailing of the Beauty of Oneness. By God, besides Whom there is none other God! Had I drunk the cup of martyrdom at the hands of the most wicked of men, it would have been preferable to Me than that these matters which cause the abasement of the Cause should become known among the people. By God! My soul weepeth, and Mine eye, and My heart, and My pen, and from My sighs the dwellers of Paradise do lament, but the people neither perceive nor hear.

O Majid! Thou knowest how much I strove to exalt the Cause of God, until it reached the station thou didst witness. And then the first token of love shown to this Wronged One was that they arose to slay Me and exerted their utmost to cut down the divine Tree. When this became known, this Servant withdrew alone to another house, that perchance the fire of malice and hatred might subside. Then they sent messengers to all regions writing that they had girded themselves to slay Me, and whatever they had done and whatever was in their hearts they attributed to the Divine Lote-Tree that none can know. Yet thou knowest that had this Servant desired to harm him, he would not have existed at all.

When his writing was observed, I felt compelled to inform the people of these matters, lest they be led astray from the luminous path by the fabricated words he had written. By Him Who is unique in grandeur and glory! Had he remained quiet after this Servant's departure, this Servant would never have mentioned it. Among other things he wrote that they had left Me for want of bread. Observe the baseness and meanness of his soul, what he hath said and what he hath done. Let that honored one himself reflect. Having associated with this Servant for years, is it befitting to attribute such calumnies to the Lord of Names and Attributes, possessed of supreme sanctity and detachment? No, by the Self of God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting! The mention of My tribulations hath exceeded both tongue and pen. I do but complain of My grief and sorrow unto God.

In any case, they will exercise the utmost scheming to cause thee to turn away from the Cause of God. O chosen one! Among all the servants, thou wert the first to attain unto God Himself and to believe in His presence. Stand thou firm in the Cause in such wise that through thy steadfastness all may become steadfast.

BH02202: Blessed is He unto Whom belongeth whatsoever…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the All-Knowing, the Powerful!

Blessed is He unto Whom belongeth whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is on earth, and all are His worshippers. His is what He hath created and shall create, and He hath ordained all things in due measure, and all bow down before Him. His is the Command and the Creation. He giveth life to whomsoever He willeth through His command and causeth to die whomsoever He willeth through His authority. His verily is the might and the glory, His the grandeur and the splendor, His the power and the permanence, His the loftiness and the radiance, and unto Him do all return.

O servant! Remind the servants of that which We inspired thee before the creation of the heavens and earth, before the creation of the Concourse on High, and before the appearance of honored servants. Fear thou no one, but place thy trust in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. We shall protect thee from those who have disbelieved and turned away, even as We protected thee from the serpent's mouth and raised thee to a praiseworthy station. Beware lest thou conceal thy beauty as thou didst conceal it before. Rather, reveal what thou art commanded and delay not the Cause of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Beloved.

Call thou the people to the Most Great Ocean which surgeth in thy name, the Exalted, the Praiseworthy. Then deliver unto the people what was revealed in the Bayan and tarry not for less than a moment. Command what is right and turn away from those who turn not their faces toward thy countenance.

Say: I am the Beauty of God on earth, His Proof amidst His servants, His Evidence amongst His creation, His Testament in His realm, and His Path amongst His creatures, would that ye might know. Say: Whoso turneth away from Me hath turned away from God from all eternity, and whoso gazeth upon Me hath gazed upon God, the Generous, the Forgiving. Say: The faith of no one shall be complete except through entering beneath My shadow—and this is My shadow which hath encompassed the heavens and earth, wherein have entered the sanctified ones who dwell in the precincts of eternity, and none hath knowledge of them save God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, then have mercy upon yourselves. Keep not distant from the station wherein the name of God is upraised at every moment and hour, at eventide and at dawn. Say: Nothing shall be accepted from anyone today except by My leave, would that ye might understand. Therefore, die in your wrath, O people of hatred, for God's punishment and His wrath have come upon you, and ye are tormented within your own selves.

Then rejoice, O people of love, in the meeting with God and His days, and in His beauty and His signs—ye shall indeed rejoice! Thus have We inspired thee, O people of the Bayan, with that which I have been commanded by God, my Lord and your Lord, would that ye might hear. Whoso wisheth, let him accept, and whoso wisheth, let him turn away. Verily God is independent of them and of all who are in the kingdom and of all that they do or know. And the Spirit be upon those who have prostrated themselves before the countenance of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

BH02203: That which descended from the right hand…

That which descended from the right hand of the Throne—let Jim and Sad, being gladdened by the fragrances of divine loving-kindness, know that special favors have ever flowed and will continue to flow

from the threshold of the Divine Unity upon those messengers in the valley of the glory of the All-Sufficing.

But O friends of God! Today stillness and tranquility are forbidden, while ardor and rapture and restlessness in the path of the Chosen Beauty are beloved. For if one observes with a subtle eye—by God the Truth!—verily the Most Great Paradise is stirring within itself and all that is ordained therein out of longing to attain the presence of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, Who hath appeared once again in His primordial garment, whereupon the embodiments of limitation fled from His presence—these wretched ones between earth and heaven.

Know ye that the Most Great Paradise and all that hath been created therein of the essences of the hearts of the Maids of Heaven and the quintessence of the spirits of the secluded ones, as well as the subtle divine crafts and the jewels of holy creation—all are in motion today and restless from longing for the Chosen Beauty. Therefore beware lest ye grow cold in My love or choose silence regarding the wondrous remembrance of Me. At all times cast forth My new remembrances upon those who await the snares of My mention, that all may, through God's grace and bounty and through God's might and mercy, be set in motion like fire and become ignited, so that by the heat of these sanctified temples the people of the world may be consumed and refined by the fire of the divine Tree of Love, until the signs of God's fire become manifest and evident upon all else.

Today the cup and what it contains and the one who takes it are all considered as one and witnessed before the Throne. But the sword of separation that hath appeared in the garment of the Word of God is occupied with its appointed task in all things, and soon will holy hearts surge forth from their hidden places like the manifestations of the fire of the Divine Tree and become visible in the world of appearance. Blessed are they and what they have attained from their Creator and what hath been ordained for them of God's mercy, the Mighty, the Luminous.

Do not restrain the tongue from explanation and elucidation. At all times, dedicate heart and soul to teaching the Cause. And peace be upon him who conveyeth the Cause of his Lord and is not prevented by the derision of enemies nor their heedlessness nor their harm. Furthermore, be vigilant regarding the Cause of God at all times and never let go of wisdom lest harm occur. Convey the holy salutation, free from the veils of writing, to the servants of God and His loved ones, both female and male, from the tongue of God. Blessed are they who convey it.

BH02210: He is the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious! A remembrance…

He is the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious! A remembrance from God, from the presence of Glory, unto him who hath believed in his Lord and was numbered among the faithful in the Mother Book, inscribed by the Pen of Command.

O servant! We have sent thee Tablets before this, from whose horizon the sun of thy Lord's mercy shone forth upon thee, that thou mightest be filled with joy. And besides these We have sent thee this Tablet containing thy Lord's messages—deliver them unto His servants, fear no one, and place thy trust at all times in thy Lord.

And if thou desirest to know what hath befallen My Beauty, by God! words fail to recount this Cause, whose measure even the hands of them that reckon cannot encompass. Were a thousand seas to be made ink for My tribulations, by God! they would be exhausted while the mention of My tribulations, visible from the horizon of destiny, would not be ended. And if thou wishest to know a trace thereof, breathe the air, and if thou detectest the fragrance of blood, then ponder what hath befallen the Beauty of the Ancient of Days from the arrows of those who disbelieved in God and denied His signs after He had, by His word, created their own selves and all who dwell in the kingdom, gathered together.

We commanded thee before to emerge from behind the veil of silence and to speak forth between earth and heaven concerning this Most Great Remembrance, and to warble with the sweetest melodies in the Kingdom of Names and Attributes. Yet until now We have not heard thy call, as though thou hast held back in what We commanded thee. Beware lest thou hold back—be thou as a flame of God's fire kindled among His servants, that through thee may be set ablaze the hearts of those whom intoxication hath overtaken in these days when heedlessness hath seized both young and old.

Raise thy call throughout the land and make mention of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, in these days when the hosts of misbelief have surrounded Him from every direction, and He hath no helper nor supporter in all the earth. Beware, beware lest thou turn to the earth and its people. Rather look with the eye of truth toward thy Lord's direction and be possessed of enlightened vision. Verily, they who have broken God's Covenant and devoted themselves to the idols of their own selves—these have no standing with God and are not mentioned before the Throne.

And if thou findest one possessed of enlightened vision, reveal unto him the pearls of thy Lord's Cause, that perchance he may find peace in his soul and stand firm, by thy Lord's leave, upon the Most Great Path.

O servant! Purify the hearts of the servants from vain imaginings, then illumine them with the splendor of thy Lord's remembrance. Thus doth the Temple of Eternity command thee, that thou mayest be faithful to the Covenant. Leave those who are veiled by delusion from the Sovereign of the Cause and have turned from the garden of nearness to the lowest of stations—the place which was created in fire, above fire, in the abyss of divine wrath.

Thus have We remembered thee and sent thee that which will purify thee and purify the people from every rejected misbeliever.

BH02218: God hath, through His tongue that uttereth the truth…

God hath, through His tongue that uttereth the truth, testified in all His Tablets to these words: "I am He that liveth in the Abha Realm of Glory."

By the righteousness of God! He, from the heights of this sublime, this holy, this mighty, and transcendent station, seeth all things, heareth all things, and is, at this hour, proclaiming: Blessed art thou, O Javad, inasmuch as thou hast attained unto that which no man before thee hath attained. I swear by Him Who is the Eternal Truth! Through thee the eyes of the inmates of the Exalted Paradise have been gladdened. The people, however, are utterly heedless. Were We to reveal thy station, the hearts of men

would be sorely agitated, their footsteps would slip, the embodiments of vainglory would be dumbfounded, would fall down upon the ground, and would thrust the fingers of heedlessness into their ears, for fear of hearing.

Grieve thou not over those that have busied themselves with the things of this world, and have forgotten the remembrance of God, the Most Great. By Him Who is the Eternal Truth! The day is approaching when the wrathful anger of the Almighty will have taken hold of them. He, verily, is the Omnipotent, the All-Subduing, the Most Powerful. He shall cleanse the earth from the defilement of their corruption, and shall give it for an heritage unto such of His servants as are nigh unto Him.

Say: O people! Dust fill your mouths, and ashes blind your eyes, for having bartered away the Divine Joseph for the most paltry of prices. Oh, the misery that resteth upon you, ye that are far astray! Have ye imagined in your hearts that ye possess the power to outstrip Him and His Cause? Far from it! To this He, Himself, the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, doth testify.

Soon shall the blasts of His chastisement beat upon you, and the dust of hell enshroud you. Those men who, having amassed the vanities and ornaments of the earth, have turned away disdainfully from God—these have lost both this world and the world to come. Erelong, will God, with the Hand of Power, strip them of their possessions, and divest them of the robe of His bounty. To this they themselves shall soon witness. Thou, too, shalt testify.

Say: O people! Let not this life and its deceits deceive you, for the world and all that is therein is held firmly in the grasp of His Will. He bestoweth His favor on whom He willeth, and from whom He willeth He taketh it away. He doth whatsoever He chooseth. Had the world been of any worth in His sight, He surely would never have allowed His enemies to possess it, even to the extent of a grain of mustard seed. He hath, however, caused you to be entangled with its affairs, in return for what your hands have wrought in His Cause. This, indeed, is a chastisement which ye, of your own will, have inflicted upon yourselves, could ye but perceive it. Are ye rejoicing in the things which, according to the estimate of God, are contemptible and worthless, things wherewith He proveth the hearts of the doubtful?

And thou, be thankful unto God, thy Lord, for having purified thee from the defilement of these people. By God! Through their existence all that hath been created of water and clay hath been defiled. And if thou wert to become aware of that which We have ordained for thee, such rapture and longing would seize thee that thou wouldst cease to distinguish between right and left, between day and night. For this reason have We concealed it from thee, that thou mayest be of them that are at rest. And remember thy Lord amongst His servants at all times, and be thou of them that remember Him. And may the mercy that descendeth at every moment rest upon thee and upon them that are with thee, and upon them that love thee, and upon them that associate with thee and sit with thee, and turn unto thee out of love for God and purely for His sake, the Gracious.

Then make mention from Us unto thy brother who hath been named Rahim, that he may remember God and be of them that are thankful. And may the glory rest upon thee and upon him from this moment unto the Day whereon mankind shall stand before God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

BH02234: This is a letter from the Servant to him…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

This is a letter from the Servant to him who journeyed unto God and was numbered among the emigrants in the Tablet, until he entered this Prison, this Station wherein tribulation hath rained down from the clouds of destiny at every moment.

O servant! Blessed art thou, inasmuch as hardships have touched thee in the path of God, and thou hast borne difficulties in the ways of His good-pleasure, and hast turned thy face toward that quarter wherefrom the Countenance was visible from the horizon of sorrow. Be thou steadfast in the love of thy Lord and grieve not for what hath befallen thee. Be patient, then show forth patience. He, verily, will give full reward to those who have shown patience in the presence of His Face, and He, verily, hath power over all things.

Say: O my Lord! I am he who hath turned his face toward the court of Thy good-pleasure and bounty, and hath sought the sanctuary of Thy protection and safekeeping. Deprive me not, then, of that which lieth with Thee, and ordain for me that which will draw me nigh unto Thee and will detach me from all else besides Thee, for verily Thou hast ever encompassed all things.

O emigrant servant! Hearken unto the call of this imprisoned Servant and render thanks unto the Beloved of the worlds that thou hast attained unto His recognition and hast passed from the left hand of doubt to the right hand of certitude, and hast forsaken comfort in His path and turned toward the court of His bounty and hast shown patience in face of the tribulations that have befallen thee. All these stations are from the grace of the Lord of the worlds, for were it not for the winds of bounty that blow from the right hand of His grace, no soul would succeed in attaining unto His good-pleasure or would become illumined with His recognition. As thou observest, many among the servants who awaited the Truth night and day, yet after its appearance none attained unto His recognition save whom thy Lord willeth. Therefore must these servants at all times be thankful for His wondrous grace, and seek from Him the power to remain steadfast in His love and to be detached from all else besides Him.

Ere long will the days of life draw to a close and we shall all take up our abode beneath the earth. In that station there will be no helper or companion save His grace. The rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, the mighty and the lowly—all shall enter that station of absolute oneness in the same way, and all distinctions and glories of this earthly kingdom shall be completely effaced, and nothing shall be of any benefit in that place save the wonders of His grace. Therefore must thou beseech God that we may not be deprived of His grace and bounty, and may not remain without portion of the river of His mercy, and in these few fleeting days may not become heedless of His remembrance or turn unto aught else besides Him. In times when hardships and trials descend, we must be patient, and in times of comfort and ease we must be grateful.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have placed their trust in God, the One, the Single, the One, the Self-Subsisting, the Mighty, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting. And praise be to God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH02235: O Haji Mulla Baqir! In the Name of God…

O Haji Mulla Baqir! In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great! This is a Book from the Youth to him who hath believed in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, that the words of God may once again attract him and cause him to speak forth His praise amidst such servants as have remained heedless of the remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

We, verily, sent down verses unto thee aforetime and dispatched them to thee, yet We found not from thee that which beseemeth thee, and thereby was I grieved, and through My grief all that hath been and shall be were grieved. Ponder upon My tribulation and My affliction, that thou mayest not be saddened by adversity and tribulation in thy Lord's path, and mayest be numbered with them that fear not, neither are they grieved.

Dost thou wish to rest at ease upon thy couch after the Youth hath been imprisoned in this dark pit through that which the hands of such as disbelieve in their Lord's signs have wrought? Know thou that protection lieth in God's hand—He protecteth whom He willeth through His sovereignty and none can avert that which is ordained.

Be thou at peace within thyself, then arise and say: "O people! The Beauty of Him Who was promised hath come with manifest sovereignty. This, verily, is Husayn, Whom ye were promised in all the Tablets aforetime, Who hath appeared after the Qa'im, as was inscribed by the Pen of Command upon a preserved and glorious Tablet. Say: Is there any doubt concerning Him, or concerning His manifestation and sovereignty, or concerning Him Who hath raised Him up and sent Him forth, then established Him and caused Him to speak forth His own praise? Fear ye God, O people, and be not of them that understand not.

Say: This, verily, is He Whose meeting was announced to you by the tongue of His previous Manifestation, and now He speaketh betwixt earth and heaven, would ye but hear. All religions have risen against Him, and behind them all governments, yet He hath been set ablaze with the fire of God's love in such wise that it shall not be quenched in Him though all the seas created by the command 'Be' were to be poured upon it. How blessed the ear that heareth the melodies of the Beloved! How blessed the tongue that speaketh forth the praise of the Intended One! Were all upon earth to purify their ears and hearken unto but one of His melodies, they would surely be drawn to this holy, mighty and praiseworthy station.

I have no purpose save to detach thee from the transient abode and cause thee to ascend unto a station illumined by the lights of thy Lord's countenance, the All-Merciful. Whoso entereth therein shall never die, as do testify His sincere servants. The world and all that is therein and thereon shall perish, and sovereignty shall belong to God, thy Lord. In that hour naught of what hath been ordained in the earth shall profit thee, nor shall any be enriched by the hidden pearls of glory treasured therein.

Hearken thou unto My words, then convey unto the people this Message, whereby the pillars of all things were shaken, save them whom God preserved through His grace and sheltered beneath His extended shadow. And the Spirit and Glory rest upon thee and upon them that hear that wherewith thou remindest them concerning thy Lord's Cause—these are they that shall prosper.

BH02270: Muhammad-Taqi, cousin of Salman! He is God, the Most…

Muhammad-Taqi, cousin of Salman! He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious! O Muhammad! Hear the call of Husayn at the moment when Shimr stood at his right, and the spearhead was aimed at his head, and the accursed Khawli stood before his face, while he cried out among those unbelievers saying:

> "O people! Slay me not with the swords of hatred! By God, I am none other than the soul of Ali among you, and the spirit of Muhammad within you, and the beauty of God before you! Fear ye God, and be not of the wrongdoers! Fear God, and shed not the blood through which the pillars of the Throne are shaken, and the foundations of Paradise do tremble, and the hearts of them that are nigh unto God are consumed! O people! By God, I have spoken naught among you save the truth, and I have commanded you only according to what the Spirit hath uttered within my illumined and exalted breast. Have shame before Him Who hath sacrificed Himself in My path, then show mercy unto My oppressed and lonely soul!"

Thus was the matter with the Youth among these cattle in this most remote and far-distant prison.

And thou, O servant, give thanks unto God for having enabled thee to recognize His Self and guided thee to the greatest scene, the seat of thy Lord, the Most High, the Mighty. Be thou steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, then shun the ungodly. Thus do We command thee in truth, as a favor from Us unto thee, that thou mayest be of the knowing ones.

O servant! Make mention, on Our behalf, of such servants as thou findest bearing upon their faces the radiance of God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Mighty, the Powerful. Say: O loved ones of God! Be steadfast in the Cause and follow not the footsteps of any accursed devil, for soon will Satan cry out from your midst and bid you to disbelieve in God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Great. Beware lest ye forget God's favor unto you, for verily He maketh mention of you in truth in holy and perspicuous Tablets. Arise, O people, in support of God's Cause and His victory, and be not of the heedless ones. Thus do We command thee, O servant, that thou mayest remind the people through this remembrance and magnify before their faces on Our behalf, for We have ever been powerful to judge.

Then make mention there of such servants as thou findest in them the fragrance of the garment from Joseph of eternity, that they may arise to support the Cause through My sovereignty that neither passeth away nor perisheth. Say: O people! Fear ye God, then gather ye together in support of the Cause, and commit not that whereby the pillars of righteousness between earth and heaven would be divided. Fear God, O people of understanding! Help your Lord, the All-Merciful, with all that ye are able in the realm of possibility, for this is what the Tongue of Glory hath spoken at the midmost heart of Paradise in His most sweet utterance. Thus have We cast upon thee holy words from the Most Exalted Pen that thou mayest remain firm in the Cause through My sovereignty, the Almighty, the Most High, the Most Glorious.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who, when they heard the call of God from the Tree of the Cause, said "Yea, verily, yea!" Then magnify on Our behalf before the faces of those women who have detached themselves from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and have turned unto God, the Lord of the Hereafter and of the former generations.

BH02280: O Nabil, who visited the House before Ibrahim! He…

O Nabil, who visited the House before Ibrahim! He is the Ever-Abiding Who perisheth not! Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth in this Prison, which God hath made the Most Sublime Vision, wherein descend the angels of His Cause at eventide and at dawn.

He Who created the heavens and the earth, Who sendeth forth the winds and causeth the clouds to be subdued—His heralds bearing glad-tidings before Him to those who have turned towards the Dayspring of Revelation on this Day whereon the Herald calleth out from the right hand of Glory and Power:

> "His sovereignty hath conquered all things, and His Word hath encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth"

- yet none comprehend this save they who are endued with understanding.

The believers soar in the atmosphere of nearness and majesty, while the evil-doers are bound in chains and fetters. The Lord of the heavens and earth, Who hath sent down the verses and caused the Youth to speak forth, hath blown the Trumpet, whereupon all who are in the heavens and on earth have swooned away. Then did the mountains pass away through the might of His Command, and all creation was shaken.

Say: The heavens are folded up in His right hand, and the earth is but His handful—your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Compelling. The Bridge hath been laid, the Balance set up, and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the One, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Irresistible. Lord of the Throne and of the dust, there is none other God but Him, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High.

Say: The Compeller hath come upon the clouds of His Name, the Chosen One. Thereupon did flesh creep and feet slip, save those who severed themselves from all who are in the heavens and on earth and sought the Kaaba of Glory with humility and contrition. All who are in the heavens and on earth glorify Him, except those whose eyes are drunken and whom intoxication hath overtaken on the Day of Mutual Calling.

The hearts of those who denied the signs have been deflected. Say: Do ye hasten towards evil, when examples have already gone before you? Fear God, for He is mighty in His grasp and severe in His punishment. We behold the people prostrate, their faces darkened by the breezes of wrath. Verily thy Lord is severe in chastisement.

Say: The Sun of the Cause hath dawned from the horizon of Revelation, whereupon the hearts of those who disbelieved in their Lord, the All-Merciful, were straitened and eyes were turned aside. When the Tablet of Glory cometh unto thee, take it with humility and supplication, then arise from the horizon of certitude and raise up the Tablet amidst all creation.

Say: O people of the Bayan! This, verily, is the Proof that hath shone forth from the horizon of the All-Merciful with power and sovereignty. Do ye doubt it, or Him Who sent it? Lost indeed are they who denied Our signs—soon shall the fire consume them.

The breezes of the Ancient King have taken hold of the Pen in such wise that it uttereth remembrance at morn and at eventide, and the might of the wicked ones who disbelieved in their Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One, hath not hindered it. It calleth out while behind it stand the Pharaohs upon whom the word of torment hath been fulfilled and for whom is reserved an evil abode.

Take thou the Book of Grace and leave those who disbelieve—they are in naught but error. Call thou the people unto God and fear not those who follow every doubtful idolater. And upon thee be glory, and upon those who believe in the Day of Judgment.

BH02281: Glorified be He before Whom all in the heavens…

He is the Everlasting, the Single, the Exalted!

Glorified be He before Whom all in the heavens and earth bow down in adoration, and unto Whom all shall return. All in existence, both seen and unseen, praise God, and unto Him shall all be turned. In His hand is dominion and creation. He createth what He willeth by His command. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. He aideth whom He willeth through the agencies of the heavens and earth, and withholdeth aid from whom He willeth. He is the All-Conquering, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

Say: In the revelation of verses are manifestations for those who walk the paths of certitude. Say: O people of the earth! Compare not the creation of verses to the creation of any thing, nor their manifestation to the manifestation of any thing, if ye but knew. Say: The verses are in themselves the mirror of God, for in them are reflected God's attributes, could ye but perceive it. They are the first creation that told of God in the manifestation of His names and attributes, could ye but understand. By them hath God created what was and what will be, could ye but witness it. Say: They are the forms of the Cause that breathe the spirit of the Living, the Life-Giving into the temples of those who turn their faces to the sanctuary of holiness. They are the proof whereby God's Cause was established from before the beginning of beginnings and shall be established unto the end that hath no end, would ye but reflect upon it.

They who deny God's verses and make sport of them—these denied God from all eternity, and these are they who shall not warm themselves at God's fire. Say: O people! We have laid down for you the laws of the Cause and expounded the verses that ye might be guided thereby. Say: God testeth those who claim faith within themselves—this is what hath been inscribed on tablets of hidden glory.

O people of the Bayan! Stand firm in the Cause when trials shall come upon you from all directions nigh. Know then that We were among you for numbered years, and every day thereof We recited unto you from the verses of God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. We walked among you with such bearing as no embodiments of antiquity have surpassed, and from which was manifest the dignity of God, the Most High, the Most Holy. Yet ye remained heedless though ye witnessed God's signs at every moment and every appointed time.

Judge fairly within yourselves, O heedless ones! If ye turn away from this Countenance, then to what countenance do ye wish to turn? Thus did We veil your knowledge from the recognition of Our Self and

withhold your eyes from this resplendent, hidden Beauty. Then when the Cause came, We rent asunder the veils from My face and tore away the coverings from your hearts that ye might stand firm in My love such that your feet would never slip from the path of God, the Mighty, the Loving.

O beloved ones! Efface from your hearts all idle fancies and vain imaginings, then hold fast to the cord of God, the Praiseworthy, the Glorified. The Spirit and Glory be upon you if ye hear God's counsels and return unto Him with your hearts.

BH02285: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

He is the Mighty, the Beloved!

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth for people who understand. Verily it is a revelation from God, the Sovereign, the Self-Subsisting. Through it God's proof hath been perfected, His evidence made manifest, His beauty hath shone forth, and His words have been made firm for people who comprehend.

O servant! Warn those who have veiled themselves from meeting Him in His days and who deny His verses. Say: Woe unto you, O people of vainglory! Do ye bar men from the paths of God while ye claim to be Muslims? Do ye acknowledge God in your souls while ye play with His verses? Have ye a proof greater than this? Produce it then, if ye be truthful! Can the Book which is in your hands be greater than this? Glory be to God concerning what ye imagine!

Say: All verses have been sent down from the Sovereign, the Self-Subsisting, and all signs have appeared from His presence. There is no difference between them if ye look with the eye of oneness. Say: If ye have any proof, evidence or argument other than this, then bring it forth and tarry not! Say: The Beauty of knowledge hath appeared from behind the veils of the hidden. Say: The Sun of Beauty hath risen at high noon, yet ye turn away from it.

O people! Have mercy upon yourselves and be not veiled from Him for Whose meeting ye were created, if ye but knew! Do ye deny God's grace while ye witness it? Do ye flee from the Truth while ye behold it? If ye deny the lights of this Countenance, then to what countenance will ye turn? If ye close this Door upon your faces, then through what door do ye wish to enter?

Fear God and deprive not yourselves of these breezes sent by the Beloved. Whether ye accept or turn away is equal before God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Your belief will not profit Him nor will your rejection harm Him, if ye but knew. But ye shall lose that which ye shall never find again, though ye seek it from all eternity and weep and lament in His absence.

Arise from the beds of heedlessness and seek illumination from this Lamp which hath been lit in the Lamp-niche of holiness, from which the inhabitants of the heavens and earth have been illumined, and those men who circle round the Throne. Fear God and cast not the Book of God behind your backs, nor the Word of God behind your souls, if ye understand.

Thus doth God cause the Salsabil of holiness to flow from this confined Pen, and through it establish truth and abolish falsehood, if ye would ponder His Manifestation. If He wished, He could reveal from it

mysteries of what was and what will be, and manifest from it that which would necessitate Tablets of preserved glory. All this would only be by His leave, and this Tablet beareth witness to His leave, would ye but be certain.

And the Spirit be upon you, O loved ones of God, inasmuch as ye have turned away from the world and turned unto God, the Sovereign, the Self-Subsisting.

BH02323: The Remembrance of God, upon the right side…

He is the All-Mighty, the All-Subduing, the Self-Subsisting

The Remembrance of God, upon the right side of the Sinai of Nearness, on the Eternal Spot in the Paradise of Glory, has indeed been witnessed. Bear thou witness that no God is there but Him, He who pronounceth at all times that I am God, there is none other God but Me, verily, I am, at all times independent of the entire creation. He revealed Himself unto thee once in the Realm of Glory, then once in the contingent world and the heavenly kingdom, then yet again during these days whence the lights west of the Sacred Realm are aglow, and with their radiance have illumined the denizens of the cities of eternity, and the Concourse of high, and thereafter them who set within themselves their path towards His Countenance.

Go thou straight on and persevere in that which the Pen of God, in truth, commandeth thee, and remain upon the straight path of God, steadfast in His Cause. Say: Verily, this is the straight path of God upon earth and heaven, and His Testimony in the kingdoms of Revelation and creation. He was named “Ali” amongst the people of the Bayan, and then Muhammad amongst the people of the Qur’an, and, in ancient times, was named with each one of the most excellent names of God. Thus does the Tongue of power and might counsel you with Verses that have embraced all mankind, that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and convey unto all people the glad tidings of this Announcement, hitherto concealed from the world, and proclaim unto all men that which we have proclaimed unto thee in this Tablet, and bid them to turn with justice towards the Most Exalted Throne.

Say, the Truth proclaimeth; By God! No created thing having His love can ever be harmed. Verily, He is the Spring that floweth from the well-spring of a Name that is great indeed. Whosoever drinketh therefrom shall fear no one, and heaven and earth cannot withstand him. Thus hath the sacred Pen of glory irrevocably decreed. Be thou steadfast in the Cause of God, and in that which hath been prescribed unto thee, and fear no one. Place thy trust in Him, He verily shall protect thee from every plotting sinful one.

By God! Whosoever hath the love of this Youth in his heart, God shall verily render him victorious over all who dwell upon earth and heaven, and verily God shall be the witness thereof. He shall walk upon water as he waketh upon the earth, and shall soar in the realm of the Spirit in the limitless expanse of heaven. Thou shalt find the infidels fleeing from this Youth as mules flee from the lions of eternity, and they shall turn upon their heels, and shall violate the Covenant of God after It hath been revealed. Verily His knowledge embraceth all things.

It behooveth thee to make firm thy steps in the Cause of God. Admonish then the people with thine loudest voice in this Ridvan that is in truth exalted. May the Spirit of God, His glory and grandeur be upon

thee and upon thine consort, and upon them who, whence they heard the announcer call them to God, responded, and held fast unto the chord of glorious splendor.

BH02332: Glorified is He Who sendeth down in every season…

He is the Sovereign!

Glorified is He Who sendeth down in every season that which purifieth the hearts of them that have recognized Him, and uttereth at all times verses that leave powerless all in the world. The Revelation in this Dispensation hath attained such a station that were all who are in the heavens and on earth to gather together to enumerate that which hath been sent down from it, by God, thou wouldst behold them utterly powerless.

Say: O servant, woe unto every sinful denier who, when he heareth the verses of the Spirit, his face darkeneth with rancor and he turneth away therefrom, and waxeth proud before God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Say: By God, such grace hath been manifested in a manner that none can conceal it, if ye be of them that are discerning.

And among the people is he who saith "I have believed in God and His verses," yet when the verses of the Spirit are recited unto him, he persisteth in pride as though he heard them not, and shaketh his head in mockery before God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And among them are those who, when they hear God's verses, their eyes overflow with tears out of their love for God, the Single, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people, fear ye God and differ not among yourselves, lest the hearts of the deniers rejoice thereat. Be as one soul in upholding the Cause, then aid your Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate, though He is in truth independent of the help of all in the heavens and earth, if ye be of them that are endued with insight. He commandeth His servants to render aid that they may thereby detach themselves from all else but Him and turn towards a holy and luminous direction.

And thou, O believer in God, remind the servants of that wherewith We have reminded thee, and place thy trust in God, thy Lord, and be of them that trust. Fear thou no one and be not troubled by anything, even shouldst thou witness all who are in the heavens and on earth turning away in manifest rejection. Know thou that God hath prescribed mercy for Himself, that He will aid those who have patience, seeking His face, and cut off the last remnant of them that disbelieved and were of the idolaters.

Soon shalt thou witness thy Lord's triumph, whereby His Cause shall be raised to such a station that before it shall bow the necks of the proud ones. Thus do We make mention unto thee in truth and cast upon thee that which purifieth thy spirit and expandeth thy breast and consoleth thine eyes, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for this bounty which shall never cease unto all eternity.

Then remind the servants not to follow every ignorant rabble and every sinner remote from this Kawthar which floweth from the right hand of a mighty Throne. Know thou moreover that We have arrived in a Prison which none can reach save through mighty effort and determination, and thereby have been

severed from Our hem the hands of both those that have turned towards Us and those that have turned away, except whom thy Lord willeth, the All-Conquering, the Almighty, the Most Compassionate.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon him that hath shown gratitude and patience, and We are in manifest thankfulness.

BH02338: O M.H.! In the Name of God, the Most…

O M.H.! In the Name of God, the Most Holy! The Call of God hath been raised from every direction—can ye not hear it? The glances of God have been directed toward you, O concourse of the chosen ones—how is it that ye remain occupied in your seats? Lift up your heads and open your eyes, that ye may behold the Sun of the Beauty of your Lord shining forth from the horizon of destiny with the sovereignty of His Most Glorious and Most Sublime Remembrance. This is better for you than all that was and all that shall be. Blessed art thou, O servant, in that God hath washed thee with the Kawthar of Paradise and purified thee from the defilement of those who believe not in His signs.

Cast behind thee all mundane concerns, then speak forth in praise of thy Lord and say: O people! He Who was promised hath come unto you. Beware lest ye hesitate. Hasten unto Him with your hearts, for thus have ye been commanded in all the Tablets from God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Say: This is He for Whose sake the Exalted One sacrificed His life, would ye but know it. This is He Who was mentioned in all the Tablets and Who was treasured in God's Scriptures—the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Beloved. Through Him were the heavens of utterance adorned with the suns of wisdom and exposition, to which the All-Merciful Himself beareth witness, even should ye deny it.

Arise to serve God and aid His Cause, then deliver unto the people that which thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, hath commanded thee—He Who hath appeared once again. Exalted be thy Lord, the All-Merciful, Who hath manifested from all creation that which was inscribed in the preserved Tablets of glory. Grieve not for those who have disbelieved and joined partners with God, and pay no heed to them. Turn away from them and set thy face toward God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Loving. Those who remain heedless of this Cause are nourished at the breast of idle fancy—how can they attain unto this most exalted station? Thus hath it been revealed from the Most Exalted Pen, that perchance the people may return unto the seat of the Command.

Say: With Us is the knowledge of the heavens and earth. Beware lest ye object to the words of God, for they have been revealed according to human nature, would ye but understand. Say: If ye wish to test your Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, then ask Him concerning the sciences ye possess, that ye may be assured within yourselves that the reins of knowledge are in the grasp of His power. With Him are sciences of which no one hath learned a single letter save God alone. Fear God, O people, and transgress not.

The Chosen One hath attained unto the presence of his Lord and hath appeared before His countenance, and the Sun of His loving-kindness hath shone upon him in such wise as none can reckon. We beseech God to preserve him from the darts of idle fancies and to grant him that which is ordained for him in a hidden Tablet of glory. Blessed be his eyes for having fallen upon this imprisoned Youth. By God! Were

the veil to be lifted, he would behold himself in the most exalted Paradise, in a station of praised glory. And upon thee, and upon him, and upon those who follow thee in the Cause of thy Lord and hearken unto thy words concerning this inevitable Event, be the Glory of God.

BH02345: The Essence of Eternity, in the Temple of Glory…

He is the Most Wondrous, the Wondrous One

The Essence of Eternity, in the Temple of Glory, in the sweetest Persian melodies, uttereth:

O thou who art the beloved of God! Free thyself from all else save Him, that thou mayest enter upon the pleasant precincts of the All-Merciful and the paradise of the All-Glorious One, attaining unto the holy Temple and wondrous Beauty.

O thou who art the beloved of God! Compare not this holy and wondrous Paradise with any other paradise, nor liken it unto any other garden. I swear by God that beneath the shade of but one leaf of its Tree have been and shall be created infinite paradises, though not all souls shall receive their portion thereof save whom thy Lord willeth. For at its gate stand the denizens of the all-highest Paradise and its chosen ones, who will not permit entry into this blessed and sublime station until they find one purified and sanctified from all human allusions, earthly indications, personal imaginings and idle fancies. Therefore, O beloved one, regard the vanishing world as non-existent and count all save My remembrance as null. Hold fast unto the cord of My love, that through divine bounty and glorious favor thou mayest enter this spiritual paradise and behold such realms that all thou hast heretofore witnessed shall appear as but a drop compared to the Most Great Ocean, and thou shalt be wholly freed and delivered from earthly dross, entering the holy retreats of divine oneness.

O beloved! When the Day-Star of the horizons shone forth from the Iraq quarter, as that holy and wondrous Temple was seated before the Throne, He desired to utter a wondrous and glorious word and draw thee, through the gems of outpoured and hallowed grace and universal, divine mercy, from the realms of fancy and passion to the pleasant expanses of certitude and eternity. However, in view of the weakness of all created things and whatsoever is therein, and the poverty of the people of creation and all that pertaineth unto them, that Beauty of the All-Sufficient withdrew from the heaven of utterance to the kingdom of silence, lest the pillars of men be shaken and the hearts of people be cut off.

For in those days the appointed time of silence in the kingdom of the divine Cause had not yet been fulfilled. Therefore, as a token of grace and bounty toward men, the tongue of clear utterance remained still in the hidden corners of silence. But as in these days the grace of the All-Knowing One hath appeared from the most holy, most gracious, most glorious and most exalted horizon, and the time of silence hath been fulfilled, He hath therefore spoken forth with these most decisive, most perfect and most exact words, that perchance the eyes of the mystics may become purified and sanctified from the veils of sinners and the shrouds of the heedless, that ye may perceive the Beauty of the Lord of Glory Who hath appeared from the horizon of grace and bounty in another turn, and that ye may attain unto His presence, which hath been the true purpose of the Lord of existence. And peace be upon thee, if thou be of them that hear.

BH02348: In the name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This…

In the name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This is a Book from God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, unto him who hath been named after the Spirit in the kingdom of his Lord, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved, that he may cast the world behind him and turn with his whole being unto God, with Whom lieth the knowledge of what hath been and what shall be.

O servant! The Hidden Secret hath been revealed, and from the horizon of bounty the Concealed Beauty hath shone forth. Arise and herald unto mankind this Cause, through whose name all that exists between the Kaf and the Nun hath been created. Rend asunder the veils, that there may appear unto thee the Sun of the remembrance of thy Lord's name with manifest sovereignty.

They who have disbelieved—these shall have no portion of this Ridvan, and soon shall they enter the fire. And they who have believed—these are God's people, and they shall rejoice in Paradise.

Say: O people! This is the Lamp of God among you, and the Sun of bounty above you, and the Cloud of mercy for you. Beware lest ye be veiled therefrom. Arise from the slumber of passion, then remember your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious—this is better for you than that which ye have known and shall know.

Say: Through His name hath God distinguished between His servants, such that upon every brow hath been inscribed that which is decreed for it. Exalted then is He Who possesseth this power that hath encompassed all whereunto the name of existence can be applied.

Say: O people! Were ye to sanctify your ears, ye would hear from all things that He is God, there is no God but Him, the King, the Exalted, the Great, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Glorious, the Praiseworthy. Leave the idolaters to themselves and their deeds, then call upon God every evening and morn.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by this Dawn which hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of Thy mercy, and by the showers of the rain of Thy grace which have descended from the clouds of Thy gifts and favors, that Thou leave me not to myself and my desires. Deliver me from all else but Thee, and purify me from all save Thee, and direct me unto the splendors of the light of Thy face, the Mighty, the Luminous. O my Lord! Deprive me not of the fountains of Thy generosity and the oceans of Thy favors. Then cause me to speak Thy praise amongst Thy creatures. Verily Thou art powerful over what Thou willest, and Thou art the Most High, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

O my Lord! Thy days have appeared and Thy face hath shone forth from the horizon of Thy Will, and every soul that hath turned unto Thee hath been adorned with the ornament of Thy most beautiful names, and the seas of Thy bounty and forgiveness have surged for the sinners among Thy creatures, and the river of beneficence hath flowed for the seekers among Thy servants and the deserving ones among Thy creation, and the gates of Thy supreme mercy have been opened unto all who dwell in Thy earth and heaven. Here am I, among those who have turned unto Thee and placed their trust in Thee, and I am gazing toward the direction of Thy mercy and loving-kindness. I beseech Thee not to deprive me of that which Thou hast ordained for the sincere ones among Thy loved ones and the near ones among Thy servants. Verily Thou art the Giver, the Bountiful, the Forgiving, the Merciful, the Mighty, the Loving.

BH02350: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy! This is a perspicuous Tablet from God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, which God hath adorned with the ornament of His knowledge among the worlds. Glorified be He Who created the Point by itself and detailed from it the knowledge of the first and the last ones. Verily it is the treasury of knowledge wherein are stored the gems of sciences which none hath discovered save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Verily it is the mirror of knowledge wherein naught is witnessed save the knowledge of our Lord, the Most High, the Most Great.

Say: Through it We have raised up all created things and sent forth the Prophets and Messengers, and through it We have guided the servants to the Law of the All-Merciful and caused all things to speak in praise of My All-Knowing, All-Informed Self. Say: When it reached its ultimate goal, We then raised it up in the temple of man who speaketh at the hub of all worlds in His Name, the All-Merciful, and calleth the people unto this Salsabil which floweth from the right hand of a mighty throne.

Say: By itself it is the Salsabil of the Command, for by it the temples of those brought nigh were quickened. Say: At times it is transformed by the winds and wafteth from the direction of the Ridvan, and at times the fragrance of the garment is diffused from it, and at times there appeareth from it the decree of fire and the hearts of the sincere are consumed by it in their love for God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. And at times thou findest it as though it were the sun from which all that was and will be is illumined, were ye of those who know.

Verily it is the Mother of the Bayan and the treasury of the pearls of God's knowledge, the King, the Just, the Wise. Through it the oceans of wisdom have surged in the contingent world and knowledge hath been ordained in all things, if ye be of the perceiving ones. Thus have We mentioned unto thee in this Tablet that whereby Our assured servants shall be made independent of all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth. Verily it is the mercy that hath preceded all worlds and the vengeance that hath encompassed the guilty ones.

O loved ones of God! Hearken unto what the Dove of the All-Merciful warbleth upon the branches of this Tree which hath been raised up in truth and which God hath made the gathering-place of the people of all the worlds. Detach yourselves from all else but Him, then turn unto Him with radiant white faces and pure illumined hearts. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, will suffice you, and naught besides Him will ever suffice you. This is a revelation from One All-Knowing, All-Informed.

And thou, O servant, cleanse thine eye from the ophthalmia of the world that thou mayest be able to behold the countenance of thy Lord and be of the triumphant ones. Then stand firm in the Cause of God, thy Lord, and turn not unto the clamor of the ungodly. Be thou at peace within thyself, then drink the Kawthar of certitude in the days of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, and be not of those who hesitate.

Say: God! Then leave the ungodly in the lowest depths of hell. Say: Whoso hesitateth in this Cause, he is of the ungodly in the tablets of mighty glory. And whoso believeth in this Revelation, he is of the believers before God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creatures. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02369: Praise be to God Who has distinguished between…

He is the All-Subsisting, the Self-Subsisting!

Praise be to God Who has distinguished between the believers in divine unity and the ungodly through a word from His presence, and verily He is the Almighty, the Exalted, the All-Wise. And you, O servant who gazes upon the Countenance, give thanks to God, your Lord, inasmuch as He has caused you to know His Self and detached you from the ungodly. God has indeed heard what issued from your lips in praise of the Manifestation of His Self. Nothing escapes His knowledge and He has knowledge of all things.

Know that the tongue was created to praise God, your Lord and the Lord of the worlds, and that the heart was fashioned to love your Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Most High, the Most Great, and that the ear was formed to hearken unto His most wondrous and incomparable melodies. How blessed art thou for having heard His words and for having spoken in His remembrance and praise, and for having attained unto His love and good-pleasure. This is indeed a supreme triumph.

Be steadfast in thy love for thy Creator in such wise that shouldst thou find no one else who shares His love and His Cause, thou wouldst not be perturbed within thyself but wouldst remain steadfast and filled with manifest joy, for this is a cup from which none can drink save the near servants of God. Hast thou ever seen the dung beetle yearn for the fragrance of musk, or the swine drink from the Kawthar of life? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! Each one acts according to his nature and associates with his own kind. Thus has the decree been sent down in the Tablets by the command of God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forebears of old.

And if thou wert to look with the eye of thy Lord, thou wouldst surely behold those who have denied God in these days in the form of dogs and swine. Shun these people, then hold fast to the protection of thy Lord. If thou findest one who is receptive, impart unto him what God hath imparted unto thee, and if thou findest one who turneth away, turn away from him and set thy face toward the face of thy Lord, the Luminous, the Radiant. By God the Truth! Ye were created to teach this Cause. Blessed are ye, O chosen ones of God! Ye have attained unto that which none else hath attained. Thus doth God single out whom He pleaseth through His mercy, and verily He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

Know then that We have heard the call of those who have called upon their Lord and beseeched Him secretly and openly, and there have come before Us the pages which ye have transmitted. We have answered them with words of sublime glory and sent them that they may be forwarded unto them, that they may give thanks unto God, their Lord, under all conditions and be among the thankful ones.

Be thou steadfast in the love of God in such wise that the words of the deniers may not cause thee to slip. Place thy trust in God, thy Lord, and verily He will guard thee and protect thee in truth. Then detach thyself from every sinful misbeliever. Thus have We bestowed Our bounty upon thee and made mention of thee in this Tablet, that thou mayest rejoice in the glad-tidings of the Spirit in these days wherein the Ancient Beauty is in profound sorrow. And peace be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH02384: Beware lest thou falter, then speak with wondrous power…

Beware lest thou falter, then speak with wondrous power. The time of silence hath passed. The day when the Sovereign of Eternity emerged from behind the veils of names and attributes, rent asunder the clouds of knowledge and tore apart the mists of wisdom, and without concealment or veil the Tongue of the Lord of Lords began to speak—in such wise that the oceans of meanings flowed from His blessed lips and the surging waves of utterance streamed forth from His life-giving words. Therefore today the dwellers in the heaven of glory must detach themselves from all else and speak forth with healing words, holy breaths, and the warbling of the Dove of transcendent majesty in the paradise of inner meanings, bringing the contingent world into a state of attraction, rapture and joy through wondrous melodies.

O Javad, the Beauty possessed of bounty and grace commandeth: Rend asunder the veils of fancy and tear apart the curtains of silence. Like a lover bereft of patience, step forth from the city of forbearance. Let no barrier restrain thee, nor any word conceal thee.

For in this year of tribulation, mention of which was made aforetime in the tablets of glory, the greatest tumult and severest calamity shall assuredly arise, such that infants shall be cut off from their mothers' breasts and lovers shall be barred from the cities of their Beloved. Perchance in those days and times that servant may hold fast to the grace of God and cling to the hem of His mercy, standing so firm and steadfast in the Cause of the Beloved that even should all the embodiments of hatred and the souls of opposition determine to turn him aside from the straight path of truth, they would be powerless and unable to do so.

O manifestation of the name of Bounty! Plant firm the foot of steadfastness, for the winds of discord are blowing from the direction of schism with such force that thou shalt soon witness how they cut off the yellowed leaves from the divine Tree and cast them to the dust. Therefore, O verdant and flourishing leaf, hold fast to the Most Great Tree, that the Most Glorious and Noble Holy Spirit may keep thee, through the blowing of phantom winds and the passing of the breezes of associating partners with God, from being severed from the divine Tree. Rather mayest thou be stirred with such rapture and ecstasy that thy movements give rise to the melodies of truth in such wise that all faces turn to the countenance of thy Lord, all ears become attuned to the strains of thy Creator, and all hearts are prepared for the dawning of the sun of thy Maker.

Thus have We ordained for thee from the power We bestowed upon thee in the form of words in this Book, that thou mayest be among those who are firm and steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord.

BH02389: These are the holy verses which have been sent…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the All-Praised!

These are the holy verses which have been sent down in truth from God, the Mighty, the Beautiful. In them is that which will make men independent of all who are in the heavens and on earth, and will convey unto them the messages of God, and give them the glad-tidings of their meeting with the Self of God Who standeth over all created things, and warn them of the Day whereon all shall return unto God in a holy and gracious station.

O people! Look ye unto the Book of God and that which hath been sent down therein of mighty and glorious sovereignty, and forget not God's covenant within your souls, neither be heedless of it, nor be of them that turn aside. Beware lest ye shut the gates of divine good-pleasure against your faces and deny the verses of God at the time they are sent down unto you. Fear ye God and reject not His verses, nor be of them that are veiled.

Say: O people! Know ye that God created what is in the Bayan for the manifestation of His handiwork and the revelation of His grace and the exaltation of His Word, if ye be of them that understand. And He commanded them not to reject him who would come unto them with the truth on the Day when He would come with the truth—a Day which none can avert—and this is the decree of One mighty and knowing. And that they should not do unto him as they did unto this Servant—this hath been inscribed in holy and resplendent Tablets.

Yet ye, O people of the Bayan, by God, ye do unto him that which none hath ever done unto anyone, and this is assuredly the truth made certain, even as ye did unto His Servant after He came unto you with a manifest sovereignty which the peoples of the heavens and earth are powerless to produce the like thereof. And ye imagine within yourselves even as imagined they who were before you. Woe unto you, O company of evil-doers!

Know ye that this Tablet shall itself be God's proof against you and His evidence unto all creation. Whoso turneth aside from it hath turned aside from God in His Manifestations, the Prophets and Messengers, and God will accept naught from anyone except that he believe in this Tablet, even should he worship Him unto all eternity. Thus do We impart unto you, O people of the Bayan, that which I have been commanded by God, the Almighty, the Powerful. Whoso wisheth, let him turn aside; and whoso wisheth, let him take unto God his Lord a way.

And thou, O Letter M, give thanks unto God thy Creator for that We have sent down unto thee this mighty Tablet and mentioned thy name on this blessed night which glorieth over a brilliant dawn. Then know thou that We have commanded thee to dwell in the city whose name is renowned among all peoples, and to protect those servants who enter therein from among the loved ones of God, the Most High, the Great.

Thus have We bestowed Our favor upon thee in this Tablet that thou mayest thank God thy Lord at all times. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have migrated in the paths of God, the Ever-Living, the Exalted.

BH02394: Praise be unto my Beloved, Who hath ever been…

Praise be unto my Beloved, Who hath ever been sanctified beyond the description of all created things and will ever be exalted above the attributes of all existing things. For the praise and attributes of all who are in earth and heaven are created and fashioned by His command. How can that which is created by His command be worthy of His presence or ascend unto His court? He is not worthy of it, and all else is not capable of it, nor of accepting that which proceedeth from the servants. This is a bounty from that King of Oneness to His creation. Glorified and exalted be He above what they attribute unto Him!

Furthermore, it hath been known that the preservation of the servants and all else hath been and will ever be within the grasp of God's power. Is there any preserver besides God? Say: Glory be to God! There is no preserver except Him. His is the creation and the command, and all are preserved by Him. His servants have ever been and will ever be under His protection and safeguarding.

And unto those two souls in the City of God, that is, the Abode of Peace, was verbally promised the revelation of every good thing, and from that day the gates of grace have been and will remain open, except as God willeth. Be utterly assured that so long as the hand of God remaineth open and extended, the hand of harm and affliction is severed. Assuredly strive with utmost endeavor and mighty effort to remain steadfast upon the straight path of love, and so long as this station endureth, all grace and good shall endure.

Today nothing is more difficult than remaining firm in this Cause, and this is that most mighty and formidable matter which none beareth save whom thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent, willeth. And strive ye both within yourselves not to be like him who ascended unto God, my Lord and the Lord of the worlds. For when he wavered regarding this Youth, he attained not unto visiting the City, and his spirit was taken by the sovereign might of the Powerful, the Almighty. He reached not the shore of nearness after having sought permission for this, as ye witnessed. But God pardoned him and raised him to an exalted station. We have not revealed this matter lest any humiliation come upon him, and thus were We among the concealers. And ye both must conceal it such that it not pass from your lips. Thus doth the Pen of Command bid you be among the doers. For this is a mystery from the mysteries of God, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

And peace and mercy and glory be upon you both and upon those who love you, as a mercy from Us upon you and upon all the worlds.

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BH02398: And this is what the Tongue of God spoke…

And this is what the Tongue of God spoke: Since mention of his honor Isma'il was not made in previous or subsequent letters, therefore, looking to faithfulness and out of love for his person, these verses were revealed from the Kingdom of Command concerning him, lest he think We had forgotten him. We have surpassed all the worlds in faithfulness.

In the Name of God, the Faithful, the Most Faithful! The remembrance of God unto His servant who was named Isma'il, that it may be unto him an honor, a remembrance and a glory. O servant, grieve not at hardships and trials. Be content with what God hath ordained for thee, for He is the best Helper and Succourer. After every difficulty, in the Mother Book there hath been ordained, in truth, facility. All that hath befallen thee hath befallen thy Beloved, but the people are in great heedlessness.

God's curse be upon him who hath usurped your rights and deprived you of what was created for you, for whatsoever is on earth was created for the loved ones of God and His chosen ones. Thus hath the matter

been decreed by One Who is mighty and wise. Those who hoard gold and silver and spend it not in the path of God, God will surely punish them for what they have hoarded—and who is more truthful in speech than God? This is the inner meaning, but outwardly the property of others is forbidden unto you. Beware lest ye deal treacherously with any soul or dispose of their property without their leave. This indeed is a grievous error in the Book.

Dear is it to Me, O My loved ones, that I should enjoy aught of God's bounties and favors while I behold you in manifest hardship. And dear is it to Me that I should be in one land while you are in another land, and this is hard upon Me and upon every seeing lover. But We have acquiesced to God's good-pleasure and decree, and I counsel you to beautiful patience. We beseech God to seize those who have come between Us and Our loved ones and scattered the leaves from the Tree, for He hath power over all things. Then We beseech Him to send down upon you that which will gladden your hearts and gather Us and you together in a praiseworthy station of truth.

Beware lest ye grieve at what hath befallen you in this earthly life. By God! He hath ordained for you what none can reckon save God your Lord, and He hath ever been the Counter of all things in a preserved Tablet. Soon shall this world pass away, and there shall remain for you of the wonders of His bounty that which shall cause you to endure with His endurance, and this is a mighty grace in the Book.

Thus have We conferred upon thee and made mention of thee that thou mayest thank God thy Lord in all conditions and be content with His good-pleasure at all times. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who love thee for the sake of God and upon every seeing believer.

BH02418: He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the Self-Subsisting! This…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the Self-Subsisting! This is a Tablet which God hath verily revealed at this time with truth and made it a proof for all the worlds. Verily it is in itself a manifest Book, a revelation from God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Beautiful. Therein hath God comprised the knowledge of the former and the latter generations, and ordained therein consummate wisdom whereof not a single letter can be comprehended by all who are in the heavens and on earth, save whom God willeth. This is of God's bounty unto all created things.

Say: Verily it is the Mother Book, for naught is seen therein save God and His Cause, if ye be of them that comprehend. And verily it is the Mother of Tablets, for from it have been detailed the tablets of God, the Dominant, the Mighty, the Powerful. Say: Were God to will it, He would expound from a single point thereof all that hath passed in former ages and all that shall come to pass throughout the eternity of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing.

O people of the earth! Sanctify your souls and purify your hearts that ye may thereby recognize that which lieth concealed in the treasuries of infallibility from One mighty and powerful. Say: The likeness of your hearts is as the likeness of water, if ye be of them that understand. Verily water remaineth pure until it is mixed with clay, and when mixed with clay its purity departeth and its delicacy vanisheth, such that none can perceive what God hath deposited within it, both outwardly and inwardly, if ye be of them that observe.

O people of the Bayan! Strive within yourselves lest the clay of desires become mixed with the water of your being. Fear God and be of the God-fearing. Sanctify yourselves from the clay of self and passion that there may appear from you what God hath deposited within you of precious pearls of glory. Thus do We set forth for you every similitude that ye may ponder the signs of God within the horizons of wisdom and within yourselves, and be of them that are endowed with insight.

O people of the Bayan! Behold the handiwork of God with your own eyes and be not content with hearsay. This is the most excellent utterance and the most eloquent remembrance from Me unto you, if ye be of them that hearken. Had ye heard this Cause aforetime, ye would have recognized the Ancient Beauty when He walked among you with a step of mighty glory, and ye would not have deprived yourselves of Him and His recognition, nor would ye have withheld yourselves from this wondrous bounty which no one's knowledge hath encompassed and of whose appearance no heart among the peoples of the world hath been informed.

Therefore grieve not for what hath escaped you, but await the day wherein trials shall come upon you from every near quarter. At that time, remain steadfast in My love and My Cause in such wise that your feet shall not slip in less than a moment. This is better for you than all that ye have wrought in your days concerning the kingdom of the heavens and earth. And say in all that befalleth you: "Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds!"

BH02437: In My Name, the Guide of Those Who Have…

In My Name, the Guide of Those Who Have Gone Astray, the MightyO Name of the Letter Ha', hearken unto that which the Fire calleth out from the Tree, that verily there is none other God but Him, and that ʿAli before Muhammad is the Manifestation of His names in the Kingdom of eternity and the Dawning-Place of His attributes in the heaven of the divine cloud. All were created by His command and all act according to His bidding. His is the bounty and the grace—He single out for His mercy whomsoever He pleaseth and sendeth down mercy as He willeth unto people who know.

Say: Verily He is the Sovereign of all created things and His Book is the Sovereign of all books—all have entered beneath His shadow and all bow down before Him. And whoso entereth beneath His shadow hath attained unto the ultimate goal, and this verily is His grace unto all creation, would ye but understand.

Say: He is God's Balance amidst His creation, and through Him hath appeared every true measure. He is God's Proof, His Evidence, His Testament and His Authority amongst His creatures, would ye but know. Through Him were revealed the mysteries of what was and what is to be, through Him did the earth yield up her pearls, and all things were brought forth by His word "Be" and it is. Through Him were ordained the measures of all things and detailed exposition of destiny was set down upon a preserved and mighty tablet.

Thus have We imparted unto thee, inspired thee, taught thee and sent down unto thee that which was sent down from God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, that thou mayest thank God thy Lord in thy heart and remember Him at all times and attain unto a praiseworthy station.

Know thou moreover that the two calves did transgress against God in these two Names and these two most ancient Ornaments in the two most exalted Words, and they betrayed themselves in their heedlessness of these two Mysteries in this Light that hath shone forth from these two Horizons. By God! This is the Beauty manifest in these two hidden and concealed Symbols that are glorified in both worlds, and this is the Mystery veiled in the two veils. They followed the two goats with their own selves after We had forbidden their approach unto the two idols in the two Temples.

Behold then the veil of this clemency that hath risen and appeared from the two Dawning-Places, and that speaketh in the two Mounts in the form of the two Fires, and uttereth the two most perfect Words at the pole of the two heavens. Say: By God! This is indeed the Light manifest in the two Suns rising from the two Corners after the folding up of the two Stations, that thereby might be revealed the melodies of the Spirit upon the two Branches, that thou mayest know the decree concerning treachery in the two most remote selves. Thus have We stirred the veils of concealment less than anyone might perceive save they who see with the eye of God.

Say: By God! This is the Dove that singeth with two melodies in the divine Ridvan concerning the two Mysteries from these two Garments. And We bear witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Supreme, the Exalted, the Beloved. And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon them who ascend unto the heights of glory.

BH02438: O Rida, bear thou witness in thy soul…

O Rida, bear thou witness in thy soul and being, with the tongue which God hath placed within thee, that there is none other God but Him, and that He Who was sent with the name of ʿAli is verily the Truth from His presence, though most of the people perceive it not.

Through Him appeared the Kingdom of Names and Attributes, and by Him was distinguished every irrevocable decree from God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. All that returneth unto God or is attributed to Him doth verily return unto this Hidden Name, and through it is established God's Cause and its manifestation, and God's proof and evidence unto all who dwell in the kingdom of Command and Creation. To this do my soul and pen bear witness, and every possessor of assured knowledge.

Know thou that God hath ever been manifest amongst His servants and visible amidst His creation, yet people recognize Him not, for in every Revelation they become veiled by limited signs and tokens which prevent them from beholding the countenance of God in another Manifestation, would ye but understand. This is a truth in which there is no doubt, if ye would but look with this vision. Whosoever desireth to know God and His Self must needs purify his ear from every utterance, mention, and expression, and from every word that hath been spoken, and must gaze upon God with a perceiving eye, a pure heart, a hearing ear, and an attracted soul, that he may know his Lord through what appeareth from Him and not through what is with the people. This verily is the beloved truth, for naught else can serve as proof of Him, and every limited soul is veiled from Him.

Know thou further that thy Lord God will never appear according to what the people possess nor according to the signs and tokens to which they cling, but rather He appeareth as He willeth through His

command. He, verily, is the One Who chooseth for Himself, and all beseech His bounty. Thus learn thou the mysteries of the Cause, lest thy feet slip from every rejected mention. When the people of the Furqan clung to the signs, proofs and tokens they possessed, they opposed God, the Supreme, the Witnessed One.

Do thou remind those of thy kindred of what We have mentioned unto thee, that they may all turn unto the countenance of God that hath appeared among them, may recognize that wherewith God hath favored them, and may be of those who are thankful for God's blessing. We beseech God to aid them in this, such that none among them shall remain save that he entereth the paradise of God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. For this did We petition God in former years and do We petition Him now, and He, verily, is the Answerer, the Giver, the Bestower, the Forgiving.

BH02439: O Rida! Your letter was presented before Us…

O Rida! Your letter was presented before Us and We have taken it, and We have understood what was contained therein of your words, and verily We are All-Knowing. Bear thou witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting, and that ʿAli before Nabil is the Sovereign of the Messengers, His Book is the Mother Book, and a single Tablet from Him suffices as proof for all who are in the heavens and earth, were ye to know.

O Rida! Be patient within thyself when there cometh to thee an ordained matter. Be not disturbed by it, nor ask anyone about it. Then open thine eyes that thou mayest know what God hath willed in these days wherein faces are transformed, wherein the clamor of the deceivers is raised, and wherein every hidden matter from God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Beloved, is made manifest.

Verily thou wert in Our presence for numbered years and didst hear the melodies of God from this blessed, sublime and praiseworthy Tune. Yet thou didst not recognize Us at any time, nor didst thou turn thy face toward Me, as vain imaginings veiled thee and prevented thee from entering the sanctuary of the Desired One. Therefore, arise from thy station, then witness the handiwork of God with thine own eyes, and follow not those who deny this bounty.

Say: By God! Whoso denieth this Cause hath denied all the Messengers of the past. This is assuredly inscribed by the Pen of God, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Self-Subsisting. We have sent thee this Tablet that thine eyes may be solaced thereby, that thou mayest rejoice within thyself, and be of those who take delight in the words of God. Know thou that a single letter thereof is better than the kingdom of the hereafter and of the former time, if ye would but behold the verses of God with His vision.

Therefore, strive within thyself lest thy feet slip from this exalted and extended Path. Say: By God! The heaven hath been cleft asunder from the clouds of the Cause, and God hath come with the promised countenance wherewith ye were promised in the Nine, were ye to know. And a single Tablet from His trace is God's proof unto His creation, His evidence unto His creatures, and His authority unto all who are in the heavens and the earth, were ye to perceive.

Thus have We inspired thee that thou mayest burn away the veils of idle fancy and be of those whom no hinderer can hinder and no servants who have opposed God in every age can veil, who have denied the

signs of God. The Spirit be upon thee and upon those in thy household, both female and male. And if thou findest a pure heart, cast upon it what We have cast upon thee; otherwise, conceal it with the utmost concealment. This is My counsel unto thee and unto every patient and grateful soul.

BH02441: O Mihdi! Hear My call in all things…

O Mihdi! Hear My call in all things that "I am God, there is no God but Me. I have created all things for the praise of My Self, though I have ever been sanctified above the mention of all the worlds." And I offered My Cause to all who are in the heavens and earth. Then all those who had even a mustard seed of love for Satan and his manifestations fell away. Thus did the sun of wisdom shine forth from the horizon of the holy and luminous Finger.

Say: O people! Do you call upon Baal and forsake Him Who created all in the heavens and earth? Fear God and take not Satan as your protector. Those who wage war against God and dispute His signs and deny His sovereignty—these have no portion in the Book and were far removed from the seat of nearness.

Your letter has come before Us, both before and after it another letter, wherein you called upon God, your Lord and the Lord of the mighty Throne. Blessed are you for having partaken of the virgin fruits of the gardens of knowledge—this is from the grace of your Lord, the Most Merciful, that you might thank Him with a pure and radiant heart.

By Him Who is unique in glory and splendor, and singular in grandeur and majesty—one letter of what God has cast upon your heart in your tablets is better for you than all you have done in His path, and My Self suffices as witness to what I say. Beware lest you cloud your heart with the mention of anything—rather remember your Lord and fear no one, for He will guard you from every wicked oppressor. Ascend to Him at all times and be not dismayed by what has befallen you. Rather reflect on My tribulation and affliction and exile and imprisonment and trials, lest the harm of those who disbelieved and associated partners with God and were deprived of the breezes of the Spirit affect you.

We have sent by the hands of Salman Tablets wherein one letter thereof equals not what has been created in the kingdom of origination. Look upon them that your heart may rejoice and your eyes be consoled and you may witness yourself upon a manifest spirit. Although in such days nothing should descend from the direction of the Throne except that which would burn the hearts of every insightful believer, yet since My mercy has preceded, We have therefore varied the verses away from expressions of sorrow, as a favor from Us to those who have taken for themselves a true path to God.

Know then that We have permitted you to dispose of whatever worldly ornaments come to you as you wish, and We have made you in the Mother Book a trustworthy one in truth. Thus have We permitted you and commanded you—act according to what you have been commanded by One Mighty and Wise.

BH02442: O Mirza Nazar-ʿAli! In the Name of God…

O Mirza Nazar-ʿAli! In the Name of God, the Most Seeing, the All-Seeing! O Nazar! The glances of God have turned toward thee and He beholdeth thee at all times. Beware lest thou commit that which thy Ancient Lord abhorreth.

Say: O people! Ye conceal your evil deeds from your fellows lest they discover them, yet how is it that ye commit what ye are forbidden before the eye of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing? Do ye imagine that anything can be hidden from His knowledge? Nay, by His very Self, were ye but to know! Do ye feel shame before His servants yet feel no shame before Him Who created you by His command? There is no God but He, the Creator, the Fashioner, the Former, the Ordainer, the Mighty, the Great.

Say: O people! Purify your hearts from all else but Him, then turn your faces toward this Countenance which hath dawned from the horizon of eternity with manifest splendor. Aid thy Lord through counsel and utterance—this is what God hath prescribed for every soul at the outset of this Most Great, this wondrous Revelation.

Say: O people! Shed not blood, for this hath been forbidden in the Book of God, were ye but to know. Victory hath been ordained through the mention of proofs and exposition—thus hath the command been sent down and the decree established from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful. Whoso quickeneth a soul with the spirit of faith, it is as though he had quickened all mankind—thus was it revealed in the Bayan, then in the Qur'an, the Psalms and the Gospel.

Say: O people! Seize ye the measure of these days and be not of the heedless. How many of those near to God waited yet attained not, how many of the sincere sacrificed their lives yet were not honored, while ye have attained to this most great bounty without toil or labor. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of this wondrous Remembrance. Should ye remember God but once in His days, it would be better for you than the kingdom of the heavens and earth—this is a certain truth. Compare not these days with days past or future—thus hath the Revealer of the Bayan clearly stated, were ye but of those who perceive.

Leave what ye possess and take what hath been sent down to you from the heaven of might and power by God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the Unconstrained. Be not of those who remained in doubt and discord at this radiant dawn. Behold this Revelation and what appeareth from it with His eye, that ye may be illumined by the light of His countenance and that Our heedless servants may be enlightened through you.

Thus have We sent down the verses unto thee and dispatched them to thee that thou mayest find the fragrance of the garment therefrom and be of the thankful. And the light which hath appeared from the finger of thy Lord's will, the All-Merciful, be upon thee and upon those who have quaffed the sealed wine from the hands of thy Lord's command, the All-Knowing, the All-Encompassing.

BH02463: O Mirza Aqa, in the S, He…

O Mirza Aqa, in the S, He is the All-Knowing Sovereign. God bears witness that there is no God but Him. His is the glory and grandeur, His the power and sovereignty, His the loftiness and dominion, His the

majesty and ascendancy. He aids whom He pleases and restrains whom He pleases, exalts whom He pleases and abases whom He pleases, gives as He pleases. He is the Single One Who cannot be numbered, the Knower Who cannot be known, the Cognizant Who cannot be recognized, the Powerful One Whose power cannot be measured, the One Who reaches where none can reach. None in the heavens or the earth or what lies between them or beneath them can attain to knowledge of Him. He is the Single One, the Mighty, the Sovereign, the Compassionate. Before Him bow down in worship all who are in the heavens and earth, and unto Him shall all return. His is the power and might, His the glory and choice, His the loftiness and renown. He raises up whom He pleases through His grace, and He is the Exalted, the All-Wise.

O servant! Hearken unto what the Dove of Holiness sang upon the Tree, that there is no God but Him and that ʿAli before Muhammad is the Sovereign of existence in both the unseen and visible realms. All were created by His command and all act by His command.

Say: O people! Fear God and do not distort the words of God or change them according to your imaginings. Be not of those who are not guided by the lights of God and who differ in the religion of God. Then show mercy to one another, O people, and let none boast over another in anything. All this is the decree of God, ordained in truth in the preserved tablets of glory. And you, strive in the paths of your Lord, then aid the Cause of your Master with all your power. This is My command to you and to those who hasten unto God.

Say: O people! Forget not God's covenant, transgress not God's bounds, and go not beyond what you have been commanded in the hidden and holy Book which was sent down to ʿAli in truth on the day when the souls of all creation were troubled, and the hearts of every known mystic.

Then know that We have arrived in the prison behind lofty mountains, and the matter has become severe upon Us from all directions. Yet We remain thankful for this, in praiseworthy gratitude. We thank God for what He has decreed for Us of His firm and ordained destiny. By God, whatever appears from the Beloved, He indeed is the One Who is loved. Thus have We sent down the verses unto you and related to you what has befallen Us, that you may be of those who rejoice in the traces of God. The Spirit, the Glory and the Splendor be upon you and upon every patient and grateful one.

BH02481: O Kalim, upon whom be the Most Glorious Beauty…

O Kalim, upon whom be the Most Glorious Beauty of God in the City! He is the Most Wondrous, the Most Exalted in the Most Glorious Horizon. This is a Book from God unto him who soared in the atmosphere of nearness and heard the melody of God and was mentioned in the Supreme Paradise with the tongue of holiness, and was honored with the presence of God and attained the grace of the Spirit. Thus doth God single out whom He willeth through His bounty, and verily His bounty hath ever been witnessed by all the worlds.

O Kalim! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner, Who hath been encompassed by wolves from every direction, after He came unto them with an authority that verily encompassed all things. By God, O Kalim!

There hath befallen Me that which hath caused to burn the hearts of them who dwell in the Most Glorious Paradise—the Ridvan which was illumined by the countenance of thy Lord, the Most Merciful.

Arise to serve God and aid His Cause. Leave all created things behind thee, then make mention of thy Lord with wondrous holy melodies. By God the Truth, this is thy day, and verily We have reared thee for this Day wherein God hath come upon the clouds of wisdom and the matter hath been decreed by One mighty and wise. God hath aided thee in many instances and will aid thee in truth, and verily His aid hath ever been nigh unto them that are brought near. Walk thou in My footsteps that there may appear from thee that which shall guide people unto God, thy Lord, for He hath singled thee out for Himself in beauteous tablets of glory. Grieve not over this world, and if thou wishest to grieve over anything, grieve over that which hath befallen My Beauty at the hands of them who were created by My word—and God is witness unto this. And the Spirit and glory and splendor be upon thee!

O Kalim! At the time of departure from the region of Iraq, the Tongue of God informed the people about the calf and the emergence of the Samiri and the movement of the birds of night after the setting of the Sun of eternity. Those two have become manifest and the cawing hath been raised. However, there is a third group—souls who will arise with claims and will soon be set in motion.

O Kalim! Hearken unto the divine call and keep thyself aloof from anyone in whom thou perceivest the fragrance of malice, and remain steadfast in the Cause of God in such wise that all may become steadfast through thy steadfastness. O Kalim! Be intimate with the friends of God and shun His enemies. Be not grieved over the world. Set thy heart upon God and detach thyself from all else, for all else neither nourishes nor enriches, and so hath it ever been and ever shall be. And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath turned unto God in these days wherein the feet of every sinful doubter have slipped. God willing, mayest thou ever dwell beneath the shade of God's mercy and be sustained by the fruits of His grace.

BH02482: He is the Most Glorious! In the Name…

He is the Most Glorious! In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy! This is an epistle from the servant of the Primal Point, His soul and His beloved, to those whose hearts God hath freed from this world and all that is therein, making them fountains of His wondrous and exalted remembrance.

And whatsoever proceedeth from Him in the form of words returneth to a single point, if ye be of them that understand. For no variance existeth in His presence, and all stand on an equal plane in His mighty and glorious kingdom. If He so willeth, He may distinguish one of His words and exalt it as He pleaseth through His command, for He is verily the Powerful, the Mighty. And if He so willeth, He may abase it as He desireth—none can gainsay His firm and potent command.

Say: Beware, O people, lest ye find variance in His words. When He saith "I am the servant of God," it is as His saying "I am the Beloved of the worlds." Thus hath it ever been in His kingdom, but the people have veiled themselves therefrom and thus have remained far from the shores of nearness, among the heedless.

Arise thou to the remembrance and praise of God, then speak forth between earth and heaven through this Most Holy and Most Exalted Name. By God! Through it are the denizens of the Supreme Paradise made joyous while they that have disbelieved in God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, are struck down.

Say: This indeed is the Water of Life which God hath specially ordained for the sincere among His creatures, while it is forbidden to them that are veiled. Say: Fear God, O people, and divide not the Most Great Word, and be not of the lost.

Look ye to the root of the Cause—verily it is God's balance amongst His servants, His measure amidst His creation, and His proof unto all the worlds. Say: The Cause is both easy and difficult—easy for the discerning servants of God who have recognized God by His own Self and by what hath proceeded from Him, and who have detached themselves from all created things; and difficult for those in whose hearts there is doubt concerning their Lord—they are indeed an evil people and among the lost.

Grieve not at anything, and fear no one, for God shall aid whomsoever He willeth and assist whoever assisteth Him. There is no God but Him—His is the creation and the command. He aideth whomsoever He willeth through the hosts of the heavens and earth. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and thank God Who created thee by His command and acquainted thee with what was hidden from the eyes of all on earth save Our near servants. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

O Husayn! Rend asunder the veils in such wise that thou hearest the sound of their rending. Thus doth it behoove thee and Our steadfast servants. Shun the enemies and hold fast unto God, then take comfort in My Name, the Truthful, for it is indeed My remembrance amongst the worlds.

BH02486: This is an epistle from the One Who hath…

In the Name of God, the Single, the One, the Help in Peril

This is an epistle from the One Who hath been imprisoned in the path of God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Bestower, unto him who hath believed in God and been guided by this Sun which hath dawned from the horizon of grace with wondrous sovereignty.

Say: O people! Tarry not upon the Bridge; hearken unto the words of your Lord, the All-Merciful, then pass over it as a passing cloud. Beware lest ye differ concerning Him Who was the solace of ʿAli's eyes in the Ridvan of the Bayan, then of Muhammad's eyes in the Garden of the Furqan, then of the Spirit's eyes in the heaven of destiny, then of God's eyes, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Ever-Forgiving.

Say: O people! He hath come unto you even as ʿAli came with the truth. Fear ye God and follow not every doubtful idolater.

Say: O people! Be ye united in the Cause of God—this is better for you—then turn unto your Lord, the All-Merciful, with humility and contrition. Thus do We counsel thee out of Our love for thee, that thou mayest be mindful within thyself and that they who are endued with understanding may be guided thereby.

Say: Were the veil to be lifted from the face of the Youth, the tongues of all created things would proclaim: “By God! This is a wondrous king!”

Say: Do ye deny Him through Whom the Messengers were sent forth aforetime and through Whom the Lord of lords hath come? Whoso denieth this Revelation hath denied God in His previous Manifestations, as attesteth that which hath been sent down in the Book.

Await ye the Day which ye were promised in the Tablets, when the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall upon the face of the earth. Say: The Day hath come, and none knoweth it save God, unto Whom returneth the decree of the beginning and the end. Say: Verily the Day hath appeared in the temple of the Youth. Blessed be He Who hath sent Him forth with the truth and dispatched Him unto His servants. He, verily, is great in bounty and severe in punishment.

O people! Stand firm in the Cause of God and in the praise of His Self, and when ye behold Satan seeking to ascend unto the heaven of understanding that he may discover what is in your hearts of the love of the All-Merciful, drive him away with the shooting stars.

Say: Seize ye the measure of these days. By God! The eye of creation hath not seen their like. Soon that which hath been decreed in the Tablets shall come to pass and the Face shall be concealed. Then shall ye bite your fingers in remorse. Beware lest ye be heedless of that which hath appeared with truth and follow every deceptive liar.

And thou, render thanks unto thy Lord for having attained unto this Cause wherein the feet of most men have slipped, some seeking to slay Him, others rising up to plot against His Cause. But the scheming of the idolaters hath ended in ruin. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God on the Day of Return.

BH02488: This is My Book which hath been sent down…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great

This is My Book which hath been sent down from the heaven of My loving-kindness unto My servants who have believed in My Self, who have detached themselves from all else save Me, who have turned toward the court of My grace, and who have circled round the sanctuary of My nearness and the Kaaba of My presence, manifesting the wonders of My Cause and making mention of My praise and revealing My gifts amongst the peoples of the world. Blessed are they who have cast behind their backs all who dwell on earth, who have shattered the idols by their might and their power, who have turned with their eyes and their vision toward the Most Great Scene, and who have crushed the graven images beneath their feet through My Name and My remembrance and My power and My majesty and My sovereignty that hath encompassed all created things.

O servant! Know thou that the verse of utterance hath abrogated the verse of silence. Arise, then, and remind My servants of that which hath appeared from the horizon of My Cause and My grandeur, and be not of them that remain silent. Say: O people! The Sun of glory and eternity hath dawned from the horizon of Baha. By God! The hearts of the Prophets and Messengers have been illumined thereby, yet ye

remain veiled by a mighty veil. And if His name be mentioned as “Baha,” this was mentioned by the tongue of the Beloved aforetime, and by all names, were ye of them that know. Yet doth every thing bear witness to the sanctification of His Essence from names and their kingdom, and the glorification of His Self from attributes and their dominion.

Thereupon doth the Tongue of Grandeur speak above His head, saying: “By God! This is My Beloved—I love not that any should know Him save Me or that any eye should behold Him save Mine own.” And beyond this He speaketh words which I am powerless to mention, and were I to mention them all created things would be thunderstruck. For after they were promised this Revelation throughout all the Bayan, they clung to a name among names which stood before Us as a servant standing before his master. When he turned away, most of the people turned away through what Satan whispered in their breasts. Thus were they deprived of this Beauty whereby the eye of God, the Ever-Abiding, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, was solaced, even after We had informed them that every possessor of light would be darkened at His manifestation and every possessor of radiance would be altered at the dawning of the lights of His countenance, the Dawning, the Luminous.

Say: O people! By God! He was as one of Our servants—We raised up his name through a wisdom from Our presence which none knoweth save My Self, the All-Knowing.

O Ali! Hear the call of Husayn from the direction of the prison, then aid thy Lord through utterance and fear not the idolaters. O Rida! Hear the call of Baha from the distant quarter, that perchance the call of God may attract thee and detach thee from the worlds, and aid thee to assist this Wronged One, the Stranger, the One Who standeth alone.

And upon thee be glory, and upon thy mother who hath believed in God, the Lord of the mighty throne.

BH02509: O Title of God, the Luminous, upon him be…

O Title of God, the Luminous, upon him be the Glory of God! He is the Most Sorrowful, the Most Sorrowful

Praise be to God Who hath torn away from the face of one of the Names the veils of glory, whereupon all who are in earth and heaven were struck with terror, and the servants were immersed in the depths of self and passion. We delivered them once again and raised them up through Our mercy that precedeth all things, and We cast upon them His most exalted Word through the tongue of the Most Great Appearance in My Most Glorious Name. They dispersed from around the Throne time and again, except those whom We preserved through My Most Exalted Sovereignty and purified from the evil suggestions of the people of denial—they who took the Calf as their lord instead of God, the Lord of the last and the first. Thus hath the Most Exalted Pen inscribed this as a reminder for whoever feareth.

O Beloved! The Pen of the Spirit cannot move across the Tablet due to the severity of tribulations. Consider then the state of Him Whom God hath sent unto mankind in days when the most truthful among them is the most lying, the most knowledgeable is the most ignorant, the most exalted is the most wicked, the most intelligent is the most foolish, the most honored is the most despised, the most upright is the most crooked, the most generous is the most miserly, the most lowly is their proof, and the most

elevated. God hath decreed for Me what He hath not decreed for anyone in creation, such that with My own hands I clothed one of the wretched ones with the garment of Names and the essence of tyranny with the robe of justice, and commanded Me to strip it and remove it from his temple. When I desired to do as commanded, all in the heavens and earth were struck with terror, save those whom God had sanctified from the doubts of the idolaters. Glorified then be God, the Powerful Commander and the Mighty, Omnipotent Sovereign!

Say: O people! Did We consult with you about clothing him that We should consult with you about removing it? Verily, He Who raised him up through grace cast him down through justice, and He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. By God! The Primal Point was innocent of him and his like. When We were known among the servants, We manifested the Cause and mentioned him by a name other than Mine. Whoever possesseth insight and understanding will recognize and comprehend and be among those who know.

The Tablets were sent—deliver them. And afterward the mentioned Tablets will also be sent, God willing. Convey greetings from God to all the loved ones of God. You have borne hardships in the path of God and followed the example of My wronged, imprisoned, estranged Self. From the handwriting and composition, grief is evident and manifest. Glory and splendor be upon you and upon those with you who are among the chosen ones.

BH02514: That which hath been sent down from the heaven…

That which hath been sent down from the heaven of loving-kindness for him who was named Ja'far:

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

O Ja'far! Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Prison, then make thyself wholly an ear that thou mayest hear the most sweet melodies from thy Lord, the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious. He is God, there is no God but Him, and He is the One Who speaketh through this most wondrous, most impregnable, most pure Tongue in all things, that by God, the Beloved of the worlds hath appeared and this is He of Whom ʿAli gave you tidings aforetime, and verily He in this horizon doth witness and see and say:

> "Blessed are they who have turned unto the countenance of God, then woe unto them that have turned away!"

O Ja'far! Be thou steadfast in the Cause of God and in glorifying His Self, then make mention of Him among His heedless servants. We have ordained for every soul to teach His Cause, and thus hath it been inscribed by the Pen of Command on the Tablet which God hath concealed from the eyes of the idolaters. Be thou neither still nor silent, but strive within thyself that there may appear from thee a trace in this Most Great Announcement. Whoso quickeneth a soul with this eternal life, the denizens of the Supreme Paradise shall circle round him once again, then shall the Spirit of Truth aid him at all times.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Be ye ashamed before your Lord, the All-Merciful. He hath now appeared from the horizon of creation with manifest sovereignty, and He saith, pointing with His blessed finger to this Head, addressing them:

> "This is He of Whose meeting We gave you tidings and commanded you to bow down before His gate and took from you His covenant, O company of the wrongdoers!"

Arise from the slumber of vain desire, then forsake all creation behind you and hold fast to this Most Firm Handle. By God! It is the greatest cause between the heavens and the earth. Whoso holdeth fast unto it hath attained salvation and whoso turneth away hath perished and returned to his abode in hell.

O Ja'far! We have changed thy name at this time by a command from thy Lord, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, and We have named thee Jalal in the Kingdom of Names as a bounty from Our presence unto thee that thou mayest be among the thankful. Convey Our glorification to thy mother and thy brother. Blessed are ye for having emigrated unto God and followed the paths of His good-pleasure and attained unto the presence before the gate of His Most Great House. God hath inscribed your names by the Pen of Command on the Tablet of Decree, and this is better for you than all that hath been and shall be created, and to this doth testify every possessor of enlightened vision. And glory be upon you, O My loved ones, then upon those who were in your place, of all males and females, and of every young and old, and praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02522: Hussein, son of the uncle of ʿAli-Qabli-Muhammad

Hussein, son of the uncle of ʿAli-Qabli-Muhammad,

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Blessed is He Who sendeth down the Command as He pleaseth, and ordaineth what He willeth by His Own Self, and directeth in the kingdom whatsoever He desireth. His is the creation and the command. He createth all things by His command, and verily He is the Doer of what He willeth, and aideth whom He pleaseth through His grace, and manifesteth victory as He willeth. And verily He is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Say: He uniteth hearts and divideth every wise matter. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth, and verily He is the Almighty, the Powerful. He giveth to drink whom He willeth from the Kawthar of nearness, and destroyeth whom He willeth with a mighty thirst. Thus doth He give unto whom He willeth and withhold from whom He willeth, and verily He is the Mighty, the Wise.

Say: O people, open your eyes that ye may recognize the mysteries of pre-existence through this Ancient Mystery. Say: O people, is he who is upon a clear proof from God like unto him who is in manifest error? Is he who walketh upon the path of truth like unto him who walketh in manifest darkness? Say: O people, is he who soareth in the atmosphere of the spirit like unto him who hath died upon a distant land? Say: O people of insight, judge fairly within yourselves: Is he before and behind whom light advanceth like unto him who dwelleth in the darkness of his self and is unable to emerge therefrom? How then do ye judge? Say: Is he in whose heart surge the oceans of names like unto him who dwelleth upon a mirage in the desert wherein he findeth no water and is among the distressed? Say: O people, glory be to God above what ye have imagined within yourselves while claiming to be among the believers!

O thou who art young in years but great in faith! Give thanks unto God for having guided thee and made thee to be among the beneficent ones. Know thou that We have heard that thy father hath cast thee out from the house because thou hast believed in God, the Almighty, the Most Noble. Grieve not at this, but rather be glad within thyself and be thou among the joyous ones. Know thou that the sword hath appeared in truth and separateth between the ungodly and the believers. Say: The Word hath been transformed into the sword of God and divideth between the worlds. Know thou further that if thy kinship with him hath been severed thereby, thy kinship with God, the Mighty, the Beautiful, hath been strengthened, and if he hath become distant from thee, God shall soon draw thee nigh unto Himself—and His is the sovereignty of the heavens and earth, and He is powerful over all things. Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth that thou mayest seek the good pleasure of God within thyself—verily by the good pleasure of God do the near-serving servants rejoice. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are guided and are among the guided ones.

BH02529: In His Name, the Helper! God makes mention…

In His Name, the Helper! God makes mention of His servants who have recognized His unity, that they may rejoice in His remembrance of them and be detached from the idolaters. Say: Through His remembrance are the hearts of the mystics assured, and His remembrance has preceded every soul—were it not for Him, none among creation would remember Him, and this is a certain truth. And when He made mention of His servants and inscribed their names in the Tablet of Decree by the Most Exalted Pen, they recognized the path of remembrance and were numbered among those who remember. Say: Through His remembrance is every sick one healed of his illness and the hearts of those who have turned to Him are purified. Remember Him, O people, and be not silent in His praise. He Who speaks in remembrance in these days, around Him circle the denizens of the Supreme Concourse and the angels drawn nigh.

O people! Hasten with your hearts toward the direction of the Paradise of Good-Pleasure and be not disturbed by those who have wronged in the earth. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, protects whom He willeth with hosts ye cannot see, and He encompasseth all things. Be steadfast in His remembrance and praise among the servants, then attract the hearts of the heedless through His verses and subdue His proud servants through His names.

O servant! Convey unto the people what We have imparted unto thee in this Tablet, that they may arise to promote the Cause of thy Lord, the One, the Single, the Unique, and unite with thee in supporting God's Cause, and be not of those who slumber.

Say: O people! Spread not corruption in the earth, nor consume the wealth of others unjustly, and be not of the oppressors. We are oppressed among Our enemies—be ye as We are. By God the Truth, the cry of the oppressed is more beloved before God than the worship of most people, were ye to know. He heareth the cry of the oppressed and hath prescribed for Himself to help him through the truth, and He hath power over all things.

Grieve not in these numbered days over the hardships of the world, for it shall pass away and might and power shall remain for the loved ones of God and His chosen ones. God shall soon raise them up in the

earth and make them powerful. Cast behind thee every matter and give the people the glad tidings of this most luminous Dawn and this greatest Scene, and be not of the fearful ones.

Then give thanks to God for having remembered thee on this night and sent down unto thee clear verses, that thy mention may endure among the worlds, if thou remainest steadfast in this Cause which hath caused the feet of the doubters to slip. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God in that place, and this is a mighty bounty.

Praise be to God, the King, the Powerful, the Resurrector, the Quickener, the Transcendent, the Mighty, the Ancient.

BH02531: In the Name of God, the Most Manifest…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Manifest! Glorified be He in Whose hand is the dominion of all things. The thunder extolleth His praise through fear of Him, and the clouds through His grandeur. There is none other God but He, the Almighty, the All-Glorious.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner from the precincts of the prison, then detach thyself from all that hath been created in the contingent world. Say: In the Name of God and by God, then turn thy face toward the Most Great Name of God and say: O people! By God, the Truth! The clouds have been rent asunder, the heaven hath been cleft, and the Beloved hath come with power and sovereignty. Be ye ashamed before God Who created you, and deny not Him before Whom all faces have prostrated themselves at all times.

Say: O people! If ye desire the power of God, verily ye have witnessed it with your own eyes, and if ye desire the sovereignty of God, verily ye have beheld it with your vision, and if ye desire the signs, verily they have been sent down in truth in such wise that whatsoever hath been created by the Word of God, the Mighty, the All-Glorious, is powerless to reckon them. We know not by what proof ye believed in ʿAli aforetime. Fear God and follow not Satan. Ponder within yourselves for less than a moment, then be fair in this Cause which hath appeared with the truth, and concerning this Youth Who hath appeared through God's power and Who now speaketh amidst all religions, while on His right march the hosts of divine revelation with the banners of the Cause, and on His left a company of youths, in each of whose hands is the sealed wine which hath been sealed with the mystery of My Hidden Name and inscribed by the Pen of God, the Most High, upon their radiant foreheads:

> "By God! The Beloved of the All-Merciful hath appeared, He Who was promised to you in all the Tablets!"

Which, then, of God's signs do ye deny?

By God! When He appeared the suns were eclipsed, the moons darkened, the fruits fell, and the earth trembled amongst the people of possibility. Thus did the Cock of the Throne crow in the gardens of eternity, and the Dove of the Cause warbled upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree, and the Peacock of inner meanings was adorned with the ornament of utterance. O servant! Give thanks unto thy Lord, inasmuch as the Pen of might and power hath moved to make mention of thee. Then stand firm in thy

love for thy Lord and convey unto the people this Cause whereby the veils of idle fancies were rent asunder and the dayspring of inner meanings dawned forth from the horizon of thy Lord's will, the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

Purify the hearts of people with this water which hath flowed from the fountainhead of thy Lord's command, then remind them of the signs of their Lord, that they may turn unto God in these days wherein the harbingers of trials have appeared from every direction. And the glory rest upon thee and upon those whom the breezes of tests have not prevented from turning unto God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Merciful.

BH02540: O Karim in the letter Shin! He…

O Karim in the letter Shin! He is the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious! God has testified to His own Self by His own Self upon the throne of His might and sovereignty that there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Dominant, the Powerful, the Wise, and that the Point of the Bayan is His mystery and His witness and His Command and His address and His Word to all who are in the heavens and earths. Say: He has appeared in truth from the Dayspring of God, the Mighty, the Powerful, and has spoken in truth in the heaven of eternity and the kingdom of creation that "I am God, there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy." Through Him was established the proof of God and His beauty dawned and His Word was perfected and His Cause was exalted above the former and latter generations. Thus does the Dove sing from the verses of a mighty rapture that God's proof and evidence may be completed for all things and all created beings.

O servant! Many letters have come before Us but among them was not your letter, and We were saddened to find you among the forgetful ones. Know that even if you have forgotten Us, We have not forgotten you and We have been among those who remember. We have sent you this Tablet from which the fragrances of God waft upon every beautiful Joseph.

Know then that We were among the servants as one of them, and you yourself bear witness to this, and God behind you is witness. No one recognized Us for they were behind veils and in mighty delusion, as though none among the people had eyes to recognize the Beauty of the Ancient One after He appeared in truth by the command of Him before Whom the necks of the proud were humbled. We remained in this concealment until God's appointed time was fulfilled according to what was ordained by His Pen on a preserved tablet of glory.

Then the idolaters cast Us into this prison from which the cries of the mystics cannot reach Us. When We arrived therein, We rent asunder the veils and tore away the covering with power and clear sovereignty, despite them and those who disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Mighty, the Peerless, that God's proof might be completed for His creation and His evidence for His creatures and His testimony for all created things.

As for you, gird up your loins to exalt the name of God and His Cause and fear no one, but place your trust in Him, for in Him let the faithful servants place their trust. If you find a pure heart and an illumined

breast, cast upon it what God has cast upon you in this blessed and wondrous Tablet; otherwise, conceal it in your heart and remain in mighty concealment.

The Spirit and glory and splendor be upon you and upon those women who are in your household. Give them glad tidings of your Lord's tidings and be not among the patient ones. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02554: This is a Book from Husayn to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

This is a Book from Husayn to him who hath been named ʿAli in the Kingdom of God and whose name hath been mentioned before the Throne, that he may detach himself from those who have remained veiled in these days, and draw nigh unto God, his Lord, with manifest power, and soar in the atmosphere of the spirit on the wings of detachment, and aid his Lord to the extent of his ability. Thus hath it been sent down in the Tablet from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful.

O servant! Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Prison, and be not of them who were heedless of God at the time when the earthquake seized the people of contention, and the heaven of idle fancy was cleft asunder, and God came in the shadows of the clouds with manifest sovereignty. Arise to serve the Cause of God and His remembrance, and say: O people! Fear God and break not His Covenant. Turn unto Him with radiant countenance.

Beware lest the signs of them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God after the verses of the Command were sent down from the heaven of wondrous glory veil you. Consider, O people, the proofs of the Prophets and Messengers, and deny not Him Whom God hath sent in truth with His manifestation and His sovereignty, and with Whom are preserved Tablets of mighty glory.

Take thou the Tablet of God with power from His presence, and fear not those who follow their desires and who, when asked "Who is your Lord?", say "God Who created all things", yet when He came to them with the Kingdom of verses they denied Him and turned back on their heels. Forget all save God, then find solace in His remembrance, then make what thou desirest to be extinguished in what He desireth. This is My counsel unto thee from One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Say: O people! The Kawthar of utterance hath flowed from the mouth of the Will of your Lord, the Most Merciful. Fear God and deprive not yourselves thereof. Drink ye therefrom, that it may purify you from the defilement of every rebellious misbeliever. Know thou that the mention of thy name was made before the Countenance, wherefore these clear verses were sent down from the heaven of the mercy of thy Lord unto all who dwell on earth.

Be thou steadfast in the love of God, then proclaim His Cause, and tarry not save for a while. God hath prescribed for Himself the assistance of those who convey His Cause, and He will reward them with a goodly reward. He, verily, hath power over all things. Blessed are they who have detached themselves unto God and taken the Manifestation of His Self as their helper.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the truth, that thou mayest follow what thou hast been commanded by One All-Knowing, All-Informed. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have hearkened unto the call of their Lord and answered Him, and hesitated not in His Cause. These are the people of Baha, whose names have been inscribed by the Pen of might and power.

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BH01931: The purpose of the "victorious assistance" [nusrat] mentioned…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy.

The purpose of the "victorious assistance" [nusrat] mentioned in all the Tablets hath been and still is well known to the loved ones of God. The Truth, exalted be His mention, is sanctified above this world and whatsoever is therein, and by assistance was never meant that anyone should contend or dispute with any soul. The King of Glory hath committed the kingdom of earth, both land and sea, unto the kings, for they are the manifestations of divine power, each according to his degree. Should they enter beneath the shadow of the True One, they will be accounted of God, otherwise thy Lord is, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

That which God—exalted be His mention—hath desired for Himself are the hearts of His servants, which are the treasuries of His mystical revelation and the depositories of His divine love. The eternal King's everlasting purpose hath been to cleanse the hearts from the promptings of the world and all that is therein, that they may become worthy to receive the effulgent splendors of the sovereign of names and attributes. Thus no stranger should be allowed admittance into the city of the heart, that the Friend may hasten to His own abode—that is, the effulgence of His beauty, and not His essence or reality, for that hath ever been, and shall ever be, sanctified from ascent or descent.

Therefore, to assist God's Cause in this day doth not and shall never mean to engage in opposition and contention or conflict with any soul. Rather, what is preferable is that the cities of men's hearts should be conquered through the sword of wisdom and of utterance, and not through the sword of iron. Thus should anyone desire to assist the Cause of God, let him first conquer the city of his own heart with the sword of spiritual truth and of expression, cleanse it from all things save God, and then turn towards the cities of others' hearts. This is the meaning of assisting God's Cause that hath dawned from the horizon of the finger of the King of Names. Corruption hath never been pleasing and never shall be, and whatever occurred in the past happened without God's leave. In brief, in this day the loved ones of God must appear among men in such wise that through their deeds they may guide all to the good-pleasure of the Lord of Glory.

By the Sun of the morn of sanctity! Never have the Truth and His loved ones who are attributed to Him regarded, nor will they ever regard, the earth and its transient riches. For had the purpose been to take possession of the earth, He was assuredly able and powerful enough and could have conquered the whole world with a single word. But He hath given sovereignty to sovereigns, wisdom to the discerning, knowledge to the learned, and reserved for Himself the love of the hearts of His servants, and naught else

doth He regard, nor will He ever regard aught else. And this too is by virtue of His supreme grace, that perchance mortal souls may be cleansed from earthly conditions and attain the everlasting station which is the paradise of divine unity.

Otherwise, that Pre-existent King hath ever been, in His own Essence, independent of all things. No benefit accrues to Him from the love of contingent things, nor can any harm befall Him from their enmity. All emerged from earthly places and unto Him shall all return, while that Ancient Beauty remaineth in His own station, alone and single, sanctified above place and time, mention and description, indication and allusion, exaltation and abasement. None knoweth this save those endowed with insight and perception.

BH02555: This is a Book from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy

This is a Book from the Prisoner to him who hath been guided by the lights of God and desireth to enter the pavilion of glory—the station that hath been concealed from the eyes of the idolaters. Say: In every age He hath appeared with one of the names, and when He appeared in this age with this Name, all who are in the heavens and on earth were struck with terror, save a numbered few.

O servant! Arise amidst the people and proclaim: O concourse of earth! The Most Great Mystery of God hath been made manifest with evident sovereignty. Fear God and differ not concerning Him. He summoneth you to naught save unto God, in Whose grasp lieth the kingdom of all things, and God is witness unto this.

Say: Do ye read the verses yet deny their Revealer? What aileth you that ye comprehend not? Say: The clouds of the Cause have been rent asunder, the Beauty of the Ancient of Days hath shone forth, and around Him are hosts of angels, while before Him marcheth the Kingdom of God and behind Him the denizens of the Concourse on High with heavenly legions that none can perceive save those endowed with true vision.

Say: Is there doubt about God, or about this Manifestation Who hath appeared with the truth with clear evidence, or about that which hath been revealed unto Him of the verses of your Lord, the All-Merciful? Fear God, O peoples of the worlds, and be not tyrannical and wretched. Say: He is verily exalted in truth and these are His verses sent down from a mighty and sublime dominion.

Purify thy vision from human limitations, then turn thy face toward the Most Sublime Vision of God—this is better for thee than all that is on earth. Then aid the Youth in these days, for thy aid to Him is to teach God's Cause, as hath been revealed in mighty and impregnable Tablets.

Say: O people! Spread not corruption in the land and eschew all wickedness. Fear God, O peoples of the earth, and be not among the faithless and sinful. Whoso committeth that which is forbidden is not of Me, and God is quit of him. Be not occupied with the world in such wise as would make thee heedless of God, thy Lord. It shall perish while sovereignty remaineth unto the Omnipotent, the Ancient of Days.

Grieve not over anything and in all matters place thy trust in God. He verily sufficeth thee in truth and will protect thee from the harm of all created things. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth and

sent thee this Tablet that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and soar in this atmosphere which hath been raised up in the name of God. And mercy be upon thee and upon every discerning believer.

BH02556: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Glorious!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Glorious! This is a Book from this Youth to him who hath been guided by the lights of God and was recorded in the Tablet as among those who have attained. Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having aided thee to know Him and made thee to be among those who have said "God is our Lord!" and then detached themselves from all who dwell on earth. Verily, they who in these days have veiled themselves from the Cause—these shall have no portion of the holy feast, while they who have believed have been provided with that which none else hath been provided, and God is witness unto this.

Hear My words and then leave the world behind thee, for it shall pass away and naught shall endure save that which hath been ordained in the heaven of mighty glory. Verily, he who occupieth himself with the world—all that he possesseth shall perish and he shall enter the grave alone, and whatsoever assistance he seeketh from that which he hath amassed shall not assist him. Thus hath the matter been witnessed in truth.

Say: O people! Fear God and burden not your backs with the ornaments of earth. Detach yourselves therefrom and soar on the wings of detachment unto the atmosphere of intimate nearness. Beware lest anything prevent you from God, your Lord, the All-Merciful. Hold fast unto the hem of His Self-Manifestation in these days from which every sinful misbeliever hath been veiled.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I am he who hath turned with his heart unto the sanctuary of Thy holiness and bounty, and hath clung to the hem of Thy loving-kindness and favors. Wherefore, O my God, deprive me not of the sweet-scented fragrances of the garment of Thy grace and gifts, and withhold me not from that which lieth with Thee, for Thou art the One with power over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou hast ever been omnipotent over all things.

O my Lord! Cause to gush forth from the rock of existence the waters of Thy knowledge and recognition, that all may know Thee as Thou art, though this be greater than all that is great. By Thy glory! Thy power is not incapable of manifesting that which is impossible in existence. Weakness hath ever been the attribute of Thy creation, while Thou art the Almighty through Thy sovereignty and hast ever encompassed all things.

O my Lord! Remove me not from the shore of Thy nearness, and plant within my heart the tree of hope, lest I despair of the wonders of Thy grace and favors, for Thou hast ever been merciful unto Thy servants. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth, that thou mayest be steadfast in the Cause. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon him who hath turned unto the beauteous and Most Glorious Countenance.

Convey the greetings of God unto the faces of His loved ones there, then gather them unto the Cause and remind them of this Great Announcement, that their hearts may be enkindled with the love of God and become detached from the worlds. And the glory be upon thy son and thy wife from God, the Lord of all creation.

BH11733: We had previously sent thee a Tablet, a single…

We had previously sent thee a Tablet, a single letter of which surpasseth all that hath been and shall be created, and verily it is a revelation from God, the Mighty, the Beautiful. It reached thee not, for God hath appointed a time for all things in His knowledge, and verily He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He desireth. Therefore have We now sent it unto thee that thou mayest inhale therefrom the sweet fragrances of holiness and delight in the blessing wherewith none among all the peoples of the world hath been favored. Within it are the mysteries of what hath been and what shall be, yet the people are in manifest heedlessness.

Share thou it with them that have believed in God and His signs, that haply the servants may attain unto the stations of His Cause and be numbered among them that know, though these people can scarce comprehend a word of that which hath been sent down from the Pen of God, the Omnipotent, the Almighty, the All-Knowing.

Among them are those who believed in God and then turned away, and were counted among the idolaters; and among them are those who follow their idle fancies and turn not toward the Throne, and are numbered among the prodigal; and among them are those who wish not to hear a single word save what they have heard from their fathers and mothers—thus mayest thou know the nature of the deniers. With them is naught save what the people of the Furqan have deduced, and thus have We recorded the matter in a clear register.

Among them are those who ask of the drop concerning the ocean, its waves and its depths. Say: Woe unto you, O heedless ones!

And among them are those who ask of the atom concerning the sun, its radiance, its light and its splendor—thus mayest thou know the state of these hateful ones. Say: Woe unto you, O heedless ones!

Purify thou thy heart from them, from their mention, their names, and from all that pertaineth unto them, and take thy stand in a pure and mighty sanctuary. Though thou must associate with such as these outwardly, be thou inwardly opposed to their desires and dwell in solitary dignity, for such as these are like unto dust, and thy Lord loveth to cleanse thy robe from this thick and heavy cloud of dust. Then act thou according to what We have commanded thee at the end of the Holy Tablet, and be thou possessed of manifest power. Beware lest thou see in thy power aught save the power of thy Lord, or in thy traces aught save the traces of God, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Invincible.

Thus have We rained down upon thee from the clouds of holiness that wherewith the hearts of them that are nigh unto God are refreshed. The barren earth hath no portion of this mercy that hath encompassed all created things, nor of this blessed and mighty rain that poureth down.

BH02585: O handmaiden of God! Bear witness within thyself…

O handmaiden of God! Bear witness within thyself that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Dominant, the Inaccessible, and that the Sovereign of the Bayan, through His remembrance and glory, then His light and radiance, then His might and sublimity, then His command and grandeur, belongeth

unto all who are in the heavens and on earth. Know thou that We have arrived in the prison of the idolaters through what the hands of those who disbelieved and associated partners with God and corrupted and were among the corrupt have wrought. O my handmaiden! Remember My days at morn and eventide, then weep over My separation and My exile in this distant land. Remember My sitting among you, then My rising in the presence of those who love Me, then My melodies and My songs which caused the eyes of those near to God to shed tears.

Forget not My movements among you, nor My walking before you, nor My sweet fragrances at all times. Say: By God! The eyes of contingent beings have not witnessed the like of what ye have witnessed, nor the eyes of the mystics, and the ear of creation hath not heard the like of what ye have heard, nor the ears of the believers. O My handmaiden! How canst thou raise thy head from thy bed when thou findest Me not in the house, and how canst thou pass the evening when thou beholdest not the Sun of My Beauty rising from the house? Art thou able to look upon My seat empty of Me? Alas, alas for what hath befallen the City and its people, if they but knew!

Know thou that tribulations have encompassed Me in the secret and the secret of secrets, and likewise in the manifest and the manifest of the manifest, and none knoweth them save God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

O guest! Preserve the Covenant of God in thy heart and mind and strive mightily to protect the Cause of God. In complete unity, remain occupied with the remembrance of the Beloved and dwell in the highest paradise of nearness and the garden of eternity. Although the fragrance of unity was not inhaled from the men dwelling in the house, and for some time the odors of discord have wafted from the hearts of those who tarry, and for this reason the utmost sadness hath appeared—all matters are clear and evident before God. He knoweth the treachery of eyes and what the breasts conceal, and unto Him return all affairs. The purpose hath ever been and will ever be the unity of the loved ones, for if this matter is not achieved, nothing is achieved. God willing, we hope that hereafter they will act contrary to before. The matter is in God's hands.

Convey sublime remembrance to Sister Aliyyih. A circle was sent—deliver it to her and remember all the women among the loved ones.

BH02588: O Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of that servant…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of that servant whom I loved before the creation of the heavens and whom I love now, for verily Thou art the One endowed with great bounty. Say: We have indeed sacrificed Our soul in the path of the Beloved, though the people be among the fearful. Say: Would that I might sacrifice myself in His path at every moment and every instant. Say: We fear no one, though Our doubtful servants fear the might of these days. Say: By God! Should all the kings and rulers gather together, He would assuredly come forth with manifest sovereignty and stand before their faces, declaring:

> "I have come to you from the Dawning-Place of the Unseen with a command from God and a mighty proof."

And I would speak among them as I speak now, and God is witness to what I say.

Say: Blessed is the hour wherein the Youth sacrifices himself in the path of God, the King, the Just, the All-Wise, and blessed is the moment wherein the blood of the Youth is shed for love of the Beloved of the worlds. How wonderful would be that hour wherein the Youth lies prostrate upon the dust before God, the Goal of the mystics! By My Beloved! I verily desire to sacrifice Myself in His path in place of all the worlds, were ye to understand. It grieves Me that anyone should be slain in God's path while I remain on earth, for this saddens My heart and darkens My days, were ye to be certain.

And upon thee, O Youth, be the praise of God and My praise, then the praise of all the worlds, for thou hast remained steadfast in the love of God and wert not affected in thy heart by the whisperings of the evil ones. Grieve not for anything, for He hath verily protected thee and protected him whom thou didst desire, who was named Javad, and thus was He powerful over all things. Then he appeared before the Face, and the lights of the beauty of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great, shone upon him, and he heard from this Most Glorious Horizon the words of God, the Most Exalted, the Most High, and witnessed from this Most Resplendent Dawning-Place the countenance of his Lord, the Most High, the All-Knowing.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then summon the people to the holy court. Beware lest thou be disturbed by the clamor of the oppressors, for thy Lord will seize them with power from Him and sovereignty from His presence, and He is the most severe in retribution. Soon will His Cause be exalted in truth and His mention elevated between the heavens and the earth, and His loved ones will be honored thereby. This is a promise from Me, and He hath power over all things. And upon thee and upon those who are with thee among the assured lovers of God be glory.

BH02592: This is what was revealed for the handmaid…

This is what was revealed for the handmaid of God, the daughter of My messenger. He is the One Who commands in truth.

O My handmaid, pass beyond that which is apparent and turn thy gaze towards the inner reality. Behold the beauty of the loved ones of God with the eye of truth. If outwardly they do not have the best of looks, inwardly they manifest such beauty that makes them the envy of all those who are beloved. The physical beauty is adored by lust and passion, but spiritual beauty is loved by God. Now which one wilt thou choose? Of course, that which is chosen by the Beloved has been and will ever be desired by His loved ones. Know thou that the outward beauty is a worldly phenomenon; its appearance seems ornamented, adorned and beautiful, but causes the foot of whosoever behold it to slip and his head laid off.

One of the chosen ones saw the world one day in its utmost physical beauty and declared it to be most adorned and beautiful. At that moment, through divine inspiration, he was moved to ask it to appear in its true form. When it appeared in its true form, he fled from it and sought refuge in God from its countenance and its emanations.

The loved ones of God, though they may not be accepted by people, are accepted in the sight of God, and if they were to appear in their true form, by God, no one would be capable of beholding the lights of their countenance. God is sufficient as a witness to this.

O handmaid of God! You are related to the Truth, and those who are related to the Truth must appear before people with His attributes and fix their gaze upon His love. Wherever His love is found, there is the divine Joseph whom God will raise up in His image. Verily, He has power over all things.

Behold My loved ones with Mine eyes. Be kind to the Guide, for the Beauty of Divine Unity has appeared for unity and fellowship. God has ever desired ease and comfort for His loved ones, that in these fleeting days they might conduct themselves with utmost love and fellowship toward one another. The purpose of this most great Manifestation has been unity and harmony, not separation and discord. Though the Spirit of God is in prison and afflicted with countless trials, yet He desires His loved ones to be in comfort and at ease, occupied with His remembrance and praise.

The Spirit be upon thee and upon thy father and thy mother and thy sister and thy brother who have migrated with God, and upon the handmaids of God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds who are devoted to Him. Joy and gladness and delight be yours, while sorrow and imprisonment and grief be for the Beloved of the mystics. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02612: Glorified be He in Whose hand is the dominion…

He is the Mighty, the Beautiful!

Glorified be He in Whose hand is the dominion of the kingdom of the heavens and earth, and He is indeed knowing of all things. His is the bounty and grace—He giveth to whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He willeth, and He is indeed independent of all worlds.

Say: O people! Hearken unto the call of God from this exalted, blessed Tree which hath grown in the holy land, the station of praiseworthy nearness, that there is none other God but Him, and that the Point of the Bayan is His Self and His Beauty, and that which was hidden is His manifestation and His sovereignty between the heavens and earth, and thus was the Command from the Tree of Fire in the Spot of Light made manifest.

Say: This is a Tablet whereon God hath manifested Himself with the lights of holy beloved-ness. Say: When God manifested Himself upon the mountain it was instantly crushed and became scattered dust, but this Tablet God hath made the place of His manifestation in this moment, and He manifesteth Himself upon it from the Ancient Beauty through that which appeareth from this Pen which was at that time intimate with the Finger of God.

O people of the earth! Fear God and follow not the steps of your own selves, but follow the Command of Him Who was dawning from the Dayspring of God. Say: Nothing in the earth shall profit you this Day even if ye take all the worlds as your helpers, nor shall the means of the heavens and earth assist you even if ye make them your supporters, except that ye enter beneath the shadow of this Countenance Who is established in the prison according to what was written in the Tablets. Enter ye therefore into the religion of God, then follow what was ordained in the Bayan and was sent down from the holy heaven. Deprive not yourselves of the Sacred House of God, differ not in the Cause of God, and cast not the pages of God behind your backs—this is My command upon you and upon all the worlds.

O people! We were among you for successive years and were with you as one of you—and God is witness to what I say—and in every moment ye visited upon Me that which none hath visited upon another, as though I were imprisoned in the prison of your selves, until We called upon God in the holy morn and the eve of nearness, until He delivered Us from those who disbelieved, until We arrived in this prison which was raised behind the mountains. And We thank God for this and praise Him for what hath transpired, and We are patient through His might and power, and We remember Him at every rising and setting.

And the Spirit be upon you, O people of the Bayan, that ye may walk the paths of praiseworthy glory and the extended pathway of holiness.

BH02632: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved! This is the Book of God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, unto all who are in the heavens and on earth, that through it honored servants may be quickened and those who slumber may arise from the couches of heedlessness.

Say: Through the Word of God are drawn those servants who are as the essence of creation, in all that was and will be. Say: Verily the Word is God's magnet between the heavens and the earth, did ye but know it. Through it God draws unto Him the essence of what He hath created and casts aside the dross—this is of His justice, though ye understand not, save when ye drink from the Kawthar of inner meanings from the cups of the utterance of your Lord, the Mighty, the Loving.

They who have disbelieved—these are the dead. If they find the path of God they take it not for their path, but if they see the path of idle fancy, that is the path they tread. When the melody of God is raised they heed it not, remaining heedless thereof, but when the braying of asses is heard, then do they hearken. This is because they have turned away from the All-Merciful and taken Satan for their helper. Thus have their souls enticed them, yet they perceive it not.

Say: O people! The Beloved hath appeared in manifest glory, and before Him march the hosts of divine revelation and inspiration, while behind Him advance the hosts of the unseen with upraised standards. Fear ye God, follow not the promptings of your souls, and be not of them that wander distracted in every valley.

Rejoice, O people of Baha, in this Most Exalted Paradise, which hath been adorned with the ornaments of realities and utterance. Thus hath it been ordained for you by God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved. Whoso entereth therein shall never leave it, and whoso leaveth it hath never truly entered. Thus hath the matter been decreed in a Tablet wherein is inscribed what hath been veiled from the eyes of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

Turn not thy gaze from the Most Great Vision, then drink the water of Kawthar in the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Pure, and fear not the idolaters. Thus have We taught thee in truth that thou mayest stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord and be detached from all the worlds.

Arise to promote the Cause, then gather the servants unto the law of God, and be as the spring breezes unto them, that their souls may be renewed through the ornament of the name of the All-Merciful in

these days, the Inaccessible, the Mighty. Beware lest anything hold thee back from that which thou hast been commanded. In all matters place thy trust in God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Shatter the idols by My power, then rend asunder the veils by My strength, then tear away the shrouds of vain imaginings by My Name and My sovereignty, and be not of the patient ones.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have soared in this subtle and gentle atmosphere.

BH02637: This is a Book sent down from before God…

In the Name of God, the Most Ancient, the Ancient!

This is a Book sent down from before God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, unto him who hath believed in God, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved. Follow none save Him, then sever thyself from those who have denied the signs of God after their revelation and who have disbelieved in the presence of God. Know thou that the idolaters have transgressed against Him through Whom their names were exalted and their traces made manifest, and have reached such heights of vainglory that the eye of creation hath never beheld its like. Among them are those who have said:

> "I shall send down the like of what God hath sent down."

Thus do they speak.

Open thou thy tongue with utterance amidst the concourse of creation and say: O people! The clouds of idle fancies have been rent asunder and the Lord of all beings hath come with manifest sovereignty. Fear ye God and deny Him not after His appearance. Thus have ye been commanded in all the Tablets, would ye but perceive. He desireth naught from you save that ye should turn unto God, your Lord, if ye be of them that are assured.

There hath befallen Him in the Cause of God that which hath befallen no one else, as attested by honored servants. Say: I have been imprisoned four times, culminating in this imprisonment, as ye have heard and continue to hear. Say: Is there any doubt concerning this Revelation, or concerning Him Who hath sent it down in truth? Woe unto you and that which occupieth you! Cast the world behind you, then turn unto God, the Lord of the Last and the First. This is better for you than that which ye desire and love.

Stand firm in the Cause of God, that perchance through thee the fire may be kindled in the hearts of them that slumber upon the couch of heedlessness and are far removed from the shore of nearness. Grieve not over anything in thy Lord's path and fear not. Say: The Cause is in His hands—He protecteth whom He willeth through the hosts of power and might. There is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

Those who have turned away from this Cause shall soon be seized by the blasts of chastisement from every direction, and they shall then cry out for help. Thus have We sent down the verses unto thee that thou mayest stand firm in the Cause of God and summon the people to the court of grace, a station of glorious dignity.

Convey Our glorification to the loved ones of God, then give them the glad-tidings of this sacred, mighty, and inevitable Cause, and of the light that hath shone forth from the holy horizon. Upon thee and upon

those who have believed in God in these days wherein the feet of every knowing one have slipped save those whom God hath preserved through His grace and delivered from the tempests of idle fancy. Verily, there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Forgiving.

BH02660: O Siyyid Muhammad-ʿAli! The Most High Pen calls out…

O Siyyid Muhammad-ʿAli! The Most High Pen calls out to all who are on earth and in heaven: Worship none but God, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Great. He has appeared in truth with a sovereignty that none can deny save those who have denied God and His chosen ones among the Prophets and Messengers.

O servants of the All-Merciful! Hasten to the remembrance of the Most Great One and follow not those who have disbelieved in God, the King, the Just, the All-Wise. Beware lest anything prevent you from turning toward God. Hearken unto the words of this Youth, Who calls you to that which is better for you than all that hath been created between the heavens and earth. Cast the world behind you, then turn unto God, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

Grieve not over the world and what befalleth therein. Observe and reflect upon its passing and its changes, O company of the knowing ones! Who hath laughed therein and not wept? Who hath built and not perished? It and all that is therein shall pass away at every moment, yet the people are in manifest heedlessness. How many a palace hath been emptied, how many a spring hath dried up! He who amasseth therein loseth, while he who spendeth is accounted among the beneficent. Be not reassured by its prosperity nor disturbed by its loss. Every sharp sword therein groweth dull, every joy turneth to weariness, every swift steed stumbleth, and every learned one erreth. Leave it to its people, O companions of truth and certitude!

O Nabil-i-ʿAli! Hearken unto My call from the precincts of the Prison, that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent. Turn not to the right or to the left, but set thy face toward thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most High. He is the Everlasting that perisheth not. Hold fast unto the word of piety and follow not those who follow their own selves and desires. Thus doth the Dove counsel thee in this luminous Tablet. Cast aside the book of the transgressors and take the Tablet of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One, with manifest strength.

Then arise above the horizon of love with the mention of the name of thy Lord, the Most High. Say: O people of creation! The Creator of all things hath come with mighty sovereignty. Then give thanks unto God for having connected thee with Him Whom God hath purified from every wicked, ungrateful sinner, and hath illumined his countenance with the lights of His beauty, and caused him to know the Manifestation of His Self, and enabled him to speak His praise amongst the worlds. The light which hath shone forth from the horizon of sanctity be upon thee and upon those who have held fast to the Most Great Handle in these days wherein the faces of the proud have been altered. And praise be to God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment and the Beloved of the worlds.

BH02707: In the name of Him Who is manifest above…

In the name of Him Who is manifest above all things! This is a Book from God unto him who hath believed in his Lord, who hath been guided by the guidance of the Spirit, and who was mentioned in the Tablets among those who are guided. God hath caused him to speak His praise amongst the servants and hath made him recognize the Manifestation of His Self in days wherein all were deprived of the breezes of the Spirit, save those whom the hand of grace had seized and preserved from the darkness wherefrom the odors of unbelief were wafted from the direction of misbelief.

O servant! Thy letter hath come before Us and We have learned of thy love for God. Thus should it be with those who have believed in God, who have detached themselves from whatsoever is repugnant to His good-pleasure, who have shattered the idols of misbelief through God's power, and who have turned with their hearts toward the holy court. These are servants whom God shall raise to a station that is in truth praiseworthy.

Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having aided thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self, after the Sinaitic spirits fell unconscious upon the dust of heedlessness and the spirits of light were annihilated in the wilderness of misbelief. Thus was the matter decreed from the presence of the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling.

Say: O people! Fear God and associate not with Him unto Whose face ye bow down at eventide and at dawn, and oppose not Him Whom ye remember throughout all your days and Whose verses ye recite that were sent down in preserved tablets of glory. Strive within thyself lest the whisperings of Satan cause thee to slip from thy Lord's path, the All-Merciful, for he hath appeared in every city in a different form and garment. Thus do We inform thee of the truth that thou mayest become aware of that which was hidden from the eyes of the heedless. Soon shall the call be raised in every city and thou shalt find the people fearful and trembling from the power of the Cause. Thus was the matter irrevocably decreed in the Tablets.

Take heed lest thou grieve over what hath befallen thee in God's path. Verily nothing escapeth thy Lord's knowledge and He is indeed cognizant of all things. Be patient, then show forth patience, and place thy trust in God in all matters. Verily He watcheth over thee. Should thou find one who is receptive, impart unto him the words of thy Lord, and shouldst thou find one who turneth away, pay no heed to him and dispute not with him. Be thou firmly established in wisdom. Thus have We commanded thee and mentioned thee that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be mindful of thy Lord's remembrance at all times.

And glory be upon thee and upon those whom the veils of every distant misbeliever have not prevented from entering the sanctuary of holiness.

BH02709: He is the One Who stands by the Truth!…

He is the One Who stands by the Truth! This is a Book from the Primal Point unto one of the servants of God, that he may be attracted by the melodies of God, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Say: By God! He was not the father of any of your men, and the eyes of Grandeur and Glory have been

solaced by Him from behind the pavilions of exalted might. Verily He appeared once in the name of Ali, once in the name of Muhammad, and once in the name of the Spirit, if ye but knew.

O people! Fear God and shed not His blood, nor hang Him as ye hanged Him before, and deny not what hath been sent down unto you from God, the Mighty, the Beloved. O people! Have mercy upon yourselves and oppose not Him through Whom the faith of all who are in the heavens and on earth was fulfilled, and unto Whose grace all do turn. Follow Him Who asketh no recompense from you and conveyeth unto you what the Spirit hath cast into His illumined and praiseworthy breast.

Open your eyes and behold the Cause of your Creator with your own eyes, not with the eyes of them that are veiled by their own selves. Purify your ears from the words of those from whom ye detect the odor of perfidy, then hearken unto the melodies of God, your Creator, and be fair in His Cause. He commandeth you naught save what ye were commanded by God, and at every moment He conveyeth unto you that which draweth you nigh unto your Lord, the All-Merciful, and sanctifieth you from the breaths of them that join partners with their Lord.

O people! Aid your Lord, the All-Merciful, and abandon not His Cause into the hands of them that soar in the atmosphere of idle fancies and desire to turn men away from the Ridvan of God, the King, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Convey the Cause of your Lord and be not silent concerning the wonders of His remembrance, and be not of them that remain silent. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, created the tongue for His remembrance—remember Him and withhold not yourselves from the shore of His grace, and follow not every rejected denier.

Thus doth the Dove counsel you upon the branches of the Tree of Eternity, that haply the holy breaths may draw you away and bring you nigh unto the summit of intimacy, the scene of your Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved. Thus have We cast upon thee the truth that thine eyes may be solaced thereby and thy heart be at rest, and that thou mayest be severed from them that are not guided by the signs of God. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that have believed in God and heard His melodies from the direction of His Throne, and were stirred by their longing and ardor in the love of God, the Lord of the Beginning and the End, and the Lord of the angels and the Spirit.

BH02710: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! This is a Book from Us to those who are in the heavens and on earth. In it the Youth calls the servants of the All-Merciful to the right side of God's Sacred Spot, the All-Possessing, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

O people! Hear My call and follow that which ye have been commanded in the Book of God. Then shun those who join partners with God. Were the people to purify their ears and hearken to My call, it would surely draw them to the Seat of the Command, a station of glorious might. By His call the near ones soar into the atmosphere of holiness and nearness, and by it are attracted the hearts of those who turn unto Him.

O people! Follow not your desires, but follow your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted. He will suffice you above all that hath been created on earth, would that ye might understand. Sanctify your vision and

turn toward the court of your Chosen Lord. Be not of those who are as the dead. Verily he who answereth not God when he heareth His call is indeed as one dead. Thus hath it been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen on a preserved and glorious Tablet. Rend asunder the veils of allusions and sanctify your souls from the words of those who follow the evil of their own selves and yet show pride before God.

O Ali! When the Book of God reacheth thee, take it with the power bestowed by Him. Then present thyself at the place where are gathered the enemies of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised. Say: O people! Fear ye God and hesitate not in a Cause which was promised you in all the Tablets and by which were gladdened the eyes of the denizens of Paradise and those who circle round the Throne. Then bring forth the Tablet by thy Lord's leave. Say: I have brought you God's Tablet and His traces. Have mercy on yourselves and dispute not about verses at which minds are stupefied. We know not by what proof ye believed in God's Messengers of old, nor in what valley ye do walk. If thou findest them stirred by the breezes of the Lord of Names and Attributes, then impart unto them that which will draw them nigh unto God. Otherwise, leave them to themselves, then turn toward God. He will suffice thee above what was and what will be.

Say: Verily He is in His Essence independent of all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth, though His names seek existence. Drink thou the water of life from the hand of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Then stay firm in the Cause and be not of the heedless. Radiant glory rest upon him who hath turned toward the Sacred Court and who is of those who hasten unto the path of truth. Praise be to God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH02736: O Siyyid Muhammad-ʿAli, upon him be the Glory…

O Siyyid Muhammad-ʿAli, upon him be the Glory of God! He is the Most Exalted, the Most High! Hearken unto what this Prisoner calleth out to thee, purely for the sake of thy Lord, that thou mayest discover the fragrance of love from the garment of words and be of them that rejoice.

Bear thou witness unto that which God did testify before the creation of all things, that there is none other God but Him, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. This is the Word whereby the realities of all things were raised up and through which the Prophets and Messengers were sent forth. Were men to purify their ears to hearken unto it, they would all detach themselves from their possessions and their own selves, and would ascend unto God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the All-Powerful, the Most Potent.

Stand thou firm in the Cause of God and His love, then leave the idolaters behind thee. Thus hath it been sent down aforetime, and now as a mercy from His presence unto all the worlds. If thou wouldst turn with the ear of divine nature unto all created things, thou wouldst hear from every atom thereof what the Interlocutor heard.

Say: O people! I am verily the Youth of God, Who hath come unto you with clear signs and a perspicuous Book. I manifested Myself aforetime under the name of ʿAli and took from all in the world, by His tongue, the covenant of My Self. Among them some were veiled and some turned towards God, and they that turned are now in gardens of delight.

O people! He is My Beloved and I am His Beloved. Whatsoever appeareth from Me is His purpose preserved in tablets of glory. He spoke not except in praise of Me, and I speak not except in remembrance of Him, the Inaccessible, the Most High. May my soul be a sacrifice for Him! He neglected not to take the covenant of My Self, as attesteth that which His tongue hath spoken and which hath flowed from His transcendent, mighty and wondrous Pen.

O servant! Preserve thou this Tablet, then read it, that the words of thy Lord may attract thee. Verily, He attracteth whom He willeth by His command, and He is in truth the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Stand thou firm in such wise that the tempests of opposition, which blow continually from the direction of them that have disbelieved in God openly while clinging to His verses to prove their cause, and who slay His own Self, the Mighty, the Most High, shall not move thee. Say: O people! Nothing shall profit you this Day, nor is there any protector for anyone save God, the Mighty, the Generous. Flee ye from all things unto His Self. Verily doth God cause His detached servants to flee.

Thus have We made mention of thee in this Prison, that thou mayest rejoice in having been remembered and be of them that read. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH02739: O emigrant servant! Hearken unto the call of this…

He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

O emigrant servant! Hearken unto the call of this Youth at the time when there appeared before Him some of the wondrous bounties while He was eating, and He speaketh that which the Spirit hath spoken within His beloved breast. By God! No affair distracteth Him from the remembrance of His Lord. While eating He remembereth, and while sleeping He remaineth in praise of His Lord, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Say: O people of the Bayan! That which was present at that moment before His face was but a piece of bread and a small amount of cheese. We eat and give thanks unto our Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Do not fabricate lies against Me as ye fabricated before, objecting to Me and to all that appeared from Me, even eating and drinking, and thereby ye cursed yourselves but ye perceive it not.

And unto him who came unto Us, We gave him to drink of Chinese tea, and if there was food We fed him, purely for the love of their souls, for God's sake, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Beloved. Yet they objected to Me and mocked God and desired to diminish God's honor amongst His servants.

Say: Woe unto you, O people, for ye have been veiled from that for which ye were created in the preserved tablets of might. Ye have done unto My person that which no one hath done unto anyone, and ye have said that which even the idolaters said not, after He created all things for Myself and My loved ones, as beareth witness to this all that was revealed before, if ye but understand.

Say: Days passed over Us when nothing was present before Us with which to feed ourselves, if ye but know. And how many were the days when diverse bounties were present before Us, and We were grateful in both conditions, if ye but recognize. Once We wore silk after it was presented before Us, and once We found no garment to change into, and We mentioned it not to anyone and concealed it to

preserve God's Cause, the Guardian, the Self-Subsisting, though in His hand was the key to the treasures of the heavens and earth, as ye yourselves have witnessed and do witness.

Say: We thank Him at all times and in all that descendeth upon Us. Die in your wrath, then burn in the fire that consumeth your very beings at every moment, but ye understand not.

O servant! Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having caused thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self and made thee to be of those who are assured. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee, male and female.

BH02740: In the Name of God, the Exalted, the Great!...

In the Name of God, the Exalted, the Great! Grieve not, but rather rejoice. We were with thee when thou wert tried at the hands of the idolaters. Verily, He forgets not His servants who have turned unto Him, and He is with His God-fearing servants. Whatsoever hath befallen thee in the path of God hath been inscribed by the Pen of Destiny upon the Tablet of His decree, and He does not suffer to be lost the reward of the well-doers.

Put thy trust in God in all matters, then reflect upon that which hath befallen the Beloved of the worlds. Those whom the world and its ornaments have deluded—God shall soon return them to dust and cut them off from all they have amassed. Thy Lord is, verily, powerful over all things. They shall find for themselves neither friend nor helper, and the breezes of chastisement shall seize them from every direction. Thus hath the matter been decreed by One Who is mighty and wise.

Be thou grateful to thy Lord in all conditions for having made thee to know the Manifestation of His Self and for having numbered thee among the sincere ones. Be thou steadfast in the Cause through God's power and might, in such wise that shouldst thou be opposed by all who are on earth, thou wouldst not be perturbed in thy soul but remain steadfast with manifest constancy. Thus it behooveth those who claim relationship with God—these are His sincere servants.

Say: O people! Create not disorder in the land and oppose not those who have opposed God. Leave them to themselves—they are among the dead. Commit not that whereby the dignity of the Cause will be lost among the people. Fear God and be not of the wrongdoers. The shedding of blood hath been forbidden in the Tablet. Beware lest ye transgress that which hath been set down in the Book. Do that which ye have been commanded by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

O people! Cast not behind your backs the ways of God, neither follow your own ways. Thus have ye been commanded in all the Tablets, if ye be of them that comprehend. Should ye find one who is receptive, turn ye unto him and remind him with wisdom and utterance, and shun the rejecters. Verily, those who create disorder in the land—the harm of their deeds reverteth upon the Tree of the Cause, and this is indeed a grievous wrong.

Be ye among the servants with joy and radiance such that the gladness of paradise may be perceived in your faces. Thus doth your Lord, the All-Merciful, command you, and this is best for you, if ye be of them that know. And the light be upon thee and upon God's successful servants.

BH02742: O youth! Hearken unto the call of this Youth…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

O youth! Hearken unto the call of this Youth from this darksome, hellish Prison, and be not of the heedless ones. Verily, He it is Who speaketh in all things: “I am God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.” Beware lest thou forget what hath appeared in those days.

Say: The Sun hath dawned from the horizon of holiness with manifest radiance. Blessed is he who hath been illumined by its lights and hath dwelt beneath its shade and is of them that have turned unto it. Guard thyself lest the putrid waters flowing from the mouths of the signs of them that have turned away extinguish it.

Hearken unto the call of God from this Lote-Tree which burneth and blazeth in the wilderness of eternity, from thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Generous. Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord, then remind the people of this mighty Cause.

Say: O people! All good hath been embodied in the Temple of the Youth, even as ye were promised in the Bayan, did ye but know it. He spake, and His Word is the truth: “In the year nine ye shall attain unto all good,” if ye be of them that turn unto Him. Say: The Pen of God moved only to make mention of Me and to praise and glorify Me. Read ye the Tablets that ye may be of them that are informed.

Beware lest ye deny the verses of the All-Merciful after they have been sent down in truth with mighty sovereignty. Say: He Himself hath been a proof unto all the worlds, and what hath appeared from Him is evidence of Him, would ye but be assured. Say: He alone hath stood up amidst the hosts of enemies and hath aided His Lord until He was imprisoned in this far-off land.

Beware, O people, lest ye render your deeds null and void and reject the truth by what ye possess. Fear God, O concourse of believers! Place not your trust in what ye possess, but in that which is with your Lord, the All-Merciful, and it shall suffice you in truth and make you independent of all creation.

Whoso harboureth My love in his heart, the denizens of the Concourse on high shall inhale its fragrance, then the dwellers of the cities of eternity, then Our servants who glorify God. Purify thy heart from the allusions of them who have disbelieved, then rend asunder the veils suddenly through My power and sovereignty, and fear not the oppressors. He will aid thee in truth, and victory is from none but Him, and His victory through the believers is nigh.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the Word of truth that thou mayest follow what thou hast been commanded by God, the Mighty, the Wise. And glory be upon thee and upon God’s sincere servants.

BH02744: In the Name of God, the Most Holy! O…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy! O Mihdi! Your letter hath come before Us, and We have taken note of its contents and have answered thee with this Tablet that thy heart may rejoice and thou mayest be of them that are gladdened.

I render My plaint unto thee concerning those who claim to love Me yet commit that which grieveth My heart, who follow their own desires and abandon that which they were commanded by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise. Thou knowest that should people witness any unseemly act from those who claim to love Me, they would attribute it to Mine own oppressed and lonely Self.

Say: O people! True virtue lieth not in claims but in godliness and in following My glorious path between earth and heaven, and in being a banner of guidance in the kingdom of creation. This is what God desireth for those who have entered the stronghold of My Cause and then the garden of their Lord's good-pleasure, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Peerless, the Wondrous.

Say: O people! Fear God and contend not with anyone, nor wage war against any soul. Leave the world and all that is therein to its people, and spread not corruption in the land after it hath been set in order. Be ye of them that are detached. Remind the people with goodly counsel and transgress not what ye have been commanded in the Tablets. Be not of the heedless.

Say: O people! If ye believe in God, follow what We enjoin upon you in truth and follow not the ways of the corrupt. Hold fast to the handhold of godliness—verily it is the ladder unto the source of names and attributes. This is My counsel unto you, if ye be of them that act.

Know then that the mewing of cats hath been raised up, then the barking of dogs, and behind them the howling of wolves, then the grunting of swine—if thou be of them that hear. How then can the shrill voice of the Pen be heard in mention of the mysteries of pre-existence? Fie upon them who have disbelieved in God and deprived themselves of the melodies of wondrous glory. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from those who disbelieved and from what they possess, and hath made his deeds pure for the sake of God, the Powerful, the Supreme, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Thus have We imparted to thee and informed thee of what hath befallen Us, that thou mayest inform the people, that they may stand firm in the Cause and be of them that are steadfast. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them who have believed in God and have entered there from among the loved ones of God. Give them glad-tidings from Us and glorify their faces on behalf of this Prisoner, the Remote, the Stranger.

BH02745: O Nabil (the Most Great)! Hearken unto the call…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

O Nabil (the Most Great)! Hearken unto the call of thy Glorious Lord from the direction of the Throne, then hear what the Spirit imparts unto thee that it may cause thee to soar in the atmosphere of longing, attraction and immortality, and establish thee in the Cause of God in such wise that thou shalt behold the worlds behind thee. Thus hath the Bird of the Throne warbled in its love for thee, that thou mayest be of them that know.

Then know thou that what We informed thee of before hath come to pass, and with thy Lord is the knowledge of what was and what shall be, but most of the people are in a mighty veil. We did inform thee before that the wolf would emerge from the thicket of hypocrisy, and lo, it hath emerged therefrom. The

curse of God be upon them all! But thou, turn not unto these people, then stand firm in thy Lord's Cause and be righteous as thou wert before, that perchance the people may perceive within themselves and not deny God, the Powerful, the Most High, the Great.

By God the Truth! The idolaters possess naught save what Al-Baqir spoke of before, and thus have their souls made a matter seem fair unto them, and they were among the lost. Thou, abandon what they possess and ascend unto the horizon of remembrance and utterance, then open the gates of tongue and heart and be not of them that are silent.

Say: O people! He hath appeared by one letter of Whom was created that which ye worship besides God, your Lord, the Most High, the All-Wise. Say: Have ye not heard that We have rolled up the carpet of the Furqan and spread another carpet, as a grace from Us to all the worlds? Say: O people! Be ye ashamed before God and speak not what the tongues of the people of the Furqan have spoken, but detach yourselves from what ye possess and turn unto the Beauty of the All-Merciful, Who hath dawned from the horizon of paradise with a holy and luminous beauty.

Then know thou that thy letter hath come before Us and We have learned what was therein. God shall soon reward thee with the best of rewards. He is the Guardian of the sincere ones. We have sent down for every soul mentioned in thy letter a Tablet that all the kingdoms of the heavens and earth cannot equal. However, We have not sent it due to corruption that hath appeared in the Letter T. We shall send it when God willeth and desireth. He is the best of senders.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that are with thee and upon them that have drunk the sealed wine from thy fingers through this Name, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing.

BH02746: In the Name of the one God! O Ahmad!…

In the Name of the one God! O Ahmad! Thou hast heard many Persian words from the tongue of the All-Oneness, and drunk from the chalices of divine utterance the living waters of wondrous meanings. Now observe—doth a single letter thereof equal all that hath appeared in the earth of exposition and the heavens of explanation? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds!

Consider carefully the words of him who hath associated partners with God, which he wrote to thee, that thou mayest discern from the repugnance of his words the repugnance of his soul. God is Most Great! The weak and ugly bird hath claimed equality with the eagle soaring in the holy and sanctified heaven, and the perishing ant hath claimed the station of Solomon! Say: O thou who hath associated partners with God! The barren earth can never immerse itself in the holy divine sea, nor will it ever be able to do so. Know thy worth and station, and transgress not beyond thy rank. Rise not in rebellion against the King through one word of Whose command a hundred thousand like thee have been created. This is the mighty decree that hath issued from the Most Great Pen.

Say: O thou rejected one, essence of Nimrod and manifestation of all Jews! Dost thou say God's hand is chained up? Chained up be thine own limited hand! Thou hast disbelieved in what thou hast said. Seest thou not that God's hand is outstretched in truth over all the worlds?

In brief, thou and the other loved ones must guard yourselves well in these ephemeral days from the devastating winds that blow from the direction of the manifestations of misbelief.

O Ahmad! Be steadfast in the Cause of God thy Lord, and in all times soar in the atmosphere of His love. Then drink from the choice wine of His bounty, then speak forth in His praise, then make mention of the wonders of His Cause, then thank Him for having made thee to be mentioned before Him and for having made thee to be among the successful ones. Leave the ungodly and their idols behind thee, for this will profit thee in this world and the next. Then ascend at all times to thy abode, the station which God hath purified from every stubborn denier. At all times be engaged in the remembrance of the All-Merciful and summon the people to the direction of the All-Glorious. This is the fruit of human existence in this time and all times.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those whom the breezes of forgiveness, wafting from the Ridvan of the Command from God, the Mighty, the All-Glorious, have purified. And praise be to God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH02749: O Hasan! Praise the Beloved, for in successive years…

He is the Sorrowful One

O Hasan! Praise the Beloved, for in successive years thou wert present before the throne of the All-Merciful, and in all nights and days thou didst attain unto the presence of God. At sunrise thy gaze was fixed upon the Most Great Scene and thy heart was turned toward the right hand of the throne. Praise be to God that thou didst attain unto this most great bounty, for which there is no equal. Now hearken unto the call of the All-Merciful, and grieve not at separation from the Glory of the All-Glorious, and be not dismayed by the irrevocable decree of destiny. Sacrifice heart and soul in the good-pleasure of the Friend. Fix thy gaze upon the Sovereign of His Command and be severed from all else besides Him.

O Hasan! Thou didst come with joy and delight; return thou to the City of the All-Merciful and inform the people of the trials that have befallen, that perchance they may arise to aid this Wronged One, this Stranger, this Lonely One. O Hasan! Although separation from the Luminary of the horizons is difficult, yet His command is even as nearness and reunion with the Beloved and the Desired One. Be thou content with His command, and exchange lamentation and grief and agitation for patience and resignation. Be confident in the grace of God, for He hath never forgotten and will never forget His loved ones.

The example of thee and the emigrants is like unto a nightingale that hath long been intimate with the rose of the divine beauty in the holy paradise of the Eternal, and suddenly the hand of divine destiny separates them and pronounces the decree of divorce. Although the bearing of this most great burden is very difficult for mortal man, yet My command hath ever been the beloved of the soul of the mystics and the desire of the spirit of the lovers.

O Hasan! Since thou art an emigrant by My command, thou art at all times present before the throne of My good-pleasure. O Hasan! In the treasuries of My Cause are hidden the pearls of wisdom, and none hath discovered them save My All-Knowing, All-Informed Self. Therefore, walk thou in joy and contentment, not in compulsion and complaint.

O Hasan! Walk and dwell in the land with utmost sanctification and detachment, for thou hast for successive years been one who circled round the throne of sanctification. Therefore it behooveth thee to walk in the path of supreme detachment, not in the ways of wickedness and indecency. Act thou according to that which befitteth thee. God willing, mayest thou ever soar in the holy atmosphere of God and walk in the sacred realm of divine intimacy. And the glory be upon thee and upon thy father and upon those who are with thee of thy sister and thy brother.

BH02794: Lawh-i-Gul-i-Mawla

O Gul-i-Mawla! How many were the dervishes who became wanderers in the deserts of longing in remembrance of their Lord, and swimmers in the oceans of yearning, spending their days mentioning the Beloved in cities and marketplaces, yet never attained His presence in His days. Some did not recognize the days of the Spirit, and some, through their own heedlessness, remained veiled from the knowledge and presence of the Beloved even after recognizing the days of God.

But you, O My Flower [Gul], have attained to the divine holy Ridvan and inhaled the fragrance of the flowers of divine wisdom. Your separation was transformed to union, your remoteness joined to presence, your distance changed to nearness, and your sorrow turned to joy. All those souls were gathered unto you, and through you all were assembled and returned before God. Such is the all-encompassing grace of your Lord which has encompassed all the heavens and earth and what lies above them of thrones and chairs and their bearers. And We have bestowed reward in this pure and blessed leaf upon all who have been designated by this name from the beginning that has no beginning until the end that has no end.

We have named this blessed night the Night of Holiness, and it has been ordained that all dervishes should pass this blessed night and its morning in utmost joy and delight, occupied in remembrance of their Beloved. It is incumbent upon all the loved ones of God to assist these people on this noble festival according to their means and capacity, and prepare themselves through this supreme grace so that on the day of the manifestation of the Most Upright and Most Great Luminary, exalted be His grandeur, they may turn toward God's direction and turn to no direction but His.

This servant has become disappointed with the people of the Bayan, for no sweet fragrance is perceived from this group, save those whom God has assisted. Perchance this party will separate itself from other parties and hasten to the right hand of the Most Holy Throne, which is the seat of that Sovereign of existence, and arrive at the shore of God, which is the place of presence before that Root of the Blessed Tree that is neither of the East nor of the West. O what spirit, then what light, then what blessedness, then what glory be upon those who turn unto Him!

BH02795: This is a letter from the Youth Who hath…

In the Name of the Most High, the Most Exalted

This is a letter from the Youth Who hath sacrificed Himself in the path of God, the King, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting, unto him who hath attained the recognition of God in these days wherein

most of the servants have veiled themselves from turning unto God, the Almighty, the Beloved. Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as the breezes of the All-Merciful have wafted over thee and awakened thee from slumber. This is a bounty that no created thing, whether of the past or future, can equal. Be thou steadfast in thy love for thy Lord, then make mention of Him throughout thy days. Verily, through His remembrance hearts are quickened.

By My life! Were people to know what rank is ordained in this Day for the loved ones of God, they would all detach themselves from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and would turn unto that hallowed and praiseworthy station. Grieve not over what people say. By God, the Truth! They are the ones who sleep. Were they to perceive less than what can be counted, they would weep and lament, then flee from their own selves. As for thee, rejoice in that thou hast attained unto the Cause of God, even though the Youth is in this prison in manifest sorrow.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I am he who hath fled from his self and his desires and turned toward the direction of Thy good-pleasure. Therefore, O my Beloved, deprive me not of what Thou hast ordained for them that are near unto Thee among Thy chosen ones. Thou art, verily, the One Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth. Thou knowest what is within me and witnesseth my state. With Thee is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and Thou art the Truth, the Knower of things unseen. O my Lord! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou hast distinguished between Thy servants, that Thou wilt not remove me from the shore of Thy grace and bounties, nor deprive me of the fragrances that waft forth at all times from the paradise of Thy gifts and favors.

O my Lord! Send down upon me from the clouds of Thy mercy that which will sever me from all else save Thee and draw me nigh unto meeting with Thee in this Day wherein all have denied Thee and Thy signs, save a numbered few. O my Lord! Make me steadfast in Thy love, then cause me to taste the sweetness of Thy remembrance, then raise me to the heaven of Thy nearness and the court of Thy holiness and the place of meeting with Thee and Thy most holy, most glorious, mighty and beloved presence.

Thus have We revealed unto thee in truth that thou mayest read it and be of them that are assured. And the Spirit and mercy be upon thee and upon them that have detached themselves from the world in the path of God, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

BH02802: In the Name of God, the Most Great…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Glorious! This is the Leaf of Paradise which We have sent unto thee, wherein is that which shall gladden thine eyes and the eyes of the believers. Verily it sufficeth as proof for all the worlds. It is a leaf upon which the breezes of God's springtime have blown in His days and moved it as He wished and desired, as a bounty from Him to His near servants.

It is called by all names, wert thou of those who know. At times it is mentioned as the Leaf, at times as the Tablet, and this is a mighty, glorious Tablet. What hath been inscribed therein by the Most Exalted Pen are the jewels of the treasuries of the books of the ancients. Say: This is a river which hath branched from the Most Great Sea, were ye of those who know. And this is the dawning which hath shone forth from the Sun of Grandeur—illumine yourselves by it, O concourse of lovers!

Verily it is detailed from the Preserved Tablet by the command of One mighty and powerful. It is the announcement which hath appeared from this Most Great Announcement, and been sent to His assured lovers. Were God to desire to detail from one word thereof what is hidden in the treasuries of a preserving Tablet, He would be able, for He is the Ruler over what He willeth.

Rejoice thou, then be thou joyful, in that thy name hath been mentioned at the Throne and these verses have been sent down to thee, which none can equal among all that the minds of the believers can comprehend. Were there to be in thy possession the red elixir filling the heavens and earth, and were thou to spend it in the path of God, it would be little compared to My mention of thee from this Most Great Scene—this wondrous, mighty favor.

Arise to remember and praise God, then be thou enkindled by this Fire, each ember of whose embers appeareth as the sun, illumining a world among the worlds of thy Lord which none can reckon save His knowing Self.

Blessed art thou for dwelling in the land which God hath associated with My First Name, who sacrificed himself in My path and by whom all in the heavens and earth were illumined. Verily, those women who descended from him are of My kindred, wert thou of those who know. They have with God thy Lord an exalted, glorious station.

Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth that the melodies of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great, may attract thee. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy wife and upon those who have shattered the idols by My Name and My sovereignty, whom names have not veiled from their Creator, and who were among the triumphant.

BH02827: O Mirza Abu-Talib! In the Name of God…

O Mirza Abu-Talib! In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted! O Abu-Talib! Hearken unto My call from My direction, then stand firm in My love, then be stirred by the breezes of My attraction, then arise to praise My Supreme and Most Great Self. Verily We have not forgotten thee and have mentioned thee before, and mention thee now in this Most Great Tablet that thou mayest know that He loveth His assured servants.

Ask thou God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers, that He may enable thee and those who have believed to stand with mighty steadfastness and not distance you from the court of His presence, neither in this world nor in the next—this being the hope of the hearts of them that are nigh unto God.

Blessed art thou, O servant, in that thou hast turned toward the direction of the House and wert among those who dwelt round about it. Then give thanks to Him in that He delivered thee from His enemies and preserved thee in truth and guided thee to His blessed, mighty and wondrous seat. Remember Him at all times, then convey the Cause of thy Lord with wisdom and utterance. Thus did We command thee before and now, that thou mayest be among those who act.

Beware lest thou dispute with any soul or contend with anyone in teaching the Cause of thy Lord, the Ruler, the All-Wise. Those who wage war and shed blood are in grievous heedlessness. By God! Victory

lieth in expression, not in sword and spear, and thus have We revealed in all the Tablets, yet the people perceived it not and were among the corrupt. And thereby was shed the blood of those a single soul of whom is, in the sight of thy Lord, better than these oppressors, for they claim to believe yet slay its Establisher and Confirmer. Woe unto them from the torment of a grievous day! We have lifted the decree of killing and have ordained victory in what We have revealed in truth, and this is the best victory in the eyes of every discerning one who knows.

Grieve not for what hath befallen thee. Verily thy Lord hath ever known what afflictions have touched thee, and He is informed of all things. There hath befallen thee what befell Us, that thou mightest follow the example of thy Lord in all matters, and this is a great bounty. Beware lest thou grieve over anything, for there shall descend upon thee what hath been ordained for thee in the tablets of destiny, and He is wise over all things.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have drunk from this Salsabil which hath flowed from the fountain of the Pen of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wise.

BH02828: O My handmaiden!

O My handmaiden!

Bear thou witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Glorious. Before Him bow down in adoration all who are in the heavens and on earth. He, verily, is the One, the Most Holy. His is the might and the power. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth. He bestoweth what He desireth upon whom He desireth, and withholdeth the breezes of Paradise from whom He willeth.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, render thanks unto thy Lord at all times, then make mention of Him as doth mention Him this Peacock whose wings have been adorned with the pearls of a holy and praiseworthy sanctity.

Know thou that We have arrived in this Prison which is remote from all and distant. Let not this cause you grief, but be content with what hath been ordained by Him, for this is the ultimate purpose. I remain bewildered in My affair and your affair until there shall appear the firmly-established Command from the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. By God! Such tribulations have descended upon Me as cannot be bounded by any limits.

Remember thou My days, then My beauty, then My rising and sitting, then My reposing and My establishment, then My melodies, then My bowing down and prostration. Let nothing cause thee grief, but place thy trust in God, thy Lord, the Mighty, the Witness.

Beware, O handmaiden of God! Guard thyself with utmost vigilance lest there appear from thee that which thy Master, the Most High, the Supreme, the Most Loving, would abhor. Conceal thyself from all eyes, then hold fast to the cord of God against the evil of every rejected sinner. Thus hath sung the Nightingale of holiness and cast upon thee from God’s counsel that thou mayest remain steadfast upon this exalted and extended path.

Spirit and glory and immortality be upon thee and upon those women who dwell in the City of God, the Mighty, the All-Conquering, the Manifest, the Self-Subsisting.

He is the Mighty.

In all matters endless bewilderment hath overtaken Me until what may later be ordained. In any case, conduct yourselves with utmost love toward the guest, be in complete harmony. Act contrary to the men, for from them no fragrance of unity was detected. Make mention of all the women, both Arab and Persian. Make mention of the wife of Abid and all the others. Verily He maketh mention of whomsoever He willeth, and He is the best of those who make mention. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02830: O thou who art the remnant of the family…

He is the Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

O thou who art the remnant of the family of God on earth, and the lingering fragrance from the divine Ridvan, and the Word inscribed upon the holy, blessed and luminous Tablet! Blessed art thou in that thou hast joined the hosts of God in days when all people were in drunkenness and mighty veils, and hast associated with the men of God and His chosen ones, then with His trusted ones and His loved ones, and hast attained the presence of the Beloved, then the presence of Husayn, by whose name the Kingdom of Names was adorned in the heaven of eternity, and through whose submissiveness all things became submissive, and through whose remembrance every tongue was opened in praise of their Lord, the All-Merciful, and through whose turning to his Lord the Temples of Grandeur turned toward the Scene of God, the Most High, the Mighty, the Great.

How blessed art thou that the breezes of eternity have wafted upon thee from the Ridvan of My Most Exalted Name, the All-Knowing. Every soul should find from thee the fragrances of the hosts of God and inhale from thee the sweet scents of the garment of Joseph of God, the Mighty, the Luminous. How excellent it is for thee that thou hast attained the most great attainment in thy meeting with them, and thy turning to their beings, and thy orientation with their party, and thy settling in their dwelling-place, and thy hearing of their wondrous melodies, and thou wert among the triumphant ones.

It behooveth thee now to stand firm in the Cause of God, thy Lord, in these days and to be watchful of the command of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Had We found the people of the Bayan yearning toward God, We would have commanded them to visit thee in that land and to circle round about thee, for thou art of the remnant of Our detached loved ones. And if at times hesitation seized thee, God hath forgiven what is past, for He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

Be thou assured in thyself that God hath ordained for thee in His presence a holy and noble station and hath accepted from thee thy obedience and whatsoever hath proceeded from thee, for He is the Kind, the Merciful. Beware lest vain imaginings cause thee to slip from the path of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, and thou become of those who are tested. Leave behind thee all who are in the heavens and on earth, then turn with thy heart toward the direction of My Name, the Mighty, the Powerful.

Thus hath the Strong in Command taught thee and strengthened thee with the Spirit of Power, from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Informed. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who love thee for the sake of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all things and the Lord of all the worlds.

BH02832: In the name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise…

In the name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. O Rabi', be as the spring of God in these days, that through thee the Lote-Trees of existence may be verdant and yield the fruits of thy Lord's remembrance, the All-Merciful. Know thou the value of these days. By God! The breezes that blow therein have never blown before, nor shall they blow thereafter. Thy Lord, the Mighty, the Help in Peril, beareth witness unto this.

O Rabi', We have made thee manifest in God's springtime that thou mayest be stirred by the winds of thy Lord's will and be detached from those who have denied God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful. Loose thy tongue in utterance and convey the Cause of thy Lord, that His Name may be exalted among the concourse of all worlds. Say: O people, fear ye God and refute not the truth through your idle fancies, nor follow those who have openly denied God. Follow Him Who calleth you unto Him with power and sovereignty.

Steel thy back for thy Lord's Cause, for unto this have We created thee and those who have believed in God, the One, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised. Grieve not over anything, for thy Lord will aid thee in teaching His Cause and will assist those who have detached themselves unto Him and remember Him with joy and radiance.

Convey Our greetings unto the faces of them that have believed therein, then deliver unto them what We have imparted unto thee, that the melodies of thy Lord which have been raised from the direction of the Throne in these times may attract them. Then gather them unto the Cause of thy Master and protect them from Satan's party. Thus have We instructed thee and commanded thee in truth. Follow what thou art bidden; this is better for thee than all that hath been ordained in creation.

Say: O people, gather ye around your Lord's Cause, then seek bounty from His presence, and be not of those who believed then denied and returned to their abode in the nethermost fire. Remember your Lord openly and be not disturbed by the wrongdoers, for God shall soon seize them with His wrath and His sovereign might. He, verily, is powerful over whatsoever He willeth. There is none other God but Him, the One, the Mighty, the All-Compelling. Be as one soul, that through you terror may enter the hearts of those who have denied God. By God! They are naught but the people of loss.

And the splendor which hath shone forth from the horizon of destiny be upon thee and upon those who have hearkened unto that which the Tongue of Grandeur and Glory hath spoken at the midmost heart of paradise.

BH02834: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great! O servant! Hear My call, for by My call are quickened the hearts of all the worlds. Remember thy Lord in the night seasons and at dawn, and be not of the heedless

ones. Rejoice in that the Pen of thy Lord hath stirred to make mention of thee, for He loveth those servants who have detached themselves from all else save Him and have turned to His shining and luminous Face.

He hath created all contingent beings through a word from Him, then cast upon them another word—whoso holdeth fast to it and believeth in Him, he is indeed among the most exalted of creation with Him, and this is certain truth. Those who turn away from it are verily among the people of the fire, cursed by the realities of all things, of the first and the last. Leave thou those who have disbelieved and hold fast to the Sure Handle. By God! It is indeed the Most Great Word which hath shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord the All-Merciful's will with a mighty radiance.

Say: O people! The Promised One hath come unto you, if ye be of them that know, and the Hidden Mystery hath been revealed, if ye be of the certain ones. The gardens have been adorned with the ornament of the All-Merciful and Hell hath been set ablaze. Blessed are they who have attained unto the lights of His countenance; woe unto the idolaters!

Be thou steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, and take hold of His Tablet with manifest strength. Recite it in thy days and be not of the heedless ones. Make mention of My handmaiden from before Me, whom We named ʿAwfih in Our ancient Kingdom, then convey My glorification unto her face and unto her daughter from thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. And the glory be upon thee and upon her from this shining and luminous Orient.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! These are Thy servants who have soared in the atmosphere of Thy love and have sought the sanctuary of Thy glory and grandeur and have heard Thy call and answered Thee on the Day whereon most faces were darkened, and each one of them hath attained according to his capacity and striving. I beseech Thee therefore, O my God, by Thy Name through which were rent asunder the veils of the people of creation and were burned away the shrouds that came between Thee and Thy weak servants, that Thou withhold not these from the robes of Thy mercy and the wonders of Thy grace and bounty. Clothe them, then, through the hands of loving-kindness with the garments of guidance, that they may be illumined by the lights of Thy favors amidst Thy creation and creatures, and may turn wholly unto Thee and be detached from all else save Thee and arise to aid Thy Cause and manifest Thine order. Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Guardian, the Chosen One.

BH02836: In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! O Mustafa!…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! O Mustafa! Blessed art thou for having attained unto the light of the Divine Countenance, appeared before the Command, and been numbered among those who have attained. Even hadst thou possessed the equivalent of the heavens and earth and spent them both, thou wouldst not have attained unto this sacred and luminous station. Give thanks unto God for having vouchsafed unto thee His presence, honored thee with His beauty, caused thee to hearken unto His melodies, and enabled thee to attain unto the presence of His wondrous countenance. Didst thou but know, thou wouldst soar in the atmosphere out of joy and gladness, for thou hast attained unto the presence of Him for Whom God's near servants died in their longing. Give thanks unto thy Lord for this at all times, and be not of the heedless.

Verily, thou art renowned among the Concourse on High, who point to thee with their fingers and say:

> "This, verily, is he who migrated unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Great, who circumambulated the sacred Sanctuary and the Ka'bih of intimacy, unto whom were directed the glances of God, and who was numbered among those who have attained."

Be thou steadfast in the love of God, then make mention of Him among His heedless servants. And when thou beholdest My loved ones, pronounce My glorification upon their faces, then recount unto them what thou hast learned of the story of the Youth, that they may be of those who remember.

Say: O My loved ones! Do ye rest in ease while the Youth is in dire tribulation? I know not of which tribulation to complain. Nay, by His own Self, the True One! I have not complained, nor will I complain, and I remain content with whatsoever God hath ordained for Me and whatsoever He hath prescribed for My Own Self, if ye be of those who know.

O servant! Forget not what thou hast heard from the tongue of thy Lord, and be My garment among My servants, that they may inhale from thee the hallowed, inaccessible and glorious fragrance. He who hath purified his soul and whose deeds are goodly—from him wafteth the fragrance of My good-pleasure, whereby Our servants who turn unto Us are guided. Say: O people! Purify your deeds and sanctify your souls, that there may appear from you that whereby the hearts of all men shall be attracted.

And the glory that hath been sanctified from names and their kingdom, and exalted above attributes and their dominion, be upon thee, O thou who hast been guided by God's guidance and hast drunk the Kawthar of immortality from His exalted fingers. Then doth the tongue of grandeur and majesty proclaim: Well is it with thee, then joy be unto thee and unto those who drink and say:

> "Praise be to God Who hath distinguished us with this most exalted, most mighty, most great bounty!"

BH02840: O handmaiden of God! Your mention has ever been…

In the Name of God, the Everlasting

O handmaiden of God! Your mention has ever been before the Most Great Vision and your name is recorded in the Tablets. Therefore it behooveth you to stand firm, with complete steadfastness, in the love of the Sovereign of Days and the All-Knowing King, to such an extent that should your eye turn away, you would pass it by for the sake of the Friend, even as the lovers in the path of the All-Merciful gave up their lives and turned toward the direction of the All-Glorious. Purify your ear from the unworthy words of the deniers and hearken unto the wondrous melodies. Convey My remembrance from God to Hasan and Ali, and specifically for them this prayer is revealed:

> "Glory be unto Thee, O my God! By Thy Name through which souls were disturbed and limbs did quake and faces were transformed, purify our hearts from love of aught else but Thee and illumine them with the light of Thy knowledge. Then make us steadfast in Thy love to such degree that the denial of those who have denied Thee shall not prevent us. Then deliver us from the prison of self and passion, and from this prison, through Thy power and sovereignty.

Verily Thou art the One with power over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Omnipotent, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Bountiful."

Read ye this prayer in place of Hasan and Ali, or send it that they may recite it in prison, for the Ancient Beauty hath now recited it on their behalf. Verily God loveth His servants even when they are sleeping. The Cause of God is sanctified from human desires and the Divine Manifestation is not a matter that any soul may claim each day.

I swear by the Sun of inner meanings that even what they have heard about Mirza Yahya had no connection with him, and God is sufficient witness. The Manifestation was specific to the Primal Point, Who was the Herald of this Most Great Manifestation. Consider John the Baptist and the Spirit (Christ), and whoever has the least insight will understand this utterance of the All-Merciful from what was revealed in the Bayan. Those who have turned to God are accounted as the Letters, the Mirrors, the Fruits, the Branches and the Leaves, if they remain steadfast. Otherwise the light returneth to its source, sovereignty to its realm, and the created thing to its limit and station.

And the glory be upon you, O handmaidens of God. Specifically for the deliverance of two souls this prayer was revealed, for verily He chose imprisonment for Himself and freedom for His servants, and He is truly the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH02847: In the name of our Lord, the All-Merciful! These…

In the name of our Lord, the All-Merciful! These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth from the dominion of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. In them hath been ordained every goodly mention, yet most people understand not.

Say: The verses are like unto water; even as water giveth life to bodies, as ye behold, even so do the verses give life unto spirits, and cause to grow from the soil of divine knowledge trees of exalted glory. Say: At times they appear according to the nature of fire, whereby are set ablaze the hearts of them that have turned towards God, the Mighty, the Beloved. And at times thou findest them according to the nature of water, for by them liveth all that was and all that shall be.

Verily they are the Tree beyond which there is no passing, and whatsoever is created from them are its fruits, would ye but know. Verily they are the Most Remote Temple, round which circle honored servants. Verily they are the Sun of inner meanings, and by them are nourished the realities of all things, would ye but understand. Verily they are the Cord of God amongst His creatures—whoso holdeth fast unto them is indeed saved, and whoso turneth away from them, these are they that are drowned. Verily they are the Garment of God between the heavens and the earth, and from them do all created things inhale the fragrance of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Verily they are the Rose of this Paradise—blessed is he who is guided unto this glorious and praiseworthy station.

All this is due to their connection with My Name, the Revealer, and verily it hath ever been sanctified above all that is mentioned and known, and all that hath been created between the Kaf and the Nun.

Say: O people! Verily they are the Salsabil which floweth from the right hand of the Throne as a bounty from Him—hasten ye then to drink thereof. Give thanks unto God in these days for having manifested among you the Manifestation of His Essence, in Whose grasp are all things and in Whose right hand are all spirits and minds.

Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of Him and turn unto the worms of the earth who speak that of which they are unaware. Had they known, they would not have denied Him in this Revelation. Say: Fear God, O people, and believe not those who have not acknowledged this Revelation—they are indeed a blind people. They have fabricated lies against God and turned away from Him. By God, they are as dead.

Thus have We sent down the verses and dispatched them unto those who have believed in God and who are secure from the terror of misbelief.

BH02859: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! The mention of God from the right of the Throne was upraised in truth, and through it were attracted those who detached themselves from the world and turned to the Dawning-Place of the All-Glorious Name. Say: Through it God distinguished between those who disbelieved and associated partners with God and were far removed from the horizon of nearness. Verily thy name flowed from the Most Exalted Pen aforetime, and thus did His favor encompass thee.

The clamor of the idolaters hath been raised there, even as We informed you before in wondrous tablets of glory. Arise in the love of God and His Cause, and regard not those who have disbelieved except as a handful of moulded clay. Remember God in private and in public, then be independent through Him of all who are on earth. Be at peace in the Cause of God and sanctify thy heart from the intimations of every base deceiver.

Behold the baseness of those who have taken Satan as their protector and reckoner. Say: O people, if ye have not seen the donkeys, ye have seen the Antichrist who hath disbelieved in God and was rebellious. By God! Even arithmetic seeketh refuge from his countenance with your Lord, the Most Merciful, and the All-Glorious One Himself beareth witness to what I say. From him emanates a putrid smell that changes the air of every city, as testified by whoever possesseth sound nature. He calleth people to himself in private, then in public to that which he used to mock before. When We expelled him from the house he arose with new deceit. Say: O people, is he better, or God, the One, the All-Compelling? Be fair then and be not sinful deniers.

Would that thou hadst been with Us and become aware of them both and seen the form of fancy which the people have taken for themselves as a friend besides God. By God the Truth! He would stand before Us while We recited the verses to him, and he would write them down morning and evening. But when he uttered a word of his own he grew proud against God and desired what he desired with a tyranny that was in the Tablet mighty.

Do thou sanctify thyself from them and shun them, then take up beneath the protection of thy Lord a praiseworthy station. And the glory be upon thee from God and upon those who are with thee and remain steadfast in love.

BH02903: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Unapproachable

This is a Book from Us to him who hath believed in God, that it may detach him from all else save Him and draw him nigh unto his Lord, the Ancient of Days. He is among those who have quaffed the choice wine of immortality from the hand of My Most Glorious Name and who have attained His presence time and again, and who are among those who have achieved.

O servant! Call thou to mind the days wherein thou didst commune with the Youth and when the Sun of the remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, did shine upon thee, and thou wert among those who beheld. We beseech God to cause thee to ascend unto a station wherein thou shalt witness all created things within the grasp of thy Lord's power, even as a handful of clay. Say: In the Name of God and by God! Take thou the chalice of immortality in My Most Glorious Name amidst the concourse of creation. Then give to drink again and again, and pass it round betwixt earth and heaven. Fear thou not the hosts of the infidels. Say: O concourse of deniers! Die ye in your wrath! The veil of heaven hath been rent asunder by the fingers of the power of the Lord of Lords, and your Lord, the Mighty, the Most Bountiful, hath come with manifest sovereignty. Whither flee ye on this Day and in whom do ye seek refuge? There is no protector for any soul and no refuge for anyone except God, Who proclaimeth in all things that on that Day the Kingdom shall be His, the Almighty, the Powerful, the All-Glorious.

Be thou God's wrath unto Mine enemies and His mercy unto My loved ones. Then speak forth My praise and glorification amongst My creation and My servants, and tarry not for less than a moment. Verily, those who have disbelieved, were God to bring them all the knowledge of what was and what shall be and what is hidden, or were the angels of the highest heaven to come unto them, they would never believe in Him, for God hath, by His might and power, deprived them of the spirit of faith. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Remind My loved ones who are before Me, whose faces have been illumined by the lights of thy Lord's countenance, the Most High, the Most Great. The glory rest upon thee and upon him who hath detached himself from all else save Me and who hath stood firm in My love amidst My heedless servants. Convey from Us Our glorification unto thy son who hath been named Muhammad in the kingdom of names, and remind him from Us that he may be among those who rejoice. We beseech God to make him praiseworthy in his deeds, such that there may appear through him the manifestations of My deeds and the signs of My loving-kindness. Verily, He answereth him that calleth upon Him. Then the glory that hath shone forth from My countenance be upon him and upon those who are with thee among the loved ones of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

BH02906: This is a letter from the servant to him…

He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

This is a letter from the servant to him who hath emigrated unto God and entered the Sacred Precincts of Paradise and was recorded among the triumphant in the Book, who attained the presence of the Countenance and upon whom shone the Sun of his Lord's utterance from the horizon of this heaven

which was raised up in truth, and who won the meeting with the Beloved and heard His melodies—and this was a mighty bounty inscribed in the Tablet.

O servant! Give thanks unto God thy Lord for having been granted that which most of the servants have not been granted. Thus did the mercy which was decreed in truth in the heaven of destiny take precedence over thee and encompass the worlds by the command of thy Lord, the All-Knowing. Yet most people remain heedless of their Lord's mercy and are veiled by the veils of their own selves.

Should anyone ask thee concerning this Youth, relate unto him what thou hast witnessed and known. Thus do We command thee in truth by One mighty and wise. Say: He was afflicted at the hands of those who openly denied God, and the Youth was at that time forsaken in their midst.

Then mention from Our presence Our loved ones who have detached themselves from the earth and all that is therein and have turned with their hearts to a holy and luminous station. Say: O My loved ones! Grieve not over anything but place your trust in all matters in God, for verily He is your guardian. Not a thing escapeth His knowledge. He knoweth what hath befallen you and what shall befall you hereafter. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and knowledge of all things in a preserved tablet. Remember your Lord, the Most Merciful, and leave the worlds behind you. Thus it behooveth one who claimeth the love of God in these days wherein the Sun of grace hath dawned from the horizon of a mighty name.

Say: O people! Give thanks unto God for having caused you to know the Manifestation of His Self and preserved you from the depths of fancy and desire and protected you by the hands of the angels of protection and provided you with the fruits of a lofty and glorious Tree.

Then convey Our greetings unto the handmaidens who have detached themselves from the left hand of misbelief and turned toward the right hand of an exalted name, that they may give thanks unto God their Lord by night and by day and rejoice with the joy that hath been mentioned in the Tablet. And upon thee and upon them be the Spirit from One mighty and beauteous.

All praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH02907: This is a book from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Wondrous, the Most Exalted.

This is a book from the Prisoner to him who hath believed in God and loved the Manifestation of His Self and was numbered among the guided ones in the Tablets. Beware lest thou turn unto anything and cling to any matter. Turn thou in every moment unto the face of thy Lord—this is better for thee than all that is on earth.

O servant! I am a servant who hath believed in God and His signs, and I remember you at all times that ye may take unto Him a path. Give thanks unto God for having been honored to attain His presence and for having heard His most exalted melodies in days when the lights of Beauty were, in very truth, witnessed from behind seventy thousand veils. Aid thy Lord through utterance and be not silent for less than a

moment—thus doth He Who loved thee aforetime command thee, and God is, verily, witness to what I say.

I have wished naught save what your Beloved hath wished, and I have desired naught save what He hath desired. Thus hath it been sent down in the Bayan from One mighty and powerful. I desire naught save your sincerity unto God and your detachment from all else but Him, and verily He watcheth over the doers of good.

Cast the world behind thee and grieve not over it. Put thy trust in God, thy Lord, and He will send down unto thee what hath been ordained for thee in the heaven of His decree, and He encompasseth all things. Remember Him in thy days and forget not His grace. By God! Ye have witnessed what no one in creation hath witnessed, would ye but ponder it ye would testify thereto and find yourselves independent of all worlds.

Drink thou the water of life in remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. Then detach thyself from all existence and be not sorrowful on earth. Rejoice thou in the joy of the spirit—if sorrow touch thee, sorrow not, and if joy reach thee, joy not, for both shall pass away and have no permanence. What endureth is that which thy Lord hath ordained. Strive thou that what hath been ordained in the Tablets may descend upon thee from a mighty and wondrous Pen.

Thus have We sent down unto thee the verses and wafted unto thee the fragrances of thy Beloved from this breeze which hath blown over all worlds. And the Spirit and glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God and have detached themselves from every rejected idolater.

BH02908: In the Name of God, the Most Glorious! This…

In the Name of God, the Most Glorious! This is a Book sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and all-knowing, that perchance through it the gate of paradise might be opened unto the hearts of all created things. O people! The Sun of Eternity hath dawned—do ye not behold? The Call of God hath been raised—do ye not hear? The clouds of grace have rained down—do ye not accept? Say: O people! Hear My words and deprive not yourselves of this bounty which hath encompassed all that was and shall be. O people! Behold Me with Mine own eyes—thus have ye been commanded in a preserved Tablet. Fear God, and forge not lies against Him, nor follow any rejected idolater. Bind not yourselves with the chains of vain hopes, but look instead to your ultimate end. Thus doth this imprisoned Youth counsel you.

O servant! Cleanse thy outward and inward being with the waters We have caused to flow from the clouds of thy Lord's mercy, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, lest there remain in thee any trace of the signs of those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Beloved. And when thou findest thyself purified from the signs of the people of creation and established beneath the shade of the Lord of Names, arise to make mention of Him and praise Him amongst His servants, that they may detach themselves from what they possess and turn unto God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Loving. Beware lest anything prevent thee from teaching thy Lord's Cause. Aid it through remembrance and fear not the hosts of the oppressors.

Say: O people! The Revealer of the Bayan hath come again, would ye but know it. The Most Exalted Pen hath appeared, would ye but perceive it. The Divine Lote-Tree hath been raised up, would ye but seek it. Say: The heavenly ascent hath ascended within itself seventy thousand years until it reached its goal and circleth round about it, would ye but understand. Say: Were ye to know, ye would weep for yourselves and lament. Hear My words, then rend asunder the veils through My power and sovereignty, and follow not vain imaginings and idle fancies.

And thou, O servant, if thou perceivest in thyself the power to rend the veils of the people, then do so; otherwise, remain in thy place, be patient, and shun the idolaters. God shall soon aid His Cause through the hosts of the unseen, and this is an irrevocable decree. And glory be upon thee and upon thy mother who hath believed in God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

BH02919: He Who is the Most Holy

He Who is the Most Holy

O man! Hear the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, from the direction of the Ridvan at this time when all have disbelieved and associated partners with God, save those whom God hath made as a beauty mark upon the countenance of those near unto Him and made them the essence of existence in both the unseen and visible worlds. Blessed be God, Who hath raised up these ones through His sovereign might and power.

By God! The shrill voice of thy pen when inscribing the words of God is better than the worship of both humanity and the jinn, if thou remainest steadfast as thou wert. Take care not to wonder at this bounty. By God! This is but little compared to My bounty. Were the eye of time able, We would show it a sign from the signs of My bounty that it might witness it encompassing all the worlds. But existence cannot bear that the Beloved should appear in the glory of His own Self, the Supreme, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: When We removed the veil from the face of the Cause, fewer than can be counted remained steadfast. Whereupon all who dwell in the heavens and earth were terrified.

O Haydar! Be as a lion of the Cause in all lands, that through thee the hearts of the ungodly and the hearts of the deceivers may be shaken.

Fie upon the people of the Bayan, for they have exchanged the bounty of God and sold the Lord of Lords for a handful of dust, without any proof or scripture. Thus did their evil souls entice them to object to God, the Single One, the Mighty, the Praised. Behold their words and what floweth from their pens. By God! It testifieth against their own selves, yet the people remain heedless.

Say: Praise be to God Who hath delivered me from the wrongdoing people and taken my hand with the hands of His power and brought me forth from among the company of the ungodly and purified my heart with the waters of His loving-kindness and sanctified me from the defilement of these deniers who claim faith while disbelieving in Him through Whose finger's motion all religions were abrogated and the laws of mighty glory were renewed.

Say: O company of unbelievers! By God! Through the scratching of this Pen were created the realities of eternity. Die, therefore, in your wrath, O company of the proud!

Read thou this Tablet, then preserve it. By My Self! When it is recited, the denizens of Paradise turn toward thee to hear it. Thus have We commanded thee in truth that thou mayest be among those who act. And the spirit and glory be upon thee and upon thy pen, from which were inscribed the traces of thy Lord, the Chosen One, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving, the Compelling, the All-Subduing, the Generous, the Concealer, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH11742: From the right hand of the Throne hath been…

From the right hand of the Throne hath been sent down:

Hast thou not heard that My proof is My very Being, My evidence My Manifestation, My testimony My Self, and that which floweth from My Pen is the path to My knowledge, which none shall attain save those who have detached themselves from all things and have passed through this world and whatsoever hath been created therein as a cloud passeth by? My proof hath been My manifestations of power that have encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth, and I have made verses the path to My knowledge as a grace from Us to all the worlds.

And since My previous Manifestation designated verses as the proof of this most mighty, most holy and most glorious Manifestation, We have therefore caused verses to be sent down from the heaven of Will and have established them as proof for all who are in the heavens and on earth. Until this Manifestation, verses alone have been proof for all, for We had sent down this decree in all previous Books.

Although in this Manifestation all signs of power, manifest proofs, wondrous verses, glorious manifestations and divine attributes have appeared—and all this as a grace from Us to all created things—yet henceforth the matter resteth in God's hands, that He may designate what shall be proof for future Manifestations. We shall soon send down His decree in the Tablets, for verily We have ever been the Ruler over all things. All matters are within Our mighty grasp; We do what We will and decree what We please.

For in this Manifestation God, exalted be His mention, hath willed that many of the sincere seekers should speak in verses. Therefore We shall, by His command and His will, ordain what shall constitute proof of the next Manifestation, lest anyone who produceth words should exalt himself over God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Almighty—even as did he whom We caused to speak at a level far below that of the servants who circle round My throne, yet who exalted himself over God Who created him, nurtured him, preserved him from the harm of his enemies, and protected him beneath the wing of His wondrous and ancient grace.

Thus have We decreed on this night, and We decree what We will by Our command, for verily I am the Almighty over what I will, and all else besides Me are My creation. O My creation! Be not proud before Him at Whose face the countenances of the Concourse on High bow down in adoration, and be not of the arrogant ones.

BH02933: Bear thou witness that there is none other God…

He is the Ever-Living in the Most Glorious Horizon!

Bear thou witness that there is none other God but Him and that this Youth is His splendor unto all who are in the heavens and on earth. Then bear witness that were He to desire to make any one of all names the manifestations of His most beautiful names and most exalted attributes, from all that hath been created in the kingdom of names and attributes, and bestow upon him the sovereignty of the heavens and earth, He would verily be powerful to do so without diminishing aught from His dominion. Glorified be God, thy Creator and the Creator of all created things!

Say: O people! Have ye not heard that He is living in the Most Glorious Horizon, and from this Horizon He calleth out:

> "O people of the Bayan! Do ye deny Him Who hath come to you from the Dayspring of the All-Merciful with the Bayan, and Who guideth you to the Paradise whose leaves have flourished through the Most Great, the All-Wise Remembrance?"

Say: O people! He, verily, hath power over all things. He giveth and taketh away. Nothing whatsoever can withhold Him from that which hath been created between the heavens and the earth.

Know thou then that a tablet from thee hath appeared before the Throne wherein thou didst call upon God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. Blessed art thou for that which the Spirit cast into thy breast and caused thee to speak in remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beauteous. Thus doth God single out whom He willeth through His grace, and He, verily, is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

Beware lest thou grieve over anything. Be patient, then show forth patience, and verily thy Lord is with thee under all conditions, and He is nigh unto them that are nigh. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

The Tablets were sent. The sooner they arrive the better it would be. And the Tablets that were revealed in response to people's objections—make copies of them quickly so that Salman is not delayed, and afterward send them to whomever they deem advisable. Not a moment's delay or neglect in assisting the divine Cause is permissible. Whatever hath appeared until now is witnessed by God.

Be not grieved over worldly affairs and what transpireth therein. God willing, the hand of divine power shall set things aright. The situation here hath become very disturbed—what shall yet appear remains to be seen. You will be informed of the details of these matters after the arrival of the emigrants. Convey greetings from God to all the loved ones.

BH02936: O Baqir! Hearken to the shrill voice…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy

O Baqir! Hearken to the shrill voice of the Most Exalted Pen from the direction of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, that My melodies may attract thee, and cause thee to soar in the atmosphere of My

nearness, and make thee drink of the Kawthar of My praise, and taste the wonders of My bounties through My mercy and loving-kindness, and purify thee from the defilement of Mine enemies, and grant thee the blessing of meeting Me, and honor thee with My presence, and cause thine eyes to be solaced by gazing upon My Beauty, and make the breezes of My Cause stir thee, and move thee through the gentle winds of My companionship.

Whereupon, detach thyself from all else but Me, then ascend on My wings to My heaven that thou mayest witness My might and power, and behold My dominion and sovereignty, and journey through the realms of My power, and traverse the fields of My glory and splendor. By God! When thou hearest what hath flowed from My Pen, thou shalt become an intimate of the manifestations of My glory and draw nigh unto the dwellers of My holy cities, and become apprised of that which is concealed from the eyes of My creation and the sight of My creatures.

Then thou shalt find My Book in the hands of previous Manifestations, and find it speaking of My remembrance, heralding My presence, calling out My Name, turning toward the direction of My throne, drawn to the sweet melodies of My voice, and soaring in the paradise of My nearness and reunion.

O servant! Shatter the idols of the deluded ones among My servants through My power and might, and fear not the tyrannous ones among My creation. Then rend asunder the veils of the souls of My servants, then turn at all times toward the direction of My good-pleasure, then take the water of life by My leave, then drink in My Name between My earth and My heaven, then pass it around with fingers of detachment in the gathering of My loved ones, then draw them through the wonders of My remembrance and move them through the breezes of My love and praise, that they may detach themselves from all else save Me and turn toward My face and draw near to the seat of My throne and the pavilion of My grandeur and the dawning-place of the lights of My beauty.

Thus doth My tongue command thee and My Pen move to make mention of thee on this night wherein sorrows have overtaken Me from the manifestations of Satan in such wise as cannot be described in words. Mine eyes have wept, My heart is troubled, My liver is inflamed, and My shirt is reddened with My blood, yet My creation perceive not, nor do they understand.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them who have detached themselves from the world and all that is therein and have taken shelter beneath the shade of the Tree of My Name, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH02974: In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Impregnable! The remembrance of God in the form of fire from this light has been witnessed in this Revelation from the horizon of glory. O people! Turn to Him with your hearts and deprive not yourselves thereof. Thus do We command you in truth that ye may find a way unto Him Who occupieth the throne.

Say: O people! Fear God and break not your covenants, nor turn back on your heels in this Path which shineth luminously among all paths. Tread ye the path of truth with the foot of certitude and follow not those who have denied God and were far removed from the highway of His Cause.

O Mihdi! Be thou guided by the guidance of God. Verily He hath appeared in truth with manifest guidance. Detach thyself from all who are on earth, then turn to God with novel submissiveness. Beware lest the might of the oppressors hold thee back from Him. Be thou strengthened through My Name on earth and be possessed of great power. Verily He strengtheneth whom He willeth and aideth whom He pleaseth and loveth him who loveth Him and remembereth in His kingdom him who remembereth Him on His earth. Thus was it sent down aforetime and now We have sent it down once again as a grace from Us unto thee and unto all created things. Purify thy sight that it may behold the truth, then thy heart that it may comprehend what the tongue of grandeur and majesty uttereth, and be thou steadfast in the Cause.

Say: O people! Believe in God Who created you and sustained you and caused you to die and brought you to life for this Revelation which hath been inscribed by the Pen of God in all the Tablets. O people! Shun ye what ye have been forbidden in the Tablets, then walk in My footsteps that the fragrances of My deeds may waft from you among My creatures. This is the best and most excellent of deeds, and I, the True One, am witness thereunto.

O people! Cast not the Cause of God behind your backs and follow not every remote idolater. Follow ye the truth for it commandeth you naught save what profiteth you and desireth for you naught save that it may draw you nigh unto a station of resplendent glory. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth and verily thy Lord is watchful over thee. And the glory shining from the horizon of eternity be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God and have wholly detached themselves from every accursed satan.

BH02985: He is the Mighty! God beareth witness that there…

He is the Mighty! God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him and that the Point of the Bayan is His servant and His Glory. This is what hath been sent down from God on the Day whereon the Beauty of the Divine Identity was established upon a mighty throne.

Say: By God! Were the people of the Bayan to acknowledge this Word which hath been sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and wise, it would suffice them above all that is witnessed and seen—and God is witness to what I say—for therein are concealed the mysteries of God, could ye but understand. None shall comprehend them save whom thy Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate, willeth.

Soon shall ye find the idolaters breaking God's covenant regarding this Glory Who hath appeared with holy and ancient verses, by a single letter of which the heaven of rancor is cleft asunder, the earth of hatred is split, and the mountains of the souls of the idolaters crumble. Say: By God, the Truth! This indeed is God's touchstone whereby every matter is distinguished, whereby all things are weighed in a just and straight balance, whereby the blind and the leper and every sick and ailing one are healed.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, then have mercy upon yourselves and be not of those who turn away from Him Who hath come to you with clear signs, Who calleth you unto God your Lord, Who restraineth you

from your desires, and Who nourisheth you at all times from this Divine and Most Holy Fruit which hath appeared from the Lote-Tree of near access.

And now, We have seen what appeared from thee in thy letter and have understood its contents, as though thou wert complaining of separation—that which causeth the eyes of them that are nigh to shed tears. But grieve thou not for this; rather be content with what God hath ordained for Us and for thee, and be patient with mighty patience. Should God will, He would unveil His beauty to thee and grant thee His presence in thy sleep and waking hours, for He hath power over all things. Be thou patient in all matters and place thy trust in God thy Lord. Verily He will aid thee with the truth and raise thee to a mighty and noble station.

The Spirit and glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who place their trust in Him and are among the trusting ones. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03004: He is the Ever-Living in the Most Glorious Horizon!…

He is the Ever-Living in the Most Glorious Horizon! Your eyes have been solaced by what the Most Exalted Pen hath made mention of thee in this Tablet, which was held in the grasp of might.

Say: This is the hand that was outstretched in truth, and this is the grasp whereby He took hold of the kingdom of the heavens and earth with mighty sovereignty, and this is the right hand by which the heavens were rolled up and spread forth again by another will. Glorified be He Who hath, by a mere expression of His will, suspended all in the kingdom. Say: Nothing hath preceded Him, nay rather His mercy hath preceded all things, and He doth indeed encompass all things.

Purify thy vision from human allusions, then take hold of God's Tablet with manifest power. Say: O people! The Tablet of the Command hath come to us from the Dayspring of destiny with resplendent lights, and it is indeed detailed from the Preserved Tablet which God hath sent in the form of the Youth. Blessed be He Who hath sent it with the truth by a mighty command.

Take heed lest thou remain in thy place—arise, then speak forth in praise of thy Lord. Say: The Youth hath come with a luminous countenance and calleth you unto God. Fear God and be not of those who doubt in the Cause. Cast aside what ye possess and take what your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath commanded you. He will indeed make you independent of all who dwell on earth, and He hath power over all things.

Walk thou in My footsteps such that whenever the winds of trials grow fierce, thou shalt find thyself in a state of attraction and tranquility. Thus must it be for one who hath detached himself from all things and turned unto the Beautiful Countenance. And when harm toucheth thee in thy Lord's path, be patient and remember My tribulation and exile in these lands. Thus doth the Pen of the All-Wise command thee from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful.

Guide the people to the Most Great Law, then usher them beneath this Tabernacle which hath been raised up in the loftiest Paradise. Give the people to drink from the Kawthar of thy Lord's love from the cup that hath been fashioned by the hand of God. Convey Our greetings to the faces of those who have taken unto the All-Merciful a path.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon her whom God hath bestowed upon thee, then upon her who serveth thee, then upon those who have turned toward the court of God and have detached themselves from every remote idolater.

BH03027: This is a Book from the Youth to those…

In the Name of our Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower!

This is a Book from the Youth to those who have been guided by God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, and who have detached themselves from the idolaters.

O people! The world and all that is therein shall perish, and ye shall return to dust with great remorse. Ye shall find for yourselves in the graves neither helper nor protector. Fear God and deny not Him through Whom the Sun of Knowledge hath shone forth from the horizon of utterance, and the breezes of forgiveness have wafted over Our sinful servants. He desireth naught from you, and hath sacrificed His spirit for all who are in the heavens and on earth, out of His love for God, your Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

Do ye deny Him through Whom the veils of idle fancy were rent asunder and the Beauty of the Ancient of Days shone forth from the horizon of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing? Say: Do ye imagine, O people, that ye have any refuge other than God? Nay, by His Self, were ye but to know! Say: There is today no refuge for anyone and no protector for any soul save God, in Whose grasp lieth the kingdom of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

O people! Fear ye God, then detach yourselves from those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God and who remain behind a thick veil. Turn your hearts toward the court of your Lord, the Most High, the Almighty, the Powerful. Beware lest anything prevent you from turning unto God, the Goal of all who seek Him.

And thou, O servant, turn thy face toward the Sanctuary that thou mayest be numbered among the triumphant. Say: This is verily God's Sanctuary among you, and His holy Kaaba in your midst, and His Most Great, Most Holy, Wondrous and Impregnable House. Beware, O people, lest ye be heedless of it, for this would be a grievous loss.

Blessed art thou, O servant, for having attained unto the recognition of God in this Revelation, whereby the foundations of the idolaters were shaken, the idols of fancy and vain imaginings were shattered, and the Jibt and Taghut were cast down upon the face of the earth, whereupon the hearts of the deceivers were consumed.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause and fear no one, for thy Lord, the All-Merciful, shall suffice thee against the harm of the deniers.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thy soul might be assured thereby and thou mightest be of them that are firmly established. And mercy be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from the world and have clung to this pure and luminous hem.

BH03031: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! This is a Book which hath been sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty glory. In it the Youth calleth out—the Youth Who hath appeared before the Face and was illumined by the lights of the Throne: Arise to promote the Cause with steadfastness from Us, and fear not any heedless doubter.

Say: O people of the Bayan, have mercy upon yourselves and waste not the Cause of Him Who was promised in the Tablets. Fear God and doubt not His Cause, for verily He hath appeared with manifest sovereignty. Say: Is there any doubt concerning Him, or concerning the verses revealed unto Him, or concerning His power which hath encompassed all worlds? Say: This is from the appearance of that which the eye of creation hath never witnessed its like, and whoso denieth it hath disbelieved in God and His Messengers, then in Him Who came unto you with mighty sovereignty.

Fear God, O people, and if ye help Him not, oppose Him not. Leave Him to Himself, and be not tyrannical and wretched. The peoples of former times suffice Him, then His brother who desired to slay the Youth without any proof or luminous Book. This, after We had nurtured him and made his name renowned in the Kingdom of Names, and protected him for numbered years.

Aid thy Lord through utterance, for thus wert thou commanded in a former Tablet from the presence of One mighty and wise. And when thou beholdest Jim, magnify him before his face on behalf of God, then remember him from Us with beautiful remembrance. He is the one who kept company with Me in the land of Ta during the days when the Face was hidden from the worlds.

Say: Hearken unto My call and cast beneath thy feet what thou hast known and learned, then ascend unto God with manifest detachment. Knowledge is indeed praiseworthy if thou dost thereby aid thy Lord. Loose thy tongue in utterance to remember thy Lord, the Most Merciful, then be thou enkindled with this Fire which was ignited from the Tree of the Cause. We loved thee before and We love thee now, and God is witness unto this. Beware lest thou break God's covenant, and keep thy gaze fixed upon the horizon of faithfulness. Thus doth it behove thee if thou desirest to take unto the Lord of the Throne a way.

And the glory which hath shone forth from the horizon of eternity be upon thee and upon him and upon every discerning believer.

BH03049: O Muhammad-Qabl-i-Taqi, upon thee be My glory! There hath…

He is God, exalted be His glory!

O Muhammad-Qabl-i-Taqi, upon thee be My glory! There hath come upon the Wronged One in these days that which hath caused every person of understanding to lament and every discerning soul to cry out. The heedless one hath changed God's bounty and grace, and committed that which hath caused the limbs of trustworthiness to quake in the body of religion, and justice to weep and fairness to lament in this glorious and wondrous station. We have counseled all with that whereby the Word of God and their stations may be exalted, yet the heedless one hath done that which hath encompassed Me with sorrows.

To this testify the people of My kingdom and My dominion, and beyond them the tongue of My grandeur in this exalted station.

We love to make mention of thee even as We mentioned thee before with verses that brought joy to the eyes of them that are nigh unto God. He whom We sheltered hath risen in opposition and committed that which was forbidden in the Book of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Ask thou God, thy Lord and the Lord of all things visible and invisible, to aid him to return. Verily He is the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

Praise thy Lord and rejoice, for amidst the depths of sorrows He hath made mention of thee in such wise that the Day-Star of gladness hath shone forth from the horizon of the Mount—a bounty from God, the Goal of them that know. We make mention at this time of him who hath ascended to the Supreme Companion and believed in God, the Peerless, the All-Informed.

O Habib! The grace of God hath encompassed thee and His mercy hath preceded thee—the Lord of the mighty Throne. Thou art he whom We named Habib in My perspicuous Book. I testify that thou didst hear the Call and turn to God, the Lord of all beings, when most of the people turned away, and didst believe in Him when the people disbelieved. Blessed art thou and joy be unto thee.

We beseech God, blessed and exalted be He, to make thee a companion in the most exalted Paradise with His Prophets and His chosen ones, to give thee to drink at all times from the Kawthar of His bounty and the Salsabil of His utterance, to cause thee to hear the warbling of the nightingales of His good-pleasure and the rustling of the Lote-Trees of the highest Paradise and the flowing of the Kawthar of His mercy amongst the Concourse on high. Verily He is the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous.

The glory from Us be upon thy beginning and thy end, thy outward and thy inward being, and upon those who made mention before thee and read what was sent down for thee from God, the One, the Single, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

BH03457: Lawh-i-Tal'atu'l-Hubb

He is God

O Countenance of love, we have recognized your longing for God in the pavilions of eternity, insofar as you drew near and attained, in the arenas of encounter, to the presence of God. Thus have we reckoned everything in a book that was decreed in the Tablet. Know that you have advanced to the sanctuary of beauty and visited the kaaba of holiness in the garden of paradise on the Mount Paran of love. Thus was your affair guarded from the rebellious in a tablet.

Do not grieve over any matter, and be not perplexed at the adversities of this world. God shall send you forth in a station that is, in truth, exalted. For the world, its adornments and finery, shall pass away in less than the blink of an eye. Therefore, exert yourself in what will be everlasting for you in the highest kingdom, so that you will be safeguarded in the worlds of the spirit that revolve around the tree of immortality.

Listen with the ear of your heart to what the dove warbles on the pole of infinity, insofar as it has taught you the paths of truth on that route that was raised up in light. Attest to this Tablet with the tongue of spirit so that you might be radiant with the fire of love. Fear God, and pay no attention to those who opposed him. Do not follow those who have disbelieved and who shall never find for themselves a path to the truth. Be constant in love and firm in the cause so that your foot shall not stumble, even if you are opposed by all who are on earth. Therefore, cast away what is in your right hand, then follow God's paradise so that you might find an august station at the center of the Garden near the sea of immortality.

Thus have we written in the Tablet the details of all things, and have mentioned them to you so that you might arrive at a station that is impervious to sorrow. By God, if you smell the fragrance of this shirt, you will discover the breezes of the divine essence, your eyes will overflow with tears in your yearning for God, and you will be insightful concerning the cause of your Lord.

The spirit be upon you, and upon those who were meek, having drawn nigh and been consumed by the fire of union.

Revealed by the Ha' after the Ba'.

BH03154: O my brother and beloved one! Much time hath…

In His Name, transcendent is His station, the Mighty!

O my brother and beloved one! Much time hath elapsed—each moment of which hath been as an age—and no word hath been heard from thee. This hath caused boundless grief. The One True God beareth witness that at all times we have been engaged in remembrance of that cherished friend, and to the extent of our capacity have not, nor shall we ever, fail in matters concerning thee. This consisteth of naught but prayer, and verily He doeth whatsoever He willeth.

Most strange it is that throughout this extended period thou hast made no mention whatsoever of these prisoners. Assuredly this delay hath been ordained by divine decree, and thus hath the matter been determined by the Mighty, the Ancient One.

If thou wishest to be apprised of the tribulations that have befallen this servant, by God, they cannot be recorded by the pen, nor flow from the ink, nor be contained in tablets, nor be borne by any soul in all the worlds. God is my witness to what I say.

In any case, I am now imprisoned in the prison of prisons, afflicted with countless trials, and none is aware of what hath befallen me and what I have endured save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Yet in all these successive tribulations and continuous trials I have been, and by God's grace shall ever remain, thankful. What God hath willed for me is my desire, and what He hath purposed is my purpose in this world and the next.

Were I to write more than what hath been mentioned, it would surely increase thy sorrow. Therefore have I confined myself to these few words. We hope that through the wondrous mercy of the All-Merciful and the manifestations of the bounties of the Sovereign Lord of Glory, thou shalt ever remain seated

upon the throne of honor and reclined upon the couch of well-being. This is not difficult for God to accomplish.

We beseech God for reunion, though I doubt I shall be blessed with it, for fate hovers overhead and waiteth in expectation. Verily, none can question His doings, and He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Convey my remembrance to thy noble mother from this remote exile.

BH03068: He is the Mighty. I testify within thyself…

He is the Mighty. I testify within thyself that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Beloved, and by Him Whom He sent unto His servant and His glory, and all were created by His command and all by His command do act.

O servant! Hear the call of God from this Leaf, stirring upon this blessed Branch, and be not of those who understand not, and be not of those who violated God's Covenant and committed injustice and caused darkness and were not conscious within themselves, nay, they made a mockery of God in their imaginings and were of those who trifle with the signs of God. Say: Woe unto you for what your hands have wrought! Ye shall be summoned to a humiliating punishment and then shall ye not be shown mercy. These days shall pass away and that with which people are occupied.

Say: He knoweth the unseen of the heavens and earth and all that ye conceal or hide. Nothing shall be hidden from God thy Lord. He knoweth what penetrateth the earth and what issueth forth from it, if ye would but understand. And since His mercy hath preceded His wrath, He concealeth for whom He willeth and revealeth for whom He willeth, and verily He is the Mighty, the Beloved.

Say: O people! Return ye unto God, then seek His forgiveness, and follow not Satan within yourselves if ye wish to be God-fearing. And be not of those in whom God findeth naught, such that He findeth in them neither truthfulness nor faithfulness nor steadfastness in any matter. Soon shall they return to dust and they shall be remorseful. God will not show them mercy nor will He ever forgive them, even if they wail in the fire.

And thou, O servant, fear God and associate not with those from whose hearts and souls thou perceivest the winds of hypocrisy, and avoid them and abide under a preserved protection. This is My counsel unto thee and unto those who act according to what they claim. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy wife and upon all who are in thy household and upon the handmaiden of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

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BH03070: Verily thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

Verily thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, from this Most Glorious Horizon calleth unto all who are in earth and heaven, saying:

> "Behold Me, for I am your Lord, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. Then turn your hearts toward My direction, for I am the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. Then ask of Me whatsoever ye desire, for none hath ever been disappointed at the door of My mercy, and I am the Bestower, the Munificent, the Mighty, the Powerful. Let him who is poor become enriched through My wealth, for I am the Self-Sufficient, independent of all worlds. Let him who is sick seek healing from My ocean of healing, for I am the Healer, the One Who maketh whole, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Let him who is sorrowful rejoice through My grace and loving-kindness, for I am the Ruler over all that I will."

O servant! Know thou that We have ordained joy and gladness for Our near servants, while We have ordained for Our own Self sorrows in the path of the All-Merciful—and God is witness to this. We desired for you tranquility in your homelands, while for Myself exile and imprisonment, even as I am imprisoned in this remote prison. Arise to promote the Cause of God, then summon the people to this mighty, irrevocable Command, that perchance they may purify their ears from the croaking of the idolaters and hear the call of God from this luminous, shining horizon, and may detach themselves from the world and its vain imaginings, and follow the path of certitude.

Say: O people! Have ye occupied yourselves with the world and become heedless of the Beloved of the worlds? By God! Were ye to behold with the eye of God, ye would sacrifice yourselves in the path of the Youth, then hasten with your hearts to this straight path. Thus have We commanded thee that thou mayest assist thy Lord to the extent of thy power, and this is a bounty from Us unto thee. Soon shalt thou witness and be assured, if thou remainest steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord with manifest constancy.

Convey Our remembrance to thy son who hath been named with the first of My names, and give him the glad-tidings of My remembrance of him, that the dove of his Lord's love, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, may warble within his breast. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon him and upon the servants of God who are detached.

BH03073: O Most Exalted Pen! Move in remembrance…

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate!

O Most Exalted Pen! Move in remembrance of the name of My servant Rahim, that he may be attracted by God's remembrance of him and be illumined in these days when darkness hath overtaken all who dwell on earth, save those who have attained to the recognition of their Lord and are counted among those who have turned towards Him.

O Rahim! Know thou that thy Lord's mercy hath preceded all created things, and of His mercy is His remembrance of thee, if thou be of them that understand. By His remembrance are drawn the hearts of them that have attained. He who is heedless of thy Lord's remembrance is but an infant in the Book, sucking from the breast of ignorance the milk of doubt and misgiving, and is accounted among the lost.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having attained unto His recognition and turned towards Him after His servants who are veiled had turned away. Grieve not at anything, but place thy trust in all matters in God, the Almighty, the Powerful. Guard thou the shop which hath been opened in Our name for pilgrims, and which is known by My name, if thou be of them that understand. Then strive to manage and improve its affairs. Whosoever returneth unto it returneth unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. Thus have We commanded thee in truth. Act thou according to what thou hast been bidden by One All-Wise, All-Informed.

Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of God, for having heard His melodies, for having been illumined by the lights of His beauty, for having attained His presence and been numbered among the successful ones. Be thou not perturbed by anything, but place thy trust in thy Lord at all times. He, verily, aideth those who have desired His Face and assisteth His steadfast servants. They who have disbelieved in God in this Revelation shall be consumed by the fire of negation and desire, and shall not be among those who perceive. And they who have believed—upon them shall pray the denizens of the seen and unseen realm, and this truthful and trustworthy Tongue.

Sanctify thyself from the allusions of them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, lest the cawing of Satan affect thee. Seek assistance from God, thy Lord, then place thy reliance in Him rather than in others, for He sufficeth thee against all created things. Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth. Rejoice thou in My remembrance of thee, and be not of the heedless ones.

And the glory which hath shone forth from the horizon of eternity be upon thee and upon every assured and perceiving one.

BH03086: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful! These are the verses of God, the King, the Truth, the Manifest Justice, unto him who was guided by the guidance of the Spirit and turned toward the holy precincts until he entered the spot of Paradise after the Sun of Grandeur and Glory had set therefrom, and he lamented with the lamentation of those who have lost.

O servant! Know thou that thy yearning in separation from the Luminary of the horizons when He departed from the precincts of Iraq was greater in the sight of God than the worship of most of the servants. Thus have We distinguished thee with the truth, and verily We have power over all things. We were with thee and heard thy cry and thy yearning, and We have ordained for thee in the Tablets a reward that was truly great. Be thou steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord and grieve not for anything, but place thy trust in God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Generous. God hath written down for thee the reward of one who attained the presence of the Countenance and won the meeting with his Lord. Verily, He doth not suffer to be lost the reward of the doers of good.

Arise in the Cause of God, then strive within thyself that there may be manifested from thee that which will raise up the Cause of thy Lord amongst His heedless servants. For God hath prescribed for every soul the teaching of His Cause, and He loveth that there should appear from the Lote-Trees of existence the

fruits of wisdom and utterance. Thus hath He willed by His command—there is no God but He, the All-Knowing, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Purposing.

Arise to serve God and say: "O people of the Bayan! Your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath come with manifest sovereignty. Fear ye God and deny not Him for Whose path the blood of those near unto God was shed." Say: "Verily, He Who came unto you by the name of ʿAli was the Herald of this Most Great, Most Glorious Manifestation, and His Most Exalted Pen moved only in My remembrance and praise, and there flowed from His ink naught but this wise Remembrance, until He sacrificed His soul in My love that ye might not commit in the time of the Manifestation what the people of the Furqan, and before them the people of the Torah and the Gospel, committed." Thus doth the Pen of Command instruct thee. Act thou according to what thou hast been commanded and be not of the heedless ones.

And the mercy which hath descended from the heaven of grandeur upon thee and upon the detached servants of God.

BH03139: The fire of the All-Merciful from the Divine Lote-Tree…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious!

The fire of the All-Merciful from the Divine Lote-Tree in the human realm blazeth forth in truth in this Ridvan, and every ember thereof proclaimeth that there is none other God but Him, and that He, verily, hath ever been independent of all worlds. Through it the warmth of the love of the Beloved is kindled in hearts, and the Beloved draweth souls unto an exalted and impregnable sanctuary. Through it are the hearts of lovers set aflame, and they become detached from all else. Thus hath the decree been inscribed in truth by the Most Exalted Pen upon the White Tablet.

God well knoweth that thou hast been set aflame by this fire and hast been attracted by the melodies of God. Preserve thou the fire, lest it be extinguished by the waters of idle fancies of those who have denied God and been deprived of the breezes of holiness. Arise to promote the Cause of God and convey unto men these tidings which have caused all who are in the heavens and on earth to tremble, save those whom God hath protected through His manifest sovereignty.

Say: O people! The test hath come to you from the direction of your Lord, the All-Merciful, and at this moment the idolaters are in great turmoil. Say: This trial is a trial for those who have not drunk from the cup of certitude offered by the Youth of the All-Merciful, Who was sent forth from the light of the Throne. As to those who have partaken thereof, their feet shall never slip from aught, for they are they who have taken for themselves a secure station beneath the shadow of the All-Merciful. Neither the tempests of trials nor the storms of tribulations can move them, for they are preserved within the stronghold of God's protection. Upon them do the dwellers of Paradise shower their blessings, morning and evening.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth and revealed unto thee that which rejoiceth thy heart and the hearts of all who are endowed with insight. Convey thou the greetings from God unto the faces of them that have believed in God and are steadfast in His Cause. Lead thou the people into the religion of God and tarry not even for a moment, for this is the glory of the servant in this Day wherein

God hath brought forth a wondrous Cause. Gather thou My loved ones together and be thou their helper in all things.

And upon thee, and upon thy son and daughter, rest the glory that proceedeth from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise. And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH03144: This is a letter from Him Who is imprisoned…

In the name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

This is a letter from Him Who is imprisoned to one who has believed in God, the Protecting, the Self-Subsisting. Worship none but Him, and be detached from those who are veiled. Verily those who have denied God in these days are burning in the fire. If thou wouldst look with the eye of certainty, thou wouldst see them wailing and lamenting in the fire. But those who have believed, these are in the mercy of their Lord and are rejoicing in the holy Ridvan, while the maidens of Paradise wait upon them and they delight in the fruits of divine knowledge.

Know thou that God hath prescribed for every soul the teaching of His Cause. Arise to teach His Cause and fear not those who have denied God, the Mighty, the Beloved. Say: O people, cross over the bridge and tarry not around it. Fear God and turn not back. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath appeared with the truth. Beware that ye delay not. Hasten to the remembrance of God and His Cause, and be not of those who hesitate. Thus doth the Pen of Command enjoin you, if ye would hear. If ye hear, it is for your own sake, and if ye turn away, verily He is independent of you and of what was and what will be.

Turn thy face toward the holy court and say: O my God and my Beloved! Deprive me not in these days of the breezes of Thy mercy and the melodies of the Dove of Thy gracious favors. Make me ever looking toward Thee and detached from all else besides Thee. Then send down upon me what Thou hast ordained for me and withhold not from me what is with Thee. Verily Thou art the All-Powerful, the Protecting, the Most High, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

O my God! How can I be at rest in my place when I witness that Thy Beloved is imprisoned among the tyrannous ones of Thy creation and the rebellious among Thy creatures? And how can I rejoice within myself when the winds of sorrow blow from the direction of Thy mighty throne? And how can I preserve myself when Thy Self was beneath the claws of those who denied Thee from time immemorial? I therefore beseech Thee by this and by what is with Thee that Thou make me not heedless of what hath befallen Him, that I may mention His tribulations and afflictions among Thy servants. There is no God but Thee, the All-Giving, the Most High, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH03146: This is a letter from the servant to those…

In the Name of our Lord, the Helper

This is a letter from the servant to those who have been illumined by the lights of their Lord's countenance, the Mighty, the Bestower, who have detached themselves from the world and whatever was created therein, and who have turned with spirit and fragrance toward the Dayspring of the Cause.

O servant! Hear My call from the direction of the prison that there is none other God but Him, the One, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Compassionate. Detach thyself from all else save God and arise to aid His Cause in these days wherein most of the people have veiled themselves from Him Who came to them from the Dayspring of the Command with power and sovereignty. Soon shall they say:

> "Oh, woe unto us for what we neglected toward God and for our heedlessness and loss!"

Hear thou My words and avoid those who have taken the Evil One as their lord instead of God—they are but the companions of delusion.

Say: O people! Cast not the ordinances of God behind your backs. Fear ye the Day when souls shall be convulsed and foundations shall tremble. He commands you only that which draws you nigh unto Him. Fear God and be not of those who have shown pride toward God. Take for yourselves a path to the Divine good-pleasure. Beware, O people, lest ye transgress what hath been ordained in God's Book and follow every doubting idolater.

O people! Hesitate not in this Cause—it hath appeared in truth from God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower. Purify your ears to hearken unto the Word of God, then your hearts from the mention of aught else, that the revelations of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Glorious, may be imprinted upon them.

Would that thou hadst been with Us in those days and discovered what was concealed within the veils of power and grandeur! But what was decreed hath been decreed by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. Be content with what God hath decreed for thee and say:

> "Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name whereby Thou hast guided them that know unto the court of Thy good-pleasure and them that are sincere unto the realm of Thy decree, that Thou leave me not to myself and my desires. Raise me up through Thy sovereignty to the heights of knowledge that I may know Thee by Thy Self and detach myself from all else besides Thee. Verily Thou art powerful over what Thou willest and verily Thou art the Protector, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting."

BH03147: This is an epistle from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

This is an epistle from the Prisoner to him who hath been guided by the lights of the Spirit in this Dawn which hath been illumined by the splendors of the Countenance, and who hath been attracted by the melodies of his Lord in days which were promised in the Tablet.

Blessed art thou for having tasted of the fruits of the Tree of God in this Springtime wherein the temples of them that are detached were adorned with the ornament of a wondrous Name.

Say: O people! Were ye troubled for your own sakes in the days of tribulation after We had forewarned you thereof in a mighty and impregnable Tablet? Say: We loved the Spirit and preserved it that We might sacrifice it in the path of God—and God Himself is witness to what I say—and besides this nothing

profiteth Us, nor would We turn Our attention to it for less than a moment. Say: O people! Were We to lift the veil from your faces, ye would sacrifice your very souls with your own hands that ye might attain the station which was raised up in truth through the Word of God. Say: O people of the Bayan! Fear your Lord, the All-Merciful, and deny not Him at whose mention alone the Most Exalted Pen hath moved. Consider what hath been revealed in the Bayan, that ye may perchance find a way unto God. Say: Reflect within yourselves for less than a moment why We have remained in this prison and borne what no other among all creation hath borne, that ye may arise from the slumber of vain desire and turn towards this Sun which hath dawned above the horizon of grace with manifest splendor.

Know thou that We had previously sent down verses unto thee and dispatched them to thee, but they who were heedless intervened between thee and them, and committed that which they were forbidden in a preserved Tablet. Grieve thou not, but be thou assured of thy Lord's favor, for verily He is with thee and guardeth thee through His sovereign might, and He, verily, hath power over all things. Aid thy Lord to the extent of thy power—thus doth the Pen of Command enjoin thee at a time when sorrows have encompassed it from every direction and it remaineth solitary amidst the idolaters.

And glory be upon thee and upon them that are with thee, who have detached themselves from all directions and turned with radiant faces toward the Dayspring of Revelation.

BH03186: O Nabil, before Sadiq! Hearken unto what is revealed…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

O Nabil, before Sadiq! Hearken unto what is revealed unto thee from the right hand of the Throne, which is better for thee than all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth. He, verily, there is none other God but Him. His are the greatness and grandeur, the power and transcendent sovereignty. He giveth life and causeth death, then causeth death and giveth life, and He, verily, is the Self-Subsisting in His Own Being, the Self-Sufficient in His Essence, exalted above the comprehension of all created things.

O Pen of Command! Make mention in the Tablet of that which Satan uttered in those days when he said unto his hosts:

> "Come ye and help me, that your names may endure upon the earth."

Thus did he whisper into the breasts of the idolaters. Say: O thou who associateth partners with God! Did his name profit Pharaoh upon the earth, or Nimrod by that which the servants make mention of him? Nay, by Him Who holdeth my soul in His hands! Nothing profited them, and they are now among those brought before the fire.

Say: O people! Consider his followers. By God! They worship names and perceive it not. Nay, were ye to ponder upon them, ye would find them to be worshippers of their own names. Thus hath it been sent down in truth, that ye may be among those who understand. Look, then, upon him and those who follow him. Woe unto him and unto them! They shall soon return to their abode in the nethermost depths. By God, the Truth! They soar in the atmosphere of vain imaginings and worship vain imaginings, and their

purpose in what they do is none other than to lead astray those who have turned towards the Most Sublime Vision and were of them that drew nigh.

Say: O people! Guard yourselves against these ones, then take refuge in God from their scheming. Thus doth your Lord command you in a preserved Tablet of might. Detach yourselves from them and hold fast unto God, your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Say: We have sufficed with God apart from all else, and become independent through Him from all creation. Thus have We taught thee in truth that thou mayest be possessed of clear certitude.

Verily, for those who are steadfast in this Cause, a mighty station hath been ordained, and they are indeed among the most exalted of creation in the sight of God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers of old.

And glory be upon thee and upon those who have been illumined by this Sun which hath shone forth from the horizon of the Will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

BH03191: O Handmaiden of God, Ruhani! In My Name…

O Handmaiden of God, Ruhani! In My Name, the Most Spiritual! O fragrant flower of remembrance and spiritual in title! Hearken to the call that hath been raised from the direction of thy Lord's Throne, the Most High, the Most Great. Verily, through the call of God are drawn the hearts of the pure ones, and were all who are in the heavens and earth to hear it, they would detach themselves from all things and turn toward the precincts of the Throne, the seat whereon thy Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate, is established.

Blessed is thy tongue for having been loosened in remembrance of thy Lord, and thy heart for having recognized thy Lord, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Praiseworthy. That which thou didst compose out of love for God, the Beloved of those who know Him, hath come before the Countenance, and unto it were directed the glances of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Be thou steadfast in thy love for thy Lord, then speak forth His remembrance and praise amongst His devoted handmaidens, that they may be drawn to the Dayspring of the Countenance, this hallowed and luminous horizon. Verily thy Lord is with thee under all conditions and will aid thee through utterance in remembrance of His Self, the Most Merciful. He, verily, is powerful over all things. Speak thou! Remember thou! Be thou devoted! This is better for thee than all the treasures of earth. Thus doth thy Lord testify with a wondrous tongue of truth.

Turn thy face toward the precincts of the Throne and say: Praise be to Thee, O my God, my Lord, my Master and my Beloved, for having caused me to recognize the Manifestation of Thy Most Exalted Self in this latter resurrection, and for having enabled me to voice His praise between earth and heaven. I beseech Thee then, by Thy Beauty through which were gladdened the eyes of the denizens of the most exalted Paradise, not to deprive me of what lieth with Thee of Thy great gifts and mighty favors. Thou, verily, art powerful to do what Thou willest, and Thou art, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Thus doth command thee the Beloved One Who is imprisoned in the land of exile through what the hands of the iniquitous have wrought. Convey from Us Our greetings upon the countenance of thy father and mother, and upon those handmaidens who have believed in God, the True King, the Manifest Justice. The Spirit be upon thee, then the Glory be upon thee, then the Light be upon thee from the presence of One mighty and beauteous. Blessed are the handmaidens who hearken to thy melodies in remembrance of thy Lord, and blessed are Our successful handmaidens and successful servants.

BH03193: O servant! Know thou the value of these days…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

O servant! Know thou the value of these days. By God! The eyes of those gone before have not witnessed their like, nor shall the eyes of those to come behold their equal. Know that this Revelation hath no peer nor likeness. God hath sanctified it above all semblances and similitudes, and none knoweth this save Our sincere servants. Seize thou its worth, then seek thy Lord's grace therein, and be in manifest joy and delight. Grieve thou for naught save My imprisonment and tribulation, and weep not except for separation from Me. Thus doth this Most Holy, Most Exalted Pen command thee.

Be thou so steadfast in thy Lord's Cause that the words of men shall not affect thee. Cast behind thee every mention and hold fast to the remembrance of the name of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Purify thy heart from all allusions, then make it a receptacle for the love of My Name, the All-Merciful, and be not of the heedless. Guard thyself lest the whisperings of Satan change thee. Seek aid in the remembrance of God, thy Lord, then draw strength from His power and sovereignty, and hold fast to His strong cord. Forget not His covenant, and consort not with those on whose faces thou findest the darkness of fire. Be companion to My loved ones whose faces shine with the radiance of bliss.

Taste thou the sweetness of utterance from that which the Pen of the All-Merciful hath set in motion, for He is the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Glorious. He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth through His firm, wondrous command. Restrain thyself from that which thou art forbidden, then be content with what hath been ordained for thee in the heaven of God, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Preserve what hath been sent down to thee from the heaven of grace, then recite it throughout the days and be not of the heedless ones. Verily thy Lord is with thee, exalting whom He willeth as He pleaseth, and strengthening those who have believed as He desireth.

Convey Our glorification to thy mother's face, then gladden her with tidings of My good-pleasure, My grace, My loving-kindness and My mercy that have preceded all the worlds. And glory be upon the people of glory whose faces are illumined by the lights of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Compelling.

BH03221: God makes mention of His servant that he may…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous!

God makes mention of His servant that he may find joy in His remembrance. O Karim! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner. He verily heard thy cry at the time when thou didst respond to His Cause, and He is, in truth, the All-Knowing. Know thou that God hath accepted thy turning unto Him and hath inscribed thy

name upon a Tablet that was, in truth, magnificent—among those who attained the presence of His Countenance, and heard His call, and were blessed with His meeting, and were honored thereby, and were illumined by the lights of His resplendent face. Blessed art thou for having attained unto this most exalted station and this most glorious state. He, verily, is merciful towards His servants.

We bear witness that thou hast visited the Sanctuary of God and circumambulated the Kaaba of His Cause—and this is assuredly a great bounty. Guard thou My affairs and be not impatient regarding them. Thus doth the Pen of Glory command thee from the presence of One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise. There hath been ordained for thee in the All-Glorious Paradise a noble station.

Make mention of Me in My land, that I may make mention of thee in My heaven. Then hold fast unto the cord of My bounties, for it will lead thee to a station of sublime glory. Give thanks unto God for having aided thee to recognize Him and for having made His Self known unto thee, after every remote misbeliever had opposed Him. Be thou steadfast in My love, then be thou enkindled with this Fire through which the heart of every insightful mystic hath been set ablaze.

How wonderful is this bounty which hath appeared in truth and encompassed both small and great! Say: O people! Deprive not yourselves thereof, and deny not Him to Whose sovereignty and grandeur the denizens of the all-highest Paradise and the realities of all things bear witness. Tarry not upon the path—pass ye beyond it, and be not tyrannous transgressors. Say: Have mercy upon yourselves and oppose not Him—for whoso opposeth Him is cursed by the inhabitants of Paradise and by those who bear the Throne of thy Lord with manifest power.

Associate with My loved ones and shun Mine enemies. Thus doth the Pen of might and glory command thee. And the Glory be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from the world and have laid hold on a handle that is sure.

BH03222: The remembrance of God from the Divine Lote-Tree was…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Help in Peril

The remembrance of God from the Divine Lote-Tree was at that time raised up, even as My call was raised from the Sinaitic Tree unto Moses, He Who conversed with God, that “There is none other God but Him” and verily He encompasseth all things. Say: We have sent forth the Word in human temple and adorned it with the ornament of Mine own Self amidst the Concourse of Names, and thus was the matter decreed in the preserved tablets of glory. Say: He is the Creator of names—beware, O people, lest ye be veiled by them from Him Who created them by His command, and whoso is veiled is recorded before the Throne as among the worshippers of names.

Say: O people, drink ye the water of life from the hands of the mercy of your Lord, the All-Merciful, in this Paradise which hath been made manifest at the heart of creation as a testimony to the truth. Say: This indeed is the Youth of God among you Who calleth you unto Him and reciteth unto you verses which were sent down in truth with the truth, and Who awaiteth at every moment what hath been ordained for Him in the tablets of decree, if ye be aware of this. And at every moment He saith: O my God! Leave Me not in the midst of these ones, but raise Me up unto Thee, for verily Thou hast power over all things.

And Thou knowest, O my God, that most of the servants desire to shed My blood, and I have longed for what they desire, and verily Thou art knowing of Thy creation. They love Me not and I love them not—so separate between Me and them, for verily Thou art wise over all things.

O servant who art mentioned! Blessed art thou in that thou hast drunk from the Salsabil of certitude and turned with thy heart to a station which was in truth praiseworthy. Remember thou My tribulations and afflictions, then speak in praise of thy Lord, and He will aid thee in His Cause, for verily He hath ever been nigh unto the doers of good. We make mention of thee in truth, and at this moment the breezes of remembrance which were sent from the paradise of the Command unto the worlds shall draw thee. And glory be upon thee and upon those with thee who have turned toward the holy precincts and were drawn by the melodies of God.

BH03233: Glorified be He before Whom all in the heavens…

In the Name of our Lord, the Self-Subsisting!

Glorified be He before Whom all in the heavens and earth bow down in worship—among them are those who have recognized Him and prostrate themselves before His luminous, holy, and resplendent countenance, and among them are those who worship Him yet know Him not and remain among the heedless. Say: O people, this is a servant of God among you who was lying upon his couch when the breezes of your Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the Beautiful, awakened him and raised him up to His Cause, causing him to speak forth in praise of His Self among the worlds. He commands you to that which God, your Beloved and the Beloved of those who know, has commanded, and forbids you that which you were forbidden in God's ancient and revealed Book.

Say: He has sacrificed his spirit in His path and conveyed that which he was commanded by the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. The multitude of enemies did not deter him after they all rose up against him and sought to shed his blood without any proof or clear Book. He spoke at all times what the Spirit commanded him, to which every fair-minded and informed one bears witness. He now stands before the hands of enemies, awaiting what has been ordained for him in the preserved Tablets of glory.

Say: He has commanded you only to that which would purify your souls from the turbidities of self and passion, yet you heeded not his word and followed the ways of the corrupt. In all the Tablets He forbade you to shed blood, yet you committed that which violated His sanctity before all creation. Fear God, O people, and spread not corruption in the land after its reformation, and cast not the ways of God behind your backs, and be not of those who forsake them. Act according to what you were commanded in all the Tablets, then abandon what you were forbidden—this is better for you, were you of those who perceive.

O servant! Rejoice within yourself at what has been mentioned in this Tablet and be of those who are gladdened. We beseech God to assist you in His Cause and those who have turned to His shining and luminous countenance. And the Spirit be upon you and upon those who have heeded God's counsel and were among the detached ones. And praise be to God, the Beloved of those who know.

BH03251: Your letter has come before Us and We found…

He is the Most Manifest

Your letter has come before Us and We found from it the fragrance of your love for your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. We beseech God to assist you in His Cause, to purify you from those who have disbelieved, to sanctify you from all that His good-pleasure abhors, to make you pure for His Own Self, the Mighty, the Wondrous, to draw you nigh unto Him and to cause you to enter the pavilion wherein shineth His holy, radiant and luminous countenance, and to grant you His presence in all ages. This indeed is a great bounty.

And if you wish to know what hath befallen Me in this Prison at the hands of the hosts of the idolaters, know that the Ancient Beauty hath been afflicted at the hands of the people of the Bayan, these idolaters, even as ʿAli was afflicted at the hands of the people of the Furqan, and Muhammad at the hands of the people of the Gospel, and the Spirit at the hands of the Jews. Thus was the matter decreed against this lonely Wronged One.

Then know that from Shin three, then Fa, Nun and Kha and Sin, then Qaf and Ya, and the first, then the second and the third, and Shin—they were sent in a temple and rose up against Me in battle. The curse of God be upon his vile and accursed temple! By God the Truth, I know not how to recount what befell Me on the day he sought to kill Me, and on the day he complained of Me, and on the day he sent his wife before the rulers where she complained of this Youth, that they might decree for him that which would satisfy the belly of the greedy one—and verily it shall not be satisfied except by the fire in his abode. Evil indeed is the abode of the deniers! All things weep for Me, for by his actions the sanctity of God hath been violated amongst all created things.

But grieve not for what hath befallen Us, for this is God's way with His chosen ones in centuries past. Therefore be patient, show forth patience, then stand firm in the Cause. He will verily aid thee with the truth, and He is the Helper of the chosen ones.

And upon thee be glory, and upon those with thee. Convey Our greetings to the faces of those who are with thee among God's sincere servants.

BH03271: In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy! This is a Book from Us to him whom tribulations have touched in the path of God, that the words of his Lord may detach him from all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth and draw him nigh unto God, his Ancient Lord.

O servant! Grieve not for what hath befallen thee, for there hath befallen Us what hath befallen no one before, and thy Lord is, verily, witness to what I say. Be thankful unto thy Lord for having attained unto His recognition and His love, and whoso hath attained His love should glory over all creation.

Know thou that God hath ordained for this Revelation souls whom neither the winds of trials nor the tempests of tests can move. These are among the most exalted of creatures in the Tablet of imperishable

glory. They are servants who call all who are on earth behind them and turn toward the countenance of God with pure and illumined hearts. Those who have paused at the stage of names are unable to soar in this holy and wondrous atmosphere.

Say: O people! Purify your hearts from whatsoever can be called a thing, that the evidences of the remembrance of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, may be imprinted thereon from this most luminous Horizon. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen counsel you in this glorious Tablet. Turn not unto the world and its ornaments, for by My life, they shall all perish as decreed in the Tablets of destiny, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the One, the Single, the Mighty, the Powerful.

Say: O people! Fear not for yourselves in the path of your Lord. Blessed is the soul that hath been purified for its Lord and hath been martyred in the path of God, the Just King, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. He whose face hath been reddened with his blood out of love for God, by God, the faces of the denizens of the most exalted Paradise and then the dwellers of the cities of eternity shall be illumined thereby, and all things bear witness to this, were ye of them that hear.

Thus hath spoken the Tongue of Unity from the right hand of the Throne of Grandeur, as a mercy from Him unto thee and unto the sincere servants of God. And glory be upon thee throughout the eternity of God, the Sovereign, the Everlasting, the One, the Single, the All-Knowing, shouldst thou remain steadfast in thy love for Him and be not shaken by the intimations of the idolaters.

BH03273: In the name of God, the Most Beautiful…

In the name of God, the Most Beautiful, the Most Beautiful! This is a Book which hath been sent down in truth and in it is that which draweth people nigh unto God, the Most High, the Most Great. Blessed is he who hath clung to the cord of grace in these days wherein the Sun of Utterance hath shone forth from the horizon of God's Will, the Most High, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people! Dispute not concerning the verses of God, and deny not Him through Whom the Tree of the Furthermost Boundary hath borne fruit, the heaven of destiny hath been upraised, and the Dove of Eternity hath warbled upon the twigs of the Tree of Paradise—this Most Holy, Most Wondrous, and Most Beauteous Spot. Fear God, O people of the Bayan, and deny not the verses of the All-Merciful which have been sent down in truth with the hosts of revelation from the heaven of God, the Almighty, the Powerful.

They who have denied this Revelation, these have not believed in God from time immemorial, to this all things bear witness, yet the people are in grievous error. Do ye worship the calf and oppose God, the Lord of all worlds?

Say: This is He Who was promised in all the Tablets, if ye be of them that know. And this, verily, is He Who was intended in the Books of God, the Ancient of Days. Say: The Qa'im is he who hath arisen to promote My Cause, and the Guardian is he who hath circled round the Kaaba of My Beauty, and the Imam is he who hath sacrificed his soul in My path, if ye be of them that understand.

And thou, sever thyself from all else but Me, then speak My praise amongst My servants, that perchance they may arise from the sleep of heedlessness and passion, and turn with their hearts to the Perspective

of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creation. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God, and praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

He is the Most Glorious! Stand firm in the Cause of God, then gather the people unto the law of His love lest they differ in the Cause of God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds. Be thou enkindled that the people may be enkindled through thy love. Thus doth command thee the Pen of Command from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Beware lest thou tarry in rendering assistance. Convey that which hath been revealed unto thee and be not silent in the remembrance of God, the Beloved of the worlds. Convey greetings from thy Lord to thy mother, brother and sister, then to the faces of Our assured servants.

BH03276: This is a Tablet from this servant who glories…

He is the One who abides through the abiding of His Essence

This is a Tablet from this servant who glories in his servitude to God, Who created him by a command from His presence, awakened him from his slumber, and made him among those who remember, unto those who have believed in God and are secure from the greatest terror.

Say: O people! Blessed are ye for having attained unto the recognition of God and the Manifestation of His Self, and for having detached yourselves from the idolaters. Hold fast to the cord of God—verily it is His Most Great, Most Mighty Remembrance. Then call upon Him that He may make you steadfast in His love and protect you from those who have disbelieved in God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Verily He hath need of no one, and He is indeed independent of what hath been and what shall be. That which He commandeth His servants is out of His grace, were ye to be among those who know. He desireth for no one save that which will draw him nigh unto the sacred court, the station wherein whosoever entereth will behold himself as a mirror of His beauty, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

O people! Detach yourselves from all save God, your Lord, and turn unto Him with radiant countenance. Verily His herald calleth you at all times and summoneth you unto the perspective of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Turn your hearts at all times unto Him and He will suffice you against all created things. In His right hand is a chalice of the Kawthar of immortality and He saith: Come and drink, O people of Baha, and be not of the patient ones. Whoso drinketh a drop therefrom shall abide through the abiding of God, the Most High, the Most Great. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves thereof, for whoso is deprived is in manifest loss.

And thou, O servant, take the chalice with power from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful. Then drink therefrom in the name of thy Lord and be not of them that hesitate. Though thou hast drunk before—and verily thy Lord is All-Knowing, All-Informed—yet God commandeth thee once again that He may thereby purify thy breast from all allusions and thou mayest attain unto manifest assurance.

The Spirit and glory be upon thee and upon those who have turned unto Me with a pure and radiant heart.

BH03289: My God, my Well-Beloved! No place is there…

My God, my Well-Beloved! No place is there for any one to flee to when once Thy laws have been sent down, and no refuge can be found by any soul after the revelation of Thy commandments. Thou hast inspired the Pen with the mysteries of Thine eternity, and bidden it teach man that which he knoweth not, and caused him to partake of the living waters of truth from the cup of Thy Revelation and Thine inspiration.

No sooner, however, had the Pen traced upon the tablet one single letter of Thy hidden wisdom, than the voice of the lamentation of Thine ardent lovers was lifted up from all directions. Thereupon, there befell the just what hath caused the inmates of the tabernacle of Thy glory to weep and the dwellers of the cities of Thy revelation to groan.

Thou dost consider, O my God, how He Who is the Manifestation of Thy names is in these days threatened by the swords of Thine adversaries. In such a state He crieth out and summoneth all the inhabitants of Thine earth and the denizens of Thy heaven unto Thee.

Purify, O my God, the hearts of Thy creatures with the power of Thy sovereignty and might, that Thy words may sink deep into them. I know not what is in their hearts, O my God, nor can tell the thoughts they think of Thee. Methinks that they imagine that Thy purpose in calling them to Thine all-highest horizon is to heighten the glory of Thy majesty and power. For had they been satisfied that Thou summonest them to that which will recreate their hearts and immortalize their souls, they would never have fled from thy governance, nor deserted the shadow of the tree of Thy oneness. Clear away, then, the sight of Thy creatures, O my God, that they may recognize Him Who showeth forth the Godhead as One Who is sanctified from all that pertaineth unto them, and Who, wholly for Thy sake, is summoning them to the horizon of Thy unity, at a time when every moment of His life is beset with peril. Had His aim been the preservation of His own Self, He would never have left it at the mercy of Thy foes.

I swear by Thy glory! I have accepted to be tried by manifold adversities for no purpose except to regenerate all that are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth. Whoso hath loved Thee, can never feel attached to his own self, except for the purpose of furthering Thy Cause; and whoso hath recognized Thee can recognize naught else except Thee, and can turn to no one save Thee.

Enable Thy servants, O my God, to discover the things Thou didst desire for them in Thy Kingdom. Acquaint them, moreover, with what He Who is the Origin of Thy most excellent titles hath, in His love for Thee, been willing to bear for the sake of the regeneration of their souls, that they may haste to attain the River that is Life indeed, and turn their faces in the direction of Thy Name, the Most Merciful. Abandon them not to themselves, O my God! Draw them, by Thy bountiful favor, to the heaven of Thine inspiration. They are but paupers, and Thou art the All-Possessing, the ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.

BH03305: Thus calls out the Tongue of God from behind…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Glorious!

Thus calls out the Tongue of God from behind the Lote-Tree of the Uttermost End, addressing those who dwell on earth and in heaven, saying: Blessed is he who hath found intimacy with My remembrance, who hath recited My verses, who hath spoken in praise of My Self, who hath turned with his heart toward My direction, who hath witnessed the lights of My Beauty from the horizon of My grandeur, who hath been drawn by My fragrances that waft from My paradise, who hath detached himself from all else save Me, who hath placed his trust in My Self, who hath relied upon My sovereignty, who hath clung to the hem of My providence, who hath held fast to the cord of My loving-kindness, who hath found peace in My manifestation, who hath stood firm in My Cause, who hath not been troubled by Mine enemies, who hath departed from the city of fancy through My power, My might and My authority, who hath shattered the idol of conjecture by the strength of My Will, My decree and My transcendence, who hath rent asunder the veils of remoteness through My nearness, My gifts and My favors, and who hath appeared among the servants adorned with My ornaments, My signs, My fragrances and My detachment.

By My Beauty! The inhabitants of the realms of My eternity, the dwellers of the cities of My immortality, and the companions of the depths of My grandeur yearn to meet this servant, and around him circle the Houris of the chambers of My paradise and the chaste maidens of My garden of paradise and good-pleasure. Thus hath the matter been ordained in the tablets of My Will, the volumes of My Purpose, the pages of My Decree, the books of My Judgment, the tablets of My Permission, and the leaves of My firm and impregnable Wisdom.

Blessed art thou, O servant, in that these verses have been sent down unto thee, verses by which the hearts of My chosen ones and the souls of My trusted ones have been drawn. Give thanks unto thy Lord, then recite them that thy self, thy spirit and thine essence may be drawn by them, and that thou mayest be numbered among God's successful servants. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have heard the melodies of God in these days and were among the successful ones. And praise be to the Beloved of the mystics.

O youth! Accept thou what God, thy Lord, hath decreed, then detach thyself from the idolaters. Say: This is what hath been decreed by our Lord; we are indeed of those who are certain. Convey My greetings unto thy brother and thy family that they may give thanks unto God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03307: Hearken, O My Name! Then diffuse from the Crimson…

He is the All-Knowing!

Hearken, O My Name! Then diffuse from the Crimson Hill even as musk diffuseth from the Garden of thy Lord, the Bestower, the Mighty, the Powerful, that thou mayest perfume all created things, and that the fragrances of possibility may be scattered abroad, and all may turn unto the face of thy Lord, the Most Merciful, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

O Rahim! Come forth from the chambers of stillness and be thou a herald from Our presence amongst the worlds. Detach thyself from thine own self in the path of thy Lord, then migrate to whatsoever land thou desirest in My Name, the All-Desiring, the Triumphant, the Great. And shouldst thou be alone, find solace in the remembrance of thy Lord, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Wise. Verily, if thou hearest what

the Beauty of Knowledge hath taught thee, by God thy word would influence all things, nay every firm and lofty mountain. Arise from thy place, then be thou enkindled with this Fire whereby all things have been enkindled, that there might appear from thee the heat of the love of God in the hearts of the believers.

By God, O Rahim! We have found the people of the Bayan in such delusion as cannot be compared with the delusion of anyone in the kingdom. Therefore have the eyes of My inner being wept for My lonely and friendless Self. Say: O people! Aid ye the Youth, for He is the One through Whom your religion hath been exalted, your names uplifted, your power made manifest, and the beauty of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Wondrous, hath appeared. O people! Deprive not yourselves of this bounty which hath been raised up in truth. Fear ye God, unto Whom is your return and the resort of all the worlds. Arise by God's leave, then remind the people of that wherewith the Spirit of Holiness remindeth thee on this luminous night.

O My Name! If thou art poor in weakness, then seek wealth through My Name, the Powerful. If thou art sick in body, then seek healing through My Name, the Healer. If thou art weary in speech, then seek utterance through My sovereignty, the Speaker, the All-Knowing, the Eloquent. And when thou desirest to guide the people unto God, then will the Spirit speak upon thy tongue and there shall flow from thee the fountains of wisdom and utterance, and God is witness to what I say. Thus doth thy Lord give thee glad tidings that thou mayest give glad tidings unto the people of the paradise of a near and glorious presence.

BH03321: In My Name, the Most Glorious, the Most Glorious!

In My Name, the Most Glorious, the Most Glorious!

O Abu-Talib! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord from the direction of immortality, then listen to what is revealed unto thee from this Most Glorious Sacred Tree, that thou mayest be steadfast within thyself. Follow the religion of the Spirit in My Cause and turn not unto those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God. Then follow what is sent down unto thee from the Pen of thy Lord.

Know thou that thy father fulfilled his covenant and broke not God's testament, and followed this Beauty Whom none among creation hath known—to this doth the tongue of thy Lord bear witness. He ascended unto a station which no mystic can ever know and which no eloquent one can ever attain. Thus did We ordain for him in the Book of thy Lord. We raised him to this station because he showed no pride when the Sun of Sanctification dawned from the horizon of this Garment which the idolaters had stained crimson with the blood of hatred. Thus do We relate unto thee from the stories of thy Lord.

When the Beauty of God shone upon him from the horizon of this Countenance, he fell prostrate upon the dust and tarried not for less than a moment. Thus did the mercy of thy Lord, the All-Bountiful, precede him, as a grace from the wonders of thy Lord's bounty.

If thou desirest to soar in this atmosphere wherein the wings of the birds of the divine cloud-realm have never stirred, sanctify thyself from all else save God, thy Lord, that thou mayest be enabled to fly in this Paradise and become acquainted with the mysteries of what was and what shall be, before his gaze

returneth unto the handiwork of thy Lord. Thus have We related unto thee the story of Paradise, lest thou render thyself deprived thereof and of the breezes of the All-Merciful, and that perchance thou mayest seek it within thyself and be of those who have sought the House of thy Lord.

However, We are content with thy heart's intention rather than physical presence, for in that lieth temptation which none knoweth save the Self of thy Lord. Thus have We bestowed upon thee and distinguished thee among Our servants, and We have sent unto thee this Garment that thou mayest find therein the fragrance of thy Lord.

BH03322: O My handmaiden! If thou wert to hear what…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

O My handmaiden! If thou wert to hear what hath befallen Me, thou wouldst weep and lament. By God, there hath befallen Me that which hath befallen no soul, and the Beloved was in such a state as the Friend was, in truth, a witness.

O My handmaiden! Grieve not for anything, but put thy trust in God, then remember thy Lord in private and in public, for verily His remembrance hath been a companion to them that are devoted to His unity. Despair not of the spirit of God, nor lose hope in His breathings which have been sent, in truth, from the name of the All-Merciful to the peoples of all the worlds. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and hath turned with radiant countenance toward God.

Verily the world shall pass away, and what endureth is that which hath been ordained by One mighty and powerful. If He so willeth, He can make all that is on earth endure through a word from His presence, and if He so desireth, He can make it perish through another word, for verily He hath encompassed all things.

He who possesseth the vision of steel perceiveth in the Word of God that which he heard from the angel named Israfil, for through it the breezes of life blow upon the bodies of those who have turned with radiant faces toward God. Likewise doth he witness what he heard from the angel named ʿAzra'il, for through God's Word are the souls of the idolaters seized, and thus hath the matter been decreed in a preserved tablet.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, be patient and grieve not, then strive within thyself that there may appear from thee that which will exalt the sanctity of the Cause, and that thou mayest be among those women who have turned with all their being toward the Mighty, the Beautiful. We have been with thee and have heard thy remembrance and thy call, and verily thy Lord hath been unto thee the best helper and assistant. Be thou steadfast in the love of God, then let His remembrance suffice thee in place of the remembrance of all the worlds. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who have taken, beneath the shadow of their Lord's mercy, a station that was, in truth, sublime.

BH03348: O Zamani! Hearken to the call from around…

In the Name of God, the Most Glorious

O Zamani! Hearken to the call from around the Shrine of God—there is no God but Him, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Grieve not over any matter concerning thy Lord. Soon shall the carpet of the world be rolled up by the command of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful.

Know thou that the letter "Z" is among the letters of My Name, the Sanctified. We have made it the forefront of thy name—know this and be of the thankful ones. And We have made it an adornment of thy name among the worlds. It behooveth thee to be sanctified, that thou mayest reflect this Great Name. Know thou that God's purpose in this Name is the sanctification of the soul from His enemies. Thus hath it been sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and knowing.

This is what is mentioned in the first degree, wherewith thou hast been favored—be grateful and among the devout. And in the second degree is the sanctification of the soul from all that God hath abhorred and revealed in His perspicuous Book. Through the love of God, nothing shall harm thee in His days. Thou art among those mentioned in the Tablet by the Pen of God, the One, the Peerless, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. By God! Wert thou to behold what is with thy Lord, thou wouldst soar to the Most Glorious Horizon.

We beseech God to assist thee in all conditions and to grant thee what He hath ordained for thee. He is thy Protector and the Protector of the sincere ones. Arise to aid thy Lord with wisdom, then seek bounty from His presence. He is indeed kind and merciful unto thee.

The letter "Sh" hath migrated unto God until he arrived in the Prison-land. When he was prevented from attaining Our presence, We ordained for him twice the reward of those who attained the presence of the Throne. Verily thy Lord encompasseth all things. And he had a portion before, when the Sun of nearness shone forth from the horizon of Iraq. Thy Lord is indeed the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Blessed is he and those with him. We have found from them both the fragrance of trustworthiness and fidelity. We beseech God to assist them to praise His Exalted and Great Self. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

Soon shall the prison door be opened, and whosoever willeth shall enter. With thy Lord is the knowledge of all things preserved in a guarded Tablet.

BH03350: Glorified be He Who hath revealed Himself through His…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous!

Glorified be He Who hath revealed Himself through His Name, the All-Powerful, over all created things, and through Whom have appeared those endued with power and might, who have attained such a station therein that they subdue all things through a word from their Lord, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. All power that ye behold in the universe hath appeared from this revelation, were ye of them that perceive. Were it not for Him, no power would have been manifested in creation, nor could any soul move from its place. Thus do We cause to flow from the ocean of mysteries upon the temples of the righteous.

O people! Ponder the words of God and that which hath been sent down from Him. By God! Within each word thereof are treasured the pearls of knowledge—bring them forth, O concourse of the righteous! Not a single letter hath been revealed save that it possesseth, in each of His worlds, meanings and effects which none knoweth save God and those endowed with knowledge of the Scrolls and Books.

Be thankful unto God, O people, for what ye have been given in these days wherein the Ancient Beauty hath been established upon His Most Great Throne, around which circle the denizens of the Supreme Concourse at eventide and at dawn. Thus have the verses of the Cause been sent down from the right side of this Spot, whose very atoms proclaim at the dawning of the lights of His Countenance that there is none other God but Him, the One, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Blessed art thou, O servant, for thy heart hath been adorned with the ornament of divine knowledge and thy temple with the robe of certitude, and the breezes of holiness have stirred thee toward the Dayspring of Lights. Be steadfast in My love, then leave the world to its people. Turn with thy whole being unto God Who hath created all things by His command. There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be severed from the wicked.

And upon thee be the Spirit and Glory and Splendor, and upon those who have held fast unto God in this Day wherein all things proclaim that sovereignty belongeth unto God, the One, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

BH03351: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth as a mercy from His presence unto all the worlds. There is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command. He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth. None can reverse His decree, none can escape His dominion, and there is no refuge for anyone save in His blessed, hallowed, mighty and luminous presence.

O reader! When the Tablet of God cometh unto thee in truth, read it and remain not silent even for a moment. Say: O concourse of readers! By God, ye were created to read that which hath been sent down from the heaven of God, the Most High, the Most Great. If ye read all scriptures and tablets but read not this hallowed, mighty and wondrous Tablet, it shall not be accepted from you—to this do Our insightful servants bear witness. But if ye read even a single word from among the words of God that have been sent down in these days, God shall inscribe for you in the Tablet of Destiny a magnificent reward.

Say: Lift up your heads from the couch of heedlessness and desire, then turn toward the holy Dayspring that ye may witness the Sun of God, the Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Say: Verily it hath shone forth in truth—blessed is he who hath turned toward it with evident humility.

Say: Seek ye the help of God, O concourse of readers, then rend asunder the veils that have come between you and the Lord of all names, that ye may attain unto that which was promised you in God's Tablet, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Say: Do ye read what We sent down aforetime while forgetting

its Revealer? Woe unto you, O concourse of the veiled ones! By God, He hath appeared by Whose finger's beckoning the verses were sent down before and the tongue was loosened in remembrance of the All-Merciful, if ye be of them that know. Cast aside what ye possess, then take hold of the Book of God with a power from His presence, and be not of them that hesitate.

Thus have We sprinkled upon thee from this Sea the holy sprinkling as a mercy from Our presence unto thee, that thou mayest be of the thankful. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have turned toward God with a face resplendent and gleaming.

BH03357: Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by the breezes of Thy mercy in Thy days, and by the waves of the ocean of Thy oneness, and by Thy signs whereby the hearts of them that love Thee among Thy creatures were attracted, and by Thy manifestations whereby the faces of them that yearn for Thee were turned toward the court of Thy grace and bounty, to send down upon Thy handmaiden from the clouds of Thy decree and the heavens of Thy providence that which will sanctify her from all else except Thee and draw her nigh unto the seat of the throne of Thy mercy and the dawning-place of the lights of the Sun of Thy divinity.

O Lord! She hath turned toward Thee, and hath acknowledged Thy unity and confessed Thy singleness, and hath called upon Thee in her privacy and openly, and her call hath ascended to the heaven of Thy oneness and the dawning-place of Thy dominion and command. O Lord! Make her not deprived of that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen handmaidens, and keep her not far from the sanctuary of Thy nearness and good-pleasure.

O Lord! Sprinkle upon her heart from the depths of the ocean of Thy remembrance that which will attract her unto Thee and cause her to speak of Thy praise and glorification among Thy handmaidens. Then inscribe upon the tablet of her heart with Thy Most Exalted Pen the verses of Thy love and the mysteries of Thy knowledge in such wise that the affairs and manifestations of the world shall not efface them.

O Lord! Write down for her that which is best for her and ordain for her that which will gladden her heart and rejoice her soul. Thou art He Who hath ever been powerful over whatsoever He willeth and shall ever remain as Thou hast been from time immemorial. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Most High.

I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy Manifestation through Whom the Hour was thrown into commotion and the Resurrection took flight, and every intimate friend and confidant fell away, and through Whom darkness was illumined and the Word shone forth and the proof was perfected, to clothe her with the robe of forgiveness and purify her from transgression. Then enable her, O my God, to serve Thy servant whom Thou hast chosen for Thy love and named the Beauty. Verily, Thou art the Lord of grace and bounty, the Creator of earth and heaven. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

BH03390: O My Beloved! The book of mystical knowledge hath…

O My Beloved! The book of mystical knowledge hath been sent down from the Countenance of Certitude. It carried away the heart and bestowed the spirit, it bore away strength and granted power. It seemed as though a letter thereof was an ocean, giving the water of life to the thirsty ones in the valley of love, and bestowing the wine of reunion upon the wanderers in the land of separation.

Yea, if there be an attentive ear, it will surely distinguish the call of the Dove from the croaking of the raven. After all, the melody of the divine Nightingale differeth greatly from the cry of the earthly crow. If imitation be cast aside, the holy breath will rise from the depth of the soul, and with the eye of the spirit one will behold the beauty of the Beloved and perceive the countenance of the Beloved One behind a thousand veils.

O my soul and my spirit! The unity of the worlds of oneness hath fresh stations and infinite degrees. In one station it is sanctified above description and utterance, mention and explanation, and at this level form and body and flesh and name and trace have no place at all, that anyone should find a way unto it or comprehend love and affection or enumerate longing and rapture. It is treasured in the invisible treasury and stored in the vessels of mystery.

And in another station it comprehendeth all names and attributes, that is, all names refer back to it and become manifest from it. In this station the people of the Furqan have clung to mere fancy, and the companions of the Bayan have held fast to limitations. Neither have those ones drunk from the eternal sea of mystical knowledge, nor have these ones reached the eternal dwelling place of God.

Therefore we must pass beyond transient allusions and enter the eternal garden, that we may drink from the eternal spring and taste of the eternal fruit, that we may detach our hearts from aught else and attach them to the court of the Beloved, that we may comprehend the virgin meanings from the spiritual countenance.

Were I to speak, it would overwhelm all minds; Were I to write, many a pen would break.

BH03395: In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! This is a book from thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate, that thou mayest rejoice therein and be of them that remember.

When it reacheth thee, take it with the power bestowed by Us and place it upon thy head. Then inhale from it the fragrance of the garment of the Youth Who hath been tried among the wolves of the earth—they who have denied God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Through one of His fragrances the realities of all created things are quickened, if thou be of them that know.

Cast behind thee all things and hold fast to the Most Great Handle, whereby the Sure Handle hath been suspended between the heavens and the earth. Beware lest thou be veiled in these days by them who have denied God and His signs. By God! They are in naught but error and flame.

Soon will the tablets of the idolaters be spread among you. Cast them behind you and be not of the hesitating ones. Say: God sufficeth us, the Lord of all worlds. We have detached ourselves from all else save Him and become independent through Him of all creation.

Blessed art thou, O servant, in that thou hast attained the presence of My Most Great Name and wert with Him in the Land of Taff—the spot which God hath made a place among the places of Paradise and honored above most places on earth through His grace. He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the All-Forgiving, the Most Generous. Blessed be thine ear, for it hath heard His melodies, and thine eye, for it hath fallen upon His beauteous countenance. For everyone who hath visited that place and remained steadfast in His love, God hath written the reward of one martyred in His path, even though he be living at that time. Thus hath His mercy preceded all worlds.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord, then aid Him through remembrance and be not of them that remain silent. Verily silence is praiseworthy except in My remembrance and praise, if thou be of them that know. Cast behind thee all created things, then turn to the Lord of the First and the Last. He will protect thee from the harm of the idolaters. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them who have taken unto God in this Cause a way.

BH03397: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great! This is an epistle from the Youth to him who hath believed in God, detached himself from the idolaters, and ascended unto the heaven of divine knowledge until he recognized the Manifestation of God's Own Self, the Most High, the Great. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from self and passion, and turned unto his Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, in this Most Holy, Most Luminous Revelation, and was among those who attained.

With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth—He knoweth the treachery of eyes and what the breasts of the deceivers conceal, and He knoweth those who have believed in Him and detached themselves from all else. He desireth naught from His servants save fairness, and He Himself is witness and all-knowing of this. Whoso showeth fairness will testify in less than a moment that there is no God but Him, and that He Who hath appeared with the truth is indeed His Revelation, His grandeur, His majesty and His sovereignty between the heavens and earths.

Fear God, O people of the Bayan, and corrupt not the earth after its reformation, neither shed blood nor follow every sinful idolater. Give life unto men through the Most Great Remembrance—such is the way of those who have detached themselves from the world and turned unto God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and were among the sincere ones. Fear ye God and transgress not the bounds of God, neither abandon His ways behind your backs, nor pursue those who have denied God, the Lord of all worlds.

Remember your Lord by night and day, then put your trust in Him and He will suffice you against all who dwell on earth. Be thou thankful unto God for having made thy heart a place for the revelations of the knowledge of His Self, the Most High, the Great. Beware lest thou grieve over aught—be thou steadfast in the love of thy Ancient Lord, then take comfort in His remembrance and fear not the hosts of the

idolaters. He will assist whoso assisteth Him and will aid those who have turned unto Him, and He is with His beneficent servants.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God, the One, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

BH03401: O Jinab Aqa Siyyid Aqa! In the Name…

O Jinab Aqa Siyyid Aqa! In the Name of God, the All-Knowing! This is a Tablet from before the Youth to him who hath believed in God, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Glorious, the All-Knowing. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from all faces and held fast to the Sure Handle which hath appeared in truth from before God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Bestowing.

Say: O people! The Suns of eternity have shone forth from the Most Glorious Horizon, and the Command hath been detailed in the Tablets of Destiny, and the Hands of Power have emerged from the sleeves. Say: The heavens of turning away have been cleft asunder, and the earth have been eclipsed, and the clouds have been rent, and God hath come in canopies of cloud, and by Him all things have been adorned with the garments of names, and He hath been established upon the throne of His name, the All-Merciful, and on His right was the Point of the Bayan, and on His left were the hosts of revelation and inspiration.

Say: We gave you glad tidings before in all the Tablets of this Manifestation Who hath appeared in truth, and then of these days. Say: He hath come with the truth, and by Him the fruits have fallen from the trees, and the souls of the righteous were stirred, and the pillars of creation were shaken. They who have denied this Manifestation yet claim belief in the previous Manifestations—by God the Truth, they are but as cattle.

Say: By Him the earth was established and heaven was raised up, and the sun of grandeur shone forth from the horizon of eternity, then the standards were upraised. Say: O people! Deny not Him Who calleth you unto God. Fear God, then rend asunder the veils of idle fancies.

And thou, distance thyself from all things and draw nigh unto God thy Lord. He sufficeth thee through His grace, and He is verily the Generous, the Bountiful. He giveth to whom He willeth and withholdeth from whom He willeth, and raiseth up whom He willeth and bringeth low whom He willeth, and preserveth whom He willeth from illness. Be thou steadfast in My Cause and fear not Mine enemies. Verily thy Lord will protect thee from those who have denied God on the Day of Resurrection.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have drunk the choice wine sealed from the hand of this Youth.

BH03405: He is the Ever-Abiding One! He it is Who…

He is the Ever-Abiding One! He it is Who maketh mention in the Tablet of every goodly remembrance, that thereby the people may draw nigh unto God, the Almighty, the All-Praised.

O Isma'il! When thy letter came before Us, it was as though thou hadst forgotten Us, yet We preceded thee in remembrance, that Our mention might precede all else in every pure and luminous heart.

Know thou that calamities have encompassed Us from every side, until We were cast into a manifest prison. Days passed over Us in such hardship as hath no like, no equal, and no parallel. Yet We thank God and praise Him for what hath befallen Us, drawing nigh unto Him in His good-pleasure, for verily He is near unto the well-doers.

Remember thou My days, and forget not God's covenant within thyself. Call upon Him throughout thy days, for verily He is the All-Hearing, the Answerer, Who answereth the prayer of the supplicant when he calleth upon Him, and He is the All-Knowing.

Be thou at peace in thy heart and soul through God's grace and mercy, and be thou in great joy and hope. Should harm touch thee, grieve not, but remember My grief and place thy trust in God, thy Lord, the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days.

Soon shall joy and gladness vanish from every unbeliever and fortunate one, for all this is mentioned within the bounds of contingent being and hath no permanence or endurance, as every sound soul doth testify.

Strive thou within thyself to hold fast unto the luminous and mighty handle, that it may raise thee to a station wherein no harm from these idolators shall touch thee. Therefore, lift thy foot from the dust, then ascend to a station that shall never pass away, through the eternity of God, the King, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Bountiful. Therein shalt thou find rest from every opponent and peer, from every ailment and sickness, and from every fresh calamity.

Thus doth the Spirit teach thee on this night and make mention of thee with most goodly remembrance, that thou mayest be of them that know. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that are with thee and upon every assured knower.

BH03512: Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Beloved!…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Beloved! Thou dost witness and see how the dogs of Thy creatures and the swine of Thy creation have gathered against us, though we commanded them only to approach the shore of the ocean of Thy oneness and to enter the gate of the city of Thy knowledge and bounty. Whenever we gave them glad tidings, O my God, of the wafting of the breezes of Thine eternal glory, they denied us because of what Satan cast into their hearts, and turned away from Thy Self. And whenever we strengthened them with the gems of Thy love, they rose up to wage war against us before Thee.

How long will the hands of power not emerge from the sleeve of Thy sovereignty? And how long will Thy might and dominion not be manifested upon them, though they have rebelled against Thee to such extent that they have driven the best of Thy creation from Thy lands?

By Thy glory, O my Lord, I do not complain of what has befallen me in Thy path, for I yearn for all tribulations in Thy love. But O my Beloved and my Purpose, when I hear from them what the Jews said concerning Thee, then my innermost being is shaken and my heart trembles, for they say "God's hand is

chained"—this from their rebellion against Thee and Thy trustees, though Thy hands of power were ever outstretched over all contingent things and extended over all created things.

And they have reached such heights in their false statements that they have become hopeless of the sweet fragrances of Thy holy bounty and deprived of the gems of Thy grace and mercy. If it were said to them that the breezes of generosity and grace have wafted from the Ridvan of immortality, or that the Countenance of the Cause has appeared from the Most Exalted Kingdom, they would deny it and cry out, saying that God has ended succession with the family of Muhammad and none can be raised up besides them, as though they had knowledge of what lies within Thy knowledge.

Glory be unto Thee, glory be unto Thee, O my God, above their rebellion against Thee and above the wonders of Thy patience regarding them. Therefore, O my God, cut them off from all that keeps them occupied with aught else but Thee, that they might return unto Thee and become detached from all save Thee. Verily Thou art the Powerful, the All-Knowing, the Mighty, the Bestower, the Generous.

BH03442: O M.S.! Take the Book of God to His…

O M.S.! Take the Book of God to His servants, then inform them of what thou hast seen and known, that they may gather together in remembrance and praise of God, shun the manifestations and dawning-places of negation, and turn with their hearts to the spot whereon the throne of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is established. Be thou detached from all things that have been created in earth and heaven, that thy words may influence the hearts of them that have turned unto the countenance of their Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and that they may become severed from the manifestations of Satan. Be thou a warner from Our presence and a bearer of glad-tidings from Our side, then rejoice in the gladness of the Cause and grieve not for what hath been ordained for thee of separation.

Be content with what God hath ordained for thee, for this is better for thee than all that hath been created in the contingent world. Whoso draweth but a single breath in His Cause and good-pleasure is verily of the dwellers of Paradise. Beware lest thou be saddened by the commandment of thy Lord. Journey through the lands with joy and radiance and remind the people of that which We have imparted unto thee, then recount unto them the story of the Youth as thou hast witnessed it. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen command thee from before God, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Help in Peril.

Say: O people! The Sun hath shone forth at its noontide zenith. Beware lest ye occupy yourselves with disputation. Purify your hearts from all things, then turn ye unto this Cause which hath appeared from the horizon of bounty. And if thou shouldst see them that have believed in God and find from their faces the radiance of Baha, magnify them from Our presence, then give them the glad-tidings of this Ridvan. Say: God hath written down the names of them that have turned unto Him, and He shall soon send down upon them that which He hath ordained for them. Verily, there is none other God but He, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Glorious.

Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of the Countenance and for having won the lights of God and for being content with what He hath ordained for thee, and this is better than all that hath been

created in the realm of possibility. And upon thee be glory, and upon them that have set their hearts upon the sanctuary of God and have turned unto Him with humility and contrition.

BH03453: O loved ones of God! Were ye to become…

In the Name of my Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved!

O loved ones of God! Were ye to become aware of what hath befallen this Prisoner, ye would weep and lament. Verily, He remained alone and solitary in the midst of His servants who had circled round about Him. We adorned them with the raiment of names that they might aid their Lord in those days, yet they rose up in opposition and pronounced judgment against Him, as ye well know. At every moment they plot against My Cause, seeking to shed this sanctified, mighty and beloved blood. Say: I am indeed Hussein in your midst, and Ali, did ye but know it. At all times do I summon you unto God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. I remind you of the wonders of His remembrance, that ye may be mindful. I impart unto you what the Spirit hath imparted to My breast from the ordinances of God, the Single, the Mighty, the All-Praised.

Fear ye God, O people, and transgress not beyond what hath been ordained in the Book, mighty and beloved, which hath been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen and wherein lieth the knowledge of what hath been and what is to come. O people! Wage not war with anyone, dispute not with any soul, and be ye God's trusted ones in His earth and His chosen ones in His lands. This is what hath been ordained for you, if ye but act accordingly. Answer the call of God, and follow not the ways of those who wronged aforetime and who were among those that associated partners with their Lord. Be just among men, for thus have ye been commanded in all the Tablets, did ye but know.

Grieve not over what befalleth you in this vain life, for with God ye have a station the like of which none knoweth save His own Self, and He, verily, is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen. Gather ye in your meeting places and remember God, your Creator. Through His remembrance are hearts illumined. Thus have We commanded you in this Tablet, that ye may attain unto all good.

And mercy be upon you, O loved ones of God, and upon His servants who are well-assured of His signs. And praise be to God, the King, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Praised.

BH03456: O thou who believest in God!

He is the Mighty, the All-Knowing

O thou who believest in God!

Bear witness within thyself that there is none other God but Him, and that ʿAli-before-Nabil is the Manifestation of His Essence and the Manifestation of His Cause unto all the worlds. Through Him His proof hath appeared, His testimony been perfected, His Word been fulfilled, His countenance hath shone forth, and His evidence been established for all who are in the heavens and on earth—and God is witness unto this. Through Him the Resurrection hath come to pass, the Hour hath arrived, the Balance hath been set up, and the Bridge hath been raised aloft—a matter that was inscribed as exalted in the Mother Book.

Through Him all things have been resurrected and all who dwell on earth, whether rich or poor, have been gathered together. Say: By God! He is verily the Sovereign of the Messengers and His Tablet is the Mother of Tablets, and through a single letter from Him was everything created with the ornament of luminous glory.

Take thou this Book with power and hold fast to what is therein, and fear no one. Place thy trust in God, thy Lord, and He shall suffice thee against all the worlds, and He doth take account of thee. Open thy sight and ponder what hath been sent down unto thee, and take it with strength that is firmly grounded in truth. Then emerge from behind the veils and arise in the name of God from a holy and resplendent horizon. Aid thy Lord with whatsoever thou art able and remain pure in nature.

Know thou that We have been cast into prison through what the hands of the oppressors have wrought—this hath been decreed in truth upon preserved holy tablets. We give thanks to God for what hath befallen Us and remember Him every day, nay every moment and instant.

The Spirit and the Glory and the Splendor be upon thee and upon those who were possessed of insight into the Cause, then convey Our greetings to those who were God-fearing in the Name and to those who were with thee, whom God made faithful to the Covenant.

BH03473: These are the verses of God which have been…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Manifest

These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of exalted glory and which call the people to the recognition of His Self, the Most High, the Supreme, the All-Knowing.

O handmaiden of God!

Hearken unto that which the Spirit imparteth unto thee at this time when He hath seated Himself alone in the house, His gaze fixed upon His loved ones, His tongue speaking in remembrance of His Self, the ocean of His heart surging with the verses of His grandeur, and the ink of His pen flowing in praise of His handmaidens who have turned with their whole being unto this Wronged One, the Stranger, the Alone.

Give thanks unto God for having deposited within thy heart His love and for having purified thee from the defilement of those who have denied His Self and opposed that which hath been sent down from His presence. By God! Through what they have perpetrated the hearts of those near unto God have been consumed.

O My handmaiden! Soar with the wings of My love in the atmosphere of My mercy and bounty, then drink the wine of everlasting life from the hands of My grace, then sing My praise and glorification, then be ignited with the fire of My love, then detach thyself from all else save Me, and know that thy Lord loveth him who loveth Him, desireth him who desireth Him, remembereth him who remembereth Him, draweth nigh unto him who draweth nigh unto Him, and provideth the heavenly feast unto him who seeketh sustenance from His all-pervading grace. He verily forgetteth not His lovers, disappointeth not those who hope in Him, and driveth not away those who long for Him. His mercy hath indeed encompassed all created things, yet the people are heedless.

O My handmaiden! Take comfort in My remembrance, then adorn thy tongue with My praise, thy head with the crown of My love, thy neck with the cord of My servitude, thine eyes with the kohl of detachment from all else save Me, and thy body with the robe of My loving-kindness which hath encompassed all worlds. Thus have We remembered thee on this night that thou mayest rejoice within thyself, though thy Lord be in grievous sorrow.

And glory be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who have turned with their hearts unto My countenance, the radiant, the shining, the gleaming, the hallowed, the beautiful.

BH03548: This is a Tablet from God unto him who…

In the name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Powerful!

This is a Tablet from God unto him who hath been guided through the splendours of the Spirit and is of them that have believed and been led aright.

O servant! Say:

> "In the name of God, by God and in the name of our Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!"

Soar then upon the wings of true knowledge to the supreme Habitation, that thou mayest hear the melodies of God from the Divine Lote-Tree. Shouldst thou soar once more, thou wilt again hear that which the people of understanding have not heard. And shouldst thou find within thyself the power and the capacity, soar thou yet again, that thou mayest behold the revelations of thy Lord, and witness, shining upon thee, the splendours of the Countenance of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Exalted.

Say, verily He is at this moment calling aloud from His seat of effulgent glory to all creation through His sweet and wondrous melodies; beware lest ye tarry in these days. Tread ye the Straight Path by the leave of your Lord, the Merciful, and be not of them that have erred and strayed. Say, verily He hath been sent down once again from the heaven of Divine Decree and reciteth unto you His mighty verses. This is indeed better for you than the dominion of this world and of the next.

Say, O people! Will ye dispute with the Spirit concerning what He hath seen and witnessed,[cf. Q53:12] after He hath proclaimed the truth in the heart of 'Ali [the Bab], and before Him in the heart of Muhammad and in the hearts of all Who have related the verses revealed unto Them by God, the Exalted, the Most High? Say, O people of the Bayan! Should ye arise together with all the inhabitants of the earth to lead astray but one of the loved ones of God, ye would fail to do so. Die, therefore, in your wrath, O people of oppression and ignorance!

As for thee, do thou sanctify thy soul from corrupt desires; enter, then, the realms on high and follow not them that fly upon the wings of evil passions. Be firm in the Cause of God and His religion, remember that which He hath endured at the hands of His enemies, and be not of the heedless and forgetful. Spirit and glory rest upon thee and upon them that have held fast to the Handle of God and have been guided by the light of sanctity.

BH03552: In the Name of the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! This…

In the Name of the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! This is a Book from Us to him who hath attained the meeting with his Lord, the Mighty, the Most High, until he entered the Prison, the place wherein were unveiled the veils of glory by the fingers of power and majesty, and he attained the presence of the Countenance and heard the call of his Lord, the Most Merciful, and the lights of Beauty shone upon him.

Arise and say: O people! The clouds have been rent asunder and your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful, hath come in the shadows of the clouds. Fear God and hesitate not in His Cause. Fear Him unto Whom returneth the decree of the beginning and the end. Say: Is there any doubt about God, or about His signs which have been sent down from the heaven of Command, or about His power? Fear God, O people! Reject not the truth by that which ye possess, for truly He is severe in punishment. Soon shall ye behold the wrongdoers fearful through dread of thy Lord, and they shall find for themselves no protector nor any refuge in that Day wherein the earthquake shall appear.

Say: Abandon the cups of self and passion, then take the cup of eternity in the name of your Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, then drink thereof and follow not the people of error.

Say: O people! If ye are disturbed by the might of the days, We are not disturbed and We summon the people both secretly and openly. And thou speakest not amongst the people save that which thou hast heard and seen, and thus did We command thee before, and now be thou of such manner that through thee the Cause of God may be exalted amongst His servants. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen command thee from before God, the Mighty, the Chosen One.

Thy letter hath come before the Countenance and We have taken note of its contents and have sent down a Tablet for him who was mentioned therein, and verily it shall suffice him above all the worlds if he heareth and acteth according to that which is therein. Verily thy Lord is powerful over whatsoever He willeth. He is, verily, potent over all things. And glory be upon thee and upon every steadfast believer.

BH03557: This is a Book sent down from the heaven…

In the Name of God, the Help in Peril

This is a Book sent down from the heaven of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower, that it may attract one of His loved ones in these days wherein the Lord of Lords hath come upon clouds of glory. Arise and say:

O people! By God the Truth, He Who was promised hath come with wondrous sovereignty, and all who are in the heavens and on earth were struck with terror save those who approached God with humility and turned unto Him. Say: Beware lest ye pause upon the Path—pass ye beyond it and be not of them who halted and failed. Rend asunder the veils of glory by My power and sovereignty, then burn away the barriers. Say: This indeed is He Who hath come unto you once again with His Most Great Name, and upon His brow hath been inscribed by the Pen of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. This verily is the Beloved of the heavens and earth, through Whom the trumpet was sounded and the mountains were

moved and the fruits fell from the trees and faces fell prostrate in the dust before God, in Whose grasp is the kingdom of verses and Who ruleth the beginning and the return. Say:

O people! Deny not Him in Whom ye believed and from whom the Beauty of the All-Merciful took your covenant in the realm of the Bayan. Fear God, O ye who are endued with insight! Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord, then convey unto the people this Revelation which hath caused flesh to creep and the feet of them that doubted the meeting with their Lord to slip, and hath brought joy to the eyes of the loved ones. Be not silent in thy Lord's remembrance, and regard not those who disbelieve save as ashes scattered by the tempests of self and desire, carried wheresoever they list, finding no rest on the Day of Reckoning.

In the Mother Book hath been ordained for thee a station from which the fragrances of sweet herbs are wafted. Gird up thy loins to assist the Cause of God and fear not them that have joined partners with God their Lord—they are naught but in perdition. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that have believed in God and have detached themselves from every doubting idolater.

BH03561: This is a leaf which the winds…

In the Name of the Most Inaccessible, the Most Glorious

This is a leaf which the winds of the Will of the All-Merciful have stirred, that it might draw nigh unto them who have believed in God, the Most High, the All-Powerful, the All-Forgiving, and that they might read what hath been inscribed therein by the Pen of Power. The Hour hath struck and God, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Unconstrained, hath come.

Say: O people! Believe in Him through Whom the earth and heaven were illumined, and Who hath established Himself upon the Throne which no vision can perceive. We have, verily, sent down verses unto thee aforetime in Tablets that cannot be equaled by whatsoever hath been treasured in secret or made manifest. And now have We mentioned thee in truth time and again that thou mightest be enkindled with the fire of the love of God and not be of them whom fear and trepidation have overtaken.

Know thou, moreover, that whatsoever the people flee from, We desire it in the path of God, as they who are endued with insight do testify. Would that this blood might be shed in His path! This is what I beseeched God for before the creation of the heavens and earth. Though what hath been ordained for Me—He, verily, is the Unconstrained. I am content with what He hath been pleased to ordain for Me, and I thank Him for that wherewith I have been afflicted at the hands of these wicked ones.

Say: O people! Deny not Him Who was promised you in the Bayan and Who calleth you unto God, the One, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling. Beware lest ye slay Him with the swords of your rejection. Fear God and be not of the companions of the Fire.

Stand thou firm, then, in the love of God and shun them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God after their Lord, the All-Merciful, had come unto them and the Cause had been decided in truth. There is no God but Him. His is the command and the creation. All who are in the heavens and on earth glorify Him by night and by day. Take comfort in thy Lord, then withdraw thyself from the wicked ones

who have openly denied God—they are but in perdition. And the glory be upon thee and upon them who have believed in God in this Revelation—they are, verily, among Our chosen servants.

BH03591: Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, then act…

He is the Mighty, the Exalted, the Most High!

Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, then act according to that which thou art commanded by One All-Knowing, All-Informed, that thou mayest be among those who follow the command of thy Lord as revealed in the holy Tablets, vigilant and watchful. Then bear witness within thyself that there is none other God but Him, and that He is, in truth, powerful over all things. Then remind the people according to thy capacity, and pay no heed to anyone, but place thy trust in God, thy Lord, for He doth suffice as thy Reckoner. Then render thanks to Him at all times for having made thee to know thyself and for having sent down unto thee a Tablet mighty and impregnable.

Say: O concourse of the earth! Do ye take your vain desires for your god and forsake Him Who created you as complete human beings? Say: O people! Do ye dispute with Him Who hath come unto you with God's verses and reciteth unto you words wondrous and mighty? Say: If ye deny these verses, by what proof did ye believe in God's Messengers of old? Thus do We cast upon thee that which shall make thee steadfast in the Cause.

Those who believed not in God and in what was revealed unto Ali before Nabil—these have denied God's favor and turned away from a Beauty mighty and luminous. And when it is said unto them: "By what proof did ye believe in God?" they will say: "By what was revealed unto him." Yet when that by which they seek to prove their faith is recited unto them, their faces turn black. What aileth these people that they can scarce comprehend any utterance?

Thus have We expounded the verses unto thee and revealed unto thee that which shall make thee steadfast in the Cause, though all the world should oppose thee. Free thyself from the veils of fancy and desire that thou mayest soar with Me in this atmosphere that encompasseth all created things. We have sent unto thee that wherewith We have cleansed Our hands, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, and be filled with joy and gladness supreme.

Spirit, glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who stand firm in the truth.

BH03610: In the Name of God, the Most Ancient…

In the Name of God, the Most Ancient, the Ancient! O Husayn! The Tongue of Grandeur and Glory now addresseth thee, saying: Blessed art thou, and blessed the mother who suckled thee, and the loins from which thou didst spring, and the earth wherein thou wast born, and the breezes that wafted over thee, and the zephyrs that passed over thy temple, and the clouds beneath whose shade thou didst shelter, and the house wherein thou didst dwell. Know thou the favor of thy Ancient Lord. All this is in recompense for thy migration unto God, thy Lord, and thy arrival at the Paradise-spot, the seat of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Know thou thy station and do not that which would harm thy standing. Thus doth this Youth, Who is imprisoned in this land through what the hands of the heedless have wrought, command thee. Go forth, by God's might and power, unto His City, then inform My loved ones of what hath befallen My person, that they may become aware and be numbered among those who understand.

Convey My greetings unto their faces and say: The Youth hath been afflicted with the harm of all the worlds, were ye to be of them that know, and matters have become so severe for Us that We have been prevented from remembrance and utterance through what Satan hath whispered in the breasts of the doubters. O My loved ones! Rejoice in the remembrance of God though the Youth be in grievous tribulation. Sorrow not over anything. Seek victory from your Lord, the All-Merciful, and be not of them that despair. That which hath befallen Us was naught but from Us. Thus have We decreed in a preserved Tablet.

Gather ye together, then unite in the love of God, then remain steadfast in His Cause. He is with you at all times and will aid His detached servants. We desired to write unto each one that which would gladden his heart, but We were prevented. Thy Lord is, of a truth, All-Knowing, All-Informed. Say: God remembereth you and forgetteth not any one of you, and God is witness to what I say.

And upon them and upon thee be the glory from this holy and luminous Horizon.

BH03611: O Husayn and Husayn! Hearken unto My call, then…

O Husayn and Husayn! Hearken unto My call, then be attracted by My words, then arise to make mention of Me and praise Me amongst all creatures, then give thanks to your Lord for having brought you forth from the loins of him who loved God, his Lord, and was of the sincere ones. Be steadfast in the Cause of God and His love, for through His love do His detached servants become enriched.

O first Husayn! Wert thou to become aware of Husayn, thou wouldst weep and lament as do those who have lost their beloved. Indeed, Husayn of old beheld his slayer on that day until he was martyred in My mighty, impregnable path. And this Husayn doth behold in every moment the letter Shin on his right, and the Sin on his left, and the Kha before his face, were ye of them that hear. By God! He was martyred only to establish My remembrance, out of love for My Self, and longing to attain My presence. Yet they who weep for him pronounce death sentences against this singular Husayn.

O second Husayn! By God! Wert thou to become aware of what hath befallen Me of tribulation and adversity, thou wouldst be struck with such terror that the supreme terror would become manifest between the heavens and the earth through thy terror. Say: Verily, Husayn of old was slain in the path of God and offered up his spirit in his longing to attain His mighty, impregnable presence. None did mock him, nor did any soul slander him, as ye have heard from the preachers. But this Husayn hath stood before the enemies, and among them are those who mock him, and those who dispute with him, and those who violate his honor, and those who pronounce death sentences against him. Alas, alas for this Husayn! Husayn weepeth, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness.

Thus have We cast upon you both the verses of sorrow, whereat the pillars of the mighty throne were made to quake and tremble. Therefore have We held back the tongue from utterance and contented Ourselves with what We have sent down in truth in this luminous Tablet.

BH03626: O Ali! With the ear of thy soul hearken…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

O Ali! With the ear of thy soul hearken unto the melodies of the All-Glorious from the Ridvan of the All-Merciful, and like unto a spiritual breeze pass through all the worlds and whatsoever hath been ordained in the realm of possibility. Hold fast unto the sure handle and detach thyself from all the worlds.

O Ali! Throughout all days and nights I was afflicted at the hands of enemies, and now I am imprisoned in this Most Great Prison. There is no companion in speech to hear the most wondrous melodies of the All-Merciful, nor any possessor of wings to soar with spiritual pinions in this holy and spiritual atmosphere.

O Ali! The celestial Bird of the Divine Throne hath fallen prey to the hunter of hatred, and the Dove of the Divine Sanctuary remaineth in the hands of the idolaters, with no helper or supporter. All people dwell at rest in their homes, while these Birds of the realm of detachment remain imprisoned and alone in their nests of solitude. In such circumstances, both the benefit and harm of friends and foes alike remain far removed from this most holy and exalted Sanctuary.

Therefore the desire of the Ancient Beauty for His loved ones is that they should stand firm upon a single path, for the discord among the loved ones of God brings joy to the enemies and sorrow to His chosen ones.

O Ali! Whatsoever hath shone forth from the horizon of the Divine Finger hath been for the good of His servants themselves, else the Truth hath been and will ever be sanctified above all who are in the heavens and on earth.

O Ali! Remain steadfast in thy love for Me and keep thy distance from Mine enemies. This is a command that nothing that hath been or will be created can equal. God willing, mayest thou forever drink from the Salsabil of My loving-kindness and be nourished by the Tasnim of My grace. By My life! This is assuredly a mighty favor.

The Glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee on the path of God, the King, the Peerless, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

BH03627: O Ali! Your letter was received and perused. Praise…

He is God, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

O Ali! Your letter was received and perused. Praise be to the Beloved that the fragrances of His grace have wafted upon you from the direction of mercy, and the breezes of His bounty have blown upon your heart and soul. His grace has ever been and will ever be upon you, God willing.

However, O Ali, I swear by this Silent Speaker that if you were to become aware of the grief of these days that has befallen the Beloved, you would flee to the wilderness and detach your heart from all who dwell on earth. Yet my grief has rent asunder the garment of remembrance and cast off the robe of utterance from its temple, for it cannot be known through remembrance and utterance, nor can it become manifest. None save the Ancient Being is aware of it, nor can any reckon it.

O Ali, forget not the days of attainment to My presence, and erase not the words of the Beloved from your heart. Consider the whole world as non-existent save those who have entered beneath the shadow of your Lord. Associate with My loved ones and be detached from My enemies. Be confident in God's grace, for His bounty has seized you and will continue to seize you. Each day you are remembered before God.

The glory from Us be upon you and upon your brother who was named Muhammad, that he may be among those who rejoice. Say: O Muhammad, praise God, your Lord, for having caused you to recognize His Self and for having directed you to His countenance and made you among the successful ones.

Today the essence of the Cause is that all the loved ones of God be united and stand firm on a single path. O people! Eat of the fruits with which the Tree of Grace has been laden, then take shelter in its shade and be of those who are gathered together in unity. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03633: He is the Ever-Abiding! These are the verses…

He is the Ever-Abiding! These are the verses of holiness which have been sent down from the heaven of the Command to all who have believed in God and have attained. They speak amongst all created things with words that draw souls unto themselves and cause them to overflow.

O Beauty of Victory! Hear the call of thy Lord from around this Tree which hath been raised up in truth, that the call may bring thee within the sanctuary of grandeur and guide thee to the place of security—that station wherein all faces are turned toward the Face of God and wherein all things are transformed and colored anew.

O servant! Be at rest within thyself, then stand firm in the Cause in such wise that no wind shall move thee and no misbeliever shall cause thee to slip, and purify thy face for God Who hath perfected His favor unto thee and made it to overflow.

Say: O people! Dispute not about the verses of God when they are sent down in truth, nor about this Beauty through Whom the suns of the Command have shone forth and reached their fullness. We did aforetime send down unto thee Tablets wherein by a single letter hearts are guided and made to overflow. Beware lest thou cast the Book of God behind thy back or follow in this any misbeliever who hath turned away and transgressed.

Arise in the Cause, then stand firm and say: O people! If ye deny these verses, then by what sign did ye believe in God's Messengers? Then shall ye hear from them what thou didst hear from the people of the Furqan when ʿAli came with clear signs and they said "This is naught but sorcery" whereby the hearts of

those near unto God were cloven asunder. Even so did they speak before and do they speak in these days wherein the Calf doth call out and bray.

Then make mention from Our presence unto thy brother Rida and say: O servant! Be thou content with thy Lord's decree in this conclusive Proof, with whose appearance none was content save whom thy Lord willed. Thus doth God render vain the deeds of those who denied His grace and turned away from His beauty, then followed every base and clinging thing.

BH03634: The Book hath been sent down from the presence…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High

The Book hath been sent down from the presence of One mighty and all-knowing unto him who hath migrated unto God and whom tribulations have touched in his Lord's path, even as was ordained for him in a preserved tablet.

O servant! Blessed art thou, inasmuch as thou hast attained the presence of the Beloved and heard with thine ears that for which countless souls have died in their yearning. Say: He hath appeared in truth from a glorious horizon. Say: O people! Do ye worship the calf and forsake Him by Whose command the sun hath dawned from the horizon of the name of the Most High, through Whom the Books have been sent down throughout all ages, and through Whom the treasuries of the Cause have appeared from One mighty and powerful? Fear ye God and deny not Him in Whom ye have believed, and all that ye have heard that He hath appeared from Our presence—thy Lord, the All-Knowing, is witness to what I say.

Aid thy Lord with whatsoever thou canst, then shun every sinful idolator. Verily he who speaketh falsehood, he is Satan himself—guard yourselves against him, O My loved ones, and make for yourselves a path unto God. Say: With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth and the knowledge of all things, and He doth encompass all the worlds. Leave the creatures to themselves, then leave them in their vain imaginings and turn with a luminous face toward the dawning-place of a mighty Name. Say: He hath come without clouds or mists, and speaketh now amongst mankind with manifest sovereignty.

Thus have We remembered thee in this Tablet that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and convey the Cause of thy Lord unto those who dwell in these regions, that they may take the All-Merciful as their friend. And when thou returnest with God's Tablet unto thy dwelling-place, convey Our greetings unto those servants who have drunk the living waters from the cup of their Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the Bestower, and who have remained firm upon the straight path. And the glory be upon thee and upon every pure and sincere believer.

BH03646: God makes mention of His servant that he may…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy!

God makes mention of His servant that he may rejoice within himself, and this is indeed a mighty favor. Seek thou the grace of thy Lord at all times, for His mercy hath preceded all created things and His grace hath drawn nigh unto thee. Detach thyself from all else save Him. Those who summon men unto Satan,

these are in darkness and grievous unbelief. Leave them to themselves, then turn with thy whole being unto God, in Whose grasp lies the kingdom of all things, and He will suffice thee against all who dwell on earth. He desires whomsoever hath desired Him, and loves whomsoever hath loved Him, and draws nigh unto those who have drawn nigh unto Him, and He is indeed merciful to His servants.

Cast behind thee the customs of men and take hold of the ordinances of God through a power from Us, then shun every doubting opposer. Say: Fear ye God and hesitate not in this Cause whereof ye have been given glad tidings in a beauteous Tablet. Drink thou a draught from the living waters from the cup of thy Lord's love, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Then return to thy dwelling place and remind the people of this Cause at which all who are on earth have been dismayed, save those upon whom the breezes of thy Lord's mercy have wafted, and who have been turned from the left hand of idle fancy to the right hand of certitude by a word from Him, and He is indeed the Observer of all things.

Say: O My loved ones! Stand ye firm in the Cause and follow not every contemptible liar. Await ye the grace from the direction of God, your Lord, and His grace doth indeed encompass you. Blessed is he who hath shattered the idols of vain imaginings and delivered the Abraham of faith from the hosts of wicked unbelief.

Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen teach thee on this darksome night, that thine eyes may be solaced thereby and thou mayest stand firm in the Cause whereby the feet of every denying transgressor have slipped. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee and upon those who have hearkened to the call of their Lord and have responded with illumined hearts.

BH03647: This is a mention of the mercy of thy…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the All-Glorious

This is a mention of the mercy of thy Lord bestowed upon His servant—him who hath chosen for himself a path leading unto God, and who desired to stand before the Throne—after that the Beauty of the Ancient of Days had been restrained through what the hands of the wicked have wrought: they who, when asked, "By what proof have ye believed in God?" reply, "By the Bayan"; yet when the Sovereign of meanings came shadowed forth in the clouds of elucidation, they disbelieved in God, their Lord, the All-Merciful. Thus have We seized the guilty, laid bare what their breasts concealed, and made them a lesson unto the servants. Take warning, O ye who have eyes to see!

Say: This is the Day whereon the tribes of the earth have wailed, the very worlds have been shaken, and in the faces of the transgressors thou beholdest the tidings of the Fire. Say: By God! the Hour hath been convulsed, the Trumpet lamenteth over itself, the concourse of them that are nigh hath laid hold on the hem of God, crying, "Have mercy upon us, O Lord of lords!" And the angels stand ranged before the Throne, powerless to utter a word save after the leave of your Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

Fear God, O people, and oppose not Him through the gesture of Whose finger the heaven of religions hath been cleft asunder, the earth of idle fancy rent in twain, the idols cast down, and the pillars of

falsehood uprooted. Say, O people: This is He for Whose sorrow the Point of the Bayan hath mourned, and Whose call the Point of the Furqan hath hearkened unto. Fear ye the All-Merciful, O concourse of the impious!

Grieve not at anything. By God! there hath been ordained for thee that whereat eyes shall draw nigh in wonder. If thou remain steadfast in the Cause—by the might and power of God—in such wise that the allusions of them that have disbelieved in their Lord, the Unconstrained, hinder thee not from His remembrance.

Upon thee be the glory, and upon them that have arisen from amongst the dead and turned their faces toward a Countenance through whose light the horizons have been illumined.

BH03655: In the Name of God, the Most High…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious! My remembrance of My servant shall be his glory amongst all worlds. Verily, My remembrance of him is better for him than all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth. God shall soon raise up this remembrance upon a countenance that, were all things to behold it, they would exclaim: "Blessed be God, the Most Excellent of Creators!"

And verily, He shall be with thee in thy solitude, and in the hour when thou enterest a place wherein there is neither lamp, nor bed, nor helper, nor assistant. And He shall be with thee and shall not part from thee in thy exile and thy solitude. And when thou enterest the seat of thy Lord's throne on a mighty day, then shall He walk before thee, and all created things shall be illumined by the lights of His countenance.

Blessed art thou, O servant, for having migrated in My path and kept company with My noble one who hath traversed the way out of love for God, the One, the Mighty, the Beautiful, and who hath passed through the lands out of love for God his Lord, and hath conveyed unto the people this mighty and wondrous remembrance. And in the hour when thou didst walk with him, the denizens of the all-highest Paradise and the Concourse on high did magnify thee. Thus doth God single out whom He pleaseth from among His servants, and verily He is nigh unto the doers of good.

And the glory be upon thee and upon thy mother and upon those who have turned with radiant countenance toward the Luminary of Paradise. And praise be to God, my Lord and thy Lord, my Beloved and thy Beloved, my Purpose and thy Purpose—and verily He is this, wert thou to know. He hath appeared in the Most Glorious ornament—exalted be this Sovereign, the Mighty, the Powerful. He hath come from the heaven of destiny with the kingdom of verses, and the realities of all things circle round Him, then the angels brought nigh. But the people of the Bayan recognized Him not, save a few among them who are of Our near servants.

Then again, the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy mother—We have repeated these words as a bounty from Us unto thee, that thou mayest be of the thankful ones.

BH03658: Glorified be He Who hath revealed Himself through His…

In the Name of the Most Holy, the Most Holy

Glorified be He Who hath revealed Himself through His Name, the All-Knowing, unto all created things, and from Whom have appeared servants who have spoken of this Name in the kingdom of creation and who have ascended to such a station that they have witnessed, with the eyes of their hearts, His sublimity and His sovereignty, and then His greatness and His majesty, and have recognized His oneness and His singleness. These are My servants who have sought shelter beneath the canopy of My loving-kindness and the pavilions of My mercy. Upon them rest My blessings and My glorification and My gifts.

O servant! Turn with thy heart toward the holy direction, that the breezes of fellowship that blow from the direction of thy Lord's Throne, the All-Merciful, in the Pole of Paradise, may stir thee, and may detach thee from all existence and contingent beings, and draw thee nigh unto God, thy Lord, the Mighty, the Helper. Then shalt thou witness My manifestation and My majesty and My beauty. Sanctify thyself from all things, then stand firm in the love of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, for He hath appeared in His Most Glorious Beauty and doth speak: O concourse of earth and heaven! Hearken unto My melodies and then unto My songs.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having remembered thy name before His Face and for having moved the Most Exalted Pen to make mention of thee at this time when the hosts of revelation ascend and the hosts of inspiration descend from the direction of My Throne and the seat of My sovereignty. Preserve this Tablet which We have sent unto thee, then read it at all times that thy spirit may be attracted to the paradise of My power and the gardens of My bounties.

Grieve not at anything. Rejoice in the fruits of knowledge with which thou hast been provided from the Tree that was planted by the hands of the All-Merciful in the paradise of My Will and My decree. Thus have We imparted unto thee the Word of Truth that the melodies of God may attract thee and detach thee from all else—a bounty from Us unto thee and unto the sincere ones among My servants and My creatures. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon him who is firm in My love and hath drunk the choice sealed wine of My Cause and the Kawthar of My presence and hath clung to the hem of My loving-kindness.

BH03660: Glorified be He Who hath appeared betwixt the heavens…

Glorified be He Who hath appeared betwixt the heavens and the earth with a sovereignty that hath encompassed all created things! Verily, He is the Almighty, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. By this hath rancor been aroused in the breasts of them that waxed proud against God on the day when He established Himself upon the Throne with His sovereignty and power.

O people! Fear ye God and deny not Him in Whom ye have believed after He hath come unto you beneath the shadow of His Cause. By this have the feet of the knowers slipped, and eyes been transfixed in wonder.

And thou, O Most Great Name, forget not My melodies whilst thou wert seated before the Throne when the lights were shedding their radiance upon thee. Know thou that We have donned the garment of sorrows by reason of that which the hands of every idolatrous deceiver have wrought. By God! Such grief

hath encompassed Me as the eyes of creation have never beheld its like, and thus have the decrees been ordained unto Us from God, the Mighty, the Compelling.

Shouldst thou desire to apprehend the mysteries of the Cause, depart from the city wherein thou dwellest, then enter the wilderness, then dwell within thyself, then keep silence from all remembrance. Then turn thy heart, whereupon thou shalt hear the lamentation of all things and their wailing in My grief. Perchance thou mayest discover that which none among creation hath discovered. Thus do We impart unto thee, in the secret of allusions, the gems of mysteries.

Be steadfast, O servant, in thy love and turn not aside unto that which might deter thee from the love of the Youth, even should it be the essences of the heavens and the earth, or forms and bodies. For all this was created by My Word, whereunto beareth witness the Tongue of God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Seeing.

Thus have We addressed thee and recounted unto thee what hath befallen Us from every direction by these iniquitous ones. Then remember, from Our presence, those servants who are round about thee and who have turned unto their Lord, the Mighty, the Forgiving.

BH03669: From the Burning Bush beyond the Radiant City upon…

He is the Glorious, the Most Glorious

From the Burning Bush beyond the Radiant City upon the hallowed Spot of God's Command, the Mystery of God hath, by the power of the spirit, been witnessed, and speaketh in truth saying:

> "O people of the Bayan! Have ye disbelieved in the One through Whom ye believed in God aforetime? Here is My Beauty, which hath been revealed through His grace; yet have ye allowed them that are the manifestations of names in the kingdom of creation to shut you out therefrom; notwithstanding that they were all created by His Word. He, verily, is powerful over all things."

O Most Great Name! We, verily, have made thee to be among the greatest of names, that thou mayest issue forth from the abode of silence, and rise above the dawning-place of utterance to proclaim a Cause that hath encompassed all worlds. Unloose therefore thy tongue in truth, and announce unto the people that whereof, by the power of the Spirit, He hath informed thee in this Tablet, which was sent down from the right hand of the throne. Beware lest aught deter thee from commemorating thy Lord. Burn away the veils of sorrows through the Name of thy Lord, the God of Mercy; then shine forth above the horizon of remembrance with a perspicuous light.

Beware lest thou forget the occasion when thou didst enter into the Beatific Spot, and didst come before the throne; when We cheered thee with tidings of all good, and ordained for thee on earth an exalted station. Break not the Covenant thou didst enter into before God, neither violate His Testament, but be steadfastly loyal to thine undertaking. Be constant in thy love for thy Lord: beware lest thou withhold thyself from that which We have destined for thee, that thou mayest be reckoned in the Mother Tablet among such as are well grounded in their belief.

Write then in vindication of this Cause whatsoever the Spirit infuseth into thy breast; He, verily, will inspire thee with the truth, and assist thee in a matter whose outcome hath been predetermined by the Pen of God. Spirit, Honour and Glory be upon thee, and upon those who are with thee at the dawning of the Cause; at the eventide of holiness; and at every moment.

BH03684: The Sun [of Glory] hath dawned from the horizon…

He is the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted

The Sun [of Glory] hath dawned from the horizon of eternity with the ornament of God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Most Exalted. Say: Die, O concourse of the wretched ones! Every time the idolaters increased in their turning away, verily it appeared with another light greater than the first. Glorified then be the power of my Lord, the Most Glorious! Therefore die, O concourse of the hateful ones!

O beetle, verily the gates of Paradise have been opened by the finger of the All-Merciful and the sweet-scented breezes of the All-Glorious have wafted from the direction of My Name, the All-Praised. Flee thou with thy deaf hosts! By God, O bat, the day of thy death hath come, for the Sun of Beauty hath risen at the meridian with the sovereignty of grandeur and majesty. Woe unto thee and unto him who disbelieved and turned away! O thou gnat of misbelief, annihilation hath come upon thee and existence hath been cut off from thee. Choose thou flight over remaining, for the breath of God hath come from the direction of the Most Glorious and encompassed earth and heaven. Say: Die, O concourse of the hateful ones!

The Lord of Lords hath come upon the clouds of His Name, the All-Bestowing, and hath rent asunder the veil from His face. Say: Die, O concourse of doubt and suspicion! The King of Glory hath come and the Day of Union hath appeared and the temples of misguidance have perished through this Cause which hath dawned from the horizon of acceptance. Say: Die, O concourse of contention!

Blessed are ye then, O people of Baha, in that ye have drunk the cup of eternity from the hand of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and have embarked upon the Ark of Grandeur and have detached yourselves from the world. Say: Woe unto you, O concourse of the hateful ones! Rejoice, O people of Paradise, in the sweet savors of intimacy, then soar in the atmosphere of holiness on the wings of righteousness. Say: Die, O concourse of the wretched ones! Give thanks, O chosen ones of God, in that God hath singled you out for Himself and caused you to know that which hath confounded the hearts of all possessed of knowledge and wisdom. Say: Die, O people of unbelief and hatred!

BH03698: The Supreme Pen proclaims: Whatsoever hath been manifested…

In the name of Him Who hath been made a prisoner in the land by the oppressors.

The Supreme Pen proclaims: Whatsoever hath been manifested from the Ancient Beauty hath been a proof unto all who are in the heavens and on earth. Were the servants to reflect, they would become assured of His sovereignty through His arising amidst His enemies, and would acknowledge His power. However, as they walk in the wilderness of self and desire, they remain veiled from the dawning of the Sun of Baha from the horizon of eternity, and have turned unto those who would protect themselves from a gnat, thus depriving themselves of the Beauty of Divine Unity.

Say: O people! My deeds, like My manifestation, shine resplendent between earth and heaven. Whosoever, in less than a moment, purifies his heart from satanic whisperings will attain unto the knowledge of the Lord of all worlds and the Master of the Day of Judgment.

And thou, O servant, hearken unto the divine call and guard thyself from the venom of the souls of the idolaters. I swear by My beauty that today such a venom blows from the direction of the hearts of the idolaters that were it to pass over all the trees of human souls, it would deprive them all of their lofty, ripe and glorious fruits. Therefore, at all times take refuge in God, that thou mayest remain protected from the barren wind. Trust in God, thy Lord, fear no one, and be of the detached ones. Make My remembrance thy shield and thy trust in God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the All-Glorious, the All-Powerful, thy fortress. God willing, through the breezes of the divine springtime thou shalt attain unto the fruits of knowledge and inner meanings.

And the light that hath shone forth from the direction of the Ancient Beauty be upon thee and upon those who have passed by this world and all that is therein like the passing of clouds. Thus hath the command been sent down from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH03702: This is a Book revealed by Us unto him…

In His Name the Ever-Lasting the Ever- Abiding

This is a Book revealed by Us unto him who believed in God on the Day whence them who hearkened to the call of God from amongst the people of the graves, were resurrected. These are the ones who quaffed the Choice Sealed Wine in this Revelation. Verily, upon them the angels descend from every side. Peace be upon you inasmuch as you have attained the Days of God, the Gracious, the Forgiving. Indeed, these are the ones who are not kept back by the world, though they rule upon the East and the West of the earth. Verily, it is by them that the clouds have rained their rain, and darkness hath been chased away by light. The Mercy of God that hath encompassed females and males be upon them. As for them who have disbelieved in Him, they indeed are deserving of chastisement. They shall verily enter the fire. Thus hath it been decreed in the recorded Tablet.

Say: O people! Do ye protest against Him in Whose Name the Truth appeared, and the Balance of Justice hath been raised, and the Trumpet hath been blown? Fear ye God, O people, and walk not in the footsteps of them who disbelieve the presence of the All-Merciful. Follow ye the People of God, the Creator of darkness and light. Say: He hath verily offered up the Manifestation of Himself as a ransom for summoning you to draw nigh unto the station foreordained for you by the Flowing Pen.

I swear By Him! Were God to rend the veils asunder, you would offer up yourselves as a sacrifice for His Love. He, in truth, has the knowledge of all things, which He revealeth not save in a preordained measure. Say:

> “Fear God and spread not disorder on earth after it hath been well-ordered, neither shed the blood of anyone, for such things are forbidden you in the Book and in this Outspread Roll.”

O thou who hast fixed his gaze upon God! Cleanse thou thine heart of attachment to all the vain allusions of men, and persevere in the path of thy Lord, the God of all names and attributes, that He may aid thee with a power and might from Himself, and render thee victorious over all people of iniquity who disbelieve in God, the Lord of the Frequented Fane. Thus commandeth thee the Pen of the Ancient of Days in this dawntide.

The glory of God be upon thee and upon whomsoever boweth down in adoration for the sake of God in the Days of His Manifestation.

BH03713: Your letter which was written to Kalim was received…

Your letter which was written to Kalim was received and perused. However, mournful fragrances wafted from its words in such manner as to increase the sorrow of the Sorrowful Beauty. Although these are days of sorrow, yet concealed within them is a joy the like of which the eye of creation hath never beheld.

Today you must at all times remind the people through wondrous mention, and be not grieved by their acceptance or rejection. Say: I make mention solely for the sake of God and desire neither recompense nor thanks.

You sent an account—you have been and will remain trustworthy, God willing. You shall not be called to account for what you mentioned, and that which you shall be called to account for is My command, the difficult made easy. Grieve not over anything, but in all that befalleth thee place thy trust in thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Not for an instant is delay permitted in teaching the Cause of God, for the deniers have appeared with a scheme the like of which hath never been heard of in creation.

Convey My greetings to all the friends, both Arab and Persian, and say: O people, remain steadfast in the Cause of God and His love, then detach yourselves from all else.

And if you ask about conditions in this land and what hath befallen Me, at all times I have been and am afflicted at the hands of the murderous enemy, the irreligious Khuli, the obstinate Shaddad, the rejected Nimrod, the accursed Pharaoh, the stubborn Jews, the envious Abu Jahl, and the hateful Cain. Thus have I been and thus shall I remain unless God should change the situation, for He hath power over all things.

Remind Mirza Mihdi and the friends of the sorrow of this Prisoner, and likewise the members of the household. Dominion on that Day shall be God's. Remember Majid.

BH03718: In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! This is a Book from Us to him who hath believed in God, the Almighty, the Most Glorious, the All-Wise, that he may rejoice in God's remembrance of him and turn with his heart unto his Ancient Lord. Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having made Himself known unto thee and numbered thee amongst those endowed with certitude. Stand firm in His love, for Satan hath appeared with mighty guile.

Say: O people, fear ye God and measure not His words by any other words, for all else was created by His command, did ye but know.

Say: O people, purify your hearts from the intimations of those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Bountiful, that the Sun of grandeur and majesty may shine upon them from the horizon of the beauty of your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: This is He Who was promised unto you in all the Tablets, and all things were created for His presence and His days, were ye but aware. Do ye turn away from God and worship a mere name among names which We created by a word from Us? And verily I am the Almighty, the Powerful.

Say: O people, there hath come unto you the proof from the All-Merciful, which God hath made a testimony unto all in the heavens and on earth. Do ye say what the servants before you said? What then is the difference between you, O heedless ones? Say: They clung to names and denied their Creator, and ye do as they did. They dwell in the nethermost fire. Shatter the might of the evil one through My Name, the Self-Subsisting. Thus doth He command you Who hath come with the Kingdom of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Powerful.

O servant! Grieve not over anything, for thou art known among the Concourse on High as one of the people of Baha. By God, this sufficeth thee above all who dwell on earth. Then make mention of thy Lord with wisdom lest harm befall thee from those who have disbelieved in God, the One, the Single, the Peerless, the Creator, the Quickener, the Destroyer. And the glory rest upon thee and upon thy father and mother from this resplendent horizon.

BH03721: In the Name of God, the Powerful, the Mighty…

In the Name of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Glorious. This is a Book from the Prisoner to him who hath been guided by the guidance of his Lord and who hath been numbered among the beneficent in the sight of God.

O thou servant who gazeth upon the Countenance! Hearken unto the Call of the Spirit from this holy quarter, this sacred spot, from whose directions hath been raised up the mention of God, that there is none other God but Him, and that He is one in His essence, one in His attributes, and one in His deeds. He hath created all things by a command from His presence, and He hath ever encompassed all the worlds.

Turn thy face toward God, then detach thyself from all else and say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by the Word whereby Thou hast distinguished between Thy servants and Thy creatures, that Thou deprive me not of Thy breezes whereby Thou hast quickened all created things. Then cause me, O my God, to be severed from all that Thy good-pleasure abhorreth, and grant me of the fruits of the Tree of Thy knowledge. Thou art, verily, powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou hast ever been powerful over all things.

O my God and my Lord! Preserve me within the shelter of Thy protection, then enable me to do that which Thy good-pleasure loveth. Then rain down upon me from the clouds of Thy bounty the good of this

world and the next. Then make firm my steps upon the path of Thy love. Thou hast ever been the Answerer of those who call upon Thee.

O Lord! Leave me not to myself. Take my hand by the hand of Thy power, then deliver me from the depths of self and passion, that I may be wholly devoted to Thy love, speaking forth the praise of Thy Self, gazing upon Thy countenance, turning toward the Kaaba of Thy nearness, and detached from all the worlds.

Thus have We made mention of thee in the Tablet, that thy heart may be purified from the promptings of every rejected idolater, and that thou mayest read what hath been sent down unto thee. God will preserve thee thereby from every ailment and disease, even as He hath preserved thee in truth through a sovereignty that hath encompassed all the worlds.

BH03722: In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This is an epistle from this Prisoner unto him who hath believed in God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, that the Word of God may stir him and cause him to speak forth the praise of His Self amidst those who have disbelieved and joined partners with God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

Turn thou with thy whole being unto God, then detach thyself from every rejected idolater. Purify thy heart from the world, then convey unto the people this hidden Announcement. Say: He hath appeared in truth, did ye but know it. He is indeed the One by Whose command that which was and that which shall be hath appeared. Say: O people! This is the Youth of God in your midst, Who calleth you unto Him. If ye believe not in Him, deny Him not.

And thou—break thou the seal of the vessel of love through My Name, then fill the chalice of Command with that which floweth therein of the Kawthar of My knowledge. Then drink thereof, making mention of Me and praising Me, and fear not those who comprehend not. Then will thy words influence the hearts of the servants and from them will spread the fragrances of the Cause throughout all lands. Thus doth God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Loving, counsel thee.

Although We know that thou hast drunk from this cup—and with Us is the knowledge of all things—yet the people do not believe with certainty. We have commanded thee to drink at all times that thou mayest find thyself each day in a different condition, and that in every moment there may be opened before thy heart's face a door of the doors of knowledge. Verily thy Lord is, every day, in a new state, and He speaketh in all things that there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

Arise to serve the Cause through My leave and sovereignty, then strive that there may appear from thee that whereby the Cause of God shall be exalted. This behooveth thee and those who are detached. And the glory be upon thee and upon thy spouse and upon those who have heard the call of God and answered it, and have detached themselves from every rejected idolater.

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BH03728: In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! This is a Tablet which hath been sent down in truth from God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Blessed are they whom trials have not prevented from turning to God and who have drunk the Kawthar of inner meanings from the hand of this Youth, Who hath come in the shadows of clouds, accompanied by the hosts of revelation and inspiration.

Say: We gave you tidings aforetime of this Most Great Revelation and of these days. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of Him for Whose meeting ye were created. Fear God, O concourse of men!

Say: Those who have denied God in this Revelation after He came unto them with the truth—these have no portion of this grace and these are as cattle.

Say: O people, worship God Who created you by a sovereignty from Him and fashioned you as He pleased in the wombs, then brought you forth therefrom and was ever watchful over you until ye reached maturity. Then He sent unto you His Messengers with guidance and the true religion to summon you unto Him, for He is the Lord of grace and bounty.

And thou—arise to serve the Cause of God and His love, and fear not the clamor of those who have emerged from the thickets, nor grieve at anything, for God shall soon send down what He hath ordained for thee—this is what We foretold thee aforetime in the Mother Book. In His hand is the dominion of the kingdom of the heavens and earth, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in the Book.

Stand firm through the power of God, for He is with those who place their trust in Him and preserveth them from illness. Be independent through Him of all that hath been created between the heavens and earth—thus hath the Pen of Command enjoined thee, and it is the Sovereign of all pens.

And the glory rest upon thee and upon those who are steadfast in the Cause—these are they whom God hath purified from the defilement of every wicked slanderer who denied God on the Day of Resurrection.

BH11754: O Majid!

O Majid!

With My own hands have I reared thee, and in My exalted Paradise have I planted thee, that through My loving care thou mightest bring forth goodly branches, pure boughs, and blessed fruits. And now is the time of thy fruition. Beware lest thou suffer thy leaves, fruits and branches to be withered by the scorching winds of extinction or be brought to naught. Therefore, through remembrance of My glorious Name, keep fresh the fruits of thine own tree and preserve them from violent gales and destroying tempests.

O Majid!

Consort not with Mine enemies, nor turn thy attention unto them, save when thou arisest to champion My Cause.

O Majid!

Face to face have I breathed into thee of My holy fragrances, and from the narrow wilderness of death have I drawn thee to the pleasant expanse of life, and by My purifying hand of power have I delivered thee from the perils of fancy and the depths of heedlessness. Therefore, show not faithlessness to thy Beloved, and stand firm in thy covenant, for none hath been or shall be acquainted with the root of the matter. I swear by My Beauty that all that hath been heard hath proceeded from Mine own Self, and none beside Me hath been or shall ever be My partner. Yet in the concealment of matters there lie hidden wisdoms which none save the discerning and perspicacious can comprehend.

O Majid!

Be thou as a cutting sword against Mine enemies and as a beneficial mercy unto My loved ones. Through My remembrance, be thou independent of all else, and through My love, be free from aught else besides Me. Like a restless lover, seek intimacy with the Best Beloved and at all times occupy thyself with the wondrous praise of Him. Should thou find the whole world turned away from My Beauty, account them all as non-existent and consider them as nothing. These are the compassionate counsels which have shone forth from the Dayspring of My holy mouth. Hearken thou unto them and be of them that prostrate themselves. And praise be unto My Self, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

BH03924: There is no doubt therein that it hath been…

He is the Mighty One.

There is no doubt therein that it hath been sent down in truth from God, the Mighty, the Peerless. God hath made it from His presence a conclusive proof and an enduring Word between the heavens and the earth, and verily it is guidance and a remembrance from His presence unto all the worlds.

O servant! Bear thou witness unto that which God hath witnessed concerning His Own Self by His Own Self, that there is no God but Him, and that ʿAli before Muhammad is His lamp and His light and His remembrance and His glory unto all who dwell on earth. Through Him doth every seeing one see, every knowing one know, every speaking one speak, and every certain one attain certitude. And whoso hath been given spiritual insight by God beareth witness that all this is truth wherein there is no doubt, and verily we were of those possessed of clear certainty. Thus hath God testified, and His angels, and His Messengers, and His chosen ones, if ye be of them that hear.

O servant! Give thanks unto God, thy Creator, for what hath been sent down unto thee on this night of mighty and impregnable words, by a single letter of which all who are in the heavens and on earth were created, if thou be of them that know. Open thou thine eyes and gaze intently upon the signs of God, and take hold of them with strength, and be not of the doubters. Thus doth God counsel thee in His Tablet and decree in truth that thou mayest be of them that are well-assured.

Rejoice, O servant, in what hath been sent down unto thee, a noble Book from the presence of One Mighty, All-Informed. Thus doth God bestow His favor upon whomsoever He willeth of His servants, and single out whomsoever He pleaseth for His mercy, and verily He is the Lord of great bounty. And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon the servants of God, they that believe in His unity.

BH03811: These are the verses of God which have verily…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

These are the verses of God which have verily been sent down in truth. Blessed is the soul that hath been attracted by their fragrances. At times they appear in the form of the sun and shine forth from the horizon of eternity—how excellent is he who hath been illumined by their lights! And at times they appear in the form of clouds, from which the drops of inner meanings and utterance distill—blessed is he upon whom their rains have fallen! And at times they appear in human form, and verily this is the Most Great Word from the All-Merciful unto the peoples of all worlds.

It singeth upon the branches of the Tree of Eternity that there is none other God but Him, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Blessed is he who hath been attracted by its melodies. Say: The Tree of Sinai hath been raised up in the holy wilderness and hath yielded the fruits of divine companionship. Happy the soul that hath tasted of its fruits, while its leaves proclaim that there is none other God but Him. This indeed is the Sun that hath shone forth from the horizon of grace—turn ye, O people, unto its radiance.

Say: The oceans of knowledge have surged and the clouds of destiny have been cleft asunder. God hath come with the hosts of the unseen, and the Supreme Pen hath inscribed upon the tablets of divine decree the mysteries of His Cause. Ponder, O people, upon their significance.

Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as thou hast drunk of the most pure wine. Look, then, with the greatest vision. By the Beloved God! The Cause hath been exalted and made manifest. Blessed the soul that hath fulfilled its covenant. Leave behind what thou hast and take what thy Lord hath—this is better for thee than all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth and whatsoever hath been treasured in their ranges. Be thou steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, and shun those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God. Purify thy face for God, thy Lord, in these days wherein every soul hath come with its book.

And glory be upon thee and upon them who have soared in the atmosphere of nearness and holiness and reunion, and have become detached from the world and its ornaments.

BH03823: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise! The remembrance of God unto His servant Javad, that he may rejoice in His remembrance, for verily His remembrance of him is better for him than all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth.

O Javad! Hearken unto My call, then soar in the atmosphere of My love, then turn away from thine own self in My path and hold fast unto My strong and mighty cord in such wise that the winds of hypocrisy

from the people of dissension—they who have broken the Covenant and denied the lights of the Daystar of the horizons and were among the wrongdoers—shall not cause thee to waver. And when the Ancient Beauty walketh before their faces, they look upon Him with disdain. Thus hath Satan whispered in their breasts and made them to be numbered with the idolaters.

Be thou steadfast in thy love for thy Lord in such wise that neither the tempests of trials nor the storms of tribulation shall move thee. Thus behooveth it him who hath believed in God, the Most High, the Most Great. Remember thy Lord amongst His servants and be not of the heedless ones. We have not forgotten thee, and thou shalt not forget thy Lord, and be thou of them that remember. Shun Mine enemies and turn thy heart toward My luminous countenance. Say: O people! Through Him have I become independent of all else save Him, and detached from the worlds.

And thou art of those who attained the presence of the Youth in days when He was alone in the land of exile and had no one with whom to find solace, and God is witness and all-knowing of this. And thou wast the second one to attain His presence, and by this was thy name inscribed in the Tablets by the Pen of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, and He hath ordained for thee a glorious and lofty station. Beware lest thou deprive thyself thereof.

Be steadfast in His love, then walk among the people in My footsteps that there may be manifested from thee that which thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, doth love. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God, the King, the Mighty, the Peerless.

BH03824: In the name of God, the Most Unapproachable…

In the name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy! The remembrance of God unto His servant, that he may rejoice in His remembrance of him, be detached from all the worlds, turn with his heart unto God and remember Him at morn and eventide.

O servant! Blessed art thou in that thou hast drawn nigh unto God, thy Lord, attained His presence, and been honored to meet Him. This, verily, is a mighty triumph. Beware lest thou forget what thou hast heard from the tongue of God. Preserve it as thou wouldst preserve thine eye. Thus art thou commanded by One Who is knowing, wise.

O servant! Be steadfast in the Cause of God, thy Lord, and follow not those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God and were doubtful of the Cause. Purify thy heart from all allusions, then walk in the path of those who have detached themselves from all save God and turned wholly unto the Almighty, the Powerful. Those who have removed themselves from the shore of nearness—these shall have no portion of this Paradise which hath been made manifest in the name of God.

Taste at all times of the fruits of the Tree of Knowledge which hath been planted by the hands of God in the holy land. Avoid Mine enemies and hold fast unto My loved ones who have held fast unto the Sure Handle and have detached themselves from every remote idolator.

Say: This is indeed the Day wherein, were ears to be purified from the clamor of the idolators, they would hear from all things: “By God the Truth! God hath come with manifest sovereignty.” Leave all

remembrance behind thee, then hold fast unto the remembrance of the name of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, Who speaketh the truth in all things, that there is no God but Him, and He Who hath appeared in truth encompasseth all things.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the Word of Truth and revealed unto thee that whereby are illumined the spirits of the Concourse on High and those who circle round the exalted Throne.

BH03863: The remembrance of the All-Merciful hath been raised…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

The remembrance of the All-Merciful hath been raised from the Divine Lote-Tree of man in this Ridvan which was witnessed at the heart of all worlds. Verily it speaketh at all times that there is none other God but Him, and that He Who hath appeared in truth is His servant and His glory, and He hath sent Him unto all the worlds with manifest sovereignty. Through Him He withholdeth and bestoweth upon whomsoever He pleaseth whatsoever He pleaseth, and verily He hath knowledge of all things. Through Him the clouds of the will of your Lord, the All-Merciful, rain down the showers of knowledge upon the heart of every discerning believer.

Beware, O people, lest ye deprive yourselves thereof and dispute concerning the Cause of Him Who was promised in the Book. Fear God and corrupt not His Cause, and follow not those who have disbelieved in God after there came unto them mighty evidences. Say: O people, be steadfast in the Cause of God and His love, and turn not unto the divine presence except by His leave, for thus hath the matter been decreed in the Mother Book. And whosoever turneth without leave from Our presence, his work shall not be accepted and he shall be recorded among the heedless in the Tablets.

Say: O people, fear God and shed not blood, for this hath been forbidden by One mighty and all-knowing. Whosoever deliberately killeth a soul hath indeed departed from the stronghold of justice—thus hath the command been sent down from the realm of mighty glory. And thou, O servant, grieve not for anything, but place thy trust in God in all matters, for verily He will protect thee even as He hath protected thee in truth, and He is the best of protectors and the most excellent helper. O Bahi, remember on Our behalf thy wife and thy son, then him who serveth you, then the sincere servants of God. Arise to serve the Cause, then make mention of thy Lord amongst His heedless servants.

BH03870: Thy letter hath come before Our presence, and this…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Thy letter hath come before Our presence, and this Youth, Who hath been imprisoned for calling the people unto God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, hath read it. We have been apprised of thy turning unto God, the Lord of the last and the first, and thy orientation towards the paradise of His good-pleasure, the Mighty, the Beloved. We beseech God to assist thee in His love and to strengthen thee in steadfastness in this Cause, whereby the faces of those who have turned towards the sanctified realm were illumined and who have drunk from the sealed cups of glory.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! This is Thy servant who hath turned towards the shore of the ocean of Thy oneness and the depths of the sea of Thy singleness. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst clothe all created things with the garment of existence, and through which Thou didst adorn whomsoever Thou willest with the ornament of Thy most beautiful names amongst the concourse of creation, that Thou shouldst not deprive me of the clouds of Thy mercy and the heavens of Thy grace, nor leave me forsaken among Thy creatures. Take my hand with the sovereignty of Thy will and purpose, and illumine the eye of my heart with the light of Thy knowledge and recognition, and my outward eye to behold the lights of Thy beauty. Then make my heart a treasury of the pearls of Thy love and a repository of the lights of Thy manifestations. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Sanctified, the Transcendent, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

How excellent it is for thee, O servant, that thou hast desired the Law of the All-Merciful in these days, and hast recognized Him from all else, and hast turned with thy heart unto Him. Were the veil to be removed from thine eyes, thou wouldst find thyself among the denizens of the Supreme Concourse, whom God hath honored with visiting the Manifestation of His Self, the All-Compelling, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Praised One. Glory and might be upon thee for having recognized the Intended One and turned unto the Worshipped One, and become detached from all that is seen and unseen.

BH03917: This is an epistle to the servant of God…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

This is an epistle to the servant of God who was named Ali in Our Most Great and Glorious Kingdom, and who attained the presence of the Countenance at a time when he was unaware and heard the melodies of his Lord, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate. And if he recognized Him not, no blame attacheth unto him, for in those days We concealed Our face behind seventy thousand veils lest the eyes of the ungodly should fall upon it.

O Ali! Forget not My days, but rather remember My presence and what thou didst hear of the wondrous melodies of My voice, and be not of the heedless ones.

O Ali! If thou wouldst reflect upon My Cause and what hath befallen My Soul, thou wouldst detach thyself from thine own self out of love for the Cause of God, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

O Ali! Dost thou rejoice within thyself while the Eye of God sheddeth tears from the buffetings of the ungodly? Dost thou sit at home while the Beauty of the Cause is imprisoned in this remote land?

O Ali! All things weep over what hath befallen Me, even though My loved ones may be among those who rejoice. And thou grievest not over what hath come upon Us, for We have chosen affliction from all the peoples for Ourselves, that perchance Our sleeping servants might be awakened—they who have been heedless of the remembrance of their Lord and have disbelieved in God, the Protector, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Wise.

O Ali! There hath befallen Me what none can reckon save God, thy Lord, and verily He hath recorded My tribulations in a Tablet of might well-preserved. Hold fast unto the Sure Handle, then detach thyself from

the ignorant ones. Leave them to their own devices, then ascend unto the Most Exalted Kingdom in the name of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. Turn not thy gaze from this luminous Scene. Thus doth the One sore with grief teach thee from this Prison, wherefrom even the feet of those near unto Us have been debarred. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whosoever hath detached himself, through remembrance of the Beloved, from the remembrance of all created things.

BH03918: O Mulla Hasan! He is the Most Exalted…

O Mulla Hasan! He is the Most Exalted, the Most High! This is an epistle from Him Who took to Himself the Covenant of the Point of the Bayan before taking the covenant of all who are in the heavens and on earth, and who spoke His praise in His days, and through whose love He appeared amidst all created things, and who slept not except in His love, and arose not except in His remembrance, and moved not except by His will—may my spirit be a sacrifice unto Him!

He failed not in my Cause, my remembrance and my praise, and gave glad-tidings unto all people in every Tablet of this wondrous Remembrance. But when His Object and the Object of the mystics appeared in truth and was established upon the throne with manifest and clear sovereignty, then did most of the people of the Bayan deny Him, opposing Him then, before then, and after then. Among them were those who desired to shed His blood, those who calumniated Him, and those who derided the verses of God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent. By God! They committed what the basest of the earth committed not, and said what the heedless ones of old said not.

And thou, O servant, purify thyself from the insinuations of those who disbelieved, then detach thyself from the idolaters, then remember Me in thy days. This is what thou hast been commanded in the Tablets of God, the King, the Mighty, the Wise. Say: The worship of both worlds cannot equal My remembrance today, for worship profiteth no one except after the remembrance and love of God. Thus hath it been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen, if thou be of them that know.

Give thanks unto God for having aided thee in His Cause and made thee one of the believers in His unity. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon such servants of God as have turned unto Him, who have believed in God their Creator, and whom the world hath not prevented from turning to God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. The dwellers of the kingdoms of remembrance shall pray for these, if ye be of them that know.

BH03919: This is a Book from God to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious.

This is a Book from God to him who was faithful to the Covenant and patient in the Cause of God and was God-fearing in the Faith. And remember in the Book the time when the servant of God came to him in days of hardship and sought his protection, and he protected him. By God, this good deed was better than the worship of those who worshipped their Lord for months and years. Be grateful to thy Lord for having enabled thee to recognize God and to perform that whereby thou art mentioned in the Supreme Concourse among the people of Baha. This is better for thee than all that is on earth. Soar in My

atmosphere, then detach thyself from all else save Me, then speak forth My praise and glorification. Thus doth this Prisoner command thee from the presence of One mighty and wise.

We previously informed the people about the days of adversity, lest they be disturbed when the winds of trials blow from the direction of the All-Merciful. Thus was the decree ordained in the Tablet. And when they blew, souls were disturbed, but God pardoned them, for His mercy hath preceded all worlds. Blessed art thou for having been faithful to God's Covenant and for having soared in the atmosphere wherein the breezes of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creation, wafted. The glory of God be upon thee, and His praise be upon thee and upon thy daughter and upon all who are with thee, whether bondmaids or free. And praise be to God, for He is worthy of it and He is the best Helper and Assister.

Convey Our greetings to thy son, and We beseech God to enable him to follow His Cause and to grant him the good of this world and the next. By God, He hath ordained for thee and for him that which no one knoweth. It shall soon be revealed in truth, and He is the All-Knowing.

BH03920: In the Name of the Most High, the Most…

In the Name of the Most High, the Most Exalted! This is a Book from the Point of the Bayan, who was named Husayn between the heavens and earths, then by His most beautiful names among the concourse of the worlds, and was named by the tongue of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, as Baha, and by it all who are in the heavens and earths were struck with terror, and by it God distinguished between the believers and the ungodly, and by it the breezes of forgiveness wafted upon the temples of the sinners, and by it the sun of wealth shone upon the poor and needy, and by it the Dove warbled upon the twigs of the Lote-Tree of the Uttermost End, and the Cock of the Throne crowed in the paradise of eternity, and the Tree of Sinai was set ablaze and spoke that there is no God but Him, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Omnipotent.

O servant! By God, through this Name the horizon of the Bayan was rent asunder and the sun of inner meanings rose with manifest and evident sovereignty, yet the people veiled themselves from its lights and radiance, and took darkness as light for themselves instead of God, and such was the condition of these heedless ones.

And verily I complain of those who disbelieved in God in this Revelation whereby the verses were sent down from all eternity, and the Beauty of God, the Sovereign King, the Most High, appeared with mighty lights, and there befell Him from His servants what befell no one else, and God is witness to what I say. And you, O servant, remember My days, then grieve with My grief, then weep for what befell Me from these wrongdoers.

We beseech God to make you steadfast in love for the Youth and to provide you from the fruits of the Tree of His knowledge and to comfort you with His own Self in the Most Exalted Paradise, whose gate was opened through this Most Great, Most Holy, Supreme Name. And the mercy which descended from the heaven of the Command be upon you and upon those with you from among God's remembering servants. And praise be to my Beloved and the Beloved of the mystics.

BH11760: From a beginning that hath no beginning He hath…

He is the Glorious, the All-Glorious!

From a beginning that hath no beginning He hath been, and unto an end that hath no end He shall be. The purpose of all creation hath been and ever shall be the recognition of the Ancient Being and the assurance of attaining His presence. This sublime and most exalted matter cannot be realized except through the Manifestation of His Self, Who is Him and none else. His Manifestation hath never been, nor shall ever be, confined within any limitation or made contingent upon any permission or command, inasmuch as every command is ordained by His command and remembered by His remembrance. He hath been and shall ever be, in His own Self, independent of and sanctified above all else besides Him.

In every Revelation, He revealeth the essence of that Revelation in a manner contrary to the understanding and desires of men, and this very contrariness is the standard and the path of His Cause, and the source of tests and trials. Even as was witnessed in the Revelation of the Year Sixty, when the Promised Beauty appeared in a way contrary to all that the people possessed, whereupon such a clamor arose among the servants that every learned one fell, every illumined one was darkened, and every exalted one was brought low—all these conditions being witnessed with manifest evidence.

In such circumstances, man must at all times fix his gaze upon the fundamental proof of God and that whereby all proofs have been established, lest he be veiled from the Source of Revelation and all his deeds and actions be rendered null and void while he remaineth unaware. As witnessed today, all are veiled by this malady save whom thy Lord willeth. Yet we hope that a breeze of grace may waft over you and draw you from the west of remoteness to the east of nearness, that you may find repose in the eternal holy Ridvan in the company of the holy manifestations of divine fellowship.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH05690: O beloved! Thy letter was read before the Throne…

O beloved! Thy letter was read before the Throne, and its mentioned sorrows brought grief upon the Ancient Beauty. But despair not of thy Lord's spirit and thy Master's mercy. In truth, when the root of the tree enters into the greatest sorrow, it surely spreads to its twigs, branches and fruits, especially unto thee who art specially related to the Ancient Beauty. The Tongue of the All-Merciful counsels thee that thou shouldst manifest such love that all servants would be astounded by its expression toward the Ancient Beauty, and arise with such servitude that all creation would become manifest in pure servitude, and be enkindled with such heat that all beings would be set ablaze by its warmth.

Be not grieved by the sorrows that have come upon thee, and arise with all thy soul, limbs and members to fulfill the matters commanded from the court of the Beloved, in such wise that all days become perfumed by thy fragrance and all times acquire the holy scents from thy diffusion. This is the utterance of the Ancient Beauty to the beloved. And afterward, God willing, in the last week the mighty, impregnable Tablet will be sent. Thou hast never been forgotten and never shall be, by His grace and favor, as if thou art present before the Throne at all times.

BH03976: O people! Drink of the choice wine…

O people! Drink of the choice wine of the All-Glorious before the great cry is raised, lest the whisperings of Satan affect you and prevent you from attaining the good-pleasure of God, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

It is incumbent upon the people of every city that upon receiving fresh news of the loved ones of God, they gather in a place and drink a beverage in the love of God, adding to that beverage eleven mithqals of rosewater, and while drinking, recite these words that perchance they may be preserved from the trials of the days:

"Most choice wine! Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Beauty, through whose manifestation the dwellers of the Supreme Paradise rejoiced, and the denizens of the crimson seas in their most exalted retreats were gladdened by its presence, and the Maids of Heaven in the All-Highest Paradise were blessed by its beauty at the Ultimate Lote-Tree, and through which those at Sinai fell unconscious upon the dust of self and passion, and the skin of the sincere ones trembled in the wilderness of fancy and blindness—to preserve us, O my God, from all else but Thee, and purify our hearts from the mention of aught save Thee. Then make us steadfast in Thy love and Cause, and attract us through the sweet-scented breezes of Thy holy favors and bounties. Verily Thou art the One with power over whatsoever Thou willest, and verily Thou art the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

Then preserve us, O my God, from the whisperings of Satan who warred against the Beauty of the All-Merciful and turned away from the Countenance of Glory and was among the heedless concerning the Paradise of the Cause. O my God! Have mercy upon us through Thy generosity, then preserve us through Thy grace and care, then make us steadfast upon the shore of Thy love and good-pleasure, then cause us to take refuge in the shadow of Thy Most Great Infallibility, then enable us to say 'Yea' at the time of the manifestation of the lights of Thy Most Glorious Countenance. Verily Thou doest what Thou willest, and verily Thou art the Victorious, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Beloved."

BH03977: He is the Mighty. I bear witness…

He is the Mighty. I bear witness that in this Revelation the Tree of Sinai speaks forth the truth that there is none other God but Him, and that the Point of the Bayan is His servant, and His splendor is unto all who are in the kingdom. His is the bounty and grace, His the grandeur and justice. He aids whom He willeth through a command of victory that is nigh.

Know then, O Sultan, that We dwelt among the people as one of them, such that We would sit with them and walk before them morning and evening, and none among them recognized Us, for they were seized with vain imaginings and were drowned in the ocean of fancy. When the days were fulfilled and the promise came, We emerged from behind the veils with manifest power and rent asunder the veils of fancy and showed forth Our countenance from this Dawn which was radiant from the horizon of God. Thus do We cast upon thee the verses and manifest unto thee the Cause that thou mayest become aware of that which God hath concealed from the eyes of the world.

Know then that missives and tablets were presented before Us and We found no trace from thee among them, and We became inwardly grieved. Change thy habit, then cast upon the Tablet that which the Spirit casts into thy heart, then present it before Us through a trustworthy messenger. Thus do We teach thee the ways of the Cause that thou mayest act according to it and be possessed of true insight.

And the spirit and glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who were with thee and upon those who were well-pleased in God. Then remember on Our behalf thy son, then he who was named Mustafa and upon the name of Javad and upon the loved ones, every one small and great, rich and poor.

BH03987: O all things!

In the Name of our Lord, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

O all things!

Hearken unto My call, that ye may find a way unto God. Purify your souls from desire, then turn ye all unto God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Mighty, the Powerful. When ye behold those on whose faces shineth the light of the All-Merciful, remind them of this momentous News. And when ye find those who have turned away, avoid them and remain in an impregnable fortress. Beware lest ye dispute with anyone, for this hath been forbidden unto you in preserved Tablets of might. Aid ye your Lord, the All-Merciful, and transgress not what ye have been commanded by the Mighty, the Powerful One.

Take comfort in God and His remembrance, then leave the idolaters behind you. They are heedless of that for which they were created—to attain His presence, the Mighty, the Powerful. They are dead, not living. Their names shall not be mentioned today in the precincts of mighty glory.

Be ye united, O My loved ones, and commit not that which would dishonor God among His creatures. This is better for you than all that hath been created in the heavens and earths.

Those who in these days have veiled themselves from the Cause are in manifest loss. Soon shall they know what they have wrought against God when death overtaketh them. Then shall they feel the winds of hell. But those who have believed in God and acted according to His command—soon shall the angels and the Spirit receive them with chalices of Kawthar and Salsabil, and give them glad tidings of the presence of God, and usher them into the station wherein shineth the light of the face of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Blessed are they who have attained unto the knowledge of God and then detached themselves in His love from all the worlds. And upon you be the Spirit, and upon those who have sought shelter beneath this Tree which hath been raised up in truth by God's command, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Powerful. And praise be to the Beloved of the mystics.

BH03988: Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Mighty…

In the name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved, from this Tree which hath been raised up in truth and speaketh that there is no God but Him, the All-Encompassing, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

O Muhammad! By God, the story of Husayn hath been repeated in this prison, yet the people understand not. Thus hath He fallen into the hands of enemies, and at every moment there befalleth Him what never befell this Name before. Therefore doth the eye of Muhammad weep in a praiseworthy station.

Blessed art thou for having drunk the cup of divine knowledge in these days wherein most of the people are veiled from their Lord, the All-Merciful. By God, they are a people who understand not. Forget thou all else save God, thy Lord, and take comfort in His remembrance, for His remembrance now biddeth thee in truth, if thou be of them that know.

Say: O people! This is the Servant of God in your midst, calling you unto Him, if ye be aware. Say: O people! Deny not after having believed in Him, and deprive not yourselves from the knowledge of God, the All-Encompassing, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Be thou grateful to thy Lord for having attained unto the recognition of the Manifestation of His Self—this is of His greatest bounty, yet the people know it not. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from all else save Him and hath turned toward Him with beloved submissiveness.

Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God, for He shall send down unto thee what hath been ordained for thee in a preserved Book. Verily His mercy hath preceded all created things and His grace hath encompassed all that is seen and unseen.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have remained steadfast in the Cause and have placed their trust in God, the Mighty, the Loving.

BH03989: O Mahmud! Praise thy Lord and be praiseworthy…

In the name of God, the Mighty, the All-Praised!

O Mahmud! Praise thy Lord and be praiseworthy in His Cause, that all things may testify to thy turning unto God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved. Rend asunder the veils of idle fancy through the power of thy Lord, then cross over the bridge through the might of God, the Powerful, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

Should anyone prevent thee, say:

> “O Satan! By what proof didst thou turn away from the mention of the name of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, and by what evidence didst thou believe in God, the Mighty, the Beloved?”

Be fair within thyself, then bring thyself into the presence of God. If thou deniest this Most Great Revelation, by what proof can thy faith be established and thy soul find rest? Nay, by Him Who created all things between the Kaf and the Nun!

Don thou the robe of certitude and arise to warn the servants of the great terror, saying:

"Have mercy upon yourselves and be not of those who differ among themselves."

This is He Who was promised to you by the tongue of Ali aforetime, as witnessed by praising servants. Beware lest ye be negligent in the Cause of God and cast the Most Great Word behind your backs. Fear ye the Day when all shall be brought before Him.

Break not God's Covenant, nor set aside His Book, nor take the book of those whose unbelief is attested by the Concourse on High and those who rejoice in the Garden of Paradise. Sanctify thyself from the insinuations of those who oppose God and shun them as thou wouldst shun the plague. God sufficeth thee. He is with thee and will aid those who walk in the paths of His good-pleasure and who rejoice in His remembrance.

Thus doth the Youth command thee out of love for thee, that He may draw thee nigh unto God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Kind. And mercy be upon thee shouldst thou inhale the fragrance of the Beloved from this Missive that hath been sent.

BH03995: O beloved of the age! God was, and there…

He is the Most Wondrous, the Wondrous, the Glorious, the All-Glorious!

O beloved of the age! God was, and there was nothing besides Him. Soon thou shalt find remoteness even as it was before, as We have informed thee of this in the Holy Tablet a year before the Luminary of the horizons departed from Iraq—and thou art of them that know.

These are days wherein all have taken their vain desires as their god and dust as the Lord of Lords. In such circumstances, whom should the Pen mention and by what merit should the Tongue of Grandeur sing? Leave them to their vain disputes. Yet be not grieved, for verily God, glorified be His majesty, hath behind the pavilions of infallibility servants whom neither the cawing of the raven nor the croaking of the profligate deter. They regard all who are in the heavens as non-existent and hasten with steadfast feet and trustworthy hearts to the court of their Goal.

However, in teaching the Cause, persistence is necessary. This is Our duty and yours, but God doeth whatsoever He willeth. Although the cry of the ungodly is raised to such heights that the voice of the believers cannot be heard, save by him who hath a penetrating ear, consider the hollow drums: though inwardly empty and bereft of the wondrous tokens of divine mercy, their noise and clamor outwardly deafen the world. How excellent is this similitude We have struck for thee, that thou mayest be of them that understand!

In any case, with such a discordant sound it is difficult for the Most Great Remembrance to reach the ears. All these degrees pertain to the limitations of the human world; otherwise, were the divine melody to appear even less than what can be counted, it would encompass all worlds. And praise be unto this Lord, for verily He is the Lord of all worlds.

BH04013: He is the Beloved! In this hour when…

He is the Beloved! In this hour when the bride of love hath emerged from behind the veil, and the fire of separation hath blazed forth from heart and soul, and cast patience from its throne, as the countenance of the Friend hath been unveiled—we are in separation, yet wagering our lives in hope of union, though even in union there is fear of separation. Nay, in the path of love, separation is sweeter than union, remoteness more precious than nearness, and separation more favored than union. For in union there is fear of separation, while in separation there is hope of union. After every parting comes meeting, and after every perpetuity comes extinction.

They have created the world compounded of honey and colocynth. How can the heartless one draw a peaceful breath in this dusty realm of water and clay, or spread the couch of repose? If it offers a sweet draught to the lip, it draws forth a cry of anguish from the soul. Therefore one must not set one's pure heart upon it, but pass over it like a cloud and soar beyond it like an eagle—neither content with its sweetness nor distressed by its bitterness. One must set one's heart upon the eternal kingdom and pass beyond the mortal dust, that perchance on spiritual wings one may fly to the divine holy nest, there to sing with wondrous Iraqi melody this song of spiritual glory: We are all drunk with annihilation, We are all the light of glory, We are all the spirit of eternity. O conscious soul, be aware, be aware!

As for the rest of this tale, let whoever wishes come to the Friend's threshold and understand it, until God may grant it and gather all together.

BH04050: We previously revealed a tablet for you and sent…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

We previously revealed a tablet for you and sent it by way of Salman that you might be mindful of the remembrance of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

O Zaman! Hear the call of your Lord, the Most Merciful, from the precincts of the prison and be not patient with yourself—traverse the paths of your Lord with joy and fragrance. Forget not the days of God nor what you have heard of His exalted Word. Verily, He remembers whoever remembers Him at all times. Be not occupied with the world in such wise as would make you heedless of the remembrance of your Lord, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

Soon will pass away all that you witness on earth, and sovereignty will remain with God, the Single, the One, the All-Glorious. Those who have turned away from God and been heedless of His remembrance, and have sold the beauty of divine unity for the ornaments of the contingent world—God will soon seize them with a wrath from His presence and return them to the lowest fires.

Consider the world and its hours and days—do you find it remaining in one state? Nay, by your Lord, the Most Merciful! Every person of insight witnesses its changes and transience at every moment. Blessed is the one who looks upon it with penetrating vision and attains certitude and assurance.

Thus have We imparted to you the word of truth that you might rejoice within yourself and detach yourself from Satan and stand firm in the love of God and the praise of His Being among the followers of all religions.

Convey Our greetings to your son Javad—We previously mentioned him through Our grace and We have been with him at all times. And also to your other son who was named Husayn in the Kingdom of Names, that he might turn with his whole being to God, Who has caused all things to speak in praise of His Being and in Whose grasp lies the dominion of all that has been ordained in the realm of possibility.

BH04083: In the Name of God, the Most High…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious. This is an epistle from the Youth to him who hath turned towards the Dayspring of grace and been seized by the fragrances of revelation in these days wherein hearts are troubled and eyes are fixed in fear, save those who have turned unto God and detached themselves from such as have disbelieved in their Chosen Lord.

O thou who hast drunk the wine of life! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. By God! Through His call are drawn the hearts of the righteous.

The Youth was seated in prison, turning unto God, His tongue moving in remembrance of His Lord, and from His pen floweth that which descendeth from the right hand of the throne of His Lord, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Can anyone prevent the Pen of Command from that which it hath been bidden? Nay, by Him Who hath caused the rivers to flow! Can tribulations prevent Me from the remembrance of the Lord of Names? Nay, by Him Who hath made the night and day to succeed each other! I remember My Lord, the All-Merciful, at all times, and the hosts of the wicked do not frighten Me. Were it not for His remembrance, My tongue would profit Me not, and were it not for His command, I would not love My life. He knoweth the secrets that lie within hearts.

O thou bird soaring in the atmosphere of thy Lord's love! Know thou that were the Youth to perceive any permanence or station for this world in the sight of thy Lord, the Most High, these wicked ones would not have been given power over Him. Follow thy Lord and grieve not over what transpireth in the world. Soon shall perish all of impotence and power that are therein, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the One, the All-Compelling.

Hearken unto My words, find solace in the remembrance of thy Lord in private and in public. That which hath been ordained for you hath not been ordained for any others. Blessed are ye, then, and blessed is he who loveth you purely for the sake of your Lord, the Mighty, the Compelling.

Praise be to God, the King, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

BH04096: He is God! O my brother and my beloved!…

He is God! O my brother and my beloved! God willing, may you ever soar in the atmosphere of the holy nearness of the All-Glorious, and swim in the sea of His endless favors.

After your letter arrived—may God reward you with the most wondrous reward for mentioning Him Who was in the hands of the enemies at all times until He was imprisoned in this prison—and if you inquire about conditions, I swear by the Pre-existent King that they are beyond description. However, this much was known to you, that all which this servant strove for over successive years to exalt the Cause of God was scattered to the winds.

Surely you have heard the details of this servant's arrival in these realms and conduct with the people. I swear by your life, O my brother, after my arrival the tongues of the servants were opened in praise of your Lord, yet all laughed and mocked. By God, I am ashamed to mention to you what my brother did—he whom we taught and protected for twenty years. Surely by now news of him has reached those parts. Whoever looks upon his words with the eye of God will recognize him and be among those who know.

Would that you were present to witness and see what cannot be described in words. The Tongue of the All-Merciful on His throne bears witness to this, and My Self suffices as a witness and knower.

Hear the words of one who loves you and desires your good pleasure: Arise to serve the Cause of God and aid it, then burn away the veils of all created things with the fire of your love for God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Make your desire what God has desired, for it is better than all that was created between the heavens and earth, than what was and what will be.

And glory be upon you and those with you.

BH11767: Your letter, imbued with loving allusions and sprinkled…

He is the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Wondrous, the Most Glorious!

Your letter, imbued with loving allusions and sprinkled with the dewdrops of attraction, was received and presented before the Throne. He spoke, saying:

> "The servant of the One has fallen into the well of envy, and the Spirit's Servant into the prison of hatred, and the Ancient Beauty into the cage of rancor. God shall soon send forth hosts of angels and deliver Him forth in truth and render Him victorious throughout the earth, and His countenance shall shine forth amongst all the worlds. The servant hath sought no help from anyone, and there is no victory save through His bidding. He aideth whomsoever He willeth by His leave, and He is the Ever-Victorious from time immemorial, and He is the Helper throughout all eternity."

Infinite tokens of favor have been revealed concerning that loving leaf. God willing, may you remain occupied with the remembrance of the Beloved throughout all days, sanctified and detached from aught else but Him. May you drink from the Most Glorious Wine and be sustained by the most enduring grace, that perchance, through the favors of the All-Glorious Lord, you may become purified from the allusions of these days and find rest and repose in the seat of steadfastness and the station of luminous glory through the love of God. And should anyone resolve to journey, God willing, the wondrous and glorious Tablet that hath been sent down from the heaven of exalted glory shall be dispatched.

Blessed art thou, for the tongue of thy Lord hath moved at the mention of thy name, and for having been remembered in His presence, and thou art of those who are remembered. Convey in every circumstance the Cause of thy Lord unto the handmaidens of God, that they may become aware within themselves and make good what hath escaped them. Verily, He is the best of teachers, the All-Knowing. And the Spirit and praise be upon thee and upon the near servants of God.

BH04130: He is God! Take up thy station, hearken…

He is God! Take up thy station, hearken to My words, then be thou enkindled with the fire of God and leave behind thee all who are on earth. Ascend unto the Kingdom of God that thou mayest hear His melodies and witness, beyond all creation, a mighty dominion.

Say: I am but a servant of God among you, and I summon you only to a station of sublime sanctity. Fear ye God and deny not Him of Whom ye were promised in all the Tablets from One All-Knowing, All-Wise. He hath indeed come to you with all the signs and with manifest sovereignty. He is the Wondrous Originator of the heavens and earth—the eye of creation hath seen none more wondrous than He, and God is witness to this.

Say: The cry of the distressed hath ascended to the heaven of destiny, and the Sovereign of Revelation hath descended with the hosts of the unseen with mighty power. Say: He hath come after ʿAli even as the Spirit came after the son of Zachariah. Thus hath the Truth come and judgment been decreed from One mighty and powerful.

Say: In the name of God and by God, then arise to serve the Cause and fear not those who follow every doubtful deceiver.

Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of the Throne in days when the countenance of Beauty was veiled behind clouds of Glory, though from the horizon of grandeur He was in truth ever visible. Thus have We bestowed upon thee through grace that which a single letter thereof surpasseth all things, and none comprehend this save those endowed with insight.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have stood firm in this Cause whereby feet have slipped save those whom God preserved through His grace, and He verily encompasseth all things.

BH04143: In the Name of God, the Most Manifest! Hearken…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest! Hearken unto that which the Herald of the All-Merciful calleth out from the direction of the Ridvan, for verily thy hearkening unto His call is better than all that hath been created in the realms of being and ordained in contingent existence by God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Great.

Say: Through His call are the hearts of them that are nigh drawn forth, and through it is stirred up in every heart that whereby the breasts of the doubters are purified. Say: This indeed is the Kawthar of life amidst the Concourse of existence—drink ye thereof and be not of the heedless.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Do ye deny Him Whose meeting ye were promised in all the Tablets? Alas for you and for those whom ye have taken as lords for yourselves besides God! Fear ye God, then turn unto Him that He may forgive you your evil deeds, for verily He is the Ever-Forgiving, the Merciful.

Say: This indeed is He through Whom hath shone forth the sun of grandeur and power, through Whom the Cause of God hath become renowned throughout all else besides Him, and through Whom the faces of them that are nigh have been illumined. He hath aided the Cause of His Lord until He was imprisoned in this remote prison, and now from the direction of the prison He calleth out to all who are in the heavens and on earth, saying: "Worship none but God!" All the peoples of the earth combined have not prevented Him from the Cause of His Lord. Though ye help Him not, commit not that which would grieve His heart and cause the hearts of the Concourse on high to burn.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and arise to aid this Wronged One Who hath been afflicted at the hands of the oppressors. The Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon the servants of God who are nigh unto Him.

BH04149: O Javad! Hear what God calls to thee…

He is the Mighty!

O Javad! Hear what God calls to thee from this Most Pure Station.

Say: By God! The Spirit hath appeared from this Most Great Scene, and the heaven hath been cleft asunder, and God hath come with manifest sovereignty, and thereby the sun was darkened and the moon was split, and all are in continuous tribulation. Do thou remind the people with this Most Evident Embroidery that they follow not Satan within themselves, but rather follow this Cause that is inscribed and concealed. Say: By God! The Cause hath dawned from this Dayspring quicker than the twinkling of an eye, and there is no refuge nor escape for anyone except that they enter this Most Pure and Most Luminous Ridvan. And verily the Tree of Sinai speaketh the truth in this Station and calleth all: "Where is your resting-place, O ye who are possessed of sight?" We had forbidden thee before from mention in this Greatest Word, but now We permit thee to remind people with what is made easy. And this is indeed God's grace unto all who possess vision, and God's conquest over whoso turneth away and disbelieveth. Say: This is indeed the Cause that is most calamitous and most bitter, from which every rabble and ass fleeth. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whoso hath acknowledged.

He is the Mighty!

God willing, thou art in the utmost joy and delight and gladness, and be not heedless of the mention of the Beloved Who is concealed, hidden, and unknown. And remind the loved ones. A small gift was emphasized to Salman to give to you. And God giveth what He willeth, and verily He is the Honorer of those who love Him, and verily He is the All-Bountiful.

BH04177: O thou pure Leaf! Thy lamentation hath ascended…

He is God!

O thou pure Leaf! Thy lamentation hath ascended to the heaven of Oneness and the sighing of thy heart hath saddened the inhabitants of the Celestial Paradise. O thou who, after separation, seekest reunion with the Luminary of the universe! Cease thy lamentation and be patient, although teaching patience to the nightingale is like preventing the fire from burning. But in one's nearness to and remoteness from the True One there hath ever been, and will continue to be, a wisdom. The Almighty hath at all times ignited the fire of yearning in the hearts and hath concealed Himself; He hath caused the souls to long for reunion, then separated from them.

O that He Who is visible yet concealed would come in truth and the right of that Leaf and other lovers would be extracted from Him! But what can be done? Neither He, nor His sword can be seen.

O Leaf! Be assured of the bounty of the Sovereign of Oneness and leave thy affairs to the Beloved. He hath never forgotten thee and in the presence of the Great One thou shalt never be absent. The eye of My favour hath ever been and will continue to be turned to thee. Render praise, for divine confirmations have embraced thee in such wise that all created beings testify to thy love.

Be not sad. If God wills it He will enable thee to become like unto a moth circumambulating the everlasting Lamp and circling round the divine Light. Convey My greetings to all the believing handmaidens. Convey my remembrances to the pure and brilliant handmaid Zahra, the one who hath desired to behold My Face and hath attained My glory. Convey greetings on behalf of the Self of God to Khatun Jan and say to her: 'Thou art residing in thy home and the Ancient Beauty is captive in the hand of tyrants.

BH04186: Thou seest, O my God, how Thy servants have…

Thou seest, O my God, how Thy servants have been cleaving fast to Thy names, and have been calling on them in the daytime and in the night season. No sooner, however, had He been made manifest through Whose word the kingdom of names and the heaven of eternity were created, than they broke away from Him and disbelieved in the greatest of Thy signs. They finally banished Him from the land of His birth, and caused Him to dwell within the most desolate of Thy cities, though all the world had been built up by Thee for His sake. Within this, the Most Great Prison, He hath established His seat. Though sore tried by trials, the like of which the eye of creation hath not seen, He summoneth the people unto Thee, O Thou Who art the Fashioner of the universe!

I beseech Thee, O Thou the Shaper of all the nations and the Quickener of every moldering bone, to graciously enable Thy servants to recognize Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Revealer of Thy transcendent might, that they may cut down, by Thy power, all the idols of their corrupt inclinations, and enter beneath the shadow of Thine all-encompassing mercy, which, by virtue of Thy name, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, hath surpassed the entire creation.

I know not, O my God, how long will Thy creatures continue to slumber on the bed of forgetfulness and evil desires, and remain far removed from Thee and shut out from Thy presence. Draw them nearer, O my God, unto the scene of Thine effulgent glory, and enrapture their hearts with the sweet savors of Thine inspiration, through which they who adore Thy unity have soared on the wings of desire towards

Thee, and they who are devoted to Thee have reached unto Him Who is the Dawning-Place of the Day-Star of Thy creation.

Cleave asunder, O my Lord, the veils that shut them out from Thee, that they may behold Thee shining above the horizon of Thy oneness and shedding Thy radiance from the dawning-place of Thy sovereignty. By Thy glory! Were they to discover the sweetness of Thy remembrance and apprehend the excellence of the things that are sent down upon them from the right hand of the throne of Thy majesty, they would cast away all that they possess, and would rush forth into the wilderness of their longing after Thee, that the glance of Thy loving-kindness may be directed towards them and the radiance of the Day-Star of Thy beauty may be shed upon them.

Let their hearts, O my Lord, be carried away by Thy remembrance, and their souls enriched by Thy riches, and their wills strengthened to proclaim Thy Cause amidst Thy creatures. Thou art, verily, the Great Giver, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.

BH04187: These are the verses of the Command which have…

He is the Ever-Abiding, the Most Glorious

These are the verses of the Command which have been sent down in truth from this holy and ancient atmosphere, informing the people of the good-pleasure of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Wondrous, that perchance the hearts of men may be purified by this pure water which descendeth from the clouds of grace upon the hearts of all the worlds.

Thou must purify thyself from all who are in the heavens and on earth, that thou mayest be enabled to take thy stand in My love and be of those who are firmly established. Beware lest thou turn unto those in whose hearts thou findest hatred for the Youth, neither associate nor commune with them. Then turn away from such as these and draw nigh unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

Arise to promote the Cause in the name of thy Lord, then aid the Youth with whatsoever thou art able, and walk not save in My straight and manifest path. Soon shalt thou hear from the opposers that which shall rend asunder the hearts of those near unto God. When this cometh to pass, remain thou steadfast and be of those who are firm.

Thus do We recount unto thee from the tidings of the unseen, that thou mayest know thy Lord apart from all else and be among those who are steadfast in His love. We have indeed ordained for thee in the Tablet an honorable and glorious station, shouldst thou remain firm in the Cause and not be shaken in the hour wherein all who are in the heavens and on earth shall be shaken.

Cast the world behind thee, for it shall never suffice thee, but what shall suffice thee is thy Lord, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Inaccessible. Then make mention from Our presence to those who are around thee and with thee from among the loved ones of God, if thou findest in their hearts love for the Youth; otherwise, leave them to themselves and abide under gracious protection.

BH04204: O Abdul-Rahim! In the Name of God, the Most…

O Abdul-Rahim! In the Name of God, the Most Holy. The remembrance of God mentions His servant that he may rejoice within himself and become detached from all creation. Say: Through His remembrance do they who have recognized His unity drink the wine of life in this paradise in the name of their Lord, the All-Merciful. And through His remembrance is the fire kindled in the breasts of those who have detached themselves from the world and turned toward the direction of the All-Glorious.

Say: O people! Do ye deny Him Who hath come to you from the dayspring of the Spirit with power and sovereignty, and Who calleth you unto God, the Lord of the former and latter generations? Judge ye then with fairness, O concourse of creation! Say: Is there any doubt about God, or about His Manifestation, or about these verses which have been sent down from the throne of your Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful?

Say: He hath come with the truth, and this is His white hand, and these are His fingers through which the moons of idle fancy have been cleft asunder. By what sign then do ye deny, O concourse of loss? Say: My proof is My Self, and My evidence that which hath appeared from Me and that which hath been sent down from My dominion—this is another sign, and verily it is the proof. Do ye imagine that what ye possess can make you independent of God? Nay, by His Self, O concourse of transgressors!

Arise thou with such steadfastness as hath been vouchsafed unto thee from Us, then assist thy Lord through remembrance and utterance. We have recognized thy turning toward the direction of the Spirit, and have sent down upon thee those verses which quicken the hearts of those who have turned toward paradise. Blessed is he who hath recognized God and drunk the water of life from the cup of His bounty and remained steadfast in the Cause in days wherein the breezes of trials have blown. And the glory rest upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from all else and held fast unto God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Helping.

BH04224: In the name of Him to Whom all return!…

In the name of Him to Whom all return! Glorified is He Who sendeth down the verses in truth unto people who understand. Verily there is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command, and all are His worshippers. He aideth whom He willeth through the power that proceedeth from Him, and He sendeth down upon whom He pleaseth that which rendereth him independent of those who are enslaved by vain imaginings in these days and are among those who perceive not.

They say “We believed in Ali,” but when He came to them again with His Name the All-Glorious, they then denied Him. The curse of God be upon those who have disbelieved in God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

And thou, O servant, hearken unto that which the Tongue of thy Lord, the Most High, calleth unto thee from the right hand of His Most Glorious Throne, that verily there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Beloved. Say: O people! Is there any doubt about God, or about His Glory through Whose light all created things are illumined? Fear ye God, and reject not the truth through what ye possess, and be not of them that join partners with God.

Then know thou that thy brother who hath migrated unto God and entered the Precinct of Paradise—the spot wherein shineth the light of the countenance of thy Glorious Lord—and attained the presence of God and won that which the honored servants have won—by God, his spirit hath ascended unto the atmosphere of nearness and reunion, and entered the Ridvan wherein shine forth the lights of Beauty, and hath come to rest in a station of glory most praiseworthy. Thus do We inform thee of the tidings of the unseen, that thou mayest be assured that with Him is the knowledge of all things, of what was and what shall be.

And the glory be upon thee if thou remainest steadfast in the Cause of God, the Mighty, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

BH04247: Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Lord!...

He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Lord! Thou seest my helplessness and poverty, then my distress and anguish, and Thou witnessest, O my God, my stillness and my sitting in this Prison which lieth in the farthermost lands of Thy kingdom and the most remote regions of Thy earth.

Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for what Thou hast ordained for us through the wonders of Thy decree, and thanksgiving be unto Thee, O my Beloved, for what Thou hast sent down upon us through Thy firm destiny. By Thy glory, O my God! I am content with all of this, but Thine enemies rejoice therein and mock Thy loved ones, and because of this mine eyes weep and my heart bleeds and my liver is consumed.

Glorified, glorified art Thou, O my God! Raise up Thy servants to such a station wherein they taste the sweetness of Thy trials in Thy path and the delicacy of Thy decrees in Thy love, or transform their abasement through the sovereignty of Thy might, and their poverty through Thy riches, and their harm through Thy well-being, lest they witness in Thy kingdom that which they love not. Thou art indeed the Almighty, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Then I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy Name through which Thy Cause was raised up and Thy Name was exalted and Thy proof was perfected and Thy countenance shone forth and Thy evidence was made manifest, and by Him Whom Thou promised would appear on the Day of Resurrection, that Thou make this servant assured in Thy Cause and steadfast in Thy love and gazing unto Thee and speaking of Thee. Then send down upon him, O my God, that which will gladden his heart and bring tranquility to his soul. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou art the Mighty, the All-Compelling, the Powerful, and toward Thy servants All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

BH04279: Divine words which have descended from the Source...

He is!

Divine words which have descended from the Source of glorified utterance in a wondrous Arabic accent have been heard and listened to beyond measure and count. Now hear them in eloquent Persian, that perchance thou mayest pass from this transient abode to the immortal Kingdom, and in these dark days

when the dust of trials hath encompassed all contingent beings and their peoples, thou mayest not remain far from the pathway of the flowing stream which is the station of recognition of the Beauty of the All-Merciful.

O servant! The world hath never had, nor hath, any permanence. Soon thou shalt find all who are visible therein and all that exists therein to be non-existent, such that thou shalt see no trace of all that is on earth. Therefore, sanctify thyself from all that exists before the people, that perchance thou mayest recognize the First Beauty in the Last Garment.

For today all people remain veiled and concealed behind imaginary veils. Take refuge in the One God, that perchance thou mayest be saved from these depths of fancy wherein all are drowned, and arrive at and find rest at the fountainhead of life. This is the grace of thy Lord Who hath mentioned thee through His holy words.

Therefore, purify thy heart from worldly grief, for grief is rejected save in trials of this divine Youth Who dwelleth in the well of envy and hatred. In any case, mighty effort is needed lest thou remain deprived of the wondrous outpourings of these days. Thus doth thy Lord counsel thee, that thou mayest be among them that hear.

BH04292: In the name of Him to Whom all return…

In the name of Him to Whom all return. This is a Book from God unto him who hath believed and been guided.

Say: By God! The breezes of the All-Merciful have wafted from the direction of the All-Glorious, and by them are attracted the hearts of all who have believed and fear God. Say: The Spirit hath once again descended from the Most Exalted Horizon with My Most Glorious Name, and this is better for you, O people, than the kingdom of earth and heaven.

Say: Do ye dispute with the Ancient Beauty concerning that which He witnessed in the most remote dwelling places near the Divine Lote-Tree, when He beheld of the greatest signs of His own Self? By God! The Mighty Spirit inspired Him in the Most Glorious Pavilion with mysteries that can neither be witnessed nor seen.

O Muhammad! Step forth from behind the veils by My sovereignty that encompasseth all created things, and say: “Glorified be my Lord, the Most High!” Leave all beings behind thee, then move thy tongue in praise of My Self, and fear not him who hath disbelieved and transgressed.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Do ye dispute with Him Who hath come unto you with a proof wherewith all who are in the highest heavens could not prevail? Fear God and be of the righteous.

O people! Open your eyes that ye may behold the Kingdom of God above your heads and His omnipotence before you, and be not of them who turned away and forsook Him. Hold fast unto the cord of God and the handle of His Cause, and differ not in that which appeareth from His presence, for verily He hath appeared with truth in the midst of noon-tide, and none shall deny Him save every heedless one who hath gone astray and been blinded.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the servants of God, the Most High, the All-Glorious.

BH04295: This is an epistle from this Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

This is an epistle from this Prisoner to him who hath believed in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

Worship none but Him, and be thou severed from those who have disbelieved in God, the Almighty, the Beloved. Say: O people! Fear ye God, and spread not corruption in the land, nor follow any rejected idolater.

Know thou that at the outset of this Revelation We forbade the servants from tyranny and wickedness, and from the shedding of blood. Yet they abandoned that which they were commanded and committed that which they were forbidden, and they are at this moment unaware.

Say: O people! By God the Truth, I have come to you from the Orient of the Cause for unity, did ye but know it. Say: If ye desire to strive against anyone, then strive against your own selves—this would be better for you, could ye but understand. We ordained victory through the Bayan, did ye but know it. Thus hath the Command been sent down in all the Tablets, but the people do not comprehend.

Hearken thou unto My call and shun those who have disbelieved and associated partners with Him Who revealed the Bayan by His binding, transcendent and inevitable command. Say: O people! Fear ye God and commit not that which causeth the hearts of the denizens of the most exalted Paradise and honored servants to burn. We desire naught from you and summon you to that which is better for you than all that was and shall be.

Be not silent in remembrance of thy Lord. Arise to praise His Self amidst the heavens and the earth, that perchance the people may arise from the slumber of heedlessness and become aware. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whosoever hath clung to the cord of God, the Mighty, the Loving.

BH04361: O Isma'il! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord…

In the Name of God, the Most Learned, the Most Learned!

O Isma'il! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing, that verily there is none other God but Him. He preserveth whomsoever He willeth, how He willeth, and verily He is the Lord of lords.

O people! Tarry not upon the Path, but pass over it as passes the cloud. The Day which ye were promised in the Tablets hath come unto you, and every soul hath come with its deeds, though none comprehend this save those possessed of understanding. Wash thyself clean of the allusions of the people, then cleanse thy heart from those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Oft-Forgiving. Verily those who have disbelieved shall enter the fire and shall find for themselves no helper. Then shall they cry out and say:

> "Woe unto us for what we have neglected of that which we were commanded in the Book!"

Thou shalt keep thyself apart from them and hold fast to the cord of God and His mercy. Verily He forgets not His servants who have presented themselves before His Face with humility and turned unto Him.

Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of the Youth in days wherein the sun of thy Lord's beauty hath shone forth from behind the veil. Beware lest thou forget what thou hast witnessed of God's favor and power; then make mention of what thou hast seen amongst the company of the loved ones, that they may arise from the slumber of passion and remember their Lord at eventide and dawn.

Guard thyself and follow not those who have disbelieved in God on a Day wherein He hath established Himself upon the throne and set up the balance of justice and fixed the Path, and all have presented themselves for the reckoning. Thus have We made mention of thee in this Tablet that it may attract thy heart and the hearts of the loved ones. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have arisen for the Cause of God and whom no trepidation hath seized.

BH04385: O Baqir! Bear thou witness in thy soul, thy…

He is the Almighty

O Baqir! Bear thou witness in thy soul, thy being and thy spirit that the Tree of Sinai hath been raised up in truth in the year sixty and hath spoken in the most exalted voice that there is none other God but Him, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, and that ʿAli before Nabil—His light, His glory and His sovereignty over the dwellers of the heavens and the earth—hath come with the truth upon clouds of light, and around Him circled the denizens of the Supreme Concourse and the angels drawn nigh. He hath manifested His beauty with such a proof as hath rendered all created things powerless, and through it His evidence hath been perfected, His proof completed, and His testimony hath shone forth unto all in the kingdom, whether female or male, whether young or old. Bear thou witness within thyself that with Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth and the knowledge of all things in a mighty, luminous Book. Be thou assured of this, then stand firm in it and go not beyond it, if thou be of them that comprehend.

And furthermore, Tablets have been presented before Us but among them We found not thy Tablet, as if thou hadst forgotten Us within thyself. This indeed is a loss unto thee and verily this is a great regret. Know thou that We have not forgotten thee and make mention of thee in this beauteous Tablet that thou mayest rejoice in thy heart and remember thy Lord with love and manifest gladness.

The Spirit and the Glory and the Might and the Splendor be upon thee and upon those with thee and upon them that pass along this Path, the Exalted, the Powerful, the Almighty.

BH04387: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful! O Hasan! Be excellent as God hath shown excellence unto thee, then take Him as a friend unto thyself. Arise and take the cup of life in the name of thy Lord, the Most Merciful, then drink therefrom and fear not the idolaters. Say: His cup is His words, and therein is filled the wine of inner meanings and utterance. Blessed are they that drink thereof.

Turn thou unto God and be not disturbed by the clamor of the hypocrites. Ascend by God's power to the heaven of might and authority, then detach thyself from all else and be of them that are firm. By Him Who hath caused all things to speak forth His praise! Should anyone stand firm in My love and detach himself from all else but Me, he would, through one of My names, gain ascendancy over all who dwell on earth. Hast thou forgotten what was promised thee in the Tablets? Return then unto them that thou mayest find thyself possessed of clear certainty.

Say: O people! The Beloved of the worlds hath appeared, and He, verily, is the One Who sent Muhammad aforetime, and before Him the Spirit, and before Him the Interlocutor. Fear ye God and commit not that which hath been forbidden you in every wondrous verse. Take ye the laws of God and that which He hath ordained in His Book, and be not of them that forsake them. Unite ye on God's Cause and His religion, and divide not His words, and be not of them that differ.

Thus have We revealed unto thee that which shall move thy soul and draw thee nigh unto thy Ancient Lord. Be patient and steadfast, then stand firm and be not of them that are perturbed. And upon thee be the glory of God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH04388: In the name of God, the Most Exalted…

In the name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Unapproachable! O Hasan! Hear the call of Husayn from the direction of this mighty Prison. By God! There hath befallen Him that which hath befallen no one before Him from among His servants who circled round about Him.

Say: O people! Fear ye God. This is that Husayn Who was promised to you aforetime, did ye but know it. Have ye not heard that He would come after the Qa'im with manifest sovereignty, and through Him would be raised the standard of guidance, and beneath His shadow would enter all the Prophets and Messengers? And have ye not heard that the Qa'im would be sent forth once again and would enter beneath His shadow? Thus did the tongue of revelation inform you aforetime, yet now ye all remain veiled.

Say: O people! Verily He hath seated Himself upon the Throne, and at His right hand sitteth the Primal Point, addressing the veiled ones among the concourse of the Bayanis, saying:

> "O people! Fear ye God, then be ashamed before His beauty, and shed not this pure and radiant blood. But for Him, God's Cause would not have been made manifest in all else, nor would the cock of the Throne have crowed, nor would the Dove have warbled upon the twigs of the Lote-Tree of the Bayan, nor would those brought nigh have been created."

We commanded you not to hesitate in His Cause at the time of His appearance, yet ye committed that which hath caused the hearts of the sincere to be consumed. Thus doth the Ancient Pen recount unto thee that thou mayest aid thy Lord to the extent of thy power and be numbered among the helpers.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God and whose faces have remained unchanged by the insinuations of the words of the idolaters.

BH04389: O Hasan! Call to mind the time when thou…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved

O Hasan! Call to mind the time when thou didst attain the presence before My face, and when the holy glances were turned towards thee, and thou didst hear the melodies of God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. By God! Thou hast attained to that which most of the servants have failed to attain, and for which near servants have died in their longing. Know thou the value of that which thou hast been given from the fruits of Paradise, and be of those who are thankful.

By God, O Hasan! If thou wert to attain the presence of Husayn in those days, thou wouldst not recognize him, so grievously had he been afflicted with tribulations and hardships by those who disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Best-Beloved.

O Hasan! The countenance of God hath been changed by the blows of the people of tyranny and wickedness, and His body hath been pierced by the spears of those who are unbelievers. At every moment I walk while Shimr walketh behind Me, and the spearmen are on My right and on My left—tyrannical servants. Verily the tribulation of Husayn of old was accomplished in a single day, but this Husayn hath been afflicted at every moment with that which no one hath ever been afflicted with, and all things bear witness to this, but the people do not understand.

At every moment I desire to ascend to the Supreme Companion, yet the decree of destiny holdeth Me back. Verily, thou hearest My words from the direction of the prison. Therefore, cut thyself off from those who have disbelieved in God and remember this Prisoner. Forget not My days and My Manifestation. Thus doth the Pen of thy Lord command thee, that thou mayest be of those who act.

And glory be upon thee and upon those who walk in the good-pleasure of their Lord.

BH04390: He is the Mighty. O Rida, bear thou witness…

He is the Mighty. O Rida, bear thou witness within thyself that there is none other God but Him, and that He hath ever been All-Wise.

With Him is the knowledge of the unseen in the heavens and earth, and He is cognizant of all things. He knoweth what the treacherous eye beholdeth and what the insincere conceal in their breasts, even if it be as minute as a speck or a date-stone. He it is Who causeth the night to pass into day and the day to pass into night, and ordereth all things through His wisdom—and who is greater than God in wisdom or more truthful in utterance?

O Rida, be thou content with thyself and with whatsoever hath befallen thee and Us. Be patient in adversity and tribulation, and grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God, for He doth keep account of thee. He aideth such of His servants as hold fast unto Him and follow the paths of guidance, and are strong in His Cause.

Say: They who choose for themselves a protector other than God—these have lost whatsoever they have wrought, and weak indeed are both the seeker and the sought, and God is aware of all things.

Say: O people, believe in God and His signs, and transgress not the bounds set by God, and spread not corruption in the land. All this is My bidding unto you and My remembrance of you—through it take ye a path unto God, your Lord.

The Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon those with thee, and upon those who call upon God at morn and eventide.

BH04391: At the outset of these words we render thanks…

At the outset of these words we render thanks unto God and praise Him for having delivered thee and saved thee from the company of the wrong-doers.

He is the All-Glorious, the All-Sufficing.

O My companion in prison! For We have been imprisoned in this prison even as thou hast been imprisoned in that prison; and this is from the decree of God, the Exalted, the Most Great. Do thou, then, give thanks unto God for what hath come upon thee, even as We give thanks unto God for what hath come upon Us; for verily We are in a state of manifest gratitude.

Say: By God! There hath befallen Us that which hath not befallen any one among former or latter generations; and if I were to mention but a single letter thereof, the heavens and the earth would be rent asunder thereat, save those whom thy Lord, the Bountiful, the Ancient, shall please to preserve.

Be thou not, then, grieved by aught. Be patient, and then yet more patient, for the end is for such as endure with constancy. And if hardships touch thee, be not disquieted, but put thy whole trust in God, the Ever-Abiding, the All-Glorious. Blessed art thou, for that thou hast followed Us in trials and afflictions, and after Us the servants of God who are drawn nigh unto Him.

It behoveth thee to stand firm upon this Path which hath been exalted in truth from before One Who is Mighty, All-Powerful. Live thy days in a joy bestowed by God, such that no harm wrought by the evil-doers shall cause thee to waver.

And if thou findest in thy heart My love, then cleave unto it; otherwise, keep aloof therefrom and be of those who turn aside. And if thine eyes rebel against thee in My love, pluck them out and pay no heed unto them. This is My command unto thee and unto every faithful believer.

Then, on Our behalf, magnify before God all who are in thy house, both young and old. The Spirit be upon thee and upon the servants of God who confess His oneness.

BH04392: O servant, hear the call of this servant who…

In the name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Mighty!

O servant, hear the call of this servant who hath sacrificed his spirit in the path of God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful. Remember thyself at all times lest thou be veiled by the hints of those who have disbelieved in God after He came in the shadows of clouds with manifest sovereignty. Drink thou the

Kawthar of life from the hands of thy Lord's grace, the Mighty, the Bestower, and be not of the heedless ones.

Fear thou nothing in the path of God and be not disturbed by the hosts of the oppressors. Verily, those who have been martyred in God's path, these shall abide in gardens and delight—the maidens of Paradise shall circle round them with chalices of Kawthar and Salsabil, and the denizens of the Supreme Concourse shall find solace in their company, while youths shall serve them morning and evening.

Be thou enkindled with the heat of thy Lord's love that the heedless among His servants may be enkindled from thee. Sanctify thyself from all that thy Lord hath forbidden thee in His Tablets and follow not the ways of the deluded ones. Unite with the loved ones of God and shun the devils who whisper in the breasts of men and call them to rebellion. By God! They are but in manifest error.

Preserve thou God's Tablet and recite what hath been revealed therein that thy face may be illumined thereby amongst all peoples. Keep far from the manifestations of negation and draw nigh unto those who remember God at eventide and at dawn, and thou shalt find in their faces the radiance of thy Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Thus hath the Most Exalted Pen counselled thee while it was in grievous sorrow. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon God's sincere servants.

BH04394: O servant!

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O servant!

Be thou gladdened within thyself, for verily We were with thee at the time when thou didst rend asunder the veils and didst make mention of thy Lord amongst the servants. Blessed art thou, inasmuch as thou hast fulfilled God's Covenant and discharged His trust in these days wherein most people have taken for themselves a lifeless calf that loweth not, for We have withdrawn from it the spirit of life, and thus it remaineth a dead body. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling.

Then bear thou witness, even as all things at this moment bear witness, that sovereignty on that Day belongeth unto God, the Protector, the Almighty, the Exalted, the Unconstrained. He verily forgetteth not His servants who remember Him at eventide and at dawn, and at sunset and at daybreak.

Be thou as thou hast been, then aid thy Lord through utterance, and fear not the hosts of those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, for they shall on that Day find no place of refuge.

And verily Our name the All-Bountiful was present before the Face and attained the presence of God, the Almighty, the Exalted, the All-Forgiving, and appeared before the Face by Our leave. Thus doth it beseem everyone who hath believed in God and detached himself from the wicked. God hath ordained for thee a station among stations, and He wasteth not the reward of those who have done good in His Cause, and all things with Him have their measure.

Remember thou on Our behalf those who were with thee, then gladden them with the mention I have made of them, that they may rejoice within themselves. This is the recompense of those who have trodden the path of the righteous. Blessed art thou, and blessed are they, and blessed are those who have believed in God and detached themselves from the evil-doers.

And the glory of this Glory be upon thee throughout the duration of His exalted, All-Forgiving Self.

BH04430: In the name of God, the Most High…

In the name of God, the Most High, the Most Great! These are the verses of God sent down in truth, and none remember them except those possessed of understanding.

Say: O people, fear God and do not oppose the One through Whose will the suns of names were eclipsed and the moon was cleft in the heaven of destiny and the mountains passed away as passing clouds. Beware, O people, lest you change God's command according to what is with you. Aid your Lord, the Most Merciful, in these days and do not follow those who have denied God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Say: He desires nothing for Himself, but rather desires for you what has been ordained in the Book. Say: The Day that was promised to you has come, and the face has shone forth with lights. Blessed is he who has attained unto it, and woe unto every doubting misbeliever.

Arise and convey to the people, as much as you are able, this Cause through which faces were transformed and necks were humbled. Be steadfast and fear no one, for verily your Lord is with you and will aid you in your cause and inspire those who remember Him at eventide and dawn.

Say: Praise be to God Who has caused me to dwell beneath the shade of His mercy and delivered me from those who denied Him and made known to me the Manifestation of His Self in these days wherein God came in the shadows of clouds. Thus have We taught you the path of truth that you may walk therein and be of those who heard the call from the Most Exalted Horizon, then responded. And glory be upon you and upon those who have turned towards God, with Whom is the Final Judgment.

BH04431: In the name of God, the Most Wondrous…

In the name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous! These are verses which have appeared from the mouth of God with strange burning, and from each letter thereof appear grievous sighs, and none hath comprehended them save Him, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people, have mercy on this Youth Who hath been afflicted amidst the company of the ungodly. Fear ye God Who created you for Himself and gave you glad tidings of His presence and promised you His manifestation at every time, and hath not made His manifestation dependent on anything that hath been created between the heavens and the earth. Consider ye what was revealed aforetime that ye may be of them that know.

Hearken unto the call of God from the precincts of the prison, then aid Him through whatsoever ye possess of the words of God, the Holy, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Blessed art thou for having attained

the presence of thy Lord and heard His call in days wherein the hearts of the loved ones were troubled and wherein arose the cries of every soul, then did weep the eyes of them that are nigh unto God.

Say: The Youth hath gone forth from the city by reason of that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought. Thus hath the matter been inscribed in the Tablet of Destiny by the Pen of God, the King, the Just, the All-Wise. Verily, they who have been deprived of the love of God are dead and not living. God hath not ordained for them any portion in this most wondrous and glorious Ridvan.

Thus doth the Glory remember thee with faithfulness that thou mayest be assured that He hath excelled in faithfulness and in all goodness all the worlds. Be thou steadfast through God's grace and His loving-kindness in His love and His good-pleasure, then recount unto the people the days of attainment unto His presence, and be not of them that are silent. And the Glory be upon thee and upon them that are with thee of Our unified servants.

BH04457: Glorified be He Who came upon clouds of light…

He is the All-Glorious!

Glorified be He Who came upon clouds of light with manifest radiance, surrounded by the Concourse on High and the angels of the Command. Thus did the All-Merciful come with great sovereignty and sent His angels to all regions to give the people glad tidings of this wondrous Day. In their hands were Tablets that surpass all the books of the ancients, wherein was revealed that which came upon the Prophets and Messengers.

Among the people are those who denied them and cast them behind their backs—these are indeed in manifest loss. And among them are those who inhaled from these Tablets the fragrance of their Lord, the All-Merciful, and were illumined by this Lamp through which the heavens and earth were made to shine. Were the veil to be lifted, those who disbelieved would cry out: "Alas for us, for what we neglected towards God!" Thus was the matter decreed, and the pronouncement came from thy Lord, the All-Merciful, encompassing all worlds.

O servant! Be thou assured of God's grace and mercy. Soon will the believers behold the banners of victory from all directions through My Most Great Name. Know then that the Youth hath not grieved at what befell Him in the path of God's love, and His face hath shone from the horizon of tribulation with a light from which the dwellers of the cities of eternity and the near angels derive illumination.

Place thy trust in God in all matters, then aid thy Lord, for in such days as these the gaze of God is fixed upon those who have stood firm in His love and aided His Cause. He boasts of them in the kingdom of His Command. Verily, He encompasseth all things. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH04493: The land of mystery has lamented, while the prison…

In the Name of God, Who has dawned from the Most Glorious Horizon!

The land of mystery has lamented, while the prison land has rejoiced—the former weeps at separation from the Beloved, while the latter glories over all other lands at the meeting with its Lord. How wondrous

is this grief and this manifest joy! God has chosen the lands whereon the Beloved of the worlds has arrived. Blessed is he who arrives therein and finds the fragrance of his Lord's robe, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, and inhales the sweet-scented breeze of the Beloved. By God, he is of those who have attained.

O servant! The Youth remembers thee in this remote prison out of love for thy being, inasmuch as thou hast believed in God, the Mighty, the Powerful. Be thou of those who fulfill their covenant. Remember thy Lord and be not of the heedless. In days such as these it behooveth the Youth to summon all beings unto their Lord, the All-Merciful, and ye make mention of Him at all times. Thus hath the Pen of Command taught you in this wondrous Tablet. Make ye mention of Him in your homes; verily He maketh mention of you in the prison at a time when He is cut off from all the worlds.

Behold the world and its changes. Take heed lest thou place thy reliance upon it. Place thy reliance upon the grace of thy Lord, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. It shall pass away in a day, but that which God hath desired for thee shall endure and not perish, and thy Lord is, to what I say, a witness.

Reflect upon what We have imparted unto thee of meanings and utterance, then seek for thyself what thou desirest. We beseech God to assist thee in what He hath purposed and to draw thee nigh unto Him in all conditions. Verily, He is powerful over what He willeth. And praise be to the Beloved of them that know.

BH04546: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise! This is an inscribed Book sent down from God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, that through it they who have believed may rejoice and the souls of them that are troubled may find peace. Say: Through the Book of God are hearts made steadfast, and through it do they who profess His unity ascend unto the heaven of exalted glory, and through it doth the Beloved speak in all things, saying: "I am God!"—yet few there are that understand.

They who have disbelieved, these shall eat of the tree of Zaqqum, while they who have believed shall rejoice in Paradise, these shall delight in the fruits of divine knowledge. And unto each is appointed in the Book a portion according to their deeds—a just decree from God, the Mighty, the Loving.

O David! Reveal that which was buried beneath the tree through the schemes of them that join partners with their Lord, that the deception of them that practice deceit in this Cause may be made manifest among the people. And if thou art not able to bear this, then wait until God shall manifest it even as He hath manifested through His irrevocable decree. Be thou thankful unto thy Lord in the days of God and be thou of them that render praise.

Grieve not over anything, but find solace in the remembrance of thy Lord. He sufficeth thee against all that was and that shall be. He forsaketh not His servants. His grace encompasseth all things—thus hath it been inscribed in truth upon a hidden and glorious Tablet.

Soar upon the wings of detachment unto the kingdom of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted. Thus doth it beseem thee and them that are detached. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that have ascended unto God and upon him whom God hath raised to a station that is praiseworthy.

BH04559: By God! We have heard thy call…

By God! We have heard thy call in the nights and at dawn. Therefore have We preserved thee that thou mayest hear this Call both secretly and openly. Hearken to His Call from the direction of the Prison, then speak forth in praise of His Self among the chosen ones. Proclaim the Cause of thy Lord with wisdom and utterance. Thus doth thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained, command thee.

Say: O people! Hearken to the rustling of the Most Exalted Pen. By God! Through it are drawn the hearts of those near unto God to the Dawning-Place of lights. How long will ye slumber upon the couch of heedlessness? Raise up your heads, for the Sun of Eternity hath shone forth from the horizon of the Most High and illumined thereby are the faces of the learned. Protect the loved ones of God with wisdom, then assist them according to thy capacity. Thus did We command thee before and in this time wherein secrets are revealed.

How sweet is thy mention in this Cause! Verily thou wast created for this, as doth testify the Tongue that speaketh in all things that sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Powerful, the All-Compelling. Beware lest thou deprive thyself of that which hath been ordained for thee. By God! The clouds have been rent asunder and God hath come with power and might. Turn not unto the world and its conditions, then shun the evil ones. Be thou attracted by the Call of thy Lord, then seek His aid through His power and grandeur. Arise amidst the servants, then speak forth in His praise. Thus doth command thee the Pen of the Unconstrained.

Wert thou to hear what We have counseled thee with, thou wouldst surely subdue all created things through one of the names of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. And the light which hath shone forth from the horizon of the Most Glorious be upon thee, O thou who hast called upon thy Lord at all times.

BH11770: By My Name, the Triumphant, the Mighty!

By My Name, the Triumphant, the Mighty!

Hearken unto that which the Pen of God makes thee hear of wondrous notes of glory, and unto that which thy Lord reveals unto thee from His holy Finger, which was inscribed upon tablets preserved in God’s treasuries. Say: O people! Do ye dispute with Him through Whom the sovereignty of God and His power have been manifested, and His proof and His evidence established, and through Whom the Tongue of Eternity hath spoken sanctified and exalted words?

Say: On this Day there is no refuge for any soul, no haven for anyone, save beneath My shadow. Thus hath the command been sent down from the heaven of a glorious Name. Say: By God, the Truth! The trumpet hath been blown by My command, and the Bell rings out in remembrance of Me, and the Bugle sounds forth My Name, which encompasseth all created things.

O thou who bearest My Name! Stand firm in the Cause in such wise as to manifest the signs of God, and sing with such melody as hath been heard from the melodies of God. Say: The voice of God hath been raised amidst all created things, and all things have melted away in their longing to attain His presence. But they whose hearts are hardened are deaf in the earth, and their names shall not be mentioned before thy Lord on that Day, and they shall remain far removed from the sanctuary of nearness.

Glory be unto thee, O Javad, in that thou hast attained unto that which most of the servants have been deprived of. Thus hath thy Lord's favor preceded thee, and His favor unto thee is great indeed. We have adorned thy body with the garment of acceptance, that men might be illumined thereby and find a way unto Him Who sits upon the throne.

BH04647: O servant! Give thanks unto God for having manifested…

O servant! Give thanks unto God for having manifested Himself unto thee yet again, that He might reveal unto thee the mysteries in the crystalline vesture within the Most Glorious Temple.

Say: By God! Verily He was mighty in command in the highest heaven of grandeur, then established Himself upon the throne in the heaven of eternity.

Say: O peoples of the earth! Do ye dispute with him concerning that which he hath witnessed and beheld of the signs of his Lord in the most exalted Kingdom? Say: By God! The foot of holiness shall never slip, though all who are in the heavens or upon the lowest earth should oppose him. Say: Verily he ascended once above the Sadratu'l-Muntaha near the Furthermost Tree, and once unto the station of nearness behind the pavilions of holiness in the unseen cloud—a station whereof the understanding of those possessed of wisdom was cut off. Thus did the Dove warble concerning that which was revealed and concealed, that thereby the people of guidance might be guided aright and the rancor might increase in those who disbelieved and were wretched.

Know thou then that thy letter hath come before the Holy Seat, and We have taken note of its contents and answered thee with this reply, that thou mayest know that thy Lord hath not forgotten thee in thy first life, and likewise will never forget thee in the latter resurrection. He hath sent down unto thee from this most sweet perspective His greatest signs, and hath ordained for thee from the Pen of the Spirit that which none knoweth. Glorified be thy Lord, the Most High! And He hath sent the Spirit upon thee and upon those with thee who are God-fearing.

Say: Glorified be my Lord, the Most High!

BH04642: O My handmaid! Mention was made of thee before…

O My handmaid! Mention was made of thee before Us, whereupon the ocean of loving-kindness and bounty surged, and is now sprinkling upon thee in the form of words, that thou mayest detach thyself from the limitations of earthly directions and turn thy face toward the Beloved. Blessed art thou for having turned thy heart to the Qiblih of all created things and for having attained to the recognition of God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the Witnessed.

Detach thyself from all else but Me, then purify thine ear that thou mayest hear My melodies from the direction of My Throne on this Promised Day. Arise to make mention of Me and praise Me, then recite what We have sent down unto thee, for this is better for thee than all that hath been created in the kingdoms of existence.

Verily, they who have denied My Self and turned away from My Beauty—their names shall never be mentioned before thy Lord, and they are more remote than the idolaters and the Jews. Know thou that the people have opposed Me after I came unto them with the sovereignty of God, the Mighty, the Loving.

Blessed art thou, O handmaid of God, for having tasted of the fruits of Paradise and having attained to the mention of thy Lord in these days wherein the Ancient Beauty hath been tried at the hands of every rejected misbeliever. Give thanks unto thy Lord for having raised thee up in His days and caused thee to dwell in a house wherein the mention of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Glorious, the Praised One, is raised. Thus doth God perfect His favor upon His handmaidens who have believed in Him and turned away from every proud and rejected one.

And upon thee, and upon thy father and thy brothers be the Spirit and Glory from this Youth Who hath been imprisoned wrongfully in this limited land.

BH04682: Blessed is He in Whose hands is the dominion…

In the name of the All-Glorious!

Blessed is He in Whose hands is the dominion of the heavens and earth, with Whom are the treasuries of all knowledge, and Who sendeth down naught save in due measure. The clouds glorify Him in their awe, and the thunder in its fear of Him, and the heavens shall be folded up in His right hand on the Day when all eyes shall stare in terror.

Say: Today He hath appeared in truth, and none have understood save those possessed of insight. This is the Day whereof We gave you tidings aforetime through Our true utterance:

> "Lead mankind out of darkness into light and give them glad-tidings of the days of God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the Unconstrained."

Say: The Kingdom on this Day belongeth unto God, the One, the All-Compelling. Then shalt thou find the idolaters in the abyss of wrath, and those who believe in divine unity at the dawning-place of lights. Verily He hath appeared in truth while the sinful are in fear and distress, finding for themselves neither refuge nor protector. Thus hath the matter been decreed from the presence of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Compelling.

The sincere have turned toward the holy precincts and entered the Most Glorious Paradise, where the All-Merciful shineth upon them at eventide and at dawn. Be thou assured in thyself and be not disturbed by those who have disbelieved—they are truly the companions of the Fire. Grieve not over anything, for God is with those who have laid hold of the handle of justice and detached themselves from the wicked.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whoso hath arisen to mention the name of his Lord at eventide and at dawn. And praise be to God, the Knower of what is hidden and manifest.

BH04683: Blessed is He in Whose hand is the dominion…

He is the Mighty, the Most Holy!

Blessed is He in Whose hand is the dominion of the Kingdom of the heavens and earth, and within Whose grasp lies the realm of Command and Creation. He giveth life and death as He pleaseth. There is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling.

O Dhabih! When thou desirest the station of sacrifice in complete evanescence, accept no alteration. Sacrifice thyself for love of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. And should any of the hosts of Satan confront thee in the path of the All-Merciful, cast at them the stones of wisdom and utterance. Thus hath the Tongue of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful, commanded thee from this remote Prison.

He who hath believed in this Revelation hath sacrificed himself for the Beloved of the worlds—to this every person of illumined vision doth testify. By the life of Him Who hath appeared with the truth! Were We to lift the veil from the face of the Cause, people would surely sever their own necks with their own hands in this path. Bear witness that what remaineth concealed is like unto an ocean, while that which We have manifested among the servants is but as a drop that none can reckon save those endowed with keen vision. Thus shouldst thou understand the Cause and be of those possessed of clear certainty.

Arise to make mention of God and His praise, and fear not the hosts of the idolaters. Say: O people! Cast not the ordinances of God behind your backs, and be not of the heedless. Verily the greatest and most exalted of all deeds is to teach His Cause—thus hath it been revealed in this wondrous Revelation. And whoso quickeneth a soul with the spirit of faith, it is as though he hath quickened all mankind. And glory be upon thee and upon thy wife and upon all who are endowed with vision and certainty.

BH04688: These are the verses of God, the King…

He is God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous

These are the verses of God, the King, the Truth, the Manifest, which have been sent down from the heaven of the will of your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

O people! This is a servant of God among you who calls you to Him at all times, and has sacrificed his spirit and his soul in the path of God, your Beloved and the Beloved of the worlds. And whenever tribulation intensified upon him, he proclaimed with the loudest voice the remembrance of his Lord between the heavens and the earth. No hindrance of any hinderer, nor the mockery of any mocker, nor the turning away of any rejecter, nor the blame of any blamer prevented him. He has appeared at the pole of the horizons and called all to the covenant, the station wherein the very atoms of its dust proclaim that there is no God but Me, the Most High, the Most Great.

Say: O people! Unite amongst yourselves and gather around the one Law—this indeed is the purpose of this Great Announcement which has appeared in truth and has stunned all who are in the heavens and the earth save a numbered few of Our knowing servants.

Say: O people! Fear God and spread not corruption in the land after its reformation, and be not of the wrongdoers. It behooveth you to manifest the signs of God and to diffuse from you the sweet fragrances of His sanctity amidst His heedless servants, that they might perceive from you the fragrance of truth and be guided by you to the paradise wherein its leaves proclaim that there is no God but He, the Omnipotent, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

And the Spirit and Glory be upon you and upon God's sincere servants.

BH04689: In the name of God, the Most Holy…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty glory. Indeed they are God's testimony amongst His creatures and through them His remembrance shall endure amongst all created things. Cast aside what thou hast and take what is with God with manifest power. Remember Me on earth that I may remember thee in My heaven. Thus hath the command been sent down in a preserved Tablet of glory.

Judge according to what God hath ordained for thee, then rule by what God hath decreed, and be God-fearing in the Cause. Rend asunder the veils, then enter into the pavilion of the Cause which hath been raised up in the name of God. And if thou findest therein a cup of the Kawthar of life, take it in My name, the All-Merciful, then drink thereof as thou pleasest. By God! Through one drop thereof every decomposed bone shall be quickened. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen command thee from thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, in these days wherein the Sun of Holiness hath dawned from a luminous horizon of glory.

And when thou drinkest, the rapture of the Beloved shall seize thee in such wise as to detach thee from all who are on earth and draw thee nigh unto a kingdom of wondrous glory. Then thou shalt arise to praise and remember God and say: O people! This is the Great Announcement with which ye were promised in all the Tablets. He hath indeed come with the truth with mighty sovereignty. Beware lest ye be veiled from Him through Whom the Dove hath warbled and the Cock of the Throne hath crowed and this Morn hath breathed forth with resplendent lights.

And upon thee be peace and upon him who hath taken unto the All-Merciful a way.

BH04731: In the name of God, the Most Beauteous! I…

In the name of God, the Most Beauteous! I make mention of one of My handmaidens who believed in her Lord and was among the devout ones, preserved in a Tablet of sublime glory.

O My handmaiden! Hear My call from the direction of My prison, then weep for My tribulations and afflictions. Thus does the Beloved of the worlds command thee.

Verily, He Who created the heavens and the earth by His command hath been imprisoned in this remote land, and He Who ordained all things unto Himself hath been forbidden even from making mention of His own Self, how much less of aught else. Thus hath befallen the Youth at the hands of these oppressors. Verily, He in Whose name houses have been built, around which all the peoples of the earth circumambulate, had no house wherein to dwell. Such was the condition of those servants who were heedless of the remembrance of their Lord, the Most High, the Most Great.

All handmaidens pride themselves on their relationship to God, yet there was not in the house a single one of them to serve Him Who is the Desire of those that have recognized Him. Grieve not thou at this, for We have ordained for Our own Self what hath befallen Us, and My Soul beareth witness to this, and with Us is a wisdom whereof none of Our near servants hath knowledge.

Be thou thankful unto God, then make mention of Him and be devoted to Him, for verily He is with His handmaidens who do good and His servants who do good. Then praise God for having recognized the Manifestation of His Self, from Whom most men have remained heedless. Thus doth God single out whomsoever He willeth from among His handmaidens, and He is, verily, powerful over all things.

And glory be upon thee and upon Our handmaidens who have believed in God and have detached themselves from the idolaters.

BH04742: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I testify at...

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I testify at this moment that Thou hast ever been sanctified above the comprehension of them that comprehend, and exalted above the understanding of all who dwell on earth and in heaven. All created things bear witness to Thy singleness, and all existing things to Thy oneness.

I beseech Thee at this moment by that Name through which Thou hast guided them that know Thee to the Dayspring of Thy revelation and inspiration, and drawn them that are sincere unto Thee to the shores of Thy grace and favors, that Thou leave me not to myself and my desires, nor keep me far from the shore of Thy nearness, nor deprive me from the sanctuary of Thy reunion and presence, nor bar me from the shore of the sea of Thy oneness.

O Lord! Thou art the Rich and I am the poor, Thou art the Mighty and I am the lowly, Thou art the Possessor and I am the possessed. I have come before Thee in utter poverty and complete powerlessness, and I ask of Thee to shower upon me from the clouds of Thy mercy that which will purify me from all else but Thee and draw me nigh unto that station whereon Thou hast established Thyself upon the throne of Thy mercy and the seat of Thy bounties and favors.

Then kindle within my breast, O my God, the lamp of Thy love in such wise that I cannot remain still within myself, and cause me to be stirred by the breezes of Thy will in such wise that I speak naught except Thy praise, move not except by Thy leave, and turn not except toward Thy direction. Verily Thou

art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Dear, the Unconstrained.

BH04755: He is the Mighty. God hath testified within His…

He is the Mighty. God hath testified within His Own Self, unto His Own Self, before the manifestation of His attributes and names in the dominion of His creation, that there is none other God but Him, the Single, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. His is might and sovereignty, His is grandeur and grace, His is power and testing. He testeth whom He willeth among His creatures, and He is the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

He it is Who hath sent forth the Messengers with truth that there is none other God but Him and that ʿAli is the Manifestation of His Self in what was and what shall be. Say: He is the King of Kings and the Merciful unto the servants. He distinguisheth whom He willeth with His mercy, and verily He is the Forgiving, the Compassionate.

And thou, O servant, give thanks unto God for what hath been sent down unto thee—a Book inscribed. Verily it hath been sent down with truth for people who understand. Then remind others of what is therein, for it sufficeth thee beyond all who are in the heavens and earth, and guideth thee to the right-hand Mount in this blessed and praiseworthy spot.

Say: By God, this is a detailed Book, detailed from the presence of God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Say: The Holy Spirit speaketh in this polished and burnished breast, and calleth the loved ones of God to what was ordained in the Bayan, and this is an irrevocable decree inscribed by the Finger of Power upon a preserved and mighty tablet.

Thus have We sent down unto thee this Tablet that thou mayest rejoice therein and be of those who warm themselves at the fire of God. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon every patient servant.

BH04766: In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Impregnable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! Upon thee be My glory, My remembrance and My mercy, then the praise of all things at all times.

We have read thy letter before Us and heard thy cry and supplication at thy remoteness from the Dawning-Place of Lights. Be patient and do not bewail thy plight. Be content with that which God hath ordained for thee. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

It behooveth thee to bear all hardships in the path of thy Beloved, Who hath loved thee more than thou lovest thyself, as doth testify the Tongue of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Hast thou not seen My tribulation, My injury, My affliction amidst all creatures and these wicked ones? Follow then the ways of thy Lord, and among His methods is the suffering of His well-favoured servants. By God! Were there any worth to this world, I would not have committed Myself into the hands of these evil ones, nor would I have borne an atom of hardship.

Say: Take heed, O ye who are endued with insight! Let nothing grieve thee. Stand firm as an immovable mountain in the Cause of thy Lord. He is with thee and will preserve thee in truth by His command. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Compelling.

Walk thou in My footsteps in such wise that nothing shall sadden thee, even should the arrows of tribulation rain down upon thee from the clouds of the hearts of the wicked ones. Rend asunder the veils by the sovereignty of God and His command, that the sun of the remembrance of thy Lord's name might shine forth upon the hearts of His servants, both small and great.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth so that nothing may disturb thee and thou mayest remember thy Lord in the evening and the dawn.

BH04828: It is known that the travelers unto God, after…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting

It is known that the travelers unto God, after traversing the stages of all else besides Him, descended at the known place famous as Istanbul. Until now, nothing has been observed from its people except the customary formal courtesies, until what may appear later and what may be decreed from behind the veil of destiny. However, many withered trees and lifeless snows were observed. It seems this city was built of snow, and at every moment the warmth decreases and the cold increases. We had heard of the fire salamander, whose appearance was caused by fire, from the All-Wise, the All-Informed. However, a snow salamander had not been observed, but now many snow creatures are seen among the wondrous handiworks of the Creator. Let us see what the divine white hand of power and the radiance of the heavenly arm will manifest later. All are within His grasp and suspended by His will. There is no God but Him, the Powerful, the Self-Subsisting.

Furthermore, until now no matter has appeared, meaning no word has been spoken, and after the discussion details will be sent. Let all remain at ease in their place until its time, which is in the hand of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

We remember all the loved ones and counsel them all not to become heedless of any remembrance of the remembrance of God, and not remain veiled from His love by love of aught else.

And peace be upon whoever follows the truth.

BH04843: This is a Book mighty and bountiful, sent down…

He is the Wondrous One

This is a Book mighty and bountiful, sent down in truth from God, the Exalted, the Great. Therein lies healing and mercy for all the worlds, and remembrance and guidance for them that know. By it every wise matter is distinguished and the believers are set apart from the idolaters.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of God from the direction of the Throne, that there is no God but Him, the Powerful, the Exalted, the All-Knowing. Say: The Beloved of the worlds hath appeared and the Spirit hath spoken between the heavens and the earth that this is verily a noble King and a mighty Sovereign.

Say: The poison of the idolaters hath penetrated the holy fingers and prevented them from writing, and what floweth from My pen beareth witness to what I say. Thus have We been afflicted time and again by those who disbelieved, and We give thanks to God for His decrees and show forth mighty gratitude.

And thou, O servant, arise to serve the Cause of God and leave behind thee the mention of the deniers. Hold fast unto God, then detach thyself from all else beside Him, and He will suffice thee in truth and He is the best of helpers and supporters.

Say: O my God! Deprive me not of the wonders of Thy mercy and render me not bereft of the sweet fragrances of Thy holiness, and leave me not, O my God, in the hands of them that have denied the beauty of Thy glorious splendor. Then send down upon me, O my God, from the heaven of Thy bounty that which will cause me to be ever turned toward Thee and detached from the worlds. And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH04848: This is an epistle from the Sorrowful One…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is an epistle from the Sorrowful One, the Prisoner, unto the servants of God, the All-Possessing, the Self-Subsisting, that they may detach themselves from all else save Him and turn unto the countenance of the Beloved, and that they may be stirred by the breezes of inner meanings which waft from the paradise of the words of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Loving.

O loved ones of God! Have ye forgotten the remembrance of Him at Whose command the letter K was joined with its pillar N, by Whom all faces were turned toward the face of your Lord, the Mighty, the Praised, through Whom the Tree of man yielded the fruits of divine knowledge and the oceans of understanding surged in human hearts? Beware lest ye be veiled from Him by what hath been created between earth and heaven. Thus doth counsel you this grieving, sorrowful servant.

O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord from this holy and blessed quarter, that there is none other God but Him, and that He Who speaketh at this moment is indeed the Primal Point, Who hath appeared once again—whereat all witnesses and the witnessed were thunderstruck, save those who had quaffed the water of life, and these were but a numbered few. And verily, thou art of the fruits of the Ultimate Tree which was planted by the hand of the Most Glorious. Blessed be God, in Whose hand is the kingdom of all things, and all are submissive unto Him.

Remember thy Lord at all times—this is My counsel unto thee. Act thou according to what hath been counseled, for this is a manifest truth. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the devoted women from this Sorrowful Youth.

BH04849: This is an epistle from the Prisoner to her…

In the name of Him Who was manifest above all things!

This is an epistle from the Prisoner to her who hath believed in her Lord and was among the devout, and who recognized her Lord in days when all were heedless of Him save those who had detached themselves from the world and attained unto the station which God had made sanctified from names and attributes.

O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call of this Youth Who hath appeared at the horizon of creation with the kingdom of verses, that His call may attract thee and detach thee from whatsoever hath been created in the world and draw thee nigh unto the repository of divine manifestations. Purify thyself from whatsoever God abhorreth, then remember Him with thy heart and tongue, and be not of them that keep silent. Beware lest thou commit that whereby the Cause of God would be wasted among His servants, for people attribute every evil deed to this station which God hath sanctified from all directions and allusions.

O handmaidens of God! Drink ye the wine of inner meanings from the chalices of utterances, then abandon that which minds abhor, for it hath been forbidden unto you in the Tablets and Scriptures. Beware lest ye exchange the Kawthar of life for that which pure souls detest. Be ye intoxicated with the wine of the love of God, not with that which confoundeth your minds, O ye who are devout! It hath been forbidden unto every believing man and woman. Thus hath the sun of wisdom shone forth from the horizon of utterance that believing women may be illumined thereby. And the Spirit be upon those who act according to what hath been commanded by God and are among the pure and repentant ones.

BH04852: Lawh-i-Quds 4

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Wondrous!

This is the Holy Tablet from Us to him who hath believed and been guided, wherein is mentioned that which will draw him nigh unto God, the Most Exalted, the Most High.

Leave behind what thou hast and take what hath been sent down unto thee from the One mighty in His Cause, Who hath appeared and proclaimed:

> “Verily, He appeared once by the name of ʿAli, then by this name in His final return.”

Say: O people! Verily, He is the Youth of God amongst you, Who hath come unto you with the truth, with mighty signs. Hearken unto what He imparteth unto you. By God! One word from Him is better for you than the dominion of the hereafter and of the first world. Beware lest ye differ concerning His Cause after He calleth you unto God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious. The light is for them that believe in Him and the fire for them that deny and transgress.

Say: O people! I am the Most Great Sign amongst you and the Most Exalted Word within you. Fear God and commit not that whereby My sanctity among all peoples would be violated. Arise to remember your Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, through this Name which hath dawned forth from the horizon of the Spirit and calleth you unto the Divine Lote-Tree, the station wherein the countenance of your Lord,

the Most Merciful, was illumined. Draw nigh unto Him, O people of understanding! Ascend, O people, unto My Kingdom which perisheth not, then behold the lights of your Lord's countenance which fade not away.

Thus have We taught thee that which shall profit thee in truth and make thee to be of the people of guidance. The Spirit be upon thee from Us, and upon thy children, and upon her who is with thee, and upon the companions of righteousness.

BH04854: This is a Tablet from Us to him whom…

In the Name of God, the Most Near!

This is a Tablet from Us to him whom God has related to one of His near servants. We testify that thy father remained faithful to God's Covenant and did not break His pledge, and was among those who stood firm until his spirit ascended unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. Know thou that he is with Us and abides in manifest spirit and delight. Were the veil to be lifted, the servants would behold him in an exalted station, would arise to praise him among the people, and would beseech God for his station and companionship with him in the Ridvan of wondrous glory.

Be thou grateful therefore to God for having made Himself known to thee and for having numbered thee among the believers. Grieve not over anything, and should tribulation and adversity touch thee, reflect upon My sorrows and afflictions. Thus doth this lonely Wronged One command thee.

Be thou steadfast in the love of thy Lord, then detach thyself from the idolaters. And shouldst thou see the Satan from whom thou perceivest the stench of misbelief, shun him and be under mighty protection. He appears in human form and speaks of what was revealed in the Bayan, that he might cause confusion among Our weak servants. Say: Should anyone manifest the essence of piety and worship his Lord with the devotion of both worlds, yet not believe in this Revelation, God will render his deeds void and return him to his abode in hellfire.

Walk thou in the footsteps of thy father and remind the people of this wise Remembrance. Thus have We commanded thee in truth, and I am the All-Knowing Commander.

BH05064: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

He is the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses with wondrous melody, and made manifest His proof and evidence in such wise that every possessor of knowledge standeth powerless before it. He speaketh the truth in the kingdom of creation and command, and calleth mankind unto a sanctified and glorious station.

Say: O people! Believe in God and in that which was revealed in the Bayan, and follow not every rebellious devil. Follow rather God's decree concerning yourselves and respond to God's Call, if ye desire to find a path unto the Lord of the Throne.

Say: This indeed is Husayn, who hath fallen victim to oppression at the hands of the wrongdoers.

Say: Fear ye God, O people of the Bayan, and harm him not through your selfish desires and passions, neither slay him with the swords of your tongues, nor be ye tyrannical and wicked.

Say: By God! Your faith shall profit you not except through love for Me—thus hath it been ordained by One mighty and powerful.

And thou, O servant! Give thanks unto God that thy letter hath come before Us, and We have remembered thee on this night in this Prison which lieth behind lofty mountains, where the hands of men have been cut off from Our robe—thus hath it truly been decreed by One mighty and wise. Even so have We bestowed Our favor upon thee and revealed unto thee that which will bring peace to thy heart and detach thee from all the worlds.

And the glory be upon thee and upon every faithful and loyal believer.

BH04942: In the Name of God, the Most Invincible! Hear…

In the Name of God, the Most Invincible! Hear My call from the realm of My loving-kindness—verily there is no God but Him, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

O Moses! We chose the Interlocutor aforetime and sent him to Pharaoh and his chiefs with nine clear signs, and I am verily the Sender, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the Ancient. Among these was the staff of Command whereby We parted the sea and delivered those who believed, and drowned the idolaters.

And if thou wouldst look with the glance of the All-Merciful, thou wouldst witness that they who have denied this Revelation are drowned in the sea of passion and desire, and have returned to the lowest of the low. And they who have believed, these dwell in the highest Paradise, and are now numbered among the blessed in the Abha Paradise.

Be thou thankful unto God for having been nourished from the Tree of Faith and for having become one of those who have attained. Forget not thy Lord, but rather make mention of Him amongst His servants, that they may arise to remember and praise Him amidst all peoples.

Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God and be at peace within thyself. Verily He loveth those who trust in Him and aideth them through His wondrous victory. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth, and in His hand is all good. Verily He hath power over all things.

Kindle thou the lamp of His love within the lantern of thy heart, that both thy outer and inner being may be illumined thereby, and that through it the God-fearing servants of God may be enlightened. And upon thee be glory, and upon every faithful believer.

BH04960: Know that contentment lies in being content with God…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Merciful!

Know that contentment lies in being content with God, and in these days His good pleasure cannot be attained except through being well-pleased with the Manifestation of His Self, Who hath appeared with the truth amidst all worlds—before Whom all in the heavens and earth were struck with terror, save those whom God preserved through His grace, for He is verily the Powerful, the Mighty.

Adorn thy temple with the ornament of certitude amidst the concourse of creation, then speak forth the praise of thy Lord, the Merciful, amongst His heedless servants. By God! Whoso hath tasted the sweetness of His remembrance beholdeth all who dwell in the heavens as though it were the day whereon they were created, save him who findeth in his countenance the radiance of divine bounty.

Leave the people to their vain imaginings and take hold of God's Tablet with manifest strength. Beware lest anything prevent thee from the remembrance of God, the Most Great, the All-Glorious. All shall perish and sovereignty shall remain with thy Lord, the Peerless One.

Were the world to possess any worth in God's sight, We would not have delivered Ourselves into the hands of the idolaters. We behold a station which none hath comprehended save God; therefore We fear not the harm of the oppressors.

Walk thou in My ways, then detach thyself from the deniers. Keep thy distance from them and draw nigh unto God's chosen ones, for in this lieth abundant good. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth, that thou mayest thank God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers of old, and say: Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH04961: In My Name, the All-Glorious, the Most Glorious

In My Name, the All-Glorious, the Most Glorious

He is the Everlasting in the glory of His everlastingness

Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the holy precincts, the wilderness of divine knowledge, the spot wherein is kindled and shineth forth the fire of the All-Merciful from the Tree of Man, and wherein speaketh forth at the heart of contingent being:

> "Verily, I am God, there is none other God but Me, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting."

O servant! Call to mind the time when thou didst enter the Paran of love without turning towards it, and didst drink from the Kawthar of divine knowledge from the hand of the All-Bountiful ere thou knewest Him. Thus doth God bestow His grace upon whomsoever He willeth of His servants, and recompense those who have believed, and cast the fear of God into the hearts of them that understand. Well is it with thee for having recognized thy Lord before the recognition of all created things. Strive therefore within thyself to increase in thy recognition and to remain steadfast therein, for this is greater than the creation of the heavens and earth, and none shall remain steadfast therein save the sincere ones.

Give thanks, then, unto God for having singled thee out for His love and sent unto thee that which turneth thee toward the right hand of eternity and draweth thee nigh unto a station of glorious praise.

Take hold of the Tree of the Cause, taste of its fruits, and pay no heed to this world and what lieth therein, nor to what the idolators say. Know thou that the world is the love of Mine enemies and the turning away from My sanctified, luminous and beloved Beauty. Thus doth the Dove inspire thee with the verses of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Witnessed One.

BH04970: O my handmaiden! Hearken unto that which My Pen…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy!

O my handmaiden! Hearken unto that which My Pen calleth thee to in My prison, and verily it calleth thee to naught save God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Grieve not at anything. Rejoice in the remembrance of God, thy Lord, for by His remembrance are tranquilized the hearts of them that are drawn nigh, and in it do rejoice God's sincere servants. Say: His remembrance is the healing of every ill, the companion of every stranger, and a treasure for the poor and needy. Nothing that hath been created between the heavens and earth can be compared with His remembrance. Through it the mystics become independent of all created things, and through it do the believers ascend unto the heaven of exalted glory.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, take comfort in the remembrance of thy Lord, then detach thyself from all else beside Him, for verily He sufficeth thee above all worlds. Grieve not over anything and place thy trust in thy Lord, the Help in Peril. Verily He forgeteth not His devoted handmaidens and servants.

Be thou grateful for having attained unto the recognition of His Self and for having detached thyself from the satans who desired to cut down the Divine Lote-Tree after having sought its shade and having been among those who remembered God. But when the winds of tests blew upon them, they departed from the stronghold of God's Cause and returned to the nethermost fire. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thy spirit may rejoice therein, and this is indeed a great bounty.

And praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH04971: O My handmaiden! Move not thy tongue except…

He is the Most Wondrous.

O My handmaiden! Move not thy tongue except in My remembrance, and turn not except toward My direction. Efface from thy heart all things save My love, and from thine ear all save the wondrous descriptions of Me. Thus doth the Beloved counsel thee, if thou be of them that hearken.

O My handmaiden! Forget not My wondrous remembrance and harbor naught in thy heart save My exalted remembrance. Be not gladdened by the acceptance of the world and whatsoever is therein, nor be saddened by its loss. The similitude of the world is as a shadow—at times it existeth and at times it existeth not. No wise one would attach their heart to such a thing, but rather would consider it vain.

Think not that the world and what is meant by it are the ordained bounties therein or its varied ornaments, for these things are the creations of the Truth and the manifestations of His handiwork. Rather, they are the mirrors of the divine creative revelation and the manifestations of His power. Nay,

what is meant by the world are they who deny the peerless Beauty and turn away from the eternal Countenance. Therefore, avoidance of such persons is necessary and turning away from them is obligatory. And today, the essence of worldliness is heedlessness of My remembrance and love of Mine enemies.

O My handmaiden! Be steadfast in My love and turn thine eyes away from all else. This is the counsel of the Pen of Command to its handmaiden.

BH04972: O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call…

He is the Ever-Abiding, the All-Sufficing, the All-Glorious

O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call of God from this Branch Who was, in truth, planted at the right hand of the Holy Vale, beside the Spot of Paradise. He speaketh the truth when He saith: There is none other God but Him, and that ʿAli-before-Nabil is, in truth, the Sovereign of the Cause gathered unto all worlds.

Therefore, rejoice thou within thyself, and be thou gladdened in thine innermost being, for the veil hath been lifted, and the covering removed, and the Youth hath dawned from the Dayspring of holy beauty. Take heed lest thou grieve over aught, then detach thyself from whatsoever is in the hands of men, and hold fast unto the hem of Him Who is, through grace, ever-extended.

Say: By God, the Truth! This, verily, is the shadow of God upon earth, and His beauty in the heaven of Command and Creation, and His proof unto all who dwell in the kingdom of the clouds and the Throne, and He is, in truth, a victorious Sovereign.

Thus do We cast upon thee from the verses of thy Lord, and recite unto thee that which draweth thee nigh unto the shore of nearness, the blessed seat of glory. Take heed lest thou fear anyone, then give to drink unto thy kindred from a cup whose essence is of camphor. Then follow thou the paths of justice, that no mischief may arise in thy land, that thou mayest be preserved within the protection of thy Lord.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the women who dwell beneath the canopy of holiness.

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BH04973: In the Name of God, the Quickener! O thou…

In the Name of God, the Quickener! O thou who art enkindled with the fire of God! Hearken unto the sighing of this Fire which hath been ignited at the heart of creation in the name of God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful. Blessed art thou, for thou hast drunk from the Kawthar of immortality and partaken of the table of thy Lord, the Most High, in the paradise of the mercy of thy Lord, the All-Merciful.

Leave the idolaters behind thee, then speak forth in praise of My Self and fear not the hosts of Satan who believed in one of the verses of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, yet denied Him Who revealed the Bayan. Say:

All the Books and Tablets have appeared in the temple of the Youth. Glorified then be He Who hath appeared with power and sovereignty!

If thou hearest the clamor of those who have disbelieved, grieve not, but rather convey the Cause of thy Lord with spirit and joy. Say: O people! Do ye profess belief in My Manifestation while ye deny Him Whom He hath truly sent? Woe unto you, O people of loss! Then will the flame flee from them, and hell-fire seek refuge in God from the fire of their unbelief, and the inferno shun them, and likewise the reckoning.

And thou, drink at all times from the chalice of immortality in My Most Glorious Name, then detach thyself from those who have denied God and believed in the calf without any clear proof or evidence. May the radiance which hath shone forth from this white Hand be upon thee and upon whoso hath found solace in the remembrance of God and severed himself from the followers of all religions who have denied God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Help in Peril.

BH04985: O Hadi! Give thanks unto God for having delivered…

He is the Most Wondrous, the Most Inaccessible, the All-Glorious

O Hadi! Give thanks unto God for having delivered thee from the idolaters, and for having made thee to know the Manifestation of His Self, and for having detached thee from those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Such thanksgiving behooveth all servants, yet God hath upon thee in this Cause a mighty claim, for had the matter been as it was before, they would have done unto thee whatsoever they desired in their hearts—and thy Lord well knoweth and is informed of what lieth within them. Ponder thou upon this, that thou mayest recognize the purpose of God and arise to render thanks and praise unto Him amongst His remembering servants.

Say: O people! Send not your women unto every treacherous man and woman. Take ye refuge in the shadow of the protection of your Lord, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. By God! He is treacherous in his very essence, his hands, and his tongue, were ye of them that know. And likewise is he who attributed that unto him—he was more treacherous than any traitor and more iniquitous than any transgressor. God is quit of them both and of their followers, and We are quit of these transgressors.

O people! Take shelter beneath the Lote-Tree of holiness. Verily it hath been among you for numbered years, and ye have known it according to your measure and capacity. Whoso denieth it is assuredly in grievous loss.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon her whom God hath related unto thee, who was among the devout ones in the preserved Tablets of glory.

BH05014: These are the verses of holiness which have been…

In the name of our Lord, the Help in Peril.

These are the verses of holiness which have been sent down from the direction of a mighty throne. Therein is mentioned he who believed in God and whose name was inscribed by the Pen of Command. Hearken unto My call from the precincts of the Prison, that there is none other God but Him, and He Who

came to you aforetime hath appeared at this most luminous horizon with manifest splendors. From this horizon He summons you unto God and forbids you from every sinful proud one.

Turn thy face toward God, for verily He beholdeth thee at this moment and is ever watchful over thee. Remember Him throughout all days, and verily He shall suffice thee against all the worlds. He aids whomsoever He willeth even as He aided Me in truth and preserved Me through His sovereignty from those who have waxed proud in the earth with mighty pride. Soon shall He aid those who have desired the presence of their Lord, the All-Merciful, and verily His help through those who are nigh is at hand.

Forget all things, then find solace in the Most Great Remembrance, which hath indeed been inscribed in the Book by the Pen of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, as a truth indisputable. Purify thy breast from the allusions of the doubtful ones and shun them, then turn with thy heart to a horizon of mighty glory. Thus doth the Supreme Pen command thee in this Most Great Prison from one who is powerful and ancient.

Then convey the glorification from God upon the countenance of thy son, and remember him with beauteous remembrance. And the glory be upon thee and upon him and upon every insightful believer.

BH05029: The remembrance of God unto His servant Rahmatu'llah…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

The remembrance of God unto His servant Rahmatu'llah, that he may, through the bounties of his Lord, be remembered amongst all peoples, and that the breaths of eternity may take hold of him from the direction of this Pen, and sever him from the allusions of them who have disbelieved and joined partners with God, and draw him nigh unto a station of holy praise, and make him steadfast in the Cause of his Lord in such wise that the tempests of trials from the direction of Satan shall not move him, and turn him wholly towards the court of mighty love.

O servant! Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having been nourished by the fruits of the Tree of Knowledge from this Paradise, which hath been established at the axis of contingent being by the command of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, as a manifest truth. Purify thyself from every allusion, that thou mayest be enabled to soar in the atmosphere of holiness and glory, and witness the Sun of thy Lord's remembrance at its noontide zenith with a sovereignty that hath encompassed all the worlds.

By God! Whoso harboureth in his heart even less than a mote of remembrance of aught else beside Me shall never be able to soar in this atmosphere wherein the breaths of God have been sent forth as a manifest truth. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth, that it may detach thee from all things and bring thee unto a station wherein thou shalt witness all created things beneath the shadow of thy Lord's name, and remain steadfast in the Cause.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that have taken refuge in a mighty stronghold.

BH05031: This is a remembrance from the Prisoner to His…

In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a remembrance from the Prisoner to His servant Majid, that he may rejoice in the glad-tidings of the Spirit and be attracted by the fragrances of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

Verily His fragrances waft forth at all times from the direction of His Name, the Mighty, the Beloved, and then from His words and what floweth from His Pen, did ye but know. Say: Were ye to look with the eye of innate nature, ye would find the hidden meanings within the garment of the words of God, your Lord and the Lord of all that was and shall be, and ye would find every garment pierced through by the spears of hatred and arrows of the enemies. Then would ye lament and weep.

Say: O people! I am God's trust among you, and His deposit within you, and His holy and beloved fragrances. Beware lest ye object to Him Who took from you the covenant of His own Self, Who appeared in truth with the name of Ali and descended from the heaven of mighty glory. By God! I moved not except by His command, even as He moved not except through My remembrance and praise, did ye but know. He is indeed the Beloved of My heart and My soul, and that which appeareth from Me beareth witness that there is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

O My name! Recite thou the verses of God and turn not unto the world and its ornaments. Put thy trust in Him. Unto Him do all matters return. Upon every soul descendeth what hath been ordained for it—neither less nor more—except after His leave. He, verily, is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

BH05070: Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise

Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst deliver those who were drowned and didst guide those who yearned for Thee, and through which was established the unity of Thy Being, free from all likeness and semblance, and the sanctity of Thy Self, purified from all similitude and opposition, to gaze with the eyes of Thy mercy upon this community who have sought Thy presence, who have drunk from the wine of Thy love, who have clung to the hem of Thy loving-kindness, and who have held fast to the cord of Thy grace. O my God! Send down upon them from the clouds of Thy mercy and the heavens of Thy tenderness that which will purify them from all else beside Thee and cause them to be devoted solely to Thy love and good-pleasure, that they may speak in remembrance of Thee, utter Thy praise, gaze upon Thy countenance, and turn their hearts toward Thy most exalted Self, Who hath appeared with Thy Most Great Name in the kingdom of creation. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Most Powerful, the Self-Subsisting.

Then send down, O my God, upon her two daughters that which will sanctify them from the mention of aught else beside Thee and from turning to any other than Thee, that they may remain steadfast in Thy remembrance and praise. Then cause them to drink, O my God, that which will draw them unto Thee. Verily, Thou art the Most Exalted, the Powerful, the All-Praised.

BH05086: God beareth witness within His Own Self, then within…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the All-Praised

God beareth witness within His Own Self, then within His Essence, then in His exaltation and grandeur, that there is none other God but Me, the All-Possessing, the Self-Subsisting. And I bear witness within My Self, then within My Essence, then in My exaltation and grandeur, that He is God—there is none other God but Him, the All-Possessing, the Self-Subsisting. Thus hath sung the tongue of the unseen even as hath sung the tongue of the manifest, yet all people understand not.

Say: O people! By God, the Beauty of God desired not to be in your midst, did ye but know it. Say: The Ancient King was among you, yet ye recognized Him not, would ye but understand. Soon will He be taken from your midst, and remorse shall remain in your souls, would ye but perceive it.

And thou, O beloved one, stand thou firm in thy love, such that thy feet shall not slip even should all the known world oppose thee. Leave behind the world and all that is therein beneath thy shadow, and abide under assured protection. Take care that nothing on earth sadden thee—put thy trust in God, the Mighty, the Beloved. He will verily suffice thee in truth against all that was and shall be, and hath ordained for thee in the heaven of nearness that which the pen cannot recount. This is of My bounty unto thee, then of My favor towards thee, and I am the All-Bountiful, the Mighty, the Most Holy.

And thus have We bestowed Our favor upon thee that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, and be of them who are guided by the lights of God.

BH05097: He is God! Most of the friends have been…

He is God! Most of the friends have been seized with agitation due to the tribulation of these grievous days, though We had informed them of it beforehand so that they might not be agitated but rather be among the steadfast ones. With thy Lord is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and knowledge of all things is preserved in a guarded tablet. Should they become agitated, verily We shall never be agitated, and We shall continue to summon the people unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

Say: The more their agitation increases, the more We are filled with tranquility—thus mayest thou know the character of those who are nigh unto God. Say: Though they may fear for their bodies, We do not fear, for We have sacrificed Our body in the love of God, the Exalted, the Great.

O Ancient Beauty! I have sacrificed my soul for Thy soul and my spirit for Thy Cause, and I love to be reviled in Thy love and to be scorned in Thy path, even as I have heard in these days from Thy misbelieving servants.

Verily, remember thou thy Lord and pay no heed to the oppressors. Soon shall oppression and its perpetrator pass away, while justice and its manifestations shall endure, by the decree of the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Can anything withstand Him? Nay, by the Lord of the heavens and earths!

Be thou steadfast in the Cause and grieve not over anything, for soon that which shall gladden the hearts of the believers shall be made manifest. We have not forgotten thee, but Satan hath lurked in every pathway, and thus the divine fragrances have been withheld from God's successful servants.

And the glory be upon thee and upon God's steadfast servants.

BH05105: Thy brother hath appeared before Us and attained…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

Thy brother hath appeared before Us and attained the presence of the Youth. Verily, He recompenseth His servants who have turned towards the direction of His good-pleasure, who have detached themselves from all else save Him, and who have sought to attain the Most Great Pilgrimage of God, whom neither the derision of the deniers nor the prohibition of the hinderers hath deterred. These are My loved ones beneath the canopies of My providence and the shadows of My mercy. Upon them be the glorification of God, the King, the Mighty, the Most High, the Great.

O Husayn! Hearken unto My words, then unite with My loved ones and associate with them in a spirit of fragrance, that thereby may be raised the standards of the guidance of the mention of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Make thyself a servant of His Cause in such wise that His remembrance may be exalted through thee amongst His heedless servants. It behooveth My loved ones to be sanctified from all things and from whatsoever is repugnant to God's good-pleasure, that through them may be made manifest the sanctification of His Self from any likeness and the exaltation of His Being above any similitude. Thus hath the Command been sent down from the presence of One Who ordaineth, Who is All-Informed.

A Tablet had indeed been revealed for thee aforetime, but one of the servants came between thee and it. We have therefore revealed these verses once again as a bounty from Our presence unto thee. Read thou and be of the thankful. Adorn thyself with My attributes, then manifest thyself amongst the people with My character and qualities. Thus doth it behove thee and Our sincere servants. And praise be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from the world and have found solace in the remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Powerful. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH05138: Whenever Thy musk-laden pen remembers Us, it earns…

Whenever Thy musk-laden pen remembers Us, it earns the reward of freeing two hundred slaves. The dewdrops of musk that trickled from the ocean of ink onto the luminous tablet of the heart—when they appeared like the point of hidden knowledge upon the preserved page—were as the beauty spot on the Beloved's cheek, becoming the mirror of mystic knowledge and the manifestation of divine beauty.

How exalted and powerful, that He referred all letters to the Word, and the Word to the Point, and the Point to a speck of darkness, and made that darkness a Fisher, giving it dwelling on the shore of the sea of eternity! And how swift is this Fisher, who catches His prey before releasing the arrow—nay, in every instant brings a world of fishers into His net! With a single hair He has ensnared hundreds of thousands of necks, and with one glance from His eyelashes has wounded countless hearts. In a moment He has shattered the heart of creation, and in an instant has consigned all contingent beings to extinction.

O my Beloved! This letter, whose very point merits such description and is worthy of such praise—how can this perishable frame prove equal to answering it or venture to make response? Unless Thou regard it with the eye of forgiveness and behold it with the glance of favor. And glory be upon those who are with Thee and who circle round about Thee.

BH05160: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

This is a Book from Us to him who hath believed in God, the All-Protecting, the Self-Subsisting. Walk thou in none other path save My path, turn thy face to none other face save My face, utter naught save My praise, speak of naught save My remembrance, move not save by My leave, and gaze at none other save the wondrous rays of My luminous and beloved countenance. Be thou detached from the world. Walk thou in My footsteps. Thus do We command thee, if thou art of those who understand. Avoid whatsoever God, thy Lord, abhorreth. Strive within thyself that there may appear from thee goodly deeds and pure effects, that through thy deeds thou mayest attract the hearts of those who are heedless of the remembrance of their Lord. This is true counsel, did ye but know.

Say: O people! Nothing ascendeth unto God save pure words and goodly deeds, and He loveth those who are detached. Aid ye God through your deeds, and be not of those who are veiled. Adorn your tongues with truthfulness, your temples with the ornament of trustworthiness, and your hearts with the remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Beloved. He from whom appear goodly deeds—God will praise him by His own Self, for through him are raised the standards of His Cause amongst His servants. Thus doth God counsel you in a preserved and mighty Tablet. Grieve not over anything. Rather, rejoice in thy love for thy Lord. Then seek His help in all matters. And the glory be upon thee and upon thy family and upon every praiseworthy believer.

BH05167: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great! This is a Book from the Prisoner to those who have believed in God, the King, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. They shall inhale the fragrances of the Youth from the words of their Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, and shall be numbered among those who are assured.

Do you repose in your homes while the Youth is imprisoned—how then do you find rest? Do you laugh while the Youth of God weeps—how then do you rejoice? Do you drink sweet water while the Youth must sip His own sweat like blood—how then do you remain patient? Do you gaze at the sun after the Sun of Grandeur has been eclipsed by the gestures of those who associate partners with their Lord? Do you turn to the moon after God's Moon has been darkened through the tyranny of those who ascribe equals to their Lord?

Were We to describe Our true state to you as it deserves, by God, you would weep and lament, and were We not to pour forth patience upon you, you would surely rend your garments and sit upon the dust. Thus have We imparted to you that which causes the Most Exalted Pen to weep, and then the Tablet of Decree, and then what was and what will be, that you may become aware of what has befallen My soul after I called the people to naught but God, the King, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Beloved.

And the glory which has shone forth from the horizon of eternity be upon you if you remain steadfast in the Cause of God, your Lord, and be numbered among those who are detached, and upon those who have rejected the Evil One and believed in God, the Mighty, the All-Loving.

BH05169: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Most…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Most Exalted! This is a Book sent down from God, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing, unto him who hath turned towards God and detached himself from every doubting idolator. Blessed art thou for having remained faithful to God's Covenant and not broken His pledge at a time when We found souls in fear and perturbation.

Hearken thou time and again, and yet again, that He is God, there is none other God but Him, and He Who hath come from the heaven of the Spirit is verily God's proof in the beginning and the end.

Say: O people! By God, your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, calleth you from this most glorious horizon and summoneth you unto Himself. Fear ye God, O people of the veil! Say: whoso remaineth veiled from Him cannot be deemed to have attained unto faith, and is among the lost and the frustrated.

They who have hesitated in this Revelation while claiming to believe in the Manifestations of the past are like unto the People of the Book. Those who were given the Torah and the Gospel claim faith within themselves, yet they are naught but lying imposters. Likewise are the other religions—each clung to what they possessed and denied the Lord of Lords.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the truth and sent down unto thee verses from the right hand of the Throne, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, and recognize those who were in doubt and discord. And upon thee be glory and the Spirit, and upon those with thee, from One Who is mighty and ever-forgiving.

BH05170: In the name of God, the Most High…

In the name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted! This is a Book from the Primal Point unto him who hath believed and been guided, and hath ascended in the knowledge of his Lord unto the Most Holy, Most Glorious Kingdom. Verily, He showeth thee from the direction of the Throne the Station whereon He is established, and causeth thee to speak the truth as a bounty from His presence, that He may draw thee nigh unto the Divine Lote-Tree and enable thee to ascend unto the ultimate Station—the Station wherein thou shalt be illumined by the lights of the countenance of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

Say: O people! The Youth hath come with the most great signs and calleth you unto God, the Lord of the first and the last. Verily, He appeared by the name of Ali in the first time, then by the name of Husayn in another time. Glorified be God, the Lord of the visible and the invisible! And verily, in this most glorious horizon He heareth and seeth what is uttered by those who have disbelieved and transgressed.

Blessed is he who hath believed in God in this Revelation and hath been faithful to His Covenant. Woe unto him who hath hesitated on the Path and was of them who turned away and rebelled.

Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as thou hast attained unto the knowledge of God and thy name hath flowed from the Most Exalted Pen. Be content with God and independent of him who waxed proud and was wretched, and chose this world over the next by following his passions and desires. And the glory

be upon thee and upon him who is mindful of the remembrance of God and is of them who remember and fear.

BH05172: In the Name of the Self-Subsisting! This…

In the Name of the Self-Subsisting! This is a Book that speaketh with truth, and in it is that which kindleth the hearts of them that are near unto God. Whosoever draweth nigh unto this Fire, verily he shall be set aflame within himself, and through him shall all the worlds be set ablaze, and he shall testify that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

O servant! Fear not the oppression of them that have wronged, and be not of the heedless. Be thou enkindled with the name of God, thy Lord, that through thee the hearts of them that are dead may be quickened. Should anyone gaze upon the countenance of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Most Glorious, the All-Knowing, make mention unto him from this Prisoner, that perchance he may arise to remember God, his Lord, and be detached from every ignoble denier.

Say: O people! I am but a servant who calleth you at all times unto God, and We command you naught save that which We have been bidden by One mighty and ancient. Beware lest ye transgress the bounds set forth in the Tablets and be numbered with the lost. Appear amongst men with the light of God and His radiance, that from your faces may be witnessed the brightness of your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate.

And thou, O servant, render thanks unto God for having aided thee to recognize Him and numbered thee among them that have attained, and for having been nourished from the fruits of the Tree that with its branches and leaves proclaimeth: There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Inaccessible, the All-Powerful. Thus hath the Pen of Command inscribed mention of thee that thou mayest be among the thankful ones. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH05300: Thou who art wise! If thou shouldst meet Javad…

Thou who art wise! If thou shouldst meet Javad, spread this Tablet before him that he may inhale therefrom the fragrance of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting, in these days when souls are seized with the cold of heedlessness and have returned to their former state, being as dead. And if thou findest him in his first temple, say: Verily the letter Qaf and Fa with the addition of Alif thereto hath been concealed. If thou art able, bring it forth through a power from Us and a sovereignty from Our presence, and I am, verily, the Mighty, the Beloved. And if thou findest him not in his first temple, search, perchance thou mayest find him in his other garment. If thou seest and knowest him, do what We have commanded thee. Otherwise, preserve this Tablet until God shall bring forth for His servants that which is treasured therein. He, verily, is the Gracious, the Forgiving, the Mighty.

Be not distressed at the delay of matters. For every matter there is an appointed time from the presence of the Ordainer, the All-Powerful. God willing, purify thy heart from doubt and set forth with complete trust, for God is the best protector and He is the Most Merciful of the merciful.

Afterwards, if thou shouldst meet Mirza Javad, deliver to him that aforementioned sum, otherwise deliver it to the sacred precinct. Keep Siyyid Mihdi and others informed of all matters both general and specific.

BH05330: He is the Most Wondrous! O thou who journeyest…

He is the Most Wondrous! O thou who journeyest in God and migrateth through God! Praise be to the Beloved that thou hast entered the eternal holy Sinai and hearkened with pure ears to the melodies of God. Thou didst enter with God's good-pleasure and return by God's command without reluctance. Blessed art thou for having attained the presence and good-pleasure of God and for swimming in the ocean of contentment by the command of thy Ancient Lord.

O My servant, O My servant! Return thou to My dwelling-place and My loved ones, then inform them of My tribulation and imprisonment and affliction, and be thou of them that remember. Say: O loved ones of God! The back of this Wronged One hath been bent by the oppressors and black musk hath turned white.

O My servant and son of My servant! Be thou steadfast on the path of God and turn away from all else. Associate with My loved ones and shun My enemies. Hold in utmost reverence the House of God, for the holy breezes of My grace blow forth and pass through My House—verily I pass by My House at all times, did ye but know.

Convey to all the friends of God greetings from the Tongue of God. God willing, thou shalt stand before Me in all worlds and circle round Me. Convey sublime remembrance to thy kinsmen. My glory be upon thee.

BH05347: These are the holy verses sent down…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Invincible

These are the holy verses sent down from the heaven of God's Will, the All-Powerful, the Most High, the Most Great, that He might guide thereby such servants in whose hearts the dove of love hath nested, and make them to be of those who have drawn nigh.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, draw near unto the Tree of Knowledge with thy heart, then detach thyself from those who have turned away. Should sorrow touch thee in the path of God, grieve not, but place thy trust in all things in God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Praised. And should joy befall thee, rejoice not, for all that hath come to pass in this world or shall come to pass shall perish, and the dominion shall remain with God, the King, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Remember thy Lord and follow not the desires of the heedless. Free thyself from all things that God may adorn thee with the ornament of His remembrance amongst the worlds. Verily, hearts that are occupied with the remembrance of aught save God shall never be illumined by the lights of the revelation of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. This is a truth about which there is no doubt, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness.

Taste thou from the Tree of Knowledge and eat of its wondrous fruits, then take shelter beneath its mighty and luminous shade. Thus have We imparted unto thee in this Tablet that which was inscribed by a glorious and wondrous Pen.

And upon thee, and upon the pure handmaidens, and upon the sincere servants, be the Spirit.

BH05349: These are the verses of God, the True Sovereign…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

These are the verses of God, the True Sovereign, the Manifest, unto him who desires to be guided by God's guidance and to be of them that attain.

Know thou, O servant, that He Who summoned the people unto God hath now been imprisoned in this remote prison, and there hath befallen Him at the hands of them that are veiled such as hath befallen no one before. Thy Lord is, verily, witness unto what I say.

Say: O people, judge ye fairly the Cause of this Youth, then ponder the proofs of previous Prophets and Messengers. Is any able to speak forth of his own accord that which all peoples would oppose? Nay, by my Lord, the All-Merciful, save him whom the Spirit confirmeth from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people, render not your deeds vain, and deny not Him Who hath come unto you from the horizon of the Cause with a manifest proof. And thou, O servant, purify thy heart from human limitations, that there may be imprinted upon it the lights of thy Lord's revelation, the Forgiving, the Bountiful.

Thus have We recounted unto thee some of what hath befallen the Youth through that which the hands of the heedless have wrought. By God! I have sacrificed My soul in God's path and fear no one, though all the peoples should oppose Me. And I await what God hath ordained for Me—verily He is the Beloved of My heart, wert thou of them that know. And upon thee be glory from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

BH05350: In the Name of God, the Most Manifest…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Manifest! These are the verses of God, the King, the Truth, the Manifest, which have been sent down through grace upon all who are in the heavens and on earth, that all may find thereby a path unto God.

Say: This is verily God's rope stretched between you—hold fast to it, O people of unity! And this is God's sun shining upon you—be illumined thereby, O people of truth and certitude! By it are the servants given life, and every mouldering bone.

Say: O people, doubt not this Cause, around which certitude itself doth circle, if ye be of them that know. And think not vain thoughts about this Youth. By God! He moveth in an atmosphere that the birds of the hearts of them that are well-assured can never attain.

Say: O people, suspicion is a sin in God's Book—thus hath it been sent down in the Tablets, and thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is witness to what I say.

Blessed art thou for having drunk of My cup and soared in My atmosphere and tasted of the fruits of this Divine Tree which hath been raised up in truth and speaketh forth that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Beautiful.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord, then efface from thy heart the allusions of them that have turned away, that thou mayest be purely devoted to thy Lord, the Just, the All-Wise.

And the splendor rest upon thee and upon all who have attained unto the lights of guidance in this wondrous dawn. And praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH05396: He is the Mighty! Glorified be He Who guideth…

He is the Mighty! Glorified be He Who guideth whom He willeth, and verily He is the Single, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. He revealeth unto whom He willeth whatsoever He willeth, and ordaineth the matter in a Tablet well-preserved and glorious. He granteth knowledge unto whom He willeth and withholdeth it from whom He willeth, and verily He is the Single, the Most High, the Best-Beloved.

Unto Him submit all who are in the heavens and the earth, and He hath created all things through His word "Be!" and it is. His is the glory and the splendor, His the power and the radiance, His the grandeur and the perpetuity. All were created by His command and all beseech His bounty.

Say: With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, and the knowledge of all things in a Book concealed. Yet His mercy hath preceded all things; therefore doth He conceal for whom He willeth whatsoever He willeth, and verily He is the Truth, the Knower of things unseen.

And thou, O servant, give thanks unto God thy Creator, inasmuch as He hath guided thee through His own Self and hath sent down unto thee this Tablet that was sent forth, that thou mayest thank God thy Creator throughout all thy days, at eventide and at dawn. Be thou steadfast in the Path and be not heedless of God thy Lord. Then hold fast unto His cord that thou mayest be among those who hold fast unto God's protection. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee and upon honored servants.

BH05427: Blessed are they who drink from the cup…

He is God!

Blessed are they who drink from the cup of tribulation and partake of the chalice of destiny in the path of the Friend. Ever have the people of truth been distinguished and separated from falsehood in times of hardship and calamity. Happy art thou to have been afflicted with that which the Beloved was afflicted, and to have tasted from the cup which He Himself did drink. Be not sorrowful, for the world and all that is therein shall perish, while that which thy Lord hath ordained especially for thee shall endure and remain forever. Abasement in the path of the Friend is beloved. Soon shall thy sorrow be transformed into joy, and from the corner of darkness thou shalt enter the realm of light.

Say: O my Lord! In the grasp of Thy power lieth the empire of all things, and in the right hand of Thy will resideth the kingdom of creation. I testify with my tongue, my heart and my innermost being that wert Thou to desire to subjugate all created things with but the motion of Thy finger, Thou art indeed capable through the sovereignty of Thy dominion and powerful through the authority of Thy self-subsistence. Therefore, O my God, I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the Ark of Thy Cause did sail upon the ocean of Thy will, that Thou mayest deliver me from my condition, purify my heart through Thy knowledge, and make me steadfast in Thy Cause and Thy love. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and verily Thou art the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

BH05539: This is an epistle from Him Who was imprisoned…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

This is an epistle from Him Who was imprisoned in God's path in this far-off land, and upon Whom hath descended at every moment that which hath descended upon no one before—and my Lord is witness to what I say. Yet in all this I give thanks unto God, for I have offered up my soul in His path, and I besought Him for this before the creation of the heavens and earth. Would that I had a thousand thousand bodies and a thousand thousand souls to sacrifice at every moment for my Beloved and the Beloved of the worlds!

O Husayn! Hearken unto the call of this Husayn. By God, the tale of weeping hath returned, wert thou but of them that understand. Dost thou dwell in thy house while the Beloved is imprisoned in the lands of the heedless? Dost thou take thy rest while at every moment there descendeth upon Him that which causeth the hearts of the mystics to burn? Dost thou drink water while He sucketh from His own veins? Dost thou sleep while His eyes are fixed upon the quarter of destiny at every morn and eve? Beware lest any remembrance divert thee from His remembrance and His love. Thus doth this Youth command thee, that thou mayest be of them that act. And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath hearkened unto the call of his Lord and responded, and was of the sincere ones in Tablets of mighty glory.

BH05542: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who hath sought the sanctuary of his Lord's presence, and journeyed from his home to the Most Great House, the scene of his Lord's glory, the All-Praised, and entered the Garden of Paradise until he attained the presence of God and heard the melodies of God, the Powerful, the Glorious, the Best-Beloved. Upon him shone the lights of the countenance from this Youth, Whom He hath sent with the truth and dispatched unto every witness and witnessed thing, and made to speak with the verses of His glory, and manifested at the station of His Self amongst His creatures, whereat the pillars of existence were shaken. Among the people are those who turned away and disbelieved in God their Lord, and those who believed and sought shelter beneath this extended shade.

Blessed art thou, O servant, in that thou hast attained the presence of God and drunk the cup of inner meanings from the hand of utterance in this Paradise which God hath sanctified from allusions and

limitations. And now hath risen the sun of leave from the horizon of thy Lord's command, and We grant thee permission to return to thy dwelling, that through thee the people of heedlessness may arise. Forget not thy Lord, but rather remember Him amongst His creatures. This is what hath been ordained for thee from God, the Mighty, the Witnessed. And the Spirit and glory and splendor rest upon thee and upon those who have purified their faces for God, the Powerful, the Glorious, the All-Desired.

BH05547: This is a Book from the Primal Point unto…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting!

This is a Book from the Primal Point unto him who was named Nabil-i-ʿAli, that he may call it to mind within himself and be of them that remember, and that he may arise to love his Lord in such wise that the souls of the ungodly shall never change him.

Know thou that We have been faithful and shall continue to be faithful—nay rather, through Us hath faithfulness been made manifest among all the worlds. And verily We have fulfilled all that We promised unto you, and by this was kindled the fire of jealousy in the breasts of that company, such that they shall find no rest upon their seats until they have shed My blood—if thou be of them that understand.

And after the Youth hath departed from your midst, it behooveth you to remain steadfast in faithfulness to My Cause, than which nothing else standeth, whether in the heavens or on the earth, or in what was or what shall be—if thou be of them that perceive.

By God! Then shall all things weep, and beyond them the hosts of holiness behind the veils of mighty glory. Soon shalt thou witness the turning away of them that turn aside from this Beauty, through Whom have shone forth the suns of the Command and appeared the signs of God and emerged the pearls of knowledge and risen the Beauty of the Unseen with luminous sovereignty.

Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth, that thou mayest be apprised of that which was concealed and be of them that are firmly grounded.

BH11781: The candle is aflame and the heart in melting…

He is the Wondrous One!

The candle is aflame and the heart in melting anguish. None knoweth what is the cause of this, and what its reason. Some maintain that the source and essence of elemental fire is the warmth in the hearts of lovers and the sighs of yearning souls. Others hold that this quality existeth in all things, for had the attraction of the Divine Beauty not seized upon His servants, their realities, being of pure essence, would never have accepted these opposing forms, becoming thus the manifestation of worldly events and the target of earthly decrees. Therefore it becometh evident that the cause of realities and meanings accepting the garments of limitations and forms hath been, and ever shall be, the warmth of Divine love.

And in the estimation of them that are endowed with divine vision and spiritual insight, the cause of elemental fire and its generation is from the Pen of Destiny which is occupied in inscription, and from it the freedom of all created things hath been and shall be made manifest. And from that which floweth

from the Pen are illumined hearts and sanctified souls set ablaze in such wise that they turn away from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and hasten unto their Source. Thus hath it been ordained from the Pen of sublime holiness.

BH05700: O Mihdi! Rejoice in the grace of thy Lord…

O Mihdi! Rejoice in the grace of thy Lord, and be enkindled by the wonders of His bounty. Drink from the cup of His remembrance, let the wine of His love set thee aflame, and hearken unto His glad-tidings. Verily I say: be not negligent in watching over the Cause of God, neither tarry nor delay. Move amongst men in accordance with the ordinances of God, and walk with His loved ones in the utmost lowliness and humilityâ€“most especially with that Beloved, in winning whose good pleasure thou must exert the fullest endeavour. Be intimate with him, and advance together in perfect love; for his satisfaction, in this day, is dear and acceptable.

O Mihdi! Suffer not thy days to pass in heedlessness. In all seasons occupy thyself with the recitation of the verses of God, and be constant in pondering His firm and decisive words. This world is fleeting. By My beauty! they who cleave unto it have never prospered, nor shall they ever prosper. Wherefore arise, with utter earnestness and consummate steadfastness, to serve the Cause of God, and be united with His loved ones. This is My command and My good-pleasure; and the inmates of the sanctuary have, from the Tongue of God, been remembered with wondrous mentionâ€¦ and likewise those associated with thee.

And peace be upon him who hath heard the melodies of holiness from the Beauty of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and hath followed His good-pleasure in his returning and his abiding place.

BH05833: He is the Mighty, the Everlasting! God hath witnessed…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting! God hath witnessed thy letter and perceived the love for Him concealed in thy heart, and hath sent thee from this Ridvan the holy fragrances of the Beloved, that thou mayest be quickened thereby and speak forth the truth and be numbered among those who utter the verses of God, whom no blame from any blamer can deter, and whom no hindrance from those who are not guided to the beauty of God can prevent.

Say: O people! This is in truth Husayn Who hath come to you with verses, a single letter of which all who are in the heavens and on earth cannot equal, did ye but know. Say: This is He Who was promised to you after the Qa'im, did ye but perceive. He hath appeared with the adornment of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Say: God hath manifested Him amidst the enemies with such sovereignty that all have bowed down before Him, did ye but hearken.

Thus recognize the power of thy Lord, then make mention of Him morning and evening, at eventide and at dawn. And grieve thou not over anything, but put thy trust in God, thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most High, the Best-Beloved. And if tribulation should befall thee, be not perturbed, but stand firm in thy love, and He will assuredly help thee with the truth and protect thee with justice—this is a certain truth.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee and upon those who hold fast to this Cord.

BH05670: He is the Mighty. O Mohsen, bear witness…

He is the Mighty. O Mohsen, bear witness with thy tongue and heart, even as the Dove hath testified upon the sacred and exalted branches, that He is God, there is none other God but Him, and that Ali-before-Nabil is the Dawning-Place of His Cause, and His Light, and His Radiance, and His Glory unto all who are in the heavens and on earth, and He was indeed knowing of all things.

Through Him the Resurrection was established and the Hour appeared, and the Bridge was set upon the Balance of the name Ali. Through Him the Sun shone forth and the treasures of the earth were revealed of precious jewels of might. Through Him the Face appeared and Beauty was manifested from the Dayspring of a name most luminous.

And thou, O Mohsen, do thou show kindness unto thyself, then unto the people of God who are with thee, then unto those who follow God's decree in the atomic realm of immortality and were possessed of evident certitude, and who answered God's call within their souls and were upon a straight path.

Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth and inspired thee with that which rejoiceth thy spirit, and have remembered thee with a wondrous holy tongue. Then convey Our greetings unto the people of God, remind them and give them the glad tidings of My love for them, that they may abide securely upon the cushions of joy.

BH05671: O Muhammad!

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous!

O Muhammad!

Hearken unto My call once again, even as thou didst hearken before, when thou didst enter the Garden of Paradise, the Seat of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, and didst hear His voice with thine ears, and attain His presence, and wert of them that have attained. Forget not My covenant and My remembrance. Speak forth amongst My servants in praise of My Self. Thus did We command thee before, and thus do We command thee at all times, that thou mayest be of them that act.

Verily, We have not forgotten thee, and We make mention of thee in this Tablet, that thou mayest be assured that thy Lord hath preceded in faithfulness His sincere servants. None can outstrip Him in aught. Therefore place thy trust at all times in God, the King, the Supreme, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Take comfort in the remembrance of thy Lord, for it shall suffice thee above all the worlds.

Blessed are the days wherein thou didst attain the presence of thy Lord's countenance and didst drink from this Most Great, this Mighty Ocean. Strive within thyself to remain steadfast in His love, and let not the intimations of the idolaters cause thee to slip. Verily, Satan hath appeared in every form in every city. Thus hath the matter been decreed by One who is mighty and powerful.

Give glad tidings unto the people through this Wise Remembrance, that they may haply find a way unto Him Who is the Lord of the Throne. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have drunk from this Salsabil which hath flowed from the Pen of might and wonder.

BH05673: In the name of God, the Most Victorious…

In the name of God, the Most Victorious, the Most Victorious! O Nassar, aid thy Lord amidst the wicked ones and be not of the heedless.

Every soul hath been created to propagate His Cause and praise His Being, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness. They who have turned their faces toward My countenance, these are the dwellers of Paradise, and the holy angels shall glorify them. And they who have turned away shall enter the fire.

Say: O people! Spread not corruption in the earth after it hath been set in order, neither shed blood nor commit that which is unseemly. Sanctify yourselves and surrender not to your desires, and be not of them that are far removed. Take hold of the ways of God with power from Our presence and be not of them that forsake them.

Say: Victory in this Revelation hath been confined to remembrance and utterance, at the time when He Who is the All-Merciful hath established Himself upon the throne of His Name. Would that ye might know! Detach yourselves from all else but Him, then turn toward Him with pure hearts and radiant faces.

Glorification from Our presence be upon thy son who hath been named Habib, that he may open his lips in praise of his Lord, the All-Knowing, the Peerless. And glory be upon thee and upon him and upon them that have detached themselves from the world and followed the paths of truth and certitude. And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH05687: O handmaiden of God! After every hardship comes ease…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Holy.

O handmaiden of God! After every hardship comes ease, after every distress comes tranquility, and after every separation comes nearness and reunion. If the pure handmaidens and assured believers were certain of the existence and permanence of God, they would not fear their own non-existence and evanescence, nor would they be saddened by any vicissitudes.

For the shadow has ever been with the sun and moves around it, and the fruit has ever been with the ultimate tree—at times manifest and at times hidden. Yet the non-existence and evanescence of the shadow becomes the cause of its nearness and reunion and its very existence. None but the righteous have had or will have a share of this cup.

And whosoever attains to this station and causes his own will to be annihilated in the Will of God, has everlastingly been in nearness to the Eternal Presence. Therefore, wherever you may be, you are present with Us and standing before God. My mercy be upon you and upon Our remembering handmaidens.

And beyond this, at all times the realities of all things are present before the Divine Throne and recount what has befallen them, but people are unaware and do not comprehend.

BH05719: These are the verses of holiness which We have…

He is the Mighty!

These are the verses of holiness which We have sent down in truth from Our presence upon all the worlds, that the people may follow the paths of their Lord and enter into the garden which hath been made manifest in the name of God.

Say: O people! Hearken unto that which the Spirit casteth upon you, and follow not those unto whom God hath given no authority and who are recorded in the Mother Book as among the heedless. Follow ye the path of God, unto Whom belongeth the kingdom of the heavens and of the earth, and follow not every foolish madman.

Thus do We cast upon thee the word of truth and reveal unto thee that which gladdeneth thy heart and delivereth thee from the veils of fancy through this Name which hath been concealed from the eyes of the mystics. Say: By God! This is the Beauty of the Unseen Who hath appeared in truth, despite those who have denied God and been veiled from this Youth.

O Rahim! Rejoice thou within thyself, then give glad tidings unto the people, and fear no one but place thy trust in God, thy Lord. Verily He will protect thee from every rejected misbeliever. And beware lest thou deviate from wisdom by even less than an atom, lest discord be stirred up and harm return to the court of the glorious Beloved.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon every believer who hath been regarded by the eye of God.

BH05738: The remembrance of God's servant—verily through His…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

The remembrance of God's servant—verily through His remembrance He quickeneth every decomposed bone, and verily His remembrance is the Physician of hearts, whereby every soul is healed of every ailment, and He is, verily, powerful over all things. Remember thy Lord and forget not God's favor unto thee when He brought thee forth from thy mother's womb and nurtured thee through the hands of grace until He caused thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self and made thee among those who have attained success, inscribed in the Tablet.

Aid thy Lord in teaching My Cause that perchance the people may drink from this Wine which hath been sealed with the seal of might. It hath been prescribed for every soul to teach His Cause that the signs of God may be spread among His servants and that they may be united in this Cause which hath been inscribed in the Book. Fear thou no one but place thy trust in God, thy Lord, and He will suffice thee against all the worlds.

Wash the people with the spirit and with this Kawthar which hath flowed from the fingers of grace in a wondrous paradise of glory. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whosoever hath been illumined by the lights of the Countenance and is numbered among the believers, recorded in the Tablet. By God! He is renowned among the denizens of the Supreme Concourse as one of the people of Baha.

Convey Our greetings unto thy wife and unto those who have been with thee on a straight and glorious path.

BH05763: Praised be He Who sendeth down verses morning…

In the Name of the Most Glorious, the Most High!

Praised be He Who sendeth down verses morning and evening, yet none believed in them save those who were carried away by the winds of the will of their Lord, the All-Merciful.

Say: O people, deal fairly with this Youth, then fear God, O people of the Bayan, and deny not Him Who hath come unto you with the verses of ʿAli, then with the proof of Muhammad, and with that whereof no likeness hath appeared in all creation.

Say: Do ye dispute with Him Who hath come from the Dayspring of the Cause with power and sovereignty? He hath indeed beheld such signs of His Lord as cannot be described in words.

Say: The eye of the Spirit hath not deviated; verily He is, at this moment, in the Most Sublime Prospect, calling you unto God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, from this Most Glorious Horizon. He desireth no recompense from you; His reward is with God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Bountiful.

Well is it with thee, O servant, for having believed in God and separated thyself from the hosts of Satan. Guard thyself henceforth, for they who have disbelieved and associated partners with God have appeared with such craftiness as the eye of creation hath never witnessed the like thereof. They are indeed in manifest loss.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whoso hath recognized God in this Revelation and is firmly seated upon the throne of certitude. Praise be to God, the Sovereign, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Compassionate.

BH05766: Glorified be He Who created the heavens…

In the name of our Lord, the Help in Peril!

Glorified be He Who created the heavens and the earth by His command. He, verily, is the Omnipotent, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. He hath ordained for every soul that which beseemeth it, and He, verily, is the Just One in what He hath decreed in the preserved Tablets of glory. He wrongeth no one by so much as a grain of mustard seed, but people wrong their own selves. He hath commanded them to observe justice and goodness, yet they act not accordingly. He forbiddeth them tyranny and wickedness, yet they persist in committing them.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, and follow not the ways of them that scoff at His signs. He guideth you unto the Most Great Paradise—will ye then deny His favor? He commandeth you only that which draweth you nigh unto a station of glory well-beloved, and He seeketh no recompense from you, nor doth He desire your gratitude. Fear God, O people, and follow not the ways of them that spread corruption. Walk ye in the paths of truth—this is better for you, would that ye might understand.

And thou, O servant, rejoice in what hath been sent down concerning thee from this wronged Servant Who is imprisoned in this land, after having called all unto God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon them that gaze toward the Dayspring of Glory.

BH05778: Give thanks that thou wert not present…

He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise

Give thanks that thou wert not present with the Ancient Beauty on this journey. By God, the True One! The heavens wept and the earth lamented, and the hearts of existence were consumed. Such grief and sorrow, such tribulation and affliction descended from the clouds of divine decree that all the members of the household are now ill. Yet in all conditions we remain content and thankful. Do thou likewise neither lament nor grieve, but be content with the divine decrees and whatsoever hath been ordained by Him.

O handmaiden of God! The world and all that is therein is not worth even a mustard seed. Set thy heart upon God and be detached from all else but Him. Complain not of the Friend, for He hath not forgotten thee, and whatsoever hath transpired of separation and parting was through divine decree and heavenly destiny. Some time ago a certain matter was intended, but God ordained what He desired. Be not disheartened—be content with the good-pleasure of the Friend.

Convey my greetings to thy mother and other relatives. Walk thou in utmost dignity and composure. And the glory be upon thee and upon those women who have believed in God, the Mighty, the Powerful. Convey greetings from God to all the women believers.

BH05809: The melodies of God have been raised in this…

In the name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great!

The melodies of God have been raised in this Paradise which was known by His name. Say: Paradise hath appeared in the temple of the Youth. Blessed be He Who hath revealed that which was hidden from the eyes of the world.

O handmaidens of God! Know ye the value of these days, for they are like unto the days in which Ali appeared in truth—nay, rather, this is the Sovereign of days, and God is witness unto this. Remember God Who created you for the recognition of the Manifestation of His Self, Who hath come upon the shadows of the Cause with manifest sovereignty.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, purify thy heart from the love of aught else, that the sun of the beauty of thy Lord's remembrance may be imprinted thereon, for verily it hath been recorded by this name in the Mother Book. Praise thy Lord, then prostrate thyself before God Who created thee and all things, though He was independent of all worlds. Then seek forgiveness from thy Lord, for verily He is the Ever-Forgiving, the Merciful.

Thus have We remembered thee in this Tablet that thou mayest rejoice and be illumined by the lights of the countenance. And the glory be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who have fallen prostrate in

the dust before God, in Whose grasp is the dominion of the kingdom of the heavens and earth, and verily He encompasseth all things.

BH05852: Say: O people of the Bayan! Hearken unto…

In the Name of our Lord, the Most Merciful

Say: O people of the Bayan! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner. He commandeth you to observe that which God hath ordained in all the Tablets. He desireth from you neither recompense nor thanks. Follow that which ye have been commanded, and be not of them that comprehend not.

Gather ye together in support of God's Cause and His religion—this would be better for you, did ye but know. Drink ye of the Kawthar of faith from this cup which hath appeared in the name of your Lord, the Most Merciful, wherein is that which bringeth tranquility to hearts. Cast not behind you the ordinances of God. Follow that which hath been sent down in truth from the heaven of God's might, the Overshadowing, the Self-Subsisting.

Say: O people! Cause no division in God's Cause, and break not His Covenant, and be not of them that perceive not. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of the breezes of this springtime. By God! Through them the Lote-Trees of existence bear the fruits of the knowledge of your Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Thus doth this Prisoner counsel you at a time when tribulations have encompassed Him from all sides and His servants have risen in opposition against Him. Thus was the decree, did ye but know.

And peace be upon thee and upon them that have believed in God in these days—they are indeed honored servants.

BH05908: This is a Holy Tablet from God to him…

This is a Holy Tablet from God to him who believed in the Spirit in His days and journeyed unto Him until he entered the seat of the Throne and was recorded among the successful ones in the Tablet, and unto whom were directed the holy glances in the gathering of intimacy, and who heard the call of God with his own ears and drank from the hands of grace the sealed choice wine. Know thou the worth of that which thou hast attained, then relate unto the people that which thou hast heard and witnessed. Beware lest thou add or take away therefrom. Thus doth the Youth counsel thee from before the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

Thy letter hath come before Us and We have taken note of its contents. Verily thy Lord is informed of all things, and with Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth and whatsoever is concealed in the hearts of all the worlds. However, We conceal through Our forbearance and then Our mercy which hath preceded all things, and verily He is merciful unto His servants.

We were with thee and thy companion and heard what he mentioned both secretly and openly, and verily thy Lord encompasseth all things. Nothing moveth save after His leave and with Him is the knowledge of all things preserved in a Book. Grieve thou not over anything. Remember thy Lord amongst His servants and be thou steadfast in a manifest way.

And the Glory be upon thee and upon every discerning believer.

BH05909: This is an epistle from the imprisoned Stranger…

In the Name of God, the All-Powerful, the Sovereign

This is an epistle from the imprisoned Stranger to him who hath believed in God, the Mighty, the One, the Peerless.

Worship none but Him. He, verily, suffices thee in truth. He is possessed of invincible strength. He aideth whom He willeth through His sovereignty, and He, verily, hath power over all things. His is the bounty and the grace, and He, verily, knoweth all things.

Say: Verily He appeared aforetime under the name of Ali before Nabil, and in this Revelation under the name of Husayn before Ali. Say: This pertaineth to the Seven Letters, if ye be of them that know. And ye were promised Him in the Tablets of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Say: He was, verily, the Herald of My Own Self—read ye the Bayan, that ye may be of them that understand. Say: Were it not for this One, that One would not have been, and He hath testified thereunto, whilst ye remain heedless. Say: He liveth in the All-Glorious Horizon.

Blessed be He Who hath dawned from this luminous Horizon and hath proclaimed:

> "Noon-tide approacheth while ye slumber even as We found you among the slumberers."

Thus have We taught thee and cast upon thee that which sufficeth the worlds, would they but ponder upon this Cause for less than a moment.

As to them that have disbelieved, nothing shall profit them save the punishment of thy Lord, and He, verily, is possessed of terrible might. And praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH05917: This is a letter from this Youth to him…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting

This is a letter from this Youth to him who desires to drink from the Kawthar of immortality from cups of impregnable glory, that perchance the words of God may influence him and draw him nigh unto a station of exalted glory.

O servant! Purify thy heart from the allusions of all who are on earth, that the lights of thy Lord's revelation may be imprinted thereon, and this is a bounty which hath been, in the Tablet, magnificent. Fear God and be not of the doubters in His Cause. Then stand firm in the Cause and follow not those who have denied God and were far removed from the tree of nearness.

Say: O people! The servant hath come unto you with clear signs and calleth you unto God Who created you and created all things, and He desireth from you neither recompense nor thanks. Fear ye God and commit not that which is indecent, for it hath been forbidden unto you by One mighty and all-knowing. Follow ye God's ways and His bounds and follow not every sinful ignorant one.

Thus have We made mention of thee in truth that thou mayest follow that which thou hast been commanded in this Tablet and mayest be detached from all created things. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have believed in this Most Great Announcement and who have detached themselves from every rebellious wretched one.

BH05918: This is a Book which hath been sent down…

This is a Book which hath been sent down in truth from the heaven of God, the Exalted, the Great. Therein is that which hath attracted the hearts of the sincere ones.

O people! Hearken unto that which hath been sent down unto you from God, your Beloved and the Beloved of them that know. Whoso hath heard it hath attained unto that which none attaineth except he who cometh before the All-Merciful with an illumined heart.

Say: O people! Differ not in God's Cause, and be not of them that join partners with God. Fear God, and make not your desires the standard of judgment, and be not of them that lose. Read ye what hath been sent down unto you, then act according to what ye have been commanded in the Tablets, for this is a mighty good. They who have committed that which was forbidden them in the Tablets, these have transgressed the bounds set by God and are of the heedless ones. And they who have acted according to what they were commanded, these shall abide in the paradise of wisdom among them that rejoice.

O servant! Hear thou My call, then be thou assured through thy Lord's grace, for He forgetteth not His sincere servants. Then remember Him at all times, for by His remembrance the sleeping servants of God shall be awakened. And upon thee be the Spirit, and upon whosoever hath detached himself from all things and found solace in the remembrance of God, the Most High, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Omnipotent.

BH05930: In the Name of God, the Most Mighty…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

God hath prescribed for all people to visit this Most Great Shrine, which He hath forbidden unto those who have disbelieved and associated partners with Him, and which He hath specifically reserved for those servants who have turned unto Him in humility and penitence.

Hearken unto My words: Free thyself from the world, then enter into the wilderness of detachment, the place wherein the lights of Beauty have dawned forth with the sovereignty of grandeur and majesty, that thou mayest discover that which no one else hath discovered. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth, as a grace from Us unto thee and unto those possessed of understanding.

Leave all creation behind thee and say: In the Name of God and by God, then traverse the path with the power of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Bestowing. Purpose for thyself naught except what God hath purposed and willed, for He desireth for no one save that which will distance him from self and

passion and draw him nigh unto the Manifestation of His Self, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious. God sufficeth as a witness, and he who possesseth knowledge of the Book.

Detach thyself from the murky and perishable water, then take in thy right hand the everlasting and eternal cup and drink therefrom. By God! That which is therein will purify thee from doubt and misgiving. Thus hath it been decreed by the Most Effective Pen from God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Ever-Forgiving.

BH05976: O servant! Hear My call, then grieve thou…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding

O servant! Hear My call, then grieve thou with My grief and imprisonment. By God! No greater tribulation hath befallen My soul than that which hath befallen My loved ones, if ye be of them that understand.

Verily, they who have been martyred in the path of God—these hath God made detached from all else save Him and caused them to ascend unto a station of glorious honor. And now the angels of Paradise circle round them with chalices of Kawthar and Salsabil. Would that I were with them and had attained unto the Most Exalted Companion in the presence of thy Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the All-Praised!

But as for him who sowed corruption and killed—verily he hath met the recompense of his deeds, for by his action were troubled the hearts of them that profess the unity of God. And they who were slain, having committed no wrong—round them circle the denizens of the highest Paradise at eventide and at dawn, offering up their very souls in their path, while the people of the Concourse of the near ones derive light from their countenances. How blessed are they in having attained unto the mercy of their Lord and in being numbered among the martyrs!

As for thee, render thanks unto thy Lord and grieve not for aught, for He sufficeth thee above all created things. Find sufficiency in Him rather than in aught else, and associate not any partner with Him, for verily He is One in His essence and then in His actions, were ye of them that know.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon the steadfast servants of God.

BH09797: He is the Beloved One! O handmaiden of God!…

He is the Beloved One! O handmaiden of God! Praise God that thou hast drunk from the wine of the Most Merciful's grace and hast been nourished from the chalice of bounty. Among the Concourse on High thou art mentioned as a handmaiden of God, and among the people of earth thou art known as a maidservant of the Beloved. Thy service hath not been, nor ever shall be, effaced from the view of the Most Great Scene.

O My maidservant! Move among the handmaidens of God in the sanctity of the Ancient Beauty, that perchance all may be sanctified through thy holiness from the defilement of self and passion, and soar in the atmosphere of detachment.

Hearken unto the counsel of the Most Exalted Pen and say: Deprived is the soul that turneth from the immortal Wine to that which perisheth, and from the manifestations of the lights of oneness to the promptings of self. O servants! If ye be lovers, behold, the Beloved is present; if ye seek the Wine, lo, the Cup of the Beloved floweth manifest and evident. Cast off the wings of fancy and with the wings of reality soar toward the realm of the All-Merciful.

This is the Sun of counsel and utterance that hath shone forth from the Dayspring of the mouth of the All-Glorious. Blessed are they that hear and are illumined thereby.

My handmaiden! Thou hast become aware of the attributes of the Beauty of Oneness and art informed of the sanctity of the Ancient Beauty. Apprise the handmaidens of God that perchance they may purify themselves from whatsoever God loveth not.

BH11786: The Day hath come, and the people have denied…

He is the Most Great, the Most Glorious!

The Day hath come, and the people have denied God, the Almighty, the Compeller. The signs have appeared and the verses have been sent down, while the people flee to the right and to the left. Say: There is no refuge for anyone this Day save in God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Say: Do ye flee from your Lord, the All-Merciful? Whither can ye flee? The idolaters have been seized by their forelocks and beards, looking about in all directions, perchance they might find for themselves some way of escape. Say: Ye have left escape behind you; hasten ye then to what hath been ordained for you of chastisement.

We seized those who oppressed aforetime, and soon shall the others among the factions join them. Turn not unto the world, but behold the generations of old, for therein lieth a lesson for men of understanding. Each hath attained according to his deeds—among them were those who found a goodly end, and among them were those who found an evil abode.

Grieve thou not over anything, for with thy Lord is a station for thee. Blessed is he who hath fulfilled the Covenant. Be thou steadfast in such wise that even should all in creation deny the All-Merciful, thou wouldst remain firm and proclaim: “The Kingdom is God’s, the One, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving!” Remember thy Lord and place thy trust in Him. Verily, He is with His chosen servants. And praise be to God, the Sovereign, the Almighty, the Supreme, the All-Powerful.

BH06024: In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! The Prisoner…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding! The Prisoner in Adrianople calls out and says: Another tribulation has been decreed for Us. Soon will they imprison Baha in the fortress of ʿAkka with utmost humiliation. Verily it is the most unsightly of the world’s cities in appearance, the most detestable in climate, and the most putrid in water. Thy Lord knoweth what is hidden in the breasts of men. Soon shall its climate be changed, and there shall enter it those who will develop it, for God hath adorned it with the embellishment of His Most Great Name, the All-Glorious.

They desired to banish Us from this land to extinguish God's Cause and quench the fire of His love in all else. Say: This humiliation is glory for this Cause, and this tribulation is oil for this Lamp, whereby its light increaseth among the worlds.

Be thou assured through thy Lord's grace, then thank Him in thy days, and forget not the Youth Who swimmeth in the depths of tribulation and glorifieth His Lord, the Lord of Names and Attributes, saying:

> "O my Lord! Make known to Thy servants him who calleth upon Thee at morn and eventide."

And upon thee be peace, and upon thy brother and thy son, and upon those who are with thee among them that have detached themselves unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds. Convey my greetings to my loved ones, both young and old.

BH06048: O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call, then detach…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous!

O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call, then detach thyself from all else but God, and make mention of thy Lord in the evening and at dawn. Grieve not for what hath befallen thee in the path of God, for He shall soon reward thee with the most excellent of rewards from His presence. Verily, He is the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

Make mention of thy Lord, then be thou steadfast in devotion, and bow down in worship. Despair not of thy Lord's grace, for He will assist thee with the truth and will send down unto thee that which is best for thee. There is no God but Him, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

Act thou according to His good-pleasure, then abandon what thou hast been forbidden in the Books and Scriptures. Then give thanks unto thy Lord for having enabled thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self in these days wherein all have remained heedless of Him save His chosen servants.

Detach thyself from the world and all that is therein, and walk not in the ways of them who have remained heedless of the remembrance of God and have taken their idle fancies for their god besides God, and were of the wicked ones. The world and all that is therein shall perish, and sovereignty shall remain with thy Lord, the Mighty, the Almighty.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon such handmaidens as make mention of their Lord in the watches of the night and at the ends of the day.

BH06050: In My Name, the All-Bountiful!

In My Name, the All-Bountiful!

O handmaiden of God! Blessed art thou and blessed is thy brother who migrated unto God until he entered the seat of the mighty throne, and the lights of the Divine Countenance shone upon him, and God chose him for Himself. This is indeed a glory and honor for him and for thee and for the kindred whom God hath related unto him. He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the Strong, the Mighty.

Give thanks unto thy Lord, then place thy trust in Him. Verily, He is with thee and with His assured servants. Make mention of Him among the handmaidens, then detach thyself from the love of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

Grieve not concerning Our Name "The Bountiful." We verily preserved him by the truth from the hosts of the ungodly when he was in prison with a few souls. We caused him to go forth by Our command and sent down upon him tranquility from Our presence until he sought refuge in the shadow of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. And he is with Us, and God was with him, and He is the best Protector and Helper.

Thus have We imparted unto thee that thou mayest rejoice in what hath been imparted from the presence of One Who imparteth knowledge. And the Glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath held fast unto the handle of grace and was of the steadfast ones.

BH06052: O Salman! Hearken unto My call from the direction…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

O Salman! Hearken unto My call from the direction of My prison, then inform the people of what hath befallen Me at the hands of Mine enemies. Speak thou the truth and fear no one, and place thy trust in God, thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, and commit not that which hath been forbidden you. Remember your Lord at eventide and at dawn, and guard yourselves against the wiles of Satan, for he appeareth at all times with cunning. Seek ye refuge in God, O company of the righteous, that He may, through His power and sovereignty, protect you from his evil.

Blessed art thou, O Salman, for thine eyes did overflow with tears when thou wert separated from the presence of the Countenance, and through thy sorrow was the heart of this Prisoner made sorrowful. Thy Lord, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Praised, doth bear witness to this.

Strive thou within thyself to remain steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord, such that the whisperings of the rebellious ones who have denied God's Messengers aforetime without proof or evidence shall not cause thee to slip. The Spirit be upon thee and upon those with thee and upon them that have believed in God in these days wherein the peaks of the mightiest trees were scattered.

BH06053: Bear thou witness within thyself, then within thine essence…

He is the Self-Subsisting, the All-Knowing!

Bear thou witness within thyself, then within thine essence, then within thy spirit, that verily there is no God but Him, the Single, the Self-Subsisting, the Mighty, the Self-Existing, and that Ali is His servant and His Glory unto all who are in the heavens and the earth, did ye but know it.

Say: By God! The Sun hath dawned from this Hidden Dawn, and the Youth hath appeared from behind the veils through this Name, the Concealed, the Sorrowing. Thus hath crowed the Cock of the Divine Throne, and sung the Dove, and warbled the Nightingale of Paradise, did ye but hear it.

And thou, give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for that He hath sent down unto thee verses in an eloquent Arabic tongue, that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be gladdened in thy heart and receive the glad-tidings of the Spirit, and be of them who rejoice at the verses of God. And when the verses of God are sent down unto them, their eyes roll in their sockets out of longing and love for God, the Protector, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Holy.

Thus doth thy Lord remember thee on this night, that thou mayest be of them who are guided by the lights of God. And the Spirit and the Light and the Glory be upon thee and upon them who walk upon the path of might.

BH06054: O Abdul-Karim! O thou servant named before as Karim!...

O Abdul-Karim! O thou servant named before as Karim! Give thanks unto God thy Lord, inasmuch as He hath honored thy countenance by turning it away from aught else but Him, and hath purified thee from the defilement of those who have denied God, the Powerful, the All-Forgiving. He hath nourished thee with the fruits of the Tree of His love. Thus doth God ordain for His chosen servants. Rejoice thou in the gladness of God, though He Who biddeth thee rejoice is himself in such sorrow that the Trees of Oneness have been deprived of their fruits.

I bear witness that thou hast visited the Sanctuary of God and circumambulated the Holy Kaaba in the ascension of eternity above the Lote-Tree of the Utmost Boundary, nigh unto the Most Glorious and Most Luminous Pavilion—that Station beyond which all names and attributes are cut off. God hath openly conversed with thee in the sweetest tongue, that thou mayest remain firm in His Cause and be detached from all that hath been created, whether in secret or in public. By God! O servant, the Word of God hath been perfected in truth and justice, and His favor hath been completed upon thee and upon every discerning believer.

When thou returnest from before the Divine Throne and enterest the City of God, inform those who are consumed by the fire of separation about what hath befallen the Sun of the Horizons at the hands of these wicked ones. Say: The Countenance of the All-Glorious hath been transformed by the blows of destiny, and thereby have the clouds been prevented from their rain and the trees from their fruits.

BH06095: O Ali! Thou hast attained the presence of God...

O Ali! Thou hast attained the presence of God and been illumined by the light of His countenance—and this is a great bounty.

O Ali! Detach thyself from all who are in the heavens and on earth, then proceed with the spirit of God and His good-pleasure to the city, and inform its people of what thou hast witnessed and known of the harm that hath befallen the Ancient Beauty from the idolaters.

O Ali! Adorn thyself with My characteristics and associate with My loved ones in complete humility.

O Ali! Forget not the firm counsels which thou didst hear from the tongue of God before His throne. Occupy thyself in remembrance of the Beauty of Him Who is the Unconstrained at early morn, and seek communion with Him at the hour of dawn.

O Ali! Remembrance of Me is a healing medicine to the souls and a light to the hearts of men. Be not heedless of the Eternal Countenance for the sake of this transient world, and be not grieved by its hardships. In all matters place thy trust in the Sovereign of Revelation. If thou actest according to divine counsels, thou shalt attain the Most Great Good and the Most Manifest Horizon.

O Ali! Be thou intimate with My messenger, for verily the glances of My loving-kindness have ever been directed towards him. Thus doth the Ancient Beauty command thee, that thou mayest be among those who act.

BH06116: Blessed is He in Whose hand is the kingdom…

In His Name, the First

Blessed is He in Whose hand is the kingdom of the dominion of the heavens and earth. Verily He is the One with power over whatsoever He willeth and the Ruler over whatsoever He desireth.

Say: O people, commit not that whereby the honor of the Cause will be lost among the heedless servants.

Say: O My loved ones, take heed lest ye spread corruption in the land after its reformation. Be ye the trustees of God on earth and His chosen ones amidst the idolaters. Beware lest ye shed blood, for God hath forbidden this unto you in the Tablets of God, the Powerful, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Omnipotent.

Say: Whosoever sheddeth the blood of any one, he is not of Me and God is quit of him. Thus hath the command been revealed in a preserved Tablet. Sanctify yourselves from whatsoever ye have been forbidden in the Book from One Who is Mighty, All-Wise.

Say: O people, follow ye the ways of God and His religion, and dispute not about His verses, and be ye not of the wrongdoers. Whoso wrongeth anyone hath indeed neglected the remembrance of God and is accounted among the lost.

And thou, render thanks unto God for that the Pen of Command from this repentant, penitent servant hath moved to make mention of thee. And mercy be upon thee and upon God’s sincere servants.

BH06170: A remembrance unto Abdullah, that he may find joy…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing!

A remembrance unto Abdullah, that he may find joy within himself and remember God at dawn and sunset, and stand firm in such wise that the whisperings of the people of hypocrisy shall not cause him to slip. Arise in the love of God and His Cause, and turn not unto them that have violated the Covenant.

Say: O people, be not grieved in adversity, nor be ye troubled in tribulation. By God! The spirit must be sacrificed for God, the Lord of the first and the last, in these days wherein the Sun of the horizons hath dawned from the dayspring of the Command. Say: In His hand is the dominion; He preserveth whom He willeth through His sovereignty. Verily, He is the Protector of them that have believed on the Day of Meeting. As for them that have disbelieved, God will soon chastise them with a punishment from His presence, and they shall find none besides Him to protect them.

Say: Are ye content with this earthly life, and have ye forgotten Him in Whose possession is the decree of beginning and return? Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth and revealed unto thee the verses with power and sovereignty. Be thou assured in thyself that God is with them that have fulfilled what they covenanted and have not transgressed what was ordained in the Book. And the Spirit be upon thee from God, the Mighty, the Bestower.

BH06182: Glorified is He Who hath sent down the verses…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

Glorified is He Who hath sent down the verses in truth and hath ordained therein the measures of all things. He is verily the Mighty, the Unconstrained. He hath manifested the Manifestation of His Self with the name of ʿAli, to give glad tidings unto all men of the Revelation of God, the Powerful, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Compelling.

But when the clouds parted and the Promised One came with sovereignty and power, then those who had believed denied Him, and all who are in the heavens and on earth were dismayed, save those whom God preserved through His grace and purified from the imaginings of the wicked.

Blessed art thou for having attained unto the recognition of God and believed in Him in days wherein the Sun hath dawned from the horizon of the Cause, and by its light were illumined the denizens of the highest Paradise and then Our honored servants. Make mention of thy Lord amongst His servants, then aid this Wronged One Who hath been afflicted at the hands of the wicked.

Say: O people of the Bayan, die in your wrath! By God, the True One, the King, sovereignty on that Day belongeth unto God, the One, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Subduer.

Convey Our greetings unto the faces of those who are with thee, that they may remember their Lord at eventide and at dawn. And the splendor of God be upon thee and upon those who have ascended unto God and have attained unto the lights of faith at this Daybreak which hath shone forth from the horizon of God, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

BH06219: Muhammad-Qabli-ʿAli, He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Muhammad-Qabli-ʿAli, He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou hearest my weeping and my crying in this prison which is in the farthest reaches of Thy kingdom and the most remote of Thy lands, such that none can draw nigh unto the Tree of Thy nearness and the Branch of Thy communion. Yet, by Thy glory, O my God, were I to be

tormented more severely than this, such that the limbs of my body be torn asunder by the hands of the ungodly among Thy creation and the rebellious ones among Thy creatures, it would but increase my love for Thee, my ardor in Thee, and my longing for Thee. For whoso hath tasted the sweetness of Thy love, neither tribulations can keep him from the gate of the city of Thy mercy, nor calamities from the precincts of the glory of Thy grace.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! When the gates of the outpouring of Thy bounty were opened unto Thy servants, I beseech Thee by that Name through which grace hath appeared from the Dayspring of Thy favors, that Thou protect this servant who hath attained unto the presence of the Sovereign of Thy oneness at every daybreak. Then assist him, O my God, with Thy help, and grant him that which is best for him from the Kingdom of the dominion of the heavens and earth, and make him steadfast in Thy love, and establish him upon Thy path, lest his feet slip from Thy straight way. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful, the Generous.

BH06225: O people of truth! God grant that ye are…

In the Name of the Incomparable Friend

O people of truth! God grant that ye are happy and cheerful by the grace of God and the outpourings of His loving-kindness on this triumphant Day. Verily, it is the King of days. He who is other than the Friend is the enemy; flee him; and he who is other than the Beloved is the snake; fly from him. The scorpions of spite lurk in ambush, and the dragons of jealousy lie in wait. Seek thou shelter in the Greatest Name, and appear in the utmost strength and power.

I swear by the Horizons of the Sun of My Cause! If one shall remain steadfast with perfect confidence, he shall surpass all beings. The Sun of Munificence hath appeared, and the Clouds of Generosity have gathered. Happy is he who hath attained unto those lights, and blessed is he who hath partaken of these divine outpourings.

Today is the Day of remembering God with eloquent words, not the day of forgetfulness. It is the Day of striving and effort, not the day of indolence and laxity. Thus, with the assistance of the Incomparable Friend, hasten thou to the immortal City and to the eternal world. Speak thou, and be not afraid of the wicked. With utter kindness and compassion call men to the Lord of the Day of Resurrection, for perchance this life-giving breeze may set them astir.

BH06228: He is the Beloved! The All-Merciful has appeared upon…

He is the Beloved! The All-Merciful has appeared upon the Sinai of all worlds and the Divine Lote-Tree speaks. Blessed is he who hears its melodies. The breezes of the All-Merciful have wafted from the direction of the Ridvan, and souls have been stirred by their stirring. The crimson sea has surged and upon it sailed the Most Great Ark whereon were established the people of Baha. Glad tidings to those who join its companions!

Say: From the horizon of the Garment has shone forth the Sun of sanctification, around which circle radiant suns. O people of holiness! Be illumined by its effulgence. The Self of the All-Merciful has

appeared upon the throne of His name, the All-Glorious—that Self of the All-Bountiful. From its melodies have been raised: O morning breeze! Take the garment of Baha to the region of eternity that perchance the people of the divine cloud might catch its fragrance.

The hosts of destiny have appeared with swords of hatred—that throat of Baha cut by their blades. Enter, O servant, beneath the glance of thy Lord. By God! Through it were opened the gates of the Paradise of the All-Merciful which were never opened in all eternity, and God created beneath the shade of one of its leaves all the gardens and what was ordained of its bounties. The clouds of tribulation have rained crimson blood—that Garment of Baha reddened by its drops.

BH06306: This is a mighty Book that cometh from God…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy

This is a mighty Book that cometh from God, the Mighty, the Wise. Despair not of God's mercy, for His mercy hath preceded all created things. He aideth whom He willeth through the hosts of the heavens and earth. In His hand is the dominion of all things; He doeth what He willeth. They who in these days have remained heedless of Him are in manifest error, while they who have been guided by the light of His countenance are upon a straight path.

Say: O people! Cast not aside this Youth from your midst, and be not of the lost.

O servant! Cast behind thee what is with men and take what is with thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Then let it suffice thee against all that hath been created between the heavens and earth—this is a revelation from One All-Knowing, All-Informed.

Say: O my God! Behold this poor and helpless servant, and leave him not to himself. Then make me steadfast in Thy love and deprive me not of Thy bountiful grace. Then make me among those who have turned toward Thee and detached themselves from the idolaters. Verily Thou art powerful to do what Thou willest, and verily Thou art powerful over all things.

BH06310: This is a letter from the servant to him…

In His name that speaketh forth

This is a letter from the servant to him who hath believed in God and was illumined by the lights of the Countenance at this Dawn in truth, and attained the presence of God and heard the melodies which were raised from the direction of the Throne.

Blessed art thou for having attained unto the recognition of God, thy Lord, and having drunk the water of life from the fingers of thy Lord's will, the Most Merciful, and having detached thyself from every rejected misbeliever. Stand thou firm in the Cause through God's might and power, then convey unto the people what thou hast known and witnessed in this Revelation, which hath been mentioned as the most wondrous of revelations among the worlds.

Say: This is indeed the Wonder of the heavens and of the earth, if ye be of them that know. Say: Were it not for Him, God would not have come upon an illumined cloud.

Stand thou firm in the Cause in such wise that through thee may stand firm those servants who have hesitated and who remain halted in heedlessness around the Path. They shall pass over it through My sovereignty and power and grandeur. Thus hath the Pen of Command inscribed upon this Tablet which hath been beheld by holy glances.

Say: O people! Gather ye around Our Name Sad, then help your Lord, the Most Merciful. Thus hath it been sent down from the presence of One Wise, All-Informed.

BH06311: In the name of God, the Everlasting, the Ever-Abiding!…

In the name of God, the Everlasting, the Ever-Abiding! This is a Book from before the Youth to him who hath walked in the paths of guidance and recognized the Manifestation of God's Self, the Most High, the Most Exalted, after all others opposed Him, following the evil ones.

O servant! Hear the call of thy Lord from the direction of the prison, and be thou of them that remember. By His call the souls are stirred with longing for His presence and desire for His reunion, but the idolaters are veiled by a mighty veil. How wonderful it is for thee that thou hast drunk from the cup of immortality and attained unto the presence of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds!

Say: O My loved ones! Ye rest upon your seats while the Youth is in grievous affliction. Yet We are content with that which hath been ordained for Us by the All-Knowing Ordainer. We beseech God to assist His loved ones to love Him and to bring them to such a station that they will be detached from all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth. Thus warbleth the Dove of the Cause at a time when sorrows have encompassed it from every side, and it findeth for itself no helper or supporter save Him Who created all things by His command. Verily He encompasseth all things.

And glory be upon thee and upon those who have turned with their hearts toward the holy shore of the ocean of mighty glory.

BH06313: This is a letter from the Prisoner to her…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

This is a letter from the Prisoner to her who hath believed in her Lord and was among those who remember, and who recognized her Lord in days when most of the people were heedless save those who detached themselves from the kingdom and soared in the atmosphere of nearness which God hath sanctified from all names and attributes.

O handmaiden of God!

Hearken unto the call of this Glory which hath shone forth from the horizon of holiness and hath come from the heaven of the Command with a kingdom of verses, that the fragrances of God may attract thee and detach thee from all else and draw thee nigh unto the Dayspring of divine manifestations. Purify

thyself from whatsoever God detesteth, then remember Him with thy heart and tongue and be not of them that are silent. Ascend through the power of faith unto the seat of the All-Merciful which God hath sanctified from all indications and allusions.

And she who hath sanctified herself, verily she standeth before the Throne and no distance cometh between her and her Lord. Thus hath the sun of wisdom shone forth from the horizon of utterance that the believing handmaidens may be illumined thereby.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon such handmaidens as have believed in God and were among the pure and devout ones.

BH06314: This is a letter from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

This is a letter from the Prisoner to him who hath believed in God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

Thy letter hath come before Us, and the glances of the Youth have been directed towards it. He hath taken note of its contents and become one of those who bear witness. Give thanks unto God for having singled thee out to recognize the Manifestation of His Self. By God! This is a bounty with which nothing that hath been created between the heavens and earth can compare. Whoso attaineth unto His love is indeed wealthy in the kingdom and shall soon behold himself in a station of glorious and lofty might.

Grieve not over anything. Verily He is with thee and will help thee with truth. In His hand is the dominion of victory and within His grasp is the empire of command and creation. He, verily, is powerful over all things.

As to thy desire to attain the presence of the Countenance, We have granted thee permission for what thou didst wish, as a bounty from Us unto thee, that thou mayest be of the thankful. Soon will Satan appear there in human form with tablets of fire. When ye recognize him, smite him with the flame of the Command from the presence of One mighty, all-knowing. This is of the tidings of the unseen wherewith God hath informed you, that ye may be assured that with Him is the knowledge of all things preserved in a mighty and guarded tablet.

And glory be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH06319: He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. This…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. This is a Book which guideth all the worlds and from which light shineth forth, visible to those possessed of keen insight, lest anyone go astray after the Light hath shone forth from its Niche with wondrous radiance, illuminating all regions—if ye be aware of this.

Say: O people! By God, the Sun hath risen from a mighty horizon. Deprive not yourselves of that which hath appeared in truth, whose light shineth with brilliant radiance. Sanctify your souls and your bodies that ye may be raised up to the plane of a glorious Name.

Know then, O servant, that We have not failed in Our promise, but the idolaters have opposed and disobeyed their Lord's command, eagerly persisting in their wrongdoing. Were it not for their oppression, We would surely have fulfilled Our promise and remained steadfast to Our Covenant. For this reason have We withheld it from you and most of the people, who have not heard, and the matter was ordained.

Grieve not over anything, but be patient within thyself and put thy trust in God, thy Lord, and be not sorrowful in the kingdom. Strive within thyself that thy countenance may not turn away from love, though every grievous torment be inflicted upon thee. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who remain faithful to the Covenant.

BH11868: The honored Mirza Mihdi hath been specially favored…

The honored Mirza Mihdi hath been specially favored with God's all-embracing mercy. He hath, at no time, been careless in recording the words of God, nor hath he neglected their dispatch. Would that he might, with utmost renunciation, abide within the retreats of celestial glory, and spend His days in close union with them who are the manifestations of His love. The world shall pass away and be no more. Were it found to be endowed with any special distinction, would He Who is the Most Pure Essence have consented to condemn Himself to such incalculable and deadly perils? Wherefore take ye good heed!

Convey special greetings to My esteemed spouse. Be not careless of her needs, for manifold are the adversities that have befallen her. Such adversities, however, are painless in the path of the Well-Beloved. Aqa Muhammad Ali will acquaint thee with certain details and thou wilt readily acknowledge that all the afflictions of the world fade into utter nothingness when compared with the harm that hath been inflicted upon Us.

Convey My greetings to thy distinguished Guest. No news hath reached Us concerning Munib. The spirit of God rest upon thee!

A Tablet, revealed in honor of the renown Muhammad Husayn who dwelleth in the Land of Kaf, hath been written to Aqa Siyyid Mihdi that he may deliver it. It would be highly acceptable in Our sight should a number of additional Tablets and Scriptures reach him.

BH06572: Glorified art Thou, O my God! These are Thy…

Glorified art Thou, O my God! These are Thy servants who have acknowledged Thy unity and confessed Thy oneness. There hath befallen them in Thy path that which Thou hast reckoned with Thy knowledge and ordained by Thy will. Therefore, O my God, deprive them not of that which is with Thee, but send down upon them from the heaven of Thy mercy that which will detach them from all else save Thee and draw them near to what Thou lovest and art pleased with. Verily, Thou doest what Thou willest.

O my God! Illumine their hearts with the lights of Thy remembrance and knowledge, and ordain for them what Thou hast ordained for the choicest among Thy creatures—those whom nothing hath deterred from Thy love and the love of the Manifestation of Thy Cause, and who have soared in the atmosphere of nearness and recognition until they reached a station wherein they sacrificed their wealth and souls in the path of the Manifestation of Thy Self. O my God, my Beloved, my Master! Since they have hastened

to the fields of Thy mercy and turned to the paradise of Thy grace, accept them through Thy bounty and favor. Then deliver them from those who have denied Thee and Thy mighty signs on the Day when the Manifestation of Thy most exalted Self appeared. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

BH06430: O handmaiden of God!

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful

O handmaiden of God!

Give thanks to thy Lord for having attained the presence of His countenance, for having been faithful to thy Lord's Covenant, and for having heard the melodies of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. God hath singled thee out for this bounty that thou mayest remember and thank Him in thy days. He, verily, is the Truth, there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Blessed art thou, for God hath purified thee from the defilement of the idolaters, taken thy hand through His bounty, caused thee to enter the holy paradise, and recorded thy name among the steadfast women in a preserved Tablet of glory wherein are inscribed the mysteries of what hath been and what shall be, which none hath discovered save Him. He, verily, is the Truth, the Knower of hidden things.

Be thou steadfast in thy love for Him, then be thou submissive unto Him—this is better for thee than all that is witnessed. Thus doth the Pen of Command move to make mention of thee. Praise Him, then glorify Him, and keep thyself apart from those women who have denied God, thy Lord. Thus doth thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Loving, command thee.

And remembrance and mercy be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who glorify their Lord morning and evening.

BH06437: O servant!

In His name, the Other!

O servant!

Hearken unto the rustling of the Most Exalted Pen. Verily it calleth thee unto God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing. Remember thy Lord throughout all days and turn not unto whatsoever hath been created in the heavens and earths. Detach thyself from all else, then turn with thy whole being unto thy Ancient Lord.

He sendeth down upon His servants that which He hath ordained for them in the Mother Book, and verily it is a noble Tablet wherein hath been inscribed by the Finger of Power the knowledge of what hath been and what shall be, were ye of them that know. And He hath not left therein an atom's weight of the deeds of all creation. Therefore praise Him at all times and forget not His grace, and be in mighty thankfulness.

Say: O my Lord! I am he who hath detached himself from all else but Thee and hath turned toward Thy beautiful countenance. Send down upon me from the heaven of Thy bounty that which shall make me independent of all the worlds. Verily Thou hast power over all things.

Thus doth this Prisoner teach thee in this Prison that thou mayest not be of the heedless ones. And the spirit be upon thee and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH06438: In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most High! O servant! Hear My call from the direction of the prison, and be not of the heedless ones. Trials have intensified upon Me to such a degree that all created things are powerless to recount them.

And after your return, the clouds of destiny have rained down the arrows of tribulation at every moment, and I have drunk from the cup of adversity at every instant, as decreed in a preserved tablet.

And now I beseech My Lord to raise Me up to Him in the highest companionship and to render Me detached from these unbelievers who boasted of serving Me but when they witnessed My affliction and imprisonment, they rose up against Me and proceeded to manifest oppression.

By God, O servant, I have tasted what no one before Me has tasted among God's near servants. Fie upon them and upon their loyalty, and upon their claims! They have reached such a degree in their calumnies as to violate the sanctity of God among His servants, whereat the Spirit of Command has lamented.

And you, remember My days and forget not this imprisoned, lonely and solitary One. And glory be upon you and upon those who have believed in God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

BH06439: O servant! Behold with the sight of thy Lord…

In the Name of the All-Merciful.

O servant! Behold with the sight of thy Lord, that thou mayest find inscribed upon the brow of all things that which the Most Exalted Pen hath recorded by the leave of God, the Lord of the First and the Last.

By God! This is the Beloved of the All-Merciful, Who hath been afflicted at the hands of the people of the Bayan—they who claim to believe in that which was revealed aforetime yet have denied Him around Whom circle the Kingdom of Verses, and Who is now seated upon the throne of the All-Merciful with power and sovereignty.

Say: From the horizon of Glory He calleth you and summoneth you unto God, the Mighty, the Bestower. Fear ye God, and slay not Him through Whose remembrance the Dove warbleth upon the branches of the Uttermost Tree with most wondrous melodies.

Say: By God! Whosoever possesseth a heart hath been drawn by that which hath been sent down from this Kingdom and hath detached himself from all created things out of love for God, the One, the Single, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

We have sent down for thee that from which the sincere ones inhale the fragrances of the Beloved. Say: Which then of the signs of your Lord will ye deny?

And the glory rest upon thee and upon those whom God hath preserved through His sovereignty and delivered from the depths of trials.

BH06440: O ʿAli!

He is the Mighty!

O ʿAli!

Bear thou witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Conquering, the All-Powerful. And that ʿAli before Nabil is the Manifestation of His Self to all who are in the heavens and on earth, and He hath sent Him with a proof that confoundeth the minds of the wise and the hearts of them that are near unto God.

And thou, O ʿAli, forget not My love for thee, nor My exile from your midst, nor My banishment to this distant land, nor My anguish amidst friend and foe alike, nor My imprisonment in this deep pit. Turn thou with thy whole being unto God, then detach thyself from thine own self and desires, and in all matters place thy trust in God, the Mighty, the Exalted. For this world and its adornments shall pass away ere the keen eye can turn back to things.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have placed their trust in God Who created them by His power and made them to be of the believers. Then convey Our greetings to thy wife and give her glad tidings of a generous paradise.

And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH06442: O youth! Blessed art thou, inasmuch as God hath…

In the Name of God, the Powerful, the Mighty

O youth! Blessed art thou, inasmuch as God hath adorned thee with the ornament of the knowledge of His Self, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting, and hath given thee to drink of the pure water from the hand of this Beauty, through Whose face's light have been illumined the heavens and the earth and whatsoever was and shall be. Arise and say: "O people! I am verily God's servant among you and in this do I glory, were ye but heedless ones." And we thank Him at all times for having made known to us His Beauty and for having numbered us among such as are certain. And for such a Lord it behooveth us to sacrifice our spirits and all that we possess, would ye but understand.

Thus hath the Most Exalted Pen taught thee and moved upon thy name on this dark night, that thou mayest be of those who give thanks. Grieve not over anything and trust in God in all matters. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth. All things lie within the grasp of His might. There is no God but Him, the Powerful, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. And glory be upon thee and upon those who, when they heard their Lord's call, responded: "Yea, verily we are all worshippers."

BH06500: These are the verses of God which have been…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty glory, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, detach thyself from the world, and turn thy heart toward the dawning-place of a resplendent Name.

O servant!

We made mention of thee before with verses of wondrous glory, and sent down unto thee the Tablets and dispatched them to thee that thy heart might rejoice thereby and that thou mightest stand firm in the Cause. Verily thy Lord forgets not those servants who have attained unto His presence and who trod the paths of holiness until they entered a station of luminous glory. Yet We have found the people drunk, such that they have forgotten that whereof they were reminded, and verily thy Lord watcheth over all things.

Remember thy Lord and forget not His grace, for His grace hath ever been abundant toward thee. Stand firm in the Cause of God, then purify thy heart from the doubts of those who have denied the verses of the All-Merciful and opposed that which they were promised in a mighty and glorious Tablet. Convey Our glorification unto thy two sons, then give them glad tidings from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon all who have turned unto God with radiant countenance.

BH06514: Praise be to the Beloved Who, by His divine…

He is the Ever-Abiding!

Praise be to the Beloved Who, by His divine power, rent asunder the dense veils of contingent beings and, despite the opposition of the flies, established Himself unveiled and unhindered upon the throne of "God was, and there was nothing else besides Him." From His right flow forth the seas of the elixir, and from His left stream the lights of loving-kindness. Blessed is he who drinketh therefrom and is numbered among the successful ones.

O friends! Drink ye of the everlasting Kawthar in the days of the manifestation of the Divine Beauty, for by Him Who holdeth my soul in His hand, if ye were to search throughout all regions of the heavens and earth during the time of His absence, ye would not attain unto a single drop thereof.

The Ancient Beauty declareth: The mysteries of this Revelation remain concealed, and were they to be revealed, verily would the people of the earth be struck with terror, save him whose heart God hath purified with this Kawthar.

O people of the Bayan! The banners of the Revelation have been raised in the name of the All-Merciful, and the pavilion of the Cause hath been pitched at the midmost heart of contingent being, and the most exalted Tasnim is being passed round by the immortal youths. Take ye and drink, O people of holiness, in this glorious paradise, and be not of them that delay!

BH06518: At that moment there came from the direction…

In the Name of God, the Powerful, the Mighty

At that moment there came from the direction of the Most Exalted Paradise a breeze from which I detected the fragrance of the Beloved, and through it I came to know what none in the worlds had known, and I found what none among the mystics had found. And I felt it stirring around my right ear as though it had come with glad tidings from God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. When I turned my ear toward it, by God, it gave me such joyous tidings that I could not remain still within myself. I trembled, and everything that had been created between the heavens and the earth trembled with me. And for this reason I nearly forgot what We intended to mention in this exalted Tablet.

O servant!

Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having been mentioned at this time wherein all things and all who dwell in the kingdom of the Command have rejoiced. We beseech God to assist thee in His Cause, to rain down mercy upon thee from His presence, and to grant thee a seat of truth with His near servants. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have desired the countenance of the Youth and have attained unto this Most Great, this mighty Command.

BH06525: God makes mention of His servant that he may…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

God makes mention of His servant that he may find joy in His remembrance, for nothing that exists between the heavens and the earth can compare with His remembrance, if thou be of them that know.

Blessed art thou for having emigrated with Nabil and traveled the path with him. By God! There hath been ordained for thee, by virtue of this, a station that is, in truth, sublime. Be thou assured in the grace of thy Lord and grieve not over anything, for verily He watcheth over thee. There hath been written for thee in the Tablet the recompense of one who hath attained His presence in this Prison, which lieth beyond the mountains and behind a mighty sea.

Make mention of this Wronged One amongst His loved ones. Say: He hath sacrificed Himself in the path of God, your Lord, that He might draw you nigh unto an exalted station of glory. Fear God, O people! Slander Him not, neither commit that which hath been forbidden you in all the Tablets. Thus doth this Prisoner counsel you out of love for your own selves, and God is witness to what He saith.

And the Spirit be upon thee, and upon thy companion, and upon every steadfast and pious one.

BH06526: The remembrance of God is a leaf among His…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

The remembrance of God is a leaf among His leaves, and verily His remembrance hath preceded all worlds. Were it not for His remembrance, none would have known Him to remember Him. Thus hath the

matter been decreed, but the people are in a mighty veil. And verily His remembrance hath appeared in the temple of the Youth. Blessed be God, the Best of creators! He verily remembereth the servants through the remembrance of God, the Exalted, the Great.

O handmaiden of God! Rejoice within thyself that the Pen of this Great Remembrance hath moved to make mention of thee. Then give thanks unto thy Lord at eventide and at dawn that thou hast been remembered by the tongue of God, the Speaker, the True, the Manifest. Beware lest thou grieve over anything, for the world shall pass away and sovereignty shall remain with thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth. Within His grasp lies the dominion of the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He, verily, is powerful over all things. He doeth what He pleaseth and ordaineth what He willeth. His is the Command and the Creation, before and after. All are His servants and all are among those who bow down before His countenance.

And glory be upon thee and upon the steadfast handmaidens and steadfast servants.

BH06580: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I know not…

In the Name of God, the Most Bountiful, the Most Bountiful!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I know not what Fire hath been kindled in the midmost heart of creation. By God! Through it all that existeth hath been consumed, yet the people are wrapped in veils and thick darkness and are sunk in profound heedlessness. Though I knew it not, I beseech Thee by it, as I know it hath appeared from Thy Most Exalted Word, that Thou wilt not withhold me for less than the twinkling of an eye from the knowledge of Thyself and the wondrous manifestations of the glory of Thy Lordship and the signs of Thy Divine Unity. Leave me not among those of Thy creation who associate partners with Thee and who oppose Thee. Detach me from all else but Thee and cheer me through Thy remembrance in the kingdom of Thy Cause, for Thy remembrance sufficeth all the worlds. To this my tongue, my innermost being, my reality and my veins do testify, and in this I am possessed of clear certitude.

BH06620: Know thou that thy brother hath attained the presence…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous!

Know thou that thy brother hath attained the presence of the Countenance and was among those who have won the victory. God hath ordained for him a station of mighty honor, and he is now with Us in an exalted and holy place. Therefore give thanks unto God, then make mention of Him amongst His servants, and be thou of them that give counsel.

O Yahya! Take hold of the Book with strength, then detach thyself from the worlds. Guide the people unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forebears of old. He will verily assist thee with the truth and aid whomsoever He willeth with hosts of discerning angels. He hath ordained for thee a station with thy Lord—beware lest thou deprive thyself thereof. Seek thou His grace, for He is the Most Merciful of them that show mercy.

Thus have We imparted unto thee that which will cause thy face to shine forth out of love for God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Convey My greetings unto the faces of My loved ones, then turn away from the idolators. Grieve not over what thou hast heard from the clamor of the wrongdoers. In all matters put thy trust in God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent.

And the glory rest upon thee and upon them that are with thee among the assured servants of God.

BH06635: A noble letter has been sent to thee, O…

In the name of God, the Ever-Abiding!

A noble letter has been sent to thee, O Ibrahim the Inkmaker.

Verily it is from the All-Glorious and it is in the name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. Worship none but God, the Lord of all worlds.

Sever thyself from those who have disbelieved in God and who have no escape this day. They have turned away from the Path and followed those who were wrongdoers in ancient times. Shun them, then take refuge in God. This is what thou hast been commanded in the Books of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Be not disturbed by anything, for this is the way of the heedless. Say: The bird that soareth in the atmosphere of the love of God cannot be snared by the birds of the idle fancies of those who have turned away. Such souls abide beneath the canopy of the mercy of their Lord. Nothing can move them, nor can the hints of the idolaters cause them to slip. These are they who have ascended unto God with their spirits and their souls, and they are among those who rejoice in the eternal Paradise.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then put thy trust in God. Verily He sufficeth thee, and He is the shelter of those who turn unto Him. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have taken refuge in a mighty stronghold.

BH06653: That which thou hast composed hath come before Us…

In the Name of the Most Luminous

That which thou hast composed hath come before Us, and God hath accepted from thee that which thy tongue hath uttered and thy pen hath inscribed. Verily He was with thee and aided thee to uphold the truth, and He, verily, is the Ancient Bestower.

Make mention of thy Lord as thou pleasest, then impart unto the servants that which is imparted unto thee, that perchance the people may remember their Lord in these grievous days wherein the Hour hath been made manifest, the feet of the agitated have slipped, and the faces of the idolaters have changed.

Blessed art thou, O ʿAli, inasmuch as thou didst hear My call, didst soar in the atmosphere of My nearness, didst drink the Kawthar of My loving-kindness from the fingers of My mercy, didst journey through the regions of My love, wast nourished by the fruits of the Tree of My remembrance, wast

attracted by My melodies and My wondrous songs, and wast illumined by My lights, the Dawning, the Luminous.

Thus have We wafted unto thee the fragrances of the All-Merciful from this Paradise, and verily thou shalt find them in My most wondrous and matchless words. And upon thee be the Spirit, and upon that which thou hast been inspired with, and upon God's near servants.

BH06687: O Lord! Through Thy name which set aflame…

O Lord! Through Thy name which set aflame the hearts of them that are near unto Thee, and awakened Thy slumbering servants, and through which Thou didst shine upon all created things with the lights of the glory of Thy oneness, and didst rise above all things through Thy sovereignty and power—I beseech Thee not to deprive me from the sanctuary of Thy holiness and the Kaaba of Thy favors, nor bar me from the shore of the ocean of Thy gifts and bounties.

O Lord! I am he who hath turned toward the direction of Thy good-pleasure and held fast to the cord of Thy generosity and grace. I beseech Thee not to disappoint me at the door of Thy mercy which was opened before the faces of all who are in Thy earth and heaven, and remove me not from the court of Thy nearness and presence.

Then purify me, O my Beloved, with the living waters of Thy Cause and the Kawthar of Thy paradise, that there may remain in my outward and inward being no trace of the odor of Thine enemies and mention of the oppressors among Thy creation, that I may be detached from all else save Thee and turn to the splendors of the lights of Thy countenance.

Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Most High, the Most Great, the Mighty, the Compelling, the Most Exalted, the Unconstrained.

BH06689: Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God!

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous!

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God!

I am a servant who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs, and I am assured of Thy oneness and do testify to Thy singleness. Yet at times doubts seize me and return me to the abode of the doubtful ones, and at times the breaths of Thy name, the All-Merciful, take hold of me and cause me to soar in the atmosphere of them that are nigh unto Thee.

Therefore I beseech Thee, O my Beloved, by Thy Name through which Thou hast erased the names of the proud ones and cast them into the depths of hell, and through which Thou hast established the names of them that profess Thy unity and caused them to dwell in the paradise of Thy exalted and mighty Name, to make all my remembrance a single remembrance and my state in Thy service everlasting. Leave me not to myself and my desires, then cut me off from those who have denied Thee and Thy signs, that I may turn wholly unto the Dayspring of Thy loving-kindness and the Dawning-Place of Thy favors and the Manifestation of Thy beauty and Thy majesty.

Then give me to drink, O my God, of that which will make me abide in the paradise of Thy Cause, that I may speak Thy praise and glorification amidst Thy creatures. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Most High, the Most Great, the Most Proud, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

BH06769: This is a letter from the servant of God…

In the Name of our Lord, the Self-Subsisting, the Help in Peril!

This is a letter from the servant of God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, to the servant of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Beloved. Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God in all matters. Verily, He sendeth down upon His loved ones that which He hath ordained for them in the preserved Tablets of glory. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge, and He, verily, is the Truth, the Knower of things unseen.

Say: O people! Spread not corruption in the earth after it hath been set in order, neither dispute regarding the signs of God after their revelation. Fear ye the Day when ye shall all be brought before God. Ye shall be questioned concerning what ye have wrought in your vain life, and shall be recompensed accordingly. Shed not blood, neither commit that which your hearts approve not, nor can reason accept. Purify your hearts from all earthly suggestions, that the revelation of your Lord, the All-Merciful, may be reflected therein. This is better for you than all that was and all that shall be.

Read ye the verses of God at eventide and at dawn. This is My counsel unto thee and unto those who walk in the good-pleasure of God. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

BH06771: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who hath heard the call of his Lord and hath answered it through that which the Spirit hath confirmed from the presence of one mighty and powerful, that he may detach himself wholly from all who are in the heavens and on earth and turn with his face toward the dawning-place of a luminous Name.

O servant! By God, the Truth! My words are wings for those who desire to soar unto the atmosphere of nearness and holiness and glory. Therefore soar with them in an atmosphere of mighty loftiness. And when thou hast ascended and risen up through the assistance of the Word of God, then shalt thou behold all created things beneath thy shadow, and thus hath the Sun of Utterance shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord's Will, the All-Merciful, with lights that were truly radiant.

Say: My Word is My armor and whoso attaineth unto it, the darts of the idolaters, all of them, shall not harm him. Take refuge in the fortress of My Cause and hold fast to the cord of My love, then speak forth My praise amidst My creation. Thus doth My tongue command thee, and this Pen through whose

movement all in the kingdom were created, if thou be of them that comprehend. And glory be upon thee and upon every discerning believer.

BH06773: This is a Book from God unto him who…

In the name of God, the Deliverer!

This is a Book from God unto him who hath been imprisoned even as the Manifestation of the Cause was imprisoned in the path of God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

Give thanks unto God for having befallen thee that which befell His own Self. This is of His bounty unto thee, that thou mayest be of them that swim in the depths of glorification and thanksgiving. Grieve not for that which hath befallen thee, for tribulations are characteristic of those who have set their faces toward the All-Merciful and are assured of the signs of God.

We did aforetime send down unto thee a Tablet wherein was ordained thy release from prison, for the command is in the hand of God, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Best-Beloved. Stand thou firm in the Cause of God like unto an immovable mountain, then turn away from them that have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Lord of what was and what shall be.

Verily a station among stations hath been ordained for thee from God, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. Walk thou among men with wisdom, even as the Command hath been sent down in a preserved Tablet. And the glory rest upon thee and upon them that are with thee of such as have believed and are God-fearing in the Cause. Praise be to God, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Adored One.

BH06774: This is a Book from God, the Lord…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

This is a Book from God, the Lord of the latter and the former times, unto him who hath believed and been guided.

O servant! Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the direction of the throne of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High. By God! His call purifieth hearts from the doubts of self and passion, and draweth them nigh unto God, the Lord of the visible and invisible.

Say: Verily He hath appeared in truth from the most glorious horizon, and uttereth at every moment that there is no God but Him, the Lord of the highest heavens. Say: He hath come unto you once again in His name, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious. Say: Is there any doubt concerning Him or concerning Him Who hath sent Him with truth through His greatest signs?

Fear ye God and follow not Satan, O people of understanding. He commandeth you to transgression and wickedness, while God commandeth you to truth and godliness.

Thus hath the Most Exalted Pen moved to make mention of thee on this night wherein the Face hath been illumined with the lights of guidance. Glory be upon thee and upon him who hath been guided and found the right path, and fire be upon him who hath disbelieved and gone astray.

BH06776: This is a Book from this Youth to all…

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

This is a Book from this Youth to all who are on earth: Worship none but God, the King, the Most High, the Most Great. Thus hath the Command been sent down in all the Tablets from the presence of One mighty and powerful.

And furthermore, We have heard that the opposers desired to present themselves before the Youth. Say: Present yourselves and be not of those who hesitate. And We have appointed as the place of meeting the House of God which was built by one of the sovereigns, and which hath been named Selim in the Kingdom of Names, were ye of those who know. And We have set the day of meeting as either Sunday or Monday, and God is witness to what I say.

Say: Were all who are on earth to gather together, the Youth would bring them momentous tidings. Say: Were He to move, with Him would move the hosts of the unseen, then the Concourse on High, then the realities of all worlds. Fear God, O company of opposers, then be fair in the Cause of the Youth and in what He hath brought, and be not of the wrongdoers. He desireth naught except what your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, hath desired for Him.

BH06780: This is a Book which speaks with truth…

In the name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

This is a Book which speaks with truth and guides people to the Kingdom of exalted glory. God has made it a proof from Him unto all created things.

O people! Sanctify yourselves from whatsoever prevents you from your Lord, the Most Merciful, and be not tyrannical and wretched in the earth. Fear God and commit not unseemly acts. Follow the ways of God and follow not every froward devil. Call not upon another god besides God; verily He encompasses all the worlds. And He has sent unto you one of His servants with an authority that was manifest in truth, to call you unto Him and draw you nigh unto the court of exalted glory. Beware lest ye dispute with him after he has come to you from the Dayspring of Revelation with a momentous announcement that was inscribed in the Tablet. Thus has the Dove warbled upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree by the command of One Who is mighty and wise.

O handmaiden of God! Hearken thou unto My call from the direction of My prison, then act according to that which thou hast been commanded in this Tablet which hath been inscribed by the Pen of Command. And mercy be upon thee and upon every penitent servant.

BH06784: In the Name of the All-Merciful! These are…

In the Name of the All-Merciful! These are the verses of God, sent down from the heaven of Command to all the worlds. They are indeed God's proof amongst His creation and His evidence to all who are in the heavens and on earth. Through them in every age is established the Most Great Word among the servants, and they are verily a reminder to the heedless.

Hearken thou unto My words, for I desire for thee naught save that which will draw thee nigh unto God, the Beloved of them that know. Cast behind thee all creation and take hold of the hem of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Praised.

Beware lest thou be perturbed by anything, for this beseemeth the oppressed and those who have fixed their gaze upon the Most Great Prospect. These are in a spirit of delight, in a garden of pleasure and blissful paradise. By the life of the Beloved! They sacrifice themselves in the path of the Loved One out of their yearning for His mighty and wondrous Kingdom. Nothing shall perturb them even should all who are on earth and all the kings and rulers gather against them. These gaze toward the sanctuary of the All-Merciful.

Upon them rest My blessings, then My praise, then My glory, then the remembrance of God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling. Thus have We expounded for thee that which shall gladden thine eyes and the eyes of them that put their trust in God.

BH06786: This is a leaf from this Prisoner unto…

He is the One Who abideth through the perpetuity of His own Self

This is a leaf from this Prisoner unto a leaf among the leaves of the Tree of the Cause, that the breaths of the All-Merciful may stir it and cause it to turn toward God, the Mighty, the Inaccessible.

O leaf!

Hearken thou unto My call, then remember thy Lord in the evening and at dawn, for He loveth those who remember Him. Sanctify thyself from whatsoever preventeth thee from the love of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all who are in the heavens and on earth. Then turn thou at all times unto Him, for He is the Beloved of them that know. Be thou content with His remembrance above the remembrance of aught else, with His love above the love of all else, and with His praise above the praise of all the worlds. Verily He sufficeth all things above all things, and through Him the servants can dispense with all that hath been created in the realm of origination and in the generations of the first and the last.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause and grieve not over anything in the path of thy Lord, for He sendeth down for every soul that which hath been ordained in the Tablets inscribed by His Most Wondrous and Incomparable Pen. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon His sincere handmaidens and His sincere servants.

BH06932: O Ahmad, whom God caused to behold His True…

O Ahmad, whom God caused to behold His True Beauty in a dream! He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted. Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having enabled thee to meet Him both in sleep and in wakefulness, for He is verily the Most Merciful of the merciful. And that which thou didst drink from My hand is the Kawthar of inner meanings wherewith God hath, as a token of His grace, given thee to drink, and He is verily the Most Generous of the generous.

Rejoice within thyself for having shown thee in thy dream My hallowed, mighty and resplendent Beauty, even as We showed thee when We were in Iraq, and from My mouth there flowed the Salsabil of thy Lord's wisdom, the Mighty, the Powerful.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then stand firm in His love, and He shall suffice thee against all the worlds. Move thou not except through His love, and walk not save in His remembrance, and be not silent in praise of this wronged and unique One.

Say: verily He remembereth His servants who remember Him and He loveth those who have purified their hearts from the love of aught else but Him and who have detached themselves from the idolaters. And the spirit and glory be upon thee and upon those through whose mention the tongues of all created things speak forth the remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Beauteous.

BH06944: O Javad!

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Holy!

O Javad!

Hearken unto My call, then bear witness to that which God did testify before the creation of the heavens and earth—that there is none other God but Him, and that He Who hath appeared with the truth is indeed His Manifestation, His dawning, His might, His grandeur, and His glory amongst all created things. Then be thou steadfast in the Cause and turn away from the idolaters.

Beware lest thou deal in a friendly manner with the enemies of God or associate with any of them. Thus doth it beseem Our steadfast loved ones who have remained firm in their love for God and have shunned every remote idolater.

Forget not God's favor unto thee, nor thy presence before Him in days when none recognized Him save His Own Self, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Be thou severed from all else save Him, and hold fast unto the cord of His bounty, and be not of the heedless.

Thus did We command thee before, and now again do We command thee to act according to that which thou hast been bidden, and be not of them that turn aside. And the glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath inhaled the fragrance of the divine Vesture and is numbered among them that are assured.

BH06948: He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting! O My chosen…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting! O My chosen one! Hearken unto the call of God from this Tree which hath been raised up betwixt earth and heaven, and which calleth aloud unto all: “Verily, I am God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Generous!” By this do the lands of existence split asunder and the heavens of knowledge are cleft and every possessor of knowledge fleeth.

And thou, beseech God that He leave thee not to thyself, that thou mayest remain steadfast in thy love and be of them that return unto God Who created thee and guided thee and made thee to be of the guided ones.

Know thou that numerous Tablets have been presented before Us, and We found not among them any trace from thee, as though thou hadst forgotten Us and wert of the heedless ones. Yet We have not forgotten thee and have made mention of thee in this Tablet from which the light shineth forth and by which the denizens of the highest Paradise are illumined.

Thus have We inspired thee with the word of truth that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be gladdened with the joy of God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who place their hopes in God.

BH06955: O Kalim! Hearken unto the call of the All-Knowing…

He is the Beloved One!

O Kalim! Hearken unto the call of the All-Knowing, Who verily is in supreme joy though He be in grievous affliction. Though the body be sorrowful in tribulation, yet the spirit is gladdened by the glad-tidings of God, the King, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Would that we were among those martyred in His path! Then would we appear in the worlds of holiness with manifest sovereignty. Were there any worth to this world, We would not have delivered Ourself into the hands of the idolaters.

Grieve not at anything, but put thy trust in God, the Lord of all worlds. Whatsoever descends from the Beloved is beloved by the lover. These are the days for assisting the Cause of God. God willing, be vigilant on all sides. Several Tablets were sent—deliver them specifically to those affiliated.

And the light and glory be upon thee and upon those with thee, through the eternity of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Convey My greetings to Sabz-ʿAli Bey, for during the sojourn in Iraq he would often visit, therefore, out of consideration for his faithfulness, mention is made of him.

BH06956: O Muhammad! Be thou assured in thine own self…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

O Muhammad! Be thou assured in thine own self through God’s grace and mercy, and leave behind those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Revealer of verses. Say: O people! Do ye

object to Him but for Whom the Bayan would not have been revealed? Thus doth ʿAli bear witness to the truth in the Tablets and Scriptures. Arise thou to make mention of God and to praise Him, then through Him become independent of whatsoever hath been created between earth and heaven. He verily sufficeth thee above all else. Detach thyself from all save Him and hold fast unto God, the Lord of Names and Attributes. They who claim to love thee, love thee only for their own sakes, whereas thy Lord loveth thee for thine own sake. Behold then the difference, and shun those who deal in allusions. Unite with My loved ones and gather them together upon the Cause of thy Lord. God will surely reward thee with the most excellent of rewards, for He is the Fulfiller of the promise to those who fulfill their covenant and detach themselves from all directions. And the glory rest upon thee and upon those who have believed in God, the Render of veils.

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BH06957: O Nazar!

In the Name of God, the Help in Peril

O Nazar!

Gaze with the Most Great Vision. By God, the Truth! The Cause hath been exalted and made manifest, and Paradise hath been adorned with the ornament of oneness at the right hand of the Command of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Then hell and the infernal fire were kindled. Say: The Ordainer of Destiny hath appeared, and all are in continuous resurrection. Blessed is he who is guided by the lights of the Countenance, and woe unto him who turned away and denied. Say: The clouds have been rent asunder and the Sun of Days hath shone forth, then the moon was cleft asunder.

Blessed art thou for having drunk from the choice sealed wine from the hand of the Youth of inner meanings, through His Most Manifest, Most Luminous Name.

Unite with My loved ones, for through unity the Cause will be made manifest among the servants in these days wherein the idolaters shall find for themselves no escape nor resting place, except by turning in repentance unto God Who created them by His command, and drinking from this Most Pure Kawthar.

And glory be upon thee and upon him who, when afflicted with trials in the path of his Lord, the Most Glorious, remained patient and thankful.

BH06958: O leaf! Give thanks unto thy Lord, then make…

In the name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, the All-Wise!

O leaf! Give thanks unto thy Lord, then make mention and be devoted to that which God hath made thee from the Tree of His Cause—and this verily is a great bounty. Hold fast unto God lest thou fall from the Tree when the winds of hypocrisy blow from the direction of the ungodly. Then be patient in adversities, for He verily is the Rewarder of the patient ones.

Glorified be He Who hath created in the kingdom of utterance a Word whereby He hath distinguished between the believers in divine unity and the ungodly. There is no God but Him. His is the Command and the Creation. He ordaineth through His sovereignty whatsoever He willeth.

Turn not thy attention to anything but set thy face toward God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful. Know thou that if He be with thee, the harm of all created things combined cannot touch thee. Strive that thou be not heedless of the remembrance of thy Lord, for through His remembrance His loved ones become independent of all that hath been created in the heavens and earths.

Thus have We made mention of thee in this Tablet, that it may be a remembrance from Us unto thee and unto the sincere servants of God.

BH06976: O sister of Husayn!

O sister of Husayn!

May you ever remain occupied with the remembrance of God and detached from aught else. God, exalted be His grandeur, has never forgotten and will never forget His servants, whether male or female. His remembrance, mercy, grace and loving-kindness have ever had and will ever have precedence. He is both the Rememberer and the Remembered—the Rememberer, inasmuch as before the appearance of His servants in the earthly realm, He remembered them all, and His remembrance of His servants is the cause of their remembrance of Him; and the Remembered, inasmuch as all tongues are moved to His praise and glorification. Thus do all seek after God, though they be veiled from Him. Every praise and description that proceeds from the tongue of any who would praise returns to its source, even though that praiser and describer knows not the One described. Blessed is the soul that knows Him and remembers Him.

And the Spirit be upon you.

BH06983: O servant of God!

O servant of God!

Many years have passed during which, morning and evening, I have been afflicted with countless trials, until by divine decree I came to reside in a place where the hands of the loved ones were prevented from reaching my hem and the feet of those who sought me were cut off from entering my dwelling.

I swear by the world-illuminating Sun which today remains concealed behind clouds due to the oppression of those who claim attachment, that it was ever my wish that my life be sacrificed in the path of the Friend and hasten from dust to the Supreme Companion, yet I have not yet attained to this.

For most of the people of the Bayan are fit only to worship the calf rather than prostrate before the Truth, just as most people on earth today are idol-worshippers, as is recorded in certain books that half the people of earth worship idols while the other half comprise different religions.

God willing, may you become detached from all else save Him and attain and be honored with the robe of "Verily, unto God do we belong."

BH06984: O Javad! If thou wouldst purify thy heart…

He is the One Who speaks the Truth!

O Javad! If thou wouldst purify thy heart from attachment to the world and all that is therein, and with a sanctified and merciful spirit enter the blessed spot of the divine Oneness at the right hand of the Mount of Sinai, then in such case thou art both permitted and it is fitting and timely.

And it is known that the bird of the yearning heart in separation is like an agitated fish upon the dust. Verily the mystical fish seeks the Most Great Sea of the Lord, and the deprived seeker yearns for the sanctuary of the Desired One.

But as these are days the like of which the eye of creation hath never seen, and a mighty test hath appeared, therefore one must, God willing, hold fast to the strong cord of divine favor and cling to the cloud of gracious mercy, that perchance He may illumine spiritual eyes with the beauty of the celestial Youth, and through the wonders of His grace deprive not the seekers of the Merciful Ka'bah and the dwellers in the sanctuary of divine Singleness.

Thus have the counsels been ordained from the presence of a faithful counselor.

BH07016: These are the verses of the Spirit sent down…

These are the verses of the Spirit sent down in truth from the presence of One powerful, mighty, and omnipotent, bringing glad tidings to the people of the Day of Gathering—the Day whereon God shall come with His Cause upon clouds of a Name that hath been resplendent with truth. On that Day shall the believers rejoice in God's joy, and victory shall appear from the horizon of glory. On that Day shall the Balance be set up and the deeds of all, both small and great, shall be weighed.

O people!

When the Light cometh unto you and the Manifestation appeareth, deal not with Him as ye dealt with My Self and with Him Who came unto you with clear sovereignty from the beginning that hath no beginning, exalted and inaccessible.

Say: God is the most powerful above all who possess power, the most great above all who possess greatness, the most glorious above all who possess glory, the most mighty above all who possess might, the most victorious above all who possess victory, and the most beauteous above all who possess beauty. Nothing can frustrate His will, and He is possessed of transcendent glory.

BH07019: In the name of God, the Most High…

In the name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted! These are the verses of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. They have been sent down in truth from the heaven of sublime glory, and they are God's

proof and His testimony of what was and what shall be. Through them He hath sent forth the Messengers, testifying that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

O people! Believe in God and make not your desires your god. Fear ye the Day whereon the pillars of the treacherous shall tremble.

O people! This is the Youth of God who standeth among you and calleth you unto the path of His good-pleasure. He hath sacrificed His soul for His Cause, the Mighty, the Powerful. Follow ye what hath been revealed in the Tablets and be not of them that turn aside. Cast not the Messenger of God behind your backs and be not of the lost. He desireth for you that which will draw you nigh unto a holy and sublime sanctuary.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, give thanks unto thy Lord for having attained unto My recognition and for being numbered among them that have won the victory.

The Spirit be upon him who followeth the Command of God and is of the doers of good.

BH07101: He is the Everlasting in the everlastingness of His…

He is the Everlasting in the everlastingness of His Essence. Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth for people who understand. There is no God but Him—His is the glory and the power. No God is there except Him, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting. He giveth sovereignty to whomsoever He willeth and withholdeth it from whomsoever He willeth. Within His grasp is the Kingdom of names and with Him is the knowledge of what hath been and what shall be. He hath created all things by a command from Him and hath sent down every command according to a fixed decree. He raiseth up whomsoever He willeth by His command and bringeth down whomsoever He desireth, for He is the Mighty, the Loving.

Say: O people, fear God and commit not that which ye have been forbidden. Whoso committeth it is indeed in manifest loss.

Say: O people, oppose not him who hath come to you with the verses of God, your Lord and the Lord of the mighty throne.

O handmaiden of God!

Give thanks unto thy Lord, then remember Him in the morning and the evening. Take comfort in My remembrance, for through My remembrance do the near ones among God’s servants find comfort.

BH07121: Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Lord!

In the Name of God, the Most Luminous!

Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Lord!

I beseech Thee to adorn this servant with the ornament of faithfulness amidst the concourse of creation, in such wise that Thou mayest make me one of those who have been martyred in Thy path and who have surrendered their spirits in Thy love and good-pleasure.

By Thy glory, O my God! Whenever I reflect that the body of Ali was suspended in the air while I remain between earth and heaven, my heart is troubled, my limbs tremble, my skin crawls, and my body is shaken. Therefore, woe unto myself and lamentation upon my being!

I beseech Thee then by Thy Most Glorious Beauty and by Thy Most Exalted Name to deny me not that which Thou hast ordained for those martyred in Thy path in the tablets of Thy decree, and leave me not to myself, for verily it is prone to evil and Thou art fully aware of it.

Therefore, O my God, I have raised my right hand to the heaven of Thy bounty that Thou mayest grasp it in the grip of Thy power and deliver me from the depths of idle fancy and vain desire, and draw me near unto meeting Thee. Verily, Thou art the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

And praise be unto Thee, O Thou before Whose sovereignty all necks have bowed low.

BH07150: Blessed art thou, O thou who walkest…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

Blessed art thou, O thou who walkest in the path of God, who hast migrated unto Him, and who hast turned thy face toward His countenance, according to His exalted Word: “Whithersoever ye turn, there is the face of God.”

Thou hast attained, and witnessed, and heard. Blessed be thine eye, and thine ear, and thy countenance! Detach thyself from all else but God, then remember Him in thy coming and going. Make thy provision reliance upon Him, and thy work that which draweth thee nigh unto Him, and thy strength that which maketh thee purified from the mention of aught else but Him.

And when thou seest My loved ones, mention to them what thou hast heard and witnessed. Say: Forget not the Youth, for He hath fallen into a mighty pit, yet the heat of God’s love hath seized Him in such wise that no occupation distracteth Him, nor can anything extinguish it though all the seas of the world be poured upon it.

Give thanks unto God for having shed thy blood in the presence of His countenance and caused it to flow upon thy body in His love. This, verily, is a mighty favor. Remind My loved ones on My behalf, that they may be set ablaze with the fire of My love between the heavens and the earth.

Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH07222: Say: O people of the earth!

Say: O people of the earth!

Do not oppose him in whose heart there is naught but the manifestation of the lights of the morn of the cloud of unknowing. Fear God, O people, and do not oppose. He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

None can love Me save those who are brought nigh, for My love is a fire that consumeth the hearts—how then can any draw near unto it? He is the Most Holy, the Most High, the Most Glorious.

O concourse of spirits!

Ye shall be prevented from My love, for hearts cannot contain Me, souls cannot bear Me, and minds cannot sustain Me. He is the Judge who executes judgment with authority.

Say: This servant is as a lamp unto this Light, lest the winds of darkness from the souls of the ungodly blow upon it. He is the Ever-Living, the Most High, the Most Splendid.

The peoples shall differ regarding this Ancient Light, and hatred shall appear among them concerning this Mighty Pillar, that the good may be distinguished from the evil, and light from darkness. He is the Living Water, the Everlasting, the Most Enduring.

Know thou that My love is the sword of the Almighty that separateth the righteous from the wicked, and by it are the hearts of the free ones made cool while the souls of the infidels are set ablaze.

BH07223: In the Name of Him Who heareth and seeth…

In the Name of Him Who heareth and seeth and calleth unto the people of the Bayan from this most holy and most glorious horizon!

Say: O people, this indeed is the Beloved Who hath come unto you without veil or concealment. Fear ye God, O ye who are endowed with insight! Do ye worship the calf and forsake God, your Lord, and imagine that ye are numbered among the dwellers of the Paradise of refuge? Say: Evil is that which ye have imagined, could ye but behold with the eye of certitude—ye would witness yourselves in the lowest abyss.

O servant! Blessed art thou, inasmuch as thou hast heard the most sweet melodies of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and He, at this moment, calleth unto thee from the right side of the Throne, the most remote station, that verily there is none other God but Him, and that He is the Lord of the hereafter and of the former times. Blessed then is He Who hath made thee to know the Manifestation of His Self, and by this hath inscribed thy name by the Most Exalted Pen in the Tablet which none hath discovered save God, the Lord of the visible and the invisible.

And the glory rest upon thee and upon whoso hath turned unto Him and shunned him who hath gone astray and remained heedless.

BH07278: The Fire of God from the Divine Lote-Tree hath…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Holy!

The Fire of God from the Divine Lote-Tree hath been witnessed in the horizon of the Brow. Warble what the Dove of Glory hath warbled upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree, that there is none other God but Him. And He is God, Who hath ever been wise over all things.

Verily the Divine Lote-Tree hath been planted by the hand of this Most Great Remembrance in a Paradise that was hidden from the eyes of the ungodly. It hath been raised up through this Name, as We watered it from the Water of Life which flowed from a luminous and holy Finger. And verily it encompasseth all

who are in the heavens and the earth, were ye to know this. And every leaf thereof speaketh in melodies that draw unto them all the hearts of them that are nigh unto God. And whosoever turneth with the ear of innate nature unto it shall hear its melodies in these days wherein the All-Glorious hath been established upon the throne of His Name, the All-Merciful, with mighty sovereignty.

O thou leaf! Hearken unto its call and despair not of thy Lord's mercy, for verily it hath preceded all females and males.

BH07285: This is a Youth whom God hath raised up…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious!

This is a Youth whom God hath raised up for His Cause and made to speak forth His praise and remembrance among the worlds. For this did most of the people rise up against Him, even to the point of seeking to put Him to death—and God is my witness to what I say.

He had a brother who protected Him for a number of years and taught Him a letter from the Tablet of the Command. Through this he grew proud before God Who had created him by the word of His command, and became one of the transgressors. The names so deluded him that he sought to slay his Brother without any proof from God or any enlightening Book. None in the heavens or on earth can reckon his schemes. The fire of hatred blazed in his breast and by it his faith in God, the Lord of all worlds, was consumed.

Thus was it decreed for the Youth, as inscribed upon preserved and mighty Tablets.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, when thou knowest what hath befallen Us, weep thou for this grievous tribulation. And may mercy be upon thee and upon the believing handmaidens and the believing servants.

BH07286: This is the Book of God, the King…

He is the Most Sorrowful above all who are sorrowful

This is the Book of God, the King, the Mighty, the Chosen, unto him whom God hath related unto His servant, that the rains might be sprinkled upon him from these clouds which have been raised in the heaven of grace and which rain down upon all regions. Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the holy precincts, the Seat of the Throne, the station of Him Whom eyes perceive not, that verily there is none other God but Him. He hath uttered a Word whereby He hath distinguished between the evil and the righteous. O servant! Purify thy heart from all that thou hast heard, then enter with thy heart the holy precincts with longing and free will. Say: By God! The Desired One hath appeared with the sovereignty of grandeur and power. Hasten, O people, to the Kawthar of eternity, then remember your Lord, the Most Glorious, in private and in public. Thus have We sent unto thee, O servant, the fragrance of the garment from Joseph the Imprisoned through this Tablet whereby the eyes of the righteous are consoled. And peace be upon thee and upon him who hath believed in God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Compelling.

BH07288: This is a Book from God unto him who…

He is the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

This is a Book from God unto him who hath been named Abdullah, that he may call to mind the remembrance of God, the All-Subduing, the Mighty, the All-Wise, and may forsake that which is with the people and take hold of the Tablet of holiness with power and great might.

O servant! Follow what We have sent down unto thee aforetime, then walk in the paths of the sanctified ones.

Say: O people! Gather ye together in the Cause of God and differ not concerning Him Who hath come unto you with every wise command. Look not upon God as ye look upon your own selves. Fear God and be of the God-fearing. Say: God desireth for you naught save what is better for your own selves than all that ye have chosen, were ye of them that comprehend.

Arise to help the Cause of God, then walk in the ways of justice and shun the paths of the oppressors. Thus hath the word of truth been sent down from the heaven of Command as a token of grace from the presence of One mighty and generous. Blessed is he who hath heard the Word of God and hath detached himself from the words of all else.

BH07291: This is a Book from Us to her who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to her who hath believed in God, her Lord, and hath attained unto the lights of holiness and drunk the choice wine of love from the hands of the All-Merciful in her days.

O My handmaiden! Remember thy Lord in private and in public in this hour whose time hath come. Be not grieved about any matter, then turn with thy heart toward this horizon from which hath risen the Sun of Glory with its radiant mention of thy Lord's name. Take shelter in the shade of the Tree of the Divine Command, then leave behind all things and take hold of the Word of God with a strength bestowed by Us. Blessed is the one who hath attained unto it and upon whom its breezes have wafted.

Verily, He forgeteth not His handmaidens who have turned unto Him. Soon shall their faces be illumined by the lights of this Sun and its radiance. Blessed art thou and blessed is the handmaiden who hath attained unto that which was ordained for her in the Book wherein is recorded for every soul its recompense. And glory be unto the handmaiden who hath turned with her heart unto the Lord of the Last and the First and hath left the world behind her.

BH07294: In the name of God, the All-Sufficient! This…

In the name of God, the All-Sufficient! This is a Book from Us unto thee that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, and turn with thy heart toward the quarter of resplendent glory. Blessed art thou in that thou hast passed over the Bridge and entered the Most Glorious Paradise, a station of gracious glory.

Say: We exalted the name of one of Our servants lest anyone should know Us, and when his fame became widespread he denied God and waxed proud before Him, and thus did Satan behave rebelliously toward the All-Merciful.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then remind the people of this announcement which hath been witnessed from the horizon of the Cause. Say: O people! Deny not Him in Whom ye have believed, and take not Satan as your helper. Rather seek refuge in God from his evil, and take Him as your friend.

We have indeed sent down unto thee aforetime clear verses, and now again have verses been sent down from the heaven of glorious and resplendent might, that thou mayest give thanks unto God, thy Lord, at all times and be steadfast in His Cause. And glory be upon the people of glory from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

BH07295: This is a Book from Baha to one…

He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

This is a Book from Baha to one of the handmaidens of God, that she may remember her Lord at morn and eventide. O My handmaiden! Be thou submissive and prostrate thyself before thy Lord Who created thee by a command from His presence. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Most High.

Blessed is the handmaiden who hath attained unto the recognition of her Lord in these days wherein the Sun of Grandeur and Glory hath shone forth from the horizon of holiness.

O My handmaiden! Grieve not over anything and place thy trust in all matters in God, through Whose word the clouds of idle fancy were rent asunder, the foundations of all things were shaken, and the mountains were scattered.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having been mentioned by the Most Exalted Pen, and this is a bounty unexcelled by any bounty from beginning to end. Taste thou of the fruits of the Tree of Grace, then detach thyself from those who have disbelieved in God and have walked in the paths of idle fancy and error.

And peace be upon thee and upon those who have been illumined by the lights of Beauty.

BH07296: This is a Book from God, the Protector…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest!

This is a Book from God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, unto His loved ones, that they may be quickened through the words of God, the Mighty, the Beloved, and be set ablaze with the fire of His love, and speak forth in praise of His Being in such wise that the opposition of those who have disbelieved in the signs of God after their revelation and followed every rejected idolator shall not deter them.

And thou, O servant, taste thou the fruits of assurance from the Lote-Tree of Certitude which hath been planted by the hands of the All-Merciful, the Lord of what was and what shall be. Grieve not over anything, and fear no one, for God, the Sovereign of the realms of the spirit, hath made His loved ones

such that it behooveth them not to be concerned with their physical bodies even should the swords of hatred descend upon them. Thus hath the command been sent down in truth that ye might not sorrow.

Place your trust in all matters in God, and verily He will protect you in truth and will give you that which would cause all the kings of the earth to marvel. He, verily, is the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Thus have We made mention of thee in truth that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be of them that rejoice in the gladness of God.

BH07298: This is a Book from the Prisoner…

In the Name of my Lord, the All-Merciful!

This is a Book from the Prisoner to the loved ones of God, the Supreme, the Mighty, the All-Powerful. Therein is mentioned that which will draw them nigh unto God, their Creator. This, verily, is a supreme bounty.

O people! Fear God and commit not that which is unseemly. Do that which ye have been commanded in the Tablets of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Beware lest ye be debarred from His grace in these days wherein the Sun of the loving-kindness of your Lord hath dawned from the horizon of His Most Great Name.

Make then your deeds pure for His sake. Beware lest ye do that which is displeasing unto Him. Then walk in the ways of them that are detached, who have soared on the wings of certitude in the atmosphere of nearness to your Lord, the All-Merciful, and who have aided Him through their utterance betwixt earth and heaven. Neither the blame of the blamer nor the scorn of the ungodly hath deterred them from the remembrance of their Beloved.

Thus have We made mention of thee in this Tablet that thou mayest take unto God a path, stand firm in His Cause, and be of them that are assured. Glory be upon you, O loved ones of God, male and female, young and old.

BH07300: He is the Mighty. This is a Book…

He is the Mighty. This is a Book which speaks with truth and gives glad tidings to the people of the sublime and holy Ridvan, and draws near the near ones to the sacred court and causes them to attain to the glorious heaven of might.

Then it makes mention of those who have believed in God and His verses and upon whom have descended such afflictions as cause tears to flow from every faithful believer. Say: Verily he who has died from among you has been raised unto God and God is witness to this. By God! He has returned to the Primal Point in a mighty and impregnable station.

O loved ones of God! Do not grieve over this, but rather rejoice with the joy of God, then trust in Him, then be content with His decree, then be patient in trials and ordeals, and be well-pleased in the Cause. Every soul shall taste of death—this is what has been inscribed by the Pen of God upon a preserved and mighty tablet.

We beseech God to raise you to a station wherein no grief shall touch you from near or far. And upon you all be the Spirit and Glory.

BH07302: This is a Tablet from the Prisoner…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Tablet from the Prisoner to a leaf of the leaves of the Tree of Ridvan, that the winds of her Lord's Will, the All-Merciful, may stir it and draw it nigh unto God, the Lord of Names and Attributes. O leaf! Hearken thou unto My call from the direction of the Prison, that there is none other God but Him. He ordaineth what He willeth through His command, and He, verily, is the Fashioner of earth and heaven. Remember thou thy Lord through these words which have been sent down from God, the Revealer of verses:

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the Sun of Thy Beauty hath shone forth from the horizon of Thy Will and Power, and by which the hearts of them that are nigh unto Thee among Thy creatures were illumined, to send down upon me that which will gladden my soul and tranquilize my heart. Then grant me, from Thy presence, goodly offspring who will remember Thee on earth amidst Thy creatures and aid Thee in Thy domains. Then cause me to drink, O my God, from the Kawthar of Thy bounty that which will purify me from all else save Thee and draw me nigh unto Thy good-pleasure. Verily, Thou art the Powerful over what Thou willest, and Thou, verily, art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

BH07440: All that is in the heavens and on earth…

He is the All-Conquering, the Almighty!

All that is in the heavens and on earth praise God, and verily He has power over all things. All who dwell in the realms of eternity and the Divine Throne bow down before Him, and verily He encompasses all the worlds. He exalts whomsoever He willeth and abases whomsoever He willeth, and bestows upon whomsoever He willeth the holy and gracious lights. His is the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, and His is the dominion of Command and Truth, and He is the majestic and mighty Sovereign.

All things praise Him, all things remember Him, all things sanctify Him, and all things call upon Him, and verily He encompasses all things. He sendeth down mercy upon whomsoever He willeth and withholdeth mercy from whomsoever He willeth, and He sendeth upon whomsoever He willeth the holy and sublime fragrances. His mercy hath preceded all things and His grace hath encompassed all things, and He hath established His Cause with justice throughout all the worlds.

BH07455: O handmaid of God, Hajar, who hath migrated unto…

O handmaid of God, Hajar, who hath migrated unto God! He is the One, the Kind. Although through the oppression of the enemies the hearts of the loved ones are agitated, to such extent that most of them appear to be veiled, despite the fact that the purpose of life itself was to be sacrificed in the path of the All-Merciful. I swear by God's Most Great Name that if one does not attain to this station, in the realm of

inner meanings they have been and will be in utmost regret. It is most astonishing that they would deprive themselves of the eternal, everlasting Kingdom for the sake of this transient life. Indeed, every soul has been ordained a portion and assigned a share. The spider busies itself catching flies, while the divine Phoenix of Qaf hunts for inner meanings. This verse is befitting to mention at this point:

Leave the hunting of wild asses in their graves, Instead hunt for meaning from Mount Sinai's ways

God willing, may that handmaid of God be ever intimately associated with the remembrance of the Beloved and occupied with His mention. This is from the most great bounty of the Lord of the worlds. And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH07495: O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call…

In His name, the All-Bountiful

O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call from the direction of My Ridvan, then be thou attracted by the fragrances of My companionship and the melodies of My holiness that have been raised from the right hand of My throne. Follow that which thy Lord, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Unconstrained, hath commanded thee.

Grieve thou not over anything, and know that Ism-i-Mihdi is in the presence of his Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, the Mighty, the Bestower, at the Divine horizon, and the lights have shone upon him from the Beauty of God, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

We have named her whom We gave to thee and him "Bahiyyih" in the Kingdom of Names, and We have entitled her "Handmaiden of the Remembrance" that thou mayest be among the thankful.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having been intimate with him whom God hath loved in the worlds of His holiness, and verily were We to rend asunder the veil, thou wouldst behold him established upon a mighty and exalted station.

And upon thee be the glory, and upon the steadfast women who have believed in God, the One, the Single, the All-Powerful.

BH07496: O my handmaid! Hear My call…

He is the Self-Subsisting!

O my handmaid! Hear My call, by which the souls of the pure ones are stirred, and then the realities of the holy ones, and by the call of God the hearts of the sincere ones are attracted. Blessed is he who hath heard the call of his Lord and hath prevented his ear from hearing the croaking of the deniers who opposed God and disbelieved in His verses and were among the rejecters.

God will soon punish them with a chastisement from Him, and verily He is the severest of avengers. And when the decree cometh upon them they shall be confounded and shall find for themselves no helper nor protector.

And those who have believed, the people of the Paradise of the All-Highest shall circle round them with cups of the Kawthar of the knowledge of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beautiful. And the people of the Supreme Concourse shall visit them and shall find from them the fragrances of the love of God, the Exalted, the Great. Blessed are they and those who love them. Woe unto the opposers!

Thus have We sent down the verses in this Tablet and dispatched it unto thee as a mercy from before the Mighty, the All-Knowing. And praise be to the Beloved of the worlds.

BH07497: O handmaiden of God! Bear witness within yourself…

He is God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

O handmaiden of God! Bear witness within yourself that there is no God but Him, and that the Beauty of Oneness and Pure Eternity, who was named ʿAli before Nabil, is the Spirit of God and His Chosen One, the Glory of God and His Beloved. All were sent by His command and all shall be gathered unto Him.

Be thankful to your Lord in your sleep and wakefulness, in your standing and sitting, in your bowing and prostration, and at every dawning and setting. Do not grieve within yourself nor be distressed in your heart.

Should God will, He would adorn your bed with His Name, the Praised Muhammad, and would renew your covenant with Him, grant you His presence, and draw you nigh unto Him as the soul draweth nigh unto the spirit and the beloved unto the Beloved. Therefore raise your hand unto God that He may send down unto you this promised feast.

And glory be unto you for your patience in the Cause of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

BH07502: O Husayn! Know thou that We have not forgotten…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting

O Husayn! Know thou that We have not forgotten thee at any time or moment, but rather have remembered thee with a tongue of truthful knowledge. Say: We have been cast into a mighty prison by reason of that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought, and We are content with that which God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, hath decreed for Us in the Tablets of His decree.

And thou, remind the loved ones not to bring harm upon Us after this great harm, and not to waste the Cause of God amongst them, and not to differ regarding the command of God, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the Powerful. For by God, thou shalt find their turning away from this Servant—who was naught to them but an affectionate brother and a noble companion after He came to them with the proof of God and a straight testimony—then convey Our greetings to thy wife and give her glad tidings of the mercy of God and His holy and resplendent good-pleasure.

And glory be upon the people of Baha from this effulgent and radiant Glory.

BH07506: O ʿAli! Hearken unto the call of this Most…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

O ʿAli! Hearken unto the call of this Most Exalted One. By God! He is verily the Most High, Who now speaketh from the direction of the Divine Throne that there is none other God but Him, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. He hath appeared time after time, and in this cycle hath drawn aside all the veils from the face of the Unseen, manifesting Himself in such wise that even the eyes of those near unto God cannot behold Him as He truly is. Yet those servants who claim to believe in the Manifestation of His Self Who came unto them in the year sixty have disbelieved in Him.

O youth! Purify thyself from the allusions of those who have disbelieved, then detach thyself from the idolaters. Stand firm in His Cause and associate not any partners with His Self, even should all who dwell in the heavens and earth rise up against thee. Remember thy Lord in thy days, then occupy thyself with His praise amongst His servants. This is better for thee than that wherewith all creation is occupied.

And the splendor rest upon thee and upon whoso remaineth steadfast in the love of God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH07515: In the Name of God, the Most Manifest…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Manifest! O leaf! Hold fast to this Tree lest the winds of trials that blow from the direction of tests, from thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate, cause thee to fall. Move by the winds of the Divine Will, for verily they will turn thee from the left of doubt to the right of certitude. These winds are indeed the quickener of bodies in this holy and wondrous Spring, and through them the roses of knowledge grow in this exalted Paradise.

Blessed art thou for having believed in God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. God hath named thee the Leaf and related thee to the Tree of His Own Self, the Almighty, the Powerful. Take comfort in the remembrance of God, thy Lord, then detach thyself from every sinful idolator.

Thus doth counsel thee the Dove Who hath spoken and warbled in the paradise of eternity upon the branches of the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, that there is none other God but He, the King, the Truth, the Just, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon every maidservant who hath believed in God, the One, the Mighty, the Peerless.

BH07611: The servant maketh mention of one of the loved…

In the Name of the Most Wondrous, the Wondrous!

The servant maketh mention of one of the loved ones of God, that he may rejoice in His remembrance of him and be numbered among them that are steadfast in this Cause, from which the feet of the mature have slipped—how much more those who are as sucklings still drinking from the breast of heedlessness and ignorance, and who wander in the wilderness of self and passion!

Say: Verily, he who hath not believed in God is but a suckling, even though seventy years may have passed over him. Blessed art thou for having believed in God and recognized the Manifestation of His Self, and art numbered among the successful ones.

Grieve thou not over anything save My grief, and rejoice not in aught except in My remembrance and praise. Then read what hath been sent down from My presence, for thereby are the hearts of them that have knowledge attracted. Thus have We commanded thee, as a favor from Our presence upon thee.

Act thou according to what thou hast been bidden by God, the Exalted, the Great. And glory be upon thee and upon the servants of God who remember Him.

BH07615: In the Name of God, the Composer of Unity!…

In the Name of God, the Composer of Unity! This is a mention from Us to a servant among the servants of God, that he may rejoice within himself and remain steadfast in love. Blessed art thou for having migrated unto God and entered the precinct of Paradise and attained the presence of the mighty throne.

This Most Exalted Pen hath been moved to make mention of thee—the Pen whose shrill voice hath attracted the hearts of all who are endowed with knowledge and wisdom. Know thou that We have ordained for thee to care for him with whom thou wert. Thus hath the matter been decreed in the Tablet.

O loved ones of God! Show him honor, for he hath turned toward the Dawning-Place of a luminous Name. The reward of one who acteth in His path shall not be lost with God, and verily His grace draweth nigh unto the doers of good.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth. Follow that which thou art bidden, and in all matters place thy trust in God, Who loveth unity among His servants and Who watcheth over them that believe in His oneness. And upon you, O people of Baha, be the glory from One mighty and beautiful.

BH07633: A mention from the Sacred Leaf to His servant…

He is the Mighty

A mention from the Sacred Leaf to His servant Ali, that he may give thanks to God his Creator and await the Day when God shall come in manifest clouds of glory. Say: O people, fear God in this Day and tarry not for less than a moment, then hasten to a holy and praiseworthy seat. Take not from the Book that which is ambiguous therein, but take what God hath made firm, not deviating from the truth, and which hath been established by covenant. O people, interpret not the words of God according to your own opinions and desires. Fear God, then stand firm upon this exalted Path which God hath made a guidance and mercy for those who have followed the command of their Lord and who manifest a witnessed love, such that the lights of love shine forth from their faces and the remembrance of God from their hearts, and they are among the gems of existence.

BH07645: Glorified is He Who sendeth down the verses…

In the Name of Him Who is the Manifest One!

Glorified is He Who sendeth down the verses as He pleaseth, and verily He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling.

O servant! Hear My call, then soar in the atmosphere of My love and grieve not over what hath befallen thee from the power of the Cause, and be thou among those who rejoice whenever tribulation cometh in the path of the Beloved. He is the Beloved, but the people understand not. By His beauty! I long that every sword should fall upon Me in His path, and this is what My heart desireth, did ye but know. Can there be found in existence anything sweeter than affliction in His path and tribulation in His love? Nay, by His Self, the True One, if ye but knew!

Know thou that preservation lieth in His hand—He preserveth whom He willeth by a command from His presence, but the people perceive not. Be thou thankful unto God for having made Himself known unto thee. By God! This is a bounty greater than whatsoever existeth between the Kaf and the Nun.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon all who witness and are witnessed.

BH07649: Glorified be He Who created the heavens and earth…

He is God!

Glorified be He Who created the heavens and earth and made the winds subservient. The thunder glorifies Him in fear and the clouds in awe. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Most High.

Say: The heaven of vain imaginings hath been cleft asunder, the veils of glory have been lifted, the Sun of Beauty hath shone forth, and judgment hath been decreed by God, in Whose hand lies the dominion of all things. He is the Ruler in the beginning and in the end.

O thou who gazest upon the Face!

When thou hearest the verses of God, arise to aid His Cause and say: O people! The Beloved hath come with sovereignty, grandeur and glory. Beware that ye oppose Him not. Fear God and associate not with Him in Whom ye have believed. Whoso opposeth Him is accounted among those who disbelieved in God from all eternity.

Thus doth the tongue of thy Lord teach thee that thou mayest remind the people of that which thou hast been commanded by the Transformer of all conditions. And the glory be upon thee from God, Whose decree of passing away prevaileth not over what He willeth.

BH07655: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by the lamp which Thou didst kindle with the oil of Thy wisdom and didst place upon the niche of Thy bounty, and by which Thou didst illuminate the sincere ones among Thy creatures, that Thou make me wholly detached unto Thee, clinging to the cord of Thy favors, enkindled with the fire of Thy love, illumined by the lights of Thy countenance, ascending to the

heaven of Thy self-subsistence, and rising to the atmosphere of Thy lordship, so that there may remain within my soul no remembrance save the remembrance of Thee, no description save Thy description, and no deed except that which is done for love of Thee and Thy good-pleasure. Verily Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever Thou willest through Thy most exalted Word, and Who hath dominion over whatsoever Thou desirest through Thy sovereignty which hath transcended all who are in earth and heaven. Verily Thou art the Sovereign, the Transcendent, the Powerful, the Glorious, the All-Merciful. And praise be to God, the King, the All-Compelling, the Powerful, the Resurrector, the Holy, the All-Glorious.

BH07666: In the name of God, the Most Mighty! Glorified…

In the name of God, the Most Mighty! Glorified art Thou, O my God, O my Beloved and my Hope! I call upon Thee at this moment when I have detached myself from all that hath been created between earth and heaven, and have turned my face toward Thy Most Exalted Countenance in Thy Later Manifestation through the Most Glorious Manifestation of Thyself.

Wherefore, O my God, behold this poor one who hath clung to the cord of Thy riches, and this thirsty one who hath hastened to the Kawthar of Thy knowledge, and this needy one who hath laid hold on the hem of Thy bounty, and this evanescent one who desireth to enter the stronghold of Thy eternity and drink from the Tasnim of Thy providence and soar in the atmosphere of yearning for Thee and ascend unto the heaven of union with Thee and meeting Thee.

Therefore, O my Beloved, deprive me not, through Thy grace and favor, of the fruits of the Most Glorious Paradise, and shut me not out, through Thy generosity and bounty, from the Gate which hath been opened before the faces of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

There is no God but Thee, the Self-Sufficient, the Bountiful, the Most High, the Compassionate, the Forgiver, the Merciful, the All-Giving. Praise be to God, the Most Exalted King.

BH07678: Glory to Thee, O my God! The first stirrings…

Glory to Thee, O my God! The first stirrings of the spring of Thy grace have appeared and clothed Thine earth with verdure. The clouds of the heaven of Thy bounty have rained their rain on this City within whose walls is imprisoned Him Whose desire is the salvation of Thy creatures. Through it the soil of this City hath been decked forth, and its trees clothed with foliage, and its inhabitants gladdened.

The hearts of Thy dear ones, however, will rejoice only at the Divine Springtime of Thy tender mercies, whereby the hearts are quickened, and the souls are renewed, and the trees of human existence bear their fruits.

The plants that have sprung forth, O my Lord, in the hearts of Thy loved ones have withered away. Send down upon them, from the clouds of Thy spirit, that which will cause the tender herbs of Thy knowledge and wisdom to grow within their breasts. Rejoice, then, their hearts with the proclamation of Thy Cause and the exaltation of Thy sovereignty.

Their eyes, O my Lord, are expectantly turned in the direction of Thy bounty, and their faces are set towards the horizon of Thy grace. Suffer them not, through Thy bounty, to be deprived of Thy grace. Potent art Thou, by Thy sovereign might, over all things. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

BH07699: God beareth witness that there is none other God…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy

God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him, the rightful Sovereign. The heaven praiseth Him through its loftiness, the earth through its motion, the sun through its radiance, the stars through their light, the trees through their fruits, the seas through their waves, the winds through their blowing, and the waters through their flowing. He giveth life and causeth death, then causeth death and giveth life. He is the unknowable Sovereign and the incomprehensible King. In His grasp lies the kingdom of all things. There is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Exalted, the Glorious, the All-Merciful.

Thou must bear witness unto that which God hath witnessed, and pay no heed to those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Lord of names and attributes. He preserveth whomsoever He willeth through His sovereignty, and within His grasp lies the kingdom of might and power. No vision can grasp Him, but He graspeth all vision, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in the Book. And praise be to God, the King, the Mighty, the Most Exalted.

BH07700: God testifieth that there is none other God but…

He is the Almighty

God testifieth that there is none other God but Him. His is the might and the majesty, His the greatness and the glory, His the loftiness and the independence. All were created by His command and all act by His command. With Him is the knowledge of the unseen in the heavens and earth, and the knowledge of what was and what will be.

And thou, O letter Ayn, forget not My love for thee and My affection towards thee, and be not of those who have broken God's covenant and His testament and who fall short in God's religion. Remind God's servants of pure fear of God such that nothing distracts them from the remembrance of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Then remind from Us thy brethren not to let any matter block them from the paths of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

And blessings be upon thee and upon them and upon she who was in thy house and upon all the women and men.

BH07713: God beareth witness that there is none other God…

God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Bountiful. God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him, the All-Conquering, the Almighty. His is generosity and grace, and His are mercy and justice, and He encompasseth all things.

Say: He it is Who giveth life and causeth death, then causeth death and giveth life; and verily He is the Ever-Living Who dieth not, and the Manifest One Who hideth not. And verily He encompasseth all things and is wise, all-knowing, and aware, wise and powerful. And unto God belongeth the creation of the heavens and earth; He createth what He willeth by His command, more swiftly than the light returneth to its source.

This is a Book from God, the Mighty, the Single, the Exalted, the Holy, the Most Great, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Omnipotent, the All-Knowing, unto those who have believed in God and His signs and His Messengers and His angels, and were among the guided ones.

O people!

Be steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, and when verses are sent down unto you, be not ye among the proud ones.

BH07745: We have heard that which thou didst call upon…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High

We have heard that which thou didst call upon God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. By God! Through His remembrance are quickened the hearts of them that have known Him, and through it are severed from all that hath been created between the heavens and earth the souls of those whom the overpowering raptures of longing have seized.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name which Thou hast made the Sovereign of all names, and whereby the pillars of the lands were shaken and the hearts of Thy doubting servants were thunderstruck, that Thou sever me from whatsoever can be called a thing, and cause me to stand firm in exalting Thy Word and raising the standards of Thy remembrance and knowledge amongst Thy creatures. By Thy glory, O my Beloved! I find no bounty greater than this today, nor any glory mightier than this. Therefore make me to speak Thy praise, then to celebrate Thy remembrance, then kindle me with the fire wherewith the hearts of Thy creation and the slumbering ones among Thy creatures are set ablaze, that all may arise to fulfill that which Thou hast commanded them in the Tablets of Thy decree and the Scrolls of Thine irrevocable judgment.

Verily Thou art the Almighty, the Exalted, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

BH07769: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing! The breezes of grace have at this moment wafted from the direction of a mighty throne. Turn thyself wholly unto them, that they may cleanse thee from the malady of them that doubt, and sanctify thee from the hints of those who have disbelieved, and render thee pure for the sake of thy Beloved, the Mighty, the Peerless.

Trust in God, then detach thyself from all else but Him, then through Him find thyself independent of all the worlds. Verily He loveth those who have loved Him, and aideth them who have voiced His praise amidst His slumbering servants.

Say: Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, desireth to draw you nigh unto Him, yet you flee from Him. What aileth you, O heedless ones! You have slept through most of your days. Wherefore awaken ye, then behold the Most Great Scene, the Spot wherein shineth forth the countenance of God, the Exalted, the All-Wise.

Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth, that thou mayest remind those upon whose faces thou perceivest the radiance of divine bounty and glory. Upon thee, and upon them who have attained unto the recognition of God, the Sovereign, the Just, the Bestowing, the Forgiving, the Merciful, be praise unto God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH07836: God's gaze is ever fixed upon His servants…

He is God!

God's gaze is ever fixed upon His servants, and were He to withdraw that glance of favor from the earth and all who dwell thereon for less than that, all would assuredly return to nothingness. However, in this day it is beloved that the loved ones of God should appear among His servants with spiritual qualities, that from every soul the sweet fragrances of the dwellers of all worlds might be inhaled. Those who claim to love must show proof. Not all that is uttered by the tongue finds acceptance at the threshold of the All-Merciful. Today deeds take precedence over words. Therefore strive that praiseworthy actions may be manifested from all your limbs. If someone claims to be of the divine paradise, that claim alone does not prove it, rather those endowed with spiritual perception must inhale. If they detect the fragrances of the gardens, it will be accepted; otherwise it is rejected. O my brothers! The shrill voice of the Supreme Pen is far more distinct and excellent than the buzzing of flies.

BH07860: This is the Book of God which hath been…

He is the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy

This is the Book of God which hath been sent down in truth, yet most people perceive not. Therein doth God command you to practice righteousness and piety, and forbiddeth you from transgression and indecency, would that ye might understand. There hath come before Us what thou didst compose of elegant and eloquent words, and God will surely reward thee with the most excellent reward from His presence, for He is verily the Bestower, the Beloved. If thou wouldst turn with thy whole being to this luminous and beloved Beauty, God would cause to flow from thy tongue that which hath never occurred to the hearts of those who compose verses day after day. Arise to serve God, thy Lord, and fear no one. Be thou in praiseworthy love, and should thou see anyone who beareth enmity toward Me, avoid him even if he be thine own eye. Thus doth the Ancient Beauty command thee, if thou be of them that understand. Then convey Our remembrance unto those who are with thee and give them the glad-tidings of a holy and inaccessible paradise.

BH07861: He is the Mighty! This is a noble Book…

He is the Mighty! This is a noble Book sent down from the presence of God, the Most High, the Supreme. Verily it is from the Sovereign, and verily it is in the Name of God, the Most Invincible, the Most Holy, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Be thou not perturbed when there cometh to thee a matter at which every lofty and towering mountain would crumble, and the heavens and earths would be cleft asunder. Say: By God! He hath appeared with the truth with manifest sovereignty and speaketh with the truth that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Transcendent, the Invincible, the Inaccessible.

Then know thou that We have answered thee before and made mention of thee in holy and preserved Tablets, that thou mayest rejoice in thy innermost being and be detached from the worlds in such wise that nothing shall prevent thee from entering this Sanctuary round which circle the hearts of them that are nigh unto God. And We have sent unto thee that which shall solace thine eyes and the eyes of them that profess the unity of God. And praise be to God, the King, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Praised.

A shirt hath been sent that thou mayest inhale from it the fragrance of God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling.

BH07864: This is a letter from the servant…

In the name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous!

This is a letter from the servant to a handmaiden among the handmaidens of God.

Associate not anything with God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Remember Him at all times, for by His remembrance hearts are illumined. Verily, they who are heedless of His remembrance are in a mighty veil, while they who remember Him dwell in the gardens of delight.

Soon shall the world pass away, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Single, the One, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Take heed lest the world occupy thee from God, thy Beloved and the Beloved of all worlds.

Hold fast to the cord of thy Lord's grace, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. He verily sufficeth thee in truth and guardeth thee from the harm of the idolaters. In His hand is the kingdom of might and power—He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth, and He is powerful over all things.

And mercy be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who have believed in God, their Lord and the Lord of all creation. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH07865: This is a Book from God to her who…

He is God!

This is a Book from God to her who hath believed in her Lord and was among the devout ones.

Worship none but God, and purify thy heart from the intimations of those who disbelieved in God when He came with the Kingdom of signs. Rejoice thou in the gladness of the Cause, and be devoted to this Most Great Remembrance through Whose command the names and attributes were created. Grieve not for him who hath ascended unto God, and be content with God thy Lord. Verily He is with His remembering handmaidens.

Turn thy face toward Him Who created the earth and the heavens. Find solace in the remembrance of God, for through His remembrance sorrows are lifted and mercy and joy descend from all directions. Blessed is the handmaiden who hath held fast to the Most Great Handle and hath detached herself from the world and all that is therein out of love for God, the Manifest One of clear signs.

And upon thee, O handmaiden of God, and upon His submissive handmaidens rest the Spirit, O thou who belongeth to God, the Lord of the Cause, the One possessed of grandeur and power.

BH07866: He is the Most High, the Most Great! This…

He is the Most High, the Most Great! This is a Book from God wherein is mentioned that which guideth the people unto His All-Knowing, All-Wise Self.

O servant! Detach thyself from the world, then ascend unto God with mighty submissiveness. Say: God hath ever been more knowing than everyone possessed of knowledge. He knoweth whatsoever moveth upon the earth and ascendeth unto heaven. There is no God but Him, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: He hath made all things the treasuries of His contingent knowledge, and none hath comprehended it save His Own Experienced Self, and then those who have been given penetrating vision—these comprehend according to their capacity. There is no God but Him, [the Ordainer], the All-Seeing.

And the knowledge which pertaineth to His Essence is confined to His Own Self, and none among the peoples of the heavens and the earth hath comprehended His knowledge. Therefore testify within thyself that there is no God but Him, and that He Who appeared with the name of Husayn before ʿAli was a manifestation of His Self and His sovereignty unto all the worlds.

BH07870: This is a Book from the Compassionate, the Merciful…

In the Name of the Most Exalted

This is a Book from the Compassionate, the Merciful, unto him who hath believed in God, the Single, the One, the Mighty, the Powerful. Say: O people! We desire to offer up Our life in the path of God, though ye be of them that detest it. Say: We bear tribulations in the path of Baha through God's might and power, and We thank Him for this supreme bounty. Say: Blessed is the dust that is reddened with this blood out of love for God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment.

Know thou that We have found in thee the love of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. We have therefore sent down unto thee this Tablet that thou mayest thank thy Lord, the Most High, the All-Knowing. Arise to teach God's Cause among His heedless servants. Whosoever teacheth, verily the Spirit will aid him at all times. Thus hast thou been commanded from the presence of One knowing, wise. And

the Glory be upon thee and upon thy wife and upon her two sisters, from God, the Lord of all that is seen and unseen, and the Lord of all creation.

BH07871: This is a Tablet from the Spirit unto…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great!

This is a Tablet from the Spirit unto the handmaiden of God who hath believed in her Lord and was numbered among the devout ones in the Tablets. Blessed art thou, O My handmaiden, for having turned unto a Spot that was hidden from the eyes of the world and for having recognized the Manifestation of God's Self after most men were deprived thereof. Know thou that every woman who hath believed in God and purified her soul is better than a thousand men who have disbelieved in God and were remote from the paradise of nearness. Thy son, who hath been honored to attain the presence of God time and again and who hath been seized by the breathings of the days which were recorded in all the Tablets by the Pen of God, hath appeared before Us. Grieve thou not over anything, but place thy trust in all matters in God, for verily He is thy guardian.

And the glory be upon thee and upon him who hath taken the All-Merciful as his helper.

BH07873: In the Name of God, the Most High…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted! This is a Tablet from the Prisoner to him who hath been illumined by the lights of the Countenance and hath believed in God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, and who hath entered the prison and attained the presence of God, his Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Thus hath been ordained for him a station of glorious honor from God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Wise, that he may be steadfast in the Cause of God and walk this straight path.

Know thou that Our name "the Guide" hath appeared before the Countenance and beseeched God that He send down verses unto thee. Thus have they been sent down in truth that thou mayest be kindled with the fire of thy Lord's love, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Forget not God's favor, for His favor upon thee is great indeed. He hath created thee in truth and caused thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self and made thee among the sincere ones.

Meet with My loved ones and unite with them in My love, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. Thus have We commanded thee in truth that thou mayest be among those who act.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among Our believing servants.

BH07874: This is a Book sent down in truth…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and all-knowing unto her who hath believed in her Lord and hath attained unto the knowledge of God on a momentous day.

O handmaiden of God!

Thy name hath been mentioned before the Divine Countenance, and there hath been revealed for thee that which will gladden thy heart, and this is indeed a great favor. Follow thou the Spirit in His days, and He will suffice thee above all the peoples. We have ordained in the Tablets for Our steadfast handmaidens a magnificent reward.

Grieve not for what hath befallen thee in the path of God, for He will soon seize the wrong-doers with His might, and He hath power over all things. Verily My handmaidens are the leaves of the Tree of My good-pleasure; it behooveth them to be stirred by the winds of My will. Thus hath it been ordained in a preserved Tablet.

The glory be upon thee and upon him who hath taken the All-Merciful as his friend. Then the Spirit be upon thy daughter who hath believed in God, her Lord, and hath chosen for herself a path unto Him.

BH07968: O Majid! That which you addressed to God, your…

He is the Mighty!

O Majid! That which you addressed to God, your Lord, has come before Us, and We have answered you with this Tablet as a mercy from Us upon you and upon the sincere ones. We beseech God to aid you to attain His love and good-pleasure, and to ordain for you companionship with His Most Glorious Beauty in the highest companionship. Verily, He is powerful over whatsoever He willeth.

O Mihman! Be not grieved at anything, but put thy trust in God and remember Him at eventide and at dawn.

O Badr! Be as a full moon in the love of God, that the handmaidens who are steadfast may be illumined by thee.

O Khadijih! Grieve not over what Our servant Muhsin hath done, for verily thy Lord is with thee at all times. She who hath found intimacy with her Lord, it behooveth her to cut herself off from intimacy with all else. Nevertheless, We beseech God that He may cause him to return unto thee in humility and repentance. Verily, He is wise in whatsoever He willeth. And the glory be upon you all.

BH08141: Do ye imagine, O people of the Bayan…

Do ye imagine, O people of the Bayan and all who are on earth, that ye have believed in God and will not be tested thereafter? Nay, God will surely test you through His Cause that He may distinguish those who are upon truth from God's presence and are steadfast in God's religion. God shall soon annihilate your bodies and erase your traces and your names and all that ye have pursued and gathered unto yourselves and stored in your houses, and shall return you on the Day when the Sovereign of Eternity shall come with manifest dominion. Then shall ye recognize all that ye have wrought in your days and shall say:

> "Woe unto us for what we have clung to and for having turned away from the Lord of all worlds!"

But neither regret nor remorse shall profit you, O heedless people!

Fear God, then hear My word, then turn to God with sublime turning and repent unto Him, then entrust your affairs to His sovereignty and rely upon Him, and be of those who trust in Him. And say at all times:

> "We have entrusted all affairs unto Thee, for Thou art the Lord of all worlds."

BH08003: Hear what is revealed unto thee from the holy…

In the name of the All-Glorious One!

Hear what is revealed unto thee from the holy sanctuary by thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

Say: Verily, in this moment He calleth aloud from the Most Glorious Horizon betwixt earth and heaven unto all beings, declaring: By God! This is the Lord of the Last and the First! Say: He speaketh not out of desire, if ye be of them that understand. Say: Even were He to speak from desire, it behooveth you not to object to Him, O ye possessed of insight, for in His desire is seen naught save the desire of God, your Best-Beloved, the Most High, the Most Glorious, and in His Self naught save the Self of God, the Lord of the seen and the unseen.

Joy be unto thee, O servant, in that thou hast ascended unto the Sadratu'l-Muntaha and attained the ultimate goal, which is none other than the recognition of God in the Manifestation of His Self, Who hath come yet again. And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath believed and been guided.

BH08035: In the Name of God, the Most Manifest! Hearken…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest! Hearken unto the Call of God from the direction of Paradise. By God! Whosoever heareth it but once with the ear of innate nature shall be quickened once again with the spirit of eternity through the breathings of the Word of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

Stop thine ear from the call of them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, then turn thy face toward the melodies of God, the Mighty, the Bestower. Be thou steadfast among the people in thy love for God such that they may witness from thy countenance the radiance of the All-Merciful, from thy heart the stirring of the Divine Lote-Tree, and from thy spirit eagerness and attraction.

Say: Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having cut me off from all else but Thee and made known unto me that which caused the realities of them who disbelieved and associated partners with God to be perturbed, and guided me to Thy Most Exalted, Most High, Most Glorious Self. There is no God but Thee, the Powerful. Glory and splendor be upon Thee and upon them who have drunk the water of life from the hand of the Youth.

BH08051: O loved ones of God! The winds of tests…

He is the Mighty, the Beloved!

O loved ones of God! The winds of tests have blown upon you from the direction of your Lord, the All-Merciful, in the year of shidad—and this is what We have informed you of in all the Tablets, and you

know it. Blessed is he whom the winds did not move and who remained steadfast in the Cause. By God! They are honored servants upon whom the denizens of the Supreme Concourse shower their blessings, and for whom the people of Paradise pray morning and evening. Those who have wronged—they are the ones who sleep. By God! Were they to arise from the slumber of passion, they would lament and weep for their own souls. And you—do not grieve over anything, but trust in Him in all matters. There is nothing but that its treasuries are with Him, and He sends down upon whomsoever He wishes according to a measured decree. And the Spirit be upon you and upon those servants who are ever mindful of God's remembrance. And praise be to the Praiseworthy Lord.

BH08052: Hearken unto the call of Him Who summoneth thee…

He is the Almighty, the Eternal

Hearken unto the call of Him Who summoneth thee from this Prison which lieth beyond a thousand towering mountains, which the hands of the ungodly and the believers can never reach, and which God hath made forbidden unto these two peoples. Find thou solace in the remembrance of God, then content thyself with Him alone and consort not with any rebellious satan. Remember thou My days, then My exile and My grief, then My banishment and My tribulation, then My sorrow and My trials at morn and at eventide. Stand thou firm then in thy love at the time when the breezes of hatred waft upon thee from every sinful misbeliever, in such wise that thy feet shall not slip even should all the small and the great unite against thee.

The Spirit be upon thee and upon those who walk with thee upon a straight path.

BH08053: In the Most Wondrous, Most Wondrous Name of God!

In the Most Wondrous, Most Wondrous Name of God!

O My handmaiden, detach thyself from all else besides Me, then soar in the atmosphere of My nearness, that thou mayest witness the heaven of My majesty and the kingdom of My grandeur, and visit the House of My remembrance and the Kaaba of My knowledge, and behold My lights from the horizon of My appearance and My beauty, and journey through the realms of My holiness and the domains of My greatness and the heaven of My might and the pavilions of My glory and My splendor and the sanctuary of My mysteries and the tent of My grace and favor and the tabernacles of My power and sovereignty.

Thus hath warbled the Dove of My Cause upon the Lote-Tree of My will and wisdom and purpose. Blessed is he who is attracted by that which hath been sent down from the heaven of My mercy and the atmosphere of My bounty upon all worlds.

And peace be upon thee and upon whosoever hath purified himself from all else save Me and hath turned with his heart toward My face, the dawning-place, the mighty, the holy, the exalted, the wondrous, the luminous.

BH08055: O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy

O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call of Him Who summoneth thee to God, the Mighty, the Powerful. Then rejoice in that thou hast been mentioned by the Pen of Command—and this, verily, is a great bounty. Detach thyself from the world, then make mention of thy Lord, the Most High, the All-Bountiful. There is no Beloved except Him, and no One to be remembered save His Own Self, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Every goodly mention returneth unto Him, and verily He is the Answerer of the prayers of those who are in distress. No praise riseth unto Him save the praise of Him Who is sanctified from the praise of all the worlds, and naught ascendeth unto Him except a goodly word. Thus hath the matter been decreed in a preserved Tablet. Free thyself from all things and turn thy face toward Him with an illumined heart. Thus have We commanded thee on this night, as a remembrance from One Who is mighty and wise. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon such handmaidens as God hath purified from the deeds of the ungodly.

BH08056: O Baqir, bear witness within yourself that there…

He is the Almighty

O Baqir, bear witness within yourself that there is no God but Him and that Ali is His servant and His beauty and His radiance unto all who are on earth. God hath made him the throne of His manifestation and the seat of His concealment, that all may testify within themselves that He hath power over all things.

O servant! Give thanks unto God for having caused thee to know His Self and bestowed upon thee the knowledge of His Cause and made thee to be numbered among those who are guided, as recorded in the Mother Book.

Beware lest thou waver when the winds blow from near and far. Be steadfast in thy love for thy Lord and turn thy heart toward the holy and resplendent Beauty. Thus doth the Dove counsel thee and inspire thee with that which will gladden thy soul, if thou be possessed of insight.

Then convey Our remembrance to all who have believed in God and His signs and who are well-pleased in God’s religion.

BH08060: O Abdullah!

O Abdullah!

Hearken to My call, then be attracted by My melodies, then ascend with thy heart unto My heaven, then mention Me with My tongue, then rejoice in that which passeth over thee from before My throne, then grieve for that which hath befallen My beauty from My loved ones and My enemies, then drink the cup of holiness from the hands of My mercy, then occupy thyself with My praise, then be severed from all else save Me, then assist My Cause.

Therefore keep My counsel and remember the days of meeting Me and attaining My presence and My nearness and My manifestation and My effulgence.

Thus have We sent unto thee from the essence of utterance and the Pen the musk of wisdom and meanings that thou mayest find therefrom the fragrance of the All-Merciful and be attracted to the throne of certitude.

Blessed art thou, O thou who art mentioned by the Pen of holiness in this inscribed Tablet and remembered in the holy presence, the seat of God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Praising.

BH08102: Verily I am God! There is no God but…

Verily I am God! There is no God but Me, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. Verily I am God! There is no God but Me, the Sovereign, the Most Great.

Verily I am He Who created all beings through My command and brought all contingent things into existence through My grace, and I am the Almighty over whatsoever I desire, and I am the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Through My command did the sun shine forth from the horizon of heaven, and the Nightingale of Holiness sang out that this is the Beauty of God in the human realm of beginning, and the Manifestation of God in the heavenly kingdom on high, and the Concealment of God in the realm of might and immortality, and the Essence of Eternity in this radiant, snow-white garment.

Thus have I been from the beginning of every beginning—God the Single, the One, the Unique, the Self-Subsisting, the Everlasting, the Ever-Abiding, the Ever-Living, the All-Willing, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Self-Sufficient. And I shall ever remain the Sovereign, the King, the Judge, the All-Knowing, the Omnipotent—from all eternity unto all eternity, Ever-Living, Ever-Abiding, Ever-Existing, the One Worshipped.

BH08157: These are the verses of the Spirit sent down…

He is the Mighty.

These are the verses of the Spirit sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and powerful. They speak the truth in the kingdom of command and creation, and call the people to the holy and exalted Ridvan.

O servant! Grieve not over anything, fear no one, and pay no heed to any sinful deceiver. Then turn to God thy Lord, detach thyself from those in whom thou perceivest the stench of death, avoid them and draw nigh unto a holy and luminous seat.

Know thou that We have not forgotten thee and make mention of thee now, that thou mayest rejoice in thy soul and be filled with great gladness. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whosoever hath turned toward the court of sublime glory.

Then make mention from Us to thy brother and give him glad tidings of a mighty and glorious station.

BH08158: These are the verses of God, the King…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

These are the verses of God, the King, the True, the Manifest, which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of ancient glory. O youth! Hear My call, for verily He is none other than the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Grieve not for thy father. He hath ascended unto God and attained a station from which the hands of the idolaters are cut off. He hath then taken up his seat in the Most Glorious Paradise, a sacred and generous station. Blessed art thou, inasmuch as God hath brought thee forth from his loins and guided thee through His grace and confirmed thee in this Cause whereby the feet of those who deemed themselves the most exalted among men have slipped when the Truth came unto them with manifest sovereignty. Thus doth God reveal that which is hidden in the breasts, for He hath power over all things. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy mother and upon those who have held fast to this firm and mighty handle.

BH08177: In this most manifest, wondrous and impregnable Revelation, We…

He is God

In this most manifest, wondrous and impregnable Revelation, We have forbidden all the servants of God from murder, corruption, tyranny and enmity, and all have been commanded to wisdom and utterance. Nevertheless, some have transgressed the divine bounds and have defiled the fortress of divine commands and prohibitions with the clay of their carnal desires. The deed of one ignorant one has caused all corruption to be attributed to this Wronged One by its perpetrators. And afterwards, such anxiety overwhelmed the assured souls that they became utterly deprived of the breaths of the Lord of Lords. Perhaps other breezes will waft from the direction of the All-Merciful and bestow new life upon the dead. In any case, transgression of divine bounds has been and will be the cause of loss in this world and the next.

BH08182: In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Inaccessible! God makes mention of one of His loved ones, that he may stand firm in the Cause of his Lord and soar on the wings of detachment to the atmosphere of transcendent glory, and that he may sever himself from those who have disbelieved and turn with his heart toward the seat of resplendent glory.

O Salih, blessed art thou inasmuch as thou hast recognized the Manifestation of the Self of thy Lord and hast held fast unto that handle which God hath made the link between Him and His creation. Verily, He is powerful over all things.

Fear God, then turn thy face toward the Most Holy, the Most Great. Say: O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Most Perfect Name not to leave me cast down at the seat of self and desire. Then cause me to ascend, through Thy bounty, to the heaven of immortality that I may attain, through Thy grace, to such a station wherein I speak naught except Thy remembrance and move not save through Thy love and good-pleasure. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Supreme, the Glorious, the All-Forgiving.

BH08233: Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses…

He is God, the Most Manifest, the Most Manifest!

Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses with truth, and verily He hath power over all things. The thunder praiseth Him in fear, and the heavens tremble in awe of Him, and the winds are subdued by His command. There is no God but Him, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. Before Him prostrate themselves all who are in the heavens and the earth, and all who are in the kingdoms of Command and Creation. He ordereth what He pleaseth for whom He pleaseth, and taketh away what He pleaseth from whom He pleaseth. Verily He is severe in chastisement and great in bounty. There is no God but Him, and verily He is mighty in power. O servant! Arise and glorify thy Lord in the depths of the oceans of divine knowledge, then remember Him at eventide and at dawn. Thus doth the Manifestation of God's Self command thee in this Dayspring which hath shone forth from the horizon of this Beauty. And praise be to the Self of the Beloved, the One possessed of power and might.

BH08238: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by that Name through which Thou didst rend asunder the veils of all created things and burn away the coverings of all beings, and by which the birds of the hearts of the sincere ones soared to the atmosphere of Thy nearness and meeting, and the breasts of them that are nigh unto Thee were set ablaze with the fire of Thy love and yearning, that Thou mayest cause me to be detached from all else save Thee and enable me to attain unto the station wherein I may tear apart the veils that have come between me and the lights of Thy Most Glorious and Most Exalted Countenance.

O Thou by Whose command the Supreme Pen moveth upon the tablets of destiny and through Whose will the decree of fate appeareth in the kingdom of creation! I moreover beseech Thee, O my God, that Thou cast me not out, deprived, from the gate of Thy grace, nor exclude me from the outpourings of the clouds of Thy mercy. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Forgiving.

All praise be unto Thee, O Thou Who art the Beloved of the hearts of the righteous ones!

BH08284: God beareth witness that there is none other God…

God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him, and that the Point of the Bayan is His servant and His splendor, and that the guides of the Living One are the Letters of His Self, and all are created by His command.

O Abraham!

The Wronged One loveth him who hath loved Him, and desireth him who hath desired Him; nay, He loveth the world by virtue of its connection to the word that must be obeyed. However, the people of idle fancy have come between Me and those who desired to attain the presence and meeting. They speak

according to their vain imaginings that which the ancients never uttered, and thus hath appeared the decree of prohibition.

We beseech God to assist thee in that which He loveth and approveth, and to ordain for thee the good of the hereafter and of this world, and to write down for thee from His Most Exalted Pen that which shall profit thee. Verily He knoweth what is with Us while We know not what is with Him, and He is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

We send greetings from this station upon thee and upon God's righteous and sincere servants. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH08309: Glorified art Thou, O my God, my Lord, my…

He is the Eternal

Glorified art Thou, O my God, my Lord, my Hope, my Shelter, my Refuge, my Dwelling-place, my Abode, my Glory, my Abasement, then my Ease, my Hardship, then my Wealth and my Poverty!

I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thy sovereignty was exalted, Thy grandeur elevated, and Thy power raised above all who are in the heavens and the earth, to assist those who have recognized none but Thee, who have turned to none except Thee, and who have clung to none other than Thee. Verily, Thou art the Answerer of the distressed and the Helper of the poor.

Then I beseech Thee, O my God, by the wonders of Thy names and the beauty of Thy attributes, to make this servant among those who tread no path except the path of Thy good-pleasure and who walk only in the footsteps of Thy contentment. Verily, Thou art the Fulfiller of the needs of the seekers, and Thou art powerful over all things.

BH08373: Say: The Book of God hath appeared and His…

Say: The Book of God hath appeared and His proof hath come, and His beauty hath dawned, and His light hath shone forth, and His evidence hath been perfected, and His balance hath been set up, and His countenance hath become manifest, and His splendor hath been revealed, and His face hath been illumined between the heavens and the earth. And verily He is possessed of mighty sovereignty.

His is the command and the creation. He quickeneth whom He willeth and causeth to die whom He willeth, and manifesteth whom He willeth through a sovereignty of might transcendent and a dominion of ancient and bountiful holiness.

Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses in truth as He sent them down before and before that, and verily He doth encompass all the worlds. And He shall manifest the Cause as He willeth through His grace, even as He manifested it before and before that, and verily He hath power over a mighty and wondrous sovereignty and a dominion of transcendent glory.

Thus do We cast upon all created things the verses of Divine unity. 152

BH08460: This is a Book of holiness in this Paradise…

This is a Book of holiness in this Paradise which hath been sent down by God's leave. God hath made it from His presence a proof, and from His realm a testimony unto all creation.

O Muhammad!

Bear thou witness within thyself to that which the Most Exalted Pen doth testify in the Most Glorious Paradise, that there is none other God but Him, and that ʿAli is His light and His splendor between the heavens and the earth.

Thus hath the promise been fulfilled and the decree hath been inscribed by this Hand which hath emerged from behind the veils of light and hath seized all created things with the sovereignty of might with a mighty seizure, then doth He extend it unto whomsoever He willeth through His grace, and thus hath the decree been recorded in the Tablet.

Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having sent down unto thee the verses through divine nature that He might cause all worlds to be fashioned according to the nature of God.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee in an exalted station of glory.

BH08463: This is a letter from one servant to another…

He is the Most Manifest Beloved

This is a letter from one servant to another servant that he might be stirred by what hath been revealed therein and be numbered among the steadfast. Blessed is he who is stirred by the breezes of God's Will which come at every moment and awaken those servants who sleep upon their couches. Say: These are His signs, were ye of those who know. Verily those who have taken for themselves a friend other than God—these are the heedless ones and shall be numbered among the dead. Say: The Youth is like none among you. He is the One for Whose presence the denizens of the highest Paradise yearn and by Whose melodies the hearts of the mystics are entranced. O servant! Find solace in the remembrance of thy Lord, for through His remembrance mercy descendeth upon His servants, and verily His mercy hath preceded all worlds. Thus have We imparted this unto thee in this Prison that it might be a sign from Us unto thee and unto God's assured servants.

BH08471: This is a letter from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding, the Everlasting!

This is a letter from the Prisoner to him who hath chosen for himself a path unto God and believed in the Manifestation of His Self in these days wherein most of the servants remain veiled from Him, save those who have quaffed the Kawthar of divine favor and have detached themselves entirely from every remote idolater.

O servant! Take thou the chalice of eternity in My Most Glorious Name, then drink what hath been ordained therein, and tarry not even for a moment. Thus have We addressed thee and commanded thee in truth, and He is, verily, over all things wise.

Follow thou the ways of God, then cast behind thee the ways of men. This, verily, is My bidding unto thee and unto every sincere soul. And the glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath heard the call of God and hath answered it with a pure heart and an eloquent tongue, and hath turned toward the Dayspring of the Cause with a sanctified soul.

BH08473: This is a Book sent down in truth…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous!

This is a Book sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and powerful. Verily it is the Greatest Cause among all created things, and through it the fire is kindled in the breasts of the righteous, and the Dove of Utterance warbleth upon the branches of the Chosen Lote-Tree with wondrous melodies.

Arise thou to the Cause of God amongst His servants, then remind them of this Mystery which was inscribed in the Mother Book as something momentous.

Say: O people! This is He Whose meeting ye were promised. He hath come from the heaven of the Cause with holy adorning. Fear God and follow not every ungrateful tyrant. Turn ye unto Him, O people, with pure hearts and shining faces. Stand firm in the Cause, then leave behind thee the mention of all the peoples.

And upon thee be the glory from this Glory which hath shone forth from the Dayspring of the Cause with brilliant lights.

BH08475: This is a Tablet from Us to him who…

In the name of God, the Ever-Abiding.

This is a Tablet from Us to him who hath believed and been guided, and hath attained unto the recognition of God, the Lord of the former and latter worlds. Therein hath been revealed from the Most Exalted Pen that which will draw him unto God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Most Glorious.

O servant! Detach thyself from self and desire, and incline with the ear of thine inmost heart unto that which the Dove warbleth upon the twigs of the Divine Lote-Tree, that thou mayest be among those who have heard the verses of their Lord, the Most Great, from the direction wherein was established the Most Great Name and wherein He shed His radiance upon all who are in the heavens and the earth and beneath the soil.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause and turn thy heart at all times unto God, the Lord of the visible and invisible. And the glory rest upon thee and upon him who hath turned unto God and detached himself from him who disbelieved and turned away.

BH08480: He is the Hidden One! This is a leaf…

He is the Hidden One! This is a leaf We have sent unto thee. Verily, at all times it singeth within itself that there is none other God but Him, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting. Were all created things to hear its melodies, they would surely detach themselves from whatsoever they possess and draw nigh unto a praiseworthy station.

Say: O people! This is the servant of God in your midst who calleth you unto everlasting life, yet ye slay His loved ones. What aileth you that ye understand not? We summon you unto the light in this Revelation, yet ye burn Our loved ones with fire. What aileth you that ye perceive not?

As to thee, be thou assured through thy Lord's grace, then seek His help, for He assisteth whomsoever He willeth through the hosts of the unseen. He, verily, is the Truth, the Knower of things invisible. Ere long He shall send down upon His loved ones that which shall make them victorious over all things, and after they have been overcome they shall triumph.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are turned towards God.

BH08751: I hope that thou art occupied with the sweet…

I hope that thou art occupied with the sweet fragrances of the love of the Beloved and the breezes of attraction to the countenance of the Desired One, having transcended the world and all who dwell therein and hastened to the realm of placelessness. For whatsoever is other than the remembrance and love of the Beloved Lord is but a passing shadow and a vanishing phantom, possessing no stability. The divine wisdom in the creation of these ephemeral ornaments hath been that strangers might become occupied with these worthless adornments and thus remain deprived and veiled from the beauty of the Friend. All that existeth in the world of dominion and the kingdom is but a reflection and shadow of the hidden divine realms, yet the heedless ones hunt after and seek these shadows and reflections. Thus do they hasten for a hundred thousand years, only to return at last in despair to the dust.

BH08672: O Beauty of the Ancient Days! Remind the servants…

In His Name, the All-Glorious, the All-Glorious!

O Beauty of the Ancient Days! Remind the servants of what hath been sent down from the heaven of grace and power, that they may remain steadfast in Thy love in such wise that the oppression of the tyrants may not shake them in these days wherein the Worshipped One hath come and the faces of the wicked have been darkened. Arise and say: O people! Fear not those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God while walking in His path. Rather, sacrifice yourselves in His path with joy and free will. Say: whosoever desires to protect himself, let him read this verse at night and at morn:

> "O God, my God, I ask Thee by Thy name whereby Thou didst protect Abraham from the fire and Moses from Pharaoh and Baha from Yahya, to guard me from the wicked ones among Thy creatures. Thou, verily, art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Forgiving."

BH08674: O Hasan!

In His Name, He is the Most Holy, the Most Holy!

O Hasan!

Grieve not over anything, but be content with whatsoever God hath ordained for thee, for He ordaineth for His servants only that which causeth them to remember His remembrance, the Inaccessible, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

Call thou to mind the days when thou wert in Our presence, and We were revealing unto thee, at every moment, the verses of God, the Mighty, the Invincible. Beware lest thou forget the favor of thy Lord. Arise to make mention of Him and to praise Him amongst all created things.

Take heed lest thou forget what We counseled thee when thou wert in Our presence, for it is better for thee than all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth. Show kindness unto those whom God hath made thy kindred, then do that which the God-fearing servants of God would love. Thus have We commanded thee that thou mayest be of those who act.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee and upon God's sincere servants.

BH08675: O David!

In the Name of the Most Glorious!

O David!

We have made thee one who mentioneth Our Name in the earth. Remember thy Lord in the evening and at dawn. Cast the Most Great Remembrance upon thyself and upon the souls of the servants. Thus hath the decree shone forth from the horizon of the Will of the Lord of all horizons.

Cast aside all created things and take what hath been sent down from the presence of the Sovereign of Names and Attributes. Shun the hypocrites who have denied God and taken the calf as their lord instead of God. Their efforts have gone astray and they are among the people of discord.

The glory from before the Glory be upon thee and upon thy wife and thy sister and upon those with thee who have believed in God in these days wherein leg is entwined with leg. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH08676: O messenger! Hear My call at all times…

He is the One in truth!

O messenger! Hear My call at all times, that verily there is none other God but He, and He Who hath appeared is indeed His Glory unto all the worlds.

Then know thou that Al-Baqir is with Us and hath attained the lights of the countenance and been honored with the presence of God, his Lord and the Lord of all who are in the heavens and earths. And

verily his rib which God attributed to thee, We have in truth raised to an exalted and impregnable station, and now she dwelleth joyfully in the Most Glorious Paradise with her daughter.

Rejoice thou in this, then give thanks unto thy Lord, for He hath ever been vigilant over His servants. He raiseth up whomsoever He willeth through His sovereignty and power, and verily His mercy encompasseth all the worlds.

Thus hath it been sent down at this time from the glorious and resplendent Kingdom on high. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon all who are with thee, women and men alike.

BH08677: O Abdul-Karim!

O Abdul-Karim!

Hearken unto what the Dove inspireth thee with words of transcendent holiness, and remembereth thee with the remembrance of God, and draweth thee nigh unto the all-glorious and exalted canopy.

Then know thou that We have not differed in Our utterance, but the ungodly have differed and were in manifest treachery. They violated the Covenant of God after its confirmation and cast the Testament of God behind their backs and were engaged in great deception and guile.

And thou, be patient in thyself, then show forth patience in what hath befallen thee, then be content with what hath been ordained from the glorious and resplendent Pen. Then beseech God that He may make firm thy feet upon this Path and raise thee up in the form of an upright human temple.

And glory be upon thee and upon those who were endowed with clear vision in the Cause.

BH08681: O servant of God!

He is God, the Most Manifest!

O servant of God!

Hearken unto the call of this Youth Who speaketh from the branches that there is no God but Him, and He hath ever encompassed all the worlds. Grieve not for thy father, for he hath been martyred in the path of God and now sitteth upon a throne of ruby, while the maidens of Paradise circle round about him at all times, and upon his head is set a crown whereon is inscribed in the Most Glorious script:

> “This is he who hath been martyred in the path of God and was mentioned in the Tablets as being among the people of Baha.”

Thou shouldst not grieve over anything, for verily thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is with thee and will aid thee with truth, and He doth ever keep watch over thee. And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH08687: O Hashim! Blessed art thou, blessed art thou, inasmuch…

In the Name of God, the Exalted, the Most Great!

O Hashim! Blessed art thou, blessed art thou, inasmuch as thou hast shattered the idol of vain imaginings and desire, and hast attained unto the lights of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, and art numbered among them that have attained.

Be thou steadfast in My love, then make mention of Me amongst My servants. Verily silence is better, except in making mention of Me, the Mighty, the Wondrous. And grief is forbidden, save for that which hath befallen My own Self at the hands of these idolaters.

Be thou at peace through the mercy of thy Lord, which hath preceded all worlds. Were He to will it, He would send down from the clouds of His mercy that which would purify all created things. Verily He hath power over all things. But He hath ordained for every soul its turning unto God. Thus hath it been inscribed by the Pen of Holiness on a preserved tablet.

The Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon such servants of God as are assured.

BH08688: O leaf!

In the Name of God, the Luminous, the Most Luminous!

O leaf!

This is a leaf We have sent unto thee that thou mayest discover from it the fragrance of God and be among the devout ones. Whoso findeth from it what hath been ordained therein, he verily turneth not unto the world and what hath been ordained therein. Thus hath the command been sent down from the heaven of verses.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having caused thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Self in days wherein the Manifestation of Manifestations hath appeared.

Every handmaiden who hath arisen in love of her Lord is better in the sight of thy Lord than a thousand men and than His heedless handmaidens. Blessed is she over whom the breezes of God have wafted and awakened her from her slumber and made her among the pure ones.

The Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon the handmaidens who have sanctified themselves from sins.

BH08725: O divine friends, be occupied with her remembrance…

In the name of the Sun of Inner Meanings

O divine friends, be occupied with her remembrance and be joyful in thoughts of her. For joy and gladness were created in their primal reality for the loved ones of God, and all others have been and shall remain in sorrow, even if they enjoy all the bounties of earth. They are poor, even if they possess all treasures. In God’s sight, the wealthy one is he in whose heart’s treasury the pearl of divine love lies concealed, and joyful is he who, in remembrance of Him, becomes detached from all the worlds.

In truth, the All-Merciful Himself has borne the sorrows of His loved ones, as He is imprisoned in this remote prison and afflicted in the hands of enemies. Drink ye with perfect joy and assurance from the Fountain of Glory and become those who describe His attributes.

BH08738: O bondsmaid of the True One, the purified hem…

In the name of God, the Peerless!

O bondsmaid of the True One, the purified hem is soiled with the dust of the calumny of the accusers, and the lamp of the world is prevented from shedding light and illumination by the blowing of the winds of dissension. What a great regret for the people who circumambulate idols and worship fancy imaginations!

Though thou art a woman, arise like unto a man and break the deity of idle imagination with the might of Abraham; render asunder the intervening veils with the power of the All-Glorious One; receive the Kawthar of meaning from the hand of the divine Youth and quaff it, and close thine eye to the whole world, for sight is created to behold the beauty of the Beloved, and heart has been brought into being for His recognition. If they do not attain that great honour, they would be fruitless, and like unto a dark lamp they would be useless and without any worth.

BH08768: O Mirza Mihdi! God willing, may you ever remain…

He is the Ever-Abiding

O Mirza Mihdi! God willing, may you ever remain steadfast upon the straight path of love and find repose in the seat of affection. Close your eyes to the world and detach your heart from aught else save the Beloved, and with perfect composure rest upon the cushions of certitude. It was intended to write a detailed letter, but the breath of divine decree became a hot wind and remained suspended in the heaven of God’s will. Convey my countless remembrances to the members of the household and at all times seek forgiveness on my behalf. Your letter that you sent to Kalim was noted. May you ever abide in the proximity of your Lord’s mercy among those who are at rest. The subject was not completed, but as the weather is hot and its heat affecting, therefore these few words will suffice. Adorn all the loved ones with the fresh and wondrous garments of remembrance.

BH08828: Magnified art Thou, O Lord my God! I ask…

Magnified art Thou, O Lord my God! I ask Thee by Thy Name which Thou hast set up above all other names, through which the veil of heaven hath been split asunder and the Day-Star of Thy beauty hath risen above the horizon, shining with the brightness of Thy Name, the Exalted, the Most High, to succor me with Thy wondrous help and to preserve me in the shelter of Thy care and protection.

I am one of Thy handmaidens, O my Lord! Unto Thee have I turned, and in Thee have I placed my trust. Grant that I may be so confirmed in my love for Thee, and in fulfilling that which is well-pleasing unto Thee, that neither the defection of the infidels among Thy people, nor the clamor of the hypocrites among Thy creatures, may avail to keep me back from Thee.

Purge Thou mine ear, O my Lord, that I may hearken unto the verses sent down unto Thee, and illuminate my heart with the light of Thy knowledge, and loose my tongue that it may make mention of Thee and sing Thy praise. By Thy might, O my God! My soul is wedded to none beside Thee, and my heart seeketh none except Thine own Self.

No God is there beside Thee, the All-Glorious, the Great Giver, the Forgiving, the Compassionate.

BH08833: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Manifest

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which all names were transformed from their kingdom and all attributes were brought down from their dominion, and through which the faces of the deniers were darkened while the lights of bliss shone forth from the faces of the sincere ones—to purify me, through the Kawthar of Thy grace and the Salsabil of Thy bounties, from whatsoever is abhorrent to Thy good-pleasure, that I may enter the kingdom of Thy generosity and the dominion of Thy favors, and hearken unto the wondrous melodies of Thy voice, and behold with mine eyes the splendors of the light of Thy countenance. Thou art He, O my Beloved, from Whose door none of Thy servants hath ever been turned away disappointed, nor hath anyone ever returned dejected from the court of Thy grace and bounty. Here am I, standing before the door in repentance and contrition. Verily Thou art the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful. There is no God but Thee, the Most Exalted, the Ever-Forgiving.

BH08840: Glory be to Thee, O my God!

In the Name of God, the Mighty!

Glory be to Thee, O my God!

This is Thy servant who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs. Do Thou assist him through the wonders of Thy victory, then make him steadfast in Thy love, then cause him to drink that which will purify him from all else save Thee, that he may become one who speaketh in Thy remembrance, who gazeth upon Thy countenance, and who turneth toward Thy Cause. Verily, Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Exalted.

O my God! Send down upon him from the heaven of Thy mercy that which Thou hast ordained in the tablet of Thy decree. This is Thy servant whose brother hath emigrated with him, and who now serveth Thee in the evening and at dawn. Verily, Thou art the One Who beholdeth those who have attained unto Thy love, both in the beginning and in the end. And verily, Thou are the Mighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Bestowing.

BH08843: Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Beloved!…

In the Name of God, the Everlasting, the Ever-Abiding!

Glorified art Thou, O my God and my Beloved! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which, when Thou didst call it to the heaven, countless suns rose from its horizon, and when Thou didst cast it upon the seas, they surged in remembrance of Thy Most Exalted Name, and when Thou didst cast it upon all the trees, they brought forth the fruits of Thy knowledge and the produce of Thy bounty, and bore witness unto them once through Thy most wondrous and most sweet tongue—whereupon the Hour was established—that Thou mayest make me content with whatsoever Thou hast ordained through the Most Glorious Pen upon the Tablet of Decree. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent over whatsoever Thou willest. All Thy servants are poor, nay utterly lost, possessing neither existence, nor mention, nor life, nor death, nor resurrection for themselves. And praise be unto Thee, first and last.

BH08900: Hearken unto what is revealed unto thee from this…

He is the Mighty One!

Hearken unto what is revealed unto thee from this Tree upon this blessed spot from this Divine Fire, that verily there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

The Light hath appeared in the niche of the name of Ali in truth, and this is Ali made manifest. Say: By God! The Beauty of the Divine Identity was among you and ye were among those who denied Him, until He departed from your midst. Then, alas for you, O heedless ones!

Soon shall ye witness the opposition of the deniers to this praised Light, despite His coming with God's authority and His proof, and God's evidence and His might, and God's power and His grandeur, and with knowledge of what was and what shall be. Say: By God! This is the state of His loved ones, did ye but know.

And verily thou, hold fast to this concealed and luminous handle.

BH09040: Your letter is before Me, but in these days…

He is God!

Your letter is before Me, but in these days the Pen of Command is perplexed in reply, for it is not known which souls have been elevated to the highest heaven by the fragrances of trials wafting from the right hand of the Will of the All-Merciful, and which have been cast down to the lowest depths. Although the condition of all is witnessed and remembered before God, yet since He has named Himself the Concealer, He has concealed and continues to conceal it.

In any case, in those days you were fresh and alive from the holy fragrance of divine oneness. God willing, through divine favor, you will not lose this heavenly bounty which has ever endured within your own self, and will remain forever turned toward the holy realm, in such wise that the disturbing winds of mortality will neither make you heedless of the Beauty of Divine Unity nor deprive you thereof.

And the Spirit be upon you.

BH09048: The fragrances of the All-Merciful from this Paradise…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

The fragrances of the All-Merciful from this Paradise which hath appeared in the temple of man have indeed wafted over all the worlds, and through them are the bodies of all created things revived, and God is, verily, witness unto this. O handmaiden of God! Make mention of thy Lord in His days—days which were promised in the Mother Book. Withhold not thyself from the fragrances of thy Lord, for whoso withholdeth himself therefrom is indeed deprived of all good. Then be thou obedient, and bow down, and prostrate thyself before God Who hath created the heavens and the earth by His command, for He is, verily, powerful over all things. And glory be upon the people of glory, whether male or female.

BH09050: This is a remembrance unto My servant Sadiq…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

This is a remembrance unto My servant Sadiq of Yazd, that he may rejoice in the remembrance of God and be detached from all else—and this is indeed a mighty favor. We created thee for My remembrance and praise, and thus do We remember thee in the kingdom of Our Cause that thou mayest remember Me in My earth. Therefore, hearken unto the word of thy Lord and be of them that remember. Leave behind all created things, then turn thy face toward the court of the All-Merciful, the seat of the throne of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Strive within thyself that through thee the Cause of God may be exalted—for this wert thou created by His firm and unshakeable command. He who leaveth no trace in the world shall be subject to the decree of extinction. Thus do We impart unto thee that thou mayest be among those who are firm in this Cause, whereby the foundations of the heedless have been shaken. And the glory rest upon thee and upon Our sincere servants.

BH09053: This is the Book of Husayn to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

This is the Book of Husayn to him who was named with this name and who abided in the vicinity of his Lord's mercy for numbered months until he emigrated by His command, and thus it behooveth every patient and grateful one. We sent thee a Tablet before, and now one is sent down once again from the presence of the Self-Subsisting, the Guardian. We beseech God that He may enable thee to attain unto His love and good-pleasure and that through thee He may set ablaze the breasts of those whose warmth of love had been quenched. Seek thy Lord's grace at all times, then put thy trust in Him. Verily He will assist those who have attained His presence and who have become detached from the worlds. And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon those who have aided their Lord, the Most Merciful, at every daybreak and sunset.

BH09055: This is a Book from God, the Mighty…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy!

This is a Book from God, the Mighty, the Beautiful, unto all that are in the heavens and on earth, that they may witness His signs and be of them that are assured.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, blessed art thou inasmuch as thou hast attained unto the recognition of the Manifestation of His Self, and thy name hath been inscribed among them that are assured in the preserved Tablets of might.

Read thou the verses of thy Lord, then take comfort in them, for they are the best of helpers and supporters, since with every verse from the verses of thy Lord there accompanieth a host of the angels that draw nigh. Thus do We make mention of thee in this Tablet that thou mayest be attracted by the melodies of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, and mayest detach thyself from the world and turn with thy heart toward the paradise of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

And the Glory be upon thee and upon the handmaidens of God who remember Him and His servants who remember Him.

BH09057: This is a Book from God to her who…

He is the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious

This is a Book from God to her who believed in her Lord when He appeared yet another time, that thou mayest detach thyself from those who disbelieved and hold fast to the Sure Handle of God. O My aunt! Hearken unto My call, then grieve with My grief, then weep over My tribulations, then rejoice in My remembrance, then soar with My love, then ascend through My grace, then prostrate thyself and be submissive, then rise unto My most exalted Kingdom. The Gate hath been opened, the Doorkeeper expelled, the veils burned away, and the Sun hath shone forth from behind the clouds. Come ye and hasten, O concourse of loved ones! Then hasten with thy heart, O My aunt, to the Ultimate Dwelling, the Most Glorious Horizon. This is better for thee and for them than the kingdom of earth and heaven. And the Glory be upon thee and upon the people of guidance.

BH09063: This is a Book from the Prisoner…

He is the Eternal

This is a Book from the Prisoner to the handmaidens of God that they may praise God every morning and evening, and may be steadfast in His Cause and His love. And this is from the bounty which is immense in the Tablet.

O handmaiden of God, quaff the Kawthar of love from the chalice of the utterance of thy Lord which hath appeared in the temple of letters in the Tablet. And with this word the blessing of counselling is perfected for thee and for the handmaidens who have believed in God in the days wherein the step of every mystic with insight hath shaken, save him whom the Hand of Bounty hath protected and who hath been spared by His sovereignty. And His bounty hath ever preceded the world of being…

BH09069: In these days there hath been sent down unto…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

In these days there hath been sent down unto thee a Tablet of wondrous glory, and likewise unto everyone whose name was mentioned in thy letter. Verily, thy Lord's favor toward thee is abundant.

He who set out for the Most Great House and was numbered among the triumphant ones in the Tablet hath attained the presence of the Countenance, and the hand of grace hath turned him from the left of doubt to the right of certitude with mighty sovereignty. Blessed art thou for having traversed the paths of submission and contentment, and for being illumined by the lights of His Countenance.

Make mention of thy Lord, then glorify His praise. Verily, He is with thee in all conditions, and He will surely give full recompense to the doers of good, and He is verily the Observer of all things.

And the Glory rest upon thee and upon those who are with thee among My loved ones, who are at this hour mentioned before the Throne.

BH09075: O friends of God! Be the mercy of God…

O friends of God! Be the mercy of God and His light unto My loved ones, and the sword of God and His vengeance unto Mine enemies. This is a revelation from God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Mighty.

O Abraham! Hear My call and be not of the heedless ones. Remember thy Lord in thy rising up and sitting down, and in every morning and evening. Beware lest thou forget My remembrance and cast the love of God behind thy back, and be not of them that are veiled. Then remind the servants of God that they neglect not any of the matters of their Lord, and follow not their idle fancies, and be not of them that turn away. Then convey Our greetings unto thy brethren and remind them from Us with a goodly reminder.

And the Spirit and glory be upon you, O concourse of them that love Me!

BH09089: O my God and my Beloved!

O my God and my Beloved!

How can I make mention of Thee through words, after my certitude that they were created by Thy command and Thy will? And how can I make mention of Thee through utterance, when verily it appeared through Thy Will and Thy leave? And how can I describe Thee through meanings when they are known through letters, and these appeared from the Pen of Thy decree and the trace of Thy signature? By Thy might, I witness that the path to Thy description is blocked—how much more so the path to the knowledge of Thy Self! And verily the loftiest description of all created things leadeth but to conjecture and imagination.

Therefore, since Thou hast caused me to recognize my own powerlessness and the poverty of my being, I beseech Thee by Thy Name, the Most Exalted, the Most High, that Thou deprive me not of the glances of

Thy favor in this Most Great, Most Glorious Manifestation. Then send down through it upon me that which will make me independent of all that hath been created in earth and heaven. There is no God but Thee, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful.

BH11844: The letter from that handmaiden of God arrived at…

In the name of the Lord of all worlds!

The letter from that handmaiden of God arrived at a time when, due to the sorrows that have befallen [Us], the divine fragrances were cut off and the pen was prevented from movement. Nevertheless, out of love for God, a reply is being written to that handmaiden of God according to what my Lord desires.

Although it is not known whom the winds of tests have cast into the gardens of paradise and whom they have consigned to the fires, for it is observed that most of those who set out seeking the right hand of the All-Merciful have been transformed by Satan's breath and remained deprived of the bounty of the clouds of the All-Glorious. However, I beseech God to protect that leaf and other handmaidens of God from the evil of Satan and his hosts.

And the Spirit be upon you.

BH11417: This is a Book which speaketh with truth

This is a Book which speaketh with truth…

O Hadi, emerge from the veils of darkness and rend asunder the curtains of vain imaginings through the power of the divine Youth, and enter into the celestial atmosphere of the throne of mighty sovereignty, which is the seat of certitude and steadfastness. O Hadi, pass beyond self and desire, and soar in the holy atmosphere of the divine presence. Exit from the prison of fancy and traverse the highest heaven of certitude. These are the holy counsels of the Eternal One which have been sent down from the right hand of the Most Glorious Throne. If thou hearest, thou art indeed the best of hearers, and if thou turnest away, verily God is Self-Sufficient, Most Praiseworthy….

By Him Who holdeth the soul of Husayn in His hand! My purpose hath been none other than the proclamation of the Cause of God. Have ye not seen that the life of this servant hath been and shall be in peril, and that never have I safeguarded it for a moment, nor have I ever compromised in the Cause of God with the enemies.

BH09413: God testifies that there is no God but Him…

He is the Mighty!

God testifies that there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. And He testifies that We [answered] Muhammad, Our servant, before and after, and that this was inscribed upon a preserved holy Tablet.

But you were not content with what We ordained for you, and remained veiled from God, your Lord, to such extent that you failed to recognize Him even after you were with Him for years and months.

Therefore, rend asunder the veils of idle fancy and hold fast to this luminous and beloved Handle. Be joyful within yourself and grieve not over anything, and maintain such an expanded heart that it shall never be contracted. Then associate with the loved ones of God in joy and delight.

Thus does God counsel you, and every praiseworthy servant.

BH09447: Glorified art Thou, O my God, my Beloved…

Glorified art Thou, O my God, my Beloved and my King!

Thou seest my poverty and neediness, then my distress and anguish and my tribulation before both the loved ones and the enemies. Praise be to Thee, O my God, for Thy decree and destiny, and thanks be to Thee, O my Lord, for Thy management and execution. We bear witness that Thou art the One praised in Thy deeds, the Ruler in Thy Cause, the Sovereign in Thy dominion, and Thou art powerful over all things.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst manifest Thy Beauty, perfect Thy Cause, exalt Thy proof, elevate Thy names and reveal Thy attributes, that Thou mayest cause Thy servants to ascend unto the station wherein they behold Thee upon the throne of Thy majesty and the seat of Thy glory. Verily, Thou art powerful and wise over all things.

BH09196: Although the tribulation of the year of shidad hath…

In the Name of God, the Everlasting!

Although the tribulation of the year of shidad hath caused most of the people to become heedless of the direction of the Beloved, yet the wondrous outpourings of His grace and bounty have never ceased, nor shall they ever cease. Should the entire world rise up to oppress and prevent, the tongue of God's Will shall not be prevented from proclaiming His Cause, nor shall the Kawthar of divine remembrance and utterance be cut off from the spring of the Pen of God's Command. The former shall forever speak and the latter shall forever flow.

May thy honor hearken unto it with a pure ear and taste thereof at all times with a refined palate. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among God's assured servants.

BH09239: O scion of the family of Husayn!

He is the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Merciful!

O scion of the family of Husayn!

Hearken to the call of this Wronged One Who hath been afflicted at the hands of the ungodly from among the people of the Bayan, and Who found none to help Him save God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Glorious. We had previously sent thee a leaf from the Divine Lote-Tree, and soon shall We send

thee a branch thereof that thou mayest taste of its fruits at all times. Grieve not at anything, but place thy trust in God, thy Lord, for verily He is with thee. There is none other God but Him, the King, the Sovereign.

Stand firm in the Cause, then convey the command of thy Lord. He will verily protect thee through His truth from those who have turned away from God and turned unto the manifestations of Satan. All praise be to God, the King, the Powerful, the Bestower!

BH09277: O handmaid of God!

O handmaid of God!

Mention was made of thee in this prison, and therefore thou hast been favored with the remembrance of the Pen. Hearken unto the counsel of this divine servant: Empty thy heart from all else save God, that it may be illumined with the splendors of the light of the Beloved.

It is incumbent upon all to manifest themselves with praiseworthy character, goodly deeds and pure actions. Those souls who attribute themselves to the All-Merciful yet act according to the ways of Satan—verily God was and ever shall be sanctified and holy above such souls.

God willing, may they ever abide preserved beneath the canopy of divine protection and find repose in the shade of His all-encompassing mercy. And the spirit be upon thee.

BH09320: These are verses which God hath made a proof…

In the Name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Inaccessible!

These are verses which God hath made a proof for all who are in the heavens and on earth, and hath made them an evidence of His Own Self, a testimony to His Cause, and a guardian over all created things.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord from the direction of the Throne, then rejoice in that which hath been revealed from the Pen of Command, for this is indeed a great bounty. Cast the world behind thee, then hold fast to the hem of thy Lord's loving-kindness, the Most High, the All-Knowing. Beware lest thou grieve over anything, for God sufficeth thee as a Helper and Protector. Thus doth the Ancient King teach thee through this Pen which moveth by His binding command, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

And glory be upon thee and upon Our sincere servants.

BH09322: These are the verses of God which have descended…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Mighty, the Most Sweet!

These are the verses of God which have descended in truth from the heaven of lofty glory. Blessed is he who hath purified his ears to hearken unto the Word of God, and blessed the heart that hath tasted the sweetness of His love, and blessed the eye that hath turned toward the court of His loving-kindness, and blessed the foot that hath walked in the path of His good-pleasure, and blessed the soul that hath been purified and made good and illumined by these lights which have shone forth from the Dayspring of eternity with wondrous radiance.

O Hasan! Remember thy Lord, for thou wert created for His remembrance. Follow not those who worship the calf instead of God—these are indeed far removed from the Tree of Nearness. Be thou steadfast, then remain firm in the love of thy Lord. He will verily suffice thee in truth above all created things.

BH09374: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Holy!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the Sun of Grandeur and Immortality hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of Thy Will, and through which the sincere ones have soared unto the atmosphere of Thy nearness and meeting, and those drawn nigh unto the seat of Thy Cause and reunion with Thee, that Thou mayest cleanse me with the Kawthar of Thy mercy and favors, that I may turn wholly unto Thee and be detached from all else save Thee, and attain unto a station wherein I witness the sanctification of Thy Self from the veils of glory and the exaltation of Thy Being above all similarities and likenesses. O Lord! Deprive me not of the wonders of Thy grace and bounties, and distance me not from Thy nearness and presence. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Great, the Compelling.

BH09380: Glorified art Thou, O my God!

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable!

Glorified art Thou, O my God!

I beseech Thee by Thy Word through which Thou hast brought all created things into being and given life to all existing things, and which Thou hast made a balance for Thy Cause and a pathway between Thy heaven and Thy earth, and by which Thou hast turned the faces of them that are near unto Thee toward the horizon of Thy favors, and the hearts of the sincere ones toward the Dayspring of Thy bounty and bestowals—not to deprive me in these days of the holy glances of Thy mercy and the sweet-scented breezes of the glory of Thy favors and gifts, and leave me not to myself and my desires.

Then sever me from all else save Thee and turn me toward Thy Face and Thy Beauty.

Verily Thou art He Who hath ever been the Doer of whatsoever Thou pleasest and the Ruler over whatsoever Thou willest. Thou art, in truth, the All-Powerful, the Supreme, the Most Great, the Most Exalted, the Most Bountiful.

BH09384: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou art He…

He is the Ever-Abiding

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou art He Who hath so attracted the hearts of Thy loved ones that they rush forth to martyrdom in Thy path, yearning to meet Thee and seeking Thy good-pleasure. The raptures of Thy revelation have so seized them that they hasten on foot to the place of their martyrdom and death, out of love for Thy beauty, remembering and calling upon Thee beneath the swords until their spirits ascend to the horizon of Thy Cause and the heaven of Thy presence. O my Beloved! If Thou wert to

give Thy enemies to drink what Thou hast given Thy loved ones to drink, they would all sacrifice themselves in Thy path. But Thou, in Thy hidden wisdom, hast withheld the Kawthar of immortality from the heedless among Thy creatures and ordained it for the sincere ones among Thy chosen ones. Thou art the One praised in Thy deeds and beloved in Thy decree. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Wise.

BH09440: O servant! Bear thou witness, as God did witness…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting

O servant! Bear thou witness, as God did witness before the creation of the heavens and the earth and before He created the glorifying angels, that He is the One God, Single, Self-Sufficient, Whom the support of those who turn unto Him cannot exalt nor the rejection of those who turn away from Him harm, and that Ali is His splendor and His light unto all created things. Beware lest thou break God's Covenant, and remain steadfast in thy pledge. Then give thanks unto God, thy Creator, for having remembered thee in this remote prison, and for having taught thee to know His Self, and sent down unto thee a noble Book. Verily He hath sent it down in truth from God, the Lord of the worlds. The Spirit and Glory and Splendor rest upon thee and upon the sincere ones.

BH09487: In the heaven of divine decree, the tablets…

He is God, the Helper!

In the heaven of divine decree, the tablets of destiny have been ordained, and We have not sent them for wisdom's sake. Soon We shall send them when God wishes and desires. Be thou assured through thy Lord's grace, then guard thyself lest the breezes of trials extinguish thy longing, ardor and attraction in these grievous days. Soon there shall come to thee that from which thou shalt find the fragrance of the garment and whereby thy eyes shall be consoled. Thus hath the matter been decreed in the tablets of righteousness. Blessed art thou for having won to this Cause whereby souls have been disturbed and hearts consumed. Be thou steadfast in the love of God, then be content with this draught which We have sent thee from this Most Great Sea, then await what We have promised thee. Verily He doth not fail in His promise.

BH09523: O God!

O God!

Though chicory appears outwardly bitter, inwardly it is most sweet. This describes the outer chicory that appears in earthly gardens. But you are the chicory of the paradise of sanctification and the leaf of the Divine Lote-Tree—from you every taste perceives a flavor. You are the divine sugar of Egypt, yet in the taste of lovers, while being colocynth in the mouths of unbelievers. For the people of divine unity you are the fruit of detachment, and for the people of limitation you are the effect of the severe day. You are the punishment of sinners and the blessing of those drawn nigh—a flowing spring of mercy for seeking hearts, and a cup of wrath specially for the hearts of those who turn away. God forgives what has passed from His loved ones, verily He knows all things.

BH09553: Grieve not in hardship nor rejoice in ease…

In the Name of the All-Sufficing!

Grieve not in hardship nor rejoice in ease, for with every hardship comes ease and with every ease comes hardship. Both shall pass away and perish. Therefore ask God to grant thee a station sanctified from these two conditions—and this is thy paradise, even as its atmosphere is temperate and changeless, and likewise whosoever entereth therein shall never alter.

Peace be upon him who followeth guidance!

Blessed art thou in that thou hast resolved, attained, achieved and returned. Sufficient unto thee is God Who created thee and aided thee. When thou arrivest, convey the Greatest Name to all whom thou meetest among the loved ones of God and His chosen ones. And mercy be upon thee and upon thy mother and thy brothers and thy kindred among those who have believed in God, the Single, the Great.

BH09587: This is a Book from God unto him who…

He is the Most Truthful!

This is a Book from God unto him who hath been guided by the lights of the Countenance and who hath embarked upon the Ark of Holiness which was fashioned by the hand of the Noah of eternity with love in the name of Baha. Give thanks unto God for having clung unto it. By God! Whoso cleaveth unto it is assuredly among those who are nigh unto God, as hath been inscribed by the Pen of the All-Merciful in the Mother Book.

Be thou ignited with the heat of thy Lord's love and pay no heed to them that have disbelieved, even should they bring thee all the scrolls of the earth. Then drink thou from the Kawthar of inner meanings which hath flowed from the finger of a mighty Name. Thus have We given thee to drink of the Salsabil of utterance from the mouth of thy Lord's Will, the Mighty, the Bountiful, that thou mayest be known among the worlds for thy love of the Youth.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH09588: This is a Book from Us to a handmaiden…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding

This is a Book from Us to a handmaiden among the handmaidens of God, that she may rejoice in God's remembrance of her. Taste thou of the fruits of the Tree of Paradise in these days, then render thanks unto thy Lord for having been nourished by its fruits. Be not heedless of God, thy Lord, for less than a moment, then thank Him for having sent down unto thee verses of which a single word cannot be equaled by all who are on earth. Grieve not over anything, for He ordaineth as He pleaseth for whomsoever He pleaseth, and sendeth down for every soul that which hath been ordained for it in its days. And the glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath been blessed with the fruits of the Garden of the All-Glorious and hath been nourished by its bounties.

BH09590: This is a Book from before the Youth…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great!

This is a Book from before the Youth to those who are in the heavens and on earth, that perchance the words of God may draw them and bring them nigh unto the Most Great Prospect, the Station whose very dust particles testify that I am God, there is none other God but Me, the Most High, the Most Great.

O handmaiden of God! When thou hast drunk from the Salsabil of divine knowledge from this Tablet which We have sent unto thee, render thanks unto thy Lord for having attained unto that which God's sincere servants have attained. Know thou that the words of God have been raised up in truth [for the hearing] of His loved ones, and this is indeed a manifest bounty. And whoso is deprived thereof, no mention hath he before God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forebears of old.

BH09652: O my Lord, my God, and my Beloved!

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wondrous!

O my Lord, my God, and my Beloved!

I beseech Thee by the wafting of the breezes of Thy grace whereby Thou didst quicken all created things and caused them to speak forth Thy praise, and didst bring forth all beings and shed upon them the lights of Thy countenance, that Thou wilt not, in this springtime, deprive me of the garment of Thy grace and favors, nor leave me distant from the paradise of Thy reunion and meeting.

Then cause me to drink, O my God, from the Kawthar of life from the hands of the youths upon whose countenance hath been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen:

> "By God, the Truth, the Sovereign, the Manifest One, the Beloved of the worlds hath appeared!"

that I may wholly detach myself from all else save Thee and turn unto the direction of Thy good-pleasure.

There is no God but Thee, the Overshadowing, the All-Powerful, the All-Forgiving.

BH09883: God testifieth that there is none other God but…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting.

God testifieth that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Bountiful. His is the grace and bounty, and His is the mercy and justice. He aideth whomsoever He willeth through the hosts of the heavens and earth.

O servant! Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for what He hath sent down unto thee of holy and wondrous verses, which have been sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and wise. Therein He hath expounded that whereby the beauty of love is made manifest from a holy and luminous cloud, that thou

mayest be assured that His mercy hath preceded all created things and His grace hath encompassed all the worlds.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon every discerning believer.

BH09755: O thou who art called by the name…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Great!

O thou who art called by the name of God, who gazest upon His countenance, and who speaketh in remembrance and praise of Him!

Hear thou once again the call of this Youth, and make thy will the will of thy Lord and thy desire that which He hath desired. Then aid thou His Cause through His name, for verily thy Lord is the best of helpers.

Let none prevent thee in the Cause of thy Lord and in exalting His remembrance amongst His servants. Rather, it behooveth every soul to assist thee in that which thou hast purposed, for He is the protector of the doers of good.

The Pen hath been forbidden to mention that which it desired, but God inspireth whomsoever He willeth with whatsoever He willeth, and the knowledge of all the worlds escapeth not His knowledge.

BH09758: O remnant of the family of Malih!

He is God!

O remnant of the family of Malih!

Your letter arrived and your cry was heard. Praise be to God that you have been adorned with the ornament of divine love and blessed with an everlasting bounty. Your heart has become a treasury of the Beloved's love and your breast a dawning-place for the lights of the Desired One.

However, beseech God that the pearls of love may remain protected from thieves and manifestations of Satan, for they have appeared with all manner of deceptions—the treacherous one appears in the guise of the trustworthy, and the corrupt one in the cloak of piety.

God willing, you must, through divine grace, remain steadfast on the straight path of the Cause and act according to praiseworthy good deeds.

And the Spirit be upon you.

BH09760: O Hasan!

He is the Beloved!

O Hasan!

You and your brethren entered through the gate of Paradise, yet were not honored with meeting the Lord of Lords. Therefore did My eye weep for you, in that you were deprived of the glances of your Lord, the Most Merciful. However, God has accepted what has passed from you and heard the cry of your inmost hearts—to this My Pen and My Self, with Whom is the knowledge of the Book, bear witness.

O Hasan! Do not grieve, but be content with what has been ordained in the Tablets from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Opening. Call upon your Lord at eventide and at dawn, that He may send down from the heaven of His grace that which will gladden the hearts of the loved ones, and beyond them, this Heart which has been pierced by the arrows of every hypocrite who has denied the Day of Reckoning.

BH09762: O ʿAli! Hear My call and be not…

He is the Mighty.

O ʿAli! Hear My call and be not of the heedless ones.

We have sent down unto thee a Book in clear Arabic tongue, and We sent it not save for a wisdom which none shall attain except those who have detached themselves from all who are in the heavens and on earth. We shall send it to thee when God willeth and desireth, and verily there is no God but Him. He ordaineth what He pleaseth, and He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

God willing, may you be in the utmost joy and delight. This servant hath never forgotten and will never forget you. We remember the friends, both female and male.

BH09765: O Mihdi!

O Mihdi!

We have sent down for all those mentioned in your book verses that cannot be equaled by anyone in the heavens. Therefore, cast them upon them that they may give thanks to God their Creator and remain firmly established.

Then convey Our greetings to the one named Rida after Nabil and give him glad tidings of God’s own remembrance of him, then to those with him among God’s sincere servants.

Then convey greetings to Muhammad and those with him, both male and female, as a remembrance from Us to him that he may be among the thankful ones.

Then to those who have believed in God among Arabs and Persians—verily His mercy encompasses all the worlds.

BH09780: O handmaid of God!

He is God!

O handmaid of God!

You were mentioned in My presence. God willing, you will at all times drink from the cups of the words of the Lord of the worlds of the most pure wine. Although the trials of these days are severe and have rendered most people lifeless, those who have been enkindled with the fire of God and have attained to His love are not veiled by trials. Rather, the more severe the trials become, the more their fire of love surges forth. These are the souls whose existence the denizens of the Supreme Concourse take pride in and whose presence they eagerly anticipate. Therefore strive that the Joseph of divine love not be seized by the wolves of trials.

And the Spirit be upon you.

BH09798: O My handmaiden!

He is the Ever-Abiding!

O My handmaiden!

Be not sorrowful at separation from the Ancient Beauty. In whatever land thou dwellest, thou art in the presence of God, for thy services shall not be lost. Be patient and content with My good-pleasure. And if thou enterest the City of God, inform My handmaidens of My tribulation and affliction, and walk in complete sanctification, and be not heedless of the wonders of My remembrance. Convey My greetings from My tongue to My messenger, and likewise to all thy family.

O My handmaiden! Be not neglectful of service to the House of God and of visiting it, and be not veiled from the Beloved of the worlds. And the glory be upon thee.

BH09822: Be dependent upon God in all matters and do…

He is the Mighty

Be dependent upon God in all matters and do not be heedless for a moment. Exercise the utmost care and wisdom in all affairs. Be in the utmost joy and delight and fix your gaze on naught but God, for the winds of differences are blowing from all directions. You must remain steadfast, firm and resolute in all conditions, and verily He will suffice you against all who are in the heavens and on earth. Convey greetings to whichever of the assured ones among the beloved who circle round about, and remind the people of the Shrine of the mention of God.

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BH09843: Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech…

He is God

Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst open the gates of meeting unto all who are in Thy earth and heaven, and through which Thou didst give Thy chosen ones to drink from the chalice of Thy Command and Thy Glory, that Thou mayest make this youth to gaze upon

Thee and to be detached from all else but Thee. As Thou hast named him Beauty, make him beautiful in all conditions. Then adorn his outer and inner being with the ornament of acceptance, and inscribe him among those who have attained, for whom Thou hast ordained no foundation save Thy love and knowledge. This is the hope in the hearts of Thy chosen ones and trusted ones. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Unconstrained.

BH09845: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by the light of the Sun of Thy unity and the dawning of the Morn of Thy singleness, then by Thy Most Exalted Word whereby Thou didst quicken all who are in earth and heaven, that Thou cause me not to be of them who claim to believe in the letters which were created by Thy command, yet have turned away from the Most Great Word—from Him Who created them and spoke them forth. Then make me, O my God, one who uttereth Thy praise and turneth toward Thee, who is oriented to the sanctuary of Thy nearness and the Kaaba of union with Thee, that I may find repose beneath the shadow of Thy tenderness and mercy and dwell in the precincts of Thy generosity and favors. There is no God but Thee, the Omnipotent, the Sublime, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Unconstrained.

BH09855: Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! Graciously grant…

He is the Most Glorious

Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! Graciously grant that this infant be fed from the breast of Thy tender mercy and loving providence and be nourished with the fruit of Thy celestial trees. Suffer him not to be committed to the care of anyone save Thee, inasmuch as Thou, Thyself, through the potency of Thy sovereign will and power, didst create and call him into being. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Knowing.

Lauded art Thou, O my Best Beloved! Waft over him the sweet savours of Thy transcendent bounty and the fragrances of Thy holy bestowals. Enable him then to seek shelter beneath the shadow of Thy most exalted Name, O Thou Who holdest in Thy grasp the kingdom of names and attributes. Verily Thou art potent to do what Thou willest, and Thou art indeed the Mighty, the Exalted, the Ever-Forgiving, the Gracious, the Generous, the Merciful.

BH09856: Glorified art Thou, O my God!

He is God!

Glorified art Thou, O my God!

This is Thy servant whom Thou hast brought forth from the loins of one of Thy loved ones and named Jalal (Glory) in the kingdom of Thy names and nurtured beneath the shade of the Tree of Thy Cause and given to drink of the wine of Thy love.

O my God! Deprive him not of the wonders of Thy gifts and withhold him not from the direction of Thy nearness and good-pleasure. Then cause him to walk in the path of Thy guidance, then detach him from all else save Thee, then send down upon him that which will purify him from all things that Thy fire of love may be kindled within him in such wise as to ignite thereby the hearts of Thy servants and the souls of Thy creatures.

Verily, Thou art the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH09913: Glad tidings unto thee, O servant, for thy letter…

He is the All-Glorious!

Glad tidings unto thee, O servant, for thy letter hath been presented before God and thy name hath flowed from the tongue of thy Lord, the True, the Faithful.

Yet, by My life! If thou wert to become aware of what hath befallen this Beauty at the hands of the people of error, thou wouldst surely weep within thyself throughout the duration of God's kingdom, wert thou to be of them that behold. However, We have been patient and have concealed these things lest the lamentation of those near unto God be raised.

And thou, in these days, detach thyself from all who are on earth and turn thy face toward thy Lord, the Dawning-Place, the Luminous. Be not troubled when the cry of the wayward is raised. This is God's counsel unto thee, if thou be of them that act.

And the Glory be upon thee.

BH09914: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

He is the Mighty One!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thy Beauty was made manifest, and Thy proof did shine forth, and Thy names did appear, and Thy Dove did warble, and then Thy Most Great Name and Thy Most Ancient Beauty were upraised, to exalt Thy Cause and to aid Thy loved ones, and to bestow upon them from the fruits of the Tree of Thy Oneness and the produce of the holy Tree of Thy Singleness. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Then reward, O my God, this one who hath believed in Thee and in Thy greatest signs. Aid him, O my God, through the wonders of Thy assistance, and send down upon them patience in that which Thou hast raised up unto the heaven of Thy uniqueness and the horizon of Thy detachment. Verily, Thou art the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH09917: O My God! Glorified art Thou!

O My God! Glorified art Thou!

This is Thy servant who fashioned with his own hands what he fashioned for Thee, then was afflicted after that with separation and remoteness from Thee, whereby patience departed from all who have eyes to

see, and whereby arose the lamentations of those near unto Thee, then their crying, and the weeping of the believers, then their weeping.

Therefore, O my God, since his hands are cut off from the mantle of Thy nearness and reunion with Thee, let not the cord of Thy loving-kindness and the handle of Thy favors be cut off from his heart. Verily Thou art powerful over what Thou willest, and verily Thou art the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

Then make his feet firm upon the path, for verily Thou art the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH09970: Say: O people, fear not the might of those…

He is the Most Exalted, the Most High.

Say: O people, fear not the might of those who have wronged and who have joined partners with God. Be steadfast in the Cause, then detach yourselves from all who are in the earth and the heavens. Say: Remembrance is sweet in the days of fear and distress. Thus it behooveth those who have turned towards God, the Lord of Names and Attributes.

When the victory arriveth, every man shall profess himself a believer and shall hasten to the shelter of God's Faith. Happy are they who in the days of world-encompassing trials have stood fast in the Cause and refused to swerve from its truth.

Verily, thou hast turned with thy heart unto God and He shall suffice thee against those who have wronged and those who have denied the Revealer of verses.

BH10022: This is a missive from the servant to him…

This is a missive from the servant to him who hath believed and been guided, and who hath detached himself from all who are in the heavens and on earth and hath turned his face toward his Lord, the Lord of the hereafter and of former times.

O servant!

We have caused thee to hear the melodies of the Dove which warbleth at all times upon the twigs of the Divine Lote-Tree. Glorified be thy Lord, the Most High! And now We cause thee to hear once again, as a bounty from thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Say: Verily He is the Spirit, and at this moment He is in the Most Exalted Horizon, cooing with the cooings of the Dove of the Cause, that He may raise you up to the ultimate heaven of might.

And the Spirit and glory be upon thee and upon the people of understanding.

BH10023: This is a Book from the presence…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding.

This is a Book from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Forgiving, unto them that have detached themselves from all faces and have turned towards the face of the All-Merciful in these days.

Say: The Lion of Command hath appeared and the asses have taken flight. Thus hath the matter been decreed from before God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Chosen One.

Verily, cast aside what thou hast of allusions, then ascend by the ladder of detachment unto the Lord of Names and Attributes. Say: We have forsaken what ye possess and have taken what is with God through power and sovereignty.

And the glory be upon thee and upon him over whom have wafted the sweet savors of the All-Merciful from the Yemen of the All-Glorious. There is none other God but He, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

BH10033: Though in these days of tribulation the winds…

In His name, the Most Exalted

Though in these days of tribulation the winds of sedition have extinguished the lamp of the love of the All-Merciful in the breasts of men, yet God will cause it to be rekindled through His command, for verily He hath power over all things. Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by the lamp of Thy Cause between Thy earth and Thy heaven, that Thou wilt not number me among those whom the tempests of fear and trepidation have prevented from remaining firm in Thy Cause and steadfast in Thy love. Then cause me, O my God, to be wholly detached unto Thee, remembering Thy Name and extolling Thy praise in the dominion of Thy creation. Verily, Thou art the Most High, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

BH10059: O thou who gazest toward the shore of contentment!

O thou who gazest toward the shore of contentment!

Blessed art thou for having found the fragrance of My good-pleasure, and drunk from the chalice of My glory, and turned thy face toward My face, and entered the stronghold of My Cause, and sought shelter beneath the shadow of thy Lord’s loving-kindness, and inhaled the sweet scents of My raiment, and hearkened unto My words and then My melodies.

Soon shall My Book appear before thee. Then take it with a power from Me, and drink from the fountainhead of its words the Kawthar of My utterance, and from its allusions the Tasnim of My knowledge.

Then witness in the temples of its letters their submissiveness and humility before God, the Lord of the worlds, how they appear in the posture of standing and sitting and prostration before God, the Mighty, the Exalted, the All-Knowing.

BH10076: O my Lord and my God! This…

He is God

O my Lord and my God! This is a child whom Thou hast brought forth from the loins of one of Thy servants, for whom Thou hast ordained a station among the stations in the tablets of Thy decree and the pages of Thy destiny. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which every soul hath attained unto that which it desired, that Thou make him perfect among Thy servants, manifest through Thy Name, speaking forth Thy praise, turned toward Thy direction, and drawing nigh unto Thyself.

Verily Thou art He Who hath ever been powerful over whatsoever Thou willest and shall ever remain powerful over whatsoever Thou desirest. There is none other God but Thee, the Most High, the Most Great, the All-Compelling, the Mighty, the Omnipotent.

BH10302: God testifieth that there is none other God but…

He is the Mighty!

God testifieth that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Beauteous, and that the Point of the Bayan is His servant and His splendor unto all who are in the heavens and on earth.

And thou, O servant, give thanks unto God, thy Creator, for having singled thee out for His love and sent unto thee this luminous Tablet. Give thanks, and again give thanks, in thy heart and in thine essence, at every morn and eventide. Take heed lest thou grieve over aught, but rather rejoice in the joy of God, the Mighty, the Powerful.

Thus hath the Dove warbled in this remote prison, that thou mayest be of them that render thanks.

BH10171: He is the Mighty One, the Beginning…

He is the Mighty One, the Beginning and the End, and unto Him ascend the cries of the servants.

O ye who love God among the Arabs!

If God granteth you a male child, give him the title of Abdu'l-Baha and name him Husayn or Ali. This is what We have commanded you, if ye be of them that act. And if it be a female child, give her the title of Amatu'l-Baha and name her Dhakriyyih that ye may remember thereby the Day wherein the Most Great Remembrance of God will come to you with manifest sovereignty; or name her Nuriyyih or Sadhijiyyih or ʿAzziyyih. All of this We have ordained for you in holy and resplendent Tablets.

BH10172: O handmaiden of God! Remember thy Lord, then be…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous

O handmaiden of God! Remember thy Lord, then be devoted to Him and rely in all matters upon Him. Verily He watcheth over thee. He preserveth whomsoever He willeth through the sovereignty of His command and nourisheth whomsoever He desireth with the fruits of His love. Verily He keepeth count over thee. Deprive not thyself of the breezes of the days of thy Lord. Remember Him at all times—this is better for thee than all that hath been created on earth. And the glory be upon thee, O handmaiden of God, from One mighty and all-knowing.

BH10173: O handmaid of God!

O handmaid of God!

I have been prevented from engaging in remembrance due to what has befallen Me from My brother and those who followed him, despite their having no knowledge thereof—and God is witness to what I say. Indeed, I have become the target of the arrows of his hatred and rancor, and at every moment there comes upon Me that which causes My soul to grieve. None is aware of this save God, your Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

Be grateful to your Lord in all conditions and place your trust in Him. Verily, He will bring to you that which is better for you than all that has been created between the heavens and the earth.

BH10232: These are verses of holiness which have been sent…

In the Name of the All-Merciful!

These are verses of holiness which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty glory, that they may draw those who have believed in God and bring them near to a station of exalted glory.

Blessed art thou for having attained unto the recognition of God and taken unto the Lord of grace thy way. Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in all matters in God, thy Lord. Verily He will guard thee in truth, and verily He encompasseth all things.

Thy letter hath come before Us, and We have answered thee with these verses, with which all who dwell on earth cannot compare.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon whoso is God-fearing in this Cause.

BH10250: I have departed and emigrated and arrived and returned…

In the name of God, the Everlasting.

I have departed and emigrated and arrived and returned. Guard thyself lest thy deeds be rendered vain and thy hope be cut off. This sufficeth thee if thou be of them that act. Give thanks unto thy Lord for having been granted that which thou didst hope for.

Say: O my Lord! Pour forth upon me patience in my exile from this severe cold, then make me to be numbered with Thy grateful servants.

And when thou reachest the Abode of Peace, convey greetings from Us to thy brethren and to them who are rightly guided.

And mercy be upon thee and upon thy brethren and upon the sincere servants of God.

BH10276: Glorified art Thou, O my God!

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy!

Glorified art Thou, O my God!

I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst take unto Thyself the spirits of all things and didst give them life anew through what Thou hadst ordained in the heaven of Thy decree, and through which those who have recognized Thy unity hastened to the scene of annihilation and the sincere ones to the place of sacrifice, and offered up their souls in their love for Thy beauty and their longing for reunion with Thee and attainment unto Thy presence—that Thou mayest make me to be of them who have detached themselves from all names and have clung to Thy Self, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious.

Verily, Thou art the Powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

BH10283: Glorified art Thou, O my God! This…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

Glorified art Thou, O my God! This is a leaf which the breezes of Thy loving-kindness have stirred, and which the melodies of Thy glorious oneness have attracted, and which Thy love hath taken to such a station that it is prevented from turning to any besides Thee, and its face is honored by turning only unto Thee. Thy tender mercies and favors have taken it to such a degree that its name hath become renowned in the Most Great Paradise. I beseech Thee, O my God, to maintain it in what it is, through the perpetuity of Thy glory, and to never cut off from it the wafting of the breezes of Thy mercy throughout all eternity. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and verily, Thou art the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH10319: The Hidden beareth witness unto My Concealed Name…

He is the Mighty, the Everlasting, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

The Hidden beareth witness unto My Concealed Name, and the Concealed beareth witness unto My Hidden Name, that there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Loving. The River hath flowed, and the verses have been sent down, yet the people comprehend not. We desire to write for thee that which the Point of the Bayan and the Primal Beauty intended for the people of Baha, that thou mayest render thanks unto thy Lord, the Generous. God is well-pleased with thee—these are words which, wert thou to expend all that is on earth, thou wouldst not attain unto. But God doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth, and He is the Mighty, the Generous.

BH10324: Well is it with thee, O servant, for having…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Merciful!

Well is it with thee, O servant, for having sheltered him who came unto thee, and honored and glorified him. By God! Were it not for My fear of the Nimrod of the Bayan, We would have given thee glad tidings with a word that would cause the realities of those who have drunk the pure wine from the Beauty of God, the Most Manifest, the Most Luminous, to rejoice, and would rend asunder the hearts of the

ungodly. This is the reward of thy deed in thy love for God on the day when the pillars of the sincere ones were shaken.

And the Spirit be upon thee and upon thy family who circle round about thee, from God, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. And praise be to the Beloved of the mystics.

BH10327: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

He is the Wondrous One!

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth from the heaven of holy wonderment, that ye may thereby recognize the most excellent of countenances in this Face which gleameth from behind the veils of light. Say: This is the Book of Command from the Point of the Bayan unto His servant who hath attained the presence of the Throne yet knew Him not, inasmuch as the Beauty of Glory had veiled His face from the eyes of all the worlds. O servant! Arise from thy seat, then stand firm in the recognition of thy Lord, and deprive not thyself of the Kawthar of holiness in this Paradise.

BH10341: Thy letter hath reached Our presence and We have…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy!

Thy letter hath reached Our presence and We have read it, for We are ever the Reader thereof. We beseech God to assist thee in His Cause and to grant thee that which He loveth and is pleased with, for verily He is powerful over all things. Be thou assured in thyself, then place thy trust in God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. He, verily, aideth those who have detached themselves from all else save Him and have drawn nigh unto Him with hearts submissive and repentant. He will send down upon thee that which He hath ordained for thee in His Most Great and Glorious Kingdom. And glory be upon thee and upon him who hath believed in God, the Single, the One, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH10396: This is a Book inscribed by the Pen…

This is a Book inscribed by the Pen of Command, the All-Wise. Without doubt it hath been sent down from the presence of One Mighty, All-Knowing, and from it have been ordained the measures of all things in Tablets of glory well-preserved.

Say: O people! Bear ye witness that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Gracious, and that ʿAli-before-Nabil is the Manifestation of His Beauty and the Manifestation of His Glory, and the Repository of His Knowledge, and the Mine of His Revelation, and the Harborer of His Command and His Grandeur, and the Source of His Might and His Sovereignty, and verily there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Triumphant, the All-Wise.

BH10402: Not every heart is capable of acting…

Not every heart is capable of acting as a repository for divine love. For not every soul is suited for growing wondrous herbs—only the heart of a human being who continues to bear the trustworthiness of the All-Merciful and to give the fruit of wisdom and eloquence.

Blessed be the All-Merciful, who is endued with grace and beneficence.

Not everyone who has the form of a human being is worthy of the Most Great Panorama, nor will such a one necessarily be accounted a human being before God. For all who remain bereft of the robe of mystical insight are reckoned as beasts of the field by God.

BH10490: O peoples of the earth!

In the Name of the Most Holy!

O peoples of the earth!

How long will ye prevent the Youth from making mention of His Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing? And how long will ye occupy yourselves with the world and its ornaments? Verily it is a passing shadow. Death shall soon overtake you, and it is a vigilant watcher that neither armies and hosts can repel, nor your might, O concourse of the obstinate!

If ye are able, prevent then the winds of the All-Merciful from blowing; and when they blow, this Leaf moveth as it willeth. This is not of itself, but is from God, and all the hosts of earth cannot prevent that which He desireth, nor can the might of the oppressors.

BH10540: O Mustafa! Bear witness within thyself that verily He…

He is the Mighty.

O Mustafa! Bear witness within thyself that verily He is God, there is none other God but Him, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Say: By God! The Fire hath returned in the Tree and speaketh forth: 'I am, verily, God, the Mighty, the Exalted, the Well-Beloved.' Be thou steadfast then in thy love and be not of them who in God's Covenant remain not firm.

Say: By God! He knoweth the treachery of eyes and what the breasts conceal.

BH10550: O servant of God!

He is God!

O servant of God!

The gaze of God hath been upon thee, for until He gazeth upon one, none would gaze upon Him. His gaze hath preceded all the worlds, even as His mercy hath preceded and shall ever precede them. His remembrance of His servants hath ever preceded their remembrance of Him, yet not every ear heareth His remembrance, nor doth every heart perceive it. Beseech God that thou mayest not be debarred from His remembrance nor deprived of the fragrances of His days.

BH10554: O ye who soar in the atmosphere…

O ye who soar in the atmosphere of the All-Merciful! Be not veiled by the recorded words from the Beauty of Oneness, for all the divine knowledge and heavenly wisdom of which people today are proud have issued from and return to the Primal Point, and that Point came into being through the effect of the Pen of the All-Merciful. Therefore it is not befitting that people become proud of that which is recorded and remain deprived on the Most Great Day. Strive that perchance through divine assistance ye may attain unto the ocean of inner meanings.

BH10565: Praise be to God that thou hast ascended unto…

He is God!

Praise be to God that thou hast ascended unto the heaven of sanctification and drunk from the Salsabil of holy spirituality. Yet the winds of discord are blowing—the breezes of the All-Merciful wafting from one direction while the odor of Satan passeth from another.

My Beloved hath forewarned that all would turn away from the direction of the All-Merciful and become immersed in the sea of self. Indeed today the sea is turbulent and the waves are mounting higher—until such time as some soul, through the aid of the Most Great Heaven, shall pass safely across that sea.

BH10566: Praise God that thou hast drunk from the Kawthar…

He is God!

Praise God that thou hast drunk from the Kawthar of His love and hast been awakened from the slumber of heedlessness by the breeze of His grace.

Strive then, lest satanic manifestations steal away this divine subtlety, for thieves lie in wait for every precious pearl, and highway robbers lurk in ambush for the caravan of the Merciful One's Yemen.

Beseech God that the trust of His love may remain secure from the thieves of days in the treasury of the heart.

BH10568: In times when the winds of tests and trials…

He is God!

In times when the winds of tests and trials are blowing, the lovers of the Countenance of the All-Merciful must remain completely assured, settled upon the couch of certitude. Otherwise, in days of glory when the breezes of divine power are passing by, all have claimed and will claim to love the Beauty of the All-Glorious. But that claim depends upon another test, for it is not known whether the cause was outward circumstances or the Divine Spirit itself.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH10570: Mention has been made of the grievous days [ayyam-i-shidad]…

He is God!

Mention has been made of the grievous days [ayyam-i-shidad] in the Tablet of Steadfastness. The Truth has informed all in wondrous and sublime Tablets of the great tribulation, that perchance the people might not be perturbed when it comes to pass, and might not be debarred from the path of the All-Merciful. Nevertheless, some souls, when the winds of trials blew, returned to the nethermost depths and turned away from the realm of divine oneness, save those who gaze with the eye of the All-Merciful and drink from the Kawthar of assurance.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH10615: Look thou to the heaven that thou mayest witness…

He is the Witnessed One, the Manifest, the Most Glorious

Look thou to the heaven that thou mayest witness the beauty of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, and be of them that are well-assured. Written by the Finger of God, say: This is the Hidden One, and whoso affirmeth aught beside Him hath indeed joined partners with God, and thus hath the matter been decreed. Purify thyself from all else but Me, then make mention of My tribulations, and tarry not even for a moment. Verily thy letter hath come before the Throne, and We have read it and ordained for thee a station that was, in truth, exalted. And glory be upon the people of glory.

BH10621: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou witnessest how…

He is the Mighty!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou witnessest how I have been afflicted in Thy realm. On one side, O my God, hatred hath appeared in the hearts of Thine enemies, and on the other side, O my God, rancor and hypocrisy and hatred have emerged in the hearts of Thy loved ones. Thus, O my God, Thou hast made me to stand between these two groups. Therefore, O my God, aid me through Thy bounty and destroy mine enemies. Verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

BH10622: All praise be unto Thee, O my God…

He is the Glorious, the All-Glorious!

All praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having made me the target of Thy tribulations and the object of Thy decrees, and for having caused to descend upon me that which Thou hast not caused to descend upon any other among Thy creatures, inasmuch as Thou hast placed me beneath the hands of the most contemptible of Thy creation, and the most tyrannical of Thy creatures, and the basest of Thy servants, whom I am powerless even to mention.

Therefore, O my God, through Thy bounty and favor, deliver me, and then, O my God, free me from his clutches. Verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

BH10651: Those who doubt and imagine vainly have never received…

He is God

Those who doubt and imagine vainly have never received and will never receive a share from the chalice of certitude of the Lord of the worlds. Therefore, blessed are those souls who walk with complete certitude in the path of the All-Merciful and detach themselves from all who dwell in the realm of possibility.

The eye was created for the Most Great Vision and the heart for the Kawthar of the recognition of the All-Merciful Spirit. Therefore, one must strive so that the heart may attain His recognition and the eye may behold His countenance.

BH10654: The Primal Point, after traversing the realms…

He is God!

The Primal Point, after traversing the realms of the Kingdom, appeared adorned with the seal of finality, and from its composition diverse forms became manifest, culminating in the Most Great Form. And from the different forms that were brought into being through the marriage of the Single Point, that which pertained to the Treasury remained in its own dwellings. Therefore strive to bring forth, through the divine will, the treasures hidden from mortal eyes. This is the counsel of this imprisoned servant to that servant.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH10660: This is a letter from the servant of God…

In the name of God!

This is a letter from the servant of God to her who hath believed in her Lord and was numbered among the devout handmaidens before God.

Remember thy Lord in the watches of the night and at the beginning and end of day, then prostrate thyself before the countenance of thy Lord, for verily He is knowing of all things. Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God—verily He sufficeth thee against all the world. Then remind thy daughters from this servant that they may take a path unto Him Who occupieth the throne.

And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH10694: How wonderful is this supreme abasement that hath once…

He is the Most Holy

How wonderful is this supreme abasement that hath once again touched Me in the path of God's love! By God, it is dearer to Me than the kingdom of the heavens and earth, and I would not exchange it for aught else in all creation, whether past or future. Thy Lord is witness to what I say. Were We to look to this

world, We would not have borne what no one else in all the worlds hath borne. It shall perish in an instant, while glory and dominion will endure forever with God and His loved ones, and praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH09313: Say: The killing of souls is no proof…

Say: The killing of souls is no proof of manliness or bravery. If ye are able, revive withered souls with the breaths of the All-Merciful. A single serpent can destroy a thousand humans with its venom, yet this power hath never been and will never be a source of pride for the serpent. Rather, it hath caused it to become detested by all hearts. Blessed is the one who ariseth to promote unity and concord, not one who causeth separation and discord.

BH10751: If thou remainest firm in the love of God…

He is God!

If thou remainest firm in the love of God, the wellsprings of divine wisdom will flow from thy heart and tongue, and thou wilt become aware of the meanings of the divine words, for His love hath ever been and shall continue to be the teacher of pure hearts and sanctified souls.

Its effulgences remain concealed and hidden behind the veil of the heart. Rend thou the veil, that the lights of its revelation may shine forth upon the Sinai of thy breast.

BH10763: O my handmaiden! Do not despair of God's mercy…

O my handmaiden! Do not despair of God's mercy, but be devoted and remember, then prostrate and bow before your Lord, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. Say:

Glory be to You, O my God! I beseech You by Your Name through which You established Yourself upon the throne of Your Name, the All-Merciful, not to deprive me of the breezes from the paradise of Your reunion and the fragrances from the garden of Your presence. Verily You are powerful over whatsoever You will, and verily You are the Forgiving, the Generous.

BH10764: O handmaiden of God! Give thanks within thyself, inasmuch…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

O handmaiden of God! Give thanks within thyself, inasmuch as God doth make mention of thee at this moment with the tongue of divine and beloved sanctity, and doth by this means exalt thy name in the meadows of His good-pleasure. Beware lest thou forget the presence of God at the time when thou wert in His presence at both sunrise and sunset. Then remember My handmaiden on My behalf and give her the glad-tidings of My remembrance of her, that she may rejoice within herself and abide in a praiseworthy love.

BH10789: O Sughra, give a hearing ear to the sound…

O Sughra, give a hearing ear to the sound of the Pen of the Most High and pass beyond that which is other than God. Rejoice in His praise and be happy with His remembrance. I swear by the Ancient Beauty that were man to traverse all the heavens and earth, and carry out a search, he will never find happiness and joy save in His love. Therefore, strive that thou mayest be adorned with the diadem of His love amongst the handmaidens of God, and upon thee be the Spirit.

BH10835: He is the Ever-Abiding. God beareth witness that there…

He is the Ever-Abiding. God beareth witness that there is none other God but Him and that ʿAli-before-Muhammad is His Manifestation and His Concealment, His Name and His Beauty, His Mystery and His Light, His Cause and His Utterance, His Speech and His Word, His Wisdom and His Proof, His Evidence and His Revelation, His Word and His Sovereignty, His Grace and His Bounty. His is the Command and the Creation, and verily He is the Mighty, the Powerful.

BH10854: That which caused the kingdoms of earth and heaven…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

That which caused the kingdoms of earth and heaven to tremble hath appeared, all things were shaken, the dwellers of earth and heaven lamented, and the faces of the doubters were transformed. Stand thou firm in the Cause through a power from God, thy Lord, then breathe the spirit of life into the hearts of all mankind. That which ye were promised in the Tablets hath been fulfilled, and every wise matter hath been made clear. And the Spirit be upon thee from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

BH10882: He is God! This is a tablet for one…

He is God! This is a tablet for one of the handmaidens of God, that she may be mindful of the remembrance of her Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. O My handmaiden! Be thou steadfast in the Cause of God, then dwell in the shelter of His mercy. Verily, He shall suffice thee above all the peoples. Beseech thy Lord at all times that He close not before thy face the gates of the Paradise of His good-pleasure, that thou mayest inhale from it the fragrance of the garment of the remembrance of thy Lord, the Most High, the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

BH10979: My Most Exalted Pen beareth witness unto My Most…

He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

My Most Exalted Pen beareth witness unto My Most Glorious Self that He, verily, is the Truth, there is none other God but Him. He doth witness and see, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing. And it beareth witness that I am well-pleased with thee. I rejoice in this most great bounty. Hadst thou expended all that is on earth, thou wouldst not have attained unto this Tablet. But God doeth whatsoever He willeth, and He is the All-Bountiful, the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

BH08586: O Muhsin! When We kindled the fire upon thee…

O Muhsin! When We kindled the fire upon thee, thou didst not ignite. Therefore, We sent the eternal fire upon the Temple of the Tablet and dispatched it unto thee, that perchance thou mayest be ignited within thyself and through thee all created things might be set ablaze, so that from all things may appear that which appeared unto Moses, son of Imran, upon the holy Sinai and the Dome of the Pomegranate. Thus doth the Spirit of Glory cast upon thee, that thou mayest be among those who stand firm in the Cause…

BH11044: rather, thou hast firmly resolved to flee, that thou…

…rather, thou hast firmly resolved to flee, that thou mightest escape from the field of tribulation and the place of tests. Far, far from it! Ye have not yet been sustained by the arrows of the enemy as was intended, nor have ye been afflicted by the gloating of the wicked ones. Your existence is essential for the manifestation of the name of the oppressed. Assuredly, cast out from your mind the thought of flight and efface it from your heart, and with utmost steadfastness establish yourselves in the dwelling-place of calamities.

BH11105: I swear by the Sun of inner meaning…

I swear by the Sun of inner meaning that the cruelties inflicted by these oppressors have bowed Me down, and turned My hair white. Shouldst thou present thyself before My throne, thou wouldst fail to recognize the Ancient Beauty, for the freshness of His countenance is altered by the oppression of the idolaters and its brightness hath faded. I swear by God! His heart, His soul, and His vitals are melted! Yet by the power of God do I move among the people….

BH11088: Glorified art Thou, O my God!

He is the Giver!

Glorified art Thou, O my God!

I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the gates of Thy mercy were opened before the face of all created things, and by these exiles who have scattered from their homes in the paths of Thy good-pleasure, to gather Thy loved ones upon the shores of Thy bounty and mercy. Then assist them through Thy beneficence, for verily Thou hast power over all things.

BH11001: O loved ones of God! Ascend by the ladder…

In the Name of the Protector!

O loved ones of God! Ascend by the ladder of meanings and utterance unto your Lord, the All-Merciful. Beware lest your present condition prevent you from your ultimate destiny, and lest possessions veil you from the remembrance of your Lord, the Mighty, the Most High. Be at rest in the remembrance of God and His love, then detach yourselves from those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

BH11002: O loved ones of God! Do not grieve over…

In the Name of God, the Most Ancient!

O loved ones of God! Do not grieve over what hath befallen the Luminary of the horizons. Verily, the sun is eclipsed and the moon is darkened. Ere long shall We, with the fingers of might, rend asunder the veil that hath come between Us and the servants, that His lights may shine forth amongst the worlds. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH11009: O Pen! Be thou intimate with the remembrance…

In the name of God, the All-Knowing!

O Pen! Be thou intimate with the remembrance of the Ancient King, and efface from thy heart whatsoever preventeth thee from being immersed in the depths of this Most Great Ocean. Then speak forth in praise of God and His remembrance amongst the peoples. Verily, through His remembrance are the hearts of the mystics revived, and verily He is the Kawthar of life—blessed then be they that drink thereof.

BH11024: O friends! In this springtime of the All-Merciful, when…

He is God!

O friends! In this springtime of the All-Merciful, when the Divine Tree of Will hath been adorned with wondrous fruits of knowledge, strive ye to pluck these ripe fruits with your own hands and partake thereof, for in other seasons they cannot be found, and even if found, they will surely lack their original freshness.

BH11045: Blessed is He in Whose hand is the Kingdom…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting

Blessed is He in Whose hand is the Kingdom of the heavens and of the earth. Verily He hath power over all things through His wisdom. He exalteth whom He willeth and abaseth whom He willeth, He giveth to whom He willeth and withholdeth from whom He willeth, He aideth whom He willeth and forsaketh whom He willeth. Verily He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

BH11086: Praise be unto Thee, O Lord my God! I…

He is the Peerless!

Praise be unto Thee, O Lord my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Most Exalted Name in the Tabernacle of effulgent splendour, and by Thy Most Sublime Word in the Dominion of transcendent glory, to protect this servant, who hath enjoyed companionship with Thee, hearkened unto the accents of Thy voice and recognized Thy proof. Vouchsafe, then, unto him the good of both this world and the next, and grant

unto him the station of righteousness in Thy presence, that his feet may not slip from Thine all-glorious and most exalted path.

BH11087: O mother of Ibrahim, who hast migrated unto God!

O mother of Ibrahim, who hast migrated unto God!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which all darkness hath been dispelled and all light hath dawned forth, and the Face hath been illumined in the heaven of all possibilities, and Beauty hath shone forth in the kingdom of all created things, to guard the bearer of this Tablet through Thy sovereignty and power. Verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

BH11092: Glorified art Thou, O my God, O my God!…

He is the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting!

Glorified art Thou, O my God, O my God! O my Lord, my Lord! O my Beloved, my Beloved! Thine is the dominion and the kingdom, and Thine the power and might and grandeur. Thou givest and Thou withholdest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Conquering, the Powerful, the All-Knowing.

BH11116: Forget not the remembrance of God and His Covenant…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous!

Forget not the remembrance of God and His Covenant. Verily, He is with thee and will aid thee in all conditions. Turn thou unto God and detach thyself wholly from all else besides Him. Thus doth the Pen make mention of thee at a time when it is prevented from mentioning the mysteries of eternity and lamenteth over that which hath befallen the Youth through that which the hands of the heedless have wrought.

BH11122: O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having…

He is the Most Ancient

O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having once again subjected me to the greatest humiliation in Thy love, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of names. By Thy glory! The effulgence of Baha finds comfort in tribulation even as a suckling babe finds comfort at its mother's breast, and my longing for it is like the longing of the thirsty one for the fountain of life, and of the sinner for Thy mercy, O Thou our Lord, the All-Merciful.

BH11132: The Bird of Immortality, perched upon the Sadratu'l-Muntaha, warbleth…

He is God!

The Bird of Immortality, perched upon the Sadratu'l-Muntaha, warbleth at morn and eventide this most sweet utterance: O ye who are attracted by the fragrances of the All-Merciful's love, soar ye in His atmosphere, and raise up the pavilion of detachment upon the shores of the Most Great Ocean, that

through a drop from the ocean of His bounty the dead may attain unto an eternal and abiding life. And the Spirit be upon thee.

BH11179: Would that Baha had tongues to the number…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy!

Would that Baha had tongues to the number of all created things, that He might thank Thee, O my God, for what hath befallen Him in Thy path of the supreme affliction and the most great calamity. By Thy glory! Thy firm decree in Thy good-pleasure is the desire of the sincere ones, the hope of the longing ones, and the life of the lovers. I praise Thee in all conditions, O God of the worlds!

BH11243: in the fields of divine victory ye should be…

…in the fields of divine victory ye should be as pealing thunder and as consuming fire, and in the manifestations of His grace and mercy ye should be as the water of heavenly bounty and as radiant verses, clear and evident.

BH11287: Say: O my God! Thou art the Sovereign…

Say: O my God! Thou art the Sovereign of sovereigns and the Compassionate to the downtrodden. Thou art the Dispeller of doubts. Thou dost enrich whomsoever Thou willest and dost impoverish whomsoever Thou willest. Thou dost exalt whomsoever Thou willest and dost abase whomsoever Thou willest. Verily, Thou art and hast ever been the Omnipotent, the All-Powerful, the Mighty.

BH11206: The gates of the paradise of inner meanings are…

He is God!

The gates of the paradise of inner meanings are opened wide, and the breezes from the garment of the All-Merciful are blowing and passing by. O loved ones of God! Do not deprive yourselves of this spiritual fragrance, that perchance through its wafting breaths you may remain alive and enduring.

BH11270: Blessed are they who have quaffed from the wine…

He is God!

Blessed are they who have quaffed from the wine of immortal life and who have been nourished by the Kawthar of His presence. I swear by the Sun of the dawn of inner meanings that nothing that is hidden or manifest can equal even one of those souls.

BH11295: In the Name of God, the Most Holy!…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy! The Pen proclaimeth and saith: I have been forbidden from revealing the mysteries of eternity and mentioning the pearls of the Most Great Sea, each drop of which

proclaimeth: He is the Quickener of all worlds! And praise be to God, the Object of worship of all who know Him.

BH11384: O Javad! This is a year of hardship…

O Javad! This is a year of hardship for the servants and a year of divine decree for Us. If aught befalleth Us, We are supremely content, and if it be averted, We are supremely thankful….

BH11415: Glorified be He Who raised up this heaven without…

Glorified be He Who raised up this heaven without pillars, stretched forth the earth upon the waters, commanded the winds, caused the signs to be made manifest, fixed the seas in their places, caused ships to sail thereon, and made all things speak even as the Dove spoke in the dominion of eternity. He sends down to whomsoever He wishes that which shall protect him from the arrows of misfortune and guard him from the vicissitudes of time….

BH11390: He is God! O hearing of the worlds! Hearken…

He is God! O hearing of the worlds! Hearken to the call of the Lord, the All-Merciful, which is raised from the direction of sorrows, that perchance through thy hearing the ears of the people of the earth may be turned and they may attain to the hearing of the Word of God.

BH11400: He is God! Praise be to God that Thou…

He is God! Praise be to God that Thou hast, through the might of Abraham, shattered the idol of vain imaginings and rent asunder the obstructing veils. This is that grace with which nothing, whether hidden or manifest, can compare.

BH11428: He is God! The Word of God…

He is God! The Word of God is the quickener of bodies and the resurrector of souls. Therefore hearken unto His wondrous and decisive Word, that ye may be mentioned before God as being among the dwellers of the eternal cities.

BH11430: He is God! The Beloved states that today no…

He is God! The Beloved states that today no one attains unto the recognition of God except through detachment from all that is in the heavens and on earth. How excellent, then, is the state of the soul that attains unto this supreme nobility and remains steadfast therein.

BH11525: And thus have We caused the light…

And thus have We caused the light of the Cause to shine forth from this lamp-stand that hath been uplifted in this atmosphere; then, from it, the verdure of the hallowed enclosure sprang into being in this secure city….

BH11485: He is God! The veils of vain imaginings are…

He is God! The veils of vain imaginings are to be rent asunder in such wise that the denizens of the sacred pavilions of divine holiness will hear its call and all will exclaim “Blessed be God, the Most Powerful of the powerful ones!”

BH00007: Suriy-i-Haykal (Surih of the Temple)

Section 1: “This is the Surih of the Temple…”

This is the Surih of the Temple which God hath ordained to be the Mirror of His Names between the heavens and the earth, and the Sign of His Remembrance amidst the peoples of the world.

He is the Most Wondrous, the All-Glorious!

Glorified is He Who hath revealed His verses to those who understand. Glorified is He Who sendeth down His verses to those who perceive. Glorified is He Who guideth whomsoever He pleaseth unto His path. Say: I, verily, am the Path of God unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth; well is it with them that hasten thereunto!

Glorified is He Who sendeth down His verses to those who comprehend. Glorified is He Who speaketh forth from the Kingdom of His Revelation, and Who remaineth unknown to all save His honoured servants. Glorified is He Who quickeneth whomsoever He willeth by virtue of His word “Be”, and it is! Glorified is He Who causeth whomsoever He willeth to ascend unto the heaven of grace, and sendeth down therefrom whatsoever He desireth according to a prescribed measure.

Blessed is He Who doeth as He willeth by a word of His command. He, verily, is the True One, the Knower of things unseen. Blessed is He Who inspireth whomsoever He willeth with whatsoever He desireth, through His irresistible and inscrutable command. Blessed is He Who aideth whomsoever He desireth with the hosts of the unseen. His might is, in truth, equal to His purpose, and He, verily, is the All-Glorious, the Self-Subsisting. Blessed is He Who exalteth whomsoever He willeth by the power of His sovereign might, and confirmeth whomsoever He chooseth in accordance with His good pleasure; well is it with them that understand!

Blessed is He Who, in a well-guarded Tablet, hath prescribed a fixed measure unto all things. Blessed is He Who hath revealed unto His Servant that which shall illumine the hearts and minds of men. Blessed is He Who hath sent down upon His Servant such tribulations as have melted the hearts of them that dwell within the Tabernacle of eternity and the souls of those who have drawn nigh unto their Lord. Blessed is He Who hath showered upon His Servant, from the clouds of His decree, the darts of affliction, and Who beholdeth Me enduring them with patience and fortitude. Blessed is He Who hath ordained for His Servant that which He hath destined for no other soul. He, verily, is the One, the Incomparable, the Self-Subsisting.

Blessed is He Who hath caused to rain down upon His Servant from the clouds of enmity, and at the hands of the people of denial, the shafts of tribulation and trial; and yet seeth Our heart filled with gratitude. Blessed is He Who hath laid upon the shoulders of His Servant the burden of the heavens and of the earth—a burden for which We yield Him every praise, though none may grasp this save them that are endued with understanding. Glorified is He Who hath surrendered the embodiment of His Beauty to the clutches of the envious and the wicked—a fate unto which We are fully resigned, though none may perceive this save those who are endued with insight. Glorified is He Who hath left Husayn to make His dwelling amidst the hosts of His enemies, and exposed His body with every breath to the spears of hatred and anger; yet do We yield Him thanks for all that He hath destined to befall His Servant Who repaireth unto Him in His affliction and grief.

While engulfed in tribulations I heard a most wondrous, a most sweet voice, calling above My head. Turning My face, I beheld a Maiden—the embodiment of the remembrance of the name of My Lord—suspended in the air before Me. So rejoiced was she in her very soul that her countenance shone with the ornament of the good pleasure of God, and her cheeks glowed with the brightness of the All-Merciful. Betwixt earth and heaven she was raising a call which captivated the hearts and minds of men. She was imparting to both My inward and outer being tidings which rejoiced My soul, and the souls of God's honoured servants.

Pointing with her finger unto My head, she addressed all who are in heaven and all who are on earth, saying: By God! This is the Best-Beloved of the worlds, and yet ye comprehend not. This is the Beauty of God amongst you, and the power of His sovereignty within you, could ye but understand. This is the Mystery of God and His Treasure, the Cause of God and His glory unto all who are in the kingdoms of Revelation and of creation, if ye be of them that perceive. This is He Whose Presence is the ardent desire of the denizens of the Realm of eternity, and of them that dwell within the Tabernacle of glory, and yet from His Beauty do ye turn aside.

O people of the Bayan! If ye aid Him not, God will assuredly assist Him with the powers of earth and heaven, and sustain Him with the hosts of the unseen through His command "Be", and it is! The day is approaching when God will have, by an act of His Will, raised up a race of men the nature of which is inscrutable to all save God, the All-Powerful, the Self-Subsisting. He shall purify them from the defilement of idle fancies and corrupt desires, shall lift them up to the heights of holiness, and shall cause them to manifest the signs of His sovereignty and might upon earth. Thus hath it been ordained by God, the All-Glorious, the All-Loving.

O people of the Bayan! Would ye deny Him Whose presence is the very object of your creation, while ye rejoice idly upon your couches? Would ye laugh to scorn and contend with Him, a single hair of Whose head excelleth, in the sight of God, all that are in the heavens and all that are on the earth? O people of the Bayan! Produce, then, that which ye possess, that I may know by what proof ye believed aforetime in the Manifestations of His Cause, and by what reason ye now wax so disdainful!

I swear by Him Who hath fashioned Me from the light of His own Beauty! None have I ever seen that surpasseth you in heedlessness or exceedeth you in ignorance. Ye seek to prove your faith in God through such holy Tablets as ye possess, yet when the verses of God were revealed and His Lamp was lighted, ye

disbelieved in Him Whose very Pen hath fixed the destinies of all things in the Preserved Tablet. Ye recite the sacred verses and yet repudiate Him Who is their Source and Revealer. Thus hath God blinded your eyes in requital for your deeds, would ye but understand. Day and night ye transcribe the verses of God, and yet ye remain shut out, as by a veil, from Him Who hath revealed them.

In this Day the Concourse on high beholdeth you in your evil doings and shunneth your company, and yet ye perceive it not. They ask of one another: "What words do these fools utter, and in what valley are they wont to graze? Do they deny that whereunto their very souls testify, and shut their eyes to that which they plainly behold?" I swear by God, O people! They that inhabit the Cities of the Names of God are bewildered at your actions, while ye roam, aimless and unconscious, in a parched and barren land.

O Pen of the Most High! Hearken unto the Call of Thy Lord, raised from the Divine Lote-Tree in the holy and luminous Spot, that the sweet accents of Thy Lord, the All-Merciful, may fill Thy soul with joy and fervour, and that the breezes that waft from My name, the Ever-Forgiving, may dispel Thy cares and sorrows. Raise up, then, from this Temple, the temples of the Oneness of God, that they may tell out, in the kingdom of creation, the tidings of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, and be of them that are illumined by His light.

We, verily, have ordained this Temple to be the source of all existence in the new creation, that all may know of a certainty My power to accomplish that which I have purposed through My word "Be", and it is! Beneath the shadow of every letter of this Temple We shall raise up a people whose number none can reckon save God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Erelong shall God bring forth from His Temple such souls as will remain unswayed by the insinuations of the rebellious, and who will quaff at all times of the cup that is life indeed. These, truly, are of the blissful.

These are servants who abide beneath the shelter of the tender mercy of their Lord, and who remain undeterred by those who seek to obstruct their path. Upon their faces may be seen the brightness of the light of the All-Merciful, and from their hearts may be heard the remembrance of Mine all-glorious and inaccessible Name. Were they to unloose their tongues to extol their Lord, the denizens of earth and heaven would join in their anthems of praise—yet how few are they who hear! And were they to glorify their Lord, all created things would join in their hymns of glory. Thus hath God exalted them above the rest of His creation, and yet the people remain unaware!

These are they who circle round the Cause of God even as the shadow doth revolve around the sun. Open, then, your eyes, O people of the Bayan, that haply ye may behold them! It is by virtue of their movement that all things are set in motion, and by reason of their stillness all things are brought to rest, would that ye might be assured thereof! Through them the believers in the Divine Unity have turned towards Him Who is the Object of the adoration of the entire creation, and by them the hearts of the righteous have found rest and composure, could ye but know it! Through them the earth hath been established, the clouds have rained down their bounty, and the bread of knowledge hath descended from the heaven of grace, could ye but perceive it!

These souls are the protectors of the Cause of God on earth, who shall preserve its beauty from the obscuring dust of idle fancies and vain imaginings. In the path of their Lord they shall not fear for their

lives; rather will they sacrifice their all in their eagerness to behold the face of their Well-Beloved when once He hath appeared in this Name, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Glorious, the Most Holy.

O Living Temple! Arise by the power of Thy Self in such wise that all created things will be moved to arise with Thee. Aid, then, Thy Lord through such ascendancy and might as We have bestowed upon Thee. Take heed lest Thou falter on that Day when all created things are filled with dismay; rather be Thou the revealer of My name, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Assist Thy Lord to the utmost of Thine ability, and pay no heed to the peoples of the world, for that which their mouths utter is like unto the droning of a gnat in an endless valley. Quaff the water of life in My name, the All-Merciful, and proffer unto the near ones amongst the inmates of this lofty station that which shall cause them to become detached from all names and enter beneath this blessed and all-encompassing shadow.

O Living Temple! Through Thee have We gathered together all created things, whether in the heavens or on the earth, and called them to account for that which We had covenanted with them before the foundation of the world. And lo, but for a few radiant faces and eloquent tongues, We found most of the people dumbfounded, their eyes staring up in fear. From the former We brought forth the creation of all that hath been and all that shall be. These are they whose countenances God hath graciously turned away from the face of the unbelievers, and whom He hath sheltered beneath the shadow of the Tree of His own Being; they upon whose hearts He hath bestowed the gift of peace and tranquillity, and whom He hath strengthened and assisted through the hosts of the seen and the unseen.

O Eyes of this Temple! Look not upon the heavens and that which they contain, nor upon the earth and them that dwell thereon, for We have created you to behold Our own Beauty: See it now before you! Withhold not your gaze therefrom, and deprive not yourselves of the Beauty of your Lord, the All-Glorious, the Best-Beloved. Erelong shall We bring into being through you keen and penetrating eyes that will contemplate the manifold signs of their Creator and turn away from all that is perceived by the people of the world. Through you shall We bestow the power of vision upon whomsoever We desire, and lay hold upon those who have deprived themselves of this gracious bounty. These, verily, have drunk from the cup of delusion, though they perceive it not.

O Ears of this Temple! Purge yourselves from all idle clamour and hearken unto the voice of your Lord. He, verily, revealeth unto you, from the Throne of glory, that there is none other God save Me, the All-Glorious, the Almighty, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Erelong shall We bring into being through you pure and undefiled ears which will heed the Word of God and that which hath appeared from the Dayspring of the Utterance of your Lord, the All-Merciful. They shall assuredly perceive the sweet accents of Divine Revelation that proceed from these most blessed and hallowed precincts.

Section 2: “O Tongue of this Temple! We, verily, have…”

O Tongue of this Temple! We, verily, have created thee through Our name, the All-Merciful, have taught thee whatsoever had remained concealed in the Bayan, and have bestowed upon thee the power of utterance, that thou mayest make mention of Mine exalted Self amidst My creatures. Proclaim, then, this wondrous and mighty Remembrance, and fear not the manifestations of the Evil One. Thou wert called into being for this very purpose by virtue of My transcendent and all-compelling command. Through thee

have We unloosed the Tongue of Utterance to expound all that hath been, and We shall again, by My sovereign power, unloose it to speak of that which is yet to come. Erelong shall We bring into being through thee eloquent tongues that will praise and extol Me amongst the Concourse on high and amidst the peoples of the world.

Thus have the verses of God been revealed, and thus hath it been decreed by the Lord of all names and attributes. Thy Lord, verily, is the True One, the Knower of things unseen. Nothing whatsoever shall prevent these tongues from magnifying their Creator. Through them, all created things shall arise to glorify the Lord of names and to bear witness that there is none other God save Me, the All-Powerful, the Most-Glorious, the Best-Beloved. Nor shall those who make mention of Me speak aught unless they be inspired by this Tongue from its lofty station. Few, however, are they who understand! No tongue is there that speaketh not the praises of its Lord and maketh not mention of His Name. Amongst the people, however, are those who understand and utter praises, and those who utter praises, yet understand not.

O Maid of inner meanings! Step out of the chamber of utterance by the leave of God, the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Reveal, then, thyself adorned with the raiment of the celestial Realm, and proffer with thy ruby fingers the wine of the heavenly Dominion, that haply the denizens of this world may perceive the light that shone forth from the Kingdom of God when the Daystar of eternity appeared above the horizon of glory. Perchance they may arise before the dwellers of earth and heaven to extol and magnify this Youth Who hath established Himself in the midmost heart of Paradise upon the throne of His name, the All-Sufficing Helper—He upon Whose countenance shineth the brightness of the All-Merciful, from Whose gaze appear the glances of the All-Glorious, and in Whose ways are revealed the tokens and evidences of God, the omnipotent Protector, the Almighty, the All-Loving.

Grieve not if none be found to accept the crimson wine proffered by Thy snow-white hand and to seize it in the name of Thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High—He Who hath appeared again in His name, the Most Glorious. Leave this people unto themselves, and repair unto the Tabernacle of majesty and glory, wherein Thou shalt encounter a people whose faces shine as brightly as the sun in its noontide splendour, and who praise and extol their Lord in this Name that hath arisen, in the plenitude of might and power, to assume the throne of independent sovereignty. From their lips Thou shalt hear naught but the strains of My glorification and praise; unto this Thy Lord beareth Me witness. The existence of these people, however, hath remained concealed from the eyes of all who, from everlasting, have been created through the Word of God. Thus have We made plain Our meaning and set forth Our verses, that perchance men may reflect upon the signs and tokens of their Lord.

These are they who, in truth, were not enjoined to prostrate themselves before Adam. They have never turned away from the countenance of Thy Lord, and partake at every moment of the gifts and delights of holiness. Thus hath the Pen of the All-Merciful set forth the secrets of all things, be they of the past or of the future. Would that the world might understand! Erelong shall God make manifest this people upon the earth, and through them shall exalt His name, diffuse His signs, uphold His words, and proclaim His verses, in spite of those that have repudiated His truth, gainsaid His sovereignty, and cavilled at His signs.

O Beauty of the All-Glorious! Shouldst Thou chance upon this people and enter their presence, recount unto them that which this Youth hath related unto Thee concerning Himself and the things that have

befallen Him, that they may come to know what hath been inscribed upon the Preserved Tablet. Acquaint them with the tidings of this Youth, and with the trials and tribulations He hath suffered, that they may become mindful of Mine afflictions, and be of them that understand. Recount, then, unto them how We singled out for Our favour one of Our brothers, how We imparted unto him a dewdrop from the fathomless ocean of knowledge, clothed him with the garment of one of Our Names, and exalted him to such a station that all were moved to extol him, and how We so protected him from the harm of the malevolent as to disarm even the mightiest amongst them.

We arose before the peoples of earth and heaven at a time when all had determined to slay us. While dwelling in their midst, We continually made mention of the Lord, celebrated His praise, and stood firm in His Cause, until at last the Word of God was vindicated amongst His creatures, His signs were spread abroad, His power exalted, and His sovereignty revealed in its full splendour. To this bear witness all His honoured servants. Yet when My brother beheld the rising fame of the Cause, he became filled with arrogance and pride. Thereupon he emerged from behind the veil of concealment, rose up against Me, disputed My verses, denied My testimony, and repudiated My signs. Nor would his hunger be appeased unless he were to devour My flesh and drink My blood. To this testify such of God's servants as have accompanied Him in His exile, and they that enjoy near access unto Him.

To this end he conferred with one of My servants and sought to win him over to his own designs; whereupon the Lord despatched unto Mine assistance the hosts of the seen and the unseen, protected Me by the power of truth, and sent down upon Me that which thwarted his purpose. Thus were foiled the plots of those who disbelieve in the verses of the All-Merciful. They, truly, are a rejected people. When news spread of that which the promptings of self had impelled My brother to attempt, and Our companions in exile learned of his nefarious design, the voice of their indignation and grief was lifted up and threatened to spread throughout the city. We forbade, however, such recriminations, and enjoined upon them patience, that they might be of those that endure steadfastly.

By God, besides Whom is none other God! We withstood all these trials with forbearance, and enjoined upon God's servants to show forth patience and fortitude. Removing Ourself from their midst, We took up residence in another house, that perchance the flame of envy might be quenched in Our brother's breast, and that he might be guided aright. We neither opposed him, nor saw him again thereafter, but remained in Our home, placing Our hopes in the bounty of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. When, however, he realized that his deed had been exposed, he seized the pen of calumny and wrote unto the servants of God, attributing what he had himself committed unto Mine own peerless and wronged Beauty. His purpose was none other than to inspire mischief amongst God's servants, and to instil hatred into the hearts of those who had believed in God, the All-Glorious, the All-Loving.

By the One in Whose hand is My soul! We were dismayed by his deceitfulness—nay, bewildered were all things visible and invisible. Nor did he find respite from what he harboured in his bosom until he had committed that which no pen dare describe, and by which he disgraced the dignity of My station and profaned the sanctity of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised. Were God to turn all the oceans of the earth into ink and all created things into pens, they would not suffice Me to exhaust the

record of his wrongdoings. Thus do We recount that which befell Us, that haply ye may be of them that understand.

O Pen of Eternity! Grieve not at the things that have befallen Thee, for erelong shall God raise up a people who will see with their own eyes and will recall Thy tribulations. Withhold Thy pen from the mention of Thine enemies, and bestir it in the praise of the Eternal King. Renounce all created things, and quaff the sealed wine of My remembrance. Beware lest Thou become occupied with the mention of those from whom naught save the noisome savours of enmity can be perceived, those who are so enslaved by their lust for leadership that they would not hesitate to destroy themselves in their desire to emblazon their fame and perpetuate their names. God hath recorded such souls in the Preserved Tablet as mere worshippers of names. Recount then that which Thou hast purposed for this Temple, that its signs and tokens may be made manifest upon earth, and that the brightness of this Light may illumine the horizons of the world and cleanse the earth from the defilement of those who have disbelieved in God. Thus have We set down the verses of God and made plain the matter unto those who understand.

O Living Temple! Stretch forth Thy hand over all who are in heaven and on earth, and seize within the grasp of Thy Will the reins of command. We have, verily, placed in Thy right hand the empire of all things. Do as Thou willest, and fear not the ignorant. Reach out to the Tablet that hath dawned above the horizon of the pen of Thy Lord, and take hold of it with such strength that, through Thee, the hands of all who inhabit the earth may be enabled to lay fast hold upon it. This, in truth, is that which becometh Thee, if Thou be of those who understand. Through the upraising of Thy hand to the heaven of My grace, the hands of all created things shall be lifted up to their Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Gracious.

Erelong shall We raise up, through the aid of Thy hand, other hands endued with power, with strength and might, and shall establish through them Our dominion over all that dwell in the realms of revelation and creation. Thus will the servants of God recognize the truth that there is none other God beside Me, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. With these hands, moreover, We shall both bestow and withhold, though none can understand this save those who see with the eye of the spirit.

Say: O people! Can ye ever hope to escape the sovereign power of your Lord? By the righteousness of God! No refuge will ye find in this day, and no one to protect you, save those upon whom God hath bestowed the favour of His mercy. He, verily, is the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate. Say: O people! Forsake all that ye possess, and enter beneath the shadow of your Lord, the All-Merciful. Better is this for you than all your works of the past and of the future. Fear ye God, and deprive not yourselves of the sweet savours of the days of the Lord of all names and attributes. Take heed lest ye alter or pervert the text of the Word of God. Walk ye in the fear of God, and be numbered with the righteous.

Say: O people! This is the Hand of God, which hath ever been above your own hands, could ye but understand. Within its grasp We have ordained all the good of the heavens and the earth, such that no good shall be made manifest but that it proceedeth therefrom. Thus have We made it the source and treasury of all good both aforetime and hereafter. Say: The rivers of divine wisdom and utterance which flowed through the Tablets of God are joined to this Most Great Ocean, could ye but perceive it, and whatever hath been set forth in His Books hath attained its final consummation in this most exalted

Word—a Word shining above the horizon of the Will of the All-Glorious in this Revelation which hath filled with delight all things seen and unseen.

Erelong shall God draw forth, out of the bosom of power, the hands of ascendancy and might, and shall raise up a people who will arise to win victory for this Youth and who will purge mankind from the defilement of the outcast and the ungodly. These hands will gird up their loins to champion the Faith of God, and will, in My name the Self-Subsistent, the Mighty, subdue the peoples and kindreds of the earth. They will enter the cities and will inspire with fear the hearts of all their inhabitants. Such are the evidences of the might of God; how fearful, how vehement is His might, and how justly doth He wield it! He, verily, ruleth and transcendeth all who are in the heavens and on the earth, and revealeth what He desireth according to a prescribed measure.

Should any one of them be called upon to confront all the hosts of creation, he would assuredly prevail through the ascendancy of My Will. This, verily, is a proof of My power, though My creatures comprehend it not. This, verily, is a sign of My sovereignty, though My subjects understand it not. This, verily, is a token of My command, though My servants perceive it not. This, verily, is an evidence of Mine ascendancy, though none amongst the people is truly thankful for it, save those whose eyes God hath illumined with the light of His knowledge, whose hearts He hath made the repository of His Revelation, and upon whose shoulders He hath placed the weight of His Cause. These shall inhale the fragrances of the All-Merciful from the garment of His Name, and shall rejoice at all times in the signs and verses of their Lord. As for those who disbelieve in God, and join partners with Him, they shall indeed incur His wrath, shall be cast into the Fire, and shall be made to dwell, fearful and dismayed, in its depths. Thus do We expound Our verses, and make plain the truth with clear proofs, that perchance the people may reflect upon the signs of their Lord.

Section 3: “O Living Temple! We have, in very truth…”

O Living Temple! We have, in very truth, appointed Thee to be the sign of My majesty amidst all that hath been and all that shall be, and have ordained Thee to be the emblem of My Cause betwixt the heavens and the earth, through My word “Be”, and it is!

O First Letter of this Temple, betokening the Essence of Divinity! We have made thee the treasury of My Will and the repository of My Purpose unto all who are in the kingdoms of revelation and creation. This is but a token of the grace of Him Who is the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

O Second Letter of this Temple, betokening My name, the Almighty! We have made thee the manifestation of Our sovereignty and the dayspring of Our Names. Potent am I to fulfil that which My tongue speaketh.

O Third Letter of this Temple, betokening My name, the All-Bountiful! We have made thee the dawning-place of Our bounty amidst Our creatures and the fountainhead of Our generosity amidst Our people. Powerful am I in My dominion. Nothing whatsoever of all that hath been created in the heavens or on the earth can escape My knowledge, and I am the True One, the Knower of things unseen.

O Pen! Send down out of the clouds of Thy generosity that which shall enrich all created things, and withhold not Thy favours from the world of being. Thou, verily, art the All-Bountiful in the heaven of Thine eternity, and the Lord of infinite grace unto all who inhabit the kingdom of names. Look not upon the people and the things they possess; look rather upon the wonders of Thy gifts and favours. Gather then Thy servants beneath Thy shade that shadoweth all mankind. Stretch forth the hand of bounty over all creation, and the fingers of bestowal over all existence. This, verily, is that which beseemeth Thee, though the people understand it not. Whosoever turneth his face towards Thee doeth so by Thy grace, and as to him who turneth away, Thy Lord, in truth, is independent of all created things. Unto this bear witness His true and devoted servants.

Erelong shall God raise up, through Thee, those with hands of indomitable strength and arms of invincible might, who will come forth from behind the veils, will render the All-Merciful victorious amongst the peoples of the world, and will raise so mighty a cry as to cause all hearts to tremble with fear. Thus hath it been decreed in a Written Tablet. Such shall be the ascendancy which these souls will evince that consternation and dismay will seize all the dwellers of the earth.

Beware lest ye shed the blood of anyone. Unsheathe the sword of your tongue from the scabbard of utterance, for therewith ye can conquer the citadels of men's hearts. We have abolished the law to wage holy war against each other. God's mercy, hath, verily, encompassed all created things, if ye do but understand. Aid ye your Lord, the God of Mercy, with the sword of understanding. Keener indeed is it, and more finely tempered, than the sword of utterance, were ye but to reflect upon the words of your Lord. Thus have the hosts of Divine Revelation been sent down by God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting, and thus have the armies of divine inspiration been made manifest from the Source of command, as bidden by God, the All-Glorious, the Best-Beloved.

Say: The measure of all created things hath been appointed in this concealed and manifest Temple, wherein lie enshrined the knowledge of the heavens and the earth, and of all things past and future. The finger of God's handiwork hath inscribed upon this Tablet that which the wisest and most learned of men are powerless to fathom, and hath created therein temples inscrutable to all save His own Self, could ye but apprehend this truth. Blessed be the one who readeth it, who pondereth its contents, and who is numbered with them that comprehend!

Say: Naught is seen in My temple but the Temple of God, and in My beauty but His Beauty, and in My being but His Being, and in My self but His Self, and in My movement but His Movement, and in My acquiescence but His Acquiescence, and in My pen but His Pen, the Mighty, the All-Praised. There hath not been in My soul but the Truth, and in Myself naught could be seen but God.

Beware lest ye speak of duality in regard to My Self, for all the atoms of the earth proclaim that there is none other God but Him, the One, the Single, the Mighty, the Loving. From the beginning that hath no beginning I have proclaimed, from the realm of eternity, that I am God, none other God is there save Me, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting; and unto the end that hath no end I shall proclaim, amidst the kingdom of names, that I am God, none other God is there beside Me, the All-Glorious, the Best-Beloved. Say: Lordship is My Name, whereof I have created manifestations in the world of being, while We Ourself remain sanctified above them, would ye but ponder this truth. And Godhead is My Name, whereof We

have created exponents whose power shall encompass the people of the earth and make them true worshippers of God, could ye but recognize it. Thus should ye regard all Our Names, if ye be endued with insight.

O Fourth Letter of this Temple, betokening the attribute of Grace! We have made thee the manifestation of grace betwixt earth and heaven. From thee have We generated all grace in the contingent world, and unto thee shall We cause it to return. And from thee shall We manifest it again, through a word of Our command. Potent am I to accomplish whatsoever I desire through My word "Be", and it is! Every grace that appeareth in the world of being hath originated from thee, and unto thee shall it return. This, verily, is what hath been ordained in a Tablet which We have preserved behind the veil of glory and concealed from mortal eyes. Well is it with them that deprive themselves not of this manifest and unfailing grace.

Say: In this day, the fertilizing winds of the grace of God have passed over all things. Every creature hath been endowed with all the potentialities it can carry. And yet the peoples of the world have denied this grace! Every tree hath been endowed with the choicest fruits, every ocean enriched with the most luminous gems. Man, himself, hath been invested with the gifts of understanding and knowledge. The whole creation hath been made the recipient of the revelation of the All-Merciful, and the earth the repository of things inscrutable to all except God, the Truth, the Knower of things unseen. The time is approaching when every created thing will have cast its burden. Glorified be God Who hath vouchsafed this grace that encompasseth all things, whether seen or unseen! Thus have We created the whole earth anew in this day, yet most of the people have failed to perceive it. Say: The grace of God can never be adequately understood; how much less can His own Self, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting, be comprehended!

O Temple of the Cause! Grieve not if Thou findest none ready to receive Thy gifts. Thou wast created for My sake; occupy Thyself therefore with My praise amidst My servants. This is that which hath been ordained for Thee in the Preserved Tablet. Having found upon the earth many a soiled hand, We sanctified the hem of Thy garment from the profanity of their touch and placed it beyond the reach of the ungodly. Be patient in the Cause of Thy Lord, for erelong shall He raise up souls endowed with sanctified hearts and illumined eyes who shall flee from every quarter unto Thine all-encompassing and boundless grace.

O Temple of God! No sooner had the hosts of Divine Revelation been sent down by the Lord of all names and attributes bearing the banners of His signs, than the exponents of doubt and fancy were put to flight. They disbelieved in the clear tokens of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting, and rose up against Him in enmity and opposition. Amongst them were those who claimed: "These are not clear verses from God, nor do they proceed from an innate and untaught nature." Thus do the unbelievers seek to remedy the sickness of their hearts, utterly heedless that they thus render themselves accursed of all who dwell in heaven and on earth.

Say: The Holy Spirit Itself hath been generated through the agency of a single letter revealed by this Most Great Spirit, if ye be of them that comprehend. And that innate and untaught nature in its essence is called into being by the verses of God, the Help in Peril, the All-Glorious, the Best-Beloved. Say: This nature prideth itself in its relation to Our transcendent Truth, whilst We, for Our part, glory neither in it

nor in aught else, for all beside Myself hath been created through the potency of My word, could ye but understand.

Say: We have revealed Our verses in nine different modes. Each one of them bespeaketh the sovereignty of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. A single one of them sufficeth for a proof unto all who are in the heavens and on the earth; yet the people, for the most part, persist in their heedlessness. Should it be Our wish, We would reveal them in countless other modes.

Say: O people! Fear ye God, and allow not your tongues to utter, in their deceitfulness, that which displeaseth Him. Stand abashed before the One Who, as ye well know, hath created you out of a drop of water. Say: We have created all that are in heaven and on earth in the nature made by God. Whosoever turneth unto this blessed Countenance shall manifest the potentialities of that inborn nature, and whosoever remaineth veiled therefrom shall be deprived of this invisible and all-encompassing grace. Verily, there is naught from which Our favour hath been withheld, inasmuch as We have dealt equitably in the fashioning of each and all, and by a word of Our mouth presented unto them the trust of Our love. They that have accepted it are indeed safe and secure, and are numbered among those who are immune from the terrors of this Day. Those, however, who have rejected it have, in truth, disbelieved in God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Thus do We distinguish between the people and pronounce judgement upon them. We, of a certainty, have the power to discern.

Say: The Word of God can never be confounded with the words of His creatures. It is, in truth, the King of words, even as He is Himself the sovereign Lord of all, and His Cause transcendeth all that was and all that shall be. Enter, O people, the City of Certitude wherein the throne of your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath been established. Thus biddeth you the Pen of the All-Glorious, as a token of His unfailing grace. Haply ye may not make His Revelation a cause of dissension amongst you.

Among the infidels are those who have repudiated His Self and risen up against His Cause, and who claim that these divine verses are contrived. Such also were the objections of the deniers of old, who now implore deliverance from the Fire. Say: Woe betide you for the idle words that proceed from your mouths! If these verses be indeed contrived, then by what proof have ye believed in God? Produce it, if ye be men of understanding! Whensoever We revealed Our clear verses unto such men, they rejected them, and whensoever they beheld that which the combined forces of the earth are powerless to produce, they pronounced it sorcery.

What aileth this people that they speak of that which they understand not? They raise the same objections as did the followers of the Qur'an when their Lord came unto them with His Cause. They, verily, are a rejected people. They hindered others from appearing before Him Who is the Ancient Beauty, and from sharing the bread of His loved ones. "Approach them not," one was even heard to say, "for they cast a spell upon the people and lead them astray from the path of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting." By the righteousness of the one true God! He who is incapable of speaking in Our presence hath uttered such words as none among the former generations hath ever spoken, and hath committed such acts as none of the unbelievers of bygone ages hath ever committed.

The very words and deeds of these men bear eloquent testimony to the truth of My words, if ye be of them that judge with fairness. Whosoever attributeth the verses of God to sorcery hath not believed in any of His Messengers, hath lived and laboured in vain, and is accounted of those who speak that of which they have no knowledge. Say: O servant! Fear God, thy Creator and thy Fashioner, and transgress not against Him, but judge with fairness and act with justice. Those whom the Lord hath endued with knowledge shall find, in the very objections raised by the unbelievers, conclusive proofs to invalidate their claims and vindicate the truth of this manifest Light. Say: Would ye repeat that which the unbelievers uttered when a Message came unto them from their Lord? Woe betide you, O assemblage of foolish ones, and blighted be your works!

Section 4: "O Ancient Beauty! Turn aside from the unbelievers…"

O Ancient Beauty! Turn aside from the unbelievers and that which they possess, and waft over all created things the sweet savours of the remembrance of Thy Beloved, the Exalted, the Great. This remembrance quickeneth the world of being and reneweth the temples of all created things. Say: He, verily, hath established Himself upon the Throne of might and glory. Whosoever desireth to gaze upon His countenance, lo, behold Him standing before thee! Blessed be the Lord Who hath revealed Himself in this shining and luminous Beauty. Whosoever desireth to hearken unto His melodies, lo, hear them rising from His resplendent and wondrous lips! And unto whosoever desireth to be illumined by the splendours of His light, say: Seek the court of His presence, for God hath verily granted you leave to approach it, as a token of His grace unto all mankind.

Say: O people! We shall put to you a question in all truthfulness, taking God for a witness between you and Us. He, verily, is the Defender of the righteous. Appear, then, before His Throne of glory and make reply with justice and fair-mindedness. Is it God Who is potent to achieve His purpose, or is it ye who enjoy such authority? Is it He Who is truly unconstrained, as ye imply when ye say that He doeth what He pleaseth and shall not be asked of His doings, or is it ye who wield such power, and who merely make such assertions out of blind imitation, as did your forebears at the appearance of every other Messenger of God?

If He be truly unconstrained, behold then how He hath sent down the Manifestation of His Cause with verses which naught in the heavens or on the earth can withstand! Such hath been the manner of their revelation that they have neither peer nor likeness in the world of being, as ye yourselves beheld and heard when once the Daystar of the world shone forth above the horizon of ʿIraq with manifest dominion. All things attain their consummation in the divine verses, and these indeed are the verses of God, the Sovereign Lord, the Help in Peril, the All-Glorious, the Almighty. Beyond this, He hath been made manifest as the Bearer of a Cause whose sovereign might is acknowledged by all created things, and this none can deny save the sinners and the ungodly.

Say: O people! Is it your wish to conceal the beauty of the Sun behind the veils of your own selfish desires, or to prevent the Spirit from raising its melodies within this sanctified and luminous breast? Fear ye God, and contend not with Him Who representeth the Godhead. Dispute not with the One at Whose bidding the letter "B" was created and joined with its mighty foundation. Believe in the Messengers of

God and His sovereign might, and in the Self of God and His majesty. Follow not those who have repudiated what they had once believed, and who have sought for themselves a station after their own fancy; these, truly, are of the ungodly. Bear ye witness unto that whereunto God Himself hath borne witness, that the company of His favoured ones may be illumined by the words that issue from your lips. Say: We, verily, believe in that which was revealed unto the Apostles of old, in that which hath been revealed, by the power of truth, unto ʿAli, and in that which is now being revealed from His Throne of glory. Thus doth your Lord instruct you, as a sign of His favour and as a token of His grace that encompasseth all the worlds.

O Feet of this Temple! We, verily, have wrought you of iron. Stand firm with such constancy in the Cause of your Lord as to cause the feet of every severed soul to be strengthened in the path of God, the Almighty, the All-Wise. Beware lest the storms of enmity and hatred, or the blasts of the workers of iniquity, cause you to stumble. Be immovable in the Faith of God, and waver not. We, verily, have called you forth by virtue of that Name which is the source of all steadfastness, and by the grace of each one of Our most excellent Names as revealed unto all who are in heaven and on earth. Erelong shall We bring into being through you other feet, firm and steadfast, which shall walk unwaveringly in Our path, even should they be assailed by hosts as formidable as the combined forces of the former and latter generations. In truth, We hold all grace in the hollow of Our hand, and bestow it as We please upon Our favoured servants. Time and again have We vouchsafed unto you Our favours, that ye may offer such thanks unto your Lord as to cause the tongues of all created things to speak forth in praise of Me, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

O Living Temple! Arise to serve this Cause through a might and a power born of Us. Disclose, then, unto the servants of God all that the Spirit of God, the sovereign Lord, the Incomparable, the All-Glorious, the All-Wise, hath imparted unto Thee. Say: O people! Will ye turn away from Him Who is the Eternal Truth, and choose instead him whom We have created out of a mere handful of clay? To do so is to inflict a grievous injustice upon yourselves, if ye be of them that reflect upon the verses of your Lord. Say: O people! Cleanse your hearts and your eyes, that ye may recognize your Maker in this holy and luminous attire. Say: The celestial Youth hath ascended the Throne of glory, made manifest His independent sovereignty, and now voiceth, in the most sweet and wondrous accents, this call betwixt earth and heaven: “O peoples of the earth!

Wherefore have ye disbelieved in your Lord, the All-Merciful, and turned aside from Him Who is the Beauty of the All-Glorious? By the righteousness of God! This is His Hidden Secret, Who hath risen from the dayspring of creation; and this is His cherished Beauty, Who hath shone forth above the horizon of this exalted Station, invested with the sovereignty of God, the Help in Peril, the All-Glorious, the All-Subduing, the Almighty.”

O Temple of Holiness! We, verily, have cleansed Thy breast from the whisperings of the people and sanctified it from earthly allusions, that the light of My beauty may appear therein and be reflected in the mirrors of all the worlds. Thus have We singled Thee out above all that hath been created in the heavens and the earth, and above all that hath been decreed in the realms of revelation and creation, and chosen Thee for Our own Self. This is but an evidence of the bounty which God hath vouchsafed unto Thee, a

bounty which shall last until the Day that hath no end in this contingent world. It shall endure so long as God, the Supreme King, the Help in Peril, the Mighty, the Wise, shall endure. For the Day of God is none other but His own Self, Who hath appeared with the power of truth. This is the Day that shall not be followed by night, nor shall it be bounded by any praise, would that ye might understand!

O Breast of this Temple! We, verily, have caused all things to mirror forth thy reality, and made thee as a mirror of Our own Self. Shed, then, upon the breasts of all created beings the splendours of the light of thy Lord, that they may be freed from all allusions and limitations. Thus hath the Daystar of wisdom shone forth above the horizon of the Pen of the Eternal King. Blessed are those who perceive it! Through thee have We created other sanctified breasts, and unto thee shall We cause them to return, as a token of Our grace unto thee and unto Our favoured servants. Erelong shall We bring into being through thee men with sanctified and illumined breasts, who will testify to naught save My beauty and show forth naught but the resplendent light of My countenance. These shall in truth be the mirrors of My Names amidst all created things.

O Temple of Holiness! We, verily, have made Thine inmost heart the treasury of all the knowledge of past and future ages, and the dawning-place of Our own knowledge which We have ordained for the dwellers of earth and heaven, that all creation may partake of the outpourings of Thy grace and may attain, through the wonders of Thy knowledge, unto the recognition of God, the Exalted, the Powerful, the Great. In truth, that knowledge which belongeth unto Mine own Essence is such as none hath ever attained or will ever grasp, nor shall any heart be capable of bearing its weight. Were We to disclose but a single word of this knowledge, the hearts of all men would be filled with consternation, the foundations of all things would crumble into ruin, and the feet of even the wisest among men would be made to slip.

Within the treasury of Our Wisdom there lieth unrevealed a knowledge, one word of which, if we chose to divulge it to mankind, would cause every human being to recognize the Manifestation of God and to acknowledge His omniscience, would enable every one to discover the secrets of all the sciences, and to attain so high a station as to find himself wholly independent of all past and future learning. Other knowledges We do as well possess, not a single letter of which We can disclose, nor do We find humanity able to hear even the barest reference to their meaning. Thus have We informed you of the knowledge of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Were We to find worthy vessels, We would deposit within them the treasures of hidden meanings and impart unto them a knowledge, one letter of which would encompass all created things.

O Inmost Heart of this Temple! We have made thee the dawning-place of Our knowledge and the dayspring of Our wisdom unto all who are in heaven and on earth. From thee have We caused all sciences to appear, and unto thee shall We cause them to return. And from thee shall We bring them forth a second time. Such, indeed, is Our promise, and potent are We to effect Our purpose. Erelong shall We bring into being through thee exponents of new and wondrous sciences, of potent and effective crafts, and shall make manifest through them that which the heart of none of Our servants hath yet conceived. Thus do We bestow upon whom We will whatsoever We desire, and thus do We withdraw from whom We will what We had once bestowed. Even so do We ordain whatsoever We please through Our behest.

Say: Should We choose, at one time, to shed the radiance of Our loving providence upon the mirrors of all things, and, at another, to withhold from them the splendours of Our light, this verily lieth within Our power, and none hath the right to ask “why” or “wherefore”. For We are potent indeed to achieve Our purpose, and render no account for that which We bring to pass; and none can dispute this save those who join partners with God and doubt His Truth. Say: Nothing can withstand the power of Our might or interrupt the course of Our command. We exalt whomsoever We please unto the Realm of supernal might and glory, and, should We so desire, cause the same to sink into the lowest abyss of degradation.

O dwellers of the earth! Would ye contend that if We raise up a soul unto the Sadratu’l-Muntaha, it shall then cease to be subject to the power of Our sovereignty and dominion? Nay, by Mine own Self! Should it be Our wish, We would return it to the dust in less than the twinkling of an eye. Consider a tree: Behold how We plant it in a garden, and nourish it with the waters of Our loving care; and how, when it hath grown tall and mature, and brought forth verdant leaves and goodly fruits, We send forth the tempestuous gales of Our decree, tear it up by its roots, and lay it prostrate upon the face of the earth. So hath it been Our way with all things, and so shall it be in this day. Such, in truth, are the matchless wonders of Our immutable method—a method which hath ever governed, and shall continue to govern, all things, if ye be of them that perceive. None, however, knoweth the wisdom thereof save God, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the All-Wise.

Would ye gainsay, O people, the very thing that your eyes behold? Woe unto you, O assemblage of deniers! That which alone is exempt from change is His own Self, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate, were ye to gaze with the eye of insight, while all else beside Him can be altered by an act of His Will. He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the All-Wise.

O people! Dispute not concerning My Cause, for ye shall never fathom the manifold wisdom of your Lord, nor shall ye ever gauge the knowledge of Him Who is the All-Glorious, the All-Pervading. Whosoever layeth claim to have known His Essence is without doubt among the most ignorant of all people. Every atom in the universe would charge such a man with imposture, and to this beareth witness My tongue which speaketh naught but the truth. Magnify My Cause and promulgate My teachings and commandments, for none other course beside this shall beseem you, and no other path shall ever lead unto Him. Would that ye might heed Our counsel!

Section 5: “O Living Temple! We have made Thee…”

O Living Temple! We have made Thee the Dayspring of each one of Our most excellent titles, the Dawning-Place of each one of Our most august attributes, and the Fountainhead of each one of Our manifold virtues unto the denizens of earth and heaven. Thereafter have We raised Thee up in Our own image betwixt the heavens and the earth, and ordained Thee to be the sign of Our glory unto all who are in the realms of revelation and creation, that My servants may follow in Thy footsteps, and be of them who are guided aright. We have appointed Thee the Tree of grace and bounty unto the dwellers of both the heavens and the earth. Well is it with them who seek the shelter of Thy shade and who draw nigh unto Thy Self, the omnipotent Protector of the worlds.

Say: We have made each one of Our Names a wellspring from which We have caused the streams of divine wisdom and understanding to gush forth and flow in the garden of Our Cause—streams whose number none can reckon save Thy Lord, the Most Holy, the Omnipotent, the Omniscient, the All-Wise. Say: We have generated all Letters from the Point and have caused them to return unto It, and We have sent It down again in the form of a human temple. All glory be unto the Author of this incomparable and wondrous handiwork! Erelong shall We unfold and expound It again, in Our name, the All-Glorious. This is indeed a token of Our grace, and I, truly, am the Most Bountiful, the Ancient of Days.

We have brought forth all Lights from the Orb of Our name, the True One, have caused them to return unto It, and have again made them manifest in the form of a human temple. All glory be unto the Lord of strength, might, and power! None can withstand the operation of My will or the exercise of My might. I am He Who hath raised up all creatures through a word of My mouth, and My power is, in truth, equal to My purpose.

Say: It is in Our power, should We wish it, to cause all created things to expire in an instant, and, with the next, to endue them again with life. The knowledge thereof, however, is with God alone, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. It is in Our power, should We wish it, to enable a speck of floating dust to generate, in less than the twinkling of an eye, suns of infinite, of unimaginable splendour, to cause a dewdrop to develop into vast and numberless oceans, to infuse into every letter such a force as to empower it to unfold all the knowledge of past and future ages. This, in truth, is a matter simple of accomplishment. Such have been the evidences of My power from the beginning that hath no beginning until the end that hath no end. My creatures, however, have been oblivious of My power, have repudiated My sovereignty, and contended with Mine own Self, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: Of all that lieth between heaven and earth, naught can stir except by My leave, and unto My Kingdom none can ascend save at My behest. My creatures, however, have remained veiled from My might and My sovereignty, and are numbered with the heedless. Say: Naught is seen in My revelation but the Revelation of God, and in My might but His Might, could ye but know it. Say: My creatures are even as the leaves of a tree. They proceed from the tree, and depend upon it for their existence, yet remain oblivious of their root and origin. We draw such similitudes for the sake of Our discerning servants that perchance they may transcend a mere plant-like level of existence and attain unto true maturity in this resistless and immovable Cause. Say: My creatures are even as the fish of the deep. Their life dependeth upon the water, and yet they remain unaware of that which, by the grace of an omniscient and omnipotent Lord, sustaineth their very existence. Indeed, their heedlessness is such that were they asked concerning the water and its properties, they would prove entirely ignorant. Thus do We set forth comparisons and similitudes, that perchance the people may turn unto Him Who is the Object of the adoration of the entire creation.

O people! Fear God, and disbelieve not in Him Whose grace hath surrounded all things, Whose mercy hath pervaded the contingent world, and the sovereign potency of Whose Cause hath encompassed both your inner and your outer beings, both your beginning and your end. Stand ye in awe of the Lord, and be of them that act uprightly. Beware lest ye be accounted among those who allow the verses of their Lord to pass them by unheard and unrecognized; these, truly, are of the wayward.

Say: Would ye worship him who neither heareth nor seeth, and who is of a truth the most abject and wretched of all God's servants? Wherefore have ye failed to follow the One Who hath come unto you from the Source of Divine Command bearing the tidings of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great? O people! Be not like unto those who presented themselves before Our throne, and yet failed to perceive or comprehend; these are indeed a contemptible people. We recited unto them verses that would enrapture the dwellers of the heavenly Dominion and the inmates of the Kingdom on high, and yet they departed veiled therefrom, and hearkened rather unto the voice of him who is but a servant of God and a mere creation of His Will. Thus do We impart unto you that which shall guide you towards the path of God's favoured ones.

How many those who entered within the Abode of Paradise, the Seat wherein the throne of God had been established, and stood before their Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, only to inquire about the four Gates or of some Imam of the Islamic Faith! Such was the state of these souls, if ye be of them that comprehend. It is even as ye witness in the present day: those who have disbelieved in God and joined partners with Him cling to a single one of Our Names, and are debarred from recognizing Him Who is the Creator of all Names. We testify that such men are of a truth amongst the people of the Fire. They ask the sun to expound the words of the shadow, and the True One to explain the utterances of His creatures, could ye but perceive it!

Say: O people! The sun offereth naught save the effulgence of its own light and that which appeareth therefrom, whilst all else seek illumination from its rays. Fear God, and be not of the ignorant! Among them also were those who inquired of the darkness about the light. Say: Open thine eyes, that thou mayest behold the brightness which hath visibly enveloped the earth! This, verily, is a light which hath risen and shone forth above the horizon of the Dayspring of divine knowledge with manifest radiance. Would ye ask the Jews whether Jesus was the True One from God, or the idols if Muhammad was an Apostle of His Lord, or inquire from the people of the Qur'an as to Him Who was the Remembrance of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great?

Say: O people! Cast away, before the splendours of this Revelation, the things that ye possess, and cleave to that which God hath bidden you observe. Such is His command unto you, and He, verily, is best able to command. By My Beauty! My purpose in revealing these words is to cause all men to draw nigh unto God, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised. Beware lest ye deal with Me as ye dealt with My Herald. Do not object, when the verses of God are sent down unto you from the Court of My favour, saying, "these do not proceed from an innate and untaught nature", for that nature itself hath been created by My word and circleth round Me, if ye be of them that apprehend this truth. Inhale from the utterances of your Lord, the All-Merciful, the sweet smell of the garment of inner meanings, which hath been diffused throughout the entire creation and hath shed its fragrance over all created things. Happy are those who perceive it and hasten unto God with radiant hearts.

O Living Temple! We, verily, have made Thee a mirror unto the kingdom of names, that Thou mayest be, amidst all mankind, a sign of My sovereignty, a herald unto My presence, a summoner unto My beauty, and a guide unto My straight and perspicuous Path. We have exalted Thy Name among Our servants as a bounty from Our presence. I, verily, am the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days. We have, moreover,

adorned Thee with the ornament of Our own Self, and have imparted unto Thee Our Word, that Thou mayest ordain in this contingent world whatsoever Thou willest and accomplish whatsoever Thou pleasest. We have destined for Thee all the good of the heavens and of the earth, and decreed that none may attain unto a portion thereof unless he entereth beneath Thy shadow, as bidden by Thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

We have conferred upon Thee the Staff of authority and the Writ of judgement, that Thou mayest test the wisdom of every command. We have caused the oceans of inner meaning and explanation to surge from Thy heart in remembrance of Thy Lord, the God of mercy, that Thou mayest render thanks and praise unto Him and be of those who are truly thankful. We have singled Thee out from amongst all Our creatures, and have appointed Thee as the Manifestation of Our own Self unto all who are in the heavens and on the earth.

Bring then into being, by Our leave, resplendent mirrors and exalted letters that shall testify to Thy sovereignty and dominion, bear witness to Thy might and glory, and be the manifestations of Thy Names amidst mankind. We have caused Thee again to be the Origin and the Creator of all mirrors, even as We brought them forth from Thee aforetime. And We shall cause Thee to return unto Mine own Self, even as We called Thee forth in the beginning. Thy Lord, verily, is the Unconstrained, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling. Warn, then, these mirrors, once they have been made manifest, lest they swell with pride before their Creator and Fashioner when He appeareth amongst them, or let the trappings of leadership delude and debar them from bowing in submission before God, the Almighty, the All-Beauteous.

Say: O concourse of mirrors! Ye are but a creation of My will and have come to exist by virtue of My command. Beware lest ye deny the verses of My Lord, and be of them who have wrought injustice and are numbered with the lost. Beware lest ye cling unto that which ye possess, or take pride in your fame and renown. That which behoveth you is to wholly detach yourselves from all that is in the heavens and on the earth. Thus hath it been ordained by Him Who is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

O Temple of My Cause! Say: Should I wish to transform, in a single moment, all things into mirrors of My Names, this undoubtedly is in My power, how much more in the power of My Lord, Who hath called Me into being through His all-compelling and inscrutable command. And should I choose to revolutionize the entire creation in the twinkling of an eye, this assuredly is possible unto Me, how much more unto that sovereign Purpose enshrined in the Will of God, My Lord and the Lord of all the worlds.

Say: O ye manifestations of My Names! Should ye offer up all that ye possess, nay your very lives, in the path of God, and invoke Him to the number of the grains of sand, the drops of rain, and the waves of the sea, and yet oppose the Manifestation of His Cause at the time of His appearance, your works shall in no wise be mentioned before God. Should ye, however, neglect all righteous works and yet choose to believe in Him in these days, God perchance will put away your sins. He, verily, is the All-Glorious, the Most Bountiful. Thus doth the Lord inform you of His purpose, that haply ye may not wax proud before the One through Whom whatsoever hath been revealed from all eternity hath been confirmed. Happy is he who approacheth this Most Sublime Vision, and woe to them that turn aside!

How numerous those who expend all their wealth in the path of God, and whom We find, at the hour of His Revelation, to be of the rebellious and the froward! How many those who keep the fast in the daytime, only to protest against the One by Whose very command the ordinance of the fast was first established! Such men are, in truth, of the ignorant. And how many those who subsist on the coarsest bread, who take for their only seat the grass of the field, and who undergo every manner of hardship, merely to maintain their superiority in the eyes of men! Thus do We expose their deeds, that this may serve as a warning unto others. These are the ones who subject themselves to all manner of austerities before the gaze of others in the hope of perpetuating their names, whilst in reality no mention shall remain of them save in the curses and imprecations of the dwellers of earth and heaven.

Section 6: "Would it profit you in the least if…"

Say: Would it profit you in the least if, as ye fondly imagine, your names were to endure? Nay, by the Lord of all worlds! Was the idol ʿUzza made any greater by this, that its name lived on amidst the worshippers of names? Nay, by Him Who is the Self of God, the All-Glorious, the All-Compelling! Should your names fade from every mortal mind, and yet God be well pleased with you, ye will indeed be numbered among the treasures of His name, the Most Hidden. Thus have We sent down Our verses that they may attract you unto the Source of all Lights, and acquaint you with the purpose of your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Abstain, then, from all that hath been forbidden unto you in the Book, and eat of the lawful things which God hath provided for your sustenance. Deprive not yourselves of His goodly bestowals, for He, verily, is the Most Generous, the Lord of grace abounding. Subject not yourselves to excessive hardships, but follow the way We have made plain unto you through Our luminous verses and perspicuous proofs, and be not of the negligent.

O concourse of divines! It is not yours to boast if ye abstain from drinking wine and from similar transgressions which have been forbidden you in the Book, for should ye commit such deeds, the dignity of your station would then be tainted in the eyes of the people, your affairs would be disrupted, and your name disgraced and dishonoured. Nay, your true and abiding glory resideth in submission to the Word of Him Who is the Eternal Truth, and in your inward and outward detachment from aught else besides God, the All-Compelling, the Almighty. Great is the blessedness of that divine that hath not allowed knowledge to become a veil between him and the One Who is the Object of all knowledge, and who, when the Self-Subsisting appeared, hath turned with a beaming face towards Him. He, in truth, is numbered with the learned. The inmates of Paradise seek the blessing of his breath, and his lamp sheddeth its radiance over all who are in heaven and on earth. He, verily, is numbered with the inheritors of the Prophets. He that beholdeth him hath, verily, beheld the True One, and he that turneth towards him hath, verily, turned towards God, the Almighty, the All-Wise.

O ye the dawning-places of knowledge! Beware that ye suffer not yourselves to become changed, for as ye change, most men will, likewise, change. This, verily, is an injustice unto yourselves and unto others. Unto this beareth witness every man of discernment and insight. Ye are even as a spring. If it be changed, so will the streams that branch out from it be changed. Fear God, and be numbered with the godly. In like manner, if the heart of man be corrupted, his limbs will also be corrupted. And similarly, if the root of a tree be corrupted, its branches, and its offshoots, and its leaves, and its fruits, will be corrupted. Thus

have We set forth similitudes for your instruction, that perchance ye may not be debarred by the things ye possess from attaining unto that which hath been destined for you by Him Who is the All-Glorious, the Most Bountiful.

It is indeed in Our power to take up a handful of dust and to adorn it with the vesture of Our Names. This, however, would be but a sign of our favour, and not an indication of any merit it may have inherently possessed. Thus hath it been revealed in truth by Him Who is the Sovereign Revealer, the All-Knowing. Consider the Black Stone, which God hath made a point whereunto all men turn in adoration. Hath this bounty been conferred upon it by virtue of its innate excellence? Nay, by Mine own Self! Or doth such distinction stem from its intrinsic worth? Nay, by Mine own Being, Whose Essence even the wisest and most discerning of men have failed to grasp!

Again, consider the Mosque of Aqsa and the other places which We have made sanctuaries unto the people in every land and region. The honour and distinction they enjoy is in no wise due to their own merit, but stemmeth from their relation to Our Manifestations, Whom We have appointed as the Daysprings of Our Revelation amidst mankind, if ye be of them that understand. In this there lieth a wisdom inscrutable to all save God. Inquire, that He may graciously make plain unto you His purpose. His knowledge, verily, embraceth all things. Detach yourselves, O people, from the world and all its vanities, and heed not the call of such as have disbelieved in God and joined partners with Him. Arise above the horizon of utterance to extol and praise your Lord, the All-Merciful. This is that which God hath purposed for you; well is it with them who perceive it.

Say: O people! We have commanded you in Our Tablets to strive, at the time of the promised Revelation, to sanctify your souls from all names, and to purify them from all that hath been created in the heavens or on the earth, that therein may appear the splendours of the Sun of Truth which shineth forth above the horizon of the Will of your Lord, the Almighty, the Most Great. We have, moreover, commanded you to cleanse your hearts from every trace of the love or hate of the peoples of the world, lest aught should divert you from one course or impel you towards another. This, verily, is among the weightiest counsels I have vouchsafed unto you in the perspicuous Book, for whoso attacheth himself to either of these shall be prevented from attaining a proper understanding of Our Cause. To this beareth witness every just and discerning soul.

Ye, however, have broken the Covenant of God, forgotten His Testament, and at last turned away from Him Whose appearance hath solaced the eyes of every true believer in the Divine Unity. Lift up the veils and coverings that obscure your vision, and consider the testimonies of the Prophets and Messengers, that haply ye may recognize the Cause of God in these days when the Promised One hath come invested with a mighty sovereignty. Fear God, and debar yourselves not from Him Who is the Dayspring of His signs. This shall, in truth, but profit your own selves; as to your Lord, He, verily, can afford to dispense with all creatures. From everlasting was He alone; there was none else besides Him. He it is in Whose name the standard of Divine Unity hath been planted upon the Sinai of the visible and invisible worlds, proclaiming that there is none other God but Me, the Peerless, the Glorious, the Incomparable.

Behold, however, how those who are but a creation of His Will and Command have turned aside from Him and have taken unto themselves a lord and master beside God; these, truly, are of the wayward. The

mention of the All-Merciful hath at all times been upon their lips, and yet when He was manifested unto them through the power of truth they warred against Him. Wretched indeed shall be the plight of such as have broken the Covenant of their Lord when the Luminary of the world shone forth above the horizon of the Will of God, the Most Holy, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! It was against God that they unsheathed the swords of malice and hatred, and yet they perceive it not. Methinks they remain dead and buried in the tombs of their selfish desires, though the breeze of God hath blown over all regions. They, truly, are wrapt in a dense and grievous veil. And oft as the verses of God are rehearsed unto them, they persist in proud disdain; it is as though they were devoid of all understanding, or had never heard the Call of God, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing.

Say: Alas for you! How can ye profess yourselves believers, when ye deny the verses of God, the Almighty, the All-Wise? Say: O people! Turn your faces unto your Lord, the All-Merciful. Beware lest ye be veiled by aught that hath been revealed in the Bayan: It was, in truth, revealed for no other purpose than to make mention of Me, the All-Powerful, the Most High, and had no other object than My Beauty. The whole world hath been filled with My testimony, if ye be of them that judge with fairness.

Had the Primal Point been someone else beside Me as ye claim, and had attained My presence, verily He would have never allowed Himself to be separated from Me, but rather We would have had mutual delights with each other in My Days. He, in truth, wept sore in His remoteness from Me. He preceded Me that He might summon the people unto My Kingdom, as it hath been set forth in the Tablets, could ye but perceive it! O would that men of hearing might be found who could hear the voice of His lamentation in the Bayan bewailing that which hath befallen Me at the hands of these heedless souls, bemoaning His separation from Me and giving utterance to His longing to be united with Me, the Mighty, the Peerless. He, verily, beholdeth at this very moment His Best-Beloved amidst those who were created to attain His Day and to prostrate themselves before Him, and yet who have inflicted in their tyranny such abasement upon Him as the pen confesseth its inability to describe.

Say: O people! We, verily, summoned you, in Our former Revelation, unto this Scene of transcendent glory, this Seat of stainless sanctity, and announced unto you the advent of the Days of God. Yet, when the most great veil was rent asunder, and the Ancient Beauty came unto you in the clouds of God's decree, ye repudiated Him in Whom ye had believed aforetime. Woe betide you, O company of infidels! Fear ye God, and nullify not the truth with the things ye possess. When the luminary of divine verses dawneth upon you from the horizon of the Pen of the King of all names and attributes, fall ye prostrate upon your faces before God, the Lord of the Worlds. For to bow down in adoration at the threshold of His door is indeed better for you than the worship of both worlds, and to submit to His Revelation is more profitable unto you than whatsoever hath been created in the heavens and on the earth.

Say: O people! I admonish you wholly for the sake of God, and seek no reward from you. For My recompense shall be with God, He Who hath brought Me into being, raised Me up by the power of truth, and made Me the Source of His remembrance amidst His creatures. Hasten to behold this divine and glorious Vision, the Spot wherein God hath established His Seat. Follow not that which the Evil One whispereth in your hearts, for he, verily, doth prompt you to walk after your lusts and covetous desires,

and hindereth you from treading the straight Path which this all-embracing and all-compelling Cause hath opened.

Say: The Evil One hath appeared in such wise as the eye of creation hath never beheld. He Who is the Beauty of the All-Merciful hath likewise been made manifest with an adorning the like of which hath never been witnessed in the past. The Call of the All-Merciful hath been raised, and behind it the call of Satan. Well is it with them who hearken unto the Voice of God, and turn their faces towards His throne to behold a most holy and blessed Vision. For whoso cherisheth in his heart the love of anyone beside Me, be it to the extent of a grain of mustard seed, shall be unable to gain admittance into My Kingdom. To this beareth witness that which adorneth the preamble of the Book of Existence, could ye but perceive it. Say: This is the Day whereon God's most great favour hath been made manifest. The voice of all who are in the heavens above and on the earth below proclaimeth My Name, and singeth forth My praises, could ye but hear it!

O Temple of Divine Revelation! Sound the trumpet in My Name! O Temple of Divine mysteries! Raise the clarion call of Thy Lord, the Unconditioned, the Unconstrained! O Maid of Heaven! Step forth from the chambers of paradise and announce unto the people of the world: By the righteousness of God! He Who is the Best-Beloved of the worlds—He Who hath ever been the Desire of every perceiving heart, the Object of the adoration of all that are in heaven and on earth, and the Cynosure of the former and the latter generations—is now come!

Take heed lest ye hesitate in recognizing this resplendent Beauty when once He hath appeared in the plenitude of His sovereign might and majesty. He, verily, is the True One, and all else besides Him is as naught before a single one of His servants, and paleth into nothingness when brought face to face with the revelation of His splendours. Hasten, then, to attain the living waters of His grace, and be not of the negligent. As to him who hesitateth, though it be for less than a moment, God shall verily bring his works to naught and return him to the seat of wrath; wretched indeed is the abode of them that tarry!

Volume 040: Summons to the Kings and Rulers (ca. 1868) (2 of 4)

BH00347: Lawh-i-Pap (Tablet to Pope Pius IX)

Section 1: "O Pope! Rend the veils asunder. He Who…"

O Pope! Rend the veils asunder. He Who is the Lord of Lords is come overshadowed with clouds, and the decree hath been fulfilled by God, the Almighty, the Unrestrained. Dispel the mists through the power of thy Lord, and ascend unto the Kingdom of His names and attributes. Thus hath the Pen of the Most High commanded thee at the behest of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Compelling. He, verily, hath again come down from Heaven even as He came down from it the first time. Beware that thou dispute not with Him even as the Pharisees disputed with Him without a clear token or proof. On His right hand flow the living waters of grace, and on His left the choice Wine of justice, whilst before Him march the angels of Paradise, bearing the banners of His signs. Beware lest any name debar thee from God, the Creator of

earth and heaven. Leave thou the world behind thee, and turn towards thy Lord, through Whom the whole earth hath been illumined.

We have adorned the Kingdom with the ornament of Our name, the All-Glorious. Thus hath it been decreed by God, the Fashioner of all things. Take heed lest thy vain imaginings withhold thee, when once the Sun of Certitude hath shone forth above the horizon of the Utterance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beneficent. Dwellest thou in palaces whilst He Who is the King of Revelation liveth in the most desolate of abodes? Leave them unto such as desire them, and set thy face with joy and delight towards the Kingdom.

Say: O peoples of the earth! Destroy the abodes of negligence with the hands of power and assurance, and raise up the mansions of true knowledge within your hearts, that the All-Merciful may shed the radiance of His light upon them. Better is this for you than all whereon the sun shineth, and unto this beareth witness He Who holdeth within His grasp the ultimate decree. The Breeze of God hath been wafted over the world at the advent of the Desired One in His great glory, whereupon every stone and clod of earth hath cried out: “The Promised One is come! The Kingdom is God’s, the Mighty, the Gracious, the Forgiving.”

Beware lest human learning debar thee from Him Who is the Supreme Object of all knowledge, or lest the world deter thee from the One Who created it and set it upon its course. Arise in the name of thy Lord, the God of Mercy, amidst the peoples of the earth, and seize thou the Cup of Life with the hands of confidence. First drink thou therefrom, and proffer it then to such as turn towards it amongst the peoples of all faiths. Thus hath the Moon of Utterance risen above the horizon of wisdom and understanding.

Tear asunder the veils of human learning lest they hinder thee from Him Who is My name, the Self-Subsisting. Call thou to remembrance Him Who was the Spirit, Who, when He came, the most learned of His age pronounced judgement against Him in His own country, whilst he who was only a fisherman believed in Him. Take heed, then, ye men of understanding heart! Thou, in truth, art one of the suns of the heaven of His names. Guard thyself, lest darkness spread its veils over thee, and fold thee away from His light. Ponder, then, that which hath been sent down in the Book by thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful.

Say: Still your pens, O concourse of divines, for lo, the shrill voice of the Pen of Glory hath been lifted up between earth and heaven. Cast away all that ye possess and take fast hold of that which We have revealed unto you with power and authority. The Hour that was concealed within the knowledge of God hath struck, whereupon all the atoms of the earth have proclaimed: “The Ancient of Days is come in His great glory! Hasten unto Him, O peoples of the earth, with humble and contrite hearts.” Say: We, in truth, have given Ourself as a ransom for your own lives. Alas, when We came once again, We beheld you fleeing from Us, whereat the eye of My loving-kindness wept sore over My people. Fear God, O ye that perceive.

Consider those who opposed the Son, when He came unto them with sovereignty and power. How many the Pharisees who were waiting to behold Him, and were lamenting over their separation from Him! And yet, when the fragrance of His coming was wafted over them, and His beauty was unveiled, they turned

aside from Him and disputed with Him. Thus do We impart unto thee that which hath been recorded in the Books and Scriptures. None save a very few, who were destitute of any power amongst men, turned towards His face. And yet today every man endowed with power and invested with sovereignty prideth himself on His Name! In like manner, consider how numerous, in these days, are the monks who, in My Name, have secluded themselves in their churches, and who, when the appointed time was fulfilled, and We unveiled Our beauty, knew Us not, though they call upon Me at eventide and at dawn. We behold them clinging to My name, yet veiled from My Self. This, verily, is a strange thing.

Say: Take heed lest your devotions withhold you from Him Who is the object of all devotion, or your worship debar you from Him Who is the object of all worship. Rend asunder the veils of your idle fancies! This is your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, Who hath come to quicken the world and unite all who dwell on earth. Turn unto the Dayspring of Revelation, O people, and tarry not, be it for less than the twinkling of an eye. Read ye the Evangel and yet refuse to acknowledge the All-Glorious Lord? This indeed beseemeth you not, O concourse of learned men!

Say: If ye deny this Revelation, by what proof have ye believed in God? Produce it then. Thus hath the summons of God been sent down by the Pen of the Most High at the bidding of your Lord, the Most Glorious, in this Tablet from whose horizon the splendour of His Light hath shone forth. How many are My servants whose deeds have become veils between them and their own selves, and who have been kept back thereby from drawing nigh unto God, He Who causeth the winds to blow.

O concourse of monks! The fragrances of the All-Merciful have wafted over all creation. Happy the man that hath forsaken his desires, and taken fast hold of guidance. He, indeed, is of those who have attained unto the presence of God in this Day, a Day whereon commotions have seized the dwellers of the earth and filled with dismay all save those who have been exempted by God, He Who layeth low the necks of men.

Adorn ye your bodies whilst the raiment of God is stained with the blood of hatred at the hands of the people of denial? Issue forth from your habitations and bid the people enter the Kingdom of God, the Lord of the Day of Judgement. The Word which the Son concealed is made manifest. It hath been sent down in the form of the human temple in this day. Blessed be the Lord Who is the Father! He, verily, is come unto the nations in His most great majesty. Turn your faces towards Him, O concourse of the righteous!

O followers of all religions! We behold you wandering distraught in the wilderness of error. Ye are the fish of this Ocean; wherefore do ye withhold yourselves from that which sustaineth you? Lo, it surgeth before your faces. Hasten unto it from every clime. This is the day whereon the Rocka crieth out and shouteth, and celebrateth the praise of its Lord, the All-Possessing, the Most High, saying: “Lo! The Father is come, and that which ye were promised in the Kingdom is fulfilled!” This is the Word which was preserved behind the veils of grandeur, and which, when the Promise came to pass, shed its radiance from the horizon of the Divine Will with clear tokens.

My body hath borne imprisonment that your souls may be released from bondage, and We have consented to be abased that ye may be exalted. Follow the Lord of glory and dominion, and not every

ungodly oppressor. My body longeth for the cross, and Mine head awaiteth the thrust of the spear, in the path of the All-Merciful, that the world may be purged from its transgressions. Thus hath the Daystar of divine authority shone forth from the horizon of the Revelation of Him Who is the Possessor of all names and attributes.

The people of the Qur'an have risen against Us, and tormented Us with such a torment that the Holy Spirit lamented, and the thunder roared out, and the clouds wept over Us. Among the faithless is he who hath imagined that calamities can deter Baha from fulfilling that which God, the Creator of all things, hath purposed. Say: Nay, by Him Who causeth the rain to fall! Nothing whatsoever can withhold Him from the remembrance of His Lord.

By the righteousness of God! Should they cast Him into a fire kindled on the continent, He will assuredly rear His head in the midmost heart of the ocean and proclaim: "He is the Lord of all that are in heaven and all that are on earth!" And if they cast Him into a darksome pit, they will find Him seated on earth's loftiest heights calling aloud to all mankind: "Lo, the Desire of the World is come in His majesty, His sovereignty, His transcendent dominion!" And if He be buried beneath the depths of the earth, His Spirit soaring to the apex of heaven shall peal the summons: "Behold ye the coming of the Glory; witness ye the Kingdom of God, the Most Holy, the Gracious, the All-Powerful!" And if they shed His blood, every drop thereof shall cry out and invoke God in this Name through which the fragrance of His raiment hath been diffused in all directions.

Though threatened by the swords of Our enemies, We summon all mankind unto God, the Fashioner of earth and heaven, and We render Him such aid as can be hindered by neither the hosts of tyranny nor the ascendancy of the people of iniquity. Say: O peoples of the earth! Scatter the idols of your vain imaginings in the name of your Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing, and turn ye unto Him in this Day which God hath made the King of days.

Section 2: "O Supreme Pontiff! Incline thine ear unto…"

O Supreme Pontiff! Incline thine ear unto that which the Fashioner of mouldering bones counselleth thee, as voiced by Him Who is His Most Great Name. Sell all the embellished ornaments thou dost possess, and expend them in the path of God, Who causeth the night to return upon the day, and the day to return upon the night. Abandon thy kingdom unto the kings, and emerge from thy habitation, with thy face set towards the Kingdom, and, detached from the world, then speak forth the praises of thy Lord betwixt earth and heaven. Thus hath bidden thee He Who is the Possessor of Names, on the part of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing. Exhort thou the kings and say:

> "Deal equitably with men. Beware lest ye transgress the bounds fixed in the Book."

This indeed becometh thee. Beware lest thou appropriate unto thyself the things of the world and the riches thereof. Leave them unto such as desire them, and cleave unto that which hath been enjoined upon thee by Him Who is the Lord of creation. Should anyone offer thee all the treasures of the earth, refuse to even glance upon them. Be as thy Lord hath been. Thus hath the Tongue of Revelation spoken that which God hath made the ornament of the book of creation.

Consider a pearl which shineth by virtue of its inherent nature. If it be covered with silk, its luster and beauty will be concealed. Likewise, man's distinction lieth in the excellence of his conduct and in the pursuit of that which beseemeth his station, not in childish play and pastimes. Know that thy true adornment consisteth in the love of God and in thy detachment from all save Him, and not in the luxuries thou dost possess. Abandon them unto those who seek after them and turn unto God, He Who causeth the rivers to flow.

Whatever proceeded from the tongue of the Son was revealed in parables, whilst He Who proclaimeth the Truth in this Day speaketh without them. Take heed lest thou cling to the cord of idle fancy and withhold thyself from that which hath been ordained in the Kingdom of God, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful. Should the inebriation of the wine of My verses seize thee, and thou determinest to present thyself before the throne of thy Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven, make My love thy vesture, and thy shield remembrance of Me, and thy provision reliance upon God, the Revealer of all power.

O followers of the Son! We have once again sent John unto you, and He, verily, hath cried out in the wilderness of the Bayan: O peoples of the world! Cleanse your eyes! The Day whereon ye can behold the Promised One and attain unto Him hath drawn nigh! O followers of the Gospel! Prepare the way! The Day of the advent of the Glorious Lord is at hand! Make ready to enter the Kingdom. Thus hath it been ordained by God, He Who causeth the dawn to break.

Give ear unto that which the Dove of Eternity warbleth upon the twigs of the Divine Lote-Tree: O peoples of the earth! We sent forth him who was named John to baptize you with water, that your bodies might be cleansed for the appearance of the Messiah. He, in turn, purified you with the fire of love and the water of the spirit in anticipation of these Days whereon the All-Merciful hath purposed to cleanse you with the water of life at the hands of His loving providence. This is the Father foretold by Isaiah, and the Comforter concerning Whom the Spirit had covenanted with you. Open your eyes, O concourse of bishops, that ye may behold your Lord seated upon the Throne of might and glory.

Say: O peoples of all faiths! Walk not in the ways of them that followed the Pharisees and thus veiled themselves from the Spirit. They truly have strayed and are in error. The Ancient Beauty is come in His Most Great Name, and He wisheth to admit all mankind into His most holy Kingdom. The pure in heart behold the Kingdom of God manifest before His Face. Make haste thereunto and follow not the infidel and the ungodly. Should your eye be opposed thereto, pluck it out. Thus hath it been decreed by the Pen of the Ancient of Days, as bidden by Him Who is the Lord of the entire creation. He, verily, hath come again that ye might be redeemed, O peoples of the earth. Will ye slay Him Who desireth to grant you eternal life? Fear God, O ye who are endued with insight.

O people! Hearken unto that which hath been revealed by your All-Glorious Lord, and turn your faces unto God, the Lord of this world and of the world to come. Thus doth He Who is the Dawning-Place of the Daystar of divine inspiration command you as bidden by the Fashioner of all mankind. We, verily, have created you for the light, and desire not to abandon you unto the fire. Come forth, O people, from darkness by the grace of this Sun which hath shone forth above the horizon of divine providence, and turn thereunto with sanctified hearts and assured souls, with seeing eyes and beaming faces. Thus

counselleth you the Supreme Ordainer from the scene of His transcendent glory, that perchance His summons may draw you nigh unto the Kingdom of His names.

Blessed the one who hath remained faithful to the Covenant of God, and woe betide him who hath broken it and disbelieved in Him, the Knower of secrets. Say: This is the Day of Bounty! Bestir yourselves that I may make you monarchs in the realms of My Kingdom. If ye follow Me, ye shall behold that which ye were promised, and I will make you My companions in the dominion of My majesty and the intimates of My beauty in the heaven of My power forevermore. If ye rebel against Me, I will in My clemency endure it patiently, that haply ye may awaken and rise up from the couch of heedlessness. Thus hath My mercy encompassed you. Fear ye God and follow not in the ways of those who have turned away from His face, though they invoke His name in the daytime and in the night season.

Verily, the day of ingathering is come, and all things have been separated from each other. He hath stored away that which He chose in the vessels of justice, and cast into fire that which befitteth it. Thus hath it been decreed by your Lord, the Mighty, the Loving, in this promised Day. He, verily, ordaineth what He pleaseth. There is none other God save He, the Almighty, the All-Compelling. The desire of the Divine Sifter hath been to store up every good thing for Mine own Self. Naught hath He spoken save to acquaint you with My Cause and to guide you to the path of Him whose mention hath adorned all the sacred Books.

Say: O concourse of Christians! We have, on a previous occasion, revealed Ourself unto you, and ye recognized Me not. This is yet another occasion vouchsafed unto you. This is the Day of God; turn ye unto Him. He, verily, hath come down from heaven even as He came down the first time, and He desireth to shelter you beneath the shade of His mercy. He, verily, is the Exalted, the Mighty, the Supreme Helper. The Beloved One loveth not that ye be consumed with the fire of your desires. Were ye to be shut out as by a veil from Him, this would be for no other reason than your own waywardness and ignorance. Ye make mention of Me, and know Me not. Ye call upon Me, and are heedless of My Revelation, notwithstanding that I came unto you from the heaven of pre-existence with surpassing glory. Rend the veils asunder in My name and through the power of My sovereignty that ye may discover a path unto your Lord.

The King of Glory proclaimeth from the tabernacle of majesty and grandeur His call, saying: O people of the Gospel! They who were not in the Kingdom have now entered it, whilst We behold you, in this day, tarrying at the gate. Rend the veils asunder by the power of your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Bounteous, and enter, then, in My name My Kingdom. Thus biddeth you He Who desireth for you everlasting life. He, verily, is potent over all things. Blessed are those who have recognized the Light and hastened unto it. They, verily, dwell in the Kingdom, and partake of the food and drink of God's chosen ones.

We behold you, O children of the Kingdom, in darkness. This, verily, beseemeth you not. Are ye, in the face of the Light, fearful because of your deeds? Direct yourselves towards Him. Your All-Glorious Lord hath blessed His lands with His footsteps. Thus do We make plain unto you the path of Him Whom the Spirit prophesied. I, verily, bear witness unto Him, even as He hath borne witness unto Me. Verily, He said: "Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." In this day, however, We say:

“Come ye after Me, that We may make you to become quickeners of mankind.” Thus hath the decree been inscribed in this Tablet by the Pen of Revelation.

O Pen of the Most High! Bestir Thyself in remembrance of other kings in this blessed and luminous Book, that perchance they may rise from the couch of heedlessness and give ear unto that which the Nightingale singeth upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree, and hasten towards God in this most wondrous and sublime Revelation.

BH00259: Lawh-i-Napoleon II

Section 1: “O King of Paris! Tell the priests…”

O King of Paris! Tell the priests to ring the bells no longer. By God, the True One! The Most Mighty Bell hath appeared in the form of Him Who is the Most Great Name, and the fingers of the Will of Thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, toll it out in the heaven of Immortality in His name, the All-Glorious. Thus have the mighty verses of Thy Lord been again sent down unto thee, that thou mayest arise to remember God, the Creator of earth and heaven, in these days when all the tribes of the earth have mourned, and the foundations of the cities have trembled, and the dust of irreligion hath enwrapped all men, except such as God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, was pleased to spare.

Say: He Who is the Unconstrained is come, in the clouds of light, that He may quicken the world with the breezes of His name, the Most Merciful, and unify its peoples, and gather all men around this Table which hath been sent down from heaven. Beware that ye deny not the favour of God after it hath been sent down unto you. Better is this for you than that which ye possess; for that which is yours perisheth, whilst that which is with God endureth. He, in truth, ordaineth what He pleaseth. Verily, the breezes of forgiveness have been wafted from the direction of your Lord, the God of Mercy; whoso turneth thereunto shall be cleansed of his sins, and of all pain and sickness. Happy the man that hath turned towards them, and woe betide him that hath turned aside.

Wert thou to incline thine inner ear unto all created things, thou wouldst hear: “The Ancient of Days is come in His great glory!” Everything celebrateth the praise of its Lord. Some have known God and remember Him; others remember Him, yet know Him not. Thus have We set down Our decree in a perspicuous Tablet.

Give ear, O King, unto the Voice that calleth from the Fire which burneth in this verdant Tree, on this Sinai which hath been raised above the hallowed and snow-white Spot, beyond the Everlasting City; “Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful!” We, in truth, have sent Him Whom We aided with the Holy Spirit that He may announce unto you this Light that hath shone forth from the horizon of the Will of your Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, and Whose signs have been revealed in the West. Set your faces towards Him on this Day which God hath exalted above all other days, and whereon the All-Merciful hath shed the splendour of His effulgent glory upon all who are in heaven and all who are on earth. Arise thou to serve God and help His Cause. He, verily, will assist thee with the hosts of the seen and unseen, and will set thee king over all that whereon the sun riseth. Thy Lord, in truth, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

The breezes of the Most Merciful have passed over all created things; happy the man that hath discovered their fragrance, and set himself towards them with a sound heart. Attire thy temple with the ornament of My Name, and thy tongue with remembrance of Me, and thine heart with love for Me, the Almighty, the Most High. We have desired for thee naught except that which is better for thee than what thou dost possess and all the treasures of the earth. Thy Lord, verily, is knowing, informed of all. Arise, in My Name, amongst My servants, and say: "O ye peoples of the earth! Turn yourselves towards Him Who hath turned towards you. He, verily, is the Face of God amongst you, and His Testimony and His Guide unto you. He hath come to you with signs which none can produce." The voice of the Burning Bush is raised in the midmost heart of the world, and the Holy Spirit calleth aloud among the nations: "Lo, the Desired One is come with manifest dominion!"

O King! The stars of the heaven of knowledge have fallen, they who seek to establish the truth of My Cause through the things they possess, and who make mention of God in My Name. And yet, when I came unto them in My glory, they turned aside. They, indeed, are of the fallen. This is, truly, that which the Spirit of God hath announced, when He came with truth unto you, He with Whom the Jewish doctors disputed, till at last they perpetrated what hath made the Holy Spirit to lament, and the tears of them that have near access to God to flow. Consider how a Pharisee who had worshipped God for seventy years repudiated the Son when He appeared, whereas one who had committed adultery gained admittance into the Kingdom. Thus doth the Pen admonish thee as bidden by the Eternal King, that thou mayest be apprised of what came to pass aforetime and be reckoned in this day among them that truly believe.

Say: O concourse of monks! Seclude not yourselves in your churches and cloisters. Come ye out of them by My leave, and busy, then, yourselves with what will profit you and others. Thus commandeth you He Who is the Lord of the Day of Reckoning. Seclude yourselves in the stronghold of My love. This, truly, is the seclusion that befitteth you, could ye but know it. He that secludeth himself in his house is indeed as one dead. It behoveth man to show forth that which will benefit mankind. He that bringeth forth no fruit is fit for the fire. Thus admonisheth you your Lord; He, verily, is the Mighty, the Bountiful. Enter ye into wedlock, that after you another may arise in your stead.

We, verily, have forbidden you lechery, and not that which is conducive to fidelity. Have ye clung unto the promptings of your nature, and cast behind your backs the statutes of God? Fear ye God, and be not of the foolish. But for man, who, on My earth, would remember Me, and how could My attributes and My names be revealed? Reflect, and be not of them that have shut themselves out as by a veil from Him, and were of those that are fast asleep. He that married not could find no place wherein to abide, nor where to lay His head, by reason of what the hands of the treacherous had wrought. His holiness consisted not in the things ye have believed and imagined, but rather in the things which belong unto Us. Ask, that ye may be made aware of His station which hath been exalted above the vain imaginings of all the peoples of the earth. Blessed are they that understand.

O King! We heard the words thou didst utter in answer to the Czar of Russia, concerning the decision made regarding the war. Thy Lord, verily, knoweth, is informed of all. Thou didst say: "I lay asleep upon my couch, when the cry of the oppressed, who were drowned in the Black Sea, wakened me." This is

what We heard thee say, and, verily, thy Lord is witness unto what I say. We testify that that which wakened thee was not their cry but the promptings of thine own passions, for We tested thee, and found thee wanting. Comprehend the meaning of My words, and be thou of the discerning. It is not Our wish to address thee words of condemnation, out of regard for the dignity We conferred upon thee in this mortal life.

We, verily, have chosen courtesy, and made it the true mark of such as are nigh unto Him. Courtesy is, in truth, a raiment which fitteth all men, whether young or old. Well is it with him that adorneth his temple therewith, and woe unto him who is deprived of this great bounty. Hadst thou been sincere in thy words, thou wouldst have not cast behind thy back the Book of God, when it was sent unto thee by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Wise. We have proved thee through it, and found thee other than that which thou didst profess. Arise, and make amends for that which escaped thee. Erelong the world and all that thou possessest will perish, and the kingdom will remain unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy fathers of old. It behoveth thee not to conduct thine affairs according to the dictates of thy desires. Fear the sighs of this Wronged One, and shield Him from the darts of such as act unjustly.

For what thou hast done, thy kingdom shall be thrown into confusion, and thine empire shall pass from thine hands, as a punishment for that which thou hast wrought. Then wilt thou know how thou hast plainly erred. Commotions shall seize all the people in that land, unless thou arisest to help this Cause, and followest Him Who is the Spirit of God in this, the Straight Path. Hath thy pomp made thee proud? By My Life! It shall not endure; nay, it shall soon pass away, unless thou holdest fast to this firm Cord. We see abasement hastening after thee, whilst thou art of the heedless. It behoveth thee when thou hearest His Voice calling from the seat of glory to cast away all that thou possessest, and cry out:

> "Here am I, O Lord of all that is in heaven and all that is on earth!"

O King! We were in ʿIraq, when the hour of parting arrived. At the bidding of the King of Islam§ We set Our steps in his direction. Upon Our arrival, there befell Us at the hands of the malicious that which the books of the world can never adequately recount. Thereupon the inmates of Paradise, and they that dwell within the retreats of holiness, lamented; and yet the people are wrapped in a thick veil! Say: Do ye cavil at Him Who hath come unto you bearing the clear evidence of God and His proof, the testimony of God and His signs? These things are not from Himself; nay, rather they proceed from the One Who hath raised Him up, sent Him forth through the power of truth, and made Him to be a lamp unto all mankind.

More grievous became Our plight from day to day, nay, from hour to hour, until they took Us forth from Our prison and made Us, with glaring injustice, enter the Most Great Prison. And if anyone ask them: "For what crime were they imprisoned?", they would answer and say: "They, verily, sought to supplant the Faith with a new religion!" If that which is ancient be what ye prefer, wherefore, then, have ye discarded that which hath been set down in the Torah and the Evangel? Clear it up, O men! By My life! There is no place for you to flee to in this day. If this be My crime, then Muhammad, the Apostle of God, committed it before Me, and before Him He Who was the Spirit of God, and yet earlier He Who conversed with God. And if My sin be this, that I have exalted the Word of God and revealed His Cause, then indeed am I the greatest of sinners! Such a sin I will not barter for the kingdoms of earth and heaven.

Upon Our arrival at this Prison, We purposed to transmit to the kings the messages of their Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Though We have transmitted to them, in several Tablets, that which We were commanded, yet We do it once again as a token of God's grace. Perchance they may recognize the Lord, Who hath come down in the clouds with manifest sovereignty.

As My tribulations multiplied, so did My love for God and for His Cause increase, in such wise that all that befell Me from the hosts of the wayward was powerless to deter Me from My purpose. Should they hide Me away in the depths of the earth, yet would they find Me riding aloft on the clouds, and calling out unto God, the Lord of strength and of might. I have offered Myself up in the way of God, and I yearn after tribulations in My love for Him, and for the sake of His good pleasure. Unto this bear witness the woes which now afflict Me, the like of which no other man hath suffered. Every single hair of Mine head calleth out that which the Burning Bush uttered on Sinai, and each vein of My body invoketh God and saith: "O would I had been severed in Thy path, so that the world might be quickened, and all its peoples be united!" Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Know of a truth that your subjects are God's trust amongst you. Watch ye, therefore, over them as ye watch over your own selves. Beware that ye allow not wolves to become the shepherds of the fold, or pride and conceit to deter you from turning unto the poor and the desolate. Wert thou to quaff the mystic Wine of everlasting life from the chalice of the words of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, thou wouldst be enabled to forsake all that thou dost possess and to proclaim My Name before all mankind. Cleanse then thy soul with the waters of detachment. Verily, this is the Remembrance that hath shone forth above the horizon of creation, which shall purge thy soul from the dross of the world.

Abandon thy palaces to the people of the graves, and thine empire to whosoever desireth it, and turn, then, unto the Kingdom. This, verily, is what God hath chosen for thee, wert thou of them that turn unto Him. They that have failed to turn unto the Countenance of God in this Revelation are indeed bereft of life. They move as bidden by their own selfish desires, and are in truth accounted among the dead. Shouldst thou desire to bear the weight of thy dominion, bear it then to aid the Cause of thy Lord. Glorified be this station which whoever attaineth thereunto hath attained unto all good that proceedeth from Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Section 2: "Arise thou, in My name, above the horizon…"

Arise thou, in My name, above the horizon of renunciation, and set, then, thy face towards the Kingdom, at the bidding of thy Lord, the Lord of strength and of might. Through the power of My sovereignty stand before the inhabitants of the world and say:

> "O people! The Day is come, and the fragrances of God have been wafted over the whole of creation. They that have turned away from His Face are the helpless victims of their corrupt inclinations. They are indeed of them that have gone astray."

Adorn the body of Thy kingdom with the raiment of My name, and arise, then, to teach My Cause. Better is this for thee than that which thou possessest. God will, thereby, exalt thy name among all the kings. Potent is He over all things. Walk thou amongst men in the name of God, and by the power of His might,

that thou mayest show forth His signs amidst the peoples of the earth. Burn thou brightly with the flame of this undying Fire which the All-Merciful hath ignited in the midmost heart of creation, that through thee the heat of His love may be kindled within the hearts of His favoured ones. Follow in My way and enrapture the hearts of men through remembrance of Me, the Almighty, the Most Exalted.

Say: He from whom, in this day, the sweet savours of the remembrance of His Lord, the All-Merciful, have not been diffused, is indeed unworthy of the station of man. He, verily, is of them that have followed their own desires, and shall erelong find himself in grievous loss. Doth it behove you to relate yourselves to Him Who is the God of mercy, and yet commit the things which the Evil One hath committed? Nay, by the Beauty of Him Who is the All-Glorified! could ye but know it. Purge your hearts from love of the world, and your tongues from calumny, and your limbs from whatsoever may withhold you from drawing nigh unto God, the Mighty, the All-Praised.

Say: By the world is meant that which turneth you aside from Him Who is the Dawning-Place of Revelation, and inclineth you unto that which is unprofitable unto you. Verily, the thing that deterreth you, in this day, from God is worldliness in its essence. Eschew it, and approach the Most Sublime Vision, this shining and resplendent Seat. Blessed is he who alloweth nothing whatsoever to intervene between him and his Lord. No harm, assuredly, can befall him if he partaketh with justice of the benefits of this world, inasmuch as We have created all things for such of Our servants as truly believe in God.

Should your words, O people, be at variance with your deeds, what then shall distinguish you from those who profess their faith in the Lord, their God, and yet, when He came down to them overshadowed with clouds, rejected Him and waxed proud before God, the Incomparable, the Omniscient? Shed not the blood of anyone, O people, neither judge ye anyone unjustly. Thus have ye been commanded by Him Who knoweth, Who is informed of all. They that commit disorders in the land after it hath been well ordered, these indeed have outstepped the bounds that have been set in the Book. Wretched shall be the abode of the transgressors!

God hath prescribed unto everyone the duty of teaching His Cause. Whoever ariseth to discharge this duty, must needs, ere he proclaimeth His Message, adorn himself with the ornament of an upright and praiseworthy character, so that his words may attract the hearts of such as are receptive to his call. Without it, he can never hope to influence his hearers. Thus doth God instruct you. He, verily, is the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.

They who exhort others unto justice, while themselves committing iniquity, stand accused of falsehood by the inmates of the Kingdom and by those who circle round the throne of their Lord, the Almighty, the Beneficent, for that which their tongues have uttered. Commit not, O people, that which dishonoureth your name and the fair name of the Cause of God amongst men. Beware lest ye approach that which your minds abhor. Fear God and follow not in the footsteps of them that are gone astray. Deal not treacherously with the substance of your neighbour. Be ye trustworthy on earth, and withhold not from the poor the things given unto you by God through His grace. He, verily, will bestow upon you the double of what ye possess. He, in truth, is the All-Bounteous, the Most Generous.

Say: We have ordained that our Cause be taught through the power of utterance. Beware lest ye dispute idly with anyone. Whoso ariseth wholly for the sake of his Lord to teach His Cause, the Holy Spirit shall strengthen him and inspire him with that which will illumine the heart of the world, how much more the hearts of those who seek Him. O people of Baha! Subdue the citadels of men's hearts with the swords of wisdom and of utterance. They that dispute, as prompted by their desires, are indeed wrapped in a palpable veil. Say: The sword of wisdom is hotter than summer heat, and sharper than blades of steel, if ye do but understand. Draw it forth in My name and through the power of My might, and conquer then with it the cities of the hearts of them that have secluded themselves in the stronghold of their corrupt desires. Thus biddeth you the Pen of the All-Glorious, whilst seated beneath the swords of the wayward.

If ye become aware of a sin committed by another, conceal it, that God may conceal your own sin. He, verily, is the Concealer, the Lord of grace abounding. O ye rich ones on earth! If ye encounter one who is poor, treat him not disdainfully. Reflect upon that whereof ye were created. Every one of you was created of a sorry germ. It behoveth you to observe truthfulness, whereby your temples shall be adorned, your names uplifted, your stations exalted amidst men, and a mighty recompense assured for you before God.

Give ear, O peoples of the earth, unto that which the Pen of the Lord of all nations commandeth you. Know ye of a certainty that the Dispensations of the past have attained their highest, their final consummation in the Law that hath branched out from this Most Great Ocean. Haste ye thereunto at Our behest. We, verily, ordain as We please. Regard ye the world as a man's body, which is afflicted with divers ailments, and the recovery of which dependeth upon the harmonizing of all of its component elements. Gather ye around that which We have prescribed unto you, and walk not in the ways of such as create dissension.

All feasts have attained their consummation in the two Most Great Festivals, and in two other Festivals that fall on the twin days—the first of the Most Great Festivals being those days whereon God shed the effulgent glory of His most excellent Names upon all who are in heaven and on earth, and the second being that day on which We raised up the One Who announced unto the people the glad tidings of this Great Announcement. Thus hath it been set down in the Book by Him Who is the Mighty, the Powerful. On other than these four consummate days, engage ye in your daily occupations, and withhold yourselves not from the pursuit of your trades and crafts. Thus hath the command been issued and the law gone forth from Him Who is your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: O concourse of priests and monks! Eat ye of that which God hath made lawful unto you and do not shun meat. God hath, as a token of His grace, granted you leave to partake thereof save during a brief period. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Beneficent. Forsake all that ye possess and hold fast unto that which God hath purposed. This is that which profiteth you, if ye be of them that comprehend. We have ordained a fast of nineteen days in the most temperate of the seasons, and have in this resplendent and luminous Dispensation relieved you from more than this. Thus have We set forth and made clear unto you that which ye are bidden to observe, that ye may follow the commandments of God and be united in that which the Almighty, the All-Wise, hath appointed unto you.

He Who is your Lord, the All-Merciful, cherisheth in His heart the desire of beholding the entire human race as one soul and one body. Haste ye to win your share of God's good grace and mercy in this Day that

eclipseth all other created Days. How great the felicity that awaiteth the man that forsaketh all he hath in a desire to obtain the things of God! Such a man, We testify, is among God's blessed ones.

O King! Bear thou witness unto that which God hath Himself and for Himself borne witness ere the creation of earth and heaven, that there is none other God but Me, the One, the Single, the Most Exalted, the Incomparable, the Inaccessible. Arise with the utmost steadfastness in the Cause of thy Lord, the All-Glorious. Thus hast thou been instructed in this wondrous Tablet. We, verily, have desired naught for thee save that which is better for thee than all that is on earth. Unto this testify all created things and beyond them this perspicuous Book.

Meditate on the world and the state of its people. He, for Whose sake the world was called into being, hath been imprisoned in the most desolate of cities, by reason of that which the hands of the wayward have wrought. From the horizon of His prison-city He summoneth mankind unto the Dayspring of God, the Exalted, the Great. Exultest thou over the treasures thou dost possess, knowing they shall perish? Rejoicest thou in that thou rulest a span of earth, when the whole world, in the estimation of the people of Baha, is worth as much as the black in the eye of a dead ant? Abandon it unto such as have set their affections upon it, and turn thou unto Him Who is the Desire of the world. Whither are gone the proud and their palaces? Gaze thou into their tombs, that thou mayest profit by this example, inasmuch as We made it a lesson unto every beholder. Were the breezes of Revelation to seize thee, thou wouldst flee the world, and turn unto the Kingdom, and wouldst expend all thou possessest, that thou mayest draw nigh unto this sublime Vision.

We behold the generality of mankind worshipping names and exposing themselves, as thou dost witness, to dire perils in the mere hope of perpetuating their names, whilst every perceiving soul testifieth that after death one's name shall avail him nothing except insofar as it beareth a relationship unto God, the Almighty, the All-Praised. Thus have their vain imaginings taken hold of them in requital for that which their hands have wrought. Consider the pettiness of men's minds. They seek with utmost exertion that which profiteth them not, and yet wert thou to ask of them: "Is there any advantage in that which ye desire?", thou wouldst find them sorely perplexed. Were a fair-minded soul to be found, he would reply: "Nay, by the Lord of the worlds!" Such is the condition of the people and of that which they possess. Leave them in their folly and turn thy sight unto God. This is in truth that which beseemeth thee. Hearken then unto the counsel of thy Lord, and say: Lauded art Thou, O God of all who are in heaven and on earth!

BH01042: Lawh-i-Malik-i-Rus (Tablet to Czar Alexander II)

O Czar of Russia! Incline thine ear unto the voice of God, the King, the Holy, and turn thou unto Paradise, the Spot wherein abideth He Who, among the Concourse on high, beareth the most excellent titles, and Who, in the kingdom of creation, is called by the name of God, the Effulgent, the All-Glorious. Beware lest thy desire deter thee from turning towards the face of thy Lord, the Compassionate, the Most Merciful. We, verily, have heard the thing for which thou didst supplicate thy Lord, whilst secretly communing with Him. Wherefore, the breeze of My loving-kindness wafted forth, and the sea of My mercy surged, and We answered thee in truth. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Whilst I lay chained and fettered

in the prison, one of thy ministers extended Me his aid. Wherefore hath God ordained for thee a station which the knowledge of none can comprehend except His knowledge. Beware lest thou barter away this sublime station. Thy Lord, verily, doeth what He willeth. What He pleaseth will God abrogate or confirm, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in a Guarded Tablet.

Beware lest thy sovereignty withhold thee from Him Who is the Supreme Sovereign. He, verily, is come with His Kingdom, and all the atoms cry aloud: "Lo! The Lord is come in His great majesty!" He Who is the Father is come, and the Son, in the holy vale, crieth out: "Here am I, here am I, O Lord, My God!", whilst Sinai circleth round the House, and the Burning Bush calleth aloud: "The All-Bounteous is come mounted upon the clouds! Blessed is he that draweth nigh unto Him, and woe betide them that are far away."

Arise thou amongst men in the name of this all-compelling Cause, and summon, then, the nations unto God, the Exalted, the Great. Be thou not of them who called upon God by one of His names, but who, when He Who is the Object of all names appeared, denied Him and turned aside from Him, and, in the end, pronounced sentence against Him with manifest injustice. Consider and call thou to mind the days whereon the Spirit of God appeared, and Herod gave judgement against Him. God, however, aided Him with the hosts of the unseen, and protected Him with truth, and sent Him down unto another land, according to His promise. He, verily, ordaineth what He pleaseth. Thy Lord truly preserveth whom He willeth, be he in the midst of the seas, or in the maw of the serpent, or beneath the sword of the oppressor.

Blessed be the king whom the veils of glory have not deterred from turning unto the Dayspring of beauty and who hath forsaken his all in his desire to obtain the things of God. He, indeed, is accounted in the sight of God as the most excellent of men, and is extolled by the inmates of paradise and them that circle morn and eve round the Throne on high.

Again I say: Hearken unto My voice that calleth from My prison, that it may acquaint thee with the things that have befallen My Beauty, at the hands of them that are the manifestations of My glory, and that thou mayest perceive how great hath been My patience, notwithstanding My might, and how immense My forbearance, notwithstanding My power. By My life! Couldst thou but know the things sent down by My Pen, and discover the treasures of My Cause, and the pearls of My mysteries which lie hid in the seas of My names and in the goblets of My words, thou wouldst, in thy love for My name, and in thy longing for My glorious and sublime Kingdom, lay down thy life in My path. Know thou that though My body be beneath the swords of My foes, and My limbs be beset with incalculable afflictions, yet My spirit is filled with a gladness with which all the joys of the earth can never compare.

Set thine heart towards Him Who is the Point of adoration for the world, and say:

> "O peoples of the earth! Have ye denied the One in Whose path He Who came with the truth, bearing the announcement of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great, suffered martyrdom?"

Say: This is an Announcement whereat the hearts of the Prophets and Messengers have rejoiced. This is the One Whom the heart of the world remembereth, and is promised in the Books of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise. The hands of the Messengers were, in their desire to meet Me, upraised towards God, the

Mighty, the Glorified. Unto this testifieth that which hath been sent down in the sacred Scriptures by Him Who is the Lord of might and power.

Some lamented in their separation from Me, others endured hardships in My path, and still others laid down their lives for the sake of My Beauty, could ye but know it. Say: I, verily, have not sought to extol Mine own Self, but rather God Himself, were ye to judge fairly. Naught can be seen in Me except God and His Cause, could ye but perceive it. I am the One Whom the tongue of Isaiah hath extolled, the One with Whose name both the Torah and the Evangel were adorned. Thus hath it been decreed in the Scriptures of thy Lord, the Most Merciful. He, verily, hath borne witness unto Me, as I bear witness unto Him. And God testifieth to the truth of My words.

Say: The Books have been sent down for naught but My remembrance. Whosoever is receptive to their call shall perceive therefrom the sweet fragrances of My name and My praise; and he who hath unstopped the ear of his inmost heart shall hear from every word thereof: "The True One is come! He indeed is the beloved of the worlds!"

It is for the sake of God alone that My tongue counselleth you and that My pen moveth to make mention of you, for neither can the malice and denial of all who dwell on earth harm Me, nor the allegiance of the entire creation profit Me. We, verily, exhort you unto that which We were commanded, and desire naught from you except that ye draw nigh unto what shall profit you in both this world and the world to come. Say: Will ye slay Him Who summoneth you unto life everlasting? Fear ye God, and follow not every contumacious oppressor.

O proud ones of the earth! Do ye believe yourselves to be abiding in palaces whilst He Who is the King of Revelation resideth in the most desolate of abodes? Nay, by My life! In tombs do ye dwell, could ye but perceive it. Verily, he who faileth, in these days, to be stirred by the breeze of God is accounted among the dead in the sight of Him Who is the Lord of all names and attributes. Arise, then, from the tombs of self and desire and turn unto the Kingdom of God, the Possessor of the Throne on high and of earth below, that ye may behold that which ye were promised aforetime by your Lord, the All-Knowing.

Think ye that the things ye possess shall profit you? Soon others will possess them and ye will return unto the dust with none to help or succour you. What advantage is there in a life that can be overtaken by death, or in an existence that is doomed to extinction, or in a prosperity that is subject to change? Cast away the things that ye possess and set your faces toward the favours of God which have been sent down in this wondrous Name.

Thus doth the Pen of the Most High warble unto thee its melodies by the leave of thy Lord, the All-Glorious. When thou hast heard and recited them, say: "Praise be unto Thee, O Lord of all the worlds, inasmuch as Thou hast made mention of me through the tongue of Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Self at a time when He was confined in the Most Great Prison, that the whole world might attain unto true liberty."

Blessed be the king whose sovereignty hath withheld him not from his Sovereign, and who hath turned unto God with his heart. He, verily, is accounted of those that have attained unto that which God, the Mighty, the All-Wise, hath willed. Erelong will such a one find himself numbered with the monarchs of the

realms of the Kingdom. Thy Lord is, in truth, potent over all things. He giveth what He willeth to whomsoever He willeth, and withholdeth what He pleaseth from whomsoever He willeth. He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

BH00662: Lawh-i-Malikah Victoria (Tablet to Queen Victoria)

O Queen in London! Incline thine ear unto the voice of thy Lord, the Lord of all mankind, calling from the Divine Lote-Tree: Verily, no God is there but Me, the Almighty, the All-Wise! Cast away all that is on earth, and attire the head of thy kingdom with the crown of the remembrance of thy Lord, the All-Glorious. He, in truth, hath come unto the world in His most great glory, and all that hath been mentioned in the Gospel hath been fulfilled. The land of Syria hath been honoured by the footsteps of its Lord, the Lord of all men, and north and south are both inebriated with the wine of His presence. Blessed is the man that hath inhaled the fragrance of the Most Merciful, and turned unto the Dawning-Place of His Beauty, in this resplendent Dawn. The Mosque of Aqsa vibrateth through the breezes of its Lord, the All-Glorious, whilst Batha trembleth at the voice of God, the Exalted, the Most High. Whereupon every single stone of them celebrateth the praise of the Lord, through this Great Name.

Lay aside thy desire, and set then thine heart towards thy Lord, the Ancient of Days. We make mention of thee for the sake of God, and desire that thy name may be exalted through thy remembrance of God, the Creator of earth and heaven. He, verily, is witness unto that which I say. We have been informed that thou hast forbidden the trading in slaves, both men and women. This, verily, is what God hath enjoined in this wondrous Revelation. God hath, truly, destined a reward for thee, because of this. He, verily, will pay the doer of good his due recompense, wert thou to follow what hath been sent unto thee by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. As to him who turneth aside, and swelleth with pride, after the clear tokens have come unto him from the Revealer of signs, his work shall God bring to naught. He, in truth, hath power over all things. Man's actions are acceptable after his having recognized (the Manifestation). He that turneth aside from the True One is indeed the most veiled amongst His creatures. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

We have also heard that thou hast entrusted the reins of counsel into the hands of the representatives of the people. Thou, indeed, hast done well, for thereby the foundations of the edifice of thine affairs will be strengthened, and the hearts of all that are beneath thy shadow, whether high or low, will be tranquillized. It behoveth them, however, to be trustworthy among His servants, and to regard themselves as the representatives of all that dwell on earth. This is what counselleth them, in this Tablet, He Who is the Ruler, the All-Wise. And if any one of them directeth himself towards the Assembly, let him turn his eyes unto the Supreme Horizon, and say: "O my God! I ask Thee, by Thy most glorious Name, to aid me in that which will cause the affairs of Thy servants to prosper, and Thy cities to flourish. Thou, indeed, hast power over all things!" Blessed is he that entereth the Assembly for the sake of God, and judgeth between men with pure justice. He, indeed, is of the blissful.

O ye the elected representatives of the people in every land! Take ye counsel together, and let your concern be only for that which profiteth mankind and bettereth the condition thereof, if ye be of them that scan heedfully. Regard the world as the human body which, though at its creation whole and perfect,

hath been afflicted, through various causes, with grave disorders and maladies. Not for one day did it gain ease, nay its sickness waxed more severe, as it fell under the treatment of ignorant physicians, who gave full rein to their personal desires and have erred grievously. And if, at one time, through the care of an able physician, a member of that body was healed, the rest remained afflicted as before. Thus informeth you the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

We behold it, in this day, at the mercy of rulers so drunk with pride that they cannot discern clearly their own best advantage, much less recognize a Revelation so bewildering and challenging as this. And whenever any one of them hath striven to improve its condition, his motive hath been his own gain, whether confessedly so or not; and the unworthiness of this motive hath limited his power to heal or cure.

That which the Lord hath ordained as the sovereign remedy and mightiest instrument for the healing of all the world is the union of all its peoples in one universal Cause, one common Faith. This can in no wise be achieved except through the power of a skilled, an all-powerful and inspired Physician. This, verily, is the truth, and all else naught but error. Each time that Most Mighty Instrument hath come, and that Light shone forth from the Ancient Dayspring, He was withheld by ignorant physicians who, even as clouds, interposed themselves between Him and the world. It failed, therefore, to recover, and its sickness hath persisted until this day. They indeed were powerless to protect it, or to effect a cure, whilst He Who hath been the Manifestation of Power amongst men was withheld from achieving His purpose, by reason of what the hands of the ignorant physicians have wrought.

Consider these days in which He Who is the Ancient Beauty hath come in the Most Great Name, that He may quicken the world and unite its peoples. They, however, rose up against Him with sharpened swords, and committed that which caused the Faithful Spirit to lament, until in the end they imprisoned Him in the most desolate of cities, and broke the grasp of the faithful upon the hem of His robe. Were anyone to tell them: “The World Reformer is come”, they would answer and say: “Indeed it is proven that He is a fomenter of discord!”, and this notwithstanding that they have never associated with Him, and have perceived that He did not seek, for one moment, to protect Himself.

At all times He was at the mercy of the wicked doers. At one time they cast Him into prison, at another they banished Him, and at yet another hurried Him from land to land. Thus have they pronounced judgement against Us, and God, truly, is aware of what I say. Such men are reckoned by God among the most ignorant of His creatures. They cut off their own limbs and perceive it not; they deprive themselves of that which is best for them, and know it not. They are even as a young child who can distinguish neither the mischief-maker from the reformer nor the wicked from the righteous. We behold them in this Day wrapt in a palpable veil.

O ye rulers of the earth! Wherefore have ye clouded the radiance of the Sun, and caused it to cease from shining? Hearken unto the counsel given you by the Pen of the Most High, that haply both ye and the poor may attain unto tranquillity and peace. We beseech God to assist the kings of the earth to establish peace on earth. He, verily, doth what He willeth.

O kings of the earth! We see you increasing every year your expenditures, and laying the burden thereof on your subjects. This, verily, is wholly and grossly unjust. Fear the sighs and tears of this Wronged One, and lay not excessive burdens on your peoples. Do not rob them to rear palaces for yourselves; nay rather choose for them that which ye choose for yourselves. Thus We unfold to your eyes that which profiteth you, if ye but perceive. Your people are your treasures. Beware lest your rule violate the commandments of God, and ye deliver your wards to the hands of the robber. By them ye rule, by their means ye subsist, by their aid ye conquer. Yet, how disdainfully ye look upon them! How strange, how very strange!

Now that ye have refused the Most Great Peace, hold ye fast unto this, the Lesser Peace, that haply ye may in some degree better your own condition and that of your dependents.

O rulers of the earth! Be reconciled among yourselves, that ye may need no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories and dominions. Beware lest ye disregard the counsel of the All-Knowing, the Faithful.

Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest, if ye be of them that comprehend. Should any one among you take up arms against another, rise ye all against him, for this is naught but manifest justice. Thus did We exhort you in the Tablet sent down aforetime,aa and We admonish you once again to follow that which hath been revealed by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Wise. Should anyone seek refuge with you, extend unto him your protection and betray him not. Thus doth the Pen of the Most High counsel you, as bidden by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Beware lest ye act as did the King of Islam§§ when We came unto him at his bidding. His ministers pronounced judgement against Us with such injustice that all creation lamented and the hearts of those who are nigh unto God were consumed. The winds of self and passion move them as they will, and We found them all bereft of constancy. They are, indeed, of those that are far astray.

Rein in Thy pen, O Pen of the Ancient of Days, and leave them to themselves, for they are immersed in their idle fancies. Make Thou mention of the Queen, that she may turn with a pure heart unto the scene of transcendent glory, may withhold not her eyes from gazing toward her Lord, the Supreme Ordainer, and may become acquainted with that which hath been revealed in the Books and Tablets by the Creator of all mankind, He through Whom the sun hath been darkened and the moon eclipsed, and through Whom the Call hath been raised betwixt earth and heaven.

Turn thou unto God and say: O my Sovereign Lord! I am but a vassal of Thine, and Thou art, in truth, the King of kings. I have lifted my suppliant hands unto the heaven of Thy grace and Thy bounties. Send down, then, upon me from the clouds of Thy generosity that which will rid me of all save Thee, and draw me nigh unto Thyself. I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by Thy name, which Thou hast made the king of names and the manifestation of Thyself to all who are in heaven and on earth, to rend asunder the veils that have intervened between me and my recognition of the Dawning-Place of Thy signs and the Dayspring of Thy Revelation.

Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Bounteous. Deprive me not, O my Lord, of the fragrances of the Robe of Thy mercy in Thy days, and write down for me that which Thou hast written

down for Thy handmaidens who have believed in Thee and in Thy signs, and have recognized Thee, and set their hearts towards the horizon of Thy Cause. Thou art truly the Lord of the worlds and of those who show mercy the Most Merciful. Assist me, then, O my God, to remember Thee amongst Thy handmaidens, and to aid Thy Cause in Thy lands. Accept, then, that which hath escaped me when the light of Thy countenance shone forth. Thou, indeed, hast power over all things. Glory be to Thee, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of the heavens and of the earth.

BH00038: Lawh-i-Sultan

Section 1: "O King of the Earth! Hearken unto…"

O King of the Earth! Hearken unto the call of this Vassal: Verily, I am a Servant Who hath believed in God and in His signs, and have sacrificed Myself in His path. Unto this bear witness the woes which now beset Me, woes the like of which no man hath ever before sustained. My Lord, the All-Knowing, testifieth to the truth of My words. I have summoned the people unto none save God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds, and have endured for love of Him such afflictions as the eye of creation hath never beheld. To this testify those whom the veils of human fancy have not deterred from turning unto the Most Sublime Vision, and, beyond them, He with Whom is the knowledge of all things in the preserved Tablet.

Whensoever the clouds of tribulation have rained down the darts of affliction in the path of God, the Lord of all names, I have hastened to meet them, as every fair-minded and discerning soul shall attest. How many the nights which found the beasts of the field resting in their lairs, and the birds of the air lying in their nests, while this Youth languished in chains and fetters with none to aid or succour Him!

Call Thou to mind God's mercy unto Thee; how, when Thou wert imprisoned with a number of other souls, He delivered Thee and aided Thee with the hosts of the seen and the unseen, until the King sent Thee to ʿIraq after We had disclosed unto him that Thou wert not of the sowers of sedition. Those who follow their corrupt desires and lay aside the fear of God are indeed in grievous error. They that spread disorder in the land, shed the blood of men, and wrongfully consume the substance of others—We, verily, are clear of them, and We beseech God not to associate Us with them, whether in this world or in the world to come, unless they should repent unto Him. He, verily, is of those who show mercy the most merciful.

Whoso turneth towards God must distinguish himself from others by his every deed, and follow that which hath been enjoined upon him in the Book. Thus hath it been decreed in a lucid Tablet. Those, however, who cast behind their backs the commandments of God, and follow the prompting of their own desires, are, verily, in grievous error.

O King! I adjure thee by thy Lord, the All-Merciful, to look upon thy servants with the glances of the eye of thy favour, and to treat them with justice, that God may treat thee with mercy. Potent is thy Lord to do as He pleaseth. The world, with all its abasement and glory, shall pass away, and the kingdom will remain unto God, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing.

Say: He hath kindled the lamp of utterance, and feedeth it with the oil of wisdom and understanding. Too high is thy Lord, the All-Merciful, for aught in the universe to resist His Faith. He revealeth what He pleaseth through the power of His sovereign might, and protecteth it with a host of His well-favoured angels. He is supreme over His servants and exerciseth undisputed dominion over His creation. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

O King! I was but a man like others, asleep upon My couch, when lo, the breezes of the All-Glorious were wafted over Me, and taught Me the knowledge of all that hath been. This thing is not from Me, but from One Who is Almighty and All-Knowing. And He bade Me lift up My voice between earth and heaven, and for this there befell Me what hath caused the tears of every man of understanding to flow. The learning current amongst men I studied not; their schools I entered not. Ask of the city wherein I dwelt, that thou mayest be well assured that I am not of them who speak falsely. This is but a leaf which the winds of the will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Praised, have stirred.

Can it be still when the tempestuous winds are blowing? Nay, by Him Who is the Lord of all Names and Attributes! They move it as they list. The evanescent is as nothing before Him Who is the Ever-Abiding. His all-compelling summons hath reached Me, and caused Me to speak His praise amidst all people. I was indeed as one dead when His behest was uttered. The hand of the will of thy Lord, the Compassionate, the Merciful, transformed Me. Can anyone speak forth of his own accord that for which all men, both high and low, will protest against him? Nay, by Him Who taught the Pen the eternal mysteries, save him whom the grace of the Almighty, the All-Powerful, hath strengthened.

The Pen of the Most High addresseth Me, saying: Fear not. Relate unto His Majesty the Shah that which befell thee. His heart, verily, is between the fingers of thy Lord, the God of Mercy, that haply the sun of justice and bounty may shine forth above the horizon of his heart. Thus hath the decree been irrevocably fixed by Him Who is the All-Wise.

Look upon this Youth, O King, with the eyes of justice; judge thou, then, with truth concerning what hath befallen Him. Of a verity, God hath made thee His shadow amongst men, and the sign of His power unto all that dwell on earth. Judge thou between Us and them that have wronged Us without proof and without an enlightening Book. They that surround thee love thee for their own sakes, whereas this Youth loveth thee for thine own sake, and hath had no desire except to draw thee nigh unto the seat of grace, and to turn thee toward the right hand of justice. Thy Lord beareth witness unto that which I declare.

O King! Wert thou to incline thine ear unto the shrill of the Pen of Glory and the cooing of the Dove of Eternity which, on the branches of the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, uttereth praises to God, the Maker of all names and Creator of earth and heaven, thou wouldst attain unto a station from which thou wouldst behold in the world of being naught save the effulgence of the Adored One, and wouldst regard thy sovereignty as the most contemptible of thy possessions, abandoning it to whosoever might desire it, and setting thy face toward the Horizon aglow with the light of His countenance. Neither wouldst thou ever be willing to bear the burden of dominion save for the purpose of helping thy Lord, the Exalted, the Most High. Then would the Concourse on high bless thee. O how excellent is this most sublime station, couldst thou ascend thereunto through the power of a sovereignty recognized as derived from the Name of God!

Amongst the people are those who allege that this Youth hath had no purpose but to perpetuate His name, whilst others claim that He hath sought for Himself the vanities of the world—this, notwithstanding that never, throughout all My days, have I found a place of safety, be it to the extent of a single foothold. At all times have I been immersed in an ocean of tribulations, whose full measure none can fathom but God. He, truly, is aware of what I say. How many the days in which My loved ones have been sorely shaken by reason of My afflictions, and how many the nights during which My kindred, fearing for My life, have bitterly wept and lamented! And this none can deny save them that are bereft of truthfulness. Is it conceivable that He Who expecteth to lose His life at any moment should seek after worldly vanities? How very strange the imaginings of those who speak as prompted by their own caprices, and who wander distractedly in the wilderness of self and passion! Erelong shall they be called upon to account for their words, and on that day they shall find none to befriend or help them.

And amongst the people are those who claim that He hath disbelieved in God—yet every member of My body testifieth that there is none other God but Him; that those Whom He hath raised up in truth and sent forth with His guidance are the Manifestations of His most excellent names, the Revealers of His most exalted attributes, and the Repositories of His Revelation in the kingdom of creation; that through them the Proof of God hath been perfected unto all else but Him, the standard of Divine Unity hath been raised, and the sign of sanctity hath been made manifest; and that through them every soul hath found a path unto the Lord of the Throne on high. We testify that there is none other God but Him, that from everlasting He was alone with none else besides Him, and that He shall be unto everlasting what He hath ever been. Too high is the All-Merciful for the hearts of those who have recognized Him to apprehend His true nature, or for the minds of men to hope to fathom His essence. He verily is exalted above the understanding of anyone besides Himself, and sanctified beyond the comprehension of all else save Him. From all eternity He hath been independent of the entire creation.

Remember the days in which the Sun of Batha shone forth above the horizon of the Will of thy Lord, the Exalted, the Most High, and recall how the divines of that age turned away from Him, and the learned contended with Him, that haply thou mayest apprehend that which, in this day, remaineth concealed behind the veils of glory. So grievous became His plight on every side that He instructed His companions to disperse. Thus was the decree made manifest from the heaven of divine glory. Remember, furthermore, how, when one of these same companions came before the King of Ethiopia and recited unto him a Surih of the Qur'an, he declared to his attendants: "This, truly, hath been revealed by One Who is All-Knowing and All-Wise. Whoso acknowledgeth the truth, and believeth in the teachings of Jesus, can in no wise deny what hath been recited. We, verily, bear witness to its truth, even as we bear witness to the truth of that which we possess of the Books of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting."

I swear by God, O King! Wert thou to incline thine ear to the melodies of that Nightingale which warbleth in manifold accents upon the mystic bough as bidden by thy Lord, the All-Merciful, thou wouldst cast away thy sovereignty and set thy face towards this Scene of transcendent glory, above whose horizon shineth the Book of the Dawntide, and wouldst expend all that thou possessest in thine eagerness to obtain the things of God. Then wouldst thou find thyself raised up to the summit of exaltation and glory, and elevated to the pinnacle of majesty and independence. Thus hath the decree been recorded in the Mother Book by the Pen of the All-Merciful. Of what avail are the things which are yours today and which

tomorrow others shall possess? Choose for thyself that which God hath chosen for His elect, and God shall grant thee a mighty sovereignty in His Kingdom. We beseech God to aid thy Majesty to hearken unto that Word whose radiance hath enveloped the whole world, and to protect thee from such as have strayed far from the court of His presence.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord My God! How many the heads which were raised aloft on spears in Thy path, and how many the breasts which were made the target of arrows for the sake of Thy good pleasure! How many the hearts that have been lacerated for the exaltation of Thy Word and the promotion of Thy Cause, and how many the eyes that have wept sore for love of Thee! I implore Thee, O Thou Who art the King of kings and the Pitier of the downtrodden, by Thy Most Great Name which Thou hast made the Dawning-Place of Thy most excellent names and the Dayspring of Thy most exalted attributes, to remove the veils that have come in between Thee and Thy creatures and debarred them from turning unto the horizon of Thy Revelation. Cause them, then, O My God, by Thy most exalted Word, to turn from the left hand of oblivion and delusion unto the right hand of knowledge and certitude, that they may know what Thou hast purposed for them through Thy bounty and grace, and may set their faces towards Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Cause and the Revealer of Thy signs.

O My God! Thou art the All-Bountiful, Whose grace is infinite. Withhold not Thy servants from the most mighty Ocean, which Thou hast made the repository of the pearls of Thy knowledge and Thy wisdom, and turn them not away from Thy gate, which Thou hast opened wide before all who are in Thy heaven and all who are on Thy earth. O Lord! Leave them not to themselves, for they understand not and flee from that which is better for them than all that Thou hast created upon Thine earth. Cast upon them, O My God, the glances of the eye of Thy favour and bounty, and deliver them from self and passion, that they may draw nigh unto Thy most exalted Horizon, taste the sweetness of Thy remembrance, and delight in that bread which Thou hast sent down from the heaven of Thy Will and the firmament of Thy grace. From everlasting Thy bounty hath embraced the entire creation and Thy mercy hath surpassed all things. No God is there but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.

Section 2: “Glorified art Thou, O Lord My God! Thou…”

Glorified art Thou, O Lord My God! Thou well knowest that Mine heart hath melted in Thy Cause, and that My blood so boileth in My veins with the fire of Thy love that every drop of it proclaimeth with its inner tongue: “Grant that I may be spilt upon the ground for Thy sake, O my Lord, the Most High, that from it there may spring forth that which Thou hast purposed in Thy Tablets and hast hidden from the eyes of all, except such servants as have tasted of the crystal stream of knowledge from the hands of Thy grace and quaffed the soft-flowing waters of understanding from the cup of Thy bestowal.”

Thou knowest, O My God, that in all Mine affairs I have sought only to obey Thy bidding, that in Mine every utterance I have wished only to extol Thy praise, and that in whatsoever hath proceeded from My Pen I have purposed only to win Thy good pleasure and to reveal that which Thou hast enjoined upon Me through Thy sovereignty.

Thou beholdest Me, O My God, as one bewildered in Thy land. Whensoever I make mention of that which Thou hast enjoined upon Me, Thy creatures cavil at Me; yet were I to neglect that which Thou hast

bidden Me observe, I would deserve the scourge of Thine anger and would be far removed from the meadows of Thy nearness. Nay, by Thy glory! I have set My face towards Thy good pleasure, and turned away from the things whereon Thy servants have set their affections. I have embraced all that is with Thee, and forsaken all that might lead Me away from the retreats of Thy nearness and the heights of Thy glory. I swear by Thy might! With Thy love in My heart nothing can ever alarm Me, and in the path of Thy good pleasure all the world's afflictions can in no wise dismay Me. All this, however, proceedeth from Thy power and Thy might, from Thy bounty and Thy grace, and is not of Mine own deserving.

This is an Epistle, O My God, which I have purposed to send unto the King. Thou knowest that I have wished of him naught but that he should show forth justice to Thy servants and extend his favours unto the people of Thy kingdom. For Myself I have desired only what Thou didst desire, and through Thy succour I wish for naught save that which Thou wishest. Perish the soul that seeketh from Thee aught save Thyself! I swear by Thy glory! Thy good pleasure is my dearest wish, and Thy purpose My highest hope. Have mercy, O My God, upon this poor creature Who hath clung unto the hem of Thy riches, and this suppliant soul Who calleth upon Thee, saying, "Thou art, verily, the Lord of might and glory!" Assist Thou, O My God, His Majesty the Shah to keep Thy statutes amidst Thy servants and to manifest Thy justice amongst Thy creatures, that he may treat this people as he treateth others. Thou art, in truth, the God of power, of glory and wisdom.

By the leave and permission of the King of the Age, this Servant journeyed from the Seat of Sovereignty to Iraq, and dwelt for twelve years in that land. Throughout the entire course of this period no account of Our condition was submitted to the court of thy presence, and no representation ever made to foreign powers. Placing Our whole trust in God, We resided in that land until there came to Iraq a certain official who, upon his arrival, undertook to harass this poor company of exiles. Day after day, at the instigation of some of the outwardly learned and of other individuals, he would stir up trouble for these servants, although they had at no time committed any act detrimental to the state and its people or contrary to the rules and customs of the citizens of the realm.

Fearing lest the actions of these transgressors should produce some outcome at variance with thy world-adorning judgement, this Servant despatched a brief account of the matter to Mirza Sa'id Khan at the Foreign Ministry, so that he might submit it to the royal presence and that whatever thou shouldst please to decree in this respect might be obeyed. A long while elapsed, and no decree was issued. Finally matters came to such a pass that there loomed the threat of imminent strife and bloodshed. Of necessity, therefore, and for the protection of the servants of God, a few of them appealed to the Governor of ʿIraq.

Wert thou to observe these events with the eye of fairness, it would become clear and evident in the luminous mirror of thine heart that what occurred was called for by the circumstances, and that no other alternative could be seen. His Majesty himself is witness that in whatever city a number of this people have resided, the hostility of certain functionaries hath enkindled the flame of conflict and contention. This evanescent Soul, however, hath, since His arrival in Iraq, forbidden all to engage in dissension and strife. The witness of this Servant is His very deeds, for all are well aware and will testify that, although a greater number of this people resided in Iraq than in any other land, no one overstepped his limits or transgressed against his neighbour. Fixing their gaze upon God, and reposing their trust in Him, all have

now been abiding in peace for well-nigh fifteen years, and, in whatever hath befallen them, they have shown forth patience and resigned themselves to God.

After the arrival of this Servant in this, the city of Adrianople, some of the people of ʿIraq and elsewhere inquired about the meaning of the term “rendering assistance unto God” which hath been mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. Several answers were sent out in reply, one of which is set forth in these pages, that it may be clearly demonstrated in the court of thy presence that this Servant hath had no end in view but to promote the betterment and well-being of the world. And if certain of the divine favours which, undeserving as I may be, God hath pleased to bestow upon Me be not plain and manifest, this much at least will be clear and apparent, that He, in His surpassing mercy and infinite grace, hath not deprived Mine heart of the ornament of reason. The passage that was referred to concerning the meaning of “rendering assistance unto God” is as follows:

He is God, exalted be His glory!

It is clear and evident that the one true God—glorified be His mention!—is sanctified above the world and all that is therein. By “rendering assistance unto God”, then, it is not meant that any soul should fight or contend with another. That Sovereign Lord Who doeth whatsoever He pleaseth hath entrusted the kingdom of creation, its lands and its seas, into the hands of the kings, for they are, each according to his degree, the manifestations of His divine power. Should they enter beneath the shadow of the True One, they will be accounted of God, and if not, thy Lord, verily, knoweth and observeth all things.

That which God—glorified be His Name!—hath desired for Himself is the hearts of His servants, which are the treasuries of His love and remembrance and the repositories of His knowledge and wisdom. It hath ever been the wish of the Eternal King to cleanse the hearts of His servants from the things of the world and all that pertaineth thereunto, that they may be made worthy recipients of the effulgent splendours of Him Who is the King of all names and attributes. Wherefore must no stranger be allowed in the city of the heart, that the incomparable Friend may enter His abode. By this is meant the effulgence of His names and attributes, and not His exalted Essence, inasmuch as that peerless King hath ever been, and shall eternally remain, sanctified above ascent and descent.

It followeth, therefore, that rendering assistance unto God, in this day, doth not and shall never consist in contending or disputing with any soul; nay rather, what is preferable in the sight of God is that the cities of men’s hearts, which are ruled by the hosts of self and passion, should be subdued by the sword of utterance, of wisdom and of understanding. Thus, whoso seeketh to assist God must, before all else, conquer, with the sword of inner meaning and explanation, the city of his own heart and guard it from the remembrance of all save God, and only then set out to subdue the cities of the hearts of others.

Such is the true meaning of rendering assistance unto God. Sedition hath never been pleasing unto God, nor were the acts committed in the past by certain foolish ones acceptable in His sight. Know ye that to be killed in the path of His good pleasure is better for you than to kill. The beloved of the Lord must, in this day, behave in such wise amidst His servants that they may by their very deeds and actions guide all men unto the paradise of the All-Glorious.

By Him Who shineth above the Dayspring of Sanctity! The friends of God have not, nor will they ever, set their hopes upon the world and its ephemeral possessions. The one true God hath ever regarded the hearts of men as His own, His exclusive possession—and this too but as an expression of His all-surpassing mercy, that haply mortal souls may be purged and sanctified from all that pertaineth to the world of dust and gain admittance into the realms of eternity. For otherwise that ideal King is, in Himself and by Himself, sufficient unto Himself and independent of all things. Neither doth the love of His creatures profit Him, nor can their malice harm Him. All have issued forth from abodes of dust, and unto dust shall they return, while the one true God, alone and single, is established upon His Throne, a Throne which is beyond the reaches of time and space, is sanctified above all utterance or expression, intimation, description and definition, and is exalted beyond all notion of abasement and glory. And none knoweth this save Him and those with whom is the knowledge of the Book. No God is there but Him, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful.[BH01931]

It behoveth the benevolence of the Sovereign, however, to examine all matters with the eye of justice and mercy, and not to content himself with the baseless claims of certain individuals. We beseech God to graciously assist the King to fulfil that which He pleaseth, and, verily, that which He desireth should be the desire of all the worlds.

Later this Servant was summoned to Constantinople, whither We arrived accompanied by a poor band of exiles. At no time thereafter did We seek to meet with anyone, as We had no request to make and no aim in view but to demonstrate unto all that this Servant had no mischief in mind and had never associated with the sowers of sedition. By Him Who hath caused the tongues of all beings to speak forth His praise! While certain considerations rendered it difficult to make application to any quarter, such steps were perforce taken to protect certain souls. My Lord, verily, knoweth what is in Me, and He beareth witness unto the truth of what I say.

A just king is the shadow of God on earth. All should seek shelter under the shadow of his justice, and rest in the shade of his favour. This is not a matter which is either specific or limited in its scope, that it might be restricted to one or another person, inasmuch as the shadow telleth of the One Who casteth it. God, glorified be His remembrance, hath called Himself the Lord of the worlds, for He hath nurtured and still nurtureth everyone. Glorified be, then, His grace that hath preceded all created things, and His mercy that hath surpassed the worlds.

It is clear and evident that, whether this Cause be seen as right or wrong by the people, those who are associated with its name have accepted and embraced it as true, and have forsaken their all in their eagerness to partake of the things of God. That they should evince such renunciation in the path of the love of the All-Merciful is in itself a faithful witness and an eloquent testimony to the truth of their convictions. Hath it ever been witnessed that a man of sound judgement should sacrifice his life without cause or reason? And if it be suggested that this people have taken leave of their senses, this too is highly improbable, inasmuch as such behaviour hath not been confined to merely a soul or two—nay, a vast multitude of every class have drunk their fill of the living waters of divine knowledge, and, intoxicated, have hastened with heart and soul to the field of sacrifice in the way of the Beloved.

Section 3: “If these souls, who have renounced all else…”

If these souls, who have renounced all else but God for His sake and offered up their life and substance in His path, are to be accounted as false, then by what proof and testimony can the truth of what others assert be established in thy presence? The late Haji Siyyid Muhammad—may God exalt his station and immerse him in the ocean of His forgiveness and mercy!—was one of the most learned divines of his age, and one of the most devout and pious men of his time. So highly was he regarded that his praise was on every tongue, and his righteousness and piety were universally acknowledged. Yet, when hostilities broke out with Russia, he who himself had pronounced the decree of holy war, and who with blazoned standard had left his native land to rally to the support of his faith, abandoned, after the inconvenience of a brief encounter, all the good that he had purposed, and returned whence he had come. Would that the veil might be lifted, and that which hath ere now remained hidden from the eyes of men be made manifest!

For more than twenty years this people have, day and night, been subjected to the fury of the Sovereign’s wrath, and have been scattered by the tempestuous gales of his displeasure, each to a different land. How many the children who have been left fatherless, and how many the fathers who have lost their sons! How many the mothers who have dared not, out of fear and dread, to mourn their slaughtered offspring! How numerous those who, at eventide, were possessed of utmost wealth and affluence, and who, when morning came, had fallen into utter abasement and destitution! No land is there whose soil hath not been tinged with their blood, nor reach of heaven unto which their sighs have not ascended. Throughout the years the darts of affliction have unceasingly rained down from the clouds of God’s decree, yet despite all these calamities and tribulations, the flame of divine love hath so blazed in their hearts that even should their bodies be torn asunder they would not forsake their love of Him Who is the Best-Beloved of the worlds, but would welcome with heart and soul whatever might befall them in the path of God.

O King! The breezes of the grace of the All-Merciful have transformed these servants and attracted them unto His Holy Court. “The witness of a true lover is upon his sleeve.” Nevertheless, some of the outwardly learned have troubled the luminous heart of the King of the Age concerning these souls who revolve round the Tabernacle of the All-Merciful and who seek to attain the Sanctuary of true knowledge. Would that the world-adorning wish of His Majesty might decree that this Servant be brought face to face with the divines of the age, and produce proofs and testimonies in the presence of His Majesty the Shah! This Servant is ready, and taketh hope in God, that such a gathering may be convened in order that the truth of the matter may be made clear and manifest before His Majesty the Shah. It is then for thee to command, and I stand ready before the throne of thy sovereignty. Decide, then, for Me or against Me.

The All-Merciful saith in the Qur’an, His abiding testimony unto all the peoples of the world: “Wish ye then for death, if ye be men of truth.” Behold how He hath declared the yearning for death to be the touchstone of sincerity! And, in the luminous mirror of thy judgement, it is doubtless clear and evident which people have chosen, in this day, to lay down their lives in the path of the Beloved of the worlds. Indeed, were the books supporting the beliefs of this people to be written with the blood spilled in the path of God—exalted be His glory!—then countless volumes would have already appeared amongst men for all to see.

How, We fain would ask, is it possible to impugn this people whose deeds are in conformity with their words, and to give credence instead to those who have refused to relinquish one jot of their worldly authority in the path of Him Who is the Unconstrained? Some of the divines who have declared this Servant an infidel have at no time met with Me. Never having seen Me, or become acquainted with My purpose, they have nevertheless spoken as they pleased and acted as they desired. Yet every claim requireth a proof, not mere words and displays of outward piety.

In this connection the text of several passages from the Hidden Book of Fatimih—the blessings of God be upon her!—which are relevant to the present theme will be cited in the Persian tongue, that certain matters which have ere now been hidden may be revealed before thy presence. The people addressed in the aforementioned Book, which is today known as the Hidden Words, are those who, though outwardly known for learning and piety, are inwardly the slaves of self and passion.

He saith: O ye that are foolish, yet have a name to be wise! Wherefore do ye wear the guise of the shepherd, when inwardly ye have become wolves, intent upon My flock? Ye are even as the star, which riseth ere the dawn, and which, though it seem radiant and luminous, leadeth the wayfarers of My city astray into the paths of perdition.

And likewise He saith: O ye seeming fair yet inwardly foul! Ye are like clear but bitter water, which to outward seeming is crystal pure but of which, when tested by the Divine Assayer, not a drop is accepted. Yea, the sunbeam falls alike upon the dust and the mirror, yet differ they in reflection even as doth the star from the earth: nay, immeasurable is the difference!

And also He saith: O essence of desire! At many a dawn have I turned from the realms of the Placeless unto thine abode, and found thee on the bed of ease busied with others than Myself. Thereupon, even as the flash of the spirit, I returned to the realms of celestial glory, and breathed it not in My retreats above unto the hosts of holiness.

And again He saith: O bondslave of the world! Many a dawn hath the breeze of My loving-kindness wafted over thee and found thee upon the bed of heedlessness fast asleep. Bewailing then thy plight it returned whence it came.

Therefore, in the exercise of the royal justice, it is not sufficient to give ear to the claimant alone. God saith in the Qur'an, the unerring Balance that distinguisheth truth from falsehood: "O ye who believe! If a wicked man come to you with news, clear it up at once, lest through ignorance ye harm others, and afterward repent of what ye have done." The holy Traditions, moreover, contain the admonition: "Believe not the tale-bearer." Certain of the divines, who have never seen Us, have misconceived the nature of Our Cause. Those, however, who have met Us will testify that this Servant hath not spoken save in accordance with that which God hath commanded in the Book, and that He hath called attention to the following blessed verse—exalted be His Word: "Do ye not disavow us merely because we believe in God, and in what He hath sent down unto us, and in what He had sent down aforetime?"

O King of the age! The eyes of these refugees are turned towards and fixed upon the mercy of the Most Merciful. No doubt is there whatever that these tribulations will be followed by the outpourings of a supreme mercy, and these dire adversities will be succeeded by an overflowing prosperity. We fain would

hope, however, that His Majesty the Shah will himself examine these matters and bring hope to the hearts. That which We have submitted to thy Majesty is indeed for thine highest good. And God, verily, is a sufficient witness unto Me.

Glorified art Thou, O Lord My God! I bear witness that the heart of the King is in truth between the fingers of Thy might. If it be Thy wish, do Thou incline it, O My God, in the direction of charity and mercy. Thou, verily, art the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Bountiful. No God is there besides Thee, the All-Glorious, the One Whose help is sought by all.

Concerning the prerequisites of the learned, He saith: "Whoso among the learned guardeth his self, defendeth his faith, opposeth his desires, and obeyeth his Lord's command, it is incumbent upon the generality of the people to pattern themselves after him…." Should the King of the Age reflect upon this utterance which hath streamed from the tongue of Him Who is the Dayspring of the Revelation of the All-Merciful, he would perceive that those who have been adorned with the attributes enumerated in this holy Tradition are scarcer than the philosopher's stone; wherefore not every man that layeth claim to knowledge deserveth to be believed.

Again concerning the divines of the Latter Days, He saith: "The religious doctors of that age shall be the most wicked of the divines beneath the shadow of heaven. Out of them hath mischief proceeded, and unto them it shall return." And again He saith: "When the Standard of Truth is made manifest, the people of both the East and the West curse it." Should anyone dispute these Traditions, this Servant will undertake to establish their validity, since the details of their transmission have been omitted here for the sake of brevity.

Those doctors who have indeed drunk of the cup of renunciation have never interfered with this Servant. Thus, for example, Shaykh Murtada—may God exalt his station and cause him to repose beneath the canopy of His grace!—showed forth kindness during Our sojourn in ʿIraq, and never spoke of this Cause otherwise than as God hath given leave. We beseech God to graciously assist all to do His will and pleasure.

Now, however, all have lost sight of every other consideration, and are bent upon the persecution of this people. Thus, if it be inquired of certain persons who, by the grace of their Lord, repose beneath the shadow of thy royal mercy and enjoy countless favours, "What service have ye rendered in return for these royal favours? Have ye through wise policy annexed a further territory to the realm? Have ye applied yourselves to aught that would secure the welfare of the people, the prosperity of the kingdom, and the lasting glory of the state?", they will have no other reply than to designate, justly or falsely, a group of people before thy royal presence as Babis, and forthwith to engage in massacre and pillage. In Tabriz, for instance, and in the Egyptian town of Mansuriyyih, a number of this people were ransomed and large sums were seized, yet no account of these matters was ever made in the court of thy presence.

The reason for which all these things have come to pass is that their persecutors, finding these unfortunate ones without protection, have forgone more weighty matters and occupied themselves instead with harassing this afflicted people. Numerous confessions and divers creeds abide peacefully beneath the shadow of thy sovereignty. Let this people be also numbered with them. Nay, those who

serve the King should be animated by such lofty aims and sublime intentions as to continually strive to bring all religions beneath the shelter of his shadow, and to rule over them with perfect justice.

To enforce the laws of God is naught but justice, and is the source of universal content. Nay more, the divine statutes have always been, and will ever remain, the cause and instrument of the preservation of mankind, as witnessed by His exalted words: “In punishment will ye find life, O men of insight!” It would, however, ill beseem the justice of thy Majesty that for the trespass of a single soul a whole group of people should be subjected to the scourge of thy wrath. The one true God—glorified be His Name!—hath said: “None shall bear the burden of another.” It is clear and evident that in every community there have been, and will ever be, the learned and the ignorant, the wise and the heedless, the profligate and the pious.

That a wise and reflecting soul should commit a heinous deed is most improbable, inasmuch as such a person either seeketh after this world or hath forsaken it: if he be of the latter, he would assuredly have no regard for aught else besides God, and moreover the fear of God would deter him from unlawful and reprehensible actions; and if he be of the former, he would just as assuredly avoid such deeds as would alienate and alarm the people, and act in such a manner as to earn their confidence and trust. It is therefore evident that reprehensible actions have always emanated, and will ever emanate, from ignorant and foolish souls. We implore God to guard His servants from turning to anyone save Him, and to draw them nigh unto His presence. His might, in truth, is equal to all things.

Praise be unto Thee, O Lord My God! Thou hearest the voice of My lamentation, and beholdest My condition, My distress and affliction! Thou knowest all that is in Me. If the call I have raised be wholly for Thy sake, then draw thereby the hearts of Thy creatures towards the heaven of Thy knowledge, and the heart of the Sovereign towards the right hand of the throne of Thy name, the All-Merciful. Supply him then, O My God, with a portion of that goodly sustenance which hath descended from the heaven of Thy generosity and the clouds of Thy mercy, that he may forsake his all and turn unto the court of Thy favour. Aid him, O My God, to assist Thy Cause and to exalt Thy Word amidst Thy creatures. Strengthen him, then, with the hosts of the seen and the unseen, that he may subdue every city in Thy Name, and hold sway, through Thy sovereignty and might, over all that dwell on earth, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of creation! Thou, verily, art the Supreme Ordainer in both the beginning and the end. No God is there but Thee, the Most Powerful, the All-Glorious, the All-Wise.

Section 4: “So grossly hath Our Cause been misrepresented before…”

So grossly hath Our Cause been misrepresented before thy royal presence that, if some unseemly act be committed by but one of this people, it is portrayed as being prompted by their beliefs. By Him besides Whom there is none other God! This Servant hath refused even to sanction the commission of reproved actions, how much less those which have been explicitly prohibited in the Book of God.

God hath forbidden unto men the drinking of wine, and this prohibition hath been revealed and recorded in His Book. In spite of this, and of the fact that the learned doctors of the age—may God increase their numbers!—have all prohibited the people from such a wretched act, there still remain some who commit it. The punishment which this act entaileth, however, applieth only to its heedless perpetrators, whilst

those noble manifestations of supreme sanctity remain exalted above and exempt from all blame. Yea, the whole creation, both seen and unseen, beareth witness unto their holiness.

Yea, these servants regard the one true God as He Who "doeth as He willeth" and "ordaineth as He pleaseth". Thus they view not as impossible the continued appearance in the contingent world of the Manifestations of His Unity. Should anyone hold otherwise, how would he be different from those who believe the hand of God to be "chained up"? And if the one true God—glorified be His mention!—be indeed regarded as unconstrained, then whatever Cause that Ancient King may please to manifest from the wellspring of His Command must be embraced by all. No refuge is there for anyone and no haven to hasten unto save God; no protection is there for any soul and no shelter to seek except in Him.

The essential requirement for whoso advanceth a claim is to support his assertions with clear proofs and testimonies. Beyond this, the rejection of the people, whether learned or ignorant, hath never been, nor shall it ever be, of any consequence. The Prophets of God, those Pearls of the ocean of Divine Unity and the Repositories of Divine Revelation, have ever been the object of men's repudiation and denial. Even as He saith: "Each nation hath plotted darkly against their Messenger to lay violent hold on Him, and disputed with vain words to invalidate the truth." And again: "No Messenger cometh unto them but they laugh Him to scorn."

Consider the dispensation of Him Who is the Seal of the Prophets and the King of the Chosen Ones—may the souls of all mankind be offered up for His sake! After the Daystar of Truth dawned above the horizon of Hijaz, how great were the cruelties which the exponents of error inflicted upon that incomparable Manifestation of the All-Glorious! Such was their heedlessness that they regarded every injury inflicted upon that sacred Being as ranking among the greatest of all acts, and constituting a means of attainment unto God, the Most High. For in the early years of His mission the divines of that age, both Christian and Jewish, turned away from that Daystar of the heaven of glory, whereupon all people, high and low alike, bestirred themselves to extinguish the light of that Luminary of the horizon of inner meanings. The names of all these divines have been mentioned in the books of old; among them are Wahb Ibn-i-Rahib, Ka'b Ibn-i-Ashraf, ʿAbdu'llah-i-Ubayy, and others of their like.

Finally, matters came to such a pass that these men took counsel together and conspired to shed His pure blood, even as God—glorified be His mention!—saith: "And remember when the disbelievers schemed against Thee, that they might lay hold upon Thee, or slay Thee, or cast Thee out; and so they schemed, and God schemed, and God, verily, is the best of schemers." Again He saith: "But if their opposition be grievous to Thee—if Thou canst, seek out an opening into the earth or a ladder into heaven and bring to them a sign; yet if God wished, He could gather them unto true guidance; be Thou not, then, of the ignorant." By God! The hearts of His favoured ones are consumed at the purport of these two blessed verses. Such established and undisputed facts have been forgotten, and no one hath paused to reflect, in days past or in this day, upon the things that have prompted men to turn away from the Revealers of the light of God at the time of their manifestation.

Likewise, before the appearance of the Seal of the Prophets, consider Jesus, the Son of Mary. When that Manifestation of the All-Merciful revealed Himself, all the divines charged that Quintessence of faith with impiety and rebellion. Eventually, with the sanction of Annas, the most learned of the divines of His day,

and Caiaphas, the high priest, His blessed person was made to suffer that which the pen is ashamed to mention and powerless to describe. The wide world in all its vastness could no longer contain Him, until at last God raised Him up unto heaven.

Were a detailed account of all the Prophets to be given here, We fear that it might lead to weariness. The doctors of the Torah in particular assert that no independent Prophet will come after Moses with a new Law. They maintain that a Scion of the House of David shall be made manifest Who will promulgate the Law of the Torah, and help establish and enforce its commandments throughout the East and the West.

The followers of the Gospel, likewise, hold as impossible that the Bearer of a new Revelation should again shine forth from the dayspring of the Will of God after Jesus, Son of Mary—peace be upon Him! In support of this contention, they adduce the following verse from the Gospel: “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the words of the Son of Man shall never pass away.” They maintain that neither the teachings nor the commandments of Jesus—peace be upon Him!—may ever be altered.

At one point in the Gospel, He saith: “I go away, and come again.” Again in the Gospel of John, He hath foretold the advent of a Comforter who shall come after Him. In the Gospel of Luke, moreover, a number of signs and portents have been mentioned. Certain divines of that Faith, however, have interpreted these utterances after their own fancy, and have thus failed to grasp their true significance.

O would that thou wouldst permit Me, O Shah, to send unto thee that which would cheer the eyes, and tranquillize the souls, and persuade every fair-minded person that with Him is the knowledge of the Book. Certain persons, incapable of answering the objections raised by their opponents, claim that the Torah and the Gospel have been corrupted, whereas in reality the references to such corruption pertain only to specific cases. But for the repudiation of the foolish and the connivance of the divines, I would have uttered a discourse that would have thrilled and carried away the hearts unto a realm from the murmur of whose winds can be heard: “No God is there but He!” For the present, however, since the season is not ripe, the tongue of My utterance hath been stilled and the wine of exposition sealed up until such time as God, through the power of His might, shall please to unseal it. He, verily, is the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

Praise be unto Thee, O Lord My God! I ask Thee by Thy Name, through which Thou hast subdued all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth, to protect the lamp of Thy Cause within the globe of Thine omnipotence and Thy bountiful favour, lest it be exposed to the blasts of denial from those who remain heedless of the mysteries of Thy name, the Unconstrained. Increase, then, by the oil of Thy wisdom, the radiance of its light. Thou, verily, hast power over all the dwellers of Thine earth and of Thy heaven.

I implore Thee, O My Lord, by that most exalted Word which hath struck terror into the hearts of all who are in the heavens and on the earth, save only those who have taken fast hold of Thy Sure Handle, not to abandon Me amidst Thy creatures. Lift Me up, then, unto Thyself, cause Me to enter beneath the shadow of Thy mercy, and give Me to drink of the pure wine of Thy providence, that I may dwell within the tabernacle of Thy majesty and beneath the canopy of Thy favour. Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou, verily, art the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

O King! The lamps of equity have been extinguished, and the fire of tyranny hath so blazed on every side that My people have been led as captives from Zawra' to Mosul, known as Hadba'. This is not the first outrage that hath been suffered in the path of God. It behoveth every soul to consider and call to mind that which befell the kindred of the Prophet when the people took them captive and brought them unto Damascus, known as Fayha'. Amongst them was the prince of them that worship God, the mainstay of such as have drawn nigh unto Him, and the sanctuary of those who long for His presence—may the life of all else be a sacrifice unto him!

They were asked: "Are ye of the party of the Seceders?" He replied: "Nay, by the Lord Almighty. We are but servants who have believed in God and in His verses. Through us the countenance of faith hath beamed with joy. Through us the sign of the All-Merciful hath shone forth. At the mention of our names the desert of Batha§§§ hath overflowed with water and the darkness separating earth and heaven hath been dispelled."

"Have ye forbidden", they were asked, "that which God hath made lawful, or allowed that which He hath forbidden?" "We were the first to follow the divine commandments", he answered. "We are the root and origin of His Cause, the beginning of all good and its end. We are the sign of the Ancient of Days and the source of His remembrance amongst the nations."

They were asked: "Have ye forsaken the Qur'an?" "In our House", he replied, "did the All-Merciful reveal it. We are the breezes of the All-Glorious amidst His creation. We are the streams that have branched out from the Most Great Ocean, through which God hath revived the earth, and through which He shall revive it again after it hath died. Through us His signs have been diffused, His proofs revealed, and His tokens disclosed. With us is the knowledge of His hidden meanings and His untold mysteries."

"For what crime have ye been punished?" they were asked. "For our love of God", he made reply, "and for our detachment from aught else save Him."

We have not related his exact words—peace be upon him!—but rather have We imparted a sprinkling from that ocean of life eternal that lieth enshrined within them, that those who hearken thereunto may be quickened and made aware of what hath befallen the trusted ones of God at the hands of a lost and wayward generation. We see the people in this day censuring the oppressors of bygone ages, whilst they themselves commit yet greater wrongs and know it not!

God beareth Me witness that My purpose hath not been to foment sedition, but to purify His servants from whatsoever hath prevented them from drawing nigh unto Him, the Lord of the Day of Reckoning. I was asleep upon My couch, when lo, the breezes of My Lord, the All-Merciful, passed over Me, awoke Me from My slumber, and bade Me lift up My voice betwixt earth and heaven. This thing is not from Me, but from God. Unto this testify the dwellers of His Dominion and of His Kingdom, and the inhabitants of the cities of His unfading glory. By Him Who is the Truth! I fear no tribulation in His path, nor any affliction in My love for Him and in the way of His good pleasure. Verily God hath made adversity as a morning dew upon His green pasture, and a wick for His lamp which lighteth earth and heaven.

Section 5: “Shall a man’s wealth endure forever, or protect…”

Shall a man’s wealth endure forever, or protect him from the One Who shall, erelong, seize him by his forelock? Gazing upon those who sleep beneath the gravestones, embosomed in the dust, could one ever distinguish the sovereign’s crumbling skull from the subject’s mouldering bones? Nay, by Him Who is the King of kings! Could one discern the lord from the vassal, or those that enjoyed wealth and riches from those who possessed neither shoes nor mat? By God! Every distinction hath been erased, save only for those who upheld the right and who ruled with justice.

Whither are gone the learned men, the divines and potentates of old? What hath become of their discriminating views, their shrewd perceptions, their subtle insights and sage pronouncements? Where are their hidden coffers, their flaunted ornaments, their gilded couches, their rugs and cushions strewn about? Gone forever is their generation! All have perished, and, by God’s decree, naught remaineth of them but scattered dust. Exhausted is the wealth they gathered, dispersed the stores they hoarded, dissipated the treasures they concealed. Naught can now be seen but their deserted haunts, their roofless dwellings, their uprooted tree-trunks, and their faded splendour. No man of insight will let wealth distract his gaze from his ultimate objective, and no man of understanding will allow riches to withhold him from turning unto Him Who is the All-Possessing, the Most High.

Where is he who held dominion over all whereon the sun shineth, who lived extravagantly on earth, seeking out the luxuries of the world and of all that hath been created upon it? Where is the commander of the swarthy legion and the upraiser of the golden standard? Where is the ruler of Zawra’, and where the tyrant of Fayha’? Where are those before whose munificence the treasure-houses of the earth shrank in shame, and at whose largesse and swelling spirit the very ocean was abashed? Where is he who stretched forth his arm in rebellion, and who turned his hand against the All-Merciful?

Where are they who went in quest of earthly pleasures and the fruits of carnal desires? Whither are fled their fair and comely women? Where are their swaying branches, their spreading boughs, their lofty mansions, their trellised gardens? And what of the delights of these gardens—their exquisite grounds and gentle breezes, their purling streams, their soughing winds, their cooing doves and rustling leaves? Where now are their resplendent morns and their brightsome countenances wreathed in smiles? Alas for them! All have perished and are gone to rest beneath a canopy of dust. Of them one heareth neither name nor mention; none knoweth of their affairs, and naught remaineth of their signs.

What! Will the people dispute then that whereof they themselves stand witness? Will they deny that which they know to be true? I know not in what wilderness they roam! Do they not see that they are embarked upon a journey from which there is no return? How long will they wander from mountain to valley, from hollow to hill? “Hath not the time come for those who believe to humble their hearts at the mention of God?” Blessed is he who hath said, or now shall say, “Yea, by my Lord! The time is come and the hour hath struck!”, and who, thereafter, shall detach himself from all that hath been, and deliver himself up entirely unto Him Who is the Possessor of the universe and the Lord of all creation.

And yet, what hope! For naught is reaped save that which hath been sown, and naught is taken up save that which hath been laid down, unless it be through the grace and bestowal of the Lord. Hath the womb

of the world yet conceived one whom the veils of glory shall not hinder from ascending unto the Kingdom of his Lord, the All-Glorious, the Most High? Is it yet within us to perform such deeds as will dispel our afflictions and draw us nigh unto Him Who is the Causer of causes? We beseech God to deal with us according to His bounty, and not His justice, and to grant that we may be of those who have turned their faces unto their Lord and severed themselves from all else.

I have seen, O Shah, in the path of God what eye hath not seen nor ear heard. Mine acquaintances have repudiated Me, and My pathways have been straitened. The fount of well-being hath run dry, and the bower of ease hath withered. How numerous the tribulations which have rained, and will soon rain, upon Me! I advance with My face set towards Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Bounteous, whilst behind Me glideth the serpent. Mine eyes have rained down tears until My bed is drenched.

I sorrow not for Myself, however. By God! Mine head yearneth for the spear out of love for its Lord. I never passed a tree, but Mine heart addressed it saying: "O would that thou wert cut down in My name, and My body crucified upon thee, in the path of My Lord!", for I see the people wandering distraught and unconscious in their drunken stupor. They have raised on high their passions and set down their God. Methinks they have taken His Cause for a mockery and regard it as a play and pastime, believing all the while that they do well, and that they dwell securely in the citadel of safety. Howbeit the matter is not as they fondly imagine: tomorrow shall they behold that which today they are wont to deny!

Erelong shall the exponents of wealth and power banish Us from the land of Adrianople to the city of ʿAkka. According to what they say, it is the most desolate of the cities of the world, the most unsightly of them in appearance, the most detestable in climate, and the foulest in water. It is as though it were the metropolis of the owl, within whose precincts naught can be heard save the echo of its cry. Therein have they resolved to imprison this Youth, to shut against our faces the doors of ease and comfort, and to deprive us of every worldly benefit throughout the remainder of our days.

By God! Though weariness lay Me low, and hunger consume Me, and the bare rock be My bed, and My fellows the beasts of the field, I will not complain, but will endure patiently as those endued with constancy and firmness have endured patiently, through the power of God, the Eternal King and Creator of the nations, and will render thanks unto God under all conditions. We pray that, out of His bounty—exalted be He—He may release, through this imprisonment, the necks of men from chains and fetters, and cause them to turn, with sincere faces, towards His face, Who is the Mighty, the Bounteous. Ready is He to answer whosoever calleth upon Him, and nigh is He unto such as commune with Him. We further beseech Him to make of this darksome tribulation a shield for the Temple of His Cause, and to protect it from the assault of sharpened swords and pointed daggers. Adversity hath ever given rise to the exaltation of His Cause and the glorification of His Name. Such hath been God's method carried into effect in centuries and ages past. That which the people now fail to apprehend they shall erelong discover, on that day when their steeds shall stumble and their finery be folded up, their blades blunted and their feet made to falter.

I know not how long they shall spur on the charger of self and passion and rove in the wilderness of error and negligence! Shall either the pomp of the mighty or the wretchedness of the abased endure? Shall he who reposeth upon the loftiest seat of honour, who hath attained the pinnacle of might and glory, abide

forever? Nay, by My Lord, the All-Merciful! All on earth shall pass away, and there remaineth alone the face of My Lord, the All-Glorious, the Most-Bountiful.

What armour hath not been pierced by the arrow of destruction, and what regal brow not divested by the hand of Fate? What fortress hath withstood the approach of the Messenger of Death? What throne hath not been shattered to pieces, what palace not reduced to rubble? Could the people but taste that choice Wine of the mercy of their Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, which lieth in store for them in the world beyond, they would assuredly cease their censure, and seek only to win the good pleasure of this Youth. For now, however, they have hidden Me behind a veil of darkness, whose fabric they have woven with the hands of idle fancy and vain imagination. Erelong shall the snow-white hand of God rend an opening through the darkness of this night and unlock a mighty portal unto His City. On that Day shall the people enter therein by troops, uttering what the blamers aforetime exclaimed, that there shall be made manifest in the end that which appeared in the beginning.

Is it their wish to tarry here when already they have one foot in the stirrup? Look they to return, once they are gone? Nay, by Him Who is the Lord of Lords! save on the Day of Judgement, the Day whereon the people shall arise from their graves and be asked of their legacy. Well is it with him who shall not be weighted down with his burdens on that Day, the Day whereon the mountains shall pass away and all shall gather to be questioned in the presence of God, the Most Exalted. Stern, indeed, is He in punishing!

We beseech God to purge the hearts of certain divines from rancour and enmity, that they may look upon matters with an eye unbeclouded by contempt. May He raise them up unto so lofty a station that neither the attractions of the world, nor the allurements of authority, may deflect them from gazing upon the Supreme Horizon, and that neither worldly benefits nor carnal desires shall prevent them from attaining that Day whereon the mountains shall be reduced to dust. Though they now rejoice in the adversity that hath befallen Us, soon shall come a day whereon they shall lament and weep. By My Lord! Were I given the choice between, on the one hand, the wealth and opulence, the ease and comfort, the honour and glory which they enjoy, and, on the other, the adversities and trials which are Mine, I would unhesitatingly choose My present condition and would refuse to barter a single atom of these hardships for all that hath been created in the world of being.

But for the tribulations that have touched Me in the path of God, life would have held no sweetness for Me, and Mine existence would have profited Me nothing. For them who are endued with discernment, and whose eyes are fixed upon the Sublime Vision, it is no secret that I have been, most of the days of My life, even as a slave, sitting under a sword hanging on a thread, knowing not whether it would fall soon or late upon him. And yet, notwithstanding all this We render thanks unto God, the Lord of the worlds, and yield Him praise at all times and under all conditions. He, verily, standeth witness over all things.

We beseech God to extend wide His shadow, that the true believers may hasten thereunto and that His sincere lovers may seek shelter therein. May He bestow upon men blossoms from the bowers of His grace and stars from the horizon of His providence. We pray God, moreover, to graciously aid the King to do His will and pleasure, and to confirm him in that which shall draw him nigh unto the Dayspring of God's most excellent names, so that he may not give countenance to the injustice he witnesseth, may look upon his subjects with the eye of loving-kindness, and shield them from oppression. We further

beseech God, exalted be He, to gather all mankind around the Gulf of the Most Great Ocean, an ocean every drop of which proclaimeth that He is the Harbinger of joy unto the world and the Quickener of all its peoples. Praise be to God, the Lord of the Day of Reckoning!

And finally We beseech God, exalted be His glory, to enable thee to aid His Faith and turn towards His justice, that thou mayest judge between the people even as thou wouldst judge between thine own kindred, and mayest choose for them that which thou choosest for thine own self. He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

Thus have We built the Temple with the hands of power and might, could ye but know it. This is the Temple promised unto you in the Book. Draw ye nigh unto it. This is that which profiteth you, could ye but comprehend it. Be fair, O peoples of the earth! Which is preferable, this, or a temple which is built of clay? Set your faces towards it. Thus have ye been commanded by God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Follow ye His bidding, and praise ye God, your Lord, for that which He hath bestowed upon you. He, verily, is the Truth. No God is there but He. He revealeth what He pleaseth, through His words "Be and it is".

Volume 040: Summons to the Kings and Rulers (ca. 1868) (4 of 4)

BH04073: Instructions to Badi' regarding delivery of the Lawh-i-Sultan

This is a copy of that which was written on the back of the Kitab-i-Sulṭan

He is God, Glorified be He.

We beseech God to raise up one of His servants, and to detach him from all creation, and to adorn his heart with the vesture of might and confidence, that he may help his Lord amidst the concourse of the universe, and, when he becometh aware of what hath been revealed for His Majesty the Shah, he may arise and take the Tablet, by the permission of his Lord, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful, and hasten to the residence of His Majesty. And when he shall arrive at the place of his throne, let him alight in the caravanserai, and let him hold converse with none till he goeth forth one day and standeth where he shall pass by.

And when the royal harbingers shall appear, let him raise up the Tablet with the utmost humility and courtesy, and say, "It hath been sent on the part of the Prisoner".

It is incumbent upon him to be in such a state that, should the king decree his death, he shall not be troubled within himself, and shall hasten to the place of sacrifice saying,

> "Praise be unto Thee, O my God, that Thou hast made me a helper of Thy Cause, and hast decreed unto me martyrdom in Thy path! By Thy Glory, I would not exchange this cup for all the cups in the worlds, for Thou hast not ordained any equivalent to this, neither do Kawthar and Salsabil rival it!"

But if [the Shah] letteth him go, and interfereth not with him, let him say,

> “Praise be unto Thee, O Lord of all the worlds! Verily, I am content with Thy good pleasure and what Thou hast predestined unto me in Thy path, even though I did desire that the earth might be dyed with my blood for Thy love. But what Thou willest is best for me: verily, Thou knowest what is in myself, while I know not what is in Thy Self; and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.”

BH00269: Lawh-i-Ra’is

Section 1: “The Pen of the Most High proclaimeth: O…”

He is in His own Right the Supreme Ruler!

The Pen of the Most High proclaimeth: O thou who hast imagined thyself to be the most exalted of men and who hast regarded as the lowliest of all creatures this divine Youth, through Whom the eyes of the Concourse on high have been illumined and made radiant! This Youth hath sought nothing from thee or from such as are like unto thee, inasmuch as from time immemorial, whenever the Manifestations of the All-Merciful and the Exponents of His unfading glory have stepped out of the Realm of eternity into this mortal world and revealed themselves to revive the dead, men such as thee have considered these sanctified Souls and Temples of Divine Oneness, upon Whom must needs depend the rehabilitation of the peoples of the earth, to be stirrers of mischief and worthy of blame. These men, verily, have all returned unto dust. Thou, too, shalt erelong take abode therein and find thyself in grievous loss.

Even if this Lifegiver and World Reformer be in thine estimation guilty of sedition and strife, what crime could have been committed by a group of women, children, and suckling mothers that they should be thus afflicted with the scourge of thine anger and wrath? No faith or religion hath ever held children responsible. The Pen of divine Command hath exempted them, yet the fire of thy tyranny and oppression encompasseth all. If thou bearest allegiance to any faith or religion, then thou shouldst know that, according to all the heavenly Books and all the divinely inspired and weighty Scriptures, children are not to be held accountable. Aside from this, not even those who disbelieve in God have perpetrated such unseemly acts. Since from every thing an effect becometh manifest, a fact that none can deny save those who are bereft of reason and understanding, it is certain that the sighs of these children and the cries of these wronged ones will have their due consequence.

Ye have plundered and unjustly despoiled a group of people who have never rebelled in your domains, nor disobeyed your government, but rather kept to themselves and engaged day and night in the remembrance of God. Later, when the order was issued to banish this Youth, all were filled with dismay. The officials in charge of My expulsion declared, however: “These others have not been charged with any offence and have not been expelled by the government. Should they desire to accompany you, no one will oppose them.” These hapless souls therefore paid their own expenses, forsook all their possessions, and, contenting themselves with Our presence and placing their whole trust in God, journeyed once again with Him until the fortress of ʿAkka became the prison of Baha.

Upon our arrival, we were surrounded by guards and confined together, men and women, young and old alike, in the army barracks. The first night all were deprived of either food or drink, for the sentries were

guarding the gate of the barracks and permitted no one to leave. No one gave a thought to the plight of these wronged ones. They even begged for water, and were refused.

Time hath passed, and we all remain confined in these barracks, notwithstanding that during the five years we dwelt in Adrianople, all its inhabitants, whether learned or ignorant, rich or poor, bore witness to the purity and sanctity of these servants. At the time this Youth was departing from Adrianople, one of the loved ones of God attempted to take his own life, so unbearable to him was the sight of this Wronged One in the hands of His oppressors. During the journey we were thrice compelled to change ships, and it is evident how much the children suffered as a result. Upon disembarking, four of the believers were separated and prevented from accompanying Us. As this Youth was leaving, one of the four, named ʿAbdu'l-Ghaffar, cast himself into the sea, and no one knoweth what befell him thereafter.

All this is but a drop in the ocean of the wrongs that have been inflicted upon Us, and still ye are not satisfied! The officials enforce every day a new decree, and no end is in sight to their tyranny. Night and day they conceive new schemes. They have assigned each prisoner, from the government storehouse, a daily allowance of three loaves of bread that no one can eat. From the foundation of the world until the present day a cruelty such as this hath neither been seen nor heard of.

By the righteousness of Him Who hath caused Baha to speak forth before all that are in heaven and all that are on earth! Ye have neither rank nor mention among them that have offered up their souls, their bodies and their substance for the love of God, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling, the Almighty. A handful of clay is greater in the sight of God than all your dominion and your sovereignty, and all your might and your fortune. Should it be His wish, He would scatter you in dust. Soon will He seize you in His wrathful anger, sedition will be stirred up in your midst, and your dominions will be disrupted. Then will ye wail and lament, and will find none to help or succour you.

In making mention of these matters, it is not Our purpose to rouse you from your slumber, since the fury of God's wrath hath so encompassed you that ye shall never take heed. Nor is it Our intention to recount the iniquities visited upon these pure and blessed souls, for they have been so intoxicated with the wine of the All-Merciful and are so carried away with the inebriating effect of the living waters of His loving providence that even were they to suffer all the cruelties of the world for His sake, they would remain content and yield thanks unto Him. These souls have never held, nor shall they ever hold any grievance. Nay, their blood continually imploreth and beseecheth the Lord of the worlds that it might be spilt upon the dust in His path, and their heads yearn to be borne aloft on spears for the sake of the Beloved of hearts and souls.

Several times calamities have overtaken you, and yet ye failed utterly to take heed. One of them was the conflagration which devoured most of the City with the flames of justice, and concerning which many poems were written, stating that no such fire had ever been witnessed. And yet, ye waxed more heedless. Plague, likewise, broke out, and ye still failed to give heed! Be expectant, however, for the wrath of God is ready to overtake you. Erelong will ye behold that which hath been sent down from the Pen of My command.

Have ye fondly imagined your glory to be imperishable and your dominion to be everlasting? Nay, by Him Who is the All-Merciful! Neither will your glory last, nor will Mine abasement endure. Such abasement, in the estimation of a true man, is the pride of every glory.

When I was still a child and had not yet attained the age of maturity, My father made arrangments in Tihran for the marriage of one of My older brothers, and as is customary in that city, the festivities lasted for seven days and seven nights. On the last day it was announced that the play “Shah Sultan Salim” would be presented. A large number of princes, dignitaries, and notables of the capital gathered for the occasion. I was sitting in one of the upper rooms of the building and observing the scene. Presently a tent was pitched in the courtyard, and before long some small human-like figures, each appearing to be no more than about a hand’s span in height, were seen to emerge from it and raise the call: “His Majesty is coming!

Arrange the seats at once!” Other figures then came forth, some of whom were seen to be engaged in sweeping, others in sprinkling water, and thereafter another, who was announced as the chief town crier, raised his call and bade the people assemble for an audience with the king. Next, several groups of figures made their appearance and took their places, the first attired in hats and sashes after the Persian fashion, the second wielding battleaxes, and the third comprising a number of footmen and executioners carrying bastinados. Finally there appeared, arrayed in regal majesty and crowned with a royal diadem, a kingly figure, bearing himself with the utmost haughtiness and grandeur, at turns advancing and pausing in his progress, who proceeded with great solemnity, poise and dignity to seat himself upon his throne.

At that moment a volley of shots was fired, a fanfare of trumpets was sounded, and king and tent were enveloped in a pall of smoke. When it had cleared, the king, ensconced upon his throne, was seen surrounded by a suite of ministers, princes, and dignitaries of state who, having taken their places, were standing at attention in his presence. A captured thief was then brought before the king, who gave the order that the offender should be beheaded. Without a moment’s delay the chief executioner cut off the thief’s head, whence a blood-like liquid came forth. After this the king held audience with his court, during which intelligence was received that a rebellion had broken out on a certain frontier. Thereupon the king reviewed his troops and despatched several regiments supported by artillery to quell the uprising. A few moments later cannons were heard booming from behind the tent, and it was announced that a battle had been engaged.

This Youth regarded the scene with great amazement. When the royal audience was ended, the curtain was drawn, and, after some twenty minutes, a man emerged from behind the tent carrying a box under his arm.

Section 2: “What is this box,” I asked him, “and…”

“What is this box,” I asked him, “and what was the nature of this display?”

“All this lavish display and these elaborate devices,” he replied, “the king, the princes, and the ministers, their pomp and glory, their might and power, everything you saw, are now contained within this box.”

I swear by My Lord Who, through a single word of His Mouth, hath brought into being all created things! Ever since that day, all the trappings of the world have seemed in the eyes of this Youth akin to that same spectacle. They have never been, nor will they ever be, of any weight and consequence, be it to the extent of a grain of mustard seed. How greatly I marveled that men should pride themselves upon such vanities, whilst those possessed of insight, ere they witness any evidence of human glory, perceive with certainty the inevitability of its waning. "Never have I looked upon any thing save that I have seen extinction before it; and God, verily, is a sufficient witness!"

It behoveth everyone to traverse this brief span of life with sincerity and fairness. Should one fail to attain unto the recognition of Him Who is the Eternal Truth, let him at least conduct himself with reason and justice. Erelong these outward trappings, these visible treasures, these earthly vanities, these arrayed armies, these adorned vestures, these proud and overweening souls, all shall pass into the confines of the grave, as though into that box. In the eyes of those possessed of insight, all this conflict, contention and vainglory hath ever been, and will ever be, like unto the play and pastimes of children. Take heed, and be not of them that see and yet deny.

Our call concerneth not this Youth and the loved ones of God, for they are already sore-tried and imprisoned and expect nothing from men such as thee. Our purpose is that thou mayest lift up thy head from the couch of heedlessness, shake off the slumber of negligence, and cease to oppose unjustly the servants of God. So long as thy power and ascendancy endure, strive to alleviate the suffering of the oppressed. Shouldst thou judge with fairness and observe with the eye of discernment the conflicts and pursuits of this transient world, thou wouldst readily acknowledge that they are even as the play which We have described.

Hearken unto the words of the one true God and pride thyself not in the things of this world. What hath become of those like unto thee who falsely claimed lordship on earth, who sought to quench the light of God in His land and to destroy the foundation of His mighty edifice in His cities? Where are they to be seen now? Be fair in thy judgement and return unto God, that perchance He might cancel the trespasses of thy vain life. Alas, We know that thou shalt never attain unto this, for such is thy cruelty that it hath made hell to blaze and the Spirit to lament, and hath caused the pillars of the Throne to shake and the hearts of the faithful to tremble.

O peoples of the earth! Incline your inner ears to the call of this Wronged One and pause to reflect upon the story that We have recounted. Perchance ye may not be consumed by the fire of self and passion, nor allow the vain and worthless objects of this nether world to withhold you from Him Who is the Eternal Truth. Glory and abasement, riches and poverty, tranquillity and tribulation, all will pass away, and all the peoples of the earth will erelong be laid to rest in their tombs. It behoveth therefore every man of insight to fix his gaze upon the goal of eternity, that perchance by the grace of Him Who is the Ancient King he may attain unto the immortal Kingdom and abide beneath the shade of the Tree of His Revelation.

Though this world be fraught with deception and deceit, yet it continually warneth all men of their impending extinction. The death of the father proclaimeth to the son that he, too, shall pass away. Would that the inhabitants of the world who have amassed riches for themselves and have strayed far from the

True One might know who will eventually lay hand on their treasures; but, by the life of Baha, no one knoweth this save God, exalted be His glory.

The poet Sana'i, may God's mercy rest upon him, hath said: "Take heed, O ye whose unseemly conduct hath darkened your faces! Take heed, O ye whose beards have been whitened by age!" Alas, most of the people are fast asleep. They are even as the man who, in his drunkenness, became attracted to a dog, took it in his embrace, and made it his plaything, and who, when the morn of discernment dawned and the light of the sun enveloped the horizon, realized that the object of his affection was but a dog. Then, filled with shame and remorse, he repaired to his abode.

Think not that thou hast abased this Youth or prevailed over Him. The least of creatures ruleth over thee, and yet thou perceivest not. The lowliest and most abject of all things holdeth sway over thee, and that is none other than self and passion, which have ever been reprehensible. Were it not for God's consummate wisdom, thou wouldst have been able to plainly behold thine own helplessness and that of all who dwell on earth. Our abasement is indeed the glory of His Cause, could ye but understand.

This Youth hath ever been disinclined to breathe a word contrary to courtesy, for courtesy is Our raiment, wherewith We have adorned the temples of Our well-favoured servants. Otherwise, some of the deeds that ye believe to be concealed would have been divulged in this Tablet.

O exponent of might and power! These young children and these poor ones in God did not need to be accompanied by officers and soldiers. Upon our arrival in Gallipoli, a major by the name of ʿUmar came into Our presence. God is well aware of what he said. After some exchanges in which his own innocence and thy guilt were mentioned, We declared: "From the outset, a gathering should have been convened at which the learned men of this age could have met with this Youth in order to determine what offence these servants have committed. But now the matter hath gone beyond such considerations, and, according to thine own assertion, thou art charged with incarcerating Us in the most desolate of cities. There is a matter, which, if thou findest it possible, I request thee to submit to His Majesty the Sultan, that for ten minutes this Youth be enabled to meet him, so that he may demand whatsoever he deemeth as a sufficient testimony and regardeth as proof of the veracity of Him Who is the Truth. Should God enable Him to produce it, let him, then, release these wronged ones, and leave them to themselves."

He promised to transmit this message, and to give Us his reply. We received, however, no news from him. Although it becometh not Him Who is the Truth to present Himself before any person, inasmuch as all have been created to obey Him, yet in view of the condition of these little children and the large number of women so far removed from their friends and countries, We have acquiesced in this matter. In spite of this nothing hath resulted. ʿUmar himself is alive and accessible. Inquire from him, that the truth may be made known unto you.

Most of Our companions now lie sick in this prison, and none knoweth what befell Us, except God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing. In the days following Our arrival, two of these servants hastened to the realms above. For an entire day the guards insisted that, until they were paid for the shrouds and burial, those blessed bodies could not be removed, although no one had requested any help from them. At that time we were devoid of earthly means, and pleaded that they leave the matter unto us and allow those

present to carry the bodies, but they refused. Finally, a carpet was taken to the bazaar to be sold, and the sum obtained was delivered to the guards. Later, it was learned that they had merely dug a shallow grave into which they had placed both blessed bodies, although they had taken twice the amount required for shrouds and burial.

The pen is powerless to depict and the tongue faileth to describe the trials which We have suffered. Yet sweeter than honey to Me is the bitterness of such tribulations. Would that at every instant all the afflictions of the world could, in the path of God and for the sake of His love, be visited upon this evanescent Soul Who is immersed in the ocean of divine knowledge!

We implore God for patience and forbearance, inasmuch as thou art but a feeble creature and bereft of comprehension. Wert thou to awaken and inhale the fragrance of the breezes that waft from the retreats of eternity, thou wouldst readily abandon all that thou dost possess and in which thou dost rejoice, and choose to abide in one of the dilapidated rooms of this Most Great Prison. Beseech God to grant thee such mature understanding as to enable thee to distinguish praiseworthy actions from those which merit blame. Peace be upon him who followeth the way of guidance!

BH01494: Suriy-i-Fu'ad (=Lawh-i-Fu'ad)

Thus We call unto thee from beyond the sea of grandeur, upon the crimson land, above the horizon of tribulation. Verily, no God is there save Him, the Almighty, the Most Generous. Walk thou steadfastly in My Cause and follow not the ways of those who, upon attaining unto the object of their desire, denied God, the Lord of Lords. Erelong shall He lay hold upon them in His wrath, and He, verily, is the All-Powerful, the All-Subduing.

Know thou that, through the power of His sovereign might, God hath seized him who was the foremost amongst them that passed judgement against Us. When he saw his torment approaching, he fled to Paris to seek recourse to physicians.

"Is there none to help me?" he asked.

He was smitten upon the mouth and told: "There is no escape!"

And when he turned towards the angel of wrath, he well-nigh expired from fear. "I have a house full of riches," he pleaded. "I have a palace on the Bosphorus, beneath which the rivers flow."

The angel replied:

> "No ransom shall be accepted from thee on this day, even shouldst thou offer up all things visible and invisible. Hearest thou not the sighs of the kindred of God, whom thou didst cast into prison without proof or testimony? Thy deed hath provoked the lamentation of the inmates of Paradise, and of those who circle morn and eve round the Throne on high. The wrath of thy Lord hath descended upon thee, and stern is He in His chastisement!"

He made reply:

"I held command over the people, and here is the mandate of my authority."

"Hold thy peace, O denier of the Day of Judgement!"

He implored:

"Is no respite possible so that I may send for my family?"

"Far from it, O disbeliever in the verses of God!"

Thereupon the keepers of the fathomless abyss called unto him:

"The gates of Hell have opened wide to receive thee, O thou who hast turned away from thy Lord, the Unconstrained! Repair unto its fire, for it yearneth after thee. Hast thou forgotten, O rejected one, when thou wert the Nimrod of the age, how thy tyranny eclipsed the very cruelties of Pharaoh, the Lord of the Stakes? By God! Thine iniquity hath rent asunder the veil of sanctity and caused the pillars of heaven to tremble. Where canst thou find refuge now? Who shall protect thee from the dreadful scourge of thy Lord, the All-Compelling? There is no haven for thee in this Day, O ungodly doubter!"

Whereupon the agony of death seized him and he saw no more. Thus did We lay hold on him in Our wrathful anger, and severe is thy Lord in His punishment.

Then an angel from the right hand of the Throne summoned him: "Behold the angel of affliction. Is there any place to flee to save hell, wherein the heart boileth?" And the angel of chastisement received his spirit, and a voice proclaimed: "Enter the bottomless pit which hath been promised in the Book, and whose existence thou didst day and night deny!"

Soon will We dismiss the one who was like unto him, and will lay hold on their Chief who ruleth the land, and I, verily, am the Almighty, the All-Compelling. Be thou steadfast in the Cause of God and extol thy Lord morn and eve. Suffer not the light of thy soul to be quenched by the calumnies of the one who was so blinded by Our bestowals as to turn away from God, the Lord of all names. He inspireth his devoted followers even as the Evil One prompteth his own. Erelong shalt thou behold him in evident loss both in this world and in the world to come. He, indeed, is among those whom an afflictive torment doth await. He dispatched an epistle to someone in that land, a writ of the workers of iniquity, in which he mocked God and recorded that which filled all created things with dismay. Say: Canst thou find anyone to protect thee when the wrath of God, the All-Powerful, the Unconstrained, is visited upon thee?

Thus have We informed thee of that which lieth concealed within the hearts of men. Verily, thy Lord is the Almighty, the All-Knowing. Arise for the triumph of this Cause, and gather together My loved ones. Help them to see the truth in this Day when the feet of men have slipped. Say: It behoveth every true believer to assist his Lord. He, verily, is your helper, while the people have no one to turn to in this Day.

Then We seized Mihdi, to whom We had promised divine chastisement in Our Books and Scriptures. When Our awful majesty encompassed him, he entreated: "May I not retrace my steps?"

A voice exclaimed:

> “Woe betide thee, O disbeliever in the Day of Resurrection! This is the nethermost fire, and its flames have been made to blaze for thee. Thou didst forsake all righteous deeds in thy vain and futile life, and now thou hast none to shield thee from God. Thou art indeed he who caused all hearts to be consumed and the Holy Spirit to lament.”

He pleaded: “Is there yet no refuge for me?”

> “Nay, by my Lord, even shouldst thou seek recourse to every possible means!”

Thereupon he cried out in such distress as to cause the people of the graves to tremble, and was seized by the Hand of invincible power. A voice then proclaimed:

> “Return unto the seat of wrath in the fire of hell; wretched and evil be thine abode!”

Thus did We lay hold on him as We laid hold on those who preceded him. Behold their houses which We have left to the spiders, and take heed, O ye who are endued with understanding! He it is who opposed God, and for whom the verses of wrath were revealed in the Book. Blessed is he who readeth it and pondereth its contents, for a goodly end doth in truth await him.

Thus have We recounted unto thee the tale of the evil-doers, that thine eyes may be solaced. As for thee, there lieth in store naught but a blissful end.

Volume 041: Early Akka 1868–1873, Part I (1 of 5)

BH08741: O handmaiden of God! The Ancient Beauty is confined…

In the Name of the One!

O handmaiden of God! The Ancient Beauty is confined in the Most Great Prison, and twenty women, out of their love for God, have entered this prison with the Manifestation of the All-Merciful Spirit, as have a number of men. Praise be to the Beloved of all horizons that in the Ridvan, with the utmost joy and fragrance, they have attained the presence of the Beloved of all worlds. No tribulation can prevent the faithful from the Most Glorious Horizon. O handmaidens, arise with manly courage to serve the Cause of God! Many women are today remembered before God as being superior to men, and some men who are counted as women. As the glance of mercy hath concealed this, therefore is the distinction hidden. Verily thy Lord is the Concealer, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH00583: Upon thee be the Glory of God and His…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Upon thee be the Glory of God and His remembrance, and the praise of all created things between earth and heaven, in every age, before time and after time. My spirit, my soul and my heart be a sacrifice unto thee! How can I make mention of thee through utterance when thou art remembered throughout all existence? Sedition hath appeared in every city, whereby the loved ones of the All-Merciful have been

prevented from the sweet-scented breezes that waft among them in remembrance of God, the Creator of all creation and the Fashioner of all worlds. By God! O Beloved of my heart, verily my heart doth melt, the eye of my inner being weepeth, and my every limb maketh mention. Would that I might attain thy presence, or be blessed by that which is diffused from the fragrance of thine ink and shineth forth from the direction of thy heart. I beseech God that He may hear my call and answer that for which I have beseeched Him, for verily He is near and responsive.

May I be a sacrifice unto thee! Countless centuries have passed during which this evanescent bird hath not been blessed with the wondrous melodies and exalted traces of that Nightingale of Divine Love and that Sacred Dove of spiritual paradise. Although at all times the sweet-scented perfume from the garment of the All-Glorious hath wafted, and still wafteth, from that Beloved of heart and soul, yet this ephemeral one hath outwardly been deprived thereof. We beseech God that He may remove that which hath come between us and gather us upon the shore of the ocean of His nearness and give us to drink from the fountain of His presence and the choice wine of His reunion. Verily, He is the One Who judgeth with justice, Who ruleth with grace, Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth and Who doeth as He pleaseth.

And as to other news of the prison and the condition of the prisoners, praise be to God and thanks to His grace, all are confined in the ruined city of Akka in a most mighty and impregnable fortress which appears to be built entirely of stone, surrounded by troops. Yet such joy and gladness prevails that it is as if we were reveling in a paradise of delights, for the more severe the outward tribulations have become, the brighter burns the lamp of God's Cause and the more manifest becomes the dawning radiance of the Most Great Luminary amidst the nations. Exalted then be His power which has transcended all worlds and His will which has conquered all who dwell in the heavens and on earth! Would that your honor had been present in the Most Great Prison during this supreme affliction and most great upheaval to witness the power and tranquility of the Ancient Beauty during that greatest of commotions.

A brief account from the time of occurrence until now is submitted: For some time we, these servants, in view of what had been revealed in God's Tablets, had been expecting this tribulation of the Day of Adversity until the appointed time arrived. At the eighth hour of the day, the friends of God who were in the market were all arrested, and suddenly soldiers surrounded the Most Pure House and likewise stood guard at the doors of other homes of the friends, and conditions became so severe that women and children were prevented from entering or leaving, and that night most went without food. Outwardly it was not at all clear what they intended. Some said we would be sent to the Sudan toward Abyssinia, some said we would be drowned in the sea, and there were various other claims.

What was announced by the government was that they were ordered to take us to Gallipoli and then await further instructions, and they were extremely rushed to depart. Yet the Most Exalted Beauty paid no heed whatsoever. Eight days passed from the occurrence until departure, each day bringing a fresh upheaval. Everything was plundered in the name of auction, and with each hour the oppression of those cruel people grew more severe. One day there was fear they would storm the sanctuary and forcibly remove the Ancient Beauty. The Most Holy, Most Exalted Being remained seated with such composure, dignity and calm that it was as if these surrounding people were not enemies but had all come with

acceptance and devotion to the Truth. God is Most Great in His grandeur, His glory, His tranquility and His power!

At a time when affairs had reached the utmost degree of difficulty from every direction, four people of the Christian faith came into His presence and submitted that if He so commanded, they would that very moment remove the soldiers gathered around the house and deal with the government. The Tongue of God declared:

> "I have come for the salvation of all the world and have sacrificed My soul for the purification and life of the world, and these tribulations are inevitable."

This servant is incapable of relating all that was revealed from the Tongue of God in that instance. Afterwards the consuls of various governments and others came, but He spoke only of absolute independence. And before the event had come to pass, when as yet no outward mention had been made, a certain person appeared before the Most Great Outlook and submitted: "Should it be the Blessed Will, and if leave be granted, we shall convey Thee in whatsoever direction Thy Blessed inclination may desire." He replied: "By God, besides Whom there is none other God! Were I to be slain a thousand times each hour, it would be dearer to me than to accept, for the sake of my own comfort and protection, any matter wherein is observed the slightest harm or degradation to the Cause of God." All were astonished and bewildered at the independence of the Beauty of the All-Glorious, and returned perplexed until the appointed time of rest ended and the preparations for departure began.

The events of that time reached such a pass that Muslims, Jews and Christians, both men and women, wept, while the Divine Beauty spoke alone with verses of grandeur and majesty, manifesting such sovereignty that the officers accompanying Him were willingly or unwillingly submissive. Along the way, divine verses were continuously revealed upon all the trees, mountains and stones past which He proceeded, and when they came before the eye of God, decisive utterances were issued and the Chosen Tongue spoke words which all tongues and hearts are powerless to mention or comprehend. Soon shall be manifested through His power that which He hath deposited in the treasuries of all things, even as hath been revealed in the Tablets of glorious might.

What else can be related of the tribulation of Gallipoli? In truth, the tribulation was this: after arrival, an officer named Omar, who had come from Istanbul with several men, presented himself and submitted his commission. God is Most Great! What a commotion arose at that moment among the family of God and His kindred! Some were determined to drown themselves in the sea, while others resolved to take their own lives, for he had submitted that he was to separate this company and the members of the household from the Ancient Beauty and send them to the great city, while the Most Holy Exalted Beauty was to be sent to this prison—though even this was not explicitly clear, which was the cause of greatest dismay. During that supreme earthquake, the like of which cannot be conceived in all creation, the Beauty of God appeared in such wise and sat upon the throne of grandeur and majesty that none save His most sacred and exalted Being could comprehend it, while in every moment verses of power descended like unto an ocean. Exalted, exalted be God's dominion and His might, God's grandeur and His glory, God's manifestation and His splendor in those days!

The officer who had accompanied from the Land of Mystery arrived at the threshold of the gate and submitted his request to attain the presence and receive permission to return. After attaining the Most Great Presence, the Most Pure Tongue spoke and related all the events that would appear thereafter. God willing, I hope there will be a day of meeting when each of these occasions may be related face to face. After completing these sublime utterances, He spoke with power and might, addressing him thus:

> "What I say, God says, and it hath been revealed in the Book."

And that person, humbly and submissively before the face of God's grandeur, confirmed this, while the effects of humility and submissiveness from the descent of divine revelation were evident from all his limbs and members, nay, from that entire chamber of the house and all things within it, until he received permission to depart from the Source of Command and returned. After the passing of some days, the Divine Temple embarked upon the ark and traveled upon the sea. Exalted be all His conditions, manifestations and effects in every state of His states! Exalted was God, manifest, speaking, uttering that He is God, the King, the Sovereign, the All-Compelling, the Omnipotent, the Mighty, the Inaccessible.

While traversing the seas, when the celestial Ark halted before one of the great cities, one from among the Christian people came across a book that had been presented by one of their priests, wherein was written that which caused the trees of Sinai to move, and every delicate fibre of each leaf therein proclaimed that there is none other God but Him. Exalted be the Hand of Power that, in the innermost mystery, nurtures such servants at whose creation even the sincere servants marvel! I swear by the Educator of the world that His creation is a thousand times greater than the creation of the heavens and earth, were men to comprehend.

The events of this migration are too momentous to be mentioned or described, and none can comprehend them except the All-Merciful Himself. As the purpose was but a brief mention, We shall not elaborate further. Let it be known that whatsoever hath come to pass from the beginning of this wondrous Cause until now, in all its aspects, serveth as God's testimony unto all the worlds, and His most perfect proof unto all who dwell in the heavens and on earth.

BH01440: Most mighty minister, most great and noble ambassador, May…

Most mighty minister, most great and noble ambassador, May your prosperity continue, I wish to say that my affairs have so fallen out that pen and tongue, writing and utterance are alike powerless to (describe them).

To give a brief account, we resided for six years in Edirne on the orders of the Ottoman government; nothing contrary to the laws (of the state) was ever manifested by me or my followers, as all the people of Edirne bear witness and confess. Nevertheless, three months ago, officials of the Ottoman state suddenly surrounded our house, seized all the belongings of my followers in the bazaar, and took them to the government building. After this, a man came from the governor and informed us that, on the orders of the Sultan, I had to go with (my wives?) and children to Gallipoli. They gave us no further notice than that. All the belongings of my followers were sold for a paltry price at the decree of the military commanders, but they did not even give us an opportunity to collect the money.

After this, they brought me to Gallipoli, along with seventy men, women, and small children. Following our arrival, a special official, ʿUmar Effendi Binbashi (= bigbashi; major), arrived from Istanbul with five sergeants. They issued a decree to the effect that orders had been given for six individuals to go to Acre (with us?), and for five to go to Cyprus; I had no claim on the rest—they were to be free to choose for themselves. It afterwards became apparent that he had arranged things, for he took the money for the steamer from everyone and brought all of us to Acre, which has the worst water and the worst air in the world—except for four individuals, who were taken to a ruined fortress in Cyprus.

No sooner had we arrived in Acre than they imprisoned us in a ruined barracks, even the women and six-month old children, and they forthwith shut the doors of entry and exit. We have now been imprisoned in the ruined barracks for fifty days, and, on account of the badness of the water and air, we have all been stricken by serious illnesses, such that, after two days, three people died without a physician or food or medicine. Up until now, we have not learnt the nature of our crime. There has been no enquiry. But neither wrongdoing nor acts contrary to the laws have ever been witnessed from us.

If it be supposed that our crime is that of being Babis, this was known from the start, and the Ottoman government officials were aware that we were Babis. It was not something that was kept concealed. Nevertheless, I was summoned by the government, and I came with a number of my followers from Baghdad to the court of his highness the Sultan, in the utmost sincerity. In spite of this, a new tribulation befell us every day, until things culminated in this mighty ordeal.

If they accuse us of some other crime, let them hold a tribunal and question us. When investigations have been held, it will be clear and apparent that we have not transgressed the laws. All the consuls resident in Edirne on behalf of the great powers are aware (of this) and all have borne witness that we have not committed any wrong. What we want is to know just what our crime has been, but they have not once mentioned it so that we might be informed. We beseech your excellency to turn your attention towards us, so that the breezes of the grace and bounty of his imperial highness the Sultan may blow upon us. Our fundamental aim is perchance to find shelter from these widespread tribulations in the shade of the protection of the most mighty, great, and noble Emperor, may his exalted shadow endure, and that we may occupy ourselves in prayer for his eternal rule.

Among the news which has reached us by way of the telegraph is that in Baghdad thirty of my well-known adherents have been sent to Jazira without (having committed) any crime or offence, and my property has all been impounded. I ask you to make enquiries of (your) consul in Baghdad, that it may be made known that all these things have happened without the slightest explanation. We all wait expectantly for the sun of bounty to rise up from the horizon of the grace and justice of the Monarch of the Age, the most great Emperor of the Era, through the attention of your excellency.

I remain obedient to your command.

BH07155: The submission of this servant, in the presence…

The submission of this servant, in the presence of His Excellency—may his good fortune endure—is this: that, at the time when, in the imprisonment of ʿAkka, the gates of joy…

BH03052: O Ahmad! These are the days in which all…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O Ahmad! These are the days in which all must become enkindled with the fire of the love of the All-Merciful and arise to assist the Cause of God. And assistance has been ordained to be through mention and utterance. Thus has the command been sent down from the presence of the Mighty, the Wise.

The Ancient Beauty and the Most Great Name, after arriving at the Most Great Prison, has been occupied with a momentous and mighty matter—namely, the proclamation of God's Cause to all the rulers of the earth, so that they may know with perfect certitude that the tribulations that have befallen Him have not prevented the Truth, exalted be His mention, from that which He has willed. Moreover, the conclusive proof may be completed and perfected for all created things, both high and low. Therefore, from the heaven of the Divine Will, Tablets were specifically revealed for each one. Some of these have been sent, and for this reason they have made the Cause extremely difficult, and countless afflictions have been visited upon Us from every direction. Yet verily thy Lord is the All-Patient, the All-Knowing. Nothing can prevent Him from that which He desires. Verily, He is powerful over all things.

Glorified is He Whom neither prison nor what He has endured from the people of hatred could frighten. He has delivered the messages of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, while He was in the hands of His enemies and surrounded by hosts of unbelievers.

God willing, thou shalt become so enkindled by the fire of the Divine Lote-Tree that its heat will attract cold hearts and draw them to the right hand of Divine Oneness.

Convey to all the beloved ones the greetings from God. If outwardly some have not been honored with a divine Tablet, it matters not, for the names of all are inscribed by the hand of power in the Preserved Tablet. Say: Rejoice, O people, in the grace and mercy of God. Soon there shall appear unto you what has been ordained from the presence of the Mighty, the Ancient.

God willing, all must be occupied with the mention of the All-Merciful in a spirit of joy and fragrance. Blessed art thou for God has aided thee to remember Him and has sent down for thee that which brings solace to the eyes.

Several Tablets have been revealed from the heaven of the Divine Will—deliver them to the loved ones of God. And the Glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee. What thou didst send has been presented before the Throne. Rejoice thou and be of those who are thankful.

BH00838: This is what hath flowed from the tongue…

This is what hath flowed from the tongue of might and power when Nabil cast himself upon the dust outside the city before the prison, the seat of his Lord, the Mighty, the Wise

In the name of God, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! The veils of such of Thy servants as have disbelieved in Thy signs have come between Thee and Thy creation. How many, O my God, are the servants who stand before the gate of the prison and are prevented from entering the sanctuary of Thy nearness, and how many are the chosen ones who circle round Thy city out of love for Thee yet find no way to the Dayspring of the glory of Thy oneness!

Among them is Nabil, O my God, who entered the city but found no path unto Thee, that he might enter the pavilion of Thy majesty and the court of Thy glorious oneness. The oppressors have prevented him from entering into Thy presence and from dwelling beneath the shade of the Tree of Thy Cause. He would circle the prison in these days out of love for Thee until Satan discovered him and informed the people. Then did they expel him from the city, and no sooner had the days passed than separation seized from his hand the reins of patience and he was consumed by the fire of yearning. Therefore did he seek once again the precincts of Paradise.

Thou seest him, O my God, when prevented from entering, standing in the open space outside the city at a far distance, then turning toward the seat of Thy mighty throne and facing Thy countenance, standing before Thy face with such submission that all things in the kingdom of creation bow down before it, his tears flowing, his sighs ascending, his limbs trembling, his members quaking, and his tongue speaking:

O Lord! Thou seest me keeping company with the beasts in Thy love, having forsaken cities and lands in Thy path, detaching myself from all directions save the direction of Thy grace, and entering into the precincts of Thy mercy. O Lord! Thou didst reveal to me Thy beauty, then by Thy firm decree prevented me from beholding it. Thou didst give me to drink of the water of Thy presence, then afflicted me with separation from Thee. Thou didst honor me with Thy nearness, then distanced me through what flowed from the Pen of Thy decree upon the tablets inscribed by the Pen of Thy Command.

Thou knowest, O my God, that Thy love hath consumed me, Thy separation hath dissolved me, and from being parted from Thee my bones and limbs are set ablaze. By Thy glory, O Beloved of the worlds, Goal of them that know Thee, and God of all in the heavens and earths! I cannot endure to be patient at the manifestation of Thy chosen Name. If Thou didst desire separation, why didst Thou call me to intimate communion? And if Thou didst ordain for me to burn in separation from Thee, why didst Thou show me the Light of Thy countenance whereby the horizons were illumined?

I am certain with the certainty of knowledge, O my God, that with Thee is the water of everlasting life—to whom shall I turn, O Lord of all creation and King of the worlds? And with Thee is the kingdom of eternity—to whom shall I face, O my Lord, the Most High, the All-Glorious? By Thy glory, O my Beloved! The remembrance of Thee is my life, Thy praise the utterance of my tongue, meeting Thee my hope, nearness to Thee my desire and the ultimate goal of my wish and aspiration.

I can bear all afflictions, but I cannot bear separation from Thee. I can detach myself from every delight in Thy love, but I cannot be patient in separation from Thee, O Beloved of the hearts of them that are enchanted and Beloved of the hearts of them that yearn! My joy is in Thy nearness and meeting Thee, my sustenance is Thy melodies, my spirit Thy verses, my companion Thy remembrances, and my origin Thy words. Decree for me what Thou willest through Thy command, but ordain for me Thy nearness.

Burn me with the fire of Thy dominion, then prescribe for me to meet Thee. By Thy glory! My thirst will not be quenched save by the Kawthar of Thy revelation before Thy face, and my heart will not find rest except by gazing upon Thy beauty. Thus hast Thou created me by Thy power and brought me into being by Thy command.

O would that I were a zephyr, passing through Thy courtyard, or a bird, soaring in the atmosphere of Thy prison! And if, perchance, from my words, O my God, there should waft the breaths of such among Thy creatures as have wrought iniquity, yet, verily, Thy love hath wrested from the grasp of Thine own pardon the reins of restraint. Thy forgiveness, in truth, requireth that Thou shouldst not seize me for mine utterances or for the trespasses I have committed.

I beseech Thee, O Creator of the nations and Quickener of moldering bones, to lift away the veil through Thy power and to lead forth the loved ones from this prison through Thy grace and bounty. Then cause those who seek Thee to enter beneath Thy shadow. By Thy glory! I know that the suspicious actions of Thy creatures have prevented us from meeting Thee, and the heedlessness of Thy servants hath come between us and the lights of Thy countenance.

Forgive, O my God, their transgressions which have prevented us from drawing nigh unto the ocean of Thy reunion and from arriving beneath the shade of the Tree of Thy favors. Wilt Thou, O my God, take those who long for Thee to task for what the heedless have wrought? I beseech Thee, O Life of the worlds, to send down from the clouds of Thy heaven of grace that which will conceal the hearts of Thy loved ones and gather them around Thee through Thy bounty.

Alas! Alas! How many servants dwelt beneath the shade of the Divine Lote-Tree, yet their eyes never once fell upon it! And how many servants reposed in the precincts of Thy supreme mercy, yet paid no heed to it! O my God! By Thy glory, the wonders of Thy Cause and the mysteries of Thy decree have bewildered me. How many servants tasted death in their separation from Thee and attained not Thy presence, and how many servants desired not Thy nearness, yet Thy decree brought them into Thy presence and granted them reunion with Thee!

Alas! Alas! By this my liver and the livers of Thy lovers are consumed. Would that no mortal eye had ever fallen upon Thy most pure Countenance save the eye of him who seeth naught but Thee and desireth none but Thee! I, O my God, hope in all circumstances to be but earth for Thy feet to tread upon, yet I think there may be among Thy servants one who drinks the cup of reunion while remaining heedless of Thy presence.

All this, O my God, proceedeth from the manifestations of Thy providence and wisdom. By them my soul is troubled and my heart lamenteth, for I comprehend not the mysteries of Thy decree nor know I what lieth hidden in the treasuries of Thy knowledge. Since this is so, it behooveth me to detach myself from my desires in all that I ask of Thee.

I know not, O my Goal, whether what I love and desire will profit or harm me. Therefore, O my God, I find no refuge and no retreat save in committing my cause unto Thee and detaching myself from all that I desire, saying at all times:

"I have placed my trust in Thee, O God of those who are in the heavens and on earth!"

O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy beauty to make me steadfast in this, that I may be content with Thy decree to such extent that what I choose be what Thou hast chosen, and my hope be what Thou hast manifested. By Thy Self, O my God! Thy tribulation hath made me forget mine own tribulation, and Thy imprisonment hath made me neglectful of mine own affliction.

Alas for my sorrow! This is a station wherein mention faileth, the pen is forbidden, eyes are blinded, expression falleth short, and explanation proveth powerless. My spirit be a sacrifice for Thy love, O Lord of the worlds! Thou hast borne for us what neither the mountains, nor the seas, nor the heavens and earth could bear, and Thou hast borne these tribulations only for the life of the world, yet the world hateth Thee.

I know not what lieth behind the veil of Thy knowledge, O Hope of the worlds! I know, O my God, that Thy Will prevaileth over the world, Thy Purpose ruleth the will of all created things, and Thy Power encompasseth all who are in the heavens and on earth. The deeds of the oppressors cannot prevent Thee from Thy Cause, nor can the turning away of those who have turned aside.

I beseech Thee to aid Thy loved ones, then make them steadfast in Thy love and Thy good-pleasure, then make their hearts assured that the oppression of those who have disbelieved in Thy signs may not cause them to stumble. Verily, Thou art the One Who hath power over all that Thou willest. Within Thy grasp is the dominion of the seen and unseen. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Loving.

BH02116: O Most Generous, Most Glorious One! Have the verses…

O Most Generous, Most Glorious One! Have the verses been sent down? Say: Yea, by the Lord of the heavens! Has the Hour come? Nay, it has passed, and the Manifestor of clear proofs has come. The Inevitable has come to pass and the Truth has come with proof and evidence. The Wakeful One has appeared and creation is in turmoil and agitation. The earthquakes have come and the tribes have wailed out of fear of God, the Mighty, the Compelling. Say: The Deafening Blast has cried out and this Day belongs to God, the One, the Chosen.

Has the Great Catastrophe been fulfilled? Say: Yea, by the Lord of lords! Has the Resurrection come to pass? Nay, the Self-Subsisting has appeared with the kingdom of verses. Do you see people lying prostrate? Yea, by my Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious! Have the tree trunks been uprooted? Nay, the mountains have been scattered, by the Lord of attributes. He asked: "Where are Paradise and Hell?" Say: The former is meeting Me and the latter is your own self, O doubting idolater! He said: "We see not the Balance." Say: Yea, by my Lord, the All-Merciful! None see it save those endowed with insight.

Have the stars fallen? Yea, when the Self-Subsisting One was in the land of mystery—take heed, O ye who have eyes to see! All the signs have been fulfilled when We drew forth the hand of power from the bosom of majesty and might. The Herald has called out when the appointed time came, and those of Sinai were struck senseless in the wilderness of bewilderment by the awesome presence of thy Lord, the Creator of all things.

The Trumpeter says: “Has the Trumpet been sounded?” Say: Yea, by the Sovereign of Revelation, when He was established upon the throne of His name, the All-Merciful! The darkness has been illumined by the dawn of thy Lord’s mercy, the Source of lights. The breeze of the All-Merciful has wafted and souls have stirred in the tombs of their bodies. Thus has the matter been decreed by God, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

The deniers asked: “When was heaven cleft asunder?” Say: While ye lay in the graves of heedlessness and error among the idolaters. Some rub their eyes and look to the right and left. Say: Sight has been blinded—there is no refuge for thee this Day. Among them is one who asks: “Have the souls been gathered?” Say: Yea, by my Lord, if thou wert in the cradle of vain imaginings! Among them is one who asks: “Has the Book been sent down according to nature?” Say: It is in perplexity—fear ye God, O people of understanding! And among them is one who asks: “Have I been raised up blind?” Say: Yea, O rider of clouds!

Paradise has been adorned with the roses of inner meanings, and Hell has been kindled with the fire of the wicked. Say: The light has dawned from the horizon of Revelation and illumined the regions when the Lord of the Day of the Covenant came. Those who doubted are in loss, and he who turned with the light of certitude to the Dawning-Place of assurance has prospered.

Blessed art thou, O thou who gazest upon what has been sent down to thee in this Tablet, by which spirits take flight. Preserve it, then recite it. By My life! It is a gate to thy Lord’s mercy. Blessed is he who recites it at eventide and at dawn. We hear thy mention in this Cause whereby the mountain of knowledge was crushed and feet did slip. Glory be upon thee and upon all who have turned to the Mighty, the Bestower. It has ended but is not complete—be patient, for thy Lord is the All-Patient.

According to the Most Holy Order, this Greatest Tablet was sent in exactly this form as it was revealed, and this evanescent servant says upon thee, O promulgator of God’s Cause and one who mentions Him among all else, be the remembrance of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, and the remembrance of all in the worlds.

BH05558: The letter was seen and all that was written…

He is God, the Most High, the Most Exalted

The letter was seen and all that was written therein was noted. It is known that few souls can be found who are, in truth, steadfast in the divine path. Now again has the cycle of blind imitation begun to move, and soon all shall walk according to their desires, turn away from the essence of piety, become occupied with incidental matters, and remain heedless of the ultimate purpose. And this gentle breeze that bloweth from the spiritual paradise shall be cut off, and the morn of guidance shall be transformed into the night of error.

However, as far as possible, one must close the eye of objection and open the eye of kindliness, lest, as before, cursing and charges of unbelief, rancor and envy should arise. Here too such things are found, and we deal with them with utmost consideration. God willing, a meeting shall take place, sorrow and grief shall give way to joy, and the mysteries of the past shall return to this cycle, that the inner eye may

be illumined and enlightened. For one year now we have truly been afflicted in prison. Although what Salman mentioneth causeth grief, yet you must not be saddened in any matter or station. God willing, affairs shall soon proceed according to your desire.

BH05666: He abides in the Most Glorious Horizon

He abides in the Most Glorious Horizon.

O handmaiden of God! Weep within yourself for what befell the Youth in the well of envy, which remained hidden from the eyes of men. Weep within yourself for this Stranger Who was afflicted between two factions in this Prison which lay remote beyond cities and mighty mountains.

Stand firm in the Cause of God and His love, and forget Him not. Be steadfast around the fire upon the axis of water through the mystery of the Command. Be not disturbed by those who disbelieved and associated partners with God, and who remained far from the seat of nearness in their rejection.

Convey Our remembrance to the Most Great Sacrifice, then give him glad tidings of the Ridvan which was created by truth from the direction of the Throne in these wondrous days. We have not forgotten him and have mentioned him in the Tablets from the Pen from which mysteries were inscribed in code. We beseech God to make him firm in the Cause and grant him from the fruits which were witnessed by God's leave from the Sacred Tree.

Convey Our remembrance to the handmaidens who have believed in God their Lord and who were truly gladdened by God's remembrance in this Most Great Remembrance.

BH09280: Tablet to Badi' in Haifa

He is the Most Glorious

O Badi'! The time has come for thee to don the wondrous garment and new robe, and to place upon thy head a blessed crown. This glorious diadem is the crown of being set ablaze with the fire of the love of God, and this new garment is the robe of being enkindled with the remembrance of God. These days will pass and this soul will depart from the body. Sacrifice this earthly frame for the Celestial Beloved and offer this contingent temple as an oblation to the Beloved of the realms beyond, that thou mayest witness a goodly life and an eternal existence in the Most Glorious Kingdom and observe the manifest signs.

Ayn Ayn [Abdu'l-Baha Abbas]

BH05905: The Most Great, The Most Glorious

The Most Great, The Most Glorious

This is the hour in which they wash the Son before Our face, after We ransomed him in the Most Great Prison. Thereupon arose the wailing of those who dwell within the pavilion of the Most Glorious, and the lamentation of those who were imprisoned with the Youth for the sake of God, the Lord of the Day of

Reckoning. In such condition, the Pen was not prevented from the remembrance of its Lord, the Lord of all nations, calling the people unto God, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing. This is the day whereon he who was created from the light of Baha was martyred while imprisoned by the hands of the enemies.

Upon thee, O Branch of God, be the remembrance of God and His praise, and the praise of all who dwell in the heaven of immortality, and the praise of all who abide in the kingdom of names. Blessed art thou in that thou hast been faithful to the Covenant of God and His Testament, until thou didst sacrifice thyself before the face of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One. Thou art the wronged one, and the Beauty of the Self-Subsisting. Thou didst bear in thy earliest days that which caused all things to lament and the pillars to tremble. Blessed is he who maketh mention of thee and draweth nigh through thee unto God, the Cleaver of the Dawn.

O people of the earth, be not dismayed by what hath befallen you from the decree, but rather remember—thus have ye been commanded by your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Thus have We recounted unto thee, O thou who art mentioned before the Throne, that thou mayest remember thy Lord amongst the servants in such wise that tribulation deterreth thee not from the remembrance of the Lord of creation.

BH07659: Lauded be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Lauded be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou seest me in this day shut up in my prison, and fallen into the hands of Thine adversaries, and beholdest my son (The Purest Branch) lying on the dust before Thy face. He is Thy servant, O my Lord, whom Thou hast caused to be related to Him Who is the Manifestation of Thyself and the Day-Spring of Thy Cause.

At his birth he was afflicted through his separation from Thee, according to what had been ordained for him through Thine irrevocable decree. And when he had quaffed the cup of reunion with Thee, he was cast into prison for having believed in Thee and in Thy signs. He continued to serve Thy Beauty until he entered into this Most Great Prison. Thereupon I offered him up, O my God, as a sacrifice in Thy path. Thou well knowest what they who love Thee have endured through this trial that hath caused the kindreds of the earth to wail, and beyond them the Concourse on high to lament.

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by him and by his exile and his imprisonment, to send down upon such as loved him what will quiet their hearts and bless their works. Potent art Thou to do as Thou willest. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the Most Powerful.

BH00130: Lawh-i-Ahbab

Section 1: “This is a Book from Us to him…”

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who, when he heard the Call from the direction of his Most Glorious Lord, said: “Yea, O God of all who are in earth and heaven!”—that the verses of his Lord might once again

attract him and draw him nigh unto a station wherein he heareth the call of all things in the remembrance of God, the Creator of Names, and wherein he announceth unto the peoples the mention of his Lord, the Ancient of Days, both in private and in public.

Remind the servants of the remembrance of thy Lord, the Lord of the Return. Say: O people! The Day hath come, and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the Compeller. This is not a day for sitting still. Arise with such arising as shall cause all created things to arise. Thus behooveth it him who hath turned his face toward the Horizon of all horizons. Many a standing one is accounted as sitting in thy Lord's sight, and many a living one is reckoned among the dead. Verily, he who hath drunk the choice wine of life from the hands of the gracious favor of his Lord, the All-Merciful—he, verily, is standing, by thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing.

This is an arising after which there is no sitting, if one be steadfast in the Cause of God, the Lord of all men. By My life! Sleep shall not overtake him even should he sleep, yet the people are wrapt in veils and barriers. When he lieth down, the tongue of his secret heart declareth: "The All-Bestowing hath come in the shadows of the clouds," and when he riseth up he pointeth with the finger of certitude toward the direction of the Worshipped One, saying: "This is the Dawning-Place of the signs of your Lord, the Mighty, the Effulgent."

How many a speaker is silent, and how many a silent one speaketh with truth. Thus doth the All-Merciful testify, and He, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Whoso speaketh this Most Great Remembrance is the true speaker among the peoples, and he who denieth it is but a barking dog, even should he be the most eloquent of the eloquent. Thus hath the matter been decreed by thy Lord, the Lord of all names and attributes.

Beware lest tribulation prevent thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven. Follow thy Lord in all matters—thus hast thou been commanded in the Scriptures and Tablets. Verily, when He was imprisoned, He desired to convey unto the kings the messages of His Lord, that all might know that tribulation hath not prevented the Most Great Name when He came from the heaven of Command with power and sovereignty. We have sent down for each one a Tablet that shineth between the heavens and the earth. Blessed is he who hath attained thereunto and hath read it and hath said: "Power belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the Most Powerful, the All-Compelling!"

Seek thou the help of God in all conditions. The believers shall soon behold the standards of the Manifestation in all regions.

Blessed art thou, O Our Most Truthful Name, inasmuch as thou hast remained faithful to God's Covenant and His Testament on a Day whereon faces were illumined by the light of thy Lord's countenance and the eyes of them that turned unto God with humility and contrition were solaced. Subdue the cities of hearts through this Most Great Remembrance and be thou a herald amongst the peoples of this Name whereby all tribes were seized with trembling and the Rock cried out with loudest voice: "The Chosen One hath come with dominion and power!" By My life! Should anyone turn with his heart toward the Qiblih of existence, he would surely inhale the fragrance of sanctity from this Garment through which the breezes of the All-Merciful have wafted over all regions.

How many a learned one hath been veiled this Day, and how many an ignorant one hath hastened to enter the Kingdom of his Lord, the Most Exalted! How many a wise one hath been held back by vain imaginings, and how many a child hath shattered the idols through the power of his Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise! Blessed is he whom the breathings of the verses have so transported that he hath rent asunder the veils, and stood up proclaiming: "O people! The Self-Subsisting hath come! Behold, O ye who are endued with insight!"

Blessed art thou for having been mentioned at all times by thy Lord, the All-Merciful, Who hath sent down unto thee each year that which hath gladdened the eyes and caused spirits to soar. God hath heard what thou didst ask and desire. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge. He ordaineth what He willeth for whomsoever He pleaseth. He, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Put thy trust in Him in all affairs. It behooveth thee to desire what God hath desired, for thou art the First Name in the Book. We have ordained for thee and thy progeny that which shall perpetuate your remembrance throughout creation. We have destined for thee that which thou canst not comprehend today. By My life!

Wert thou to know it, thou wouldst fall upon the dust and exclaim: "Praise be unto Thee, O Thou Whose bounty hath encompassed all created things!" And such rapture would seize thee as to deprive thee of the reins of self-control, by My Self, the All-Compelling over all contingent things! Be thou steadfast in such wise that shouldst the ungodly assail thee with the swords of hatred, thou wouldst cry out amongst them with radiant face and crimson countenance: "Fear ye this Day! He Who brought all things into being hath appeared with His Most Great Name!" Whereupon He calleth out from the direction of the Prison, summoning all unto God, the Sovereign Lord of the winds.

O Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of him who hath turned to God, the Lord of Names, that he may read the verses of his Lord and be numbered with them that have attained. Make mention of him who hath been named ʿAli-Asghar, who hath turned towards the Most Great Scene on the day when the Lord of Destiny came with manifest sovereignty. We had sent down unto thee aforetime a Tablet whereby the hearts of them that are possessed with love took flight, and now once again as a token of grace from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Glorified be He Who speaketh at all times amidst the concourse of creation, and calleth them unto His straight Path. They that have turned aside, these have no station save that they are accounted among the heedless.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Fear ye the All-Merciful. Follow Him before Whom the verses have prostrated themselves and to Whom the necks of the proud have been humbled. Beware lest ye claim that which hath not been ordained for you by your Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. By His very truth, the matter hath been decided and that which ye were promised in God's Scriptures, your Lord and the Lord of the worlds, hath appeared. He hath indeed come with the truth, and the eye of the world hath been solaced thereby. Blessed is he who hath turned unto Him with a luminous heart. Spread not corruption in the earth—We have adorned it with justice through this grace which hath shone forth from the horizon of your Lord's tender mercy, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Be ye helpers of God's Cause. Beware lest ye transgress the bounds set forth in God's Book. Thus have We commanded Our servants in a Tablet sealed with the seal of your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. We have chosen tribulations for the betterment of the world and the unity of all therein. Beware lest ye

speak that whereby discord may arise. Thus doth your Lord, the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful, counsel you. Adorn yourselves with the raiment of servitude unto God, the True One, that the regions may be illumined by the lights which have shone forth from the horizon of this heaven which hath been raised up through this Most Great Name. Through servitude is the station of creation made manifest, through it do faces turn unto the Dayspring of the verses of your Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

How many servants there were who, when they saw the Cause exalted, laid claim to that which caused to perish what their Ancient Lord had desired. When the breezes of trial blew, they were overturned, and when the zephyrs of tranquility passed by, they opposed God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. Thus have We recounted unto thee that thou mayest remember those who carve out idols each day and worship them—these are indeed in manifest error. Arise to aid the Cause of thy Lord through remembrance and utterance. Thus hath the All-Merciful commanded in His Tablets. He, verily, ruleth over whatsoever He willeth. Let not the oppression of them that have oppressed grieve thee, nor let the might of the idolaters hold thee back.

God will soon seize them through His power even as He seized the factions of old. Verily thy Lord is severe in punishment, and sovereignty shall endure unto His Self, the One Who overshadoweth the worlds.

Say: O people! This is the Day of attentive hearing. Hearken unto the Call from the crimson Tree upon the luminous Spot. Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Single, the Unique, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Cast away all created things behind you, then turn with your hearts unto the Dawning-place of inspiration. This is better for you than all that hath been created in the heavens and earths. Say: It behoveth no one to test God in this Revelation; rather doth God test whomsoever He willeth. Fear God and follow not every doubting idolater. Choose ye what God hath chosen through His grace, and anchor not your faith to your idle fancies, but rather to that which hath appeared and shone forth from the horizon of grace. Thus have ye been commanded in the Bayan from the All-Merciful, if ye be of them that know.

Say: Sufficeth it not what hath been manifested in this Revelation? By God! Power hath encompassed all, sovereignty hath appeared, the signs have shone forth and the evidences have dawned. Blessed is he who hath turned unto God and hath been stirred by the breeze of God in this radiant and resplendent Day. Among the people are those who desire from God that which hath not been ordained for them, and when they behold it they turn away and become abased. And among them are those who have attained the presence of God and upon whom the All-Merciful hath shed the lights of His Beauty; these have bowed down in prostration, saying: “Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds!” And among the people are those who, when they hear the Call from the quarter of destiny, turn unto God, the Lord of all names. Thus have We detailed the matter unto thee as a favor from Us. Be thou grateful and among those who remember.

Know thou that when We desired to proclaim the Message, We created Badi’ through a word from Us, then breathed into him a spirit from Our presence. When his creation was complete, he hastened like a mountain of fire with the Book of thy Lord, the Chosen One, unto the place which was ordained in a guarded tablet. Therein did We manifest power in such wise as to shake the pillars of the workers of

iniquity, and We sent down therein from every condition that which causeth the hearts of the knowing ones to soar. If thou hast attained unto it, read and ponder that which hath been revealed therein, that thou mayest discover the power of thy Lord, Who was imprisoned in the most desolate of cities and Who sat beneath the swords of the oppressors. When thou readest, say:

> "Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I testify that Thy Will hath encompassed all created things and Thy power hath prevailed over all things possible. The might of those who have turned away from Thee shall not dismay Thee. Thou doest what Thou willest through Thy sovereignty and ordainest what Thou desirest through Thy word. None hath any refuge save with Thee, nor any haven except beneath the shadow of Thy mercy. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Wise."

Section 2: "O Most Exalted Pen! Set forth the verses…"

O Most Exalted Pen! Set forth the verses once again that the people of creation may be attracted thereby. Verily, Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth. There is none other God but He, the Protecting, the Self-Subsisting. Then give unto the steadfast one to drink of the wine of verses that it may draw him to the kingdom of names and attributes and bring him nigh unto a station wherein he seeth naught save God, the Mighty, the Loving. If thou detachest thyself in My love from all else besides Me, thou shalt behold My dominion and My power. Thus hast thou been commanded from before God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Beware lest the affairs of men grieve thee and bar thee from the Most Sublime Vision. Leave what they possess and put thy trust in God, the Lord of what was and what shall be. If the wine of mystic knowledge hath intoxicated thee, arise in My name, the All-Merciful, amidst all possibilities, then summon the people with wisdom and utterance to a praiseworthy station. Say: O people! Fear ye God. The Day hath come and that which was mentioned in the Tablets hath appeared. Beware lest ye follow every rejected idolater. All things cry out between earth and heaven:

> "The veils have been rent asunder and the Promised One hath come!"

Beware lest passion hold you back from guidance. Cast aside the imaginary; the Known One hath come with evident sovereignty. O My loved ones! Be ye united in the Cause of God, in such wise that no winds of discord may pass between you. This is that whereunto ye were bidden in the Tablets. This is better for you, did ye but know.

Arise to aid the Cause of God in such wise that all the hosts of the earth shall not affright you. Thus hath the decree been recorded in the Preserved Tablet. How many a steadfast one was prevented from turning to Him, and how many a seated one hastened to attain. Blessed are they who understand. How many a seeing one was veiled by the veils, and how many a blind one saw and said:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Thou God of the seen and unseen!"

Verily, they who have turned unto Him, the denizens of Paradise pray for them. They shall soon find themselves in the most exalted station. Thy Lord is, verily, the Truth, the Knower of things unseen.

Say: O people! He is the Most Great Sign amongst you, and the Beauty of God, the Most Exalted, the Most High, in your midst, would ye but perceive it. He is God's power over them that turned away, and the breath of the All-Merciful to them that are turned unto Him. Say: Whither do ye flee? Think ye that ye have a place of refuge? Nay, by His most luminous Beauty, could ye but understand. Say: Nothing shall, on this Day, profit you, though ye should take hold of all that is in the heavens and on earth, except that ye turn unto the Dayspring of Grace through this Name that hath dominion over all that witness and are witnessed. Blessed is the slumberer who hath been awakened by the call of God, and the heedless one who hath turned to His countenance. Woe unto every learned one who is veiled.

O Ancient Pen! Remind the peoples and him who hath attained unto this Light that shineth forth from the horizon of the Will of his Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. O Mihdi! Hearken unto the call from the direction of grandeur, from this divine Lote-Tree raised upon the luminous spot in the name of thy most glorious Lord. Verily, there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Follow God's commandment in what hath been revealed in the Book, then turn with thy heart unto His countenance, turning away from every misbeliever and doubter.

Say: O people! Rejoice in these days wherein the All-Merciful hath come in the shadows of proof, and the Sun of the countenance hath shone forth without cloud or veil. Blessed is he who hath soared in the atmosphere of the mercy of the All-Merciful, and the heart that hath turned unto Him in humility and repentance. Detach thyself from what thy passion desireth and hold fast unto the Most Firm Handle. This is better for thee than the kingdom of the heavens and earth, though none comprehend this save them who are endowed with understanding. Thus have We caused the wine of inner meanings and utterance to flow in the rivers of wisdom and explanation. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Beware lest the veils prevent thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. Remember thy Lord with this Most Great Remembrance with fire and attraction. Verily, they who are heedless this Day have denied God, the Lord of lords.

Say: O concourse of divines! Cast aside the pen of vain desire. By God! The Most Exalted Pen hath moved by the leave of your Lord, the Most High, the All-Glorious. Then hearken unto that which the Tongue of Grandeur and Majesty proclaimeth between earth and heaven. Then cast aside all learning, for the All-Knowing hath come with His name, the Self-Subsisting, with power and sovereignty. Will what ye possess profit you? Nay, by the Opener of doors! Where are they who were before you? Ponder, O ye who are endued with sight! Blessed is the learned one who hath rent the greatest veil, turning unto the Most Pure Prospect. He is among the most exalted of creatures before the Truth, the Most High.

Soon shall the world and that wherein ye pride yourselves perish, and sovereignty and might shall endure for those who have turned unto this Countenance before which all necks have bowed. Blessed is the seeing one whom the veils have not prevented, and the discerning one who hath shattered the idol of fancy in the name of his Lord, the Mighty, the All-Compelling. Say: O people of the earth! Die in your wrath! Soon shall the standards of the Cause be raised in every city, and the regions shall be illumined thereby. Thus have We imparted unto thee that which shall attract the hearts, that thou mayest give thanks unto thy Lord at morn and eventide.

O Most Great Pen! Move in remembrance of Husayn, that the mention of the Ancient King may draw him to this noble prospect. Hearken to the call of the Wronged One from the direction of His Name, the Self-Subsisting. I am indeed the Lonely Stranger.

O Husayn! Husayn hath wept at My separation and lamented at the tribulations that have befallen Me in the path of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Give thanks unto God for having attained unto these days wherein the Sun of Beauty hath shone forth from the horizon of glory in such wise that neither the clouds of the wayward nor the veils of majesty could obscure it. Blessed are they that have attained! Blessed is the one who hath seized the Book with the power of his Lord, the Master of all necks, and hath cast aside those who denied God, the One, the Mighty, the Wise.

It behoveth every soul to strive in the Cause of his Lord, not according to his own desires. Thus hath the decree been ordained for the people of Baha in a Tablet sealed with the finger of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Powerful. Beware lest sorrows prevent thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Most Merciful. Be thou mindful of My Name amidst all who dwell within the realm of possibility. Say: O people! The All-Glorious hath come in the shadows of the clouds, and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. If thou shouldst see one who turneth away, say: Woe unto thee, O thou who associateth partners with God! Soon shalt thou find thyself in manifest loss. Is doubt befitting after clear proofs have come? Nay, by the Revealer of verses, if thou be of them that know! Every proof hath prostrated itself before My proof, and every evidence circleth round the Most Merciful. Blessed are they that perceive! The rock hath been moved by the cry of thy Lord, and all atoms in earth and heaven call out through this Most Great Name, yet the people lie sleeping behind the veils of their own selves.

Blessed is he who hath turned, drawn nigh, heard and said:

> “Praise be unto Thee for having manifested Thy beauty, O Thou Who art the Beloved of all in the heavens and the earth!”

Aid Me, O My loved ones, through such deeds as will cause the sweet fragrance of holiness to waft among all worlds. Then subdue all who are on earth through My Name and My sovereignty. This behoveth him who hath laid hold on this holy and luminous hem. If thou findest one possessed of insight, spread the Tablet before him that his eyes may be gladdened and he may be of them that have attained. By My life! He who hath drunk the love of the calf is assuredly among the perished, except he arise through this Name and become one who proclaimeth this wise Remembrance among the servants. Say: This is He through Whose Name the Tablets have been adorned and for Whose remembrance the Bayan was revealed, if ye be of them that know.

Beware lest ye commit that which would cause the Spirit of Baha to lament in the Most Exalted Paradise and the eyes of them that are nigh to weep. Cast behind you all allusions, then turn with radiant faces toward the Qiblih of all existence. This is better for you than all ye possess, would ye but understand. Your belief profiteth Us not, nor doth your denial harm Us. To this testifieth all things, and beyond them the tongue of God, the All-Knowing, the Wise.

From the horizon of tribulation, We summon all unto God. Whoso hath turned unto Him hath attained, and whoso hath denied is assuredly among the wrongdoers. Thus have We caused to shower upon thee

from the ocean of grace. When thou hast attained unto it, say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou Who art the Goal of them that know!

O Pen of Revelation! Make mention of the Dyer. Say: The Day of divine coloring hath come. Blessed is he who hath been colored with the coloring of God through his detachment from all else. Thus hath the Most Exalted Pen decreed from the presence of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wise. Color the servants with the name of the Lord of creation. Thus art thou commanded from the presence of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Say: O people! Fear God and follow not the ascetics who have clung to the cord of names, invoking them morning and evening; yet when their Creator appeared in the shadows of light, they disbelieved, even to the point where they pronounced against Him a manifest injustice.

Thereby hath the word of punishment become due unto them. Soon shall they return to their abode—evil indeed is the abode of the idolaters. How many a veiled one hath believed in the Lord of Creation, and how many a turbaned one hath disbelieved in God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment! How many an ignorant one hath drunk from the Kawthar of knowledge from the hands of grace, and how many a learned one hath remained lost in the wilderness of error! Thus hath the recompense of every soul been ordained. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the Powerful.

Say: O people! This is your Lord, the All-Merciful, Who hath come with clear proof and evidence. Turn ye unto Him and follow not every sinful rejecter. This is the Day wherein the faces of those who turned away from the Countenance have been darkened, while the faces of those who turned towards Him have been illumined. Say: O people of the Bayan! Fear the All-Merciful and oppose not Him through Whom the lights of divine knowledge have shone forth in the kingdom of possibility, and through Whose Name the Spirit of Truth hath cried out among the idolaters. Among them is one who hath said that He denieth the Unseen. Say: Be silent, O thou who associateth partners with God! The Unseen speaketh with this most wondrous, most glorious Tongue. The atoms testify that there is none other God but Him, and that He Who speaketh is the Manifestation of His Essence, the Dawning-Place of His signs, the Dayspring of His Revelation and the Source of His Command amongst the worlds. And among them is one who hath said:

> "Will the All-Merciful appear before the creation of the Bayan is completed?"

Say: Through My appearance all things are completed. By My life, were it not for My appearance, its creation would not have been perfected, even were it to endure as long as the kingdom of earth and heaven. Fear God and follow not the imaginings of them that deny.

Section 3: "I am the cloud of bounty for what…"

Say: I am the cloud of bounty for what was sown in the Bayan, and We were unto it as the breezes of spring. Through My appearance the heaven of the Bayan was raised up and adorned with brilliant stars and manifest words. To this testifieth all existence, both seen and unseen, save those on whose faces appeareth the soot of hellfire. Blessed be the face that hath been illumined by this light, and the heart that hath been drawn to the signs of its Lord, the All-Knowing, the Wise. Hearts have been created for My knowledge, tongues for My praise, and eyes for My beauty. Verily, it hath shone forth from the horizon of the prison in such wise that the veils of the hearts of the oppressors have not withheld it. Blessed art

thou, for the Most Exalted Pen hath moved to make mention of thee from the presence of thy Lord, the Most Glorious. By My life, this is indeed a great bounty.

O Most Great Pen! Make mention of Thy servant Husayn, who hath believed in the Lord of all nations, that he may turn with his heart unto the Most Great Vista. O Husayn! We have sent down unto thee numerous tablets, and here is yet another, that thou mayest give thanks unto thy Lord, the Possessor of Destiny. Say: O concourse of men! In what direction do ye flee? Today ye have no place of refuge save through casting aside what ye possess and clinging to the cord of God, the Most Holy, the Most Luminous. He is verily the Most Great Sign among you, and His proof unto all who are in the heavens and on earth. He is indeed the Hidden Mystery through whom God tormenteth such as have disbelieved and denied.

His punishment is indeed most grievous and bitter. Say: Unto whom do ye hasten, O people of error? Hasten unto Him with your hearts. With Me is the ultimate abode. The lights of the Countenance have shone forth from the horizon of the Cause. Blessed is he who hath beheld, and woe unto him who hath frowned and scowled. Say: He is the One concerning Whom God took His covenant in the atoms of the Bayan, before His Own covenant. This is attested by that which hath been sent down in the tablets and scriptures. Say: This is the Day whereon the All-Merciful hath been manifested unto all creation. Blessed are they who are endowed with vision. He hath appeared in such wise that neither the opposition of the opposer nor the veils of them that have transgressed against God and disbelieved can hinder Him.

By My life! Whoso findeth the sweetness of the remembrance of his Lord, the All-Merciful, will soar on the wings of certitude above all creation. To this testifieth every person of knowledge and thought. Drink ye the pure water of wisdom and utterance from that which hath flowed from this Pen through which the decree of destiny hath been established. When We sent down the verses, they said: “These are but impostures.” And when We manifested that at which minds and spirits were bewildered, they said: “This is but continuous sorcery.” Let not the allusions of the people grieve thee. Leave them behind thee. Soon shall the breezes of chastisement pass over them, and the believers shall behold them as uprooted palm-trunks.

Where are the palaces of them who disbelieved in God? We have returned them to their graves. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the Powerful. When the Countenance shone forth from the horizon of grace, the sun was eclipsed and the moon was cleft asunder. They who have turned away from God are in torment and flame, while they who have turned unto Him are blessed by the denizens of the highest paradise, and their names are recorded in an imperishable tablet. Blessed is the pen that hath moved in My remembrance and through which My Cause hath been established. Woe unto him who hath denied the Cause of God when it was exalted and made manifest.

O Most Exalted Pen! Turn toward Thy servant ʿAli-Rida, then adorn him with Thy mighty and glorious remembrance, that he may soar on the wings of longing in this atmosphere which God hath sanctified from the imaginings of the idolaters. Follow thou the religion of God and His ways. This is what thou hast been commanded in a clear tablet. We perceive from thee the fragrance of love by reason of Our having manifested thee from the land wherein We raised up the Beloved of the worlds. Be thou thankful to God for this bounty and recognize the station of this mighty station.

Beware lest anything hold thee back from God. Glorify thy Lord with praise amongst His heedless servants. Make mention of Him in such wise as to awaken them that slumber. This behooveth one who hath turned toward the Qiblih of the knowers. How many a worshipper hath worshipped God throughout the nights and days, yet when the Truth came denied his Lord, the Mighty, the Wise. How many are the servants who circle the lands and visit the places wherein are buried the Manifestations of My names, yet when the Dayspring and Sovereign of the names appeared, they disbelieved and turned away. They are indeed among the lost. Blessed is the detached one who hath immersed himself in this Most Great Ocean which surgeth through this Name which God hath made the Sovereign of Names for all who are in the heavens and on earth. Be thou thankful unto thy Lord for having turned toward thee the face of the favor of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most Praised. Thus have We sent down the verses and dispatched them unto thee that thou mayest read them and be of the thankful ones.

Then remember Nabil-i-Qabli-ʿAli, who hath believed in God, the Mighty, the Peerless, that the breezes of revelation may draw him and detach him from the world and all that is therein, turning him toward the Kingdom of his Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious. Sell all things save My love, for by God the treasures of all who are on earth and the riches of all worlds cannot equal it. Guard thou the pearl of the love of the All-Merciful within thy heart through this Name, the Mighty, the Impregnable. Then conceal it from those who have betrayed God's Cause. Thus doth this Wronged One, this Exile, command thee. Adorn thy face with turning unto God, thy heart with devotion, and thy tongue with the praise of thy Lord, the Beauteous. Grieve not over those from whom thou perceivest the stench of aversion. Leave them to their vain imaginings and idle play. They walk while God's wrath pursueth them. Thus hath judgment been decreed in a preserved Tablet.

Make mention of thy Lord in such wise as to attract all created things. This beseemeth one who hath turned unto God with a pure and luminous heart. Blessed is he who seeth and knoweth, who heareth and hearkeneth, and whose tongue uttereth this wise remembrance. Blessed is the heedless one who turneth with his heart to the Qiblih of the horizons. Woe unto the wise one who is debarred from this bounty that hath encompassed all creation. Be thou steadfast in thy love for thy Lord in such wise that neither the veils of idle fancies nor the clamor of the oppressors shall hold thee back. Trust in God under all conditions, and when thou attainest unto the Tablet say:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Beloved of the hearts of the sincere!"

O Most Holy Pen! Make mention of Ta before Qaf and Ya, that he may rejoice in being remembered by the Most Exalted Pen and say:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Thou through Whose light the earth and heavens were illumined!"

Hearken unto the call from the shore of love in the luminous spot from the Tree of the heart—verily there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Rejoice in that thou hast been remembered by the Pen of Command through which the winds were subdued. Grieve not over anything. Trust in all matters in thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. He hath ordained for His loved ones that which the pens are powerless to record.

O loved ones of the All-Merciful! Be steadfast in the Cause in such wise that neither the might of kings nor the wrath of subjects shall deter you. This beseemeth all who have turned unto the Face, detached from all directions. Convey unto the servants what ye have learned of your Lord's command. Thus have We counseled you in the Scriptures and Tablets. In teaching, hold fast unto the cord of wisdom and utterance. Thus doth the Lord of Religions instruct you. Do ye see any permanence in what ye behold? Nay, by My Name, the Ruler over all lands! Adopt ye My characteristics that through them the sweet fragrances of holiness may be wafted to all regions. Grieve not over what hath befallen thee of tribulation. We were with thee when thou wert in the hands of the oppressors. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Nothing escapeth His knowledge. With Him is the knowledge of all things in the Book. We have ordained for thee, in return for what thou hast borne in His path, that which shall solace all eyes. Thus have We cast upon thee of thy Lord's verses that thou mayest thank Him at eventide and dawn.

O Pen of Power! Make mention of Thy chosen servants whose names were not recorded in the Tablet, that they may render thanks unto God, their Lord, by night and by day. O My loved ones in that land! By My life, ye are beneath the gaze of your Lord, and the tongue of grandeur moveth to make mention of you. O concourse of companions! Ye are they who turned towards the Countenance on a Day when eyes were dazed, and who recognized your Lord while mankind remained heedless and veiled. Soon shall all who dwell on earth glory in your names and lament what was visited upon you by those who disbelieved in God, the Cleaver of the dawn. Grieve not at anything, but put your trust in Him in all matters. Verily, He is with those of His servants who have remained faithful to the Covenant. And the glory of God rest upon you, O loved ones of God, from your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Bestowing. Though your names were not recorded in the Tablet, We have mentioned them in a Tablet which God hath made the Mother of Tablets. Rejoice ye that mention was made of you before the Throne when the Lord of the Throne was in the hands of the wicked ones.

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou knowest that from this Prison I call Thy loved ones to the shore of Thy bounties, purely for Thy sake, and at a time when the idolaters have encompassed me from every side, I make mention of Thee, O Lord of Names and Attributes! I beseech Thee to assist Thy servants to champion Thy Cause and exalt Thy Word, and to aid them in that which will manifest the sanctity of Thy Being amidst Thy creation and the detachment of Thy commandments amongst Thy creatures. O Lord! Illumine the eyes of their hearts with the light of Thy knowledge, and adorn their temples with the ornament of Thy most excellent names in the kingdom of creation. Thou art, verily, powerful to do what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

BH00222: The list of your petitions was presented before…

Section 1: "The list of your petitions was presented before…"

He is God, exalted be His glory, grandeur and majesty!

The list of your petitions was presented before the Most Holy and Most Exalted Presence, and the response descended from the heaven of grace and was dispatched. We beseech God to aid all to

accomplish that which He loves and is pleased with, and to unite the peoples of the earth upon one word and one Cause. Verily, He is powerful over all things.

Concerning what you wrote about Haji Mirza Muhammad Afnan, upon him be the glory of God, he is ever remembered before the Wronged One. In these days two Most Holy and Most Exalted Tablets have been specifically revealed and sent to him. In truth, at all times he desires to render service. We beseech God, exalted be He, to aid him and make him steadfast in His Cause and successful in attaining that which He hath revealed in His Book.

Regarding what you wrote about Aqa Javad's funds, whenever they were assigned to any person, the funds were available and were given. And if they become available again, they will certainly be given. O Name of Generosity! The ocean of bounty is surging, but the capacity of the people of the world is lacking. In one of the Tablets it was revealed: "Were the world to possess any worth or station, thou wouldst see Me seated upon its thrones." The intention by "world" was and is its people. And you are aware of affairs. Whenever funds become available or news arrives from any quarter, they shall be bestowed.

Concerning what you wrote about ʿAbdu'l-Husayn, upon him be the glory of God, his mention and his supplication were seen and all attained unto hearing. God willing, may he be observed in the concourse of the world with utmost joy and fragrance, bearing the name of the Lord of Eternity. These are momentous days. We beseech the True One that He may not deprive His servants of His recognition. We, from this station, send Our greetings upon his countenance and give him the glad-tidings of God's loving-kindness, the Lord of all worlds.

Regarding what you wrote about Aqa Jalil, upon him be the glory of God, his own petition also reached the Most Holy Court. Time is as rare as the phoenix. In these days the response will be revealed and dispatched by the will of God, exalted be His glory. Were all the degrees of infallibility to be revealed from the Supreme Pen, much of what is hidden would be unveiled, and the oneness of God and the station of true unity would become manifest and evident like unto the sun. The hand of power hath rent asunder the veils, yet the people of the Bayan are determined to present anew their vain imaginings and idle fancies in a new guise, despite the fact that divine wrath, namely the deafness and blindness of those heedless and ignorant souls, hath encompassed them. The aforementioned one had mentioned his brother; this was heard and adorned with the ornament of acceptance. One Tablet from the heaven of will hath been specifically revealed and will be sent to him. Give glad-tidings to Jalil of thy Lord's loving-kindness. And all the souls he hath mentioned are remembered before the Countenance and have attained unto the bounty of the Word of God.

O Ism-i-Jud! We have desired to make mention of those whom the All-Glorious hath mentioned, that they may be assured through God's grace and His loving-kindness, and arise to serve His Cause, the Irrevocable, the All-Wise. O Jalil! We make mention of thy brother who hath been named ʿAli with a mention that no mention in creation can equal. Verily, thy Lord is the All-Remembering, the All-Knowing.

We have adorned the heaven of proof with the stars of certitude. Blessed is he who hath attained, and woe unto the heedless. Verily My Most Exalted Pen moveth at all times in the realm of wisdom and

utterance, yet most of the people are as ones sleeping, save him who hath purified his hearing from what he hath heard in the contingent world. He is of the people of this exalted and glorious station. O ʿAli! Give thanks unto God for having remembered thee in His Most Great Prison and revealed for thee that which caused the Luminary of inner meanings to shine, as a grace from Him unto thee. He, verily, is the Ever-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days. We counsel thee with that whereby the Cause of the All-Merciful may be exalted throughout creation, and with steadfastness in this Great Announcement.

O Buyuk Aqa! The Countenance of the Ancient of Days hath turned toward thee from His Most Great Prison, acquainting thee with that which was mentioned in the Books of old and inscribed by the Pen of God, Lord of all the worlds. By My life! The Cry hath been raised, yet most of the people remain asleep; the mountains have passed away, yet the people are wrapped in a thick veil. Say: Fear ye God and follow not your idle fancies. Cast away what ye possess and take what hath been given you by God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. The world hath been renewed through the breaths of revelation, yet most of the people are as dead. They have not been awakened by the Call of God; by My life, they are among the perishing ones. When thou dost inhale the fragrance of My utterance and attain unto My verses, arise and say:

I beseech Thee, O Thou the Goal of the world, by the waves of the ocean of Thy knowledge, by the lights of the Sun of Thy bounty, and by that which lay hidden in the treasuries of Thy power, to aid me to remain steadfast in this Cause which hath caused the limbs of the Names to quake. Thou art, verily, the Omnipotent over whatsoever Thou willest, and within Thy grasp are the reins of all who are in the heavens and on earth. Write down for me, then, with Thy Most Exalted Pen, the good of this world and of the next. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

We make mention of him who was named ʿAli-Ashraf and give him the glad-tidings of his Lord's loving-kindness, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing. O Ashraf! All glory lieth in turning unto My horizon, in acting according to that which hath been revealed in My Book, in arising to serve My Cause, and in directing thyself toward My station whereby the lights have shone forth. Thy name hath been mentioned before the One Who is mentioned, and there hath been revealed for thee that which shall not change throughout centuries and ages. Be thou steadfast, firm and unwavering like unto a mountain in this Cause whereby feet have slipped.

O Pen! Make mention of ʿAli from Us, that he may give thanks unto his Lord, the Lord of all men. Dost thou know Who mentioneth thee, and dost thou recognize Who hath turned toward thee? By God's life! If thou didst know, thou wouldst arise throughout all thy days to remember thy Lord, the Cleaver of the Dawn. He Who by His name hath adorned all the Books of the past doth make mention of thee at this moment. He before Whom is the Mother Book doth bear witness to this. Rejoice thou in this most great bounty, then give thanks unto thy Lord, the Lord of all mankind.

O Joseph! The All-Glorious hath made mention of thee. We have mentioned thee through verses at whose revelation all other verses have bowed down in submission. Remember thy Lord at daybreak and at sunset, at dawn and at eventide. O peoples of the earth! The Day hath come, and He Who conversed on Sinai speaketh in this Manifestation, saying:

"Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Single, the One, the Chosen."

Blessed is the ear that hath been privileged to hear the shrill voice of My Most Exalted Pen, and the eye that hath beheld the Most Great Sign, and the tongue that hath acknowledged that which hath been sent down from the Kingdom of its Lord, the Almighty, the Most High. Take hold of the Book of God with such strength as is vouchsafed by Him, that the clamor of the divines may not deter thee, nor the might of the valiant. We have aided the Cause through this Pen which neither the veils of the people could obscure, nor the coverings of fancy impede.

O beloved of God! The Wronged One remembereth thee at a time when sorrows have encompassed Him from every direction. We have manifested the Cause, sent down the verses, and revealed clear proofs, yet the people remain heedless and in discord. Among the people are those who have turned toward it and those who have turned away—and whoso turneth away is assuredly among the companions of the Fire. We have found the people of the Bayan more veiled than the people of the Furqan. They wander in the wilderness of error, turning away from God, the Lord of lords. The people of the Furqan, after their praise and anticipation, pronounced their verdict against the Lord of mankind. To this beareth witness the Lord of Destiny from His most exalted station. Thus did their souls prompt them, and today they are among the denizens of the fire in the presence of God, the One, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. The people of the Bayan have followed them in their desires and fancies, having turned away from Him through Whom the Hour hath appeared and the Resurrection been established.

O Husayn! The Wronged One, Who is imprisoned in this Most Great Prison, maketh mention of him who hath called all to God, the Lord of the beginning and the end. The Supreme Paradise hath lamented what hath befallen Us, as have the inmates of the most exalted Heaven and those who circle round the Throne at eventide and at dawn. Thus have We sent down the verses and expounded them in truth, as a grace from Us, for verily I am the Mighty, the Bountiful. Give thanks unto God for My loving-kindness, My attention, and My remembrance of thee. Then guard it as thou wouldst guard thine eyes, for the ungodly lie in wait.

O Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of him who hath been named Habibu'llah, that he may rejoice in Thy remembrance and arise to serve the Cause with such strength as cannot be weakened by the might of the wicked, speaking in such wise as cannot be hindered by the clamor of all who are on earth, nor frustrated by the power of the evil ones. O beloved! The appointed time hath come and the Beloved hath appeared with such authority as no thing can withstand, nor can the tyrants of the earth who disbelieved in God when He came with the standards of His signs prevent it. Be thou steadfast in the Cause in such wise as to make the limbs of the ignorant tremble.

Behold and remember when the Desired One came and what befell Him at the hands of the followers of the Furqan, who consider themselves the most excellent among all peoples. Say: Take ye heed, O people of insight! We beseech God to protect His party from the evil of these people and from the people of the Bayan who follow in their footsteps. Know ye that they are indeed among those who have gone astray. The Wronged One hath remembered thee with such remembrance as hath no equal in all the world. To this doth the Mother Book bear witness from its most exalted station. Take thou the reins of the Cause and preserve it in the name of thy Lord, the Master of all beings.

O Jalil! Thou hast made mention of him who is named Rida-Quli. We make mention of him as a token of Our grace. Verily thy Lord maketh mention of whomsoever He willeth as a command from His presence, and He is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Remind him of My verses and glorify My Name before his face, that he may rejoice and be of them that are thankful. Say: We have made mention of all who have turned unto the Most Sublime Horizon, whereunto every discerning believer doth testify. It behooveth thee to beseech God, thy Lord, that He may aid His servants to remain steadfast in this mighty Cause. We love him who hath turned unto Our Countenance, and make mention of him in an exalted station.

We make mention of Our loved ones in Asadabad that they may rejoice in My remembrance, for verily I am the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. O people of God in that place! Take ye the Kawthar of steadfastness from the hands of bounty, then drink thereof in defiance of the people of the Furqan and the people of the Bayan who have broken God's Covenant and His Testament, who have turned away from His horizon, and who have disbelieved in His perspicuous Book. We have manifested that which was hidden in the treasury of protection and inscribed in the Books of God, the Lord of all worlds. Among the people are those who turned away and disbelieved, even to the point of rising up to shed My blood, and among them are those who have cast away the world, turning unto My luminous horizon.

Section 2: "O people of God! We counsel you…"

O people of God! We counsel you to observe supreme steadfastness in this Cause whereby the hearts of the learned were perturbed and the feet of them that have attained did slip. Take ye the Book of God with the power that proceedeth from Him and say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou the Goal of the worlds! O Jalil! Make mention of them on My behalf and give them the glad-tidings of that which hath been sent down from the kingdom of Mine utterance, the wondrous. Say: This is wondrous from all sides, if ye be of them that perceive. Say: Hold ye fast unto the cord of the Cause and cling unto the hem of the robe of the loving providence of your Lord, the All-Bountiful.

At the end of the Book We make mention of My handmaidens who have believed in the All-Informed, the One. Blessed are they for having turned unto the Most Sublime Horizon when the men of earth turned away therefrom. He verily exalteth whom He willeth as a token of His grace, and He is the Strong, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. May the glory shining forth from the horizon of the heaven of My proof rest upon you, O people of God, and upon every steadfast, firm, and upright believer.

O Ism-i-Jud! There hath been read before the Wronged One that which was sent by My servant named Faydu'llah, and the All-Bountiful hath desired to answer him with His verses which the treasures of the world cannot equal, and I am the All-Knowing Expositor. Blessed is he, for he hath believed in God and His signs in the first days, hath attained unto the Most Great Word, and hath testified to that which the Tongue of Grandeur did testify: that there is none other God but I, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. We desire to make mention in this station of him whom he hath mentioned, that he may rejoice in the loving-kindness of his Lord and be of the thankful ones. Verily, upon Samandar be My glory; he was mentioned before and is mentioned now, and unto him hath been sent down that which causeth the eyes of them that know to be solaced.

O Ruhu'llah! Rejoice thou in that the Most Exalted Pen hath made mention of thee at the dawning of the lights of the Sun of inner meanings from this luminous horizon. Rejoice thou in this Most Great Remembrance, then give thanks unto thy Lord, the All-Bountiful. He verily maketh mention of him that remembereth Him, and hath sent down for him who hath turned unto Him that which cannot be equaled by whatsoever is with the kings and rulers. All things have testified to the bounty of the Lord of Names and to His generosity which hath encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth.

O Muhammad! My servant hath made mention of thee, wherefore We make mention of thee as a token of My grace, for I am verily the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous. My mercy hath preceded all things, as every discerning mystic doth testify. They who have been given insight from God—these indeed behold the horizon of Revelation through His eyes. But they who are debarred are assuredly companions of the fire. Take hold of God's Tablet with the strength that proceedeth from Him, arise and say: The Mother of the Bayan hath come! He sufficeth thee, by the Lord of all worlds. Hold fast unto the cord of thy Lord's loving-kindness, detached from every remote idolater who hath violated God's Covenant and His Testament, and disbelieved in Him in Whom they had formerly believed—these are numbered among the idolaters in a mighty Book.

O Muhammad! When thou dost inhale the fragrance of the All-Merciful's utterance and hearest His most sweet call from the horizon of possibility, say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou Who hast remembered me in Thy Most Great Prison and hast turned unto me with Thy luminous countenance. I beseech Thee to make me steadfast in Thy Cause, content with Thy good-pleasure, firm in the service of Thy Cause, articulate in Thy beauteous praise. We make mention of My handmaidens whom he hath mentioned in his letter, and give them the glad-tidings of My remembrance, My loving-kindness, My grace and My mercy, that they may render thanks unto God, their Lord, and be numbered among those who have attained in this perspicuous Book. Blessed are ye, inasmuch as My Most Exalted Pen hath moved to inscribe your names, and I am verily the All-Bountiful, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Most Glorious, the All-Wise. The glory of God be upon you and upon those whom We have mentioned before, and upon those whom neither the clamor of the people of the Bayan hath kept back from the All-Merciful, nor the croaking of the idolaters from this momentous News.

O Ism-i-Jud! The letter of Abdul-Hussein, upon him be My glory, which he had written to you, was mentioned in the Most Holy, Most Exalted Presence. The glance of grace hath been directed towards him. God willing, may he attain unto His grace, arise in His service, be engaged in His remembrance, and be gladdened by His mention. O Abdul-Hussein! The Most Exalted Pen hath repeatedly made mention of thee. Praise be to God, thou hast attained and continuest to attain unto His grace. Be thou at all times gladdened and assured of His loving-kindness. We counsel thee to that which will cause the exaltation of the Cause and the preservation of this most exalted station, which is the station of thy mention by the Most Exalted Pen.

Mention of Khan-i-Mizban and Mawzun and the sons of Khalil, upon them be My glory, My loving-kindness and My mercy, hath been made in thy letter. Each one hath attained unto the grace of God. We beseech Him, exalted be He, to preserve them and ordain for them what is best in this world and the next, and to inscribe for them from the Most Exalted Pen the reward of attainment to His presence,

which is indeed among the most mighty of deeds before the Self-Subsisting, the Most High. Blessed are they who are remembered in this day before the Wronged One and have attained unto the special favors of the Mother Book. The Word of God hath ever been and shall forever be enduring. All things shall be seized by extinction, but that which hath flowed from His Pen shall remain forever, eternally, imperishably. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the Unconstrained.

We make mention of My handmaidens and My female servants there. We beseech God to ordain for them the best of what is in His Book. Verily, He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. There is no God but He, the Mighty, the All-Praiseworthy. Mention was made of Ali-Asghar who attained the presence and won, and likewise mention of Azim and Hasan and the nephew of Jinab-i-Dhabih, Aqa Muhammad-Rida, was in his letter. Jinab-i-Haydar-i-Qabil-Ali made mention of these souls and a Tablet was specifically revealed for each one—some have been sent and some will be sent. And whatever Aqa Ali-Asghar had previously requested was sent in full except for one soul. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Now again each one is mentioned in the Most Holy Court and has won the favors of God.

We counsel him and those who have believed in that whereby the Cause of God, the Lord of the worlds, may be exalted. For today deeds and character are the hosts of God, and one must render victory through these hosts. Likewise We counsel all to the Most Great Steadfastness, for the barkeners and the deluded ones lie in wait and have made the calumnies of the previous party their motto. I am quit of them, and God and His Prophets and His Messengers are quit of them. They are indeed among the deluded ones. They wander in the wilderness of ignorance and know not.

The letter of Jinab-i-Ali-Akbar was also present before the Countenance. We send greetings to his face and counsel him in what behooveth man in these days, and We give him the glad-tidings of Our remembrance of him that he may rejoice and be among the thankful ones. O people of God! Know ye the value of these days and arise with the utmost endeavor, unity and accord, that the horizons may be illumined with the light of unity. Today is the Day of God and is associated with Him. The mention of aught else is not permitted. Leave ye the names of the past and the words of the past. Reflect ye on the false souls of the past who deceived millions of souls, both learned and ignorant, from the beginning of Islam until now, just as the Shi'ih party—may God forsake them—clung to those calumnies and martyred the Master of the world, and now still await the appearance of an imaginary Qa'im from an imaginary city and an imaginary realm and an imaginary station.

Say: Wait ye, even as the Jews are waiting. In any case, O friends, reflect on the affairs of the past that the hints of the barkeners and the atheists may not again prevent you from the Straight Path. He is the Counselor, and He is the Compassionate, and He is the Kind One.

O Ism-i-Jud! We make mention in this station of thy sister who hath believed in God and His signs, and turned unto His horizon, and responded when His call was raised. We have mentioned her aforetime, and in this mighty, impregnable station We remember her on Our part and give her the glad-tidings of that which hath been sent down for her from the Pen of God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. We make mention of My handmaidens who are there and give them the glad-tidings of that which hath been ordained for them from God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. We have mentioned every handmaiden who hath believed and have recorded her name in My wondrous Book. We counsel My servants and My

handmaidens to be steadfast in this mighty Cause, and We make mention of My handmaiden whom We have mentioned before, who hath attained unto My remembrance and My favor, and I am verily the Compassionate, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

God willing, may the people of that land, both young and old, male and female, all arise in perfect unity and harmony to aid the Cause of God. Today, goodly deeds and praiseworthy character are the hosts of Truth, and all abide beneath the standard of the fear of God. Blessed are they who enter beneath this mighty standard and act in accordance with that which beseemeth it and the days of God. We have mentioned some steadfast, firm and assured souls secretly in this Tablet, for the station requireth no less. By the life of God! All are present before Our face and stand at the door. They have not been forgotten, nor shall they be. We beseech for them divine confirmation. Verily, He is powerful over all things.

Mention was made of the Afnan, upon him be My glory, My mercy and My loving-kindness. There hath befallen him what befell Us in the beginning of Our imprisonment. We bid him and his brother and his wife to be endowed with beautiful patience and noble forbearance. By My life! Were they to become aware of his station, his loftiness and his exaltation, they would surely give thanks unto God, the Lord of all worlds. He hath offered up his life in My path. We have accepted it from him and We comfort and console Our Afnan, and I am the All-Patient, the All-Knowing. Soon shall We send down upon him and upon those who are there that from which they shall inhale the fragrance of the loving-kindness of their Lord, the Compassionate, the Generous.

We have remembered him who hath ascended unto God with such remembrance as would cause all who are endowed with perception to inhale the fragrance of His mercy which hath preceded all who are in the heavens and on earth. We have mentioned My loved ones there. We beseech God to assist them to be steadfast to such a degree that the clamor of them that cry out, the allusions of the doubtful ones, and the whispers of the ungodly will not cause them to slip.

BH00239: The honored Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin has attained unto the blessed writing…

Section 1: "The honored Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin has attained unto the blessed…"

The honored Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin has attained unto the blessed writing and its contents were presented. The answer has shone forth from the horizon of utterance:

They who have journeyed and migrated unto God, for these is a great reward. Blessed are the people of Nun who have remained steadfast in the love of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. We have sent down unto them clear verses and dispatched them by the hand of Sin. Verily thy Lord is the All-Remembering, the All-Knowing.

As to what thou hast mentioned regarding those who have attained thy presence, turning unto God, thy Lord—We have accepted their turning and their facing toward the court of God, the Most High, the Most Great. Verily bounty is in God's hands—He bestoweth it upon whomsoever He willeth of His creation. He is indeed the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. He strengtheneth whom He willeth through what He willeth, and ordaineth for whomsoever He desireth whatsoever He pleaseth.

O Darvish! Blessed art thou for having turned unto God. We counsel thee with a counsel that surpasseth all that is in the heavens and earths. Set it before thine eyes and be not of those who, when judgment runneth counter to their desires, cast themselves into evident sorrow. Rejoice in God's commandments whatsoever they may be. Circle round the shrine of detachment—this is a command from One mighty and beautiful. Be content with God's good-pleasure and His decree, and with what hath been sent down in the Tablets from His firm and mighty judgment, that thou mayest leave creation behind thee in following thy Lord's command. Thus behooveth one who hath soared in this wondrous, mighty, subtle and refined atmosphere. Thy name hath been mentioned before the Throne and We have sent down unto thee clear verses which We have made a treasure for thee. Be thou thankful and among those who praise. And likewise in this Tablet—verily thy Lord's love for thee hath preceded all else—none can outstrip it in aught. He is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Blessed be Abu'l-Qasim and he who was named Muhammad-Husayn. O Zayn! Give them the glad-tidings of God's mention of them. We have written for them the reward of those who hastened, attained, turned and responded. Verily He is the Ruler over what He willeth.

O Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin! By the Lord of the worlds, God's love precedeth and is greater and mightier than His servants' love for Him. When the verse of prohibition was revealed, the inner eye wept for His loved ones, but the decree was fulfilled from His presence—none can repel His judgment. Verily He hath power over all things. It is very clear that God loveth His loved ones, and this prohibition was due to the veiling of the people, for the heedless servants at all times seek pretexts to accomplish their desires. By My life! Those who have returned by His command after drawing nigh unto Him—this is better for them than a thousand years of worship. Thy Lord is indeed the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. The turning of a soul is never lost and shall never be lost, even if by a single step. For every soul is written the recompense of its deeds. Blessed are they who know.

They should gaze toward the All-Merciful with utmost joy and fragrance, such that even if they observe apparent harm to themselves from His commands and prohibitions, they should not be saddened but rather act with perfect eagerness and joy. In these days several souls have gathered from various regions and others have turned without permission. Blessed is Rafi' and those with him, and those who, when they heard God's call, acted as commanded. Verily the glory from Our presence be upon them and their like.

As to what thou didst mention concerning the name of God, Al-Ha, verily We have adorned his temple with the ornament of Our relationship. This is a bounty that nothing in the heavens and earth can equal. He hath arisen to serve God with his whole being, as attested by that which hath proceeded from him. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Upon him be My glory and My splendor, and upon those who love him. By My life! A noble station hath been ordained for him. Convey unto him that which hath flowed from the Supreme Pen and give him the glad tidings of this remembrance by which the horizon of remembrance hath been illumined and the heaven of utterance hath been raised up. Thus doth the All-Merciful command thee. Act accordingly and be of them that are thankful.

We found the servant in attendance before the Countenance at the time when the verses were being written. He desired in his heart to send greetings unto him and unto My loved ones there. Convey these

greetings and deliver the salutations from him to those who greeted him. Verily thy Lord is the All-Informed, the All-Knowing. We send greetings unto him from before My Branches and My Twigs and those who circle round the Throne of their Lord, the Mighty, the Generous.

As to what thou didst mention concerning Kazim who attained unto the presence, We have sent him two Tablets wherein We revealed that which attracteth the hearts of all mankind. Blessed is he and blessed are his brothers who have believed in God, turned unto Him and borne hardships in His path. Convey unto them the greetings from the Prisoner, then gladden them with My mention of them in this wondrous Tablet. We beseech God to assist them in all conditions and to ordain for them that which shall profit them in this world and the next. Verily He is the Bestower, the Ordainer, the Mighty, the Invincible.

Then make mention of Baqir and Rahim from Us and adorn them with the crown of thy Lord's remembrance, the All-Knowing. We have sent down verses for them and dispatched them unto them. Verily We make mention of those who have desired the countenance of their Lord and have turned unto Him with radiant faces. He is the Mighty, the Generous.

As to what thou didst mention concerning Muhammad-i-Sadiq, We have heard his call. We have exalted him through this remembrance whereby every matter hath been exalted and every mighty station established. God hath forgiven him and his family. Verily He is the Generous, the Merciful. If they were to comprehend the fruits of God's remembrance as they are in truth, and likewise the reward of their mention in the Most Holy Court, by My life! the intoxication of the most pure wine would so overcome them that they would become detached from all the worlds and would occupy themselves day and night with the remembrance of the Beloved of all creation.

The name of the Noble One hath been mentioned before the Countenance, and there hath been revealed from the Pen of the Generous One that whereby the mention of the All-Wise hath shone forth. Make mention of him from Me through this manifest bounty.

Likewise, We have clothed Husayn with the robe of utterance from before the All-Merciful that he may be of the thankful ones. Make mention of him from Me that the breezes of the Beloved's remembrance may waft over him from this Prison which God hath made the dawning-place of His Name, the Everlasting, the Eternal, the Mighty, the Exalted.

As to what thou didst mention concerning Baqir after Muhammad, there hath been mentioned before the Countenance that which he composed and recited. Blessed be the tongue that hath spoken in praise of God and His Branches. We beseech God to make him among those who soar in the atmosphere of His love in every world of His worlds. He is among those who have attained the presence, gained victory, heard and responded, and there hath been ordained for him that which shall gladden his heart. Verily thy Lord is the Most Merciful of the merciful. The praise of God precedeth the praise of His servants, and His remembrance precedeth the remembrance of them that remember.

We have found in thy letter mention of Muhammad-Qabli-ʿAli, and have adorned it with the mantle of his Lord's remembrance, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate. Were it not for the hindrance of the hinderers and the clamor of the heedless, We would have sent down for each one of them that which would cause the oceans of attraction to surge amongst the worlds. Convey unto him the greetings of Him

Who hath dawned and shone forth from the horizon of His Lord's utterance, the Most Merciful, that he may rejoice in the remembrance of Him through Whom the mountains were moved and the breeze of God wafted over all, whether small or great. Verily, He remembereth from the prison him who hath turned toward Him.

Blessed is he who hath turned with his heart and heard what was raised from the Dayspring of his Lord's remembrance, the Mighty, the Wise. We beseech God to assist him in that which he desireth, to make him content with His good-pleasure, to cause him to circle round His Will, and to speak His praise amongst His creatures. He, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Encompassing. As for what was sent, let half of it be used by him, and let the other half be delivered to the guest and Khadijih-Sultan. Whenever any sum becometh available in this place, We shall command Our servant who is present before Our face to send its equivalent, in this noble station, to be spent as desired. This is of thy Lord's bounty unto him. Give him the glad-tidings of this great bounty. Then make mention of the handmaiden who was mentioned in thy letter. Blessed is she in that her remembrance hath been sent down from the Pen of her Ancient Lord. We beseech God to aid her in His love and His good-pleasure, and to ordain for her what He hath ordained for His handmaidens who have shone forth from the horizon of detachment through this wise Remembrance.

And as to that which thou didst mention concerning him who hath turned aside among the people of Dal, and the letter he sent—write thou unto him:

> "O servant! This is not the day of trial and experiment; nor is this the day thou didst imagine. This is the day wherein it behoveth every soul, when he heareth the Call from the kingdom of his Lord, the Most Glorious, to sever himself wholly from all things that have been created between earth and heaven; to turn, with his most radiant countenance, toward the Most Great Vision; and to say, with the tongue of his inmost being and of his outward speech—nay, with the tongues which God hath created in every member of his body—Here am I, here am I, O Lord of Names! Here am I, here am I, O Thou Who wast promised in the Tablets! Yea, yea, O Thou Who hast borne all hardships for the deliverance of the worlds!' Write, O servant: In one moment—purely for the Face of the All-Merciful—ponder thou, detached from all beside Him, and consider: if thou remain heedless of this Most Great Manifestation, whose radiance hath encompassed all the world and the nations thereof, to what wilt thou cleave, and by what proof and argument wilt thou establish the truth for thine own self? Verily the Bayan itself hath been adorned with My Name and was revealed for My remembrance. Look, that thou mayest know. Let nothing withhold thee from this bounty which hath encompassed the heavens and the earth. The very Being of the Tree crieth aloud: He, verily, is the Best-Beloved!' The Lote-Tree speaketh, and the Beauty of the Adored hath come—the Promised One! The Kingdom is God's, the One, the Mighty, the All-Wise."

Section 2: "Art thou content with the idols thou possessest…"

Art thou content with the idols thou possessest, or with names whereof thou knowest naught save what thou hast heard from thy likes? Cast them aside through thy Lord's power and say: "I have turned unto Thee, O Lord of the worlds!" O servant! By the Most Great Luminary, God's gaze is sanctified from being

fixed upon the acceptance or rejection of men. Whatever is mentioned proceedeth from pure bounty, for His mercy and bounty have preceded all things. In this Most Great Prison He calleth out and summoneth the servants unto truth, that all may gather around the divine and all-embracing Word. If thou be fair-minded, consider: were it not for Baha, who would raise up the Cause of thy Lord, the Lord of Names? By God! Among those whom thou deemest necessary to follow, none hath appeared—all are occupied with preserving their lives and means of comfort, while the Truth itself speaketh forth amongst the people of rebellion, mentioning the All-Merciful. One word from Him is more precious than all revealed books and dispatched scriptures, yet ye remain deprived and veiled from the spring showers of the All-Merciful's mercy through one of whom ye have no knowledge, and are barred from Him by Whose finger's beckoning all that was revealed in the Bayan dependeth.

The ocean of nearness surgeth while men are seen to be remote; the Ancient Tongue speaketh forth while the people of creation appear deaf. Say: Break the chains of blind imitation and the idols of vain imaginings. Thus doth this imprisoned stranger command thee. The Bayan lamenteth while they rejoice, and the Point crieth out while they sport. Say: How long will ye occupy yourselves with your vain fancies? Do ye not see that ye depart and return not? O servants! The divine wine is prepared and the eternal Beauty is the cupbearer—whereby have ye remained veiled, and for what reason have ye been deprived? If the expression of truth were confined to but one word, that word would shine forth like the sun amidst all the words of the world.

With penetrating vision, observe what hath been revealed in the Bayan and in this Revelation. Look well that perchance thou mayest not remain deprived of the vernal breezes of the All-Merciful and be freed from the whisperings of the idolatrous souls. Hearken unto the divine counsel and transgress not beyond it. Know thou this much, that thou hadst and hast no knowledge of these matters, and those souls who have led thee astray were and are entirely unaware. Setting aside all these things, fix thy gaze upon that which hath been manifested, that haply thou mayest leave the pond behind thee, turning toward the Most Great Ocean which surgeth by virtue of itself and for itself, and proclaimeth:

> "There is none other God besides Him, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Wise."

We beseech God to grant thee success and bestow upon thee that which He hath desired in His days. Verily, He is the Powerful, the Mighty, the Omnipotent. Furthermore, write whatever thou deemest advisable in thine own words—there is no harm in this.

As to what thou hast mentioned concerning Ibn-i-Barat, it behooveth him to render thanks unto his Lord for having mentioned his name in this noble station. Blessed art thou, O Barat, inasmuch as thou hast detached thyself from those who turned away and hast turned toward Him Who giveth life to the worlds. Rejoice thou in My remembrance of thee, then turn with thy heart unto the Beloved. Say: Praise be unto Thee, O Revealer of the wise Remembrance! We make mention of Our loved ones at all times in such wise that the trials have not prevented Us from remembering them in the path of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Great. Remember ye Him even as He remembereth you—this is better for you, if ye be of them that know.

We have heard the call of Abdul-Karim who is there. Make mention of him on My behalf and give him the glad-tidings of My love for him. We are with him in his journey and his dwelling-place. O Abdul-Karim! Thou art remembered in the Most Holy Court. Be thou occupied with service to the Cause, that is, strive with utmost endeavor and exalted effort for the unity of the friends in that land, that the sweet-scented breezes of unity may waft from the direction of the friends of the Lord of all beings upon the whole world. The people of that land have borne in the path of Truth that which they have borne, and for the love of God they have tasted hardships.

Therefore are they adorned with the robe of distinction. Now must all be reminded at all times lest they become heedless and something should proceed from anyone that would cause the abasement of the Cause and the extinction of the divine kindled fire. Arise thou with all thy being to serve the All-Merciful. From those souls must appear such qualities as would shine like suns among the qualities of people, that all the friends in every region might be reminded by the character, deeds and actions of those souls. We beseech God to aid thee in His service and to make thee among those who have served the Manifestation of His Cause and the Dawning-Place of His Revelation. Verily, He is powerful over whatsoever He willeth.

Then make mention of Ali whom We showed in a dream and who acted according to what his Lord desired. Say: By My life, thy return is better than the acceptance of one who was not adorned with the ornament of permission. Thy Lord is the best Helper, the best Informed, the best Knower.

Then make mention of him who was named with the two Most Great Names. Say: We have accepted your turning and your acceptance—all this is dependent upon His Word, if ye be of them that know. When He decreeth for anyone to attain His presence, by God, it is inscribed in all the Tablets and in all the worlds of God, but people do not understand. Blessed is he who hath found the sweetness of the remembrance of his Lord and hath been seized by the intoxication of the utterance of his Lord, the All-Merciful, in such wise that he hath become detached from all creation, circling round the will of his Lord, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Be not grieved, rather be glad with what hath proceeded from the Source of Command and hath shone forth from the horizon of the decree of your Lord, the Mighty, the Wise.

Then make mention of Qurban-ʿAli who hath grieved his Lord by what befell him. Yet when it came to pass for the love of God it proved sweeter than honey refined in the estimation of them that are nigh unto Him. O Qurban! We have ordained for thee the recompense of one who hath offered up his life in the path of God. Ponder upon this exalted station, be steadfast, make mention, render thanks and glorify thy Lord for this manifest grace. We were with thee in the days when thou didst migrate and turn towards God, the Lord of the mighty throne. We heard the sighing of thy heart and the lamentations of thy inner being in thy love for the Beloved of the worlds.

Thy burning in separation from thy Lord is better than seventy years of worship, nay more, by His Self that dominateth the worlds. Blessed be thy yearning, thy longing, and thy seeking after the Goal of the sincere ones. If thou wouldst inhale the tablet of thy Lord, thou wouldst find therefrom the fragrance of reunion from the direction of thy Lord, the Self-Sufficing, the Most High. Through it, the heart of him who turned was stirred and the hearts of the seekers were attracted. By My life! After thee We beheld the very essence of nearness and thy return was the embodiment of drawing nigh. Rejoice in the sun of thy Lord's

remembrance which hath dawned from the horizon of the loving-kindness of the Beloved of all who are in the heavens and the earth.

It behooveth thee not to grieve. Read thou the Tablet that thou mayest be assured of thy Lord's grace unto thee and know that He loveth him who loveth Him and draweth nigh unto him who draweth nigh unto Him. He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the Gracious. We have sent down for thee in this Tablet that which will gladden thy heart, cheer thine eyes and tranquilize thy soul. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Merciful.

As to what thou didst mention concerning Hasan whose hand was severed in the path of God, the Lord of all men, by My life! We shall surely give him wings wherewith to soar in the atmosphere of the Kingdom. Thy Lord, verily, is powerful over whatsoever He willeth. Remember thou him on behalf of thy Lord and convey unto him what hath been revealed for him from the Pen of thy Lord, the Self-Sufficing, the Most High. Say: Be not grieved, rather rejoice in what hath befallen thee in the love of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. The contingent world shall perish and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Powerful, the Self-Subsisting. Blessed art thou for having stood firm in the Cause of God and sacrificed thy hand in His path.

Through it We shall raise up conquering hands and through them shall We subdue the lands. When thou hearest from anyone that which thy Master abhorreth, be patient, then leave him to the Mighty, the Compelling. He will seize him as He pleaseth. He, verily, is the Avenger, the All-Compelling. Those people are intoxicated with vain desires. Were they to know, they would lament over their deeds, but today they are veiled and covered. Blessed art thou, and thy mother, and thy brothers and sisters. Convey My greetings unto them all and clothe them with the robe of glorification from Our presence. Thus hast thou been commanded by thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing. O Hasan! Upon thee be My glory and upon those who are with thee among those who have believed in the Day of Reckoning.

O Zayn! Give thanks to thy Lord for having revealed for each one mentioned in thy letter clear verses. This is of His grace unto thee and unto them. Thy Lord, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Knowing. We beseech God to draw thee nigh unto Him and to cheer thine eyes by beholding the face of thy Lord, the Lord of all beings. Grieve not over anything. Serve thy Lord in the evening and the morning, at dawn and at eventide. If thou makest mention of them who are on earth, We make mention of them as a grace from Us unto thee. Give thanks and say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of earth and heaven, and O Thou Whose grace hath encompassed all created things.

Special Tablets have been revealed for the land of Nun and sent in a special package addressed to ʿAbdu'llah, carried by Sin and Mim. Convey the glorification of the True One unto His loved ones there, and praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH00245: Commentary on a verse from Sa'di

Section 1: "That which hath been revealed in the divine…"

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

That which hath been revealed in the divine verses concerning the meaning of this couplet, and which hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of truth, is complete and conclusive. None but the ignorant would deny it. Yet, as a token of grace unto thee—for verily He loveth His remembering servants—another explanation shall be set forth in the Persian tongue.

If thou wouldst behold this station as it truly is, immerse thyself in the ocean of creative verses. All things, according to their ranks, have been and shall ever be divine verses. In the station of the manifestation of the Sovereign Revealer in the kingdom of names and attributes, the quality of being a sign is established for all things. In such wise, naught is visible save His signs, that nearness or remoteness might be conceived. After the Sun of inner meanings hath dawned from the horizon of this utterance, all are accounted as divine verses. Naught remaineth to be observed save the revelation of the Sovereign Revealer, that it might be mentioned or clothed in the garment of expression. Were the divine hand of power to withdraw the quality of being a sign from all things, thou wouldst see nothing whatsoever in all existence.

How sanctified and holy is thy Lord, and how mighty is His dominion and power! The creative and universal signs, which are the manifestations of His names and attributes—exalted be His glory—are, in one station, sanctified above nearness and remoteness, how much more His own Essence, transcendent is He! If thou shouldst drink of this wine of inner meanings, which hath been nurtured by the fingers of divine holiness in the wine-cellar of eternal glory, thou wouldst pass beyond the world and all therein, and would turn thy face toward the Friend without any allusion.

I swear by the Day-Star of the horizons! Were all people to comprehend the sweetness of but one word from the divine utterances which have shone forth from the Dayspring of the mouth of the All-Merciful Will, all would detach themselves from the fleeting pleasures of this world and turn unto the Countenance of the Everlasting One. Then would the servants be observed in such a state that He for Whose appearance the world and its development were intended hath been made to dwell in the most desolate of lands. In such circumstances, by what merit should divine grace descend from the heaven of glorious mercy?

Think not that any soul hath power over truth. I swear by the Dawning-Place of the Most Great Name that were He to will it, He would annihilate all things with but a single word. The acceptance of this Most Great Prison hath been for the deliverance of the necks of men from the chains of self and passion, and the acceptance of this abasement hath been for the sake of the glory of all who dwell on earth. For this divine breath hath come for the life of creation, and soon shall they witness the shining of the Sun of the Word from every direction. Thy Lord is, in truth, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

However, as to the poet's intent in this couplet—

> "The Friend is closer to me than I am to myself, yet stranger still that I should be far from Him"

This is a translation of the blessed verse which states "We are nearer to him than his life-vein." Indeed, it hath been well expressed in the Persian tongue. At this moment one is partaking of the wine of the mercy of the Lord of all worlds, for mention of it hath flowed from the Tongue of Grandeur. Since God hath declared "I am nearer to man than his jugular vein," therefore one sayeth that although the effulgence of

the Beloved is nearer to me than my jugular vein, yet despite my certitude of this station and my acknowledgment of this rank, I am far from Him. That is to say, the heart—which is the seat of the All-Merciful and the throne of divine revelation—is heedless of His remembrance and occupied with the mention of others, veiled from Him and turned toward the world and its vanities.

Truth, in its essence, hath no nearness or remoteness. It is sanctified above such stations, and its relationship to all things is on the same level. This nearness and remoteness are made manifest through Its Manifestations. It is established that the heart is the throne for the revelation of the All-Merciful, even as We have explained this station in previous holy traditions:

> "Neither My earth nor My heaven can contain Me, but the heart of My faithful servant containeth Me."

The heart, which is the place of divine manifestation and the seat of the All-Merciful's revelation, is oftentimes heedless of Him Who reveals. In its state of heedlessness it is far from Truth and merits the title remote', while in its state of remembrance it is near to Truth and deserves the title near'. Furthermore, consider how man is oftentimes unaware of himself, yet God's all-encompassing knowledge eternally surrounds him and the radiance of the Sun of Revelation remains manifest and evident. Therefore, He is and will ever be nearest, for He is the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing, the All-Encompassing, while man remains heedless and veiled from the mysteries of his own creation.

Every person of insight can clearly observe that nearness and remoteness are mentioned and understood in relation to the Manifestations, while that Sovereign of eternity was and ever will be sanctified above nearness, remoteness, mentions, names and attributes. In brief, nearness to Truth in this station means turning toward Him, while remoteness means heedlessness of Him. For instance, whosoever today has quaffed from the most pure and glorious Wine has ascended to the highest summit of nearness and attainment, while all others abide in the lowest depths of remoteness and separation, even though they may constantly speak of the All-Merciful and act according to His commandments. Even as today, the various peoples of the earth, being deprived of the wine of divine unity, all wander in the wilderness of remoteness.

Nearness and remoteness become known and evident in the Manifestation of the divine Essence. Whosoever has turned toward the Sanctuary of certitude is reckoned among those who are near, and whosoever has turned away has been and will remain remote. The nearness of Truth knows no remoteness. If people would not remain remote, the root of the Tree of nearness, which has been sent down from the heaven of the All-Merciful in these words, would remain firm and its branches would encompass the worlds.

When the Sun of the Name ʿthe Near One' dawned forth from the Dayspring of meeting, it encompassed all horizons, and spiritual proximity is more ancient and nearer than outward nearness. As can be observed, there have been many souls who were in the presence of the Truth and were honored with His company at eventide and dawn in outward seeming, yet the True One did not confirm the reality of nearness in their case, inasmuch as they were deprived of spiritual proximity. God is the Knower and the Concealer. But should a soul dwell in the remotest lands yet gaze upon the Truth, the word of nearness

shall be revealed in his regard. But oh the blessedness! Oh how excellent for that soul who is endowed with both!

By Him Who hath made Me abased for the glory of the worlds and imprisoned for the liberation of all peoples—if with pure intent one beholdeth the Countenance of the All-Merciful but once, it equalleth all the good deeds of the first and the last. Nay, I seek God's forgiveness for such a statement, for this station cannot be limited by word or utterance. None knoweth the excellence of this station save God, exalted be His glory. Should one enter the region where the Throne of the Divine Manifestation resideth, the benefits and rewards of this deed shall assist him in all the infinite worlds—how much more for one who attaineth His presence! Indeed, the purpose of all that hath been sent down from the heaven of divine bounty and recorded in the Holy Books hath been the meeting with God. Blessed is he who hath attained thereunto and entered the precincts from whose horizon hath shone the Sun of the Beauty of his Lord, the Most High, the Most Great, and who hath touched its soil and breathed its air. He hath attained unto that which no greater good or bounty can surpass. By God! The dwellers of Paradise shall visit him and shall find from him the fragrance of God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the All-Powerful.

O questioner! God willing, through the grace of the Eternal Sovereign, thou shalt in these spiritual days drink from the chalice of divine mercy from the most pure and holy utterances of the Lord. When thou turnest toward God, all the infinite worlds of names, words and utterances have been detailed from the Primal Point, and all return unto that Point, which hath appeared through the Ancient Will. Whosoever today attaineth unto Him and His love becometh the possessor of all the most beautiful names and sublime attributes, and hath been and shall ever be the possessor of knowledge and utterance. Yet none shall drink of these crystal-clear utterances flowing from the right hand of the Throne of the All-Merciful save the people of Baha.

O questioner! Behold the mercy and bounty of God—though confined in prison with enemies lying in wait from every direction, yet hath He not deprived thee, and amidst these sorrows He remaineth occupied with the mention of His divine friends. Hast thou seen any bounty greater than this? Nay, by thy Lord, the All-Merciful! This is a Day wherein the Beloved saith "We have known thee", and Moses declareth "We have seen thee", and Abraham uttereth "My heart hath found peace". Strive, that ye may not be deprived of the bounty of the All-Merciful, for whatsoever is lost in these days can never be regained. Become pure and light like the breezes of the spiritual springtime, and pass by the precincts of the All-Merciful. This is the counsel of the All-Merciful to the peoples of all worlds.

Section 2: "Let it not be imagined from the statement…"

Let it not be imagined from the statement that all things are signs of God that, God forbid, the righteous and the wicked, the believer and the misbeliever, are all equal in station, or that there hath been any relationship or connection between God, exalted and glorified be He, and His creation, just as some ignorant ones, having ascended to the heights of their own vain imaginings, have conceived of unity as meaning that all signs are of God without distinction, and some have even gone beyond this station and made the signs equal and similar to God. Glory be to God! He is one in His essence and one in His attributes. All else is as nothingness before the revelation of one of His names and the mention of one of His remembrances. How, by the Most Merciful One, the Supreme Pen trembles and quakes at the

mention of these words! What station can be seen for an evanescent drop before the surging of the Most Great Ocean? What mention can there be of that which is contingent and non-existent before the Ancient One? I seek forgiveness from God, the Almighty, for such beliefs and utterances.

Say: O people! What relationship can there be between the Imagined and the Self-Subsisting, and what similarity between creation and the Creator, when they were created by the stroke of His Pen, and this effect itself is sanctified, holy and exempt from all else? And passing beyond this station, consider in the station of signs that the sun is one of the divine signs. Can one consider it in the same station as darkness? Nay, by His very Self, the Truth! None would speak thus save he whose heart is straitened and whose vision is dimmed.

Say: Consider within yourselves—both fingernails and eyes are of you. Are these two of the same rank and station in your estimation? Should anyone say yes, say: Ye have lied, by my Lord, the Most Glorious! For ye cut the former yet cherish the latter like life itself. It is not permitted to transgress one's station and rank. The preservation of ranks is essential—that is, each thing must be observed in its own station.

Yea, when the Sun of My name "the Influencer" has shone upon all things, in each thing an effect and fruit appears according to its capacity, even as ye observe that poison, though lethal, yet in its own station manifests an effect and benefit. This effect in things is from the influence of this blessed Name. Glorified be the Creator of names and attributes! The dry tree is burned while the fresh and verdant tree provides shelter in its shade and yields its fruits for enjoyment.

In the days of the Divine Manifestations, most people have uttered such unseemly words, as is detailed in the divine Books and revealed Scriptures. Unity is to behold the revelation of Truth in all signs, not to consider creation as Truth. For instance, behold in all things the revelation of the Sun of the name "Lord", for in all things the effects of this name are visible and the education of all depends upon it. And education is of two kinds: one kind encompasses all and educates and provides sustenance to all, as He has called Himself the Lord of all worlds; and the other kind is specific to those souls who have entered beneath the shadow of this Name in this Most Great Revelation. However, souls outside this station are deprived and forbidden from the heavenly table that is sent down from the heaven of grace of this Most Great Name.

What relation have such souls to these souls! Were the veil to be lifted, all who dwell in the heavens and earth would be thunderstruck by the stations of those who have turned to God and detached themselves from all else save Him. The one who has attained to divine unity beholds the manifestation of these two names in these two groups in the manner described. For were the effulgence to be seized directly, all would perish. Likewise, observe how the Sun of the Name "the One" has shed its radiance upon all things, meaning that in all things appears the sign of divine unity, as all things point to His truth, His sovereignty, His oneness and His power. This is His mercy that has embraced all things. Yet the souls of the idolaters remain heedless of this effulgence and deprived of the fountain of nearness and reunion.

As thou canst observe, all the different peoples acknowledge His unity and confess His singleness. Were the sign of divine unity not present in those souls, they would never confess to the blessed words "There is none other God but Him." Yet they remain heedless and remote, and are not counted among the truly

unified in God's sight, for they have not recognized the sovereign Manifester. In one sense, this unity manifest in the idolaters is the effect of the radiance of the truly unified ones. None knows this save those endowed with insight. However, the truly unified ones are the embodiments of this Name in the primary degree, and they are the ones who have drunk the wine of oneness from the cup of divinity and have turned toward God's direction.

What relation can there be between these sanctified souls and those remote ones? Likewise, observe the manifestation of the Name "the Near One" and similar names—in the primary degree the people of Baha are the embodiments of these names, and all others are as non-existent and null. God willing, thou shalt witness with penetrating vision in all things the sign of the effulgence of the sovereign Pre-existent One, and shalt behold that Most Pure and Holy Being sanctified above all things. This is the essence of unity and the reality of oneness. "God was, and there was nothing else besides Him, and He is now what He hath ever been. There is none other God but Him, the One, the Single, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Great."

O questioner! Look to the condition of the servants. This same question was asked in former years by one who associated partners with God, and an answer was written in his own hand which is now with the Letter Sin. By Him Who caused me to speak forth betwixt earth and heaven! He did not comprehend the outward meaning of this individual verse. Siyyid Muhammad Isfahani was present before Us and stated that this writing should be obtained from Salman—it was not permissible for him to take it abroad. Haji Mirza Ahmad and he proved in the house of Kalim that the one who associated partners with God had misinterpreted the meaning. Nevertheless, the people, like unto cattle, have accepted him as true.

By the One upon Whose Word all matters depend! Through the deception of that rejected misbeliever, they have committed and continue to commit injustice and tyranny. Now it is incumbent upon thee to obtain that writing from the Letter Sin and, trusting in God and purely for His sake, to show it to his followers, that perchance they may find a way unto God. It hath been heard that some, out of love for God, have burned certain inflammatory tablets of that one who associated partners with God. Although this was done without permission, since it was out of love for God, God hath forgiven what is past. However, it is never pleasing before God that anyone's words be effaced. Indeed, some of the letters of that misbeliever must now be preserved, for his true worth is evident from his words.

Say: O people! Setting aside all other considerations, where is your fairness? Granted that His Cause was concealed by God, have ye not seen his words? Alas for you, for what ye have neglected in the path of God! How could ye accept as a guide one who could not even explain the meaning of a single verse? It is not known by what excuse they will justify themselves after seeing his writing which is with the Letter Sin. Thus hath God seized their hearing and their sight. Yea, such souls deserve such a master. Leave them to their vain imaginings and turn to thy Ancient Lord. Strive that perchance thou mayest guide a soul to the divine law. This is recorded as the most meritorious of deeds before the Self-Sufficient, the Most High. Be thou so steadfast in the Cause of God that no matter should prevent thee from the service thou art bidden to render, even should all who dwell on earth rise to oppose and dispute with thee.

Be like unto the winds in the Cause of the Lord of the Daybreak. Thou observest how the winds, faithful to their task, pass over both the ruined and the flourishing places, neither gladdened by the flourishing nor

saddened by the ruined, keeping their attention fixed on their mission. The loved ones of God must likewise keep their gaze upon the essence of the Cause and occupy themselves with its promotion. They must speak and hear for the sake of God. Whoso accepteth, that good shall return unto him, and whoso turneth away, the consequence thereof shall reach him. When the Day-Star of the horizon departed from Iraq, warning was given concerning the birds of darkness, and assuredly cawing will arise from certain lands, as it did in former years. In all conditions take refuge in God, lest ye follow lying souls. The Manifestations have culminated in this Most Great Manifestation. Thus doth your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, counsel you. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

Volume 041: Early Akka 1868–1873, Part I (2 of 5)

BH01624: Lawh-i-Rida

Section 1: "My life and my very being be…"

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great, the Most Glorious.

My life and my very being be a sacrifice unto Thee! How blessed the portion Thou hast won through Thy letter, whose opening was adorned with the diadem of the mention of our Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, and whose very frame was embroidered with the ornament of love for the Best-Beloved of the worlds. Its outward form drew me unto it by reason of the breezes of certitude that wafted therefrom in the Cause of our Lord, the All-Merciful; and its inner meaning gave me to drink the wine of life, pressed from the fingers of steadfastness in praise of God, the Powerful, the Almighty. When I attained thereto, and found, and knew, I arose and entered into the presence of the Throne, and read before the face of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, after the Sun of leave had dawned from the horizon of the will of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Inaccessible.

My soul be a sacrifice unto thy soul, O thou who hast turned thy face toward the Qiblih of them that know! My spirit be a sacrifice unto thy spirit, O thou who, when thou didst hear the Call, didst cry out:

> "Here am I, O God of all who are in the heavens and on the earth!"

Blessed is thine attainment unto the days wherein the fount of loving-kindness and bounty gushed forth in the name of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wondrous. Blessed is thy pen, in that it flowed in His remembrance and His praise, after most of them that dwell on earth had become heedless of Him. O spirit of this exalted station! Should I call it a lamp, I behold that the lamp illumineth only the outward show of things; whereas the lamp of thy mention, in setting forth our Lord, the All-Glorious, illumines the hearts of the near ones. My very being be a sacrifice unto thy fire, O thou who hast been enkindled by the fire of God that blazeth amidst all worlds! My inmost reality be a sacrifice unto thy water, O thou who hast revived, by the waters of the knowledge of thy Lord, every mouldering bone!

I have attained unto many of His Tablets, and great joy and gladness have been mine through beholding that countenance. That my answer was delayed was due to the insecurity of the way—though, even now, it remaineth beset with the same peril. Yet since the one enkindled with the fire of God and steadfast

upon the path of uprightness and guidance—Mirza Muhammad Mustafa (upon him be, from every glory, its most glorious effulgence)—and likewise that traveller in the path of God, that bearer of hardships for love of his Lord, I mean Mustafa (upon him be, from every splendour, its most resplendent radiance), were setting out for that region, I addressed myself to writing this epistle, that perchance a remembrance of this fleeting one might be mentioned in the service of that Presence and of the loved ones of God.

In one of His Tablets wherein He had made mention of the arrival of Shaykh Nabil (upon him be Baha'u'llah's glory), He had written certain petitions to be laid before the Most Great Throne. Among them were the questions of Mashhadi Rida Sabbagh concerning the station of Abraham and Ishmael, the offering, and the state of Gabriel. This is that which hath shone forth from the horizon of the utterance of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. He—exalted be His might, and glorified be His majesty—hath said:

"O Rida! Mention of thee hath been made before the Throne, and this is the answer to what thou didst desire in thy question. It behoveth thee to soar, through longing, in the air of the love of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Bestower. Verily We ransomed the son, and none hath been made aware of what thy Lord purposed—neither Gabriel, nor the angels nigh unto God.

"Know, moreover, that We wrote for Our servant al-Khaliq, who was of the Concourse of the Spirit, a word which We will cast upon thee once again, as a bounty from thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Unto him did We reveal it when he asked a question: 'O thou who gazest upon the Most Wondrous Scene! This is not the day of questioning. When thou hearest the Call of thy Lord, say: Here am I, O Best-Beloved of the worlds!'

"In every year of this Dispensation have We raised up an Ishmael and sent him unto the place of sacrifice; yet We ransomed him not by a slaughter. Thus hath the matter been decreed by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen.

"Among them was that Ishmael who hastened, with utmost speed, unto the seat of sacrifice in 'Iraq, after he had been drawn by a Word from Our presence, and did offer up his life, severed from all that is, and wholly detached from the worlds. And among them was Ashraf, who was remembered among men by the remembrance of his Lord, the King of the Day of Calling; and whatsoever they forbade him, his longing for God increased, until he offered up his life and soared in the air of nearness, and entered the seat of security—the station which We have made the loftiest of stations.

"And among them was Basir (upon him be the praise of God and His remembrance). By My life! the realities of all things were drawn by his call when he arose from the horizon of his home in praise of his Lord, and was crying out amongst the people by this Name whereat cities were shaken, until he drank the cup of martyrdom and attained unto that which none before him had attained. Even so have We sent down the command in the Tablets.

"And among them were they who offered up their lives in Ta; and among them was he who cut his throat when he beheld Me oppressed in the hands of the wicked; and among them was he whom the love of God seized with such power that he cast himself into the sea. Say: Take ye warning, O ye who have eyes! I know not which sacrifice I should recount unto thee, O thou who art mentioned by the tongue of thy Lord in this night around which the day circleth.

> "And among them was Fakhr al-Shuhada', whom We brought into Our presence and created by a Word from Our own Self; then We sent him forth with the Book of thy Lord unto him that followed his own desire. We set forth therein that whereby the Proof of God was made complete upon him, and His evidence upon all around him. Thus hath the matter been ordained by One Almighty, behind Whose command the very Essence of Power proclaimeth unto thee greatness and might."

O thou that askest! The Tongue of the Ancient of Days declareth: According to the speech of men, severed heads were many; yet more beloved unto Our house than these sacrifices is this—that thou shouldst ponder them, and traverse, in thought, the realms of the attraction, the longing, the rapture, the ardent yearning of these souls that have been named, and the stations to which they attained. They are they who, of their own choice and by their own will, offered up their lives in the path of the Well-Beloved of all horizons, and returned not from the scene of sacrifice. Behold, thou hast before thee so many "Ishmaels" ready at hand, and of the condition of some thou art thyself informed; this present treasure sufficeth thee. And how many other souls, after they were seized, revealed the utmost steadfastness—such that, until the very moment when the spirit departed from the body, they were uttering aloud the Most Great Name! The like of these souls hath not been manifested in the world of creation. Didst thou but reflect, thou wouldst fall upon the dust and cry out: "To Thee belong majesty and glory, O Quickener of all that are in the worlds!"

That which thou hast heard concerning Abraham, the Friend of the All-Merciful, is the truth, and no doubt is there about it. The Voice of God commanded Him to offer up Ishmael as a sacrifice, so that His steadfastness in the Faith of God and His detachment from all else but Him may be demonstrated unto men. The purpose of God, moreover, was to sacrifice him as a ransom for the sins and iniquities of all the peoples of the earth. This same honor, Jesus, the Son of Mary, besought the one true God, exalted be His name and glory, to confer upon Him. For the same reason was Husayn offered up as a sacrifice by Muhammad, the Apostle of God.

No man can ever claim to have comprehended the nature of the hidden and manifold grace of God; none can fathom His all-embracing mercy. Such hath been the perversity of men and their transgressions, so grievous have been the trials that have afflicted the Prophets of God and their chosen ones, that all mankind deserveth to be tormented and to perish. God's hidden and most loving providence, however, hath, through both visible and invisible agencies, protected and will continue to protect it from the penalty of its wickedness. Ponder this in thine heart, that the truth may be revealed unto thee, and be thou steadfast in His path.

And concerning what thou didst ask of Gabriel: then did Gabriel arise before the Countenance and say: "O thou that askest! Know thou that when the Tongue of Oneness uttereth His most exalted Word—'O Gabriel, dost thou behold Me existing in the fairest of forms in the manifest of the manifest?'—marvel not at this; for thy Lord is, in truth, the Powerful, the Almighty." What hath been asked, and what is asked, hath, before and after, been revealed in the Tablets of God, by hint and by plain statement; and today the melody of the Pen of the Ancient of Days is: "There is none other God but Me, the Help in Peril,

the Self-Subsisting. This is that which ye were promised in the Bayan, from the All-Merciful—would that ye might know!"

And as to what thou didst mention concerning Aqa Muhammad Ibrahim the baker—how, after his return unto God and his turning away from them that turned aside, he sought forgiveness of the True One; and likewise his son, and another, named Barat, all of whom implored pardon and mercy—these were all laid before the Throne. In matchless Persian was this revealed:

> "Every soul that turned unto the Most Holy Court, at that hour the breezes of forgiveness passed over him, and do pass; and he is beheld in the presence of God adorned with the ornament of the mercy of the All-Merciful. Yet must they, God willing, with complete devotion, turn their illumined hearts toward the Beloved, and strive that they may appear among mankind with the Most Great Steadfastness; that each may have regard unto reform, and wholly depart from corruption and whatsoever pertaineth unto it. Blessed are they, in that their names were mentioned before the Throne, and the Pen of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen, occupied itself with their remembrance."

Section 2: "And further, concerning Muhammad Rahim of the people…"

And further, concerning Muhammad Rahim of the people of Sad.—that which thou didst write was submitted before the Countenance; a particular and impregnable Tablet was revealed and sent. Let it be forwarded.

And as to what thou didst write regarding the fulfilment of the needs of certain souls: according to that same detail was it laid before the Throne. And this is that which was revealed in reply—glorified be His Majesty:

> "Give ear unto that which the Sun of Utterance proclaimeth from the horizon of the will of thy Lord, the All-Merciful; and announce unto the people the grace of God, His bounty, His generosity, His solicitude. Verily He is the Bestower, the Mighty, the Most Bounteous. Whosoever hath purposed any matter and asked it of the Court of the Throne, it hath assuredly been answered, and shall be answered. Yea, if, in the case of certain souls, its outward fulfilment hath been delayed, it is by reason of consummate wisdom and the welfare of mankind. Exalted, immeasurable is His grace! Exalted, immeasurable His greatness! Exalted, immeasurable His generosity! Exalted, immeasurable His giving! Exalted, immeasurable His bounty and His munificence!"

In one of the Tablets revealed unto Nabil the Most Great it was sent down:

> "O Nabil! Certain of the servants of God ask of Him a deadly poison, and do ask it, and in their own vain fancy imagine they have sought surpassing honey. If an infant were to ask for poison, would it be lawful for a grown man to give it—nay, by My life—even though the child should cry aloud and weep?"

Even as thou hast heard, and some have witnessed, that certain persons in Iraq stood before the Countenance and asked of the True One—glorified be His station—what they asked; and after it was granted, there appeared from them that which became the cause of their loss. Among them was one who, when the Beauty of the Ancient of Days departed from His place, was therefore granted leave to attain His presence with a company of the people of Iraq. He appeared before Him and presented divers requests—though it was made plain unto him that to be content with that which had been decreed for him would be nearer unto his welfare. Yet when helplessness and vehement insistence were manifest in him, a word was cast into his heart, upon certain conditions; and thereafter he attained unto more than he himself had desired.

Though he had been occupied with utmost steadfastness in serving the poor and the loved ones of God, yet the abundance of worldly adornments and preoccupation with outward affairs so beguiled him that he became ensnared in every shameful deed, until he reached such a pass that, twice in the two years before the migration, he presented himself at the Gate and was not granted leave to enter. His heart was not wholly deprived of the ornament of the love of the All-Merciful, and his tongue uttered the praise of God; yet, by reason of worldly occupation, he remained banished from the loftiest station. Nevertheless, God forgave him and bestowed upon him in the Kingdom that which is better than all that are upon the earth. Thy Lord, verily, doeth whatsoever He willeth, and judgeth as He pleaseth.

And other souls, after attaining what they sought, turned wholly away from God—some returned, and some remained in utter rebellion. Thy Lord is, indeed, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. In certain Tablets revealed before the appointed hour of the Most Great Manifestation from the heaven of the will of the Lord of mankind, these degrees were set forth in detail. The purpose is this: that the loved ones of God be not distressed nor sorrowful should there be delay in that which they have asked of their Generous Lord. For that Source of bounty, that Treasury of munificence, that Fountainhead of limitless outpourings and the Dawning-place of unbounded favours, hath ever been, and will ever remain, the Giver, the Bestower. Verily He is the Mighty, the Generous. This is that which hath shone forth from the horizon of utterance.

Certain trusts, in the name of Aqa Hasan (upon him rest the glory of Baha'u'llah, the All-Glorious), have been dispatched; let them be delivered into his hands. A special packet, in the name of Khalil (upon him rest the glory of Baha'u'llah, the Sovereign, the All-Glorious), hath likewise been sent; let it reach him. Convey, from Our part, limitless acclamations unto all, and we beseech God to make him a lion of steadfastness in the Cause of the Lord of all created things.

Nine Tablets—each in a separate envelope—have been revealed from the heaven of the Self-Subsisting; and a Tablet, also, addressed to Aqa Abdu'l-Karim, who hath attained unto the meeting with God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy, hath been sent in its own packet. The names have not been specified—this is, in the judgment of that blessed Presence, expedient; yet it behoveth Aqa Abdu'l-Karim to bear them. Moreover, a Tablet unto Aqa Yusuf hath been revealed from the heaven of the Cause—sent down from the right hand of the Throne. From the True One convey unto him Our greetings and boundless takbir. And this lowly servant maketh mention in these words:

> "O Lord! Strengthen him and Thy loved ones to serve Thy Cause, and to remember Thee and to praise Thee among Thy servants. Verily Thou art the Lord of them that remember."

The divine injunction is this: that His loved ones should avoid such places as exhale the odour of dissension; for today dissension is a greater harm to the very root of the Tree. We beseech God to cause souls to know their own selves, that they may learn they are powerless before the workings of His might, and naught before the disclosures of His sovereignty. He is powerful to do whatsoever He willeth. Thus hath the word ended.

And further: a special packet for the people of Kha, in the name of Nabil—may the remembrance of God and His splendour be upon him—must be delivered to them. It should be carried with the utmost wisdom and caution. These matters must remain concealed from all, whether within or without; for there are some who, without intent, utter but a word, and that word becometh the cause of tribulation.

Moreover, those who circle round the Throne of the All-Merciful, one and all, offer their acclamations and greetings unto all. Unto that noble, honoured and exalted lord—His Eminence the Physician (upon him rest the glory of Baha'u'llah and the glory of all things)—I make mention, in utter nothingness and self-effacement. All his letters that have reached this land have been a source of joy and gladness—most especially the one wherein he had written that certain souls regarded the divine prohibition as lightly as a sneeze. That letter was laid before the Throne; He smiled, and this word was sent down from the Dayspring of the Word: Whosoever accepted not the counsel of the Physician (upon him rest the glory of Baha'u'llah), his acceptance found no favour before the Throne.

Upon those very souls, moreover, grievous hardships descended. Strange is it that, despite an explicit prohibition and forewarning of the lightning-flash, they were not restrained! This is plain indeed. Were this land a place of safety, and free from harm, the gathering of all would have been desired; yet this land is such that earning and trade therein have become exceedingly difficult; and it is straitened—when one person entereth, he is immediately known, and all are engaged in enquiring after his state. This, too, is evident: the cause of the corruption of Adrianople was the assembling of the friends; and for two years now the winds of scarcity have been inhaled each day. In these days, which have grown hard upon the people, all are supplicating, yet know not toward whom they should turn.

And again, the divine injunction is this: that all the loved ones should utter no word that would cause fear among them that dwell upon the earth, or from which opposition to kings and the like might be scented. All must act with wisdom and utterance, and with perfect rectitude and soundness—wholly severed from corruption—so that in the lands they may be known, renowned, and mentioned, in the name of the Lord of creation, for righteousness and good order. Most especially should those who have returned from the presence of the Beloved conduct themselves, with outward and inward courtesy, and with the wisdom sent down, among mankind. Thus hath the command been concluded.

And likewise it hath shone forth from the horizon of the Will: "O My loved ones! In the City of Hadba' upon you be My remembrance, and My glory, and the praise of all things, and the praise of them that are in the heaven of creation and the kingdom of invention. Ye are they who have borne hardships in My path, and calamities in My love. By My life! We shall assuredly exalt your names, and raise your degrees

and stations, and shall make known among the peoples what hath befallen you in the path of your Lord. My gaze hath ever been upon you, and shall ever remain as it hath been. Blessed are you, in that your names have been joined unto this Most Great and Mighty Name.

“Beware lest ye grieve in anything. Guard your stations; and beware lest aught appear from you that would change what hath been ordained for you by One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Hold fast to the cord of God and to His providence; then sever yourselves from whatsoever His good-pleasure abhorreth. This is better for you than what ye behold upon the earth. He is your Protector, and the Protector of them that befriend you, and the Protector of them that love you, and who remember what hath befallen you. This is a word wherewith We have adorned the Tablets of your being—would that ye might know—and embroidered the brocade of your souls—would that ye might understand. Its trace shall abide, outwardly and inwardly, in the Kingdom. Thus hath spoken your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Glory be upon you, O My loved ones in that place! Gather together in My Cause, and My remembrance, and My praise amongst My servants; then drink the cups of triumph through My Name and My remembrance. Thus hath it been sent down unto you from One Ancient. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.” Ended is that which hath been sent down from the heaven of grace and loving-kindness.

My life be a sacrifice unto thee! From that Presence I earnestly entreat that, before the countenances of all those radiant and illumined faces—shining with the splendours of the lights of divine love, upon them the flashes of those lights that have dawned from the horizon of the brow of the Best-Beloved—men and women, young and old—thou wilt convey, from this lowly servant, these longing supplications, these blessed and impregnable remembrances, and this pure, simple love and unalloyed sincerity.

Upon them be the glory of God and His praise, and the praise of all that are in the worlds.

The servant of God

BH00285: This Wronged One has been and continues to be…

Section 1: “This Wronged One has been and continues…”

He is God—Exalted be His Glory, the Most Great, the Most Luminous

This Wronged One has been and continues to be between the fangs of wolves. In this state, the flow of the Supreme Pen has not ceased, nor has the call of the Desired One of the world been stilled. At all times have We summoned the peoples of the world to the horizon of the All-Merciful. When the effulgences of the Sun of Revelation encompassed the world, a faction arose with sword and spear against the Desired One of all worlds. They utter that which no idolater has ever uttered, and each day some ignorant one speaks a word. Verily, many worshippers of the calf may appear in these lands, even as We previously announced the cawing of the crows, which has appeared and continues to appear in every city. We beseech God to protect His loved ones from the evil of such souls and to illumine hearts with the lights of unity and fellowship.

O people of God! Hearken unto the call of the Wronged One. Reflect upon the crows of the past, how many souls they have afflicted with doubts and idle fancies. They said “Truth” and martyred Him; they

said “Qa’im” and cursed Him from their pulpits. Such is the state of heedless souls—they committed that which caused the world of justice to weep and the realm of equity to lament. A heedless one arrived in this land, outwardly showing harmony and faith while inwardly harboring infidelity and discord. Yet the Concealer concealed and made no mention of it. He thought God was unaware, supposing from His non-disclosure that He had no knowledge, ignorant that the name “the Concealer” had sought the hem of “the Chosen One” and asked for concealment.

O friends! Be steadfast and firm in the Cause. Should anyone utter a word, say in reply:

> “That which has appeared has, through a single effulgence from the lights of His Cause, illumined the world, and a single utterance from the heaven of His Will has made all independent of the books of the world and the utterances of nations.”

Blessed is he who has attained unto God and His signs and turned away from every remote cawer.

Verily, any soul who today makes mention of that which causes discord is rejected in the sight of God. By God’s life! The Cause is complete and perfect, and the manifestations have reached their end. Yet crafty souls, like those of the past, exist and love discord. We beseech God to aid them, to assist them in helping His wondrous Cause, to prevent them from that which causes division among people, and to protect them from the whisperings of Satan.

O Samandar! Thy letter which thou didst write to him who was named Jud, upon him be My glory, was presented before the Most Holy Court. Thou didst mention several of the loved ones. Praise be to God that from the beginning until now thou hast been enabled to make mention of God and praise Him, and likewise to make mention of His loved ones. Thou hast turned unto Him, faced Him, and arisen to serve Him. Who can deny that which the tongue of the Wronged One hath uttered in His manifest prison?

His honor Nabil-i-Akbar, upon him be the glory of God, the Lord of destiny, has reportedly departed to other regions for the purpose of teaching. We beseech God to assist him and enable him to do that which He loves and is pleased with. His honor Javad, upon him be the glory of God—he and his relatives are occupied with praise, glorification and service to the Cause. This is from God’s bounty upon him. Verily, He is the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous.

Thou didst mention his honor, the teacher. We have mentioned him before and after with a wondrous mention. Likewise the mention of other souls—each has attained to that which is recorded and inscribed in all the divine books and scrolls. O Ustad Qabil-i-ʿAli, say:

My God, my God! All praise be unto Thee for having guided me, caused me to hear, recognized me, and taught me Thy path from which most of Thy servants and creatures have turned away. I beseech Thee by the Point through which Thou didst detail the Books, the Psalms and the Tablets, and through which Thou didst reveal the scrolls of Thy glory and the mysteries of Thy Cause, to make me steadfast in Thy love in such wise that the doubts of those who will come and whisper dissension among the servants on the Day of Meeting shall not prevent me. Verily, Thou art the Lord of all horizons and the One Who uniteth all hearts through Thy Name, the Mighty, the Bestower.

O Hasan! Hear the call from the precincts of the Prison. Verily, there is no God but Him, the Single, the All-Informed. When thou beholdest the stars of the heaven of My utterance and drinkest the choice wine of knowledge from the cup of My bounty, say: My God, my God! Praise be unto Thee for having awakened me and remembered me in Thy prison, and strengthened me to turn unto Thee when most of Thy servants turned away. I beseech Thee by the standing, the sitting, the speech, the silence, the appearance, the radiance, the stillness and the movement of the Dayspring of Thy Cause and the Source of Thy laws, to make me, in all conditions, one who calleth unto Thy Name with wisdom and utterance, and who remaineth steadfast in Thy Cause amidst all religions. O Lord! Withhold me not from the Kawthar of Thy grace, nor from the chalice of Thy bounty. Ordain for me that which will cause me to be detached from all else save Thee and to hold fast unto Thy cord. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful.

O Muhammad-Rida! The call hath been raised, and the Wronged One hath ever been in the hands of enemies. The tyranny of the oppressors, the turning away of the deniers, the onslaught of the transgressors, the malice of the divines and the hatred of the rulers have not prevented Him from mentioning the Lord of Names and the Creator of heaven. Before all faces, with the most exalted call, We summoned all, but the people accepted not the Word of truth and remained occupied with vain imaginings. Especially did the deniers among the people of the Bayan change affirmation into denial and gratitude into complaint. We beseech God to aid thee to be steadfast and to preserve what He hath bestowed. He is the Bestower, the Merciful.

O My Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of Siyyid Abdul-Ghani that his mention may attract him to the Dayspring of the Sun of steadfastness. O Pen! This is the day of utterance. Say what must be said. Deprive not the friends of God from the true choice wine, and withhold them not from the divine ocean of bounty. The Day is Thy Day; bestow from the treasuries of meanings and utterance that which befitteth these days. Say: O friends! The divine light shineth from the most exalted horizon of the world. He is the Sun of Truth and the Dayspring of Knowledge. The Sun of Manifestation hath been called by every name; nay rather, the most beautiful names and most exalted attributes have ever circled and continue to circle round Him. Gaze with penetrating eyes and turn with detached hearts. Vision is a magnet for the gate of knowledge, awareness and wisdom. Understanding cometh from the sight of the eye. Blessed is the soul that hath recognized the straight path and held fast unto it.

We make mention in this station of thy father who hath ascended to the Supreme Companion, as bidden by God, the Lord of Lords. We have purified him with the Kawthar of pardon and forgiveness and caused him to enter a station which the pens are powerless to describe. The glory from Us be upon him and upon those who remember him through that which the Most Exalted Pen hath uttered in this exalted station. The breezes of grace and favor have wafted over him from all directions. This is from the bounty of God, the Lord of all men. We make mention in this station of his wife and those who have believed in God, the Lord of all religions. Thus hath the Pen spoken while the Ancient King was in His Most Great Prison through that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought.

O Samandar! The mention of the friends in the land of Ra and Shin and its surroundings hath repeatedly flowed from the Most Exalted Pen. The pearls of the shell of divine knowledge have ever been sent by the

hands of those who have turned towards God. Remember them all on behalf of the Wronged One and convey to them His greetings, that perchance the fragrances of the utterance of the All-Merciful may purify them from their sorrows and grant them access to the Most Great Joy.

Thou didst make mention of Aqa Siyyid Ahmad. Convey to him greetings on behalf of the Wronged One. We beseech God that He withhold not the rain of mercy which descendeth and floweth from the heaven of grace. O Ahmad! Thou hast attained unto the divine verses; strive that thou mayest attain unto such deeds whose fragrance shall never be cut off from the world. The treasures of the world cannot compare with the Word of God. Know thou the value of the Word of God and hold fast unto it. There are many barking dogs; seek protection from God. He is the Hearer, the Answerer.

We wish to make mention of him who was named Husayn, who hath ascended unto God, the Lord of the worlds. By the Sun of the horizon of the heaven of inner meanings! whatsoever floweth and is revealed from the Most Exalted Pen regarding those souls who have ascended unto the Most Glorious Horizon doth, at that very moment, bestow strength upon those pure spirits, and furthermore increaseth their glory, exaltation, bounty and repose. For the preservation of the servants, consummate wisdom hath concealed these stations. Every verse from among the verses of this Revelation is a perspicuous Book. From the mention of the Point described in the Tablets, the station of verses, letters and words is clear and evident to them that are endued with insight. Praise be to God that Husayn, upon him be My glory, hath attained through the Blessed Verse unto that which hath no peer or likeness.

Section 2: “O Samandar! The divine grace hath taken hold…”

O Samandar! The divine grace hath taken hold of the servants, and the Name of the Forgiver and the Concealer hath manifested His favors in such wise that justice is hidden and the luminary of grace is shining and manifest from the horizon of the heaven of bounty. Blessed are they who sail upon this sea and find that which beseemeth wisdom.

O Ghulam-ʿAli! Hearken unto the voice of the Wronged One and be steadfast in the Cause of God in such wise that thou mayest find thyself, through God’s grace, independent of all else but Him. If thou attainest unto this station, thou shalt be preserved from the barking of the dogs and from those who love sedition and discord. Give thanks unto the Goal of all creation Who hath made mention of thee and caused thee to attain unto the verses of the Most Exalted Pen. Vain imaginings and idle fancies have ever been worthy of them that indulge in them. Fix thy gaze upon the lights of certitude and hold fast unto the cord of steadfastness. The friends have repeatedly been mentioned in the presence of the Wronged One, and for all We beseech steadfastness. He is the Kind, the All-Merciful.

O Abu-Turab! Your mention hath been made in the presence of the Wronged One, and thou hast been honored with the remembrance of the Most Exalted Pen. We beseech God to aid thee in such wise that neither the happenings of the world, nor the clamor of the nations, nor the intimations of the ignorant, nor the utterances of the feeble, nor the doubts of the learned shall sadden thee. Be thou joyous in the name of the True One and intimate with Him. At all times drink thou from the choice wine of the love of the Beloved of the worlds, and in His remembrance forget the world. Convey the greetings of the

Wronged One to Taqi, glory be upon him, and give him the glad-tidings of the effulgences of the light of the Orb of bounty.

Perchance this glad-tiding may cause the people of the world to awaken. None hath comprehended the power of the Most Exalted Pen and the penetrating influence of the Most Great Word. Every utterance that appeareth from the horizon of the heaven of the Will of Him Who is the Desire of the worlds—its fragrance pervadeth and perfumeth the world. Blessed are they who perceive and find. The glory from Us be upon you both and upon those who heard the Call when it was raised from the Most Exalted Horizon and said:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Thou the Goal of the mystics and the Beloved of the sincere ones!"

O Samandar! The Most Exalted Pen, through pure grace and favor, hath willed in the Prison of Akka to make mention of M.L.K., glory be upon him, and to gladden him with the effulgences of the Sun of utterance of the All-Merciful. O Muhammad-i-Qabil-i-Sadiq! Hearken unto the call of the Wronged One. Verily, He calleth at all times before the faces of all religions and summoneth them unto God, the Lord of the worlds. We make mention of them through My Pen, remind them of My signs, and give them the glad-tidings of God's loving-kindness, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. We have stood before all faces in days wherein the feet of the learned have slipped—He Who possesseth the perspicuous Book beareth witness to this. We have heard thy call, made mention of thee and turned toward thee that thou mayest thank thy Lord, the Compassionate, the Generous.

We have sent down the verses and manifested the clear proofs and opened before the faces of the servants the gates of favor and bounty from God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. We have commanded them to that which draweth them nigh unto Him and aided them through His grace that hath encompassed the world and His mercy that hath preceded all in the heavens and the earth. When thou dost inhale the fragrance of My utterance and drinkest the choice wine of revelation from the cup of My bounty, say:

> "My God, my God! Praise be unto Thee for having mentioned me and sent down for me that whose fragrance shall never cease throughout the duration of Thy kingdom. I testify, O my God, to Thy oneness and Thy singleness. I beseech Thee by the penetrating power of Thy Will and the all-encompassing nature of Thy Purpose, and by the waves of the ocean of Thy utterance and the lights of the Orb of Thy proof, to make me detached from all else save Thee and wholly turned toward Thee. My God, my God! Thou seest my turning unto Thee and my clinging to Thy cord. Illumine my outer and inner being with the lights of Thy knowledge. O Lord! Deprive me not of that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones, nor withhold from me that which Thou hast revealed in Thy Book. O Lord! I beseech Thee by the Word whereby the mountains of idle fancies were scattered and the heaven of religions was cleft asunder, to make me steadfast in Thy Cause and firm in Thy love in such wise that neither the croaking of the croakers shall prevent me from turning to Thy horizon, nor the onslaught of the oppressors from taking hold of Thy Book. Verily, Thou art the Powerful over what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

At this juncture We make mention of him who was named Lutf-Ali, that he may give thanks unto the One Who remembered him when he was in the hands of the oppressors. O Lutf-Ali Samandar, upon thee be My glory! He made mention of thee, and these special words have been revealed from the Mother Book, that they may revive thy spirit and strengthen thy limbs and cause thee to remain firm and steadfast in God's Cause. How many souls cling to vain imaginings and have turned away and continue to turn away at a mere word! Beseech thou the True One, exalted be His glory, that He may aid all and bestow upon them the power of smell, and likewise the power of hearing and sight, that they may discover and see and hear. O Mihdi! The people of the Bayan beheld the Shi'ih faction and their vain imaginings and fancies, and likewise their deeds and stations on the Day of Reckoning; yet despite this they occupy themselves in organizing such a faction. Such is the condition of the servants. Know thou this and be of the discerning ones.

Praise be to God! Each of the loved ones mentioned in the Book of Samandar attained unto the outpourings of the true Effulgent One. We conclude Our discourse with mention of Khalil and those with him. By the life of God! He hath been remembered before the Wronged One with a remembrance whose light shall never fade, nor shall the happenings of the world alter it, nor the tempests of nations, nor the veils of the transgressors. O Khalil! Hearken unto the Call. He is God; there is none other God but Him. He hath appeared and made manifest His Cause, the firm, the mighty. Neither have the tales of the world prevented Him, nor the oppression of those who denied the Day of Judgment.

O Khalil! The most abject people in the world have been and are the faction of Iran. By the Sun of Utterance which shineth from the highest horizon of the world, the lamentation of the pulpits of that land is raised at all times, and in the early days this lamentation was heard in the Land of Ta [Tehran]. For the pulpit was established for the mention of God, exalted be His glory, but now in Iran it hath become the seat of cursing the Goal of all the worlds. Observe what the most abject of factions hath done and said. The deniers of the Bayan likewise follow in the footsteps of that faction. His honor Haydar-ʿAli, upon him be My glory and loving-kindness, hath written from the Land of Sad that the deluded ones of that land are calling people to the dawning-place of vain imaginings through the Book of Iqan. Such is the condition of the servants. Where is justice and where is fairness? Leave them to their vain disputes.

We make mention of Muhammad-Karim and give him the glad-tidings of God's loving-kindness, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Remember him through My verses and give him the glad-tidings of My mercy which hath preceded all things and My grace which hath encompassed existence. God willing, may they be enkindled with the fire of the Divine Lote-Tree, illumined by its light and hold fast unto its branches in such wise that they may regard the world as non-existent and null. The glory be upon thee and upon him and upon those who are with you both and upon all who are firm and steadfast.

We make mention of him who was named Yahya, who attained unto Our presence and won the victory, and whom God aided to be fair in this momentous News. O Yahya! Thou wert present and didst hear and see when the Supreme Pen spoke, as it sat upon its exalted throne. Blessed is he who hath drunk the choice wine of inspiration from the hands of the bounty of his Lord, the Lord of all beings, and who hath held fast unto the wisdom which We have sent down in diverse Tablets and unto that which We have enjoined upon the servants in My perspicuous Book.

BH00349: O Ism-i-Jud! Tablets have been revealed equal in number…

Section 1: "In the Name of Him Who…"

In the Name of Him Who is the Overseer of all who are on earth and in heaven!

O Ism-i-Jud! Tablets have been revealed equal in number to the raindrops, and books to match the number of all knowledge, psalms, scriptures and what lies between them, which none has comprehended save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. The essence of utterance has reached such a station that every letter thereof is a clear book establishing the Cause of God, the Lord of all worlds. Infinite realms are set ablaze, yet most of the people of this world remain deprived and veiled. That which has been revealed is beyond the reckoning of those present. The hearing ear is rare and the seeing eye non-existent. Beseech ye God to bestow upon the world attentive ears and penetrating vision. Verily, He is the One with power over whatsoever He willeth, the Overseer, the Self-Subsisting.

His honor Haydar-ʿAli, upon him be My glory, hath mentioned certain souls who have turned towards God, and We desire to send down for them from the heaven of Will and Purpose that which will draw them nigh unto God, the Lord of the worlds. O Pen! Make mention of Muhammad, who turned towards the Dayspring of Revelation when the people were in manifest rejection. He hath attained unto My Tablet once, and again unto another Tablet from whose horizon shone the sun of his Lord's tender mercy, the All-Bountiful. O Muhammad! Hear the call from the Uttermost Tree upon the shore of the Sea of Eternity: Verily, there is none other God but He, the Single, the One, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. The Dawning-Place of favors hath come with the banners of justice and fairness, yet the Evil Whisperer remaineth in strange delusion. He whispereth in the breasts of men—yet he is among the most lost in the Book of God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

We have sent down for thee from the heaven of grace that which shall testify in thy favor in every world among the worlds of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Powerful. Give thanks unto God for this supreme bounty and say: Praise be unto Thee, O Lord of the nations, for having caused me to turn towards Thy horizon, to gaze upon the lights of Thy countenance, and to speak in Thy beauteous praise. My Lord! Aid me to be steadfast in Thy Cause, then ordain for me that which befitteth Thy bounty and generosity. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Bountiful.

O Amanu'llah! Hearken unto the shrill voice of My Pen and the rustling of My Tree, then look to the Most Exalted Horizon that thou mayest behold the dawning lights of My Manifestation and that which hath been ordained in that station by the will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Powerful. By God! When the call was raised from the Supreme Pen, the call of all things was raised. The gate of heaven was opened and the Lord of Names came with clear sovereignty. Through His appearance the ocean of utterance surged in the contingent world, and by His uprising the people arose for the Lord of the worlds. Give thanks unto God, for My Pen hath moved to make mention of thee and My tongue hath spoken thy name, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

O Hasan! We have observed thy devotion and heard thy call. At the outset of this utterance, We counsel thee to be steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, and in that which will exalt this wise Remembrance, through which the limbs of all names have trembled and the Most Exalted Pen hath proclaimed: "Sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy." Be thou eloquent in My praise, hold fast unto My cord, cling to the hem of the robe of My loving-kindness, turn thy face toward the lights of My countenance, and be thou a helper of My Cause, the Mighty, the Wondrous. Take hold of the Book of God with the strength that proceedeth from Him.

Verily, He hath mentioned thee in that which shall never perish. To this beareth witness the Mother Book in this exalted station. Verily, He once reposed upon the dust in the Prison of Ta, and at another time in the land of Mim, then He ascended the throne in this Great Prison. Thus hath the Divine Lote-Tree spoken as a token of Our favor unto thee. Be thou grateful unto thy Lord and say: "Praise be unto Thee, O Lord of the worlds!" I beseech Thee by the power before which nothing can stand firm among all things, to make me a helper of Thy Cause and one who speaketh Thy praise, wherein the affairs of creation and the doubts of those who have denied Thy blessed, pure and luminous Name shall not hinder me.

O servant of God! Thou wert silent and thoughtful regarding the manifestations of My power and the expressions of My loving-kindness. Thou hast heard the cry of all things—how the stones call out to the trees:

> "This is the Day of the Chosen One. It behooveth us to sing in the days of God."

The attraction of the verses hath seized the dwellers of earth and heaven. Blessed is the soul that hath been drawn by the breezes of revelation, and woe unto the heedless. Say: O peoples of the earth! Open your eyes. The sun of inner meanings hath shone forth before your faces. Fear God and be not of them that slumber. He hath appeared unto Whom all in the heavens and earth have bowed down in praise, and through Whose remembrance all in the heavens and earth make mention of Him. We counsel thee and them that have believed to act in accordance with what hath been sent down in the Book of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

O Ali-Askar! The Most Exalted Pen proclaimeth: The clamorous ones have appeared with deception and guile, desiring to veil the lights of the Sun of Truth with the clouds of their idle fancies and to prevent Its shining forth. They have contrived calumnies whereby they have prevented those helpless servants from the Dayspring of the Light of Divine Unity. Say: O worthless ones! The entire world beareth witness that from the first day this Wronged One hath stood forth before the faces of men in the name of the Self-Subsisting, steadfast in the Cause, calling all with the most exalted call to the supreme horizon. His Cause is manifest, His decree evident, and His deeds witnessed, for He hath never concealed Himself behind veils nor sought protection for Himself. At all times countless souls have dwelt and found rest in His vicinity. Nevertheless, a company of the heedless have turned away. By God's life! They have turned to that which neither nourisheth nor endureth. Glory be to God! What have they seen and what have they heard? The world of knowledge is astonished at these souls.

O people of God! Ye must, with complete steadfastness, arise for the Cause of the Lord of mankind, and labour for the betterment of the peoples of the world, that ye may be aided, and cleanse the hearts of

the nations from rancour and hatred. O people of God! Until now the servants have been, and still are, heedless of the blessed word: “He doeth whatsoever He willeth, and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth.” For whoso is made to attain unto this blessed word will remain firm, assured, and upright in the Cause of God.

We convey our acclamations unto the loved ones of the True One—glorified be His majesty—and bear them glad tidings through His grace. Blessed are they that hear, and blessed are they that act. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

Concerning His Eminence Ismi—upon him be My glory and My loving-kindness—we have repeatedly made mention of him. Praise be to God: he hath been, and is, beneath the gaze of divine favour. In these days, moreover, there hath been sent down for him from the heaven of bounty that which is the wellspring of the life of the world and the dawning-place of light among the peoples. Its text is with Majd—upon him be My glory. God willing, after returning from the land of Ba and Ya, he will convey it.

And likewise, for Dil‘-i-Shahid—upon him be My glory and My loving-kindness—there was revealed that whose fragrance shall endure and remain; hereafter its grace shall be made manifest.

O Ism-i-Jud! The letter of Husayn—upon him be My glory and My loving-kindness—which he wrote unto thee, the Greatest Branch laid before the Most Holy Court and was honoured to be heard. This is that which hath been sent down for him from God, the Lord of the worlds.

Section 2: “O Husayn! Hearken unto the call…”

He is the One Who gazeth from His most exalted horizon!

O Husayn! Hearken unto the call of the Wronged One. Verily, He maketh mention of thee with that which God hath made a spirit unto all bodies, a light unto all horizons, and a treasure and honor unto all who are in the heavens and the earth. This is a Day wherein the atoms themselves have testified that the Promise hath come to pass and that which was hidden in the hearts of the chosen ones and inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen in the Books of God, the Lord of all worlds, hath been fulfilled. On this Day all things proclaim: “The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the All-Praiseworthy!” Say: O people of God! We have enjoined upon you in the Psalms and Tablets that which will exalt the Cause of God and manifest the station of His party amidst all parties.

Say: Blessed is the arm that hath shattered the idols of vain imaginings through the power of the Name of God, the Lord of all lords. We have made mention of the people of Shin, and We make mention of them at this time through verses that have illumined the horizons. By God! All things were stirred by the scratching of My Most Exalted Pen, and yet the people remain heedless and veiled. Their desires have withheld them from My horizon, and their idle fancies from the straight Path.

Say: O concourse of divines! Die in your wrath! The Hour hath come to pass and the mountains have been scattered. This is the Day of Reckoning. The recompense of your deeds hath prevented you from Him Whom ye mentioned throughout the nights and days, at eventide and at dawn. Open your eyes! The Sun hath dawned from the horizon of proof by the command of God, the Lord of all men.

O My loved ones in Shin! Ye have been blessed by My remembrance in My days and have inhaled the fragrances of revelation when every ignorant doubter was debarred therefrom. Blessed are your eyes for what they have beheld and your ears for what they have heard: the rustling of the Divine Lote-Tree as it was raised up by God, the Mighty, the Bestower. We counsel you to perform such deeds as will guide those who turn towards the Dayspring of lights, and to manifest such virtues as will lead all servants to the Source of commandments and ordinances. Aid your Lord, the All-Merciful, through deeds and virtuous character. This is what ye have been commanded in the Psalms and Tablets. Beware lest the clamor of the divines or the tyranny of those who have denied the Beginning and the End frighten you. Soon will God seize them even as He seized those before them. Verily, He is severe in punishment. The might of kings cannot frustrate Him, nor can the ranks of subjects. He calleth out before all faces with the most exalted call:

> "The Sovereign hath come, and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the Unconstrained!"

We give glad tidings unto Our loved ones who have not broken Our Covenant of that which hath been ordained for them by the Pen of God, the Self-Sufficient, the Most Exalted.

O Husayn! Be thou enkindled with the fire of My love, that the peoples of the lands may be set ablaze thereby, and be thou attracted by My verses, that the servants may be drawn unto them. Say: Cast aside what the people possess, and hold fast unto that which hath come from the Dayspring of Power with the standards of His verses. Beware lest the might of the world weaken you, or the power of the wicked render you helpless. Thus hath the Ocean of Proof revealed His utterance, and that which was hidden in the shells—the pearls of the wisdom of your Lord, the Lord of all mankind—hath appeared. By God! The Sun hath manifested its radiance, the Words their light, the Pen its traces, and the Tree its fruits. Blessed is he who hath turned, witnessed and beheld, and woe unto every denying infidel.

O Husayn! Hearken unto the divine call in the Persian tongue, that perchance the ears of the world may hear that for which they were created. The friends of God must be as firm mountains, unchanged by the events of time and the rains. Glory be to God! Some are like clods that dissolve at the touch of moisture, or like dried leaves stirred by every wind. Today the people of God must fix their gaze upon the highest horizon and remain steadfast in His Cause with complete firmness. Their deeds must be for God and their attention turned to God.

O friends of God on earth! Be not grieved by the happenings of the age, for they are limited to prescribed bounds. Strive to attain eternal stations in this transient realm. Reflect upon past centuries and ages—how many souls emerged from dust and returned to dust. By the Sun of Proof that shineth from the highest horizon of possibility, that which hath been ordained for the sincere ones and those near unto God hath neither likeness nor equal. Thus hath the Pen spoken, yet the people perceive not, save him who hath cast away what he possessed in his longing for that which is with God. He, verily, is among the sincere ones in the Book of God, the Lord of the worlds.

What is needed today is the sanctification of hearts and breasts from rancor and hatred. Blessed is the one who reclines upon the couch of ease while his breast is illumined with the light of love for all the

peoples of the world. Unity and concord are beloved today and have ever been. Associate with all the peoples of the world with the utmost spirit, fragrance, dignity and composure, that your goodly character may spread its fragrance among them. This fragrance hath ever been and shall ever remain a guide. Consult in all matters and strive earnestly in that which will exalt the Word of God. Blessed are those souls who have arisen to render assistance and have guided the wayward to the straight path and the mighty, unshakeable way through the utterances of the Goal of all creation.

We convey Our greetings to the friends in that land and give them the glad-tidings of the favors of God, exalted be His glory. We have not mentioned names as this would be contrary to wisdom. The Command is in His hands—He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth, and He is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

As for the mention of journeying from those lands, this is acceptable at the Divine Threshold, as perchance directing oneself to the land of Shin may cause the exaltation of the Word. We beseech God that He may enable that one, sanctified from the world, to reach that land, and that all may attain through his endeavors to that which beseemeth the Cause of God and the Word of God.

The book mentioned previously for publication has been delayed in these days, for due to the maliciousness of certain souls its writing has been prevented until God brings about His decree.

Mention was made of Mulla Shafi'; his response has been sent down from the heaven of grace and will be dispatched later. Some time ago, a Most Holy, Most Great Tablet was sent specifically for him, Jalal, and the other friends of that land. We beseech God that they may attain unto it and receive their portion from the ocean of divine utterances' inner meanings. In these days, mention of Jalal's relatives also reached the Most Holy Court, and each was favored with special bounties. And those souls who have ascended to the Supreme Companion were each mentioned before the Divine Presence and were favored with grace—God hath forgiven them as a bounty from His presence, for He is the All-Bountiful, the Generous.

Today, whosoever ascendeth unto God in love, the Concourse on High welcometh that sanctified spirit and inhale from it the fragrance of God, and with exclamations of "No God is there but Him" and "God is Most Great" and praise, they usher it into the station ordained for it. By the life of God! Were but an atom of that station to be revealed, all who are on earth would fall senseless. Verily His bounty is great and His mercy hath preceded all existence, both seen and unseen. The Glory shining forth from the horizon of the heaven of My mercy be upon thee and upon those who have held fast to the cord of My grace and clung to the hem of My bounty, and upon those whom We have caused to join the Supreme Companion, through Our command, for I am the Commander, the Ancient of Days.

BH00371: O thou who art the adornment of them…

Section 1: "O thou who art the adornment of them…"

In the name of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing!

O thou who art the adornment of them that are nigh unto God! Remind My servants on My behalf, then gladden them with tidings of My mercy and My loving-kindness, then My grace and My generosity, that none may despair of the mercy that hath encompassed all the worlds. Say: By God! Were it not for the Youth, mercy would not have been manifested, nor would the Word have been fulfilled, nor would the Kingdom of God, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Powerful, have been sent down.

Remind, from Our presence, Our servant who hath been named Mihdi and those who are there, that they may give thanks unto God Who created them and aided them to know Him and made them to be numbered with the doers of good. O Mihdi! Grieve not at anything, for thy Lord is possessed of great bounty. Be thou confident in the grace of thy Lord, for He is verily the Forgiving, the Merciful. He will help thee with the truth and will aid thee in His Cause and will make thee speak in praise of His Self, and He, verily, hath power over all things.

Magnify, from Our presence, those servants who have turned unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Powerful. Say: Those who have repented and turned back, God hath forgiven them through His grace, and hath absolved them of their misdeeds, and made them pure as on the day they were born of their mothers. Verily thy Lord doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth.

O Mihdi! Kindle in the hearts of My servants the fire of My love, that it may blaze forth in such wise that the waters of the world shall not quench it. Say: This is a fire which, when it toucheth aught, transformeth it into oil, thereby increasing its blaze, yet the people are in grievous heedlessness. O people! Be steadfast in the Cause in such wise that the clamor of the idolaters shall not prevent you from remembering the name of your Lord. Soon will Satan come unto you with tablets of fire and a book from hell—cast them behind you. Thus have We informed you of the truth that ye may be of them that act.

With thy Lord is the knowledge of all things in a perspicuous Book. They who have been given insight from God, these shall find in their words the exhalations of hell. Say: O people! Purify your hearts from the mention of aught else but Him, then settle yourselves upon the thrones of certitude, then aid your Lord, the All-Merciful, through utterance. This is what He hath commanded you in all the Tablets, if ye be of them that know. And rejoice in that the breezes of forgiveness have wafted over you, and God hath thereby purified you from the defilement of those who have disbelieved in Him on this Day wherein all things bear witness that sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Compeller.

Then remind, from Our presence, Qasim who came unto you with the tablets of God, the King, the Mighty, the Wise. Say: O people! Read ye the verses of God in such wise that the hearts of the heedless may be attracted thereby. Grieve not over what hath escaped you, but in all matters put your trust in Him. Verily, He forsaketh not His servants who place their trust in Him. Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth as a mercy from Us, and verily He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

O Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin! Praise God that the people of that land have rent asunder the veils and turned their faces toward the Lord of Lords. Whosoever is in the least perceptive and ponders the verses revealed in the Bayan from the Pen of the All-Merciful will assuredly know that today there is no refuge for any soul save in clinging to His Most Firm Cord. Observe the heedlessness of the servants, how some

have not even succeeded in pondering why the entirety of the Bayan was made contingent and dependent upon the acceptance of this Most Great Revelation and His leave and good-pleasure.

The Divine Manifestations Who were sent forth in former ages would, after proclaiming God's commandments and prohibitions, make brief mention of the subsequent Revelation, as is evident to every person of insight. The Point of the Bayan, however, exalted be His glory, made mention at all times of this wondrous Remembrance, to such extent that He made Himself, the Bayan, and all that was revealed therein contingent upon a single word that would shine forth from the horizon of the mouth of the Sovereign of meanings. All these degrees were in view of the greatness of this Revelation, the full description of which hath not yet been given. In one of the Tablets, a drop from the ocean of this Most Great Sea was revealed, yet until now no one hath attained unto it.

By the life of the Point of the Bayan—may the spirit of all existence be sacrificed for His sake!—I have neither liked nor do I like to mention the revealed verses concerning the loftiness of this Revelation. Indeed, even those matters from which His existence might be inferred have not been beloved by this servant. And this much that hath been mentioned was only due to God's decisive command and His binding decree, lest weak souls should again fall prey to the vain imaginings of malicious people. Even now it can be observed that each day fabricated words emerge from the direction of the liars. Among these, in recent days they have reported that the Primal Point wrote a letter stating that someone would appear in the year nine claiming to be the Promised One, and that he would be a liar.

Now observe to what degree their wickedness hath reached. Your honor hath seen what verses of nine were revealed from the heaven of command, yet they lack even the discernment to realize that if anyone were to attribute falsehood to this Most Great Revelation or deny this grace, that very denial would first and foremost rebound upon themselves, and through such words they have proclaimed the falsehood of the Point and all the Messengers, yet they perceive it not.

All this audacity and presumption stems from people's lack of capacity, for some of the foolish ones would certainly accept whatever they hear from such ignorant souls—otherwise how would they dare to utter such fabricated, slanderous, false words? This, despite the fact that all are aware and any person of understanding would perceive that He had no independent existence from the very beginning, and whatever was mentioned in His name was intended to preserve the Seat of the Cause that was encompassed by the ungodly, as well as other consummate divine wisdoms, some of which have been mentioned in the Tablets.

They have also written that the year nine mentioned by the Point of the Bayan refers to the year nine after the appearance of Him Whom God shall make manifest at the time of Mustaghath. Observe now—hath any ignorant one ever uttered such words? Nay, by the Lord of all the worlds! They have spread a web of vain imaginings greater than the webs of former peoples.

At the time of emergence from between Gog and Magog, who were two idolaters, I sent a box containing blessed writings of the Exalted One and Aqa Siyyid Husayn, along with His seal, to that one who turned away from God. And in the early years of the new Cause, for four years We commanded him to copy from the writings of His Holiness, such that now writings of that apostate in the style of His Holiness exist. In

these days he hath begun using those same writings and writing whatever Satan inspires in him, sealing it with His Holiness's seal and showing it to vile souls like himself. The deceit hath reached such a degree that it cannot be described.

Section 2: "O servants! Where hath understanding and wisdom gone?..."

Say: O servants! Where hath understanding and wisdom gone? Every word indicateth its author, and from the fragrance of every breeze it is evident from what place it hath arisen and over what it hath passed. The sweet fragrances of the divine paradise are clearly distinct from the stench of putrid carrion. The most wicked of men, namely Siyyid Muhammad, hath claimed divinity, and his purpose in these acts he hath committed was his own self, using another as pretext, even though "This is one of the people of hell" is clearly written on his ill-omened forehead. Nevertheless, these subhuman beings have desired to ascend to the heights of divine glory through him. Such is the state of the servants.

Had there been the slightest discernment, or had any soul inhaled the fragrance of God's garment, they would never consent to walk in the direction where that wicked one dwelleth, let alone turn towards it. But the people do not understand nor comprehend. Today it behooveth you and all the loved ones of God to exert the utmost effort and striving in protecting and preserving the Cause, lest the foul odors of Satan prevent and deprive people from the sweet fragrances of the All-Merciful. The Command is in His hand—He doeth what He willeth, and He is powerful over all things.

In these days Persian Tablets concerning divine ordinances are being revealed. Although all are commanded to use the Persian tongue, since some ordinances were not revealed therein and some were only alluded to, therefore, as a grace upon humanity, they have been revealed in clear and evident expressions so that none might remain deprived of the ocean of bounty and favor. God willing, they shall be sent hereafter.

Concerning what you mentioned about certain servants looking toward forgiveness—God hath forgiven them and purified them from transgression. Verily He is the Possessor of great bounty.

As for what thou didst mention regarding their needs and the healing of illnesses—verily He answereth the prayer of the supplicants. God hath sent down for them what is best for them, and He shall soon send down in truth, for He is the Most Generous of the generous ones.

As for she who gave up her spirit and he who took his own life—God hath forgiven them both through His encompassing grace and admitted them into His vast mercy. Verily He is the most powerful of the powerful ones.

Regarding what thou didst mention about ʿAbdu'r-Rahim who believed in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting—We have not forgotten him and had previously written him a tablet, and before that another tablet, and now We mention him in truth in this Clear Tablet. We beseech God to assist him in His Cause, to make him steadfast in His religion, to make him mindful of His Most Great and Wondrous Remembrance, and to send down upon him what he loveth and is pleased with. Verily He is powerful over all things.

Send a copy of this Tablet to your own land to Jinab-i-Mihdi, and if it be sent to other lands as well, it would be praiseworthy, for the people are like fish and the divine Tablets like water. Although the breezes are ever flowing and never cease, yet in sending forth the Tablets no delay is permissible insofar as possible, for the diffusion of the Words of God among His servants bestows new and exalted spirits. And whatsoever that soul may write concerning the objections of those who are veiled is most acceptable and praiseworthy, that perchance it may be the cause of guidance to the servants. Verily, He aideth those who help Him, and He is the Succorer of those who love Him. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

O servant who gazeth toward God! Weep thou for this Wronged One, the Prisoner, Whom no one hath known and none hath discovered what hath befallen Him save whom thy Lord willeth. Even should they hear, by God, they have not heard, and should mention be made, no mention hath been made. Great, great is My tribulation, and grievous, grievous is My trial. And whoso regardeth the Bayan with the eye of the All-Merciful and what hath been revealed from the Pen of Command in this Revelation shall discover that which hath been concealed from the eyes of men and shall know what hath befallen the Beloved of God and His Purpose. And after discovering this, the hardships and afflictions of the world shall not sadden him. He shall see himself in the Most Exalted Horizon before his Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, and shall aid Him at all times. By God, he seeth the world as naught but the eye of a dead gnat, nay less. The carrion befitteth the dogs, and reality befitteth the loved ones of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Consider how wondrously the Point of Being hath made mention of the Intended One in the Bayan, in such wise that nothing higher can be conceived. He even declared that should anyone make a claim, before any evidence from him appeareth, all the kings and rulers and leaders of the earth should, with the utmost submissiveness, humility, resignation and contrition, present their petitions before His Most Pure Seat and send the keys of their treasuries, asking and beseeching that He manifest a proof. And should a Tablet be revealed from the realm of the Will of the King of Oneness as a bounty to the servants, all should submit; and if they accept it not, they should remain silent or again confess their powerlessness.

By Him Who shattered the idols of names through the power of His sovereignty! Were creatures to ponder but this one utterance, all would turn to the living waters of the All-Merciful. And it is most evident that the purpose of this utterance was, in the knowledge of that Essence of possibility, this Revelation; otherwise such words would never have been uttered, for many false claimants have appeared before and will appear hereafter, and never have such firm and mighty conditions for the future Manifestation been sent down from the heaven of divine Command. And should souls be enabled to recognize but this one utterance, they would somewhat comprehend the greatness of this Revelation. Nevertheless, every day the idolaters return from one fire to another, and cling to one falsehood after another, making the fresh claim that the Primal Point—may the souls of all else be sacrificed for His sake—stood in a position of servitude to that essence of wickedness and wretchedness. Strange it is that people give ear to such statements. By God, it would have been better for such souls to have been born deaf than to hear and accept such words. Woe unto them! Soon shall they be gathered with their masters in the nethermost fire, and they shall find for themselves neither escape nor deliverance.

BH00409: Lawh-i-Basitatu'l-Haqiqah

He is God, exalted be His station, the Most Great, the Most Glorious!

As to what the questioner asked concerning the saying of the philosophers that "the Simple Reality is all things," say: Know that what is meant by "things" in this context is none other than existence and the perfections of existence insofar as it is existence, and by "all" is meant that which possesses and encompasses. This "all" admits of no part, nor is it opposed by any portion. In essence, since the Simple Reality is simple from all aspects, it possesses and encompasses all perfections that are without limit or end, as has been said: "His creation has no bounded limit."

In Persian it may be expressed thus: The philosopher's intent by "things" in the aforementioned statement refers to the perfections of existence insofar as it is existence, and by "all" is meant possession—that is, the possession and encompassing of all infinite perfections in a simple way. Such statements have been made in contexts discussing unity, and the power and intensity of existence. The philosopher did not mean that the Necessary Being dissolves into infinite existences—glorified, glorified be He above that! As the philosophers themselves have said: "The Simple Reality is all things yet is not any of the things," and in another context: "The lights of the Simple Reality are seen in all things." This depends on the vision of the beholder and the perspective of the observer. Those of penetrating sight behold in all things the signs of divine unity, for all things are and have ever been manifestations of the divine names, while the Truth has ever been and will ever be sanctified above ascent and descent, limitations, conjunction and connection. Things exist and are witnessed in their limited places, as they have said: "Though the existence of the Necessary Being is of perfect power and intensity such that, were it possible, it would dissolve into infinite existences, yet this is not possible and has not occurred."

There is much that could be said about this statement, and were the full intent of the philosophers to be expressed, the matter would become lengthy. As the hearts of the free are perceived to be subtle and sensitive, therefore the pen has chosen to be brief. Two stations are observed in unity: existential unity, which is the negation of all through "no" and the affirmation of the Truth through "except"—meaning they do not consider anything other than the Truth to exist, in the sense that all things are and will be utter nothingness before His manifestation and mention. "All things perish except His face" means that in His presence, none is worthy of existence nor can existence be attributed to them, as has been said: "God was, and there was nothing else beside Him, and now it is as it was before"—even though things are observed to exist now as they did before.

The meaning is that in His presence, nothing has or had existence. In existential unity, all is perishing and evanescent while the Face, which is the Truth, is eternal and everlasting. Witnessed unity is that in all things are beheld the signs of unity, the manifestations of eternity, and the revelations of the light of divine oneness, as has been revealed in the Divine Book: "We shall show them Our signs in the horizons and in themselves." In this station, the manifestations of the signs of the Simple Reality are visible and evident in all things.

The philosopher did not mean that the True One dissolves into infinite existences—exalted, exalted is He above dissolving into anything. He was never bounded by bounds nor joined with anything in creation. He

has ever been sanctified above all else and exalted beyond aught besides Him. We testify that He was one in His essence and one in His attributes, and all are within the grasp of His power that dominates the worlds.

And in one station, all that hath been or will be mentioned returneth unto the First Mention, for the Truth, glorified and exalted be He, is an impenetrable Mystery that cannot be comprehended. In this station, He was and ever shall be sanctified beyond all mentions and names, and exalted above the understanding of all created things. The way is barred and the quest forbidden. Therefore, whatever wondrous mentions and exalted descriptions flow from the tongue and pen refer to the Most Great Word, the Supreme Pen, the Primal Point, the true Home, and the Dawning-Place of the All-Merciful Revelation. He is the Source of unity and the Manifestation of the light of oneness and detachment. In this station, all the most beautiful names and most exalted attributes return unto Him and go not beyond Him, as it hath been said that the Unseen is sanctified beyond all mentions, and the station of the light of unity, though outwardly designated by a name and limited by bounds, is in its inner reality simple and sanctified beyond all limitations—though this simplicity is relative and comparative, not absolute in all respects.

In this station the meaning is thus: the Primal Word and the Dawning-Place of the light of oneness is the educator of all things and possesseth infinite perfections. Concerning this Word in this station there is an explanation hidden in the treasuries of infallibility and inscribed in the Preserved Tablet which it is not fitting to mention at this time. God willing, He shall reveal it, for He is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Furthermore, the objection of some to the words of the philosopher was without proof, for they understood not the speaker's intent. In truth, one cannot be content with the outward meaning of words and rise up in derision, except in the case of those who openly profess unbelief and idolatry, whose words admit of no interpretation. The philosophers have been and are of different schools. Some derived their statements from the Books of the Prophets. The first to study philosophy was Idris, hence he was named thus, and he was also called Hermes. In every tongue he has a name, and in every branch of wisdom he gave sufficient and complete explanations. After him, Balinus extracted certain sciences from the Hermetic tablets, and most philosophers derived their scientific and philosophical arts from his words and explanations. In any case, this philosopher's statement is susceptible to both praiseworthy and limited interpretations. Some of the mature ones, to safeguard God's Cause, have outwardly rejected it, but this imprisoned servant mentioneth naught but good.

Moreover, today is not the day for man to occupy himself with understanding such statements, for knowledge of this and similar statements hath never made man self-sufficient, nor will it ever do so.

For instance, the philosopher who uttered these words, were he present today, and those who agreed with what he said, and those who objected to him—all are observed to be in the same position. Each one, after the raising of the call of the King of Names from the right hand of the luminous Spot, was made acceptable and praiseworthy through the word "Yea," and without it was rejected. How many souls who deemed themselves to be at the highest pinnacle of knowledge and understanding, to such extent that they imagined whatsoever proceeded from their mouths to be the balance by which all utterances are

weighed, and the astrolabe whereby the beginning and end of all things are measured—yet when the springtime of the All-Merciful appeared and the winds of trials blew, We found in them neither acceptance nor steadfastness. Should anyone today encompass all the sciences of the earth, yet hesitate at the word "yea," he shall not be mentioned before God and shall be accounted among the most ignorant of people. For the purpose of all knowledge hath been the recognition of the True One. Whosoever remaineth deprived of this most exalted and holy distinction is recorded among the dead in the Tablets.

O Husayn! The Wronged One declareth: Words require deeds. Words without deeds are as bees without honey, or as trees without fruit. Consider the Sage of Sabzivar—in his verses he hath penned poetry suggesting that no Moses existeth, else would the cry "Verily I am God" be heard from every tree. He hath uttered these words in exposition, meaning that one who knoweth God ascendeth to such heights that his eyes are illumined by beholding the lights of divine manifestation, and his ears are privileged to hear His call from all things. The aforementioned sage had no share of these stations, as is evident. This was mere utterance, but when it came to deeds, we observe that he hearkened not at all to the call of the Divine Lote-Tree, raised explicitly and without interpretation from the most exalted spot in the wilderness, calling aloud unto all. Had he truly hearkened, he would have arisen to proclaim it. Now we must say either these words were borrowed and merely passed his lips, or from fear of shame and love of fame he remained deprived of this station and its acknowledgment. He knew yet concealed, recognized yet denied.

How many souls have spent their entire lives establishing their own vain imaginings, yet remained deprived when the lights of the Known One shone forth from the horizon of the Self-Subsisting Name. The command is in God's hands—He giveth whom He willeth what He willeth, and withholdeth from whom He pleaseth what He desireth. Verily He is the One praised in His command and obeyed in His decree. There is none other God but Him, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

In these days it was revealed in one of the Tablets: How many turbaned ones have rejected and turned away, and how many veiled ones have recognized and accepted, saying "Praise be to Thee, O God of the worlds!" Thus have We made their highest ones lowest, and their lowest ones highest. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

O Husayn! Say to the one who asked: Leave the pond when the Most Great Ocean is before thee. Draw nigh unto it, then drink therefrom in the name of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. By My life! It will bring thee to a station wherein thou shalt see in the world naught save the manifestation of the Ancient Beauty, and shalt hear from the Lote-Tree raised upon the Standard: "Verily there is no God but Him, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling." This is a Day wherein it behooveth every soul, when hearing the Call from the Dayspring of the Beginning, to leave all else behind, arise and say "Yea, O my Heart's Desire!" then "Here am I, O Beloved of the worlds!"

Say: O questioner! Were the wine of thy Lord's utterance to intoxicate thee, and wert thou to recognize the wisdom and exposition contained therein, thou wouldst renounce all possibility and arise to aid this wronged and lonely One, and proclaim:

> “Glorified be He Who hath manifested the flowing in the frozen, the finite in the boundless, and the hidden in the manifest—He Who, when beheld outwardly, appeareth in human temple before the hands of the oppressors, yet when pondered inwardly, is seen to be supreme over all who are in the heavens and on earth!”

Hearken unto that which the Fire proclaimeth from the luminous Lote-Tree raised upon the crimson spot:

> “O people! Hasten with your hearts toward the direction of the Beloved.”

Thus hath the decree been fulfilled and the command gone forth from the presence of a mighty, faithful One.

O questioner! Thy mention hath been made before the Countenance in this manifest prison. Therefore hath this Tablet been sent down, from whose horizon hath shone the sun of thy Lord’s favors, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Know thou its worth and cherish its value, for this is better for thee, shouldst thou be of them that comprehend. We beseech God to assist thee in His Cause and His remembrance, and to ordain for thee what is best for thee in this world and in the world to come. Verily, He is the Answerer of the prayers of them that supplicate, and the Most Merciful of the merciful.

O servant! When thou art attracted by the sweet savors of the intimations of the Lord of Names, and illumined by the lights of the Countenance that hath dawned from the Dayspring of eternity, turn thou toward the Supreme Horizon and say:

O Creator of the heavens and Lord of Names! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou hast opened unto Thy creation the doors of meeting with Thee, and caused the sun of Thy loving kindness to shine upon all within Thy dominion, to make me steadfast in Thy love, detached from all else save Thee, standing firm in Thy service, gazing toward Thy face, and speaking forth Thy praise. O Lord! Aid me in the days of the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Dawning-Place of Thy Cause to such extent that I may, through Thy grace and bounty, rend asunder the veils and burn away the coverings through the fire of Thy love. O Lord! Thou art the Mighty, and I am the weak; Thou art the Wealthy, and I am the poor.

I beseech Thee, by the ocean of Thy bounty, not to deprive me of Thy grace and Thy gifts. All things testify to Thy greatness, Thy glory, Thy power and Thy might. Take my hand with the hand of Thy will and deliver me through Thy sovereignty. Then write down for me what Thou hast written for Thy chosen ones who have turned toward Thee, fulfilled Thy covenant and Thy testament, soared in the atmosphere of Thy will, and spoken Thy praise amongst Thy creatures. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Supreme, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH00413: Glorified be He Who hath manifested Himself as He…

Section 1: “In the Name of Him Who…”

In the Name of Him Who is the All-Powerful over those on earth and in heaven!

Glorified be He Who hath manifested Himself as He pleased and willed, at a time when the hearts of the wise could not comprehend Him and when the servants who followed vain imaginings rose in opposition

against Him. Among them were those who said He appeared too soon. Say: By my Lord, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High! Doth the Cause rest in His hands or in yours? Be fair, O ye heedless ones! He judgeth as He pleaseth and ordaineth what He willeth. He, verily, is the All-Powerful over what He desireth. Say: This is the Wondrous One of the heavens and earth, if ye be of those who see. He is not bound by time nor by any other limitations. He is the Render of veils. But for Him, the law of creation would not have appeared in the world of existence, and but for Him, the Dove of the Cause would not have warbled upon the branches. This is He the like of Whom hath not appeared in creation. This is the Wondrous One at Whose recognition all who are in the heavens and on earth are bewildered. Say: Even as His Essence cannot be known, neither can the time of His appearance be recognized. Thus hath the decree been ordained by the Lord of the Pens.

When the promise came to pass, He dawned from the horizon of the Cause and appeared in a way that pleased not the desires of those who denied God, the Revealer of verses. Say: He cannot be comprehended by what ye possess. Read ye the Bayan, that ye may be informed of the mystery of this Manifestation whereby the horizons have been illumined. This is a Cause which no one had known before, nor had those possessed of insight comprehended it. At His appearance the Bell rang out, the Dove cooed, and the Trump proclaimed: “The Kingdom is God’s, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Compelling!”

Say: Whither will ye flee? Today there is no refuge for you. Blessed is he who hath stood firm in this Cause, at whose appearance the heaven of idle fancies was cleft asunder and the hearts of the wicked were shaken. Say: O people! Behold Me with Mine own eyes. This is what God hath enjoined upon you in the Scriptures and Tablets. Blessed is he who hath cast away all else, turning to My countenance in such wise that neither the veils of allusions nor the words of those that are veiled have hindered him. We have ordained that turning unto Us should be with the hearts, inasmuch as the barking of dogs hath increased around the city wherein the call of God, the Lord of lords, hath been raised. When they see any of the loved ones turning to the All-Giving, they rise against him. They are indeed of the hypocrites.

O Afnan of the Divine Lote-Tree! Blessed are ye for having kept the covenant and testament of God and cast away that which the wayward have clung to. Ye are of those who have rent the greatest veil when the Lord of Destiny came with majesty and power. Should anyone from the wilderness of phantoms come unto you, seek refuge in God, Creator of the realm of might, Who hath come with the kingdom of proof. What We tell you is the truth from God. He, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Soon shall the crier cry out and the croaking of the raven be heard.

O Pen of the Cause! Turn unto him who hath turned unto thee, then let him hear thy rustling in this remembrance whereby all creation hath been set in motion. Hearken unto the call of God from this most exalted station, from the Divine Lote-Tree: Verily, there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. May the attraction of the Merciful’s utterance seize thee in such wise that the affairs of the world disturb thee not, and thou findest within thyself a joy that no sorrow can alter. We bear witness that thou art among those who turned to God and faced Him on a day when feet did slip. Rejoice in God’s testimony and remain steadfast in the love of thy Lord.

This verily is the greatest of all deeds. Blessed art thou, for thy letter hath reached the Most Great Prison while the Wronged One calleth upon His Lord in private and in public. When We broke its seal, the fragrance of thy Lord's love, the Manifestor of religions, wafted forth. We beseech God to assist thee under all conditions, and to make thee steadfast in this Cause from which the transgressors have fled. Sorrow not over anything, for verily He is with thee and hath ordained for thee that which is better than all that hath been created in the realms of existence. Thus did the ocean of thy Lord's bounty surge when the Dayspring of His Cause was in the hands of the ungodly.

Counsel Our servants with a word from Us—this is what the Wronged One of the land commandeth thee. Say: Hearken not unto that which is unworthy to be heard, and fix not your gaze upon that which hath flowed from the pen of the wicked. Leave behind what the people possess and take what is with your Lord, the Master of all necks.

God willing, through the grace of the All-Merciful, Who hath ever been and ever shall be, may you abide at rest beneath the shade of the Beloved, the Self-Sufficing, detached and free from all else but Him. Your letter reached the Most Great Prison and in truth brought joy to the sorrowing heart of this Prisoner, for the divine Tree hath ever loved and continues to love the bearing of Its branches and Their fragrances. Praise be to God that through the attraction of the utterances of the All-Merciful and the influence of the pen of the Beloved of all creation, all have attained unto God's eternal Law and have been blessed by the outpourings of the rain of His mercy. This is what We desired aforetime and revealed in the Tablets. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Concerning what you wrote about petition-writing being a cause of added disgrace and sin—this is not so. Rather, it is the essence of what is right and the reality of what is meritorious, and will continue to be so. Write whatever you wish and say whatever you desire, for verily He loves to hear your words and to find the fragrance of your love, O beloved of those who know Him. What is desired this day from you and from all is steadfastness in the love of God, to such a degree that no one can cast upon you the vain imaginings of the deluded ones or the words of the idolaters. This station is most exalted, for the satans lie in wait and the hosts of the ungodly appear with utmost hatred.

Whosoever wishes to attain to this station must be wholly detached from all save God, that he may achieve that most great steadfastness which is the foundation of all good. This matter is in one respect most mighty, and in another respect most simple. Its might is evident and manifest and is recorded in the Tablets of God. Its simplicity and ease lie in a single word—if people would be assisted to grasp that divine word which encompasses the infinite words of the Lord, it would suffice them all and keep them firm upon the straight path of His Cause, in such wise that at all times they would drink and give to drink the water of life from the hand of the All-Merciful's bounty.

And that word is His saying: "Behold Him with His eye, not with your eyes." This is a statement which, should any soul hear it with the ear of the heart, would never stray from the straight path nor remain far from the Beloved of the worlds.

Section 2: "Most people have remained deprived of the purpose…"

Most people have remained deprived of the purpose of the world due to the vain imaginings of the past and tales of the ancients. One must detach oneself from whatever stories, words and allusions exist in the hands of people, and turn with heart and soul to the precinct of the All-Merciful. If a soul looks to past imaginings, he will never drink from the incomparable pure wine. This most pure wine has no likeness or similarity by which analogies might comprehend it. Observe the people of the Qur'an—how tales of the past and vain imaginings kept them all far from the path of the Lord of all beings. Had they closed their eyes to the signs, traditions and imagined conditions they possessed, and beheld with His eye, they would surely have attained to the lights of the divine countenance and the manifestations of the Lord's effulgences.

The matter of those souls is simple. Reflect upon the people of the Bayan: despite having witnessed that what they previously possessed was pure fancy, and having failed to truly comprehend even one statement from the divine utterances concerning the Resurrection, the Hour, the Path, the Balance, the gathering and dispersal, the Qa'im and His appearance—just as for centuries and ages they had been worshipping vain imaginings unknowingly while counting themselves the greatest, most exalted, most ascetic and most God-fearing of all on earth—nevertheless through other veils some today remain deprived of the life-giving waters of the All-Merciful and the ocean of divine knowledge. Fie upon them and their loyalty! Had they acted upon the divine word that was mentioned, they would never have remained veiled.

Say: O friends! Behold the Truth with His eye, for with other than His eye you will never see Him. This is the Word of Truth that hath appeared and shone forth from the Dayspring of the utterance of the All-Merciful. Blessed are they that comprehend, blessed are they that behold, blessed are they that are steadfast, blessed are they that are sincere, and blessed are they that attain. Today the world-illumining Sun of Truth shineth with perfect radiance and light, and the heaven of knowledge is adorned and made visible with the stars of wisdom and utterance. Blessed are the souls that have turned with their own vision and attained thereunto.

And as for that which thou didst desire concerning the sun of thy Lord's bounty, it is most evident and clear that the attribute of the Self-Sufficient, the Most High, hath been and ever shall be to bestow. In whatsoever manner that honored one desireth, He bestoweth His grace. The heavens and the earth and whatsoever is between them have been created for His loved ones. Thus hath it flowed from the Most Exalted Pen when it moved across the Tablet by the leave of thy Lord, the Mover, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Be assured that ye have been and will be, God willing, under the shelter of the favors of the Lord of all beings, and whatsoever He deemeth expedient He will assuredly bring to pass, inasmuch as ye are reckoned as His own and are related unto Him. If in such matters there hath been delay or postponement, it hath been due to God's all-encompassing wisdom, and will continue to be so. Henceforth, be not sorrowful, for ye are accounted before His Presence among those who are nigh, and praise be to God, ye have, at the Dayspring of Days, drunk from the hands of the Lord of all beings the Kawthar of reunion and have attained thereunto.

We have written for him who is steadfast in the Cause and hath detached himself from all else the reward of those who have stood before the Presence at eventide and at dawn. We beseech God to give thee to drink from the choice wine of joy and to enable thee to attain unto a station wherein thou mayest soar at all times on the wings of the spirit and sweet fragrance in the atmosphere of the love of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Verily, He is the Almighty, the Powerful.

Let them persevere in this prayer: Say:

Glorified art Thou, O my God, my Purpose, my Hope and my Beloved! Verily the sweet-scented breezes of Thy Revelation have drawn me to the horizon of Thy favors, and the fragrances of Thine inspiration have turned me toward the realm of Thy bestowals, and the call from the Dayspring of Thy Cause hath awakened me in Thy days. Therefore, O my God, I have turned to Thee with my whole being, detached from all else but Thee, and standing before the door of Thy grace which Thou hast opened to all who are in earth and heaven. I beseech Thee by Thy Word through which Thou hast subdued all created things, through which all possibilities have been moved, and through which Thou hast given the sincere ones to drink of the Kawthar of Thy presence and the pure in heart the choice wine of reunion with Thee, and by Thy Name through whose revelation the Hidden Secret and the Treasured Mystery were unveiled, to make me in all conditions one who remembers Thee and utters Thy praise, who soars in the atmosphere of Thy knowledge and walks in the kingdoms of Thy Cause and power.

O Lord! I have hastened to Thy shelter and turned my face toward Thy countenance. Deny me not the waters of Thy mercy nor the ocean of Thy bounty. Every limb of my body testifieth to Thy dominion over all things and Thy power over all who dwell in earth and heaven. Ordain for me that which will make me detached from all else save Thee, that I may behold myself as a sign of Thy detachment in Thy realm and an evidence of Thy sanctification in Thy lands. Moreover, decree for me, O my God, what Thou hast intended from the heaven of Thy generosity and the clouds of Thy grace. Verily Thou art He Whose beneficence hath encompassed all in existence and Whose bounty hath embraced all in creation. Then choose for me, O my God, what will profit me in this world and the next. Verily Thou art the Omnipotent over what Thou willest, and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

And I beseech Thee, O Possessor of existence and Educator of the seen and unseen, to immerse me at all times in the ocean of Thy good-pleasure, that I may be moved by Thy Will, actuated by Thy Purpose, and focused on what Thou hast intended for me from the wonders of Thy favors. O Lord! I have clung to the cord of Thy love. I beseech Thee to inscribe me among those who have circled round Thy throne throughout the everlastingness of Thy might and Thy dominion and Thy glory, O God of the worlds and Desired One of those who have recognized Thee! This is my request, my hope, my desire and my aspiration. Thou art He Who hath bidden me to pray and hath promised to answer.

Therefore answer what I have asked through Thy grace and generosity, Thy bounty and favor. Verily Thou art the Giver, the Bestower, the Inaccessible, the Most Exalted, the Forgiving, the Merciful. O Lord! Send Thy blessings upon the people of Baha who have remained firm in the Ark of Steadfastness by Thy command and authority, and in the Ship of Constancy by Thy power and might, and whom Thou hast assisted to manifest Thy Cause amongst Thy creatures and to demonstrate Thy sovereignty among Thy servants. Verily Thou art the Omnipotent, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

BH00414: Lawh-i-Yusuf 1

Section 1: "O Joseph! Upon thee be the Most Great..."

O Joseph! Upon thee be the Most Great, the Most Glorious Beauty of God! From the horizon of the Cause there hath dawned the Sun, whereon hath been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen: "The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Unconstrained." The moon of knowledge hath been eclipsed when the Self-Subsisting appeared, riding upon the clouds. Blessed art thou, for thou hast inhaled the fragrance of holiness from this Garment through which the breezes of divine revelation have wafted throughout all creation. Drink thou the Kawthar of purity in the name of the Lord of the Manifestation, then the Salsabil of utterance in the name of the All-Merciful. Thus hast thou been commanded by thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing.

Leave the idolaters to their vain imaginings. They wander astray even as their forefathers wandered before. Take what We have sent unto thee. By My life, through it the horizons have been illumined. This is not a day for tarrying. Soar in the atmosphere of detachment in the name of thy Lord, the Creator of all things. Thus doth the Pen of Command direct thee from God, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

Say: O concourse of the learned! Abandon your learning, for the All-Knowing hath come with the banners of His signs. Rend ye the greatest veil in the name of the Lord of Destiny, then turn with your hearts to the Most Pure Horizon, the station wherein the Tongue of Revelation speaketh with the sovereignty of might and power. Say: Rend ye the veils! This is the Lord of Lords Who hath come with the Kingdom of grandeur and majesty.

Among the people are those who have clung to falsehood, turning away from the Kingdom. Say: Woe unto thee, O thou idolatrous doubter! We have manifested the Cause in such wise that all necks have been humbled before it. How many a learned one hath been kept back by the veils of fancy, and how many a child hath rent the veils through My Name. How many a wise one hath turned away from the Divine Dominion, and how many a heedless one hath drawn nigh until he entered the Kingdom of his Lord, the Mighty, the Most High.

Say: Grace is in the hand of God; verily He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. Say: Drink ye the water of life from the utterance of your Lord, the All-Merciful, not that by which minds are veiled. Fear God, O ye who are endued with understanding. When ye have drunk the wine of immortality through this Name that hath dawned from the horizon of destiny, and have delighted in the meats which have descended from heaven, say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou in Whose hand is the Kingdom of names. We testify that Thou art the Powerful over what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Compelling.

O Joseph! Illumine the hearts with the remembrance of the Beloved and the faces with this Name whereby earthquakes have seized all the tribes and the idols have lamented. Blessed be thy tongue for having been moved to remember thy Lord, and thy heart for having turned to the Dayspring of lights. We hear thy mention in this Most Great Remembrance. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Thus have We addressed thee and sent down for thee the verses that the breezes of utterance might seize

thee in this Day wherein the Dove hath warbled and the Raven hath croaked. Grieve not at what thou hearest from the people. Soon shall they glory in thy name, though today they are in heedlessness and error. And the Glory be upon thee and upon those who hear thy call in the Cause of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

O Pen of the Most Ancient, remind the nations through My Most Great Name, that the utterance may draw them to God, their Lord, the All-Merciful. Then make mention of Taha who turned to the Countenance and whom vain imaginings deterred not from the path of God, Lord of all men. The wine of love so intoxicated him that when he heard the call from the direction of his Lord, the Most Glorious, he said: "Yea, O Lord of Lords!" Blessed is the eye that hath seen, the heart that hath turned, and the face that hath directed itself toward the Dawning-Place of inspiration. Grieve not because of those who have wronged. Soon shall We seize them as We seized the factions before them.

Through their oppression hath the Cause been uplifted and the mention of thy Lord's name spread throughout the lands. Through their opposition hath acceptance appeared and through their tyranny hath the sun of justice dawned. Ponder that ye may understand, O people of insight! Thus hath the matter been decreed in the Tablet from thy Lord, the Revealer of verses. God shall soon raise the banners of His sovereignty in every city and the traces of those who disbelieved in the Day of Return shall be destroyed. Be thou independent of all save God in all conditions, then remember Him at morn and eventide. He is verily the Mighty, the All-Bestowing.

O thou who sittest still! This is not the day for sitting. By My life, the Spirit hath arisen to serve thy Lord. Beware lest thou be of them that remain seated. Arise to serve thy Lord with such arising whereby all created things shall arise. This behooveth thee and those who have laid hold on this cord through whose movement all things were moved. Thus hath the matter been decreed by One mighty and powerful. Be thou steadfast in serving thy Lord at all times in such wise that the censure of the censurers deterreth thee not. Verily he who hath been illumined by the light of the Countenance remaineth standing, by the Lord of the Mighty Throne. Sleep overtaketh him not though he may slumber this day, but the people are in evident obscurity.

He is standing though thou mayest see him seated. When he lieth down the tongue of his heart proclaimeth "The Desired One hath come," and when he ariseth he pointeth with the finger of certitude toward the direction of the Adored One, saying: "This is the Dawning-Place of the verses of your Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate." How many who stand are among those who sit, and how many who sit are among those who stand! How many who speak are silent before thy Lord, and how many possessed of life are among the dead! He who speaketh of My remembrance, he is the speaker; he who turneth away therefrom is a mere noise-maker though he be among the speakers.

Blessed is he who hath been quickened by this life-giving spirit—by My Lord the All-Merciful, he is among the triumphant. When thou hast received the Tablet, read it and say: "My spirit be a sacrifice for Thy prison, O Thou through Whom the spirits soared and the faces of them that are nigh were illumined!"

O Sa'id! God hath indeed made thee happy through His recognition and aided thee until thou didst turn to the Qiblih of existence and believe in God, the Lord of the seen and unseen. Hearken unto His call once

again from the direction of My Most Glorious Name in the white spot from the crimson Tree: “Verily there is no God but Me, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.” Blessed is he whom the attraction of the Almighty hath so seized that it hath severed him from all else, turning him toward his Lord, the Mighty, the Loving. When the Chosen One appeared, the transgressors objected. Among them were those who said: “Where is the straight path?” Say: “It hath been set up, by the Lord of what was and what shall be.”

Among them were those who said: “Hath the Hour come?” Say: “Nay, it hath passed, by this Name that dominateth all that witness and are witnessed.” And among them were those who said: “Where are the earthquakes?” Say: “The tribes have been seized while ye rush toward the Fire and perceive it not.” Say: “This is God’s path for all who are in the heavens and on earth, and His balance for all who are in the kingdom of Command and Creation. Blessed are they who know.” The smoke of doubt hath enveloped them and they are a blind people. Those who clung to vain imaginings when the Sun of Certitude shone forth from the horizon of the All-Merciful are deaf and blind. By My life, they shall not be victorious.

Section 2: “Unite, O loved ones of God! By this…”

Unite, O loved ones of God! By this shall the hearts of them that have denied the Promised Day be sorely troubled. Aid ye God with wisdom. Thus hath the Lord of all creation commanded you. He, verily, is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth through His word “Be” and it is. Blessed is the strong one who hath stood firm in the Cause, and the one who remembereth and causeth the people to remember this Remembrance whereby faces are illumined. The people are drunk with the wine of vain imaginings and are as dead, save those whom thy Lord hath willed. With Him is the knowledge of all things, yet the people comprehend not.

O Pen of destiny! Make mention of Ja’far who hath turned toward the Most Great Scene, that the remembrance of thy Lord, the Lord of mankind, may draw him to a station that was recorded by the Pen of the All-Merciful in the Mother Book. Blessed art thou for having cast aside vain desire and taken hold of that which thy Lord, the Most Glorious, hath commanded thee on a day when the light was visible from the horizon of His countenance. Let not the multitude of enemies grieve you. God shall soon render them as dust, and thou shalt hear their clamor as no more than the buzzing of flies. He, verily, is cognizant of all things. Can anything withstand His Cause, or can the tyranny of the oppressors defeat it? Nay, by My true Self! Soon shall they that are possessed of unity behold the standards of the Cause upon the highest heights. Thy Lord, verily, hath power over all things.

Say: O concourse of ardent lovers! This is your day, for the Day Star of the horizons hath dawned. Turn ye unto Him with hearts illumined by the lights of the Throne. The head of Baha hath been adorned with the crown of tribulation. Thus hath it been decreed in a Tablet sealed with God’s seal. Take heed lest tribulation deter thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Lord of all names. Leave all created things behind thee. He, verily, shall suffice thee. He, verily, is wise over all things. Despair not of God’s Spirit and His mercy. Blessed is he who hath detached himself and taken unto himself a path. Among the idolaters are those who have opposed God and taken Satan for their friend.

Say: This day shall nothing profit anyone, even should he cling to all who are in the heavens and on earth, except that he repent and return unto God Who created all things by His command. Thus hath judgment

been decreed in a Tablet inscribed by the finger of glory. This is the lamp of the All-Merciful unto all who dwell in the realms of being, and His Most Great Name amongst the nations. Blessed is he who hath turned unto it and sought shelter beneath the pavilion that hath been raised up in God's name. Say: Associate not partners with God. This is the Sun of Divine Unity that hath shone forth from the horizon of detachment with lights that encompass the worlds. They who have ascribed partners unto Him are lost in the wilderness of error and shall find no helper.

O Pen of Command! Make thou mention of Our servant Salih in this noble Book which hath been sent down from God, the Mighty, the Wise. He is among those who turned unto God on a day whereon the faces of the ascetics who had visited the House were darkened, and who, when He came Who fulfilled through His utterance "the House," denied Him, even to the point where they pronounced their verdict against Him. These, verily, are among the abased ones. How many a man of understanding hath been kept back from the truth by that which he had formerly committed, and how many a heedless one hath attained to it and said: "Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds!"

Remember when Muhammad, the Apostle of God, came, he who was chief among the people in learning turned away from Him, while he who was but a shepherd believed in Him. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. How many a maidservant hath turned unto Him and prospered, and how many a man thou beholdest among the heedless ones! Say: The Cause is in God's hands. He giveth to whom He willeth what He willeth. He, verily, is the Ruler over what He willeth. They who have turned away this day shall soon find themselves in manifest loss. Blessed is the strong one who hath rent the veils asunder through the power of his Lord, the Almighty, the All-Bestowing, and hath turned with his heart to the Qiblih of all who are in the heavens and on earth. Are they who have turned away possessed of any authority? Nay, by the Lord of the Mighty Throne!

Arise in My Name and say: O people! The Day hath come and that which ye were promised in the Tablets of God, the Almighty, the All-Praised, hath been manifested. Verily, it is the Manifestation of God among you, His proof unto you and His testimony unto all who dwell on earth. Cast away vain imaginings, for your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, hath appeared. This is better for you than all that ye possess, as every discerning and informed one doth testify. The wine of idle fancy hath intoxicated the dwellers of the kingdom of creation, save those who have detached themselves from all that is with the people and have turned unto the countenance of God, the Radiant, the Luminous. Blessed art thou for having attained unto the days of God and discovered the fragrance of His Robe. Be thou thankful and numbered among them that praise Him. Be thou mindful of wisdom in thy remembrance and utterance, then conceal what We have revealed unto thee lest that occur which would disturb the hearts of them that have turned unto Him.

O Pen of Utterance! Make mention of him who beareth the name of the Sultan. Say: Hearken unto the call of the All-Merciful from this Lote-Tree raised above the horizon of possibility—verily there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Single, the All-Informed. I have created hearts for My knowledge, tongues for My praise, bodies for My service, and eyes for My beauty. Behold this Face, radiant and luminous! Say: This is the Pen through whose movement all created things are moved, and through whose stillness souls find repose in their bodies. Exalted is this Moving, this Still One, the Mighty, the Wondrous. Preserve ye the

pearls of the Beloved's love within the vessels of hearts through this Name whereby the idol hath lamented and the Spirit of God hath called out.

O Muhammad! Be thou steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord in such wise that neither the might of kings nor the turning away of the subject shall deter thee. This beseemeth thee and those who hold fast unto this Name whereby the eyes of them that are nigh unto God have been solaced. Seest thou any permanence in what thou beholdest? Nay, by My Name that ruleth over the worlds! The world and all that is therein shall pass away, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Mighty, the Powerful. Can the clamor of men prevent that which thy Lord, the Possessor of Destiny, hath willed? Nay, by His most luminous Beauty! From this Most Great Scene He summoneth all unto God, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

The Sun of Baha hath dawned from the horizon of tribulation in such wise that the veils of them that are wrapped in veils have failed to obscure it. Hold thou fast unto the cord of thy Lord's mercy and cling to the hem of the Ancient of Days. Give thanks unto God for having remembered thee from the Pen of the Ancient of Days and revealed thy name in this holy and luminous Tablet. Can the treasures of earth equal this bounty? Nay, by the Dayspring of Revelation, wert thou of them that know! The infant distinguisheth not between the pearl and the stone; when he attaineth maturity, he understandeth and becometh of the thankful. Blessed is he who, having attained unto maturity, recognizeth the station of this Day and in My love detacheth himself from the idolaters.

BH00420: Blessed art thou, O Rida, for having hearkened unto…

Section 1: "Blessed art thou, O Rida, for having hearkened…"

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

Blessed art thou, O Rida, for having hearkened unto the most sweet call when it was raised from the Divine Lote-Tree in the name of thy Lord, the Most Glorious, and for having believed in God, the Sovereign, the Omnipotent, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Be thou a herald of this Name amongst the servants and one who makes mention of thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. If thou findest in thyself the power, rend asunder the veils of them that have disbelieved in God, the Lord of all worlds. Say: O people, the Day hath come and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Omnipotent, the Almighty.

Should thou behold one who turneth away from the Countenance while styling himself the Guide, say: O servant, be fair for God's sake! Were it not for the Glory (Baha), who would exalt the mention of thy Lord between earth and heaven? Reflect and be of the fair-minded. The Rock hath cried out with the loudest voice: The Desired One hath come and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the One, the Peerless, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Verily, they who have turned away have not found the fragrance of the All-Merciful in the Bayan—nay, they are among the bewildered ones. Say: Read thou the Bayan, detached from all else, by the Most Merciful! If thou regardest it with the eye of certitude, thou wilt cast aside all creation and hasten to the court of thy Lord, saying:

> "I believe in Thee, O God of all who are in the heavens and on earth!"

Say: Do ye behold anyone having mention in His presence? Nay, by the Lord of the Throne, were ye of them that know! There hath dawned from the horizon of grace a Sun whereon hath been inscribed by the Pen of Revelation:

> "He Who was hidden in the knowledge of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised, hath appeared."

Say: While under the swords of the enemies, I summon the peoples of creation unto the Lord of Names. Thus have I been commanded by God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. I call thee at this daybreak, purely for the sake of God, detached from thyself and all that thou hast and all that is on earth—to this every fair-minded and discerning one beareth witness. I have not compromised in God's Cause with the rulers of the earth. We have sent down to each one of them that which perfected God's proof and evidence unto all created things. Read thou what was revealed in the Tablet to the Sultan and ponder it, that perchance the eye of fairness may be opened and thou mayest not oppose God through tyranny, and mayest be convinced that through Him every wise command hath been revealed.

Say: Hath the crowing of the crow prevented thee from turning to thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful? Fear God, then return unto Him with a sound heart. By God! The fragrance of the All-Merciful hath wafted throughout all contingent being. Blessed is he who hath found it and perceived it and hastened and said: "Thou art, Thou art, O Desire of them that know!" I know not by what proof he hath turned away from the All-Merciful. Say: Hast thou not heard what was revealed aforetime by the Pen of God, the Mighty, the Inaccessible? Beware, beware lest the Bayan and its letters and what was revealed therein prevent thee from Him by Whose acceptance all things were made to testify. This is what hath been sent down from the Pen of Revelation from One Who is mighty and beautiful. Verily, He hath made the Bayan one of My signs, yet ye cast at Me the arrows of denial at every moment. Delude not yourselves. Open your eyes unto the Most Great Vision that ye may recognize Him Who suspended the Bayan by the movement of His finger, the One with power over all worlds. When the way of men was barred, We ordained acceptance through hearts. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

Then turn to the perfumer who was named Muhammad-Qabli-ʿAli. Say: O servant, abandon the buzzing of flies! The All-Giver hath come, riding upon the clouds. Then hearken unto what the Dove warbleth upon the twigs of the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, on this Day whereon the Sovereign of Names hath been established upon the throne of grandeur and power. By My life! The ears have been created to hearken unto My Word, and the eyes to behold My Beauty, and the tongues to make mention of Me, which mention God hath made the sovereign of all mentions. The sincere ones shall find naught in the Bayan save the fragrance of My Name, whereby all regions have been perfumed. O perfumer! Doth it beseem thee to deprive thyself of this perfume which hath been wafted from the garment of the All-Merciful at the midmost heart of creation? Nay, by His own Self, the Mighty, the Bountiful! Turn thy face toward Paradise and say: My soul be a sacrifice for Thy tribulation, O Dawning-Place of Names, and my spirit be a ransom for Thy imprisonment, O Thou through Whom the convulsions seized the peoples of all worlds!

It behooveth thee to abandon vain imaginings and proclaim amongst the people: The Self-Subsisting hath come! Hasten unto Him with your hearts, O people of understanding! Whoso turneth away from this

Cause, every atom shall denounce him. Were it not for My remembrance, the Bayan would not have been revealed, nor would the Tablets have been adorned with My Name. The believers have taken flight, and the idols have lamented, and the mountains have passed away. If thou fearest for thy faith, preserve this Tablet, so that when thou art questioned in the presence of God by what proof thou didst believe, bring it forth from the horizon of thy pocket and say: By this Book from which the breezes of the All-Merciful have wafted throughout all regions.

Then shalt thou witness the Prophets approaching thee, taking it, kissing it, placing it upon their eyes, and saying: Blessed art thou for having found the fragrance of the All-Merciful when He came with power and sovereignty. By Him Who caused the tongue of dawn to speak His praise! If thou wouldst abandon vain imaginings and turn thy gaze toward the Most Great Vision, and ponder that which hath been sent down from the presence of the Lord of Destiny, thou wouldst at once fall unconscious, and when thou didst arise thou wouldst proclaim the Most Great Name amongst the servants. There is no hatred in My heart for anyone. I call thee purely for the sake of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One. Then will the Holy Spirit speak from the horizon of nearness: The proof and evidence have been perfected for thee through this Tablet whereby the horizon of utterance hath shone forth.

Then turn to him who was named Hashim: Say: Shatter the idols of vain imaginings for [the sovereignty of] thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Turn with thy heart to the Qiblih of the world. Say: I have turned to Thee, O Thou by Whose Name the standards have been raised aloft. Art thou content with the pool when the Most Great Ocean is before thy face? Cast all created things behind thee, turning to thy Lord. Then drink the Salsabil of utterance in the name of thy Lord Who controlleth the winds. They who argue from what they possess to prove what they believe—these but play with their own vain imaginings as children play. This is not the day for doubt. Open thine eyes that thou mayest behold the Sun of Certitude at its noontide splendor. This is a call which, had the Beloved heard it, He would have cried:

> "Here am I, O Thou Beloved of all in earth and heaven!"

I know not by what proof ye have been kept back from the Lord of all proofs, O people of the religions. Rend asunder the veils of idle fancy with the fingers of certitude. Thus hath the All-Merciful revealed it in the Bayan.

Section 2: "Observe the words of others and what hath…"

Observe the words of others and what hath been revealed in this Tablet, then judge fairly, O people of understanding. Reflect on what hath appeared from others and what hath shone forth from the horizon of this Cause, then discriminate, O people of insight. Were the Word of God to be confined to a single word, verily that word would be the sovereign of all words. The sincere ones would find in it that by which spirits soar. Would that ye knew that to which ye cling—that which is hidden behind the veil! Do ye follow him who is unable to speak face to face? To this testify the servants who were with Us when We migrated from Baghdad for the sake of God, the Lord of all men. Have mercy on yourselves and oppose not Him through Whom the Laws were ordained and religions were established. The eye of compassion weepeth for humanity while they are in joy and delight. Soon shall they know that from which they were heedless, whereupon they shall find for themselves no protector.

O my God! Thou knowest that in this Tablet I have desired naught save to manifest Thy Cause unto Thy servants and to exalt Thy Word amidst Thy creation. I have not compromised with anyone in that which Thou didst command me through Thy sovereignty, and I called out to all in such wise that my call encompassed those who dwell in Thy earth and heaven, until I raised the standards of Thy Cause in Thy domains and the lights of Thy countenance shone forth in Thy lands. Among the people are those who denied Me, those who rejected My proof, those who desired to slay Me, those who rose in opposition, those who claimed that "he hath stolen the verses and writeth them in his name among the servants," and those who fabricated against Me that which is beyond the power of utterance to describe.

The fire of hatred grew so intense that they cast Me into the Most Great Prison. When I entered therein, I arose once again to raise the call, moved by the ecstasy of Thy love, O Lord of all names! I sacrificed my all for Thy Cause, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of earth and heaven. I delivered Thy messages unto the kings with clear proof and evidence, that they might know that tribulation hath not deterred Me from that which I purposed, O Thou in Whose grasp is the kingdom of creation. I sent to each one of them a Tablet wherein I opened the gates of meaning and exposition, and from whose horizon shone forth the Sun of truth and explanation for all who dwell in the realm of possibility.

Thou knowest, O my God, that in all this I desired not myself nor my survival, but rather to establish Thy oneness among the people of Thy realm and to manifest Thy singleness unto those who dwell in Thy lands. Because of this, the oppressors among Thy creatures gathered against Me time and again and desired what they desired. Praise be to Thee in all conditions! I have entrusted all affairs unto Thee and I yearn for what Thou hast ordained for me in Thy Tablets. Verily Thou knowest what is within my soul, and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Thou knowest, O my God, that my pen hath not moved except in remembrance of Thee and with Thy leave, nor hath my tongue spoken save by Thy command and Thy will.

When the appointed time came, I desired to remind Thy servants who were veiled in Thy days and who hesitated in Thy Cause, that they might turn toward the direction of Thy good-pleasure and the horizon of Thy favors. O my God! If Thou seest them worthy of the outpourings of Thy mercy which Thou hast sent down from the heaven of Thy Will and the clouds of Thy grace, make them know the Manifestation of Thy Self, through Whom Thou hast adorned the Tablets of the Book of Thy creation and embellished the heaven of Thy grace and will. Aid them to turn toward the direction of Thy gifts, that they may unite in Thy Cause and speak forth Thy Name.

This is what Thou didst command all in Thy Book. Verily, I have called them, O my God, purely for Thy sake, lest their desires keep them back from the shore of the ocean of Thy forgiveness. Thou hast ever been independent of all else besides Thee. The acceptance of all who are on earth profiteth Thee not, nor doth their turning away harm Thee. Every atom testifieth that Thou art the Self-Sufficient, the Most Exalted. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

In the name of the Beloved of the worlds

O Rida! God willing, through divine grace and heavenly bounties, mayest thou be occupied at all times with the mention of the All-Merciful. I swear by the Most Great Name that the tongue was created for

the remembrance of God—if it attaineth not thereunto it is assuredly severed—and the ears were created to hearken unto His words, and likewise all the limbs and members. How excellent is the state of that soul who in these days is occupied with the remembrance of God and uttereth His praise. His book is present before the Throne and the gaze of God is fixed upon it. Be thou thankful and numbered with them that praise Him.

Verses have been revealed in this Tablet specifically for certain veiled souls who are in that land. However, thou must recite them with the utmost wisdom to each of these souls individually, that perchance they may hear the call and forsake all they possess for the love of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Give not the original Tablet into their hands except after their complete certitude.

O Rida! Teaching hath several conditions. Thus hath spoken the tongue of the Truthful, the Trustworthy. Whosoever desireth to teach, if he be bound for a destination, must sanctify and purify his outward being from all things of the world and his inward being from their remembrance. Thus must he be who would teach the Cause of his Lord, the Protector, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent. His provision must be the fear of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, and his armor must be his detachment from all else save Him and his trust in Him. At such time is it befitting to teach God's Cause and make mention of the Ever-Abiding Beloved. And if he desireth to teach in his own city, he must arise from his place through God's power and turn his face toward God and walk with complete detachment until he entereth that place, and then speak with utmost wisdom of that which he is commanded. This is the command of Truth that hath flowed from the Fountainhead of the utterance of the All-Merciful.

First read thou this most exalted Tablet several times until thou thyself becomest aware of its hidden mysteries and sublime utterances, and then recite it with the melody of the heart to each one. And the glory be upon thee and upon thy sister who hath believed and turned toward God and attained His presence and seen and heard and said: "Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds!" Thou hast ever been and art remembered in the Holy Court. God willing, thou must strive to serve the Truth in a manner befitting. Be not grieved by the world and whatsoever pertaineth unto it. Verily He ordaineth what He willeth for whomsoever He pleaseth. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

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BH00428: O Nabil, upon him be the Glory of God!…

Section 1: "O Nabil, upon him be the Glory…"

O Nabil, upon him be the Glory of God! He is the Single One, the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

These are the verses of God, sent down in truth from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. God hath made them the sign of His Revelation unto all those in the Concourse on High, and the mirror of His Beauty unto all who dwell in the kingdom of creation, and His conclusive proof unto all created things. He hath made them in themselves an evidence of His Own Self, and through them He sent forth the

Messengers of old, testifying that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Most Powerful. Through them He hath ordained the measures of His Cause for all who are in the heavens and on earth, and detailed every wise command.

He hath deposited within every soul that whereby it may know its Lord, and without this His proof unto His creatures would not be complete, nor His evidence perfected before all worlds. He hath made the knowledge of His Self to be through His Self and through that which proceedeth from His presence, and not through aught else, whereunto testify all created things and, beyond them, all the Sacred Scriptures and Books that have been sent down from His hallowed, inaccessible and glorious dominion. The knowledge of His Self hath never been associated with anything amongst all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth, for all else is known through Him, while He is known through His Own Self, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Say: Verily His Cause cannot be confused with aught else, and it shineth forth from the horizon of holiness with a light which no veils can obscure, nor can the denial of these deniers prevent it.

O Nabil! Hearken unto the voice of Him Who weepeth within His soul—a weeping that causeth the eye of ʿAli in the Most Exalted Companion to weep, and thereafter the eyes of the Prophets and Messengers—because of what hath befallen Him at the hands of those whom He taught in days past and aided from His presence throughout all months and years. By God! Such tribulations have touched Me as have touched no one else amongst all created things, and there hath descended upon Me that which hath descended upon no soul. Thou wouldst surely believe Me if thou wouldst ponder My Cause and the multitude of Mine enemies from among the peoples of former times and those who reckon themselves among the doers of good.

They claim within themselves that they have believed in God and His signs, yet when He appeared unto them with His sovereignty, His grandeur and His power, they disbelieved in Him and became numbered with the idolaters. Say: The Spirit speaketh in all things, saying that this is He Who was mentioned in the scriptures of the ancients, and this is He Who was purposed in the books of the Messengers. He desireth nothing for Himself, and is imprisoned in a place where the love of anyone profiteth Him not, nor the acceptance of all creation. He remindeth men for the sake of God and desireth from them no recompense. His reward is with Him Who created Him in truth and sent Him to the worlds with manifest sovereignty and a lucid Book. He commandeth righteousness and piety, forbiddeth wickedness and indecency, and guideth them to the paradise that they may enter it in security.

Say: O people! Were ye to behold the signs of God and His manifestation with your own eyes, ye would recognize Him in less than a moment and would stand firm in His Cause in such wise that no trial could cause you to stumble, nor could the opposition of all the worlds hinder you. But whoso looketh not upon Him with his own eyes shall never know Him and shall be overturned by every trial, as thou hast witnessed in these days and art among those who bear witness.

Verily, those who claimed to have recognized the Primal Point—had their recognition been true—would not have wavered at the appearance of His latter Manifestation, nor would their feet have slipped from the path, for He appeared with a revelation whose lights encompassed all who dwell in the kingdom.

When they denied this Manifestation, it became evident that they had not truly known Him as He was in Himself, but had known only one of His names. Thus when He appeared with another name, they dispersed from around Him and returned to their former state. Thus do We clarify the matter for thee that thou mayest be endowed with insight from God, the King, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing. These are the worshippers of names in the sight of thy Lord, and they have no share of the cup of nearness.

O Nabil! By God, a trial hath appeared which hath caused all who are in the heavens and on earth to burn, and at this moment all things are burning within themselves, if thou be of them that perceive. The pillars of existence have been shaken, the bearers of the Throne have fled, the denizens of the realms of might have been thunderstruck upon the dust of extinction, the luminous ones have perished upon the exalted Mount, and intoxication hath overtaken the dwellers of the cities of knowledge and wisdom—all are now among the dead, save them whose eyes God hath opened with the light of recognition and whose hearts have been assured by the breezes that waft from the direction of a magnificent throne. These shall not be moved by the winds of the south and north, nor shall they be turned aside by the opposition of all who are in the heavens and earth, for this trial is a trial for those who have not witnessed the power of God and who have been in doubt concerning the meeting with their Lord, after the heaven of names was rent asunder and God came upon clouds of inner meanings with clear and manifest sovereignty.

As for those who have known God by His Self and by what hath appeared from Him—these have drunk the pure wine of holiness in the most exalted Paradise from the hand of the mercy of thy Lord, the Most High, the Inaccessible, the Sublime, the Mighty, the Beauteous. Leave thou the cup of annihilation and take with the hand of contentment the chalice of everlasting life through the sovereignty of the name of thy Most Glorious Lord. Say: In the name of God, the Exalted, the Most High, the All-Powerful. Then drink thereof and be of the detached ones. By My life! When thou drinkest thereof, the tongues of the inhabitants of the Paradise of Refuge shall speak, then the tongues of those who dwell nigh the Divine Lote-Tree, and beyond them the Tongue of Grandeur shall proclaim:

> "Well is it with thee, O thou who art assured of God and who drinkest from the cup of His grace, the Inaccessible, the Mighty, the Wondrous!"

Hearken unto the words of him who loveth thee for the sake of God, then rend asunder the veils through a power from Us and a sovereignty from Our presence, and fear no one but trust in God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. Say: O people! Do ye imagine within yourselves that the signs of God could be confused with those of His creation? Nay, by the Sovereign of the Throne, if ye be of the fair-minded! Say: Were all who are in the heavens and on earth to gather together to walk as the Ancient Beauty walketh, they would never be able nor would they have the power—how much less the power that hath encompassed all created things or that which proceedeth from His mighty, omnipotent, and powerful Pen. And every letter that issueth from His mouth verily sustaineth all things as they are. Thus hath the Most Great Spirit spoken in this holy and magnificent Tablet.

Section 2: "O Nabil! Take hold of the Tablet…"

O Nabil! Take hold of the Tablet with the power of God and withhold not thyself from that which hath been ordained for thee in the dominion of God, the All-Possessing, the Mighty, the Invincible, the All-

Wise. Fear thou no one, for verily He will protect thee as He hath protected thee in truth, and will exalt thee amongst His servants, and will aid thee with the truth. He is, in truth, the best of helpers and supporters. Soon will He return thee to thy habitation, and thine eyes shall be solaced through His grace. He, verily, is the Most Merciful of the merciful.

By God, O Nabil! I have desired naught in this world, nor have I sought anything for Myself. My deeds bear witness to My words, if thou be of them that ponder. I have desired naught save ascension unto God, and at all times do I beseech Him to raise Me up unto Him and deliver Me from these people who speak naught except that which their idle fancies command them, and who are of the heedless ones. Shouldst thou become aware of My suffering, thou wouldst not be able to contain thyself and would weep as weep they who have lost their beloved ones.

By God! Were I to desire to acquaint anyone with what hath befallen Me, I would not be able, for the root of the matter hath remained hidden from the eyes of all the servants, save from two souls: one who was named Ahmad from thy land, who was raised unto God and martyred in His path and was of the martyrs; and the other who was named Kalim, who is with Us and around whom the decree doth revolve. God is witness to what I say.

Ponder thou this Cause, and My mention, and My rising amongst the people, and My concealment, that God may acquaint thee with that which no one hath been acquainted, for He inspireth His servants with whatsoever He willeth, and He is powerful over all things. When thou knowest, thou wilt become aware of My tribulation which no one in all creation hath borne, and thou wilt hear in My words a cry and lamentation.

If thou desirest to know God's Cause in these days, purify thyself from all things, then arise from thy place, turn thy face toward God and say:

> "O my Lord! I am he who hath turned his face unto Thy face, the Everlasting, the Ever-Abiding, the Sanctified, the Luminous, and who hath detached himself from all things and entered beneath the shadow of Thy Most Great Mercy which hath encompassed the worlds. O my Lord! Deprive me not of the breezes of the dawn of Thy manifestation and Thy presence, and distance me not from the revelations of the glory of Thy mercy and favors. O my Lord! Cause me to know Thy beauty, then raise me unto that atmosphere wherein are heard the melodies of the birds of eternity, which Thou hast sanctified from the knowledge of all created things save such as have detached themselves wholly from all else but Thee and have laid hold on the hem of Thy wondrous and mighty bounty. O my Lord! Illumine my sight for the vision of the lights of Thy beauty and purify my heart for the recognition of Thy supreme and most great Self."

Then go forth from the city wherein thou dwellest and distance thyself therefrom a thousand paces. Then stand and raise thy hands unto God with firm and steadfast certainty and say:

> "O my Lord! I am he who hath raised his hands unto the heaven of Thy bounty and bestowal. Send down, then, upon me that which befitteth the sovereignty of Thy generosity and gifts. Thou art, verily, powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-

> Wise. O my Lord! I am he who hath abandoned his self and his desires and hastened toward the direction of Thy Cause and Thy good-pleasure, and hath advanced toward the sanctuary of Thy nearness and the Kaaba of Thy reunion and meeting. Make me not, O my God, deprived of that which is with Thee, nor despairing of that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones. Thou art He Who hath ever been in the heights of power, might, and majesty, and wilt ever remain in the exaltation of loftiness, grandeur, and glory. Verily, Thou art near and responsive to him who calleth upon Thee."

By God, O Nabil! If thou wouldst act in accordance with what We have commanded thee in pure truth, then with thine innate hearing thou wouldst hear the call of all things in this Most Great Announcement, and thou wouldst recognize God's sovereignty and His manifestation, then His grandeur and His power. Thou wouldst hear what no one hath heard and witness that of which all creation remaineth heedless, save those whom God's guidance hath preceded and whom He hath made the hands of His Cause among His creatures and the lights of His countenance amidst the worlds. Say: O people! By God, from all that appeareth from the holy direction there appear the signs of God, would ye but witness them. And from each letter thereof wafteth the fragrance of Paradise, which none can detect save those endowed with a refined sense of smell. Would that thou hadst been with Us in this migration and hadst become aware of the mysteries We have veiled from the servants out of Our desire to glorify God's Cause, thy Lord, and hadst been among those who are informed.

We beseech God to inform thee in those days and to impart unto thee that of which most of the servants remain heedless. Verily, He is powerful over whatsoever He willeth. Soon there shall appear before thee that from which thou wilt find the Youth's aversion, and thou wilt be commanded by a command which thou wilt not accept, and thou shalt leave it behind thee through a power from thy Lord, the Eternal, the All-Wise. This is of the tidings of the unseen which We have informed thee in truth, that thou mayest act in accordance with what thou hast been commanded by the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. All this is from My love for thee, and everything created and yet to be created testifieth thereunto, and then this Faithful Pen.

O Nabil! Rend asunder the veils of dominion, then behold with the Greatest Vision. By God! The Cause hath been exalted and made manifest, and the Sun hath dawned from the horizon of a renowned Name, and the Face of God, the Hidden, hath appeared. Then shalt thou find the ungodly in turmoil and dust, and the believers in light and radiance. Say: Verily He hath appeared more swiftly than the twinkling of an eye, and none hath any escape from Him save that he either believeth in Him or denieth all the signs and returneth to the nethermost fire. And rejoice thou within thyself, then give the glad tidings unto the people that the Beauty hath appeared without veil or covering. Say: The Sun hath dawned from the holy horizon, then the Moon hath been cleft asunder. Thus doth the Pen of Decree teach thee that thou mayest be among the people of insight. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have attained unto the love of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Ruler, the Powerful, the Omnipotent.

BH00441: In My name, that calleth aloud between earth…

Section 1: "In My name, that calleth aloud between earth…"

In My name, that calleth aloud between earth and heaven

O Ashraf! The smoke of heedlessness and the dust of idle fancies have prevented the world from beholding the effulgent rays of the Countenance of the Lord of all beings, and deprived it of the waves of the Most Great Ocean. O Ashraf! Upon thee be My glory. Momentous is this Cause—this is that News of whose greatness all heavenly Books have testified, this is that News at which the limbs of the peoples of the world have quaked and the hearts of the divines and the doctors of law have trembled. Convey My greetings to the loved ones of God. Say: Take ye My choice sealed wine in My Name, the Self-Subsisting, then drink thereof in despite of the people of the Bayan who have turned away from the All-Merciful and disbelieved in God, the Lord of all worlds. In these days it is most needful to reflect on what hath passed, and is accounted as worship before God, nay rather, is mentioned as the sovereign of all acts of worship. The traditions of old have surely been before thine eyes. The purpose is that in this Most Great Revelation the servants may attain unto true unity.

O Ashraf! We have rent asunder some of the veils while others remain as barriers preventing the servants from turning to the Supreme Horizon. By God's life! Until they pass beyond the gulf of names they shall not attain to the Most Great Ocean. This word hath repeatedly flowed from the Most Exalted Pen, yet the people understand not, the people perceive not, the people know not. This is the Day of God wherein none is mentioned save Him. O Ashraf! From the rustling of the winds is heard "The Cleaver of the Dawn hath come," and from the whispering of the Divine Lote Tree "The Lord of all creation hath come," and from the murmuring of the living waters "The All-Merciful hath come."

Where then is the hearing ear, and where the penetrating vision? By God's life! This is the Day of sight and the Day of hearing, for the call of God, exalted be His glory, is raised from the Supreme Paradise, and the light of the Countenance of the Sun of Being is shining forth from the horizon of Manifestation, radiant and evident. In all ages and centuries the ignorant divines have forbidden and continue to forbid the servants from God, exalted be His glory. In their primary station and first rank, they are in the throes of death—their souls transform light into fire, acceptance into rejection, and knowledge into ignorance. In truth, they seize the human spirit. God protect us and you.

O party of God! Ponder the Shi'ih sect. Through ages and centuries they occupied themselves with mutual execration and denunciation, and when speaking of the Herald, they uttered "may God hasten His relief." Yet when the dawn of hope appeared and the world was illumined by the radiant splendors of the Sun of Oneness, they all arose in opposition until they committed that which caused the denizens of the cities of justice to weep and all things to lament with great lamentation. Consider the fruit of their deeds: It was the martyrdom of the Lord of the world. The divines issued the verdict for His death, and the people, following them, wrought that which caused the eyes of the Prophets to weep.

Reflect upon the beginning of that sect—what calumnies were raised, and how these calumnies became the cause of hatred and were visited upon the Herald. Now again the people of the Bayan with tongues of

falsehood and delusion engage in the same utterances. The worthless ones of the world claim to be pearls, and the bats of existence pretend to the station of the sun. Protect the weak in the name of the Strong One of Truth. Guide the ignorant to the ocean of knowledge, that perchance the world may be purified and not again be sullied with the clay of suspicion and fancy. Verses have been sent down from the Kingdom of the All-Merciful equal to all previous Books, and evidences have appeared in such wise that none has excuse for hesitation or denial, unless they wholly deviate from the straight path and deprive themselves of fairness and truth.

The Surih of Kings, the Tablet of Ra'is and their like bear witness to what has been mentioned and testify to what has proceeded from the Most Exalted Pen. Today, whatever will be manifested from the deeds of that heedless party is clear and evident to the loved ones of God. They draw nigh unto what was mentioned at the beginning of the Tablet, and they understand. Whosoever attains unto this counts the world as non-existent, let alone the braying of the ignorant mentioned in the Scriptures and Tablets. From Kaf and Ra it appeared. Glory be to God! Despite their ignorance, they have uttered that which no idolator before had ever said.

Blessed art thou, O Ashraf, in that thou hast heard the Call and turned toward it and responded on a Day when eyes were fixed in terror, hearts were constricted, the sighs of the lovers ascended, and the tears of the people of the Covenant were shed. The Greater Branch was present before the Wronged One, and We read what thou didst commune with and call upon God, thy Lord and the Lord of the Mighty Throne. We have answered thee with verses that neither the treasures of the earth nor what the kings and rulers possess can equal, that thou mayest rejoice and thank thy Lord, the All-Forgiving, the Most Generous. Say: O people of God! Be as mountains in the Cause of God, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High, in such wise that neither the blasts of allusions nor the storms of expressions from those who have turned away from God, the Lord of all worlds, may move you.

O Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of him who hath been named Shukru'llah, that he may hear the call of the Lord of Eternity from the precincts of His Most Great Prison and give thanks unto his Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. We have aforetime made mention of thee through verses from which the fragrance of divine revelation was wafted throughout the world, and at this hour through that which hath brought joy to the eyes of them that are nigh unto God. Take hold of the verses of God with such strength as is bestowed by Him, that neither the might of the people nor the allusions of them that have been heedless of this manifest Cause may hold thee back.

Say: O concourse of the earth! Fear ye the All-Merciful, and utter not that which hath caused the denizens of Paradise and they that circle round the Throne to lament at all times. By God! The Revealer of verses hath come with the standards of inner meanings and utterance, calling you unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Cast away what ye possess and take hold of that which God, the Mighty, the Beauteous, hath enjoined. The books of the world profit you not this day save through this Book which speaketh before the faces of the nations by the leave of an All-Knowing Commander. Thus have We sent down the verses and expounded them in truth and dispatched them unto thee, that thou mayest be endowed with insight into this momentous announcement. We counsel thee and them that have believed to show forth supreme steadfastness in this Cause whereby the feet of the learned have slipped

and the hearts of the mystics have been perturbed, save him whom God hath delivered and preserved as a token of His grace—and He is verily the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous. We have sent down for thee what thou didst desire from ʿAmman, as a mercy from thy Lord, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Section 2: "We make mention of him who hath been…"

We make mention of him who hath been named Darab, whom thou didst mention in thy letter, that he may remember his Lord, the Guardian, the Self-Subsisting. We made mention of him aforetime with such remembrance as drew unto it the hearts of the Concourse on High and they that circle round the Throne at eventide and at dawn. O Darab! The All-Bountiful remembered thee before and remembereth thee at this hour. Verily He remembereth him that remembereth Him, turneth unto him that turneth unto Him, and answereth every call raised in His love. He is, verily, powerful over whatsoever He willeth through His word "Be" and it is. Grieve not over aught. In all matters place thy trust in Him from Whose knowledge nothing escapeth.

All created things have testified that He is the Truth, the Knower of the Unseen. We counsel thee with that whereby the Cause of God may be exalted—this is among the most excellent of deeds, though most of the people understand not. Hold fast unto the cord of goodly deeds and cleave unto its blessed and mighty hem. Say: O my God and my Lord! I beseech Thee by the mysteries of Thy knowledge and the pearls of the ocean of Thy wisdom, and by Thy Name through which Thou didst subdue the lands and didst send down unto Thy servants that which drew them nigh unto the court of Thy holiness and the carpet of Thy companionship, to aid me to be steadfast in Thy Cause. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Strong, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

O Faramarz! Do you know who has turned to you, and do you know who wishes to make mention of you? Say: Yea, by my Lord! But the people are in evident delusion. Take hold of the verses of God with His strength in such wise that neither the allusions of the divines weaken you, nor the might of the aggressors frighten you—they who have broken God's Covenant and His Testament and have pronounced judgment against Him when He came with manifest sovereignty. We make mention of Our loved ones there who have testified to that which God has testified, and have acknowledged that whereto My Most Exalted Pen has moved in this glorious station, and before it in the Land of Mystery, and before that in Zavra, and before that in the Land of Ta.

Thus does the Wronged One relate unto thee that thou mayest know and be of them that know. We have stood before all faces and called out with the most exalted call, and summoned them to the Most Exalted Horizon in such wise that neither their clamor weakened Me, nor their hosts and their ranks hindered Me. When the Cause was revealed, a band of wolves emerged from behind the veils and sought Me out. Verily thy Lord is the True One, the Faithful. Thus was the matter decreed, yet most of the people are heedless.

O people of God! Be not grieved by anything. Arise to serve the Cause with supreme steadfastness. Thus does the Lord of all being command you, both before and at this time. Upon you be My glory, My mercy and My loving-kindness, which have preceded all who are in the heavens and on earth.

O Ashraf! We have seen thy letter containing the names of those who have arisen to serve the Cause, turning to the Most Exalted Horizon. We testify that they heard and responded, and aided the Cause of their Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful.

O Ali! Thy name was presented by the Most Great Branch before the Face in the Most Great Scene. We have revealed for thee that which will gladden thy heart and console thine eyes and the eyes of those who have believed in God, the Lord of the worlds.

O Ghulam-Husayn! We made mention of thee before, and We make mention of thee at this time. Verily thy Lord is the All-Merciful, the Generous. My Most Exalted Pen hath moved to thy name and thy mention in such wise that its fragrance shall never fade throughout the duration of My mighty and impregnable Kingdom.

O Nabil-i-Baqir! The cawing of the crows and the clamor of the transgressors who have cast the Book of God behind their backs in following their own desires have grown loud. They are indeed among the idolaters in the Book of God, the Most High, the Great. Blessed art thou for thy turning unto Him, thy sincerity, thy devotion, thy steadfastness, and thy rising up in service to thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. There hath flowed from the Pen of the Most Merciful the Living Waters for you. Blessed is he who hath drunk thereof, and woe unto the heedless. We counsel you at the end of this Tablet with deeds whereby the Cause of God may be exalted among His servants, that there may be manifested that which was hidden in knowledge and recorded in the Book.

We make mention of him who was named Yusuf that he may arise to that which befitteth the days of his Lord, the Lord of all men. There hath come before Us a letter from one who hath loved Us and drunk the choice wine of Our loving-kindness from the hands of Our bounty, and therein was thy mention. We make mention of thee as a favor from Us, for We are the Mighty, the All-Bountiful. Be not grieved by anything. In all matters put thy trust in God, the Lord of Lords. We adorned thee before with the ornament of My remembrance, and this is yet another time, as a mercy from Us which hath preceded most names. He before Whom is the knowledge of the Book beareth witness to this. When thou dost discover the fragrant breezes of thy Lord's utterance, say: Praise be unto Thee, O Thou Who hast remembered me in Thy Most Great Prison! I testify that Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever Thou willest, and within Thy grasp are the reins of all who are in earth and heaven.

O Abu'l-Qasim! The Wronged One maketh mention of thee from this praiseworthy station, before which every lofty station and every exalted palace hath bowed down in submission. Beware lest thou be veiled by the doubts of the divines through whose rejection the people in every age have turned away from God, the One, the Chosen. Remember thy Lord by night and by day, at eventide and at dawn. He hath made mention of thee in such wise as nothing in all creation can equal. To this testifieth the rustling of the Divine Lote-Tree which proclaimeth: There is none other God but Me, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful. Thus hath the fragrance of utterance been wafted throughout all contingent being. Blessed is he who hath inhaled it, who hath arisen and hath said:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Revealer of the verses and Manifestor of clear tokens!"

BH00456: In My Name, through which the fragrance of God…

In My Name, through which the fragrance of God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling, has been wafted!

This is a Book sent down in truth from the heaven of God's Will, the Lord of all worlds. When it appeared, the mysteries of all the Books were revealed and that which had been hidden from the eyes of those near unto God was made manifest. O thou who art present before the Divine Countenance and who gazest upon the Throne, rejoice in that the Ancient Beauty hath turned toward thee from the direction of His Most Great Name and hath revealed for thee that which hath caused the breezes of revelation to waft throughout the world, whereby all who dwell in the heavens and on earth have been perfumed.

O spiritual youth! Hearken unto the eternal call of God. He hath sent down for thee from the heaven of utterance that which shall never be exhausted throughout the endurance of His glorious and wondrous kingdom. When the Day of Return appeared and the All-Bountiful came riding upon the clouds, there arose from behind the veil the buzzing of flies. Thus hath the Tongue of God spoken in this exalted station. He hath informed thee of what befell Him at the hands of those who cast the Covenant and Testament of God behind their backs and denied the Day of Judgment.

Say: O peoples of the earth! Fear God and follow not those who have denied God's grace and mercy and have perpetrated that which hath caused every Prophet and every trustworthy Messenger to lament. We desired for them all the good that the All-Merciful had revealed in the Furqan and in the Bayan, yet they rose in opposition and objected to God, the Almighty, the Powerful.

Say: O people of the earth! By God, the Most Exalted Word which the Lord of Names hath revealed in His perspicuous Book hath been fulfilled. Blessed is he who hath heard, recognized, turned unto God and said:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Thou Who art the Goal of all who are in the heavens and on earth, and glory be unto Thee, O Thou Beloved of the hearts of the sincere ones!"

Say: Beware, O people of the Bayan, lest ye reject the truth by virtue of that which ye possess. Cast away idle fancies and vain imaginings, and take hold of that which ye have been commanded by God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. The Most Great Sign hath been joined with the Most Exalted Word on the Day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of the worlds. Say: O people! The Sun of God's Will hath dawned from the supreme horizon and hath manifested that which He desired. He is, verily, the Single One, the All-Knowing, the Mighty, the All-Wise, the All-Informed. Cast aside your imaginings; the Self-Subsisting hath come with a light that neither the veils of the world nor the clouds of the nations can withhold. Thus hath the matter been decreed, if ye be of them that know.

O spiritual youth! For a time, the Most Exalted Pen was restrained due to the unworthiness of the servants. The Tongue of Grandeur beareth witness unto this at this Daybreak, by whose light the earth and heaven were illumined and the hearts of the believers were attracted. There hath befallen the Wronged One that which hath no likeness or parallel. The hosts of self and passion and the legions of iniquity and corruption have united, uttering calumnies of which none but God is aware, and their

purpose hath been to subvert the Cause of God. Whosoever hath turned his face towards this region for the sake of God from the Great City, they have accused of theft and irreligion. Yet God, friendless and unaided, relying upon Him alone, remaineth established in His place and seated upon His Most Great Throne. Neither the might of princes nor the clamor of divines who have denied God's right, His sovereignty, His proof and His testimony, have deterred Him. Beseech ye God that He may aid all to that which beseemeth His Day.

Say: O servants! Fear ye God, then recognize the station of this holy and luminous Day. This is the Day which God's Messengers foretold aforetime, and which the Seal heralded in His words "The Day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of the worlds." In all conditions the Most Exalted Pen hath been occupied with counsels and exhortations, that perchance the servants may turn from the direction of aversion to the direction of acceptance, and cling to what is with God rather than what is with the people. The oppression of the transgressors hath reached such a pass that they have forbidden people from reciting the dawn prayer. The Shaykh of the Land of Sad is aflame with the fire of denial, and likewise some of those associated in the Land of Ta.

One of the handmaidens of God, known as the Sister, hath raised the standard of hypocrisy. She was not with Us in the beginning and knew not of the Cause. The colors and ornaments of the world seized her to such extent that she gave to the enemy what belonged to the Friend. Nevertheless, We concealed it and held fast to the cord of patience. But that heedless one became fearful of her own deed and openly arose in opposition, to such degree that she incited certain souls to endeavor to subvert God's Cause among His servants.

These matters were and are not worthy of mention, but in view of some being informed, a drop from the ocean of hatred and enmity hath been mentioned. We beseech God to make all aware of that which leadeth to the exaltation and elevation of being, and to make them so steadfast that neither the cawing of the cawers nor the clamor of the doubters shall prevent or withhold them from the ocean of utterance of the Purpose of the worlds. Sixty years of her life have passed, and until now she hath not been able to read a single tablet. God shall soon reveal what her breast concealeth and what her soul hath betrayed. There hath befallen Us that which hath befallen no one aforetime. All things bear witness unto this. Verily thy Lord is the True Witness, the Speaker, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

Verily My Most Exalted Pen desireth at this moment to make mention of one of His loved ones who hath turned unto the Dayspring of His light, hath acknowledged His Manifestation in His days, and hath confessed that which the tongue of His grandeur hath uttered. We testify that he hath quaffed the choice wine of revelation from the hand of His bounty, and hath believed in Him and in His Book and in His proof and His evidence.

Blessed art thou, O Sadr, inasmuch as the Ancient Beauty hath testified to thy faith from His Most Great Prison, and hath made mention of thee in such wise as to cause the fragrance of the All-Merciful to be diffused throughout all creation and the sweet perfume of faithfulness to be wafted amongst all religions. I testify that thou didst believe in God when every sinful doubter and every remote scholar denied Him. The first light that shone forth and gleamed from the horizon of God's will, the Lord of Lords, and the first fragrance that was wafted amongst the servants by this Name through which the horizons were

illumined. Upon thee, O thou who hast turned unto the horizon of Revelation and who speaketh in praise of Him Who conversed upon Sinai.

Thou art he who hath attained unto the call of God and His mention and hast acknowledged that which was revealed in His days. Thou art he whom neither the might of Pharaohs nor the power of tyrants could deter. Thou didst turn unto the Kaaba of God, thy Lord, the Lord of the Throne and of the dust, and didst answer Him with thy tongue both outwardly and inwardly when His sweetest call was raised from His most exalted horizon in the prison of Akka. We testify that thou didst drink the wine of steadfastness from the hand of thy Lord's bounty, the Lord of all creation, and didst attain unto His verses and His signs. Blessed art thou and blessed is he who turneth unto thy resting place and visiteth thee, even as the tongue of thy Lord hath spoken.

We beseech God, blessed and exalted be He, to adorn thy station in the Most Exalted Paradise with the light of His Manifestation and His appearance, and to send down upon thee at all times from the heaven of bounty a mercy from His presence and a blessing from His court and a table spread from His side. O my Lord! Ordain for him that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones who have attained unto all the good Thou hast sent down in Thy Books and Thy Scrolls and Thy Tablets. I beseech Thee, O God of Names, by the waves of the ocean of Thy utterance and the splendors of the Sun of Thy grace, to forgive him who hath turned unto him, then to answer his needs through Thy bounty and generosity, then to fulfill for him what he desireth from the heaven of Thy generosity and the sun of Thy bounty.

Verily Thou art the One with power over whatsoever Thou willest, and within Thy grasp is the reins of bounty. Thou takest and givest, Thou forgivest whom Thou willest through Thy great mercy, and Thou exaltest whom Thou willest through Thy Most Great, Most Holy, Most Glorious Name. There is none other God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Bountiful, the Powerful, the Compassionate, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Verily We have made mention of those who have ascended unto the Supreme Companion and have sent down for them that which hath caused the ocean of forgiveness to surge in creation and the fragrance of God's loving-kindness, the Lord of the worlds, to be diffused. By My life! There hath been sent down from My Most Exalted Pen for them that which hath caused the sweet perfume of God's utterance to be wafted throughout all else than Him, and all things have spoken forth glory and splendor and light and bounty unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Blessed is the stranger who hath sought his most exalted homeland, and the poor one who hath laid hold on the cord of wealth, and the ignorant one who hath quaffed the choice wine of knowledge from the hand of the bounty of his Lord, the Generous. This is a Day wherein the rapture of the Call hath seized all who are in earth and heaven. Blessed is he who hath heard and is endowed with hearing, and blessed is he who hath witnessed and seen what hath shone forth from the horizon of God's grace in this manifest station and exalted spot.

In truth I say, the vain imaginings of the former people have to some extent seized the people of God. They have forsaken the manifest and evident Truth and are secretly engaged in promoting vain imaginings. Verily thy Lord is with them, He heareth and seeth and concealeth. He, verily, is the Concealer, the All-Knowing. Say: O people! By God, there hath appeared what hath never appeared in the

world, and there hath come what no eye among the nations hath ever seen. Fear God and be not of the heedless. Say: Take ye hold of the hem of God and say:

O our God and our Lord! We turn unto Thee in repentance, for verily Thou art the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. O my Lord! Keep us not from the light of Thy unity, and remove us not from the precincts of Thy nearness and the court of Thy glory. Verily Thou art the All-Kind, the All-Bountiful.

Today all must fix their gaze upon the Supreme Horizon, detached from all else. Thus hath flowed the command from My Most Exalted Pen in this mansion wherein the Ancient Beauty walketh with manifest sovereignty. O Ruhani! Say: O people! Today the Book speaketh through "The All-Bestowing hath come" and all things proclaim "The Lord of all beings hath come." Glory be to God! The verses are revealed, the evidences are manifest, yet most of the people are in clear error, save those whom God hath purified as a mercy and grace from His presence. Verily He is the Omnipotent over whatsoever He willeth through His binding and wise command. Say: O people! Beware lest ye cast the call of God behind you, and beware lest ye follow any ignorant remote one. Say:

My God, my God! I beseech Thee by the martyrs of the Land of Ya, through whom Thou didst manifest Thy sovereignty and power by Thy leave and might, and Thy patience and forbearance, to ordain for me what Thou hast ordained for those of Thy servants who are near unto Thee and those of Thy creation who are sincere. O my Lord! Assist Thy servants to steadfastness and detachment. Verily Thou art the Lord of creation and the Possessor of invention. There is no God but Thee, the Omnipotent, the Mighty, the Great.

Glory be to God! Through the penetrating power of steadfastness and detachment in these days, We have illumined the preface of certain Tablets with the light of Khalil's detachment. Indeed there appeared from that Dawning-Place of detachment that which amazed the Concourse on High. When Nimrod's fire was ablaze and that noble one was suspended in the air, Gabriel came and asked: "Hast thou any need?" He replied: "Not from thee." May the spirit of all who dwell in the Kingdom be a sacrifice unto his detachment. O spiritual youth! The attraction of this call hath seized this Wronged One, and repeatedly in these days hath this passage flowed from the tongue of grandeur. Beseech the True One that He may aid all to discover and attain unto the sweetness of detachment.

One ray of its effulgence shone upon certain kings; barefooted they sought the wilderness and traversed the deserts. Blessed is he who hath attained unto the outpourings of these days, heard My call, and turned unto My horizon. He is assuredly among the people of Baha in My wondrous Book, before which, when it was revealed, all the books of the world and whatsoever is with the nations have bowed down. He Who speaketh before all faces beareth witness unto this. The dominion and the kingdom belong unto God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. Make mention of the loved ones in every land and give them the glad-tidings of that which hath been revealed and ordained, that perchance the Word of God may attract them all and free them from the happenings of the world and its people.

BH00468: This is a noble Book sent down…

Section 1: "This is a noble Book sent down…"

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Great!

This is a noble Book sent down from the presence of the Mighty, the Wise. Therein is that which brings joy to the sincere ones and causes the hearts of the ungodly to tremble. In it hath been sent down that which enricheth the worlds, should they turn towards the sanctuary of their Lord's throne, the Most High, the Supreme. Hearken unto that which is revealed from the direction of thy Most Glorious Lord in the Kingdom of Names from the crimson Tree:

> "God! There is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Wise! I created thee for My service and manifested thee for Myself. Verily, thy Lord is He Who ruleth over whatsoever He willeth."

Hearken unto the call and turn with the most pure heart unto the Most Sublime Vision, wherein the Lord of Destiny and the Fashioner of forms proclaimeth: "Verily, I am the Forgiving, the Generous!" Arise to serve Me and praise Me amongst My servants. Come forth from behind the veil of silence in the name of thy Lord, the Most Merciful, with wisdom and utterance. Say: O people! By God, the Sun of Knowledge hath dawned and the Most Glorious One hath come with manifest sovereignty. Nothing shall profit you this Day, even should you cling to all who are in the heavens and on earth. None can protect you this Day from God's decree. Detach yourselves from your own selves, then turn with your hearts toward the sanctuary of the throne of your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate.

Purify yourselves with this water which hath flowed from the Kawthar of the mouth of your Lord's will, the Most Merciful, from the right hand of Paradise, that perchance ye may behold the Beauty of the Divine in the garment of His Most Glorious Name and recognize Him Whom ye have called upon morning and evening. Thus hath the Tongue of Grandeur spoken from the horizon of His Most Great Name, as a grace from His presence unto all created things.

Say: Were ye to enter the Most Glorious Paradise, ye would hear from the rustling of its trees: "Verily, I am God! There is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Wise!" And from the murmuring of its breezes: "Verily, I am God! There is no God but Me, the Omnipotent, the Powerful!" O blessed is he who hath entered therein and witnessed what was created therein from the presence of the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

Verily, the decree hath not prevented the Glory from mentioning the Creator of all things, though at every moment He hath been slain by the swords of hatred through that which the hands of the wicked have wrought. To this testifieth every fair-minded one possessed of knowledge. I was imprisoned only because the Spirit of Holiness spoke in My inner being, and the Spirit of Grace called out in My heart, and the Most Great Spirit warbled in My breast, and the Faithful Spirit pointed to My head. This is the Beloved of the worlds. Were thou to behold My shirt with Mine eyes, thou wouldst see it pierced by the arrows of hatred through that which the hands of the ungodly have wrought.

When We entered the prison, We delivered unto the kings the messages of God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful, that they might know that He was powerful over whatsoever He willed and that none in the

heavens and earth could prevent Him. Were anyone to hearken with the ear of innate nature unto all things, he would hear their outcry at what hath befallen the Beauty of the Divine from the hosts of the oppressors. When the hosts of revelation descended with the standards of signs from the presence of thy Lord, the Lord of Names and Attributes, then the people of allusions rose against My Self and denied God, the Most High, the Wise.

Arise among the servants in the name of the Lord of the Day of Mutual Calling. Say: O people! Have ye not seen the sovereignty of God and His power when He came upon the clouds with His holy and mighty kingdom? Do ye deny what ye have witnessed of His power and His sovereignty? What aileth you that ye have turned away from Him for Whose Cause ye were created? Fear God and be not of the heedless ones. Is that which your fathers left behind greater than that which hath shone forth from the Dayspring of the Cause, or have ye a proof more manifest than the Most Merciful Himself? Nay, by His gracious Self, were ye of them that know! Say: Leave aside all names and hold fast to My exalted and mighty sovereignty.

When asked “By what proof have you believed in God?” you find their heads bowed to the earth. Thus did the sun of verses dawn from the horizon of the utterance of the Lord of Names and Attributes. When you attain unto them, prostrate yourself before God, your Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Behold the idolaters and what issues from their mouths. They say “We have believed in God and His verses.” Say: This is His sovereignty which has appeared in truth, yet you turned away and were among the bewildered ones. You have taken the bitter for sweet and glass for ruby. By My life, your trade has yielded no profit. Soon shall you know when you are brought before the All-Seeing. Say: Were you to be asked by what proof you turned away from Him Who called you unto God, what would you say? Then would their faces be blackened from fear of the All-Powerful, and the dust of fire would envelop them. Verily they are companions of the blazing fire.

Do they rejoice in what they possess of the world’s ornaments? Soon shall We make it as scattered dust and leave their wealth to another people. Say: Reflect upon the generations that have gone before you. We commanded them to fear God, but they followed their desires. We seized them for their sins and made them a lesson to the worlds. Thus did the servants before them who denied God’s Cause after its appearance. We seized them for their deeds and left them to hellfire. O people! This is God’s Manifestation among you and His sovereignty unto you. Say: The Daystar of the horizons has dawned, and before it have bowed the necks of all who are possessed of might and glory.

Say: Has He not sacrificed Himself in the path of God, the Beloved of the knowing ones? God’s verses and His proof have been sent down, and the Beauty of Divine Unity has appeared from the realm of knowledge and wisdom. Blessed be the Self-Subsisting Who has come today with a luminous countenance. By My Self! The Temple of the Ancient of Days has been established upon the throne of His Most Great Name, and by My settlement thereon have the frames of all contingent beings been renewed. To this bear witness the bearers of the Throne and behind them your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Lead forth the people from the darkness of self and desire in the name of your Lord, the Possessor of all names. Then rend asunder the veils in the name of God, the Sovereign of earth and heaven. If you find

one extinguished, draw him near to this Blessed Tree wherein burns the crimson fire and which speaks between earth and heaven and proclaims to all things:

> "Verily, I am God, there is no God but Me. I have created all beings for My Cause and all existing things for My Self. Those who are heedless of My sovereignty and power wander in the wilderness of desire and are forgetful of the mention of their Lord, the Lord of Names. Verily they are among the heedless ones."

Section 2: "Let nothing frighten you in My Cause. Walk…"

Let nothing frighten you in My Cause. Walk in My footsteps such that tribulation prevents you not from remembering your Lord, the Lord of all creation. Thus has the Spirit spoken in this brilliant, luminous Tablet. A single letter thereof equals not what has been created in existence. Verily it is sovereign over all in the kingdom and dominant over all in the heavens and earths. Take the Book of God with power from Our presence and turn to those who have disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Say: O people! I have come to you from the Dayspring of your Lord's will, the All-Merciful, with tidings from God, the Mighty, the Wise. Beware lest you follow self and desire. Your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, has come. Turn unto Him and be not of the veiled ones.

Remind them of what We have cast into your heart, then spread the words of your Lord with wisdom and utterance, that they might find the fragrances of the All-Merciful from the garment of His name, the Bestower, and return to the Pole of Paradise, the seat of your Lord, the Mighty, the Peerless. If the idolaters turn away from you and object, grieve not, and remember My tribulation amidst My servants and what befell Me from the hands of the ungodly who would invoke Me night and day. When the appointed time was fulfilled and the Face shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord's will, the Revealer of verses, they disbelieved, turned away, and were among the abased. Beware lest thou be patient in the Cause of thy Lord. Aid Him through utterance, that perchance the people of the world may turn to the Dayspring of grace, though We see them in a far-off place.

Be steadfast when one from the party of Satan entereth upon thee to withhold thee from God, thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Then hold fast to My strong cord and seek assistance from My grace and loving-kindness, and say:

> "I seek refuge with Thee from the evil of the accursed Satan."

Say: O people! Do ye call mankind to that which ye have named of your own accord while ye forbid them from My Beauty? Woe unto you, O heedless ones! Ye write the verses of God and dispute with Him Who hath revealed them in truth. What aileth you, O concourse of unbelievers?

The Most Glorious Tongue calleth out from the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing: O people of the Bayan! Did We not command you to be submissive before the All-Merciful, and did We not forbid you from following those who tread the paths of tyranny? By what proof did ye disbelieve in Him in Whom ye believed, and by what evidence did ye turn away from My Beauty after I came to you from the Kingdom of might and power with manifest sovereignty? We made the Bayan contingent upon His acceptance and deeds upon His good-pleasure. Ye have acquired for yourselves that which We forbade you and have

neglected that which ye were commanded in a preserved Tablet. Arise, O servants, from the couches of heedlessness and forgetfulness, and turn unto God, the Creator of all things, that He may perchance remit your evil deeds and forgive what ye have neglected in regard to God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful.

If thou seest one who turneth toward Him, remind him on behalf of thy Lord. Say: Blessed art thou for having turned to God with a sincere heart. And inform him of the tidings of the Youth around Whom the enemies have gathered and Who hath been imprisoned in this remote prison. Those who have turned away are in manifest error. The forbearance of thy Lord hath deluded them. We did not oppose them despite Our power and We delayed the punishment through Our knowledge. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. We have sent down detailed verses that perchance they may sanctify them from all who are on earth and draw them nigh unto the noble scene.

Say: O people! Follow what is revealed unto you from the shore of the Most Great Sea in the luminous spot of the uttermost Lote-Tree, and turn not unto anyone besides Me. Verily He was created by My Word, and this is attested by what hath appeared from the horizon of My wondrous Cause. Ponder on that which hath been sent down from the heaven of might and power, that it may attract you to the beauty of your Chosen Lord and that ye may recognize Him in the garment of His Most Glorious Name through which Beauty was unveiled and appeared in the name of your Lord, the Exalted, the Most High. Blessed is he who hasteneth unto Him; woe unto them that hesitate.

Say: Beware lest ye be veiled by allusions from the Lord of Names and Attributes. This is He Whose covenant the Point of the Bayan took in the world of the Bayan, and Muhammad the Apostle of God in the world of the Furqan, and the Spirit in the world of the Gospel, and the Interlocutor in the world of the Torah, and the Friend in the world of the Command, if ye be of those who know. Say: O people of the earth! Purify yourselves with this water which We have caused to flow from the right hand of the Throne, and turn to the Face with the sovereignty of My Most Mighty, Most Holy, Greatest, Supreme Name. Verily the Spirit speaketh not of His own desire, but rather by that which the Spirit of Holiness warbleth in His most pure and elevated breast, as attested by that which hath been sent down from the all-glorious domain nigh to the Divine Lote Tree: Hearken, and be not of them that are far removed.

Blessed art thou, O thou who hast turned to God! I bear witness that thou hast attained unto that which thy Lord desired. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and of the earth. Give thanks unto God that the Most Pure Vision hath returned unto thee from this glorious scene. Remind the people and gather them, through My might and power, unto My Cause. Thus wert thou commanded before, and now once again. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. Command the servants to fear God, that perchance the fragrances of sanctity may be wafted from their deeds throughout all regions. Thus have We commanded them and do command them from the presence of One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Say: All Revelations have ended with this Most Great Revelation. Beware lest ye follow any ignorant doubter. Soon shall ye hear a cry from the lands, even as We foretold aforetime. Then shun them and hold fast to this luminous hem. Blessed art thou and those who are with thee from among the loved ones of God. We have written for you in the Tablet that which shall solace the eyes of them that possess true

knowledge. Verily, We behold thee in all conditions and are with thee. He is assuredly with His sincere servants. And the light that hath shone forth from the horizon of glory be upon thee, O servant who hath turned unto God, and upon those who hearken to thy word concerning the Cause of thy Lord, the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. And praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH00505: Lawh-i-Aqdas (Tablet to the Christians)

Section 1: "This is the Most Holy Tablet sent down..."

This is the Most Holy Tablet sent down from the holy kingdom unto the one who hath set his face towards the Object of the adoration of the world, He Who hath come from the heaven of eternity, invested with transcendent glory

In the name of the Lord, the Lord of great glory.

This is an Epistle from Our presence unto him whom the veils of names have failed to keep back from God, the Creator of earth and heaven, that his eyes may be cheered in the days of his Lord, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

Say, O followers of the Son! Have ye shut out yourselves from Me by reason of My Name? Wherefore ponder ye not in your hearts? Day and night ye have been calling upon your Lord, the Omnipotent, but when He came from the heaven of eternity in His great glory, ye turned aside from Him and remained sunk in heedlessness.

Consider those who rejected the Spirit when He came unto them with manifest dominion. How numerous the Pharisees who had secluded themselves in synagogues in His name, lamenting over their separation from Him, and yet when the portals of reunion were flung open and the divine Luminary shone resplendent from the Dayspring of Beauty, they disbelieved in God, the Exalted, the Mighty. They failed to attain His presence, notwithstanding that His advent had been promised them in the Book of Isaiah as well as in the Books of the Prophets and the Messengers. No one from among them turned his face towards the Dayspring of divine bounty except such as were destitute of any power amongst men. And yet, today, every man endowed with power and invested with sovereignty prideth himself on His Name. Moreover, call thou to mind the one who sentenced Jesus to death. He was the most learned of his age in his own country, whilst he who was only a fisherman believed in Him. Take good heed and be of them that observe the warning.

Consider likewise, how numerous at this time are the monks who have secluded themselves in their churches, calling upon the Spirit, but when He appeared through the power of Truth, they failed to draw nigh unto Him and are numbered with those that have gone far astray. Happy are they that have abandoned them and set their faces towards Him Who is the Desire of all that are in the heavens and all that are on the earth.

They read the Evangel and yet refuse to acknowledge the All-Glorious Lord, notwithstanding that He hath come through the potency of His exalted, His mighty and gracious dominion. We, verily, have come for your sakes, and have borne the misfortunes of the world for your salvation. Flee ye the One Who hath

sacrificed His life that ye may be quickened? Fear God, O followers of the Spirit, and walk not in the footsteps of every divine that hath gone far astray. Do ye imagine that He seeketh His own interests, when He hath, at all times, been threatened by the swords of the enemies; or that He seeketh the vanities of the world, after He hath been imprisoned in the most desolate of cities? Be fair in your judgment and follow not the footsteps of the unjust.

Open the doors of your hearts. He Who is the Spirit verily standeth before them. Wherefore keep ye afar from Him Who hath purposed to draw you nigh unto a Resplendent Spot? Say: We, in truth, have opened unto you the gates of the Kingdom. Will ye bar the doors of your houses in My face? This indeed is naught but a grievous error. He, verily, hath again come down from heaven, even as He came down from it the first time. Beware lest ye dispute that which He proclaimeth, even as the people before you disputed His utterances. Thus instructeth you the True One, could ye but perceive it.

The river Jordan is joined to the Most Great Ocean, and the Son, in the holy vale, crieth out: “Here am I, here am I O Lord, my God!”, whilst Sinai circleth round the House, and the Burning Bush calleth aloud: “He Who is the Desired One is come in His transcendent majesty.” Say, Lo! The Father is come, and that which ye were promised in the Kingdom is fulfilled! This is the Word which the Son concealed, when to those around Him He said: “Ye cannot bear it now.” And when the appointed time was fulfilled and the Hour had struck, the Word shone forth above the horizon of the Will of God. Beware, O followers of the Son, that ye cast it not behind your backs. Take ye fast hold of it. Better is this for you than all that ye possess. Verily He is nigh unto them that do good. The Hour which We had concealed from the knowledge of the peoples of the earth and of the favored angels hath come to pass. Say, verily, He hath testified of Me, and I do testify of Him. Indeed, He hath purposed no one other than Me. Unto this beareth witness every fair-minded and understanding soul.

Though beset with countless afflictions, We summon the people unto God, the Lord of names. Say, strive ye to attain that which ye have been promised in the Books of God, and walk not in the way of the ignorant. My body hath endured imprisonment that ye may be released from the bondage of self. Set your faces then towards His countenance and follow not the footsteps of every hostile oppressor. Verily, He hath consented to be sorely abased that ye may attain unto glory, and yet, ye are disporting yourselves in the vale of heedlessness. He, in truth, liveth in the most desolate of abodes for your sakes, whilst ye dwell in your palaces.

Say, did ye not hearken to the Voice of the Crier, calling aloud in the wilderness of the Bayan, bearing unto you the glad-tidings of the coming of your Lord, the All-Merciful? Lo! He is come in the sheltering shadow of Testimony, invested with conclusive proof and evidence, and those who truly believe in Him regard His presence as the embodiment of the Kingdom of God. Blessed is the man who turneth towards Him, and woe betide such as deny or doubt Him.

Announce thou unto the priests: Lo! He Who is the Ruler is come. Step out from behind the veil in the name of thy Lord, He Who layeth low the necks of all men. Proclaim then unto all mankind the glad-tidings of this mighty, this glorious Revelation. Verily, He Who is the Spirit of Truth is come to guide you unto all truth. He speaketh not as prompted by His own self, but as bidden by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say, this is the One Who hath glorified the Son and hath exalted His Cause. Cast away, O peoples of the earth, that which ye have and take fast hold of that which ye are bidden by the All-Powerful, He Who is the Bearer of the Trust of God. Purge ye your ears and set your hearts towards Him that ye may hearken to the most wondrous Call which hath been raised from Sinai, the habitation of your Lord, the Most Glorious. It will, in truth, draw you nigh unto the Spot wherein ye will perceive the splendor of the light of His countenance which shineth above this luminous Horizon.

O concourse of priests! Leave the bells, and come forth, then, from your churches. It behooveth you, in this day, to proclaim aloud the Most Great Name among the nations. Prefer ye to be silent, whilst every stone and every tree shouteth aloud: "The Lord is come in His great glory!"? Well is it with the man who hasteneth unto Him. Verily, he is numbered among them whose names will be eternally recorded and who will be mentioned by the Concourse on High. Thus hath it been decreed by the Spirit in this wondrous Tablet. He that summoneth men in My name is, verily, of Me, and he will show forth that which is beyond the power of all that are on earth. Follow ye the Way of the Lord and walk not in the footsteps of them that are sunk in heedlessness. Well is it with the slumberer who is stirred by the Breeze of God and ariseth from amongst the dead, directing his steps towards the Way of the Lord. Verily, such a man is regarded, in the sight of God, the True One, as a jewel amongst men and is reckoned with the blissful.

Section 2: "In the East the light of His Revelation…"

Say: In the East the light of His Revelation hath broken; in the West have appeared the signs of His dominion. Ponder this in your hearts, O people, and be not of those who have turned a deaf ear to the admonitions of Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Praised. Let the Breeze of God awaken you. Verily, it hath wafted over the world. Well is it with him that hath discovered the fragrance thereof and been accounted among the well-assured.

O concourse of bishops! Ye are the stars of the heaven of My knowledge. My mercy desireth not that ye should fall upon the earth. My justice, however, declareth: "This is that which the Son hath decreed." And whatsoever hath proceeded out of His blameless, His truth-speaking, trustworthy mouth, can never be altered. The bells, verily, peal out My Name, and lament over Me, but My spirit rejoiceth with evident gladness. The body of the Loved One yearneth for the cross, and His head is eager for the spear, in the path of the All-Merciful. The ascendancy of the oppressor can in no wise deter Him from His purpose. We have summoned all created things to attain the presence of thy Lord, the King of all names. Blessed is the man that hath set his face towards God, the Lord of the Day of Reckoning.

O concourse of monks! If ye choose to follow Me, I will make you heirs of My Kingdom; and if ye transgress against Me, I will, in My long-suffering, endure it patiently, and I, verily, am the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

O land of Syria! What hath become of thy righteousness? Thou art, in truth, ennobled by the footsteps of thy Lord. Hast thou perceived the fragrance of heavenly reunion, or art thou to be accounted of the heedless?

Bethlehem is astir with the Breeze of God. We hear her voice saying: “O most generous Lord! Where is Thy great glory established? The sweet savors of Thy presence have quickened me, after I had melted in my separation from Thee. Praised be Thou in that Thou hast raised the veils, and come with power in evident glory.” We called unto her from behind the Tabernacle of Majesty and Grandeur: “O Bethlehem! This Light hath risen in the orient, and traveled towards the occident, until it reached thee in the evening of its life. Tell Me then: Do the sons recognize the Father, and acknowledge Him, or do they deny Him, even as the people aforetime denied Him (Jesus)?” Whereupon she cried out saying: “Thou art, in truth, the All-Knowing, the Best-Informed.” Verily, We behold all created things moved to bear witness unto Us. Some know Us and bear witness, while the majority bear witness, yet know Us not.

Mount Sinai is astir with the joy of beholding Our countenance. She hath lifted her enthralling voice in glorification of her Lord, saying:

> “O Lord! I sense the fragrance of Thy garment. Methinks Thou art near, invested with the signs of God. Thou hast ennobled these regions with Thy footsteps. Great is the blessedness of Thy people, could they but know Thee and inhale Thy sweet savors; and woe betide them that are fast asleep.”

Happy art thou who hast turned thy face towards My countenance, inasmuch as thou hast rent the veils asunder, hast shattered the idols and recognized thine eternal Lord. The people of the Qur’an have risen up against Us without any clear proof or evidence, tormenting Us at every moment with a fresh torment. They idly imagine that tribulations can frustrate Our Purpose. Vain indeed is that which they have imagined. Verily, thy Lord is the One Who ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth.

I never passed a tree but Mine heart addressed it saying:

> “O would that thou wert cut down in My name, and My body crucified upon thee.”

We revealed this passage in the Epistle to the Shah that it might serve as a warning to the followers of religions. Verily, thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Let not the things they have perpetrated grieve thee. Truly they are even as dead, and not living. Leave them unto the dead, then turn thy face towards Him Who is the Life-Giver of the world. Beware lest the sayings of the heedless sadden thee. Be thou steadfast in the Cause, and teach the people with consummate wisdom. Thus enjoineth thee the Ruler of earth and heaven. He is in truth the Almighty, the Most Generous. Erelong will God exalt thy remembrance and will inscribe with the Pen of Glory that which thou didst utter for the sake of His love. He is in truth the Protector of the doers of good.

Give My remembrance to the one named Murad and say:

> “Blessed art thou, O Murad, inasmuch as thou didst cast away the promptings of thine own desire and hast followed Him Who is the Desire of all mankind.”

Say: Blessed the slumberer who is awakened by My Breeze. Blessed the lifeless one who is quickened through My reviving breaths. Blessed the eye that is solaced by gazing at My beauty. Blessed the wayfarer who directeth his steps towards the Tabernacle of My glory and majesty. Blessed the distressed one who

seeketh refuge beneath the shadow of My canopy. Blessed the sore athirst who hasteneth to the soft-flowing waters of My loving-kindness. Blessed the insatiate soul who casteth away his selfish desires for love of Me and taketh his place at the banquet table which I have sent down from the heaven of divine bounty for My chosen ones. Blessed the abased one who layeth fast hold on the cord of My glory; and the needy one who entereth beneath the shadow of the Tabernacle of My wealth.

Blessed the ignorant one who seeketh the fountain of My knowledge; and the heedless one who cleaveth to the cord of My remembrance. Blessed the soul that hath been raised to life through My quickening breath and hath gained admittance into My heavenly Kingdom. Blessed the man whom the sweet savors of reunion with Me have stirred and caused to draw nigh unto the Dayspring of My Revelation. Blessed the ear that hath heard and the tongue that hath borne witness and the eye that hath seen and recognized the Lord Himself, in His great glory and majesty, invested with grandeur and dominion. Blessed are they that have attained His presence. Blessed the man who hath sought enlightenment from the Daystar of My Word.

Blessed he who hath attired his head with the diadem of My love. Blessed is he who hath heard of My grief and hath arisen to aid Me among My people. Blessed is he who hath laid down his life in My path and hath borne manifold hardships for the sake of My name. Blessed the man who, assured of My Word, hath arisen from among the dead to celebrate My praise. Blessed is he that hath been enraptured by My wondrous melodies and hath rent the veils asunder through the potency of My might. Blessed is he who hath remained faithful to My Covenant, and whom the things of the world have not kept back from attaining My Court of holiness.

Blessed is the man who hath detached himself from all else but Me, hath soared in the atmosphere of My love, hath gained admittance into My Kingdom, gazed upon My realms of glory, quaffed the living waters of My bounty, hath drunk his fill from the heavenly river of My loving providence, acquainted himself with My Cause, apprehended that which I concealed within the treasury of My Words, and hath shone forth from the horizon of divine knowledge engaged in My praise and glorification. Verily, he is of Me. Upon him rest My mercy, My loving-kindness, My bounty and My glory.

BH00516: The remembrance of God unto His servant who hath…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

The remembrance of God unto His servant who hath been named Mihdi, that he may give thanks unto his Lord and be well-pleasing unto God. O servant! Hearken unto the call of God from this Servant Who hath been named by all names in the Kingdom of Names. And when thou ascendest beyond this station, thou shalt behold Him sanctified above all that the Daysprings of Names and Attributes have known. And when thou ascendest beyond this station and passeth on to another station, thou shalt be unable to establish for Him any mention or deny from Him any description, for in that station eyes shall not attain unto Him, thoughts shall not reach Him, minds and visions shall not comprehend Him. Thus hath the matter been decreed.

Cast aside what the people possess, then hold fast unto this Cord suspended between earth and heaven, in such wise that should men cut thee to pieces, thou wouldst not be severed from it nor be separated from it. Thus do We command thee in truth, and this is better for thee than all who dwell on earth. Dost thou find in existence aught greater than the knowledge of God and steadfastness in His love? Nay, by Him Who hath caused all created things to speak forth the praise of My Self, which hath encompassed the worlds!

Turn thy face toward God and detach thyself from those who at times speak as spoke the divines of the Qur'an, and at times speak as spoke the people of the Gospel, then the people of the Torah, and thus have they veiled themselves behind the veils of allusions. Among them are those who say: "Can sweetness be changed for bitterness, or the ruby for a stone, or gold for copper?" Thus do they speak, being unaware less than a hair's breadth. And among them are those who say: "How can light be changed for darkness?" Thus and likewise do they speak, being unaware. These are in the sight of thy Lord this day more contemptible than donkeys.

Say: O ye who are as red ochre! Do ye not witness that when ye place a mirror before the sun, the form of the sun is reflected therein, and when ye place it before a dog, that too is reflected therein? Thus observe how the matter stands regarding all that faces it, that ye may be steadfast in the religion of God. For example, when any mirror among the mirrors of existence faces this Sun that hath been established upon the throne of names and attributes, the effulgences of this Sun are reflected therein according to its capacity. Then do all created things speak forth the praise of their own selves, for they behold naught therein save the revelation of their Lord and Creator. Were people to observe with the eye of their innate nature, they would recognize that this attribute of things is not of themselves, but rather due to the revelation that hath revealed itself unto them through their own selves. Thus have We detailed the verses that ye may be endowed with insight into the matter.

However, this station and these attributes hold true so long as one beholds therein the revelation of one's Lord. Should it turn away from the Sun and face the wolf of self and desire, then doth the light return to its source, and the mirror reverteth to a station wherein naught can be seen therein save the wolf. Thus hath the decree been sent down from the heaven of wisdom, that people might find a way to the Lord of grace.

O Mihdi! Observe the people and their condition. After the Sun hath shone forth with such brightness that all who are in the unseen and visible realms have been illumined thereby, they have clung to a mere shadow and have opposed God, and thou seest them now standing upon the brink of a fiery precipice, having halted in sheer heedlessness without the Truth. And among them is one who claims to be a mirror after he warred against Him Who created and fashioned him, and caused all things to speak in praise of His Self—thus was the matter inscribed by the Finger of the Spirit in truth. Say: O people, reflect upon yourselves and be not of those who have deviated from justice and fairness and taken for themselves the path to the calf. Look at the peoples of the Furqan—they spoke about succession and guardianship after one thousand two hundred and sixty years just as you speak now, and God is witness to this. Did what they possessed of successorship or guardianship benefit them? No, by the All-Merciful! Rather, they and

their followers were created by the command of God Who created all contingent beings with a word from Him, and verily He has power over all things.

O servant! Inform My servants. Say: By God, you have not understood the foundation of this Cause. Hearken to My words, and nullify not your deeds, and be not like the peoples of old. Fear God and be pious in the Cause, and dispute not with Him by Whose command the Prophets and Messengers were sent from a beginning that has no beginning—how much less those beneath them! Reflect, O people, on God's Cause and its manifestation, and follow not every stubborn misbeliever.

Say: Today there is no difference with God between you and him whom you have taken as lord for yourselves besides God. Rather, he is more base in station and further astray in path, for he warred against Him Who created him by His word and sought to cut down the Tree that was planted by God's hands in the loftiest paradise. Then he raised an outcry within himself to confuse the matter for those who believed in God, and thus did he plot in God's Cause and was recorded with God as among the plotters.

Say: O people, open your eyes, then behold the Beauty at the midmost point of the zenith and turn towards Him, and follow not every rebellious satan. Does it not suffice you that We have manifested unto you Our true Self with complete manifestation and concealment? Fear God Who created and fashioned you, and deny not the blessing for which you shall never find a substitute.

Leave the people and what they possess—today you shall see them only as dead, not living, save those who hold fast to this Handle that has neither disconnection nor connection, neither severance nor qualification, if you be of those who know. Say: By God, were We to take from the yarn with which children play and make it the Handle of the Cause between the heavens and earth, We would be able to do so by My sovereignty which encompasses the worlds. And were We to take a handful of clay and resurrect from it the forms of the first and the last, and then those near ones and the sincere ones, We would be able—thus was the matter. But the people are wrapped in thick veils.

Say: O people! By God, the Most Great Mystery of God hath appeared, and the Most Great Treasure of God, and the Most Perfect Word of God, and the Most Bountiful Sea of God. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of the bounty of these days, and be not in doubt concerning this Manifestation which hath encompassed all created things, and from which appeareth at every moment that which hath never before appeared. And if ye deny it, O heedless ones, by God, the True One, all atoms do testify unto it, and this Tongue which speaketh in all things proclaimeth: Verily I am the One adored, verily I am the Intended One, verily I am the Beloved, verily I am He Who, by the movement of My finger, hath joined the Kaf to the Nun, and thus was the matter decreed by the finger of divine decree upon the Preserved Tablet.

O Mihdi! Be thou guided by the guidance of God, thy Lord, then guide mankind unto this Most Great Ocean which God hath caused to surge by His Own Self and for His Own Self, and hath sanctified its shores from the approach of every obstinate misbeliever. Say: O people! Fear ye God! By God, the Truth! Were ye truly conscious, ye would sever your own necks with your own hands, or cast yourselves into the waters, or fling your bodies from the mountains, for ye have committed that which hath caused tears to

flow from the All-Seeing Eye of God that beholdeth all things. Thus have ye acted according to the dictates of your souls and desires, and yet ye rejoice within yourselves and are glad.

Arise thou with the Cause of God and His permission, then convey unto the people the command of thy Lord, and be not of them who have been patient and veiled their faces through fear of their own selves. Thus have We commanded thee in truth that thou mayest be informed thereof. Beware that thou disputest not with anyone; rather, remind them with wisdom and utterance. Then guard thyself to such degree that no harm may befall thee, not in such wise as to be veiled from God's Cause and deprived of the wonders of His manifestation. Purify thine ear that thou mayest hearken to the divine melodies wherewith the Dove of the Spirit warbleth upon the branches of these Words, each letter of which God hath made a lofty and impregnable Tree.

Stand thou firm with the firmness of God, and leave the people and what they possess unto themselves, then shun them who follow their lusts and commit transgression and wickedness. By God! We are quit of such as these, if thou be well informed thereof. Say: O people! Strive ye that My traces may be manifest in you, and that My fragrances and sweet savors may waft forth from you. Guard yourselves against whatsoever is abhorrent unto God's good-pleasure and your good-pleasure. Fear ye God, and be ye purified from disobedience, that ye may speak forth the beauty of My Name, the All-Merciful, and may become a sign among all created things through this Cause which hath dawned from the horizon of holy and luminous glory.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One Who is imprisoned in this Most Great Prison. Then detach thyself from them who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, and ascend unto the atmosphere of nearness, holiness, glory, and beauty, that thou mayest attain unto the station wherein shine forth the lights of thy Lord's countenance, the Mighty, the Most High, and mayest witness all created things beneath the shade of thy Lord Who hath appeared with the sovereignty of majesty and hath dawned at the midmost heart of eternity, and mayest be possessed of clear vision. Cast aside them from whom thou hearest naught but the stench of unbelief, who have turned away from Him through Whose will all created things were raised up, who are heedless of God their Creator yet fancy themselves believers.

Say: Woe unto you, O concourse of loss! By God! Your deeds have come to naught from the moment ye paused upon this Path which was raised up by the hands of the All-Merciful in the heaven of His Cause. Thus have We caused to flow forth for thee from these Words the Kawthar of knowledge and inner meanings, that thou mayest drink thereof and sprinkle it upon all created things through the power of My Name which encompasseth the worlds. Rejoice within thyself that the glances of God have been directed toward thee from this Prison, and glorify Him with such glorification as shall turn the hearts of all created things toward a Face of wondrous glory.

If thou desirest to grieve over anything, grieve over My tribulations, then over My afflictions and sorrows and exile and imprisonment. Thus doth the Most Great Pen command thee. Act according to what thou art bidden, and tarry not for even a moment. And the light that hath shone forth from the right side of the [Throne] be upon thee and upon those who have followed the command of God and have not transgressed the bounds that have been sent down in the Tablets from a mighty and inaccessible Pen.

BH08070: O Siyyid Javad in the Land of Kaf, upon…

O Siyyid Javad in the Land of Kaf, upon thee be the Glory of God! He is the Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Most High!

O Mirror of Bounty! Bear thou witness to that whereunto God Himself hath testified at the midmost heart of eternity, that verily I am alive in the Most Glorious Horizon. Say: By God! He doth in truth, at this very moment and from this Horizon, both hear and see, and He proclaimeth:

> "O people of the Bayan! Did We not promise you My manifestation? Yet when I revealed Myself, wherefore did ye turn away and become numbered with the idolaters? Did We not command you to cling to naught at the time of the Manifestation from amongst all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth? Did We not teach you that ye should not regard Him with your own eyes but with His eyes, and that whoso regardeth Him with any eye save His own shall never know Him, even should he ponder His Cause for as long as God, the Mighty, the Powerful, endureth?"

Therefore do I ask of you, O people, one word of pure truth—be ye fair in it and be not of the heedless. By what proof did ye believe in My Self on the Day when the clouds were cleft asunder and the Ancient Beauty came in My Most Great Name? If ye believed in My Self, by God, this is My Self come unto you with manifest sovereignty. And if ye believed in what was revealed unto Me of God's verses, by God, that which hath flowed from His Pen hath filled the East and West of the earth with My verses, as ye yourselves have witnessed and are among those who bear witness."

O people! Fear ye God, and make not your deeds null and void, and follow not in His Cause every rebellious satan, and make not His recognition dependent upon the testimony of any created thing, for all else besides Him hath been created by His Word, if ye be of those who perceive. Have ye not witnessed God's sovereignty in His manifestation and His power in His arising against all who dwell on earth, in days wherein souls were troubled and the feet of the mystics did slip? By God! He is verily the Glory of God in the heaven of eternity, and His radiance unto all who dwell in the kingdom of names, and His manifestation and His grandeur unto all the worlds."

Whoso denieth Him this day and writeth the Bayan—his own pen doth curse him, were he to hearken, and addresseth him in its inmost tongue saying: O thou who associateth partners with God! By what proof dost thou write His verses while denying His Self, the Merciful, the Compassionate? I verily disavow thee and seek refuge with God that He may deliver me from thy wicked fingers, and I turn unto Him in repentance from having met thee, and I am the first of the penitent.' And whoso readeth today the verses of God while believing not in this manifest, resplendent, luminous Revelation—his own tongue belieth him and curseth him with the tongue God hath ordained in its essence, saying: O thou heedless one! Thou deniest the Ancient Beauty, yet readest what hath proceeded from His finger. Woe unto thee from the punishment of a grievous day!"'

By God! This is He through Whose manifestation the light of His radiance hath shone forth upon all things according to their nature. There is none other God but I, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Omnipotent. O

people! Look ye this day with the proof whereby your faith and the mission of all the Prophets and Messengers is established. Were ye to purify yourselves from the defilement of self and desire, ye would surely find in all that appeareth from Him the fragrance of God, the Sovereign, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Wise."

Thus hath your Lord, the Most High, spoken forth in the Most Glorious Companion, that perchance the people may become aware within themselves and make up for that which they have neglected in the Cause of God, and be numbered with those who have recognized God by His Self and who have detached themselves from all else.

Know thou moreover that the previous Manifestation complained unto thee concerning all the Mirrors, and I complain unto thee concerning all in this Mirror which hath opposed God and warred against His Self.

By God! She warred against My Person, disputed My verses, and sought to shed My sanctified, holy and luminous blood. By God! She looks upon Me with aspects which none can enumerate save God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. By God! She hath done to Me what no one hath done to another, and were I to mention it, I would be unable due to the intensity of grief that overtakes Me at its remembrance. Then would weep for My wronged Self the Eye of God upon the thrones of all possible things, and My own Self sufficeth as witness to what I say. And if thou desirest to become aware of this, go forth from thy house, then proceed outside thy city to a place where thou findest thyself alone. Then turn thy face toward God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, raise thy hands to God, thy Beloved and the Beloved of them that know, and say:

O Lord! I have come from the west of fancy that the lights of certitude might dawn upon me from the dawning-place of the sovereignty of Thy Most Great and Most High Name. O Lord! I am the one who hath fled from myself, from all that I had known before, and from all the worlds, for whatsoever Thou hast taught me of the knowledge of Thyself in one moment will not profit me in another, as I am certain that in every instant Thou art upon a new manifestation, and I know that Thou manifestest Thyself to all created things through Thy name, the All-Knowing, in every moment as Thou hadst not manifested before, for the manifestations of Thy creation shall never end, by the everlasting nature of Thy Self that standeth over all creation.

And I, O my God, am he who hath not limited Thy manifestation by the limitations of myself nor by the indication of any existent thing, for I am certain that Thou canst not be indicated by any indication, nor limited by any limitation, for limitations are the attribute of Thy creation, while Thou hast ever been sanctified above the knowledge of every knowing one, and none can encompass Thy knowledge save Thyself. To this do my tongue, my being, my heart and my inmost heart bear witness, and I am possessed of clear certitude.

O Lord! I am he who hath confessed that Thou art not known save through Thyself, and I bear witness that Thou doest what Thou willest in Thy dominion. And whoso beareth witness to this word will never object to Thee in Thy Cause, nor will he hesitate in Thy wondrous and mighty Cause. O Lord! Purify my heart from the veils of all who are in the heavens and the earth, that there might be imprinted upon it the

effulgences of Thy shining and luminous lights. O Lord! Sever me from all else save Thee, then inspire within me that which will draw me to the court of Thy holiness and cause me to soar in the atmosphere which Thou hast made sanctified from the cloying of the wings of the doubtful ones.

O Lord! Deprive me not of the breezes that waft today from the right hand of the throne of Thy mercy, and exclude me not from beneath Thy glances. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou art the Forgiving, the Merciful. O Lord! Cause to shine forth upon me from the horizon of the Garment the Sun of glory and sanctification, that I might know Thee in this wondrous Garment. Make me not, O my God, of those who believed in Thee in the garment of one of Thy names, then, when Thou didst change the garment and didst manifest Thyself in the garment of another name, they dispersed from around Thee and were among the rejectors. Then do all things testify that they believed not in Thy Self but in the garment which is a name among Thy names. Had they believed in Thee, they would not have disbelieved in this Manifestation, the like of which hath not appeared in creation and whose lights have encompassed all who are in the heavens and the earth.

O Lord! Make me pure for meeting Thee, then honor me with visiting Thy Beauty, then send down upon me from the heaven of Thy mercy that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones, then make my feet firm upon Thy Path that is evident, manifest and straight.

Lower then thy hands in sublime submissiveness and humility, and with the ear of thine inmost nature hearken unto all things. By God! Thou wilt hear the lamentation of all created things, and then the sighing of the Concourse on High, for what hath befallen My soul at the hands of him whom We taught and supported throughout the nights and days. None is aware of this save God, the Most High, the All-Knowing. I shielded him with Mine own breast against the darts of the enemies, protecting him lest the arrows of the idolaters reach him, while he, in his innermost heart, lay in wait to slay Me. When God unveiled the hidden designs of his soul, he rose up against Me with calumnies, that he might instill rancor in the breasts of those who had taken vain imaginings as their lord instead of God, the True Sovereign, the Just, the All-Wise.

Thou hast indeed associated with Me—didst thou ever find Me willing to harm any created thing? Be fair, then, and be of the equitable. Had I desired to harm My brother, was I not able to do so? Yet despite My power over him and My knowledge of his condition, I sheltered him beneath My wing for twenty years, while he would veil his face in fear of both friend and foe. When at last he felt secure, he emerged like a serpent to sting Me at every moment, until no spot remained on My body that bore not the mark of his venom, wert thou but of those who hear.

Consider then, given My forbearance, tranquility, patience and concealment, what hath caused Me to cry out between the heavens and the earth. By God! Wert thou to reflect, thou wouldst know that which none among all the worlds hath known. Would that thou hadst been apprised of the root of this matter! We had desired aforetime to mention it to thee, but God decreed what He decreed, and verily He inspireth His servants with whatsoever He willeth, and He hath power over all things. Step forth, then, from behind the veil of silence and patience, and make mention of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. Fear no one, but put thy trust in God, the Mighty, the Beauteous. Say: O people! Board ye the Ark of Glory which saileth upon the crimson sea in the name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted.

By God! Whoso holdeth fast unto it hath attained salvation, and whoso turneth away is drowned and numbered among the perishing.

Glory, then light and radiance, be upon him who was named after the first letter of My name, and upon those who surround thee, whether female or male, young or old. We have heard that thy son hath ascended unto God. We share in thy sorrow and beseech God to cause him to dwell nigh unto His mercy, to give him to drink from the cups of His bounty, to purify him from transgression and clothe him in the robes of forgiveness—verily He is the Most Merciful of the merciful—and to place him in the highest companionship, in fellowship with His chosen ones and loved ones, and to send down upon him at every moment a mercy from His presence. Verily He is the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days. But grieve thou not. By God! If thou wert to look with the eye of the heart, thou wouldst behold him even now freed from all opposition, detached from those who disbelieved and associated partners with God, and in communion with those on whose faces thou findest the freshness of bliss. We beseech God to grant thee the reward for this and to aid thee to be patient. Verily He is the Rewarder of the patient. Verily unto God do we belong, and unto Him shall we return.

BH00569: Suriy-i-Zuhur nazzala li-'Abdu'r-Rahim

He is mentioned in the heart of Baha!

The mention of thy Lord's mercy unto His servant, that he may be established in the Cause in such wise that the call of every remote misbeliever shall fail to perturb him. Blessed art thou, O servant, for having freed thyself from the depths of vain imaginings and attained unto the recognition of thy Lord, while most of the people remained veiled therefrom, and for having drunk from the Kawthar of recognition, a single drop of which purifieth every pure and sound heart.

Verily, they who have denied God in these days are those whom the Names have deluded, after We had bidden them to detach themselves therefrom when God would come with a wondrous Cause. We had revealed in the Bayan and enjoined upon its followers that they should not associate any partners with God when He would come with the truth in sublime beauty. Yet when He appeared in truth, they denied Him and rose up against Him with a tyranny that was grievous in its oppression.

Say: O people! Reflect upon that which befell Him Who came with the name of ʿAli in truth and appeared with a radiance manifest to all the worlds. The divines rose up against Him with such opposition as severed from it all likeness and similitude, and God is witness to this. They advanced arguments based on words which they attributed to the verses of the Furqan, then objected thereby to Him Who created them by His command, being utterly unaware of this and remaining steadfast in their opposition.

Among them were those who clung to the notion that what al-Baqir had related concerning the signs of the Manifestation had not appeared, and likewise what as-Sadiq had uttered they had not witnessed. Thereby did they deprive themselves of all good and stood at the brink of the pit of idolatry, bereft of truth. And among them were those who said:

> "It hath been established with us through multiple transmission, as set forth by the Imams of religion and the Four Gates, that the Qa'im will not be born but is living and will appear when

God wisheth and willeth. But he who hath appeared was born, and we shall not believe in him even if he should bring forth every sign or manifest a matter that would render all worlds impotent."

He Who came upon clouds of light saith: O people! Fear God and dispute not concerning the signs of God after their revelation, nor follow every sinful misbeliever. Purify your ears from all that ye have heard, that ye may hearken unto that which is revealed unto Me from the sublime heaven of mighty glory. Look not unto that which is with you, but look with the Most Great Vision, for this is better for you, did ye but know. O people! The sun hath risen from its setting place; therefore shall no soul's faith profit it. Fear God and be God-fearing in His religion. O people! Were ye not promised in all the Tablets the Day of God? Lo, it hath appeared in truth, and therein hath the Ancient Beauty been established upon a mighty throne of glory. After His manifestation, nothing shall profit you, even should ye cling to all the Manifestations, and this is a truth like unto the existence of God, were ye discerning in the matter.

Verily, they to whose words ye cling were created by My word, and none comprehendeth this save every sagacious one possessed of knowledge. Therefore are they all within Our grasp of power; We do with them as We please, and verily We have power over all things. That which is with you shall not profit you this Day; what shall profit you is that which proceedeth from Me, and I am the Powerful over whatsoever I will, with a sovereignty that encompasseth all the worlds. By God the Truth! Were We to take a handful of dust and desire to create the like of these, We would be able, were ye possessed of penetrating vision. Have ye not witnessed, O people, how We ordained the Stone to be the object of adoration for all the servants from every direction, and exalted its mention amongst all, both small and great.

Then when its appointed time was fulfilled, We removed from it the garment of acceptance. Can anyone say "why" or "wherefore"? Nay, by My Self, the Truth, were ye but possessed of knowledge concerning the mysteries of the Cause. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, doeth what He willeth in His dominion and shall not be asked of His doings. He hath ever been powerful over whatsoever He willeth. And was this glory inherent in this Stone itself? Nay, by Him Who caused the Spirit of Eternity to speak forth in the breast of Baha, rather was it from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

By God, O Our servant ʿAbdu'r-Rahim! Mine eyes weep and My frame trembleth because of those who witness God's favor in its utmost perfection, yet deny it and comprehend not God's utterance. They object to God and justify their turning away by the same arguments used by the people of the Furqan, imagining themselves to be in the right while they are in error before God. Why do they not perceive in God's Cause even as much as the husk of a date stone? I take God and His angels and His Messengers as witnesses that I have not failed in counseling them and in proclaiming this Cause which was witnessed at the right hand of the Throne.

Would that they had never heard My words nor opposed My Self! By God, O Rahim, in every moment there hath befallen Me from these people that which hath caused the hearts of the denizens of Paradise to burn, yet We have concealed it and been patient until God shall bring about His purpose, for verily He watcheth over all worlds. Ponder thou upon what hath been revealed unto thee, that perchance thou mayest draw forth from this ocean precious pearls of sanctity, and become acquainted with that which hath been concealed from most of the servants, whereby God may loose thy tongue to make mention of

this Remembrance Whom the transgressors have imprisoned in this well, and that thou mayest aid this Wronged One Who hath no helper on earth save God, Who strengthened Him with the truth and sent Him unto all worlds with a manifest sovereignty.

Say: O people, fear God and contend not with Him Whom God hath made to stand amidst His enemies as a proof unto all who are in the heavens and on earth, how much less against the verses revealed unto Him which cause every possessor of exalted knowledge to be bewildered at their revelation. Say: O leaders of the Bayan, do ye deny Him through Whom your realities were created and your names were exalted? Fear God and be steadfast in the Cause.

By God, the Truth! Were God to desire to adorn the bodies of all created things with the robe of Divine authority in one hour and remove it from them in another, He is able to do so, and this would not be difficult for God. Be ye ashamed before God and war not against His Self, deny not His power, dispute not His verses, and take not your idle fancies as objects of worship besides Him. Among these are those who love not the Day because their souls have grown accustomed to the Night, and when the Day appeareth it obliterateth its traces and radiance until no vestige thereof remaineth visible.

Behold the stars: they shine in the night, glorying in their radiance and bearing witness within themselves to their own splendour. Yet, when day breaketh and the sun hath risen, their light and splendour are effaced, as though they had never been. This, every discerning and informed soul doth recognize. How then canst thou love the day after that its very existence is brought to naught by His appearance? Thus have We expounded the matter unto thee and set it forth in detail, that perchance the people may find a path unto the Lord of this Day.

Say: The Day hath appeared and the Sun hath shone forth from the horizon of Manifestation, obliterating thereby the traces of every exalted grace save whom thy Lord hath willed, and He was, at that moment, in the most exalted Paradise, by God's leave, filled with joy. O servant! By God, they who have not attained today to the recognition of God and His good-pleasure—these have no light. Rather, darkness itself fleeth from them and seeketh refuge with God from their darkness and unbelief. And thy Lord is, to what I say, a witness.

Say: O people! Be not proud before God, nor let names beguile you from turning unto Him through Whose command the suns of names have shone forth from a holy and wondrous horizon. And We complain unto God of the mirrors that behold not My beauty except through their own colors, imagining in themselves concerning God that which beseemeth them not. Thus have We informed thee with truth that thou mayest stand firm in the Cause in these days wherein the feet of every mighty man have slipped from the Path, save him whom the hand of grace hath seized and delivered from the darknesses of fancy, causing him to dwell beneath the shade of a sublime and lofty Tree.

O Rahim! Have mercy upon thyself, then upon the souls of the servants. Verily, thy mercy towards them is to teach them the Cause. Arise then, and tarry not for even a moment. Open thy lips in remembrance of thy Lord in such wise that shouldst thou be opposed by all who are in the heavens and on earth, thou wouldst behold them as though no one among them were worthy of mention. Rend asunder all veils,

then speak between earth and heaven that wherewith the Spirit will aid thee from the presence of One mighty and wise.

Soon will Satan come unto you with that which will prevent you from the remembrance of God and His sovereignty. Then turn away from him and face God with a radiant countenance. This is of the tidings of the unseen which We have revealed unto thee that thou mayest be clear-sighted in the Cause.

Say: O people! Is there any doubt concerning God after He hath appeared with all signs? Woe upon you, and upon your sight, and upon your minds! Ye have emerged from one fancy only to be afflicted with a greater one. Then shall ye find no helper for yourselves in God. Hear My words and take not God in mockery, nor His Cause in vain. By the True One! There is no refuge today for anyone from God's Cause and His proof. All things proclaim this, though none hear it save those endowed with wondrous hearing.

O servant! Rend the veils asunder through the power of thy Lord, the Chosen One, and pay no heed to the idolaters and what issueth from their mouths, for they have disbelieved after having believed. Therefore do all atoms curse them, and behind them a truthful and knowing tongue. Remember from Our presence those servants who are there, who have taken today for themselves a path unto God. And glory be upon thee if thou remainest steadfast in thy Lord's Cause and art illumined with the lights of His countenance.

BH00586: This Day is God's Day, and all else beside…

In the name of the Beloved of the worlds

This Day is God's Day, and all else beside Him testifieth to His being, His grandeur and His might. Some have recognized and borne witness, while others bear witness but know Him not. There can be no doubt that all things were created in their primal reality for the knowledge of God. He that hath attained this station hath attained unto all good—a station so exalted that were its greatness to be fully revealed, all the pens in the realm of possibility and all the pages of creation would not suffice to exhaust its description.

Blessed is the soul that hath, in God's Day, attained unto the recognition of the Manifestation of His Cause, the Dawning-Place of His verses, and the Dayspring of the revelations of His bounty. Such a one is numbered among the sanctified, the near ones, and the sincere, even though this station be so hidden within him that he himself perceiveth it not. Yet its revelation hath its appointed time. Observe how many ascetics have remained deprived of the Lord of all worlds, and how many who had renounced the world have attained this mighty grace. As ye have heard of former times, how the date-seller attained the presence of the Chosen One, while the learned one who counted himself among the elect and the divines remained deprived.

Ponder for a while the words of Him Who hath revealed the verses, that ye may drink of the pure wine that lieth concealed therein. How many sinners have been purified and sanctified by the breezes of the All-Merciful's mercy as they wafted past them, and how many of those who acted and strove, clinging to their selfish desires, remained forbidden and deprived from the court of His unity. The Cause is in the grasp of the power of the sovereign Almighty. We beseech God to aid all to achieve that which He loveth

and is pleased with. Observe the divines of the Shi'ih sect, who considered themselves more exalted, mightier, more glorious and more perfect than all other peoples, yet when the winds of tests blew and the Beauty of the All-Merciful was made manifest, they remained distant from the hiding place of nearness and reunion, and drank not from the fountain of His manifestation and attainment.

They counted themselves the best among all creatures, yet were accounted as the lowest thereof in the sight of the Truth, and still they perceive it not. Well is it with him who hath been cleansed, through the Word of God, from his own will and desire, and hath attached himself to the will of Him Who is the Desire of all worlds. He is indeed accounted among the gems of creation in the sight of the Almighty.

O thou who hast turned towards God! Some among the servants have been and are worshippers of desire, and some are worshippers of utterances. Thus it was observed how many books they wrote to prove the truth, and how they occupied themselves with His remembrance throughout the nights and days. Nevertheless, they comprehended not a single letter of the utterances of Truth and attained not a drop from the ocean of the All-Merciful's knowledge.

Know thou the value of these days. By My life! The eye of creation hath not seen their like. Behold thou the Truth as sanctified above all things. He is manifest in all and yet sanctified above all. This is the essence of unity—that ye should behold the True One alone as all-prevailing over all things and manifest in the mirrors of all created things. Know ye all things to be sustained by Him and drawing their essence from Him. This is the meaning of unity and the purpose thereof. Some deluded ones have, in their imaginings, made all things partners with God, and yet consider themselves people of unity. Nay, by His very Self! Such souls have been and shall ever remain the people of blind imitation, limitation and restriction.

Unity is to know the One as One and to consider Him sanctified above numbers, not to regard two as one. The essence of unity is to recognize the Manifestation of Truth as one with the Unknowable and Inaccessible Essence, meaning that thou shouldst regard His acts, deeds, commands and prohibitions as being from Him, without separation or connection, mention or indication. These are the ultimate stations of the degrees of unity. Blessed is he who hath attained thereunto and is among those who are firmly grounded. In these stations, countless utterances have streamed forth and been revealed from the Supreme Pen.

Ye should strive, God willing, to collect to the extent possible the Arabic and Persian utterances that have been revealed in this Divine Manifestation from the Dawning-Place of Divine verses, and observe them. By My life! From each word will be opened unto thy heart a door of knowledge and wisdom. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Therefore hath this brief tablet been revealed. This is from His bounty unto thee. Be thou grateful unto thy Lord in thy days for this sublime bounty.

Those souls who have drunk of this cup and have attained unto this most lofty station and this exalted, most glorious pavilion will not be affected by the words of men, nor by the promptings and insinuations of the self. Let not such souls be withheld from the shore of the Ocean of Oneness. As for those who, in certain temptations and tests, have slipped and do slip—these, in truth, have not attained unto this station. For example, if a man should indeed hear the call of the celestial Dove, he will assuredly not be

deterred therefrom by the croaking of the beasts. In this station We cast into thee a word from the Source of bounty and the Dayspring of the Most Great Mercy, that thou mayest not, through the turning away and heedlessness of the servants and of the people of the lands, nor through decreed trials and newly-arisen seditions, be held back from the Path of Oneness; but mayest remain, throughout the everlasting Kingdom and dominion, firm and steadfast in the Cause and love of the Lord of the Kingdom on high.

And that word is a word which, from everlasting to everlasting, hath been—outwardly and inwardly—in the divine Books; and it is this: "God doeth whatsoever He willeth, and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth." If a soul attain unto the knowledge of the Truth and come to know, in very deed, that He doeth whatsoever He willeth and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth, then will he be withheld by no sedition, nor will he be perturbed by any event. Such a one is the drinker of the cup of tranquillity, and such a one hath attained unto the station of certitude. Blessed is he that hath drunk and attained; and woe unto the far-removed!

Reflect thou a little, that thou mayest drink from the limpid, flowing waters of the utterance of the Lord of origin and return; and that thou mayest become light and unencumbered, like unto a spiritual bird, and soar in the holy airs of meaning. And if a soul attain not unto this station, he shall not be, nor shall he ever be, numbered among the people of Truth. The attainment of this station is, through the grace of God, easy and near—yet most have not attained, save whomsoever thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, willeth.

Even as hath been witnessed: certain souls have claimed recognition, and outwardly have professed to have attained unto the Days of God and the knowledge thereof, and yet, through some affair, have returned unto the lowest abyss. By My life! Whoso hath heard My call and tasted the sweetness of My utterance, the might of kings shall not hinder him, nor the insinuations of them that dwell on earth, nor the veils of the worlds.

Behold the grace of God: it hath reached such a point that thou art abiding in thy place, while the Wronged One, in the Most Great Prison, amid tribulations beyond reckoning, is occupied with thy remembrance—lest thou be deprived of His favour, or barred from His loving-kindness. And after the recognition of God, the greatest of all matters is steadfastness in His Cause. Cleave thou unto it, and be of the firmly rooted. No deed hath been, nor is, greater than this. It is the sovereign of deeds—and thy Lord is the Most High, the Most Great.

And as to the deeds thou didst enquire after: in Tablets such as these it is not permissible to set them forth, by reason of the weakness of the servants. Yet the deeds and acts enjoined by God are clear and manifest, even as they have been sent down and recorded in all the heavenly Books—such as trustworthiness and truthfulness; purity of heart in the remembrance of God; forbearance; contentment with that which God hath decreed for him; satisfaction with what hath been measured out for him; patience in afflictions—nay, thanksgiving therein; and reliance upon Him in all conditions. These matters are among the greatest of deeds, and foremost of them in the sight of God. As for the remaining ordinances of secondary matters, they have been, and ever shall be, in the shadow of what hath been

mentioned. God willing, they will reach that honoured one, and he will act according to what hath been revealed in the Tablets. For the present, more than this it is not permitted to mention.

Do ye, therefore, act according to those ordinances which ye have heard from the trustworthy, or have beheld in the divine Tablets, that ye may attain unto the rest thereof. In sum: the spirit of the heart is the knowledge of God; its adornment is the confession that He doeth whatsoever He willeth, and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth; its robe is the fear of God; and its perfection is steadfastness. Thus doth God make clear unto whomsoever He willeth. Verily He loveth him that turneth unto Him. There is none other God but He, the Forgiving, the Generous. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

Convey thou my exalted greetings, from the Wronged One, unto the honoured brother—upon him be the glory of God. Say: Joy be to thee, in that thou hast turned unto the Qiblih of the worlds! For you hath been ordained the reward of him who attaineth unto His presence and standeth before His mighty Throne.

In these circumstances, return to thy homeland is the better, that perchance, through your return, the breezes of love may pass over some souls. God willing, through the confirmations of God, ye will be aided to proclaim His Cause. When the heart is joined to the Most Great Ocean, rivers will assuredly flow therefrom.

In view of the turmoil of this land, and the wretchedness and heedlessness of its people, We did not, outwardly, grant leave to enter; yet We have written down for you the reward of those who enter. Say: Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH00618: O My Name! Upon thee be My Glory!...

O My Name! Upon thee be My Glory! A hundred thousand pities that the people of the world hearkened not to the rustling of the Supreme Pen and remained deprived of the whispering of the Divine Lote-Tree. They counted affliction as a bounty and torment as ease. Throughout the nights and days We summoned those on earth to the Great Announcement and the Straight Path. The people of the cities of justice and fairness all bear witness. From the Supreme Pen flowed that which a single drop thereof was the water of life for all who dwell in the realm of possibility. Yet greed and avarice have so encompassed the people of earth that all remain veiled and occupied with their own idle fancies, imagining that other than God can assist, support and benefit them. Far, far from it! Say:

Ponder upon the parties of old and inquire, that perchance ye may be mindful. Today is the Day of God. Strive that ye may attain unto His knowledge and arise as behoveth you.

The Caesars, Pharaohs and tyrants of the world in every age and cycle arose in oppression, vainly counting themselves as enduring and others as transient. Where are their stations and their palaces? Behold their graves, that perchance their extinction may remind you, their remoteness draw you near, and their darkness illuminate you.

O My Name! The people are seen to be asleep, nay rather dead, save whom God willeth. Beseech God that He close not this door He hath opened, and extinguish not this fire He hath kindled through His love.

He is the One with power whom the cawing of the world hindered not, and the clamor of the nations withheld not from His purpose. He called aloud in the palace, His remembrance was raised in the garden, and in the Most Great Prison He bore, more than at all other times, that which all were powerless and incapable of bearing. The heaven beareth witness, and the sun is aware of what hath been mentioned—this Sun of Truth that hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of inner meanings. Today the melodies of the Manifestations of Beauty are raised in the Most Exalted Paradise, the cooing of the doves of eternity is heard, and the murmuring of atoms is apparent. Blessed are they who have hearkened with true ears and become detached and free from the world and all that is therein.

Convey to the people of God, wheresoever they may be, the greetings of the Wronged One, and remind them all of the verses of the Manifestation of clear proofs, that perchance they may not remain deprived of the splendors of the lights of the Sun of Truth and may not be afflicted with the idle fancies and vain imaginings of the past. The Supreme Pen hath at times desired to rend asunder all veils completely, but the weakness of the servants and their lack of capacity hath restrained it. The people are weak and the Cause mighty and great.

O My Name! There appeared before the Wronged One a letter which two of the friends had written to thee, adorned with mention of the loved ones of the land of K. The name of each is remembered before the Dawning-Place of Names and the Source thereof. Praise be to God, they have attained unto the waves of the ocean of the utterance of the All-Merciful and have drunk of the sealed wine which had ever been hidden, from the hands of bounty. That wine, in its primary station, is the recognition of the Self of the Manifestation. Whosoever attaineth unto His knowledge is indeed a partaker of that wine and numbered among them that comprehend, and none besides hath any share of this most great favor. Give thou the glad-tidings from God unto all, that they may rejoice and drink from the divine chalice the water of life of steadfastness, in such wise that the sources of vain imaginings and the heedless among the people of the Bayan may find no way unto them.

O My Name! Make thou the people aware, saying: Consider ye at the beginning of the Cause the former community. If ye become informed of the calumnies of that group, ye will hold fast unto the cord of God's favor with such firmness that the fragrance of permanence may be inhaled therefrom. A few heedless souls became the leaders of that community and led them all to hell. They changed God's favor into denial and caused their people to dwell in the abode of perdition.

Reflect ye upon the Manifestation of the Herald, the Primal Point—may the spirit of all else be sacrificed for His sake. All the lands of Persia arose in error, hypocrisy, unbelief and dissension, and issued decrees for the shedding of the most pure blood of the Day-Star of the horizons. Such was the fruit of that community. Now again certain worshippers of names who have appeared in the Bayan desire to contaminate the people of God with those same vain imaginings. Say: O people! If ye discover the fragrance of the Bayan and perceive the sweet savors of the Supreme Pen, arise with utmost endeavor and steadfastness to serve the Cause.

O people of Kaf! We counsel you to be steadfast in these days in such wise that the hearts of the doubters who have broken God's Covenant and His Testament, and have turned away from Him Who hath come with what they possessed of the Books of God, the Lord of the worlds, may be sorely troubled.

Verily, the primary source of error hath been the divines who opposed God's Messengers in the past and present, and through their turning away the people turned away. To this testifieth every fair-minded and well-informed person. Beware lest the intimations and doubts of the cawers prevent you from God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. The glory shining from the horizon of the heaven of My bounty be upon you and upon everyone who is steadfast, firm and upright.

In the letter sent by the servant Ali and Aqa Hashim, mention was made of Mulla Aqa Jan. Give thou the glad-tidings to that servant of his Lord's loving-kindness. Verily He hath forgiven him as a token of His grace and purified him from transgression. He is verily the Protector, the Mighty, the Bestower. O My Name! That which was submitted by him who is named Nayib Hasan hath been presented, and the Greater Branch—upon him be My mercy, My loving-kindness and My grace—read it before My face, and We have revealed for him that which will draw him nigh unto God. Thy Lord is verily the All-Bountiful, the Generous.

O Hasan! Grieve not because of the taunts of the enemies and the clamor of them that are in the lands. We have borne that for which all things have lamented, and I am the True One, the Trustworthy. We have arisen before all faces when the Sun of Justice was behind the clouds and the Orb of Equity behind the veils, and We have manifested the Cause as a token of Our grace. Thy Lord is verily the Powerful, the Mighty. Say:

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by the light of Thy knowledge whereby the hearts of them that are nigh unto Thee were illumined, and by the fire of Thy love which hath set aflame the hearts of them that yearn after Thee, and by the radiance of the heaven of Thy bounty and the waves of the ocean of Thy utterance, that Thou mayest ordain for me through Thy Most Exalted Pen that which shall profit me in the world to come and in this world. Verily Thou knowest what I possess, and I know not what Thou dost possess. Thou art, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. O Lord! Strengthen my limbs in Thy service and my heart in Thy knowledge, and aid me to remain steadfast in Thy love and to arise to serve that which beseemeth Thy Revelation and Thy days. Verily Thou art the Strong, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

As to what thou hast mentioned concerning him who is named Ibrahim Kh., We have indeed heard his call before. He is among those who have attained unto tribulations in My love and My path. God hath magnified his reward in His perspicuous Book. This world hath no station. Erelong shall the wrongdoers behold the recompense of their deeds, bereft of any evidence from God, the Commander, the All-Wise. O Ibrahim! Upon thee be My glory. Hearken unto My call from the direction of My prison. Verily He remembereth thee in truth and remindeth thee of the signs of God, the Lord of all worlds. Turn not unto the world and its affairs. By My life! Had it possessed any station, thou wouldst surely have found Me seizing its reins and established upon its throne.

Behold, then remember what the All-Merciful hath sent down in the Qur'an concerning this most hidden mystery and this mighty announcement, and before it in the Gospel and the Torah, and that which was revealed unto Isaiah from God, the Mighty, the Most Praised. Blessed art thou for having endured in My path what My chosen ones have endured, both in the past and in the future. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the All-Knowing. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge, and within His grasp is the

dominion of all who are in the heavens and on earth. When thou dost inhale the sweet savors of My verses, turn thy face toward God, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting. Say:

Glorified art Thou, O Beloved of the world and Desire of the nations! I beseech Thee by the Most Great Name to aid me in that which shall cause my remembrance to endure amongst Thy servants and my praise amongst Thy creation. O Lord! Thou seest me advancing toward Thee, detached from all else save Thee, turning unto the effulgences of the lights of Thy countenance, and holding fast unto the cord of Thy bounty. I beseech Thee not to disappoint me of that which Thou hast ordained for them that are detached from Thy creation. Then write down for me the good of this world and of the world to come. Verily Thou art He Whom the forces of the world cannot hinder. Thou doest what Thou willest through Thy power and ordainest what Thou pleasest through Thy command. There is none other God but Thee, the Supreme over all names, the Lord of the Throne on high and of earth below. Verily Thou art the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

O My Name! Praise be to God that they have attained in the path of God unto that which hath befallen His loved ones. We beseech and implore Him to keep them steadfast and to make them content. He is the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower, the All-Knowing. Assuredly, whatsoever the requirements of wisdom are hath flowed and shall continue to flow from the Most Exalted Pen. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

The glory that shineth resplendent from the horizon of the heaven of My kingdom be upon thee and upon them that have remembered thee, loved thee, assisted thee, and hearkened unto thy words concerning the Cause of God, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH00621: O ʿAli-Qabli-Naqi! Hearken unto the Voice from the shore…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O ʿAli-Qabli-Naqi! Hearken unto the Voice from the shore of eternity in the crimson spot, from the Divine Lote-Tree: Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Blessed art thou for having attained unto the Ridvan Festival in the Garden when the All-Merciful revealed Himself unto all creation. Be thou thankful and say: “Praise be unto Thee, O Thou in Whose grasp lie the reins of earth and heaven!” Say: This is not a day for tarrying. Blessed is he who hath heard the call from the supreme horizon and hath responded: “Here am I, O my Lord, the All-Merciful!” Say: The Call is a wing for him who desireth to soar in this atmosphere, a lamp unto the people of creation, and the river of thy Lord’s mercy unto all existence. It is healing for the distressed and life unto the buried. Blessed is he who hath heard it with the ear of the heart, turning unto the Qiblih of all horizons.

O Most Holy Pen! Make mention of him who hath turned unto the Sun of his Lord’s countenance, the Mighty, the Bestower, that the remembrance of God may draw him unto the Kingdom of Names and Attributes. Blessed art thou for having shattered the idol of vain imaginings when thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, came in the shadows of the clouds. Arise by thy Lord’s leave, then subdue hearts through this Name which God hath made to be sovereign over all names. Thus hath the matter been decreed by the Revealer of verses. Say: O people! The Day hath come—that which ye were promised in

the Tablets. Through it the Great Cry hath been raised, and the Rock hath proclaimed: “The Kingdom is God’s, the One, the All-Compelling!” Beware lest the veils of creation withhold thee from turning unto the Supreme Truth. Be as thy Lord was, such that neither the hosts of the earth nor the might of any proud oppressor shall frighten thee. Be thou a herald of My Name and one who speaketh My praise, albeit with wisdom and utterance. Thus hath the matter been ordained in the Book.

When We arrived at the prison, We desired to convey to all that which thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful, had willed. We have sent down to every one of the rulers of the earth that which hath blinded the eyes of the unbelievers and gladdened the vision of Our chosen servants. We have created the new creation through the spirit of power and might, and have sent it with the Tablet of thy Chosen Lord, from whose horizon the sun of names hath shone forth with power and sovereignty. Tribulation hath not deterred Us from the remembrance of God, the Creator of names. From the horizon of the prison, We summon the peoples unto the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Say: O people! Verily, Jacob regained his sight when he found the fragrance of the shirt of a Name among names, and We have sent unto you that which hath diffused the sweet savors of the All-Merciful. Turn ye, O people of understanding! We have heard thy call and have answered thee from this spot, as a token of Our grace unto thee and unto those who have turned unto the Face on a Day wherein feet have slipped.

O Most Pure Pen! Look from the direction of the Most Luminous Scene towards him who is named Ali Akbar, that he may behold himself beneath the gaze of the Lord of Destiny, through whom the Path was established and the Balance set up. Hearken unto what the Ancient Beauty calls out to thee from the direction of His Most Great Name. Verily, there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Help in Peril. Blessed art thou for having cast away idle fancy and laid hold on certitude when the Self-Subsisting came with clear proof and evidence.

Say: O concourse of divines! Remember when Muhammad, the Apostle of God, came, He was rejected by him who deemed himself the most learned among men, while he who tended sheep believed in Him. Glory lies not in knowledge but in the recognition of the Known One. Ponder, O ye that are veiled! Behold the paucity of their minds—they write with their pens what their desires dictate to them, after the shrill voice of the Most Exalted Pen has been raised between earth and heaven. Say: Cast away what ye possess and be silent, then hearken to what the Tongue of Grandeur and Glory utters. How many a veiled woman has turned to God and believed, while how many a turbaned man has turned away and followed the dissenting factions.

Blessed is he who has rent asunder the greatest veil in the name of the Lord of mankind and has turned towards the straight path. Among the idolaters is he who said: “Has the Hour come?” Say: “Nay, by the Lord of Lords, it has passed! The Sun of Certitude has shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord’s will, the All-Merciful, while the idolaters remain in heedlessness and doubt.” Say: “The morn has dawned, and thereby the fragrance of the garment has wafted through all regions.” Thus have We inspired thee and sent thee that which causes souls to soar and the hearts of the righteous to be attracted.

O Pen! Turn toward him who has turned to the Most Great Name, who is named Muhammad in the Kingdom of Names, that he may rejoice in this remembrance which God has made the ornament of the Book of Creation. Say: We have kindled the fire of longing in all regions, and this is the Beloved One, O

concourse of lovers! Thy name hath been mentioned before the Throne, and there hath been sent down for thee that which quickeneth the dead. Be thankful that God has aided thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Cause, and there hath flowed from the Pen of Revelation that which shall establish thy remembrance among His servants. Can any bounty equal this among all that hath been created on earth?

Nay, by the Dayspring of Lights! Arise to serve thy Lord—this is better for thee than all thou seest, and every steadfast believer testifies to this. Say: All previous Revelations have culminated in this Most Great Revelation, and whosoever claims after Him is indeed a lying impostor. We beseech God to guide him to repentance should he turn back—verily thy Lord is the Ever-Forgiving; but should he persist in his claim, God will surely send against him one who will show no mercy—He is verily the Almighty, the Subduer. Counsel those who have made God's Cause a plaything and a sport. By My life! They are in grievous error and delusion. Were the Cause as they assert, how could that which We have purposed be established among men?

Reflect, O ye who possess insight! How many are the cawing ones who caw—this is what your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, has informed you. O My loved ones! Guard the fortress of the Cause through My Name, the All-Encompassing over all regions, then drink from the cups of the mercy of your Lord, the All-Merciful, the water of everlasting life, despite those who have disbelieved in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Thus have We expounded the verses for thee and We expound them in another strain. Verily thy Lord is the One Who has power over whatsoever He willeth through His word "Be" and it is.

We make mention of him who is named Husayn, that he may hear the call of this Wronged One. Verily the Beloved calleth, the Well-Beloved hath come, yet the people understand not. The rapture of the All-Compelling hath seized all regions, and most of the people are thunderstruck. The Sacred Valley crieth out: "Praise be to Thee, O Lord of Names!", and the Far Temple proclaimeth: "The Kingdom is Thine, O Lord of the seen and the unseen!" Every lifeless thing hath been quickened by the breezes of God, yet the people are as dead, save those who have cast away desire and laid hold on guidance—these are they that shall prosper.

Grieve not at anything, but trust in thy Lord, the All-Forgiving, in all matters. This is the Day of remembrance and utterance; remind the people of this promised announcement. Sorrow not at remoteness, for how many a far one is near, and how many a near one is far. Thus have We decreed the matter in a preserved tablet. How many a seeker hath arrived yet not attained as he ought, and how many an aspirant hath not arrived yet attained, and how many a servant hath arrived and attained—such a one is among the most exalted of creation, by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Loving. Unto each We have assigned a portion in the Book. Nothing escapeth His knowledge; verily He is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

Blessed is he who hath turned and arrived until he attained the presence of the Throne, detached from his desires, and heard the call of his Lord. He is of those who have outstripped existence. Today none is permitted to attain the presence of the Countenance, for We are in strictness and a forbidden station. Turn with your hearts—this is better for you in such days, if ye but knew.

O Pen! Make mention of ʿAli at the end, that he may convey the remembrance of his Lord to the utmost end and recite the verses of his Most Glorious Lord that were revealed in this noble station. Though he be in the most ruined of houses, yet the Kingdom circleth round about him. Blessed are they that understand. Can anything sadden him or prevent him from what he desireth? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! In tribulation he calleth unto all who are in creation and summoneth them unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

O ʿAli! Remember My days and what hath befallen Me at the hands of the wrongdoers. We desired their salvation, yet they strive to shed My blood, though were We to wish, We could seize them with a word from Us. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the Powerful. Mercy hath preceded; verily He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. The people are blind—when their eyes are opened they will reflect and say: "We testify that Thou art the Mighty, the Wondrous!" Be thou assured by the grace of thy Lord, and be a helper of His Cause and one who speaketh in His remembrance. Verily He is with His remembering servants.

O thou who art mentioned in the beginning! Hearken unto the call of the Lord of the Manifestation at the end. There is no God but He, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Be thou a servant to thy Lord's Cause in all conditions, and convey My greetings to the faces of My loved ones and gladden them with this wise Remembrance. God shall soon seize him who hath wronged and transgressed. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Forsake not wisdom in affairs—this is what the Lord of creation hath decreed, before and after. He is the Best of Judges. Say: Praise be to God, the Goal of them that know.

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BH00622: Shiraz. Nabil Qabli Khalil, upon whom be the glory…

Shiraz. Nabil Qabli Khalil, upon whom be the glory of God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Sublime—the Most Ancient, the Most Great! This is a remembrance unto him who hath attained My presence, turned unto My countenance, heard My call, and whom God hath enabled to behold My Beauty with Mine own eyes, aided him to recognize Me in My days, and caused him to speak My praise amongst My creatures, that he might once again drink the choice wine from the hands of his Lord's bounty—the Most Glorious—Who remained among the enemies and cast Himself amidst the wicked ones who abandoned faithfulness, followed their desires, cast aside justice and rose up in tyranny. Yet in such circumstances and amid intensifying tribulations, He shineth from the horizon of power and calleth the people unto God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Wise.

Thy letter hath reached the Prisoner, and We found therein supreme steadfastness in this hidden Mystery and treasured Name. We bear witness that thou hast done what was commanded thee in the Bayan by thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Thus doth God aid whomsoever He willeth—verily He is the Ruler, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Knowing. Were people to behold Me with Mine own eyes, they would not hesitate for less than a moment to renounce all creation and hasten with their hearts unto their Lord, the All-Merciful. But their hearts have hardened because they have followed vain imaginings and strayed from this near-at-hand grace.

The world hath been set ablaze by the Word of the Ancient King, yet the people remain heedless thereof, as if they were among the dead. God had counseled His servants to regard this Revelation with His eyes—this after countless other counsels which none can reckon save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Encompassing. They cast God's counsel behind their backs and clung to the vain imaginings of creation mentioned in bygone ages, whereby they were veiled from Him around Whom revolves every wise command.

Consider the people of the Bayan: had they held fast to this counsel alone, they would not have hesitated in the Cause of Him at Whose advent the Holy Spirit cried out, "By God, the Beloved of the worlds hath appeared!" Some were veiled by mention of succession and the like. Say: Fie upon thee, O thou who art far removed! Hast thou not heard the decree concerning origination? By God, this is the Originator of the heavens and earth! No mention can be compared to His mention, no command to His command. Reflect, that ye may find the sweetness of this wondrous Origination.

O Khalil! The ocean of fire hath dripped from the Pen of the Chosen One. Blessed is he who hath been enkindled thereby in the love of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. The people of the Bayan speak as spoke the old women of the Furqan. Say: Shatter the idol of vain imaginings—thus have ye been commanded in the Tablets of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing—when He came with the truth, announcing this manifest Light. Among them are those who cling to fancy, turning away from the Self-Subsisting. When asked by what proof they turned away from the All-Merciful, they speak of tales of old, even while beholding the Sun shining from the horizon of power and the Tongue of Grandeur speaking at every moment.

Some have said that He hath claimed divinity. Say: I lament at this, for He Who came with the truth hath informed creation that everything proclaimeth, "There is none other God but Me, the Forgiving, the Generous." Verily, he who hath inhaled the fragrance of the Most Merciful's garment and comprehended what was revealed in the Bayan is assured that He occupieth a station that descriptions cannot ascend unto, nor can mentions attain. Thus hath the matter been decreed in truth from the presence of a powerful, ancient Ordainer.

O Khalil! The people are seen to be sick, not recognizing Him Who would heal their ailments and quench their thirst. Though they have witnessed that all they previously possessed was mere fancy, not a letter of which was fulfilled, nevertheless they cling to countless fancies. If the divine Hand of Power should rend asunder one veil, they would instantly become concealed behind another. By My life, they know not what they say nor perceive to whom they allude. Their hearts have hardened and their eyes are blinded. O friend! Great is the call, but narrow is the throat of the world. The sun is at its zenith of radiance, yet eyes are weak. Would that the people of the Bayan would ponder this blessed word wherein He saith "Behold Him with His own eyes."

I swear by the Most Great Name that the recognition of this single word would suffice all mankind, yet some are deprived and others shall be deprived. For the Primal Point—may the spirit of all else be sacrificed for His sake—informed the people of the Bayan of this Most Great Revelation and the tribulations that would befall Him, such that they would spend their nights and days in lamentation. Consider now what hath come to pass and what shall yet occur. We are God's and to Him shall we return.

The wayward ones, by mentioning a fabricated successorship, have prevented and continue to prevent people from the Dawning-Place of guidance, even though were anyone to search the Bayan, he would find no mention of it therein. Yet they cling to it and turn away from Him through a mere gesture of Whose finger successorship and authority and all else above them were established. Such is the condition of the people and their understanding. They are indeed in manifest loss.

Had they gazed upon the Truth with His eyes and acted upon this single word, they would never have been deprived of the eternal springtime nor barred from the outpourings of the ocean of divine unity. Since mention of successorship was, in their estimation, among the most important matters within the community of the Furqan, and people clung to it, they now grasp at it hoping thereby to prevent weak minds from the direction of divine unity. Were it not for the weakness of the people and their lack of understanding, We would have mentioned here that which would have rent asunder the veils, even as We rent asunder what they possessed concerning the mention of the Qa'im, that every person of insight might be convinced that He alone hath been the Beloved of the worlds, and all else was created by His will. He is indeed the most powerful of the powerful ones.

Behold how they have attributed such accusations and calumnies to Him before Whose mention the Primal Point would bow in humility. Still the deluded ones among the people of the Furqan await an imaginary Qa'im who would appear from an imaginary city with conditions they have conceived. Fie upon them and these people! But these are even more veiled than those. They are indeed in grievous delusion.

Blessed art thou, O thou who gazeth upon the Countenance and speaketh the truth and calleth out among the people inasmuch as thou hast recognized the purpose of God and turned unto Him with His own eyes. We testify that thou art among them that behold. Rejoice thou in God's testimony, for naught that hath been created between the heavens and the earth can equal it. We beseech God to preserve you from the enemies of His Self and to strengthen you in His Cause and to bring low your adversaries. Verily He is the Protector of those who love Him, and He is indeed the Almighty over all the worlds.

The letter thou didst send in the name of Allah-u-Mihdi reached Our presence and was the object of Our loving attention. Most excellent was what thou didst mention regarding patience. Blessed is he who is adorned therewith and who in this followeth his wronged Lord Who was imprisoned at the hands of the oppressors.

How excellent is the state of one who hath returned unto God and ascended unto the Supreme Companion, at a time when the denizens of the highest Paradise inhale the fragrance of the Beloved's love. For such a soul one ought not grieve. We bear witness that he hath ascended unto the Most Glorious Companion and hath attained the lights of his Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High. Rather should one grieve, nay lament and weep, for those who remain imprisoned in this world. Were they to turn even slightly toward the divine decree and consummate wisdom, they would observe with the eye of certainty that whatsoever befalleth the loved ones of God is better for them than all that is in the heavens and the earth, for in all circumstances such souls have been and are treated with the utmost grace and favor. By My life! Were the veil to be rent asunder and were they to behold the Supreme Horizon, they would cast aside their bodies and wing their flight unto that holy, radiant and shining station. In their hardship lieth ease, and in their death lieth life. Well is it with them that understand.

As to what thou didst mention regarding thy having turned to certain regions and spoken among them of that which is right—excellent is what thou hast done. We beseech God to cause thee to conquer the citadels of the hearts of His servants and guide them to the straight path. Grieve not for what hath befallen thee and what they have said regarding thee. Soon shall they bear witness unto that which they denied, and point to thee with their fingers, saying:

> "We testify that thou art he who turned toward thy Lord, the Most Merciful, when we were wrapped in heedlessness and rebellion."

They sow for themselves the thorns of loss, yet today they perceive it not. When they awaken they shall cry out for what they have wrought. Thy Lord is indeed the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. In all circumstances be thou vigilant in affairs, with due regard to wisdom, lest anything arise that might extinguish the fire. Verily thy Lord is the Counselor, the Trustworthy.

Convey My greetings unto My Afnan and give them the glad-tidings of My mention of them in this mighty Tablet. We beseech God to aid them to gaze upon His countenance and to be well-pleased with that which He loveth and which pleaseth Him. Then convey My greetings unto My loved ones. We counsel them to show forth supreme steadfastness, for this Cause is mighty, mighty and great, great. Blessed is he who holdeth fast thereunto in the Cause of his Lord, detached from all else. Thou didst in thy letter convey greetings to the servant who is present before the Throne. When he hath finished transcribing that which hath been revealed from the heaven of grandeur and majesty at this moment, We shall convey greetings unto thee. Verily thy Lord is the Most Great, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH00631: This is a Book from the Primal Point unto…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Exalted, the Most High

This is a Book from the Primal Point unto him who hath believed in God and journeyed to the precincts of the Prison, until he entered the Garden of Paradise, the spot wherein the Dove of Praise warbled upon the branches of the Tree of Glory that there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing. The All-Merciful shone upon him with wondrous rays of His glory and caused him to hear such melodies as drew unto them the denizens of the Supreme Paradise and the realities of those near unto God. They who were veiled in those days heard not a single letter from the words of God, nor shall they ever hear—this is a revelation from One mighty and powerful. For had they heard but one letter of God's verses, they would not have denied these words which God hath made a testimony unto all who dwell in the heavens and the earth, whereby He hath manifested His Cause throughout all ages and shall continue to manifest it as He pleaseth. Verily, He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

Say: O people! Fear ye God and worship not those whom ye find upon the brink of the pit of fire. Fear ye God and be of the God-fearing. Stand ye firm in the Cause of God in such wise as to cause the hearts of the perverters to tremble. Should any among those who have disbelieved in God appear before you, suffer him not to utter a word, for it proceedeth from the very depths of hellfire and must needs return thereto. Say: O thou who associateth partners with God! Judge thou fairly, by God: by what proof didst

thou believe in the Primal Point? Explain, and be not of those who flee from place to place to cast doubt into the hearts of the believers. Thou and thy like have worshipped vain imaginings for a thousand years and were heedless thereof. And when there appeared among you one who spoke the truth and proclaimed that He would be born, ye denounced him as an infidel and slew him without clear proof or manifest evidence.

We follow not your idle fancies and We beseech God to protect Us from you, from your friends, and from your leaders. Verily, He is the Protector of the virtuous. We are servants who have shattered the chains of blind imitation through the Most Great Name of God and have detached ourselves from those who disbelieved in Him in Whom they had believed, whose eyes were covered with the veils of idle fancy and who were among the heedless. Do ye call upon vain imaginings and forsake the Best of Creators? Woe unto you and unto those whom ye have taken as friends besides God! Thereby have ye entered the abyss of perdition and yet ye rejoice and are not among those who perceive.

Blessed art thou, O Hadi, for having been guided by the lights of the Countenance. Stand thou firm, therefore, in the Cause and grieve not at the clamor of the idolaters. Know thou that thy letter hath come before Us, and We have beheld it and are among those who bear witness.

As to what thou hast asked concerning that which hath been sent down from the Most Exalted Pen regarding the Most Great Word, know thou that by the revelation of the Bayan and what hath appeared in its outward meaning and what hath been concealed in its inward significance, naught was intended except this Revelation which hath been made manifest in truth, and which the people of the Bayan have denied out of their hatred for thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Thus were their names inscribed among the people of vain imaginings, while they remain heedless thereof and are numbered with the negligent. By the True One! His pen moved only in My remembrance, His tongue spoke only in praise of My Self, and His heart beat only with My Name, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling, the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. And now He findeth Himself beneath the claws and talons of the people of the Bayan, though He had enjoined them in all the Tablets not to be veiled by anything revealed in the Bayan at the time of His manifestation. Yet they denied Me and sought to shed My blood. When their own deceit became apparent, they claimed oppression among the people, even as they had done aforetime, and they are now among the perpetrators thereof.

Say: O people! Do ye believe in the Bayan while denying Him Who hath expounded it? Woe unto you, O company of the deluded! Say: This indeed is the Spirit through Whom whosoever was quickened, he truly liveth in the sight of God, and besides this all are dead even should they fill the East and the West of the earth. Thus doth the Holy Pen reveal unto thee at this moment when moved by the fingers of thy Lord's will, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. And verily if thou shouldst examine the Qayyumu'l-Asma', thou wouldst find naught save this Most Great Name, the All-Glorious, the Most Wondrous, the Most Wonderful. He gave the glad-tidings of this Revelation in all the verses, yet the people denied it and surrounded Him with the swords of hatred and rancor, striking Him at every moment. Among the ungodly were those who said that He loved not the Point of the Bayan. Say: Fear ye God and be ashamed before the Manifestation of His Self, for verily He is My Self and I am His Self and His Being, and one word from Him is dearer to Me than the creation of both worlds, were ye of them that know.

Would anyone deny his own spirit? Nay, by the Self of God Who speaketh between the heavens and the earth! Say: O concourse of unbelievers! How long will ye flee from branch to branch? He hath appeared in truth and there is no escape for you save that ye believe in Him or deny all the Messengers of God together. And in another station He desired to manifest His Cause in the station of the Gate, even as thou witnesseth that when the letter Alif standeth upright it is called by the name of Alif, and when it is extended it is called by the name of Ba, though they are one and the same, were ye of them that perceive.

This is the station of His Gateship which appeared in truth at the beginning of His Cause and opened unto the faces of all who are in the heavens and the earth, as thou hast witnessed and wert among the witnesses. And this very Alif ascended by itself, then rose to the station of Lam, whereupon appeared the letter of Divine Authority. In this station He removed the veil of Gateship from His countenance and appeared with Divine Authority, saying: "I am the true Qa'im Whose appearance ye have been promised." Thus shouldst thou understand the Cause of thy Lord and be of them that know.

Then He ascended from this station until He reached the station of Ra, which is the station of Lordship in this stage, and He rent asunder the veils of idle fancy through His sovereignty, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Wise, and said:

> "I am your Lord and your Educator and your Creator and your Sustainer and your Quickener and your Slayer and your Resurrector and your Bearer of glad-tidings concerning Him Who shall come in truth. Beware lest ye neglect His Cause and be not of them that hesitate. This is the station of Lordship which hath encompassed and pervaded all worlds."

But thou, O Hadi, witness today a new spirit in the temples of words and letters. Should one possessed of hearing be found, he would hear from every letter of the Bayan melodies and anthems in remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, and would say:

> "This indeed is He Who hath manifested the Alif to reveal His Cause, and the Lam to establish His command, and the Ra to spread abroad that which hath appeared from His presence."

Thus doth He speak the truth, but the people hear not, nor are they among those who perceive. We have indeed interpreted the disconnected letters aforetime with a clear, evident and manifest exposition. Were We to interpret and expound them now, no wayfarer could bear it.

And if thou wouldst sharpen thy vision and reflect, thou wouldst witness that these are the days wherein thy Lord's Cause hath been spread abroad and hath been and will be decreed, and through it truth is distinguished from falsehood, light from darkness, and the wretched from the blessed. In His manifestation He desireth naught but this Revelation, and by this Name hath the Dove warbled upon the twigs of the Tree of Eternity, and the Cock of the Throne hath crowed, and the Tongue of God hath spoken, and the Pen of Command hath coursed upon tablets of transcendent glory.

Say: O people, fear God! Pervert not the words of God from their places. By the True One! Every goodly mention revealed in the Bayan referreth to this Most Great Remembrance, this Most Ancient and Most Mighty Cause. Through it the matter hath been and will be decreed around the Fire at the axis of Water,

nigh unto this all-pervading, sublime, sweet and luminous Air. And were We to find pure hearts, upright minds and penetrating vision, We would bring forth from this Ocean pearls of sanctified worth.

By thy life, O Hadi! Through the buffetings of the idolaters, the mouth of God hath been prevented from His utterance, and the Salsabil from its flowing, and the clouds from their rain, and the Most Great Sea from its waves, and the Lote-Tree of the Extremity from its fruits, and the Holy Land from its vegetation, and the Sun of knowledge from its radiance. Thus have the hosts of Satan assailed the Manifestation of God's Self.

O Hadi! Is there any helper who will aid the Cause of his Lord, and stand firm in the love of his Master, and be detached from the deniers? Is there any faithful one who will fulfill God's Covenant and His Testament, and fear not the assault of swine? Is there any zealous one who will not alter God's bounty upon himself and will guard this heavenly Table from these thieves? Thus have We remembered thee and revealed unto thee that thou mayest stand firm in thy Lord's Cause and be among them that remember.

Then make mention from Us unto Ibrahim with gracious mention, then recite unto him and his brother who was mentioned in thy letter this impregnable and lofty Tablet, that it may create in them that which the opposition of the opposers cannot extinguish. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God, then remained steadfast, and are in a state of rapture, attraction, longing and wondrous yearning.

BH00627: Lawh-i-Ibrahim

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Help in Peril!

O questioner! Know thou that there hath come before Us a letter from him who hath been set aflame with the fire of God, and therein We found mention of thee. Therefore have We sprinkled upon thee from the drops of the ocean of eternity from the direction of Paradise, that it may purify thee from all the doubts of creation, may detach thee wholly unto God, and may cause thee to speak His praise amongst the worlds.

Know thou then that We answered thee aforetime concerning what thou didst ask of God, thy Lord, through veils and coverings. At times We showed thee the lights of the Countenance from behind seventy thousand veils, and at times We concealed them, for in those days We found the knowledge of the servants at the stage of a mere drop, and We found none who could bear God's Trust—the Trust of the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Powerful. Therefore did We hold back the Pen and loosed not its reins save according to a determined measure. And We reared a numbered few through the sovereignty of might and power. When they attained unto what thy Lord desired, We then clothed them with the flesh of certitude and brought forth another creation in the love of thy Lord. Blessed be God, the Sovereign of the mighty, and the Best of creators!

Verily, for all things there is an appointed time with thy Lord. When the promise cometh, He revealeth it through truth and sendeth down upon it what He hath ordained. Verily, He hath power over whatsoever He willeth. Although every word that hath been sent down from Our presence is sufficient for all contingent things and therein are treasured the pearls of wisdom, blessed is he who casteth therein the

bucket of knowledge, from which the youth of inner meanings draweth it forth, and thereby becometh independent of all the worlds.

We have ordained for the servants a portion from every word according to their capacity. Blessed is he who taketh his portion and is not among the deprived. However,

It hath been decreed by Us that the Word of God and all the potentialities thereof shall be manifested unto men in strict conformity with such conditions as have been foreordained by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. We have, moreover, ordained that its veil of concealment be none other except its own Self. Such indeed is Our Power to achieve Our Purpose. Should the Word be allowed to release suddenly all the energies latent within it, no man could sustain the weight of so mighty a Revelation. Nay, all that is in heaven and on earth would flee in consternation before it.

Consider that which hath been sent down unto Muhammad, the Apostle of God. The measure of the Revelation of which He was the bearer had been clearly foreordained by Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. They that heard Him, however, could apprehend His purpose only to the extent of their station and spiritual capacity. He, in like manner, uncovered the Face of Wisdom in proportion to their ability to sustain the burden of His Message. No sooner had mankind attained the stage of maturity, than the Word revealed to men's eyes the latent energies with which it had been endowed—energies which manifested themselves in the plenitude of their glory when the Ancient Beauty appeared, in the year sixty, in the person of ʿAli-Muhammad, the Bab.

Verily, were We to expound this station fully, neither tablets nor pens would suffice, and thy Lord is witness unto this.

Know of a certainty that in every Dispensation the light of Divine Revelation hath been vouchsafed unto men in direct proportion to their spiritual capacity. Consider the sun. How feeble its rays the moment it appeareth above the horizon. How gradually its warmth and potency increase as it approacheth its zenith, enabling meanwhile all created things to adapt themselves to the growing intensity of its light. How steadily it declineth until it reacheth its setting point. Were it, all of a sudden, to manifest the energies latent within it, it would, no doubt, cause injury to all created things.

Thus observe thou the Sun of Meanings, that thou mayest be among those who are endowed with insight.

In like manner, if the Sun of Truth were suddenly to reveal, at the earliest stages of its manifestation, the full measure of the potencies which the providence of the Almighty hath bestowed upon it, the earth of human understanding would waste away and be consumed; for men's hearts would neither sustain the intensity of its revelation, nor be able to mirror forth the radiance of its light. Dismayed and overpowered, they would cease to exist.

Therefore it shineth upon them according to their capacity and receptivity, even as ye witnessed at the beginning of the Manifestation of your Lord, the Most Exalted, in the year sixty, when He appeared at first in the garment of the Bab. At this station the drop of acceptance and capacity in all things ascended to become a clot, then He changed the garment to that of divine authority and raised all created things to

the state of embryo, and the gradual progression continued through His sovereignty until He brought them to the station of another creation. Then did He manifest Himself unto them through the name of Divine Lordship and proclaimed:

> "Verily, I am God! There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Exalted, the All-Knowing!"

But today there hath appeared such grace that were all created things to encounter it for less than a moment, it would raise them to a station whereof the Pen of Creation and the tongues of all the worlds are powerless to make mention. For such a Lord beseemeth the glorification of the Concourse of Eternity, and the magnification of the denizens of the Supreme Paradise, and the sanctification of the Company of the Near Ones.

Know thou moreover that if thy Lord should wish to raise all created things from the state of a drop to maturity in less than the twinkling of an eye, He would verily be able to do so through His all-pervading, all-encompassing power. Yet He hath loved to cause all things to progress through their ordained stages and gradual development, according to a wisdom which none save His all-compelling, all-informed Self hath comprehended.

Know thou moreover that God, thy Lord, hath ever been in one condition, neither ascending nor descending, and likewise His Self-Manifestation in that station. Exalted is He above whatsoever the servants attribute to Him from their own understanding; exalted is He above the description of every discerning describer. All words are equal in His sight—He exalteth them at one time and abaseth them at another, and He shall not be questioned about what He doeth. He is verily the Almighty, the All-Powerful. When He saith "I am but a servant," He thereby educateth the manifestations of servitude, and likewise observe regarding the station of the Bab and beyond that, until it culminateth in "I am God, the Sovereign, the Just, the Wise."

The relation of all these stations to His exalted Self is equal. Nay, shouldst thou observe with the eye of God, thou wouldst witness them all as creation within His dominion, appearing through His prevailing, mighty, and wise command. Ponder thou upon this Tablet, and when thou attainest unto what is treasured therein, arise and give glad tidings unto the servants, that perchance they may arise from slumber and be numbered among those possessed of true knowledge.

O Khalil! When the appointed time of concealment was fulfilled, We unveiled from the Most Hidden Mystery, veiled by mystery, unto pure truth, a secret less than can be numbered. Thereupon the Manifestations of Names were thunderstruck, and all who are in the heavens and earth were terrified, save those whose hearts were assured by the lights of God and whose eyes were opened by the light of certitude.

If it be your wish, O people, to know God and to discover the greatness of His might, look, then, upon Me with Mine own eyes, and not with the eyes of anyone besides Me. Ye will, otherwise, be never capable of recognizing Me, though ye ponder My Cause as long as My Kingdom endureth, and meditate upon all created things throughout the eternity of God, the Sovereign Lord of all, the Omnipotent, the Ever-

Abiding, the All-Wise. Thus have We manifested the truth of Our Revelation, that haply the people may be roused from their heedlessness, and be of them that understand.

Behold the low estate of these men who know full well how I have offered up Mine own Self and My kindred in the path of God and for the preservation of their faith in Him, who are well aware how Mine enemies have compassed Me about, in the days when the hearts of men feared and trembled, the days when they hid themselves from the eyes of the loved ones of God and of His enemies, and were busied in ensuring their own security and peace.

We eventually succeeded in manifesting the Cause of God, and exalted it to so eminent a position that all the people, except those who cherished ill-will in their hearts against this Youth and joined partners with the Almighty, acknowledged the sovereignty of God and His mighty dominion. And yet, notwithstanding this Revelation whose influence hath pervaded all created things, and despite the brightness of this Light, the like of which none of them hath ever beheld, witness how the people of the Bayán have denied and contended with Me. Some have turned away from the Path of God, rejected the authority of Him in Whom they had believed, and acted insolently towards God, the Most Powerful, the Supreme Protector, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Others hesitated and halted in His Path, and regarded the Cause of the Creator, in its inmost truth, as invalid unless substantiated by the approval of him who was created through the operation of My Will. Thus have their works come to naught, and yet they failed to perceive it. Among them is he who sought to measure God with the measure of his own self, and was so misled by the names of God as to rise up against Me, who condemned Me as one that deserved to be put to death, and who imputed to Me the very offenses of which he himself was guilty.

Wherefore, do I plead My grief and My sorrow to Him Who created Me and entrusted Me with His Message. Unto Him do I render thanks and praise for the things He hath ordained, for My loneliness, and the anguish I suffer at the hands of these men who have strayed so far from Him. I have patiently sustained, and will continue to sustain, the tribulation that touched Me, and will put My whole trust and confidence in God. Him will I supplicate saying: Guide Thy servants, O My Lord, unto the court of Thy favor and bounty, and suffer them not to be deprived of the wonders of Thy grace and of Thy manifold blessings. For they know not what Thou hast ordained for them by virtue of Thy mercy that encompasseth the whole of creation. Outwardly, O Lord, they are weak and helpless; inwardly they are but orphans. Thou art the All-Bountiful, the Munificent, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. Cast not, O My God, the fury of Thy wrath upon them, and cause them to tarry until such time when the wonders of Thy mercy will have been made manifest, that haply they may return unto Thee, and ask forgiveness of Thee for the things they have committed against Thee. Verily, Thou art the Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

And thou, O Khalil, remember My loneliness and My exile, then My imprisonment and My trials, and be of them that remember. Then mention this to the people purely for the sake of God, that through thee may be quickened the hearts of those who have died from the severity of the Cause and are numbered among the dead. Thus have We commanded thee and conveyed unto thee a clear message. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee in the Cause of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH00638: O friend! God willing, may you remain protected…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Pure!

O friend! God willing, may you remain protected from the fire of opposition of the Nimrod-like manifestations, and in all ages be engaged in praising the Truth. Say: The Cause of God is more manifest than to need proof or evidence, for in all times and ages there hath appeared that which transcendeth human capacity. Therefore, the excuse of those who hesitate is unacceptable before God. Were people to adorn themselves with fairness, all would acknowledge that the divine testimony and proof of the All-Glorious, the Self-Subsisting, hath appeared in its essence. How many were the souls who witnessed with their own eyes extraordinary events and divine manifestations, their tongues uttering praise of the All-Merciful Beauty to such extent that they composed countless poems in His praise.

Yet they became so veiled by that which hath never been deemed to exist in God's sight that they denied it all, and now they wander in the wilderness of error and traverse the desert of heedlessness and ignorance, to such degree that they have become oblivious to all they had witnessed with their own eyes and perceived with their own hearts. Thus hath it ever been and ever shall be. Even if the Truth should at all times appear with clear and manifest proof, the idolaters would derive no benefit therefrom. Just as in every age they demanded miracles and extraordinary signs from the Manifestations of God Himself, and whenever these appeared, the opposition of the deniers and the fire of hatred grew fiercer and more intense.

As ye have heard, I swear by the peerless God that not a single atom moveth in the heavens and earth save by His leave and will. He knoweth what is hidden and concealed in the hearts of His servants, and is able to subdue the earth and all who dwell therein with a single word. However, were such matters to be manifested, all would acknowledge them willingly or unwillingly, yet such acknowledgment would have no value. Therefore, at times the divine manifestations of power are revealed and apparent, and at times concealed and hidden. In their revelation, they draw the people of attainment to the heaven of witnessing, and in their concealment, they distinguish between those of certainty and those of doubt.

Thus was it witnessed how people slipped from the path of God's Cause when the winds of trials blew, though in all divine tablets mention had been made of severe days to come. It was clear and evident that a great tribulation would surely appear. This was announced only that people might be informed and prepared, that perchance they would not be disturbed when trials appeared, but would ascend with complete assurance to the heaven of the All-Merciful and walk in the paradise of certitude. Nevertheless, some remained veiled and others became disturbed and shaken, except those divine souls who were planted by God's hand in the paradise of certitude and were given to drink from the living waters. These are the children of the spirit on earth and God's trustees in all lands. God created them from the lights of the Throne, and He verily is the Ancient Bestower.

Say: O loved ones of God! Strive ye to drink from the cup of faith in the name of the All-Merciful during the days of trials, for what is beloved is that people should turn toward the realm of divine oneness during severe times. Otherwise, when the winds of might blow from the direction of God's power, all will enter the shore of faith and claim certitude. However, this faith and certitude are contingent upon

another trial, until such time and such an age when it shall be made manifest, for the cause of this faith has been outward means rather than divine attractions. We beseech God to assist those who have believed, to make them steadfast in His love, and to nourish them from the fruits of the holy tree, which whosoever partakes thereof, nothing in the heavens and earth shall cause him to grieve.

Say: O servants! Hearken unto the counsels of this Prisoner, which He imparteth purely for the sake of God. Fear not for your lives in the path of the Beloved, and be not dismayed by the manifestations of oppression and tyranny. By the Most Great Luminary! None of the peoples of the earth hath or shall have dominion over those who are assured of God, save over their outward bodies, and they have not and shall never have authority in the realms of the spirit.

And were the idolaters to reflect, even in some slight measure, they would never lay hands upon the Temples of Oneness. For the intent of the deniers, in what they commit, hath been—and ever will be—the abasement of those assured souls. Yet did they but know that within the martyrdom of such souls are concealed lives everlasting, and that in their humiliation for the sake of the All-Merciful there lieth enfolded the kingdom of glory, they would not dare to assail them. The ascent of spirits from their bodies shall, in every case, come to pass—whether by outward maladies or by instruments of war. Blessed, then, are those who, in the path of the Friend, lay down their lives and hasten unto the Most Exalted Companion.

O friends of the True One! Deem not this peerless bounty a small thing, nor be ye troubled when the winds of trial blow. And should any soul be vouchsafed martyrdom, let him count it a precious gain; for this sovereignty that shall never pass away is not granted to every ignorant one, nor shall it fall to the lot of every blind soul. This cup is the portion of the longing ones, and this wine is for the lovers; the hypocrites have been, and shall ever be, deprived thereof.

O Khalil! In all the Tablets of constancy wherein mention hath been made of grievous days, We have counseled all servants with compassionate exhortations that none should molest anyone, and no soul should contend with another. The decree of killing hath been entirely forbidden in the wondrous Tablets. Nevertheless, that which happened hath happened. Say: O servants of God! Defile not the good earth with the blood of idolatrous souls. The victory of truth hath been through goodly counsels and wise exhortations, not through conflict and contention. Hearken unto the counsels of the Most Exalted Pen and transgress not the command of God. In this Revelation, corruption hath been entirely forbidden, and the purpose hath been and shall be the reformation of the earth and the unity of its peoples. By the Sun of the horizon of sanctification! If My loved ones are slain, it is more beloved to this Servant than the shedding of anyone's blood. Say: O friends! Be not content with harm to any animal, much less to humans. God hath ever commanded and decreed that which is for the good of mankind. If they turn unto God's guidance, this good shall return unto those accepting souls, otherwise thy Lord is indeed independent of all worlds.

He maketh mention, moreover, of Jinab-i-Niyaz. Should you meet with him, say that whatsoever hath been manifested sufficeth all existence. Several times have We revealed Ourself unto you, both in sleep and in wakefulness, including once when you were walking upon the mountain. Reflect a little, that perchance you may become aware of that which transpired. After you have turned unto Him and attained

certitude, the grace of God shall encompass you. Soon shall the commander and the commanded fall silent, and God shall aid you through the truth if ye be of them that are assured of Him. Verily, He is nigh unto them that do good.

It behooveth you in these days to arise in service to the Cause of God. Consider the diverse peoples, how they are all deprived from the shores of divine unity, inasmuch as they have found the Manifestation of Truth to be contrary to their vain imaginings. Thus do they all still wait, even though He Whom they await hath appeared like unto the sun from the horizon of divine unity.

In these times, remain not veiled from the manifestation of two Names in a single Temple, and account all else as non-existent. The springtime hath appeared and the beauty of the rose is unveiled and manifest. O nightingale! Cease not thy melody, for this is thy time and thy day, as none but thee hath such a share of the beauty of the rose. Sing and warble in this Garden as thou pleasest, and be not of them that are silent.

It would be a pity if you, who for years have been known and remembered by the name of Truth, should today remain veiled from the Truth. Finally, it is said: O Khalil, sacrifice the servant of the Bayan in the path of the All-Merciful, and fear not the hosts of Satan—that is, dedicate thy wisdom and utterance to the promotion of the Cause of the All-Merciful. The loved ones of God must, one and all, be distinguished from all who dwell on earth by their words and deeds, such that truthfulness may be evident from their words and the sweet fragrances of holiness may waft from their deeds. The Spirit be upon thee and upon thy brethren, then upon those whom divine guidance hath preceded from God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

BH00647: Lawh-i-Pisar-'Amm (Tablet to the Cousin)

In the Name of the One Beloved Friend

O son of My uncle! Give thanks unto God that this supreme kinship was not severed, and that thou didst outstrip all others among the kindred until thou wert blessed to attain the presence of the Ancient Beauty in the Most Great Prison. Consider this favor as a priceless treasure, for naught that hath been created in earth or heaven can compare with it. By the might and power of the All-Merciful, and by divine leave and permission, return to thy homeland and be occupied with the remembrance of the Friend. Thou must conduct thyself in such wise that all the inhabitants of thy land may inhale from thee the fragrance of the garment of the Chosen One. Preserve thy kinship and keep it safe in the vessel of trust in God, detachment, truthfulness and purity.

Manifest among all people such divine qualities that all may witness in thee that which is beloved in the sight of God. Be not grieved by the world and its transient affairs, for these have never endured and never shall endure, and the honored servants pay no heed to that which is destined to perish. How many were the mighty who were suddenly afflicted with abasement, and how many were the wealthy who returned to poverty. Therefore, seek thou that which no abasement shall follow its glory, and no poverty shall overtake its wealth. By My life! It is none other than holding fast to My Name and clinging to the

hem of My sacred and luminous Robe. Convey My greetings to all the loved ones of God, be they kindred or otherwise.

And if thou shouldst meet Jinab-i-Ism, convey to him My greetings and say:

> "Why hast thou withheld thyself from Him for Whose sake the Concourse on High would sacrifice their souls, and through Whom the eyes of them that are nigh unto God were solaced?"

What hath befallen you that ye are observed in such fear and trepidation? Reflect upon the state of that Soul Who was raised up by the Holy Spirit and Who, alone and single-handed, turned with the divine Tablet to the appointed place, and with utmost power and assurance proclaimed the messages of the All-Merciful, never disturbed by might or wrath. Dost thou fear for thyself or for that which thou possessest? Hearken unto My call from the direction of tribulation and withhold not thyself from that which hath been ordained in the Kingdom of eternity. Turn with thy whole being unto God and fear not those who have wronged, and if thou desirest to preserve thy life, beseech God, thy Lord. Verily, He will protect thee even if thou be in the depths of the ocean, or in the valleys of fire, or in the mouth of the crocodile, or amidst the swords of the oppressors. By God, the Truth! Not a leaf stirreth save by His leave, nor do the winds blow except by His will, nor doth any soul draw breath save through His aid. Cast aside thy vain imaginings and hold fast unto thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

We counsel thee purely for the sake of thy Lord, for We desire not that thy connection to God, the Mighty, the Wise, be severed. Remember when thou wast in prison and God aided thee with the truth and protected thee with the hosts of the seen and the unseen until He delivered thee by His power and made thee to be among those who rejoice. We were with thee in prison and found from thee the fragrance of devotion to a degree; therefore We delivered thee as We delivered whom We wished when he was in the hands of the heedless. Ponder what We have imparted unto thee that thou mayest be awakened by My remembrance and recall thy Lord's favor among His servants. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Be thou in such wise that neither wealth divert thee from thy ultimate end nor means from the Cause of all causes.

Hearken unto the words of one who loveth thee and desireth for thee what he desireth for himself. Cast away the world entire and take what thou hast been given from the presence of One mighty and powerful. Art thou content with this transient life, having forsaken the eternal life? By My life! This beseemeth thee not, wert thou of them that know. Would that I could sacrifice myself again and again in the love of God, and that at every moment every land might be dyed with my blood in the path of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all the worlds. Finally, why dost thou not reflect? The days have passed and life hath reached its end.

Now judge thou fairly: is it better that at the end of one's days one should give up one's soul on a bed, suffering from illness and severe pain, or that in these few remaining days of life one should sacrifice oneself in the path of God? I swear by the Ancient Beauty that the former is loss while the latter is spirit and fragrance. What regret and remorse that one should not sacrifice these few borrowed breaths remaining of life in the path of the Friend, but rather should surrender them on the bed of heedlessness

after drinking repugnant and foul medicines. Tell Me truthfully which of these two is more worthy? Say: The first course, by my Lord, the Most Exalted, the Possessor of the Throne and of the dust.

The point is that the loved ones of God should not be disturbed and fearful, but rather should consider martyrdom in the path of the Friend a mighty achievement if it should occur, not that they should cast themselves into danger, for in this Revelation, all are enjoined to act with wisdom. Hear the call of the Wronged One Who, in the extremity of tribulation, sorrow and grief, summoneth thee unto God. All are commanded to observe wisdom. Detach thyself from the world and its peoples, and take shelter beneath the shadow of His mercy. Know thou, moreover, that one hath appeared before the Presence and claimed that he had seen thee, saying that thou hadst declared: "We shall no longer send thee any Tablet."

Thereupon did the eye of My loving-kindness weep for thee. By Him Who hath caused Me to voice His praise between earth and heaven! Hadst thou but sensed the fragrance of the Divine Garment and perused but one of the Tablets of thy Lord which We sent unto thee, thou wouldst have sacrificed thy life and all thou dost possess for but a single word thereof, and wouldst have been content to be slain a thousand times in every moment rather than be deprived of the sweet fragrances of the Ancient of Days and the breezes of God wafting from the direction of His Most Great Name.

I know not by what thing thou hast been kept back from this most bountiful favor, and hast remained encompassed by doubts and idle fancies. Make thou amends, O my brother, for that which hath escaped thee, and turn unto the Qiblih of all worlds, saying:

> "I have turned with my whole being unto Thee, O Creator of the heavens and earth! Pardon me for my heedlessness concerning Thee. Verily Thou art the Lord of all worlds."

Beware lest pride keep thee back from the Lord of all creation. Cast away idle fancy and take fast hold of thy Lord, the Most Glorious. This is better for thee, and God is witness to what I say.

And to the other people of the village, whomsoever thou findest turning unto God, make mention of them on God's behalf and say: Be not grieved at what hath befallen you, for worse than this hath been inflicted upon the Ancient Beauty, Who is now confined in the Most Great Prison, where conditions are so severe that they have blocked both entry and exit. Yet we are engaged in remembrance of the All-Merciful with utmost joy and fragrance. Be not saddened by what hath been plundered, for soon will all who dwell on earth make mention of you. The reward of no soul hath been, nor ever shall be, lost. Whatsoever worldly ornaments have been taken from you in His path, He will surely compensate you for them in this world, and in the next life will bestow stations such that were but one of them to be revealed to the peoples of the earth, they would sacrifice themselves in the path of the Beloved, hoping to attain that most exalted station.

Hearken unto the testament of the Ancient Beauty, Who calleth unto you from the direction of the Most Great Prison: Abandon sedition and rebellion, and hold fast unto righteousness. Sanctify your souls from satanic deeds and adorn them with divine attributes. Corruption and contention have never been, nor shall ever be, worthy of the people of truth. Shun reprehensible acts and walk in the paths of sanctity, submission and contentment. Strive that divine qualities and attributes may be made manifest from you,

and walk among mankind with perfect detachment and tranquility. Deal with one another with the utmost justice and equity. Transform treachery into trustworthiness, backbiting into self-purification, tyranny into justice, and heedlessness into remembrance. This is the counsel of the All-Merciful that hath been revealed from the mouth of divine Will.

Strive that through divine assistance, what hath been ordained in the Kingdom of destiny may not be altered or changed by reprehensible deeds. At all times, implore and beseech the Goal of all creation that He may not deprive you of His grace and favor, and that He may grant you shelter beneath the Tree of affirmation and the Sadrih of names and attributes. And peace be upon you from God, your Ancient Lord, and praise be to God, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH00681: The Most Exalted Pen makes mention of His friends…

The Most Exalted Pen makes mention of His friends and calls them all to the straight path. Today the straight path is manifest and the hidden mystery that was forever concealed in the divine treasuries of infallibility is now evident. Blessed are they whom the outward circumstances of the world and its ornaments have not deprived of the Most Exalted Horizon. The waves of the ocean of the All-Merciful's utterance have reached their highest surge, and the horizon of the world is illumined and radiant with the lights of the Greatest Luminary, yet the various sects and heedless souls remain deprived and forbidden. Those servants who considered themselves the most exalted, most excellent and most learned of all creation, on the Day of Manifestation prevented people from turning to the Truth and encouraged them to turn away. These are the ones who, throughout all ages and centuries, have done to the Manifestations of God's Cause and the Dawning Places of His Divine Revelation that which caused grief and sorrow to the world. By God's life! Had the Sources of Divine commandments not been saddened, you would have beheld all the world rejoicing. From the sorrow of those holy souls, the fire of grief was kindled in the world and the light of joy was veiled.

O Allah-Virdi! The Wronged One of the horizons mentions thee from this Most Great Prison, and likewise His loved ones—those souls who have drunk from the sealed wine in the name of the Self-Subsisting God and who are gazing toward and are turned to the Most Exalted Horizon. All must recognize the worth of this most exalted station and supreme rank, and must occupy themselves with the praise and glorification of the Peerless Beloved. They must hold fast to the cord of unity and cleave to the hem of concord, for through unity the light of the Cause will encompass the horizons and illumine hearts. Today the springtime of utterance hath made the world fresh and adorned, and the true door of inner meanings hath been opened in the name of the Divine…. All things and the Concourse on High speak in remembrance of the Lord of Names and make mention of His praise. Today every secret is made manifest and every hidden thing is revealed. The loved ones of God must arise with the utmost endeavor and striving to exalt the Word of God—an arising that neither the calumnies of the world nor the doubts of the nations can prevent.

We previously informed all of the braying of the brayerers who will soon pass through that land. These are the manifestations of Satan who, with the utmost cunning, deception, and outward humility and submissiveness, prevent the servants from the Dawning Place of the Light of Oneness. All must drink from

the Kawthar of steadfastness and from the cup of assurance in such wise that the braying of the brayerers will not affect them. Hearken unto the call of the Wronged One and hold fast to that which hath been sent down from the Supreme Pen. Verily, He sufficeth you, by the Lord of all the worlds.

We counsel all to such deeds as will guide humanity and to such character as will deliver the servants from the wilderness of error. Religion is as a lamp, and trustworthiness is as a kind companion, and truthfulness is as a garment for the temple of man. The doer is known by his deeds, not his words. Deeds are as a mirror that telleth the story of the doers. Acceptable deeds are clearly distinguished from those that are rejected. Some, with perfect adornment, consider themselves superior to all creation, though they are not worthy of mention—they are as a straw before the fierce winds of self and passion, which carry them wheresoever they list. From the beginning of days until now, We have mentioned the servants with clear utterance, imparted the Word and shown the Way, and commanded that which leads to success and prosperity. Blessed are they whose evil deeds have not prevented them from good and pure deeds. Hearken unto the voice of the Wronged One, and beseech God to protect you from the hosts of self and passion, and to aid you in that which befits His days.

Muhammad and Muhammad attained the Most Holy Court and achieved that which was recorded and inscribed in the divine Books. The first Muhammad twice partook of the cup of reunion, and the second once. Their reward is with God, their Creator. Every pure deed is a treasure for its doer with God, exalted be His glory. Blessed is he who has attained, and woe unto the heedless.

They mentioned the friends of that land, both men and women, and each has been blessed by God's favors. Some have sought permission for attainment of His presence. In these days this is not permitted, as the transgressors and idolaters lie in wait. However, for every soul who is today enkindled with the fire of divine love and stands firm on the path of His Cause, the Supreme Pen records for them, should God will and desire, the reward of attainment. O people of God! Strive that ye may achieve that which befits this most great bounty.

From this station We send Our greetings upon you and upon those who have testified to that which the Tongue of Grandeur spoke before the creation of the heavens and earth. These are indeed among the triumphant in God's Book, the Lord of the worlds. They who have acted according to what God has revealed—these are the successful ones. And they who have held fast to the Book when it was sent down in truth—these are the near ones. O people of God! Take hold of God's Book with the strength that comes from Him, then act according to what is revealed therein. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, hears and sees, and He is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

O My Most Exalted Pen! Make mention of him who turned to the Most Glorious Horizon, who arose to serve his Lord, attained His presence, and drank the choice wine of life from the hands of His bounty. He was named Varqa in the Book of Names. We beseech God, the Lord of the Throne and earth, to strengthen him, draw him nigh unto Him, and ordain for him what He has ordained for His chosen ones who were not frightened by hosts and multitudes. O Varqa! Hear the call of thy Lord, then remind the people of what has been sent down from God, the Lord of existence. Let not the affairs of men grieve thee. Set aside what the people possess and hold fast to the Book of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Loving. He has remembered thee at this hour and adorned thy temple with the ornament of grace. Be thankful and

say: Praise be to Thee, O Thou the Goal of the world, and all glory be to Thee, O Thou the Beloved of all that was and shall be.

We make mention of Alif and Ha [Ahmad] who turned to the Countenance on a day wherein trembling seized the inhabitants of earth and the tribes wailed out of fear of God, the Lord of this promised Day. O Ahmad! Rejoice in My remembrance of thee, then thank thy Lord. We have remembered thee with that which nothing in all creation can equal, as attesteth He with Whom is the Preserved Tablet. O Ahmad! Thank God for having enabled thee and thy sons to recognize the Dawning-Place of His verses, the Dayspring of His Cause, and the Manifestation of His Self, Whose appearance was heralded in God's Books of the past and future, and beyond them the Tongue of Grandeur in this praiseworthy station. The splendor shining from the horizon of the heaven of My mercy be upon you, O My loved ones, and upon you, O My handmaidens, and upon every servant who has attained and every maidservant who has turned to and believed in God, the Sovereign, the Self-Subsisting.

O my God and my Lord! Thou seest Thy servants turning unto Thee, acknowledging Thy oneness and Thy singleness, and confessing that which Thou hast sent down unto them from the heaven of Thy Will and the clouds of Thy Purpose. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which all created things appeared and all contingent beings emerged, and through which the breezes of Thy bounty wafted over Thy creation and the streams of Thy mercy flowed amongst Thy servants, to aid them to remain steadfast in Thy Cause. Then inscribe, through Thy Most Exalted Pen, for the people of Sin and Ya and their surroundings that which will draw them nigh unto Thee, O Lord of Names and Creator of Heaven.

Then ordain for those who have lamented in their separation from Thee and cried out for reunion with Thee the recompense of meeting Thee. Verily, Thou art the Almighty Whom the conditions of the world cannot frustrate. Strengthen the limbs of Thy loved ones to serve Thee. Thou art He to Whose power every possessor of a tongue hath testified, and to Whose sovereignty every person of grandeur hath confessed. Thou doest what Thou willest by Thy command, and decreest what Thou desirest by Thy will. There is none other God but Thee, the Omnipotent over what Thou willest. Within Thy grasp are the reins of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

BH00687: Qad Ihtaraqa'l-Mukhlisun (The Fire Tablet)

In His Name—the Joyous, the Sorrowing

O Mahdi! Behold, from the horizon of the Beginning, the lights of the Countenance of thy Lord, the Most High, the All-Glorious; then give ear unto the call of this Most Exalted Pen: "There is none other God but Me, the All-Powerful, the Self-Subsisting." Cast off the garments of sorrow, assured of the bounty of thy Lord, the All-Merciful; then appear with such attraction that hearts and minds shall be drawn thereby. Be thou in such a state that the fire of God may be kindled through thee in all besides Him. Such beseemeth thy relation unto God, the Sovereign of the unseen and the seen. Be thou the dayspring of the joy of thy Lord, and the manifest sign of that gladness upon which no grief can intrude. Busy not thyself with that which maketh thee sorrowful, but with that which causeth thee to soar in the atmosphere of rejoicing. If thy sorrow should wax grievous, ponder thou what hath befallen this Wronged One. Be thou so confident

of the care of thy Lord that from the horizon of thy heart the Sun of tranquillity may arise. This behoveth thee—by My fixed and irrevocable resolve.

The letter of the Mim hath been brought into Our presence, and We have learned what it containeth of the remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved. Blessed is he, in that he remained steadfast in the Cause and arose in the love of his Lord, after all the rejected idolaters had turned away from him. Verily, though We should send unto him the Robe, once again and yet again—thy Lord is, indeed, the Mighty, the Forgiving—that he might be enkindled by the warmth of the utterance of thy Lord with such intensity that the coldness of those who have been heedless of the remembrance of their Lord and have followed vain imaginings and conjectures may not chill him. We beseech God to strengthen him in all conditions, and to inspire him with that whereby hearts are illumined. That which was mentioned concerning My servant, and that which hath befallen him in My path—We were with him when the idolaters rose up against him. Say: Grieve not at this, for thou hast followed the example of thy Lord when the oppressors encompassed Him. He hath drunk of what thou hast drunk. Blessed am I and blessed is he—for, by My life, this is sealed wine.

All that cometh upon Us in the path of God—verily it is the Best-Beloved, and My Name, resplendent, upon whatsoever hath been and shall be. If it be sickness, it is healing; if it be poison, it is an antidote; and if it be death, it is life. Yet the people understand not. Were We to will, We could seize the forelock of every oppressor; but We have left them for a few days unto an appointed time. We shall assuredly lay hold on those who have wronged him. Thy Lord is witness to what they do. They have done what none did of those servants who aforetime transgressed against God—yet they shall be the losers. There hath been revealed for the wicked one, from thy Lord the Severe, that which befitteth him; but We have not yet sent it unto him. Soon shall he behold the might of his Lord and find himself in the lowest depths of hell. Of this hath mention been made in his letter—upon him be the glory of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Beautiful.

We have sent unto him that which will rejoice his heart and cause him to arise for the succour of this Stranger. Blessed are My loved ones in those parts who have been faithful to the Covenant and Testament of God and have stood fast in this mighty Cause.

O Ismi Mahdi! There hath come into the presence of the Countenance that which the son of thy brother hath composed in praise of his Lord, and We have discerned therein longing and yearning; and We have sent down for him that whereby ardour and burning love may be kindled for God, the Lord of the Day of Severance. Blessed is he that readeth and pondereth that which hath been revealed from God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

In the Name of God, the Most Ancient, the Most Great.

Indeed the hearts of the sincere are consumed in the fire of separation: Where is the gleaming of the light of Thy Countenance, O Beloved of the worlds?

Those who are near unto Thee have been abandoned in the darkness of desolation: Where is the shining of the morn of Thy reunion, O Desire of the worlds?

The bodies of Thy chosen ones lie quivering on distant sands: Where is the ocean of Thy presence, O Enchanter of the worlds?

Longing hands are uplifted to the heaven of Thy grace and generosity: Where are the rains of Thy bestowal, O Answerer of the worlds?

The infidels have arisen in tyranny on every hand: Where is the compelling power of Thine ordaining pen, O Conqueror of the worlds?

The barking of dogs is loud on every side: Where is the lion of the forest of Thy might, O Chastiser of the worlds?

Coldness hath gripped all mankind: Where is the warmth of Thy love, O Fire of the worlds?

Calamity hath reached its height: Where are the signs of Thy succor, O Salvation of the worlds?

Darkness hath enveloped most of the peoples: Where is the brightness of Thy splendor, O Radiance of the worlds?

The necks of men are stretched out in malice: Where are the swords of Thy vengeance, O Destroyer of the worlds?

Abasement hath reached its lowest depth: Where are the emblems of Thy glory, O Glory of the worlds?

Sorrows have afflicted the Revealer of Thy Name, the All-Merciful: Where is the joy of the Dayspring of Thy Revelation, O Delight of the worlds?

Anguish hath befallen all the peoples of the earth: Where are the ensigns of Thy gladness, O Joy of the worlds?

Thou seest the Dawning Place of Thy signs veiled by evil suggestions: Where are the fingers of Thy might, O Power of the worlds?

Sore thirst hath overcome all men: Where is the river of Thy bounty, O Mercy of the worlds?

Greed hath made captive all mankind: Where are the embodiments of detachment, O Lord of the worlds?

Thou seest this Wronged One lonely in exile: Where are the hosts of the heaven of Thy Command, O Sovereign of the worlds?

I have been forsaken in a foreign land: Where are the emblems of Thy faithfulness, O Trust of the worlds?

The agonies of death have laid hold on all men: Where is the surging of Thine ocean of eternal life, O Life of the worlds?

The whisperings of Satan have been breathed to every creature: Where is the meteor of Thy fire, O Light of the worlds?

The drunkenness of passion hath perverted most of mankind: Where are the daysprings of purity, O Desire of the worlds?

Thou seest this Wronged One veiled in tyranny among the Syrians: Where is the radiance of Thy dawning light, O Light of the worlds?

Thou seest Me forbidden to speak forth: Then from where will spring Thy melodies, O Nightingale of the worlds?

Most of the people are enwrapped in fancy and idle imaginings: Where are the exponents of Thy certitude, O Assurance of the worlds?

Baha drowning in a sea of tribulation: Where is the Ark of Thy salvation, O Savior of the worlds?

Thou seest the Dayspring of Thine utterance in the darkness of creation: Where is the sun of the heaven of Thy grace, O Lightgiver of the worlds?

The lamps of truth and purity, of loyalty and honor, have been put out: Where are the signs of Thine avenging wrath, O Mover of the worlds?

Canst Thou see any who have championed Thy Self, or who ponder on what hath befallen Him in the pathway of Thy love? Now doth My pen halt, O Beloved of the worlds?

The branches of the Divine Lote-Tree lie broken by the onrushing gales of destiny: Where are the banners of Thy succor, O Champion of the worlds?

This Face is hidden in the dust of slander: Where are the breezes of Thy compassion, O Mercy of the worlds?

The robe of sanctity is sullied by the people of deceit: Where is the vesture of Thy holiness, O Adorner of the worlds?

The sea of grace is stilled for what the hands of men have wrought: Where are the waves of Thy bounty, O Desire of the worlds?

The door leading to the Divine Presence is locked through the tyranny of Thy foes: Where is the key of Thy bestowal, O Unlocker of the worlds?

The leaves are yellowed by the poisoning winds of sedition: Where is the downpour of the clouds of Thy bounty, O Giver of the worlds?

The universe is darkened with the dust of sin: Where are the breezes of Thy forgiveness, O Forgiver of the worlds?

This Youth is lonely in a desolate land: Where is the rain of Thy heavenly grace, O Bestower of the worlds?

O Supreme Pen, We have heard Thy most sweet call in the eternal realm: Give Thou ear unto what the Tongue of Grandeur uttereth, O Wronged One of the worlds?

Were it not for the cold, how would the heat of Thy words prevail, O Expounder of the worlds?

Were it not for calamity, how would the sun of Thy patience shine, O Light of the worlds?

Lament not because of the wicked. Thou wert created to bear and endure, O Patience of the worlds.

How sweet was Thy dawning on the horizon of the Covenant among the stirrers of sedition, and Thy yearning after God, O Love of the worlds.

By Thee the banner of independence was planted on the highest peaks, and the sea of bounty surged, O Rapture of the worlds.

By Thine aloneness the Sun of Oneness shone, and by Thy banishment the land of Unity was adorned. Be patient, O Thou Exile of the worlds.

We have made abasement the garment of glory, and affliction the adornment of Thy temple, O Pride of the worlds.

Thou seest the hearts are filled with hate, and to overlook is Thine, O Thou Concealer of the sins of the worlds.

When the swords flash, go forward! When the shafts fly, press onward! O Thou Sacrifice of the worlds.

Dost Thou wail, or shall I wail? Rather shall I weep at the fewness of Thy champions, O Thou Who hast caused the wailing of the worlds.

Verily, I have heard Thy call, O All-Glorious Beloved; and now is the face of Baha flaming with the heat of tribulation and with the fire of Thy shining word, and He hath risen up in faithfulness at the place of sacrifice, looking toward Thy pleasure, O Ordainer of the worlds.

O ʿAli-Akbar, thank thy Lord for this Tablet whence thou canst breathe the fragrances of My meekness, and know what hath beset Us in the path of God, the Adored of all the worlds.

Should all the servants read and ponder this, there shall be kindled in their veins a fire that shall set aflame the worlds.

BH00739: Lawh-i-Sahab (Tablet of the Cloud)

The Tablet of the Cloud, revealed by God, the Lord of all men

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise

This is a Book from the All-Merciful to those who have turned towards the Qiblih of all who are in the heavens and on earth, that the verses of God may gladden them, draw them to the horizon of Revelation, and bring them near to the station wherein all things proclaim: “There is none other God but I, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.” Arise to serve the Cause through God’s might and power. Say: O people of the Bayan! Remember the favor of God unto you when ye were on the brink of the abyss of forgetfulness,

and He sent down to you from the heaven of exposition that which taught you this clear and straight Path.

O Ancient Pen! Make mention in the Tablet of that which may bring joy to the hearts of the sincere ones and assure every person of insight that I am, verily, powerful over whatsoever I desire. None on earth can prevent Me from that which I will, and I am the Mighty, the Wise. Say: The idolaters have violated God's covenant and His testament, and have imprisoned Us with manifest injustice. When We arrived, We desired to convey unto the kings the messages of God, the Mighty, the Great, the Supreme. Among them was the King of Persia, to whom We unveiled the beauty of the Cause and made Ourselves known, after We had chosen one from among the distinguished ones, breathed into his heart the spirit of might and power, and sent him unto him like a ball of fire with a Tablet from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful. Therein We explained what his hands had wrought and what the King of Rome had perpetrated, that they might know that tribulation would never prevent the Glory (Baha) from what the Lord of Names had willed, and that the might of those who had denied God, the Mighty, the Praised, would never frighten Us.

Thereby did We sound the trumpet of might once again, whereat every stubborn tyrant was shaken. Therein We sent down such counsels and admonitions as would awaken the hearts of those who slumber. We have revealed therein a clear explanation of every matter. Blessed is he who readeth it and pondereth its allusions. By My life! A single word therefrom would suffice all mankind; were it to descend upon the mountains, they would soar with longing toward God, the Mighty, the Beautiful. We desired naught from him save the manifestation of God's sovereignty and grandeur, the spreading of His Cause, and the demonstration of His independence among His doubting servants. We left therein no excuse for anyone. Read thou and be of the thankful.

Say: O peoples of the earth! Consider how We revealed in the Tablet to your leader that he should gather Us together with the learned men of the age that God's Cause and His proof might be made manifest unto you. He committed that which caused the dwellers of the Kingdom to lament. After this, to what will ye cling and to whom will ye turn? Be fair and be not of the wrongdoers. Likewise did We desire in Iraq to meet with the divines of Persia. When they heard of it, they fled and said: "This is naught but a manifest sorcerer." These are words that issued forth from the mouths of their like before, and these people objected to them for what they said, yet today they speak the same words and understand not. By My life! They are like ashes in the sight of thy Lord; when He willeth, tempestuous winds pass over them and render them as dust. Verily, thy Lord is powerful over what He willeth.

Those lands were honored by the advent of their Chosen Lord, and every stone and clod did speak. The forelock of days hath appeared and the Desired One hath come with manifest glory. The land of Hijaz was seized with trembling and stirred by the breeze of reunion, saying:

> "O my Lord, the Most High! Praise be unto Thee for having brought me to life through the fragrances of Thy reunion after I had been slain by Thy separation. Blessed is he who hath turned unto Thee, and woe unto the heedless ones."

Mount Sinai hath been enkindled with the light of the Manifestation, and hath proclaimed:

> "I have inhaled the fragrance of Thee, O Thou Who art the God of all who are in the heavens and on earth!"

This is the land wherein We raised up the Prophets and the Messengers; therein was uplifted the call of the Friend, then of the Speaker, and thereafter of the Son. All proclaimed and gave the glad-tidings unto the servants of this mighty Announcement and of His advent in that very land. Thus was it sent down in the Tablets from the presence of an ancient Lord.

The Tree calleth out:

> "O people of the realm below! The Lord of the Kingdom is come and hath mounted the throne, surrounded by His near angels. Abandon churches and mosques; hasten to the Dayspring of Revelation and follow not the imaginings of the heedless. By God! The Dawn of Certitude hath broken. The temples are for His remembrance—He Who is remembered hath come with great sovereignty. Beware lest remembrances hold you back from your Chosen Lord. Cast aside what the people possess, then turn to the Source of inspiration. This is better for you, did ye but know it."

Arise to make mention of Me. Let not the words of the idolaters deter thee. The tongue was created to mention the All-Merciful. Remind the people, but with wisdom. Thus hath the matter been decreed and inscribed by the Pen of thy Lord's will, the All-Knowing, the Powerful.

Gather My loved ones and command them from Us to righteousness and piety. Thus art thou commanded by thy Most Glorious Lord, and for thee is today with Us an honoured station.

Those who obstruct the path, consume people's wealth, and spread corruption in the land—I am quit of them, and God is witness to what I say. By My life! My imprisonment is not My abasement—it is glory for Me. Rather, abasement lies in the deeds of My loved ones who claim attachment to Us yet follow Satan in their actions. They are assuredly among the lost.

When the Cause was fulfilled and the Luminary of the horizons shone forth from the direction of Iraq, We commanded them to that which would sanctify them from all peoples. Some were seized by desire and turned away from what was commanded, while others followed the truth with guidance and were of the guided ones.

Say: Those who commit indecency and cling to the world are not of the people of Baha. The latter are souls who, should they pass through a valley of gold, would pass it by as passing clouds, never turning toward it. They are indeed of Me—the Concourse on High would surely find from their garments the fragrance of sanctity. Thy Lord beareth witness to this, as do those endowed with knowledge of the Book. Were the most beautiful women to appear before them in their finest adornment, their eyes would not turn toward them with desire. These are they who were created from piety. Thus doth the Ancient Pen teach you from your Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

O thou who hast turned! Deliver the messages of thy Lord, that perchance people might abandon desire and take up what they are commanded by God, the Cleaver of the Dawn. Say: Waste not God's Cause

among you, and follow not those who have denied God, the Sender of the winds. Aid God with your tongues, for the tongue is the sword of the All-Merciful. Open therewith the cities of hearts. This is the station of man—know this, O ye who are endued with insight.

Say: O concourse of divines! Can any one of you race with the Divine Youth in the arena of wisdom and utterance, or soar with Him to the heaven of inner meanings and explanation? Nay, by My Lord, the All-Merciful! All are struck dumb this day by the Word of thy Lord. They are as dead, not alive, except those whom thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained, willeth. He, verily, is of those endowed with knowledge in the estimation of the All-Knowing. Upon him shall the denizens of Paradise and the dwellers of the sanctified retreats pray at eventide and at dawn. Can he whose legs are made of wood withstand him whose legs God hath made of iron? Nay, by Him Who illumineth the horizons! They who have violated the Covenant of God and His Testament, these are they whom the breaths of punishment have overtaken. They shall soon behold their habitations in the fire. How wretched the abode of every arrogant oppressor!

Say: O people! Consider the generations that have passed before you. We sent unto them Messengers; they denied the signs of their Lord. We seized them for their sins and left them as a warning unto men of understanding. Where are they who reclined upon cushions of vain glory in their palaces? We have returned them to their graves. Those houses they left to the spider. Take ye warning, O ye who are endowed with discernment! Say: Awaken, O people! The Herald hath cried out in the wilderness of the Bayan, and this is the Day of the great calling. How long will ye slumber on the couch of heedlessness and desire? Arise and turn unto God, and follow not every doubting idolater. We have, aforetime, revealed unto thee clear verses. These, once again, We have sent down as a token of Our grace. We, verily, are the Mighty, the Forgiving. That thou mayest arise to serve God and praise Him at morn and eventide.

Thus have We expounded the verses and sent them unto thee. Thy Lord, verily, is the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH00742: He is the Revealer without delay and the Sender…

He is the Revealer without delay and the Sender without hindrance. Never have the eyes of creation witnessed any cessation in the wonders of His bounty, and thus hath His mercy preceded all mankind.

O Nabil! We have sent thee a Tablet, and before it a Book, and before that Sacred Writings, and before that Scriptures, a single letter of which was the most weighty burden between heaven and earth and the mightiest spirit for those in the kingdom of command and creation. Yet We found not from thee the fragrance of true knowledge, and this beseemeth thee not if thou art to be fair in thine own self. Reflect upon that which hath been sent down unto thee from the cloud of mighty mercy. We commanded thee aforetime to cast behind thee all mention, then to contemplate those who have gone before, and to gaze toward the direction of the Cause with the vision of thy Lord, and to be among those who observe what is inscribed in the Mother Book. Purify thyself in such wise that the word of none shall affect thee, nor shall the indication of any indicator trouble thee. Witness with the eye of certitude that which hath been sent down from the heaven of thy Lord's might, and be illumined with clear vision.

If thou wouldst hear what We have commanded thee, the truth would become manifest unto thee in less than a moment. Thou wouldst witness the dawning of the Sun from the holy horizon, would fall prostrate upon thy face before thy Lord, and wouldst be well-pleased in the religion of God. Therefore, hear My words and forget not God's favor upon thee, and deprive not thyself of the sacred sanctuary. Then look with primary vision upon that which was revealed unto the Prophets and Messengers, that the Sun of certitude might shine upon thee from a holy and mighty horizon.

Wouldst thou wish to be like those who came before? By My life, this beseemeth thee not! Therefore, take for thyself beneath the shade of thy Lord a station that is faithful to the truth. When the Sun of Words dawneth upon thee from the horizon of the Kawthar of thy Lord's mercy, be illumined by its light and deprive not thyself of the wondrous bounties. Follow God's ways and His command—this is My love, shouldst thou turn thy vision to all the Tablets. Thus doth the Tongue of God speak at the time when He was established upon the throne of a mighty name.

Say: The days have dawned from the horizon of this Day, and the mornings have broken forth from this Dayspring which hath been witnessed from the holy horizon. Deprive not thyself of thy portion of the bounty of that Day. Then observe how the Tree of Fire is ignited and illumined upon a spot of light, and all in the kingdom cry out with a mighty and glorious call. When We answered thee before, We withheld not the Pen from thy mention, that perchance thou mightest take for thyself, near the remembrance of thy Lord, a station that was wondrous in truth. If thou payest no heed to what We have sent thee, We shall remind thee until thou art turned from the direction of remoteness and established in a holy station near at hand.

As for those who have denied God's signs, by what proof did they believe in the Manifestations of the past? Say: Bring forth your proof, O concourse of the earth! Nay, by My life, they have neither proof nor evidence, and to this testify the tongues of all created things, and beyond them thy Lord was witness to that. By God, O Nabil, I speak not from desire. If thou wouldst but purify thy sight, thou wouldst witness that the Spirit speaketh above My head and calleth out in the loudest voice: "By God, this is the Beloved of the mystics!" Woe unto the soul that hath turned away from His beauty and been veiled from the presence of its Lord.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Reflect within yourselves for a moment, then be fair. O people! If you deny God and His signs, then be ashamed within yourselves and harm Him not with the swords of your imaginings, and be God-fearing in His religion. Say: Do you worship names which you have named and taken as lords for yourselves besides God, while you reject Him by Whose word the names and their kingdoms were created, and Who in truth encompasses all the worlds? Fear God and do not act as did the people of the Furqan. Arise from the couches of heedlessness and take the Book of God with hands of submission, then place it upon your heads. By God, this is better for you than all that exists in the kingdom, were you but to know it.

O Nabil! Would that thou hadst been standing before Us and present in the holy court, that thou mightest hear what no ear of creation hath heard, and witness what no eye of invention hath witnessed, and attain unto that which none in all the realm hath attained. But this hath passed thee by due to the distance between us and what hath been ordained in the preserved tablets. Purify thyself from the allusions that

have come between thee and the Lord of Names, then drink the cup of submission from this Beauty Who hath dawned from the horizon of glory. Hearken unto the counsel of one who counseleth thee in truth and seeketh from thee neither recompense nor thanks.

Know thou that there hath come upon Me that which hath come upon no one before. The servants who were created by My word have pronounced judgment against Me. Thus do We recount unto thee in truth that thou mayest become aware of that which is veiled from the eyes of every heedless one far removed. Come forth from behind the veils in the name of thy Lord, and stand between the heavens and the earth. Fear no one and trust in all matters in God, thy Lord and the Lord of all the worlds. Then remind the people of what the Spirit hath inspired in thee, and be not silent in the remembrance of thy Lord. Thus hath the Pen of Command counseled thee before and counseleth thee now through grace, out of love for thyself, that thou mayest remain steadfast upon this path.

Say: By God, this is the path of God between the heavens and earth, His Most Great Throne among the servants, His Manifestation to all in the lands, the Expression of His Essence to those in the kingdoms of Command and Creation, and the Dawning-Place of His Being to those in the realm of might and truth. None comprehendeth it save those possessed of penetrating vision. If thou wert to incline thine ear to all things, thou wouldst hear their lamentations at what hath befallen the Manifestation of God's Self in these days the like of which the eyes of grandeur have never witnessed. Thus hath the matter been decreed by the Pen of Wisdom.

Illumine thy heart, then illumine the hearts of the people that the breezes of detachment may waft from thee upon all things, that thy Lord's grace unto thee may be perfected and thou mayest attain unto a mighty love. Beware, beware lest thou cast behind thee the melodies of the Spirit or turn unto those who have denied God's verses after their revelation and who remain veiled behind the veils of their own selves. Taste of the tree and the fruits it hath yielded, and deprive not thyself of what hath been ordained for thee in the realm of exalted glory. By God, none hath any escape save either to deny all the verses or to believe in what hath been sent down in truth from the holy and wondrous clouds. This is thy Lord's mercy which hath descended through grace—and is there in all creation anything more excellent than this?

Thus doth the Tongue of God bear witness at this moment, if thou be of them that hear. Though We desire not to tarry in mentioning the loved ones of God, yet We desire to make mention according to what is possible, lest they pause regarding that which hath been revealed unto them. Otherwise, by Him Who holdeth my soul in His hand, were We to find in any soul the warmth of the love of God, We would assuredly cast upon it, in number as the raindrops, verses of impregnable glory. Nay, We would send down upon such a one in such wise as none can reckon save God and the Manifestations of His Cause. Thus hath it been sent down at this moment from the finger of thy Lord, the Almighty.

And the Spirit and the Glory and the splendor be upon thee and upon all who are steadfast in the Cause and stand firm in their love.

BH00747: This is what the Tongue of Utterance hath spoken…

This is what the Tongue of Utterance hath spoken: His mention hath been made before the Face, and We have mentioned him in such wise as to cause the ocean of utterance to surge in the kingdom of exposition, and the sweet savors of the mention of the All-Merciful to be wafted among all possibilities. We beseech God to aid him, to make him successful in attaining His good-pleasure, and to ordain for him the reward of those who visit Him in spirit and fragrance. Verily the Pen loveth to make mention of the peoples who have held fast to the hem of the Ancient of Days in these times, the like of which have not been witnessed in the past nor shall be seen in the future. Thy Lord is, verily, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Blessed is the soul that hath detached itself, turned towards God, and attained the mention of the Most Great One from the Lord of the Beginning and the End. We beseech God to make Us and those who have believed steadfast in His Cause and in acting according to His good-pleasure. This is better for us than all that hath been created in the worlds.

There hath come before the Face a letter from the Noble One, from whom We perceived the fragrance of his love for the Beloved of the worlds. Previously, a glorious letter was sent to him in eloquent Persian which, by My life, causeth the hearts of the lovers to soar and the fire of separation to be stilled. We beseech God to solace his eyes through meeting Him. He, verily, is the Protector of the doers of good. Give him the glad-tidings of My remembrance of him time and again. O My physician! By My life, the breezes of Truth waft at all times from the direction of grace towards the loved ones of God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds. Say: Blessed art thou, O Noble One, for thy letter hath come, adorned with the mention of Him through Whom God's binding Word was made manifest and every wise matter distinguished. We beseech God to make him and those with him successful, and also he whose letter was in his handwriting, and to unite them upon one Word. Verily His mercy hath preceded every small and great one.

Likewise came a letter from "B" before "Q" who attained the presence in the Land of Mystery and was occupied with the verses of his Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Blessed is he, for We found in his letter pure servitude towards God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. How excellent is the soul that hath adorned its temple with the ornament of servitude. This is truly an exalted station. O Baqir! Grieve not over anything. Trust in God in all matters. He is the Protector of whosoever turneth unto Him, and He is the Protector of those who advance towards Him. Give glad-tidings to the people of "N" of their mention in the court of the Throne. For each one of them hath been written a reward and station which none knoweth save God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Then remind him who wept in separation. A letter hath been revealed for him and We sent it with "S". We beseech God to make him a herald of His Name, steadfast in His love, and one who speaketh His praise among His slumbering servants. O Baqir! Be as thy Lord desireth thee to be, such that everyone possessed of smell may detect from thee the fragrance of holiness. This is My counsel unto thee and My word for thee and for those who have held fast to the hem of the Holy, the Luminous One.

O Baqir! Hearken in Persian: Today it behooveth all to be sanctified and holy to such extent that the fragrances of truth may at all times waft from the people of truth amongst creation. Thy letter hath

arrived. Praise the Beloved of the worlds that thou hast attained unto His mention and become assured of His Cause. Convey My greetings unto him who is named Muhammad the Bookbinder and give him the glad-tidings of My remembrance of him. The treasures of the heavens and earth cannot equal it. Blessed is he for having attained the recognition of the Beloved and turned with his heart toward the direction of the Intended One. We beseech God to grant him success, to aid him, and to make him among the steadfast ones.

As to what thou hast asked concerning the Night of Power, say: The Most Great Day hath appeared, and around it hath circled the Night of Power, after We revealed it and adorned it with the ornament of Our mighty and impregnable Name. When it passed, its mention becometh not befitting. Hold fast unto the Most Great Day, whereon God shone forth upon all things. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. He Who announced unto men My Revelation hath interpreted it. It hath been adorned with that which was revealed therein of the Letter "Ha'," from which have branched all the oceans of names. Know thou this and be of the thankful ones. In its outward appearance, it is the night wherein the Beloved of the worlds was born, and mention of it hath been revealed in the Tablet which We have adorned with this mighty and wondrous remembrance.

The Mighty Pen forgetteth not to make mention of the Exalted One and those who are with him from among God's sincere servants. Blessed are they, inasmuch as they have acquiesced in that which hath been sent down from the Pen of Command from their Lord, the Most High, and have returned with manifest joy. Upon them be the glory of God, His remembrance, and His praise. By My life! There hath been revealed for them that which shall solace the eyes of the believers.

Then make mention of him who was named Nabil-i-Baqir, who hath believed in God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Say: Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as thy letter hath attained unto this noble Scene. Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou knowest my turning unto Thee, my facing toward Thy Self, my clinging to the hem of Thy mercy, and my holding fast unto the cord of Thy favors. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou hast raised up the heavens of Thy Cause and sent down the tokens of Thy oneness, to make me steadfast in Thy Cause in such wise that nothing shall prevent me from turning toward Thee. Moreover, ordain for me that which Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones, who move not except by Thy leave and will. Then cause me to soar in the atmosphere of Thy will and to be enkindled with the fire of Thy love. O my Lord! Thou knowest what profiteth me. Write down for me that which is best for me. I have placed my trust in Thee and have committed my affairs unto Thee. Verily, Thou art the Forgiving, the Kind, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

As to what thou hast mentioned concerning the debt of him who was named Muhammad, excellent is that which thou hast done. Blessed art thou for having borne hardships in thy Lord's path. He repayeth whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He pleaseth. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the Generous. If the loved ones in that land are able to give to certain of God's loved ones and handmaidens, with utter humility and submissiveness, and complete detachment and absolute freedom from worldly ornaments, it would be and will be acceptable in the sight of God—that is, they should record all as a debt until an appointed time. Excellent is that which Our honored servant hath done regarding Our glorious Name. We beseech God to assist him in this. Soon will thy Lord repay the debts of His loved ones and bestow from His grace

upon those servants who have assisted them in their affairs. He, verily, is the Rewarder of the doers of good.

Make mention of the youth named ʿAli. Say: That which thou didst send previously hath attained Our presence, but We have no house to adorn. Verily, thy Lord is in the hands of the oppressors.

As to what thou hast mentioned regarding the remembrance of Muhammad-ʿAli, say: We have heard thy call. Grieve not. He is with thee. He is with His servants who have held fast unto the cord of His love, detached from all the worlds. Upon thee be My glory from this Scene which hath been illumined with the lights of the countenance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wise.

As for what thou hast mentioned regarding the remembrance of the wife of Our Name the Mihdi, convey to her My greetings and give her the glad-tidings of her Lord's loving-kindness toward her. She is among those women who have believed in God, the Single, the One, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. We beseech God to solace her eyes through meeting Him and to make her one of those who have attained.

O physician! We have noted the letter from Ghulam-Husayn, who attained and returned, and signs of sorrow were evident therein. Convey to him, on behalf of this Prisoner, profound greetings, and say: You must be thankful at all times and be seen in the utmost joy and gladness, for praise be to God, through the favors of the Ancient King, you attained the Most Great Prison and were blessed with attaining His presence. The bounties of God have never been, nor ever shall be, confined or limited to any one thing. If there be a delay in sending Tablets specifically intended for certain loved ones, this hath not been, nor is it, evidence of the absence of divine favors. Verily, He heareth the call of the seekers and accompanieth His God-fearing servants. God willing, through His grace, you will soar in the atmosphere of joy and traverse the expanse of gladness. Be confident in the bounty of your Lord. Verily, He loveth those who love Him. Be not grieved by your poverty, for truly wealthy is he in whose heart are found the pearls of the knowledge of Our Name, the Mighty, the Great. We beseech God to assist those who have believed to turn their attention to your affairs. Verily, He is powerful over all things.

BH00751: O Amin! Through the bounty of the Lord…

He is God, exalted be His station, the Almighty, the All-Powerful

O Amin! Through the bounty of the Lord of the worlds thou hast attained unto the manifest horizon and been blessed in these resplendent days with the dawning light of the Ancient Beauty. The Cause hath ever been, and shall forever remain, within the grasp of God's omnipotent power. Many are the souls whom He hath, after their acceptance of the Faith, raised from the lowest depths to the most exalted heights where the light of His countenance doth shine forth, leading them to the All-Glorious Horizon. Others, through their own actions, He hath cast down from the loftiest heights to the lowest of stations. He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth.

Blessed is the one who hath, in these days of the Lord of creation, drunk from the chalice of detachment and arisen with utmost sincerity to serve the King of all mankind. As thou dost witness, certain souls have emerged from the horizon of detachment in such wise that they regard all else but God as non-existent and have relinquished all they possess for that which is with God. Though such souls are and shall ever be

rarer than the rarest substance, yet in these days, through divine grace and heavenly bounty, a few can be found who have, with the utmost determination, girded up their loins to serve the Cause. Their worth is not known today, but by My life, God shall make them, both outwardly and inwardly, the source of all goodly mention. He is, verily, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

On behalf of the Wronged One, convey greetings to all the loved ones. I counsel all humanity to remain steadfast in the Cause, to be faithful to their religion, and to uphold trustworthiness, which hath ever been and shall forever remain beloved. Blessed is he who hath adorned his temple with the raiment of trustworthiness. All must attain unto this luminous vesture, that all who dwell on earth may be guided by the deeds of God's loved ones. A goodly deed itself guideth humanity, as hath been witnessed when certain blessed souls performed such praiseworthy acts that through these very deeds people were drawn to accept the Faith and were attracted to the shores of the ocean of oneness.

Nothing hath been created without a fragrance; all things have had and shall have their own sweet scent. Blessed is the soul from whom emanates the fragrance of the raiment of holiness. Such a one is indeed among the choicest of creation in the sight of God. Thy Lord is, verily, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Blessed art thou, O Amin, for having turned unto God, entered His presence, attained His court, won His good-pleasure, beheld His glory, and hearkened unto the call of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. Through the warmth of divine love, thou must manifest thyself in every land in such a manner that all shall be stirred by that warmth and turn their hearts toward the Beloved, for the path of the faithful servant hath been barred through that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought.

O Amin! The cause of motion is heat, and the cause of heat is the Word of God. Therefore must the loved ones, through the fire of God's Word, guide His servants from the left hand of idle fancies to the right hand of certitude, and through the warmth of the divine Word be so stirred that they may ascend from the fleeting realms of self to the sublime heights of eternity. O Amin! If people were to act according to the divine virtues and heavenly attributes recorded in the revealed Tablets, thou wouldst surely witness all who dwell on earth turning unto God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

Stations of sanctification, detachment, acceptance, nearness and attainment unto His presence are not, and never shall be, incompatible with outward affairs. In this Most Great Revelation, all are commanded to engage in crafts, trades and professions, placing their trust in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. This commandment hath been emphatically revealed in the Tablets. Blessed is he who hath attained unto that which his Lord, the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, hath ordained. Rejoice, O Trustee, in that We have adorned thee with the raiment of trustworthiness. Guard thou this station. Say: Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds. We beseech God to grant thee success in all conditions and to aid thee in that which He desireth. Verily, He is the Protector of those who do good.

Thou hast become aware of some of the tribulations that have befallen this Prisoner. It is evident to every person of insight that We are immersed in an ocean of trials and are seated beneath the hands of the oppressors, inasmuch as We have never compromised in the Cause of God with any of the most distinguished among the people of the world, nor with those beneath them, as can be understood from the Tablets that were sent to the rulers of the earth. Therefore it is clear and evident to every just and

discerning person that all these souls have been, and continue to be, secretly harboring the utmost hatred toward this Voice of Truth. Yet notwithstanding these matters, We have at all times called the people unto the truth and continue to do so. Were the people to reflect even slightly upon that which hath appeared, they would know with certainty that this Cause hath been made manifest through the power of God and hath shone forth with divine sovereignty and might, and that never hath it regarded, nor will it ever regard, its own ease, comfort or deliverance. Its example is as a nightingale caught in the talons of oppression.

O people of the earth! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One, Who crieth out purely for the sake of God. Reflect somewhat upon the world and the events and consequences thereof, and likewise upon that which hath dawned from the horizon of the Cause and hath appeared in His days. Perchance ye may thus perceive that the One Who calleth out doth so for God's sake and speaketh by God's command, lest ye be deprived of the eternal stations by the cawing of the heedless and the doubts of the deluded—whether they be among those who are known by the name of truth or those who are not. Behold this Prisoner as a target, at whom arrows fly continuously and successively from all directions. Yet through divine grace He hath thus far remained protected, and afterwards the matter resteth in His hands. Verily, I love what He loveth and desire what He desireth, and I long for whatsoever God hath ordained for Me, for that which appeareth from Him is My Beloved and the Beloved of My heart. It is better for Me. Verily, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. O Trustee! That which was uttered in thy presence must be carried out with the utmost wisdom. When thou passeth through the lands, say:

O my God, my Lord, Beloved of my heart, Hope of my soul, and He Who is remembered in my outward and inward being! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which He who sacrificed His life in Thy path, bore tribulations in His love for Thee and the promotion of Thy Cause, to waft over these lands the fragrant breezes of the garment of Thy mercy and Thy favors. O Lord! These are Thy servants and these are Thy lands, though they have been veiled by their desires and thereby prevented from turning toward the court of Thy grace and from drawing nigh unto the Kaaba of Thy knowledge. Yet Thou art He Whose mercy hath preceded all created things and Whose grace hath encompassed all possibilities.

I beseech Thee by Thy Hidden Name which hath been made manifest through Thy sovereignty and which Thou hast made to be the overseer of all who are in Thy earth and heaven, not to leave these souls to their own devices. Send down upon them that which shall cause them to turn toward the direction of Thy favor and to gaze upon Thy countenance. Look upon them, O my God, with the glances of Thy mercy, and take their hands through Thy power and sovereignty. Draw forth, O my God, from the bosom of Thy grace the hand of Thy power, and thereby rend asunder the veils that have come between them and Thee, that all may hasten to the fountain of Thy nearness and circle round Thy will and purpose.

If Thou shouldst banish them, who else would deliver them from the fire, O Light of the heavens and earth? And according to the command, should you meet any of the loved ones of God who are oriented toward this direction, you must, on behalf of the True One, bid them return, for the situation in this land has become exceedingly difficult, and without permission they shall achieve no result. This is the firm and decisive command that hath flowed from the Pen of Will, by leave of the Lord of all humanity. And glory be upon him who followeth the Truth and heareth what he hath been commanded.

BH00781: Your letter reached the Most Great Vision…

He is Most Great, Most Ancient

Your letter reached the Most Great Vision, and that which you asked concerning the divine verses, this servant present before His face sends to you. O Zayn, the delay in answering what you asked about the verses has been for the preservation of change, for in the early days there was absolutely no consideration of the people's rules at the time of revelation, while in these days it is observed out of wisdom. Therefore, if a Tablet from before is read in the presence of the Countenance, it descends in some stations differently than what was revealed before. This refers to the outward expression, but in reality whatever was revealed was and will be correct.

In the Land of Mystery, it was intended that rules in divine knowledge be revealed so that all might be informed. Due to the sorrows that descended, the successive occupations, and the consecutive trials, it was delayed. Another greater reason was that any ignorant one might compose fabricated words and people, considering those rules, would deem them correct, even though if asked about it himself, he would not know a single letter—as you observe in Yahya and his followers.

Knowledge is in His grasp; He turns it how He wishes. For example, in some places a verse that according to outward rules should be in the nominative or genitive case is revealed in the accusative case. In this instance, either "kana" is implied, or similar accusative particles and their positions. And if somewhere it is revealed in the genitive while according to common practice it should not be, in this case the genitive particle or the possessive construct that causes the genitive is omitted. Apply this rule universally.

Likewise, in some instances it relates to the style of verses—We do not wish to mention rhyme in this station. Similarly, according to the leaders of grammar, an intransitive verb appears in transitive form in three ways: through repetition, with "ba", and with "hamza". This is respected among the people, but in divine knowledge, by contextual evidence, an intransitive verb becomes transitive and a transitive verb becomes intransitive. Blessed are those who know, and blessed is he who is certain that all sciences are in the grasp of his Lord's power, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Similarly, a transitive verb, for example like "rafa'a" is revealed as "arfa'a", and examples of this existed in heavenly books before. This is for emphasis—there is no harm in it. O Zayn of the near ones, the Manifest Beauty is afflicted between two parties. If creation were to become aware in what state the shrill voice of the Most Exalted Pen is raised, and in what tribulation the Tongue of Grandeur speaks, all would cast off the garment of existence and seek the adornment of non-existence.

For a thousand years and more there was dispute and contention among Islamic scholars about whether God or another is the originator of words. Now, despite the appearance of Truth in what has been revealed from Him, they have objected and continue to object, as did Karim-i-Kermani and likewise the scholars of the age who have made countless objections to divine words, as you have heard. Although similar matters were revealed before, yet musk becomes more fragrant the more it is repeated. Most Tablets were revealed at times when there was no opportunity to review them. That which flowed from the Pen of this Servant, in the very presence of the Countenance, hath been disseminated abroad; it is

thus possible that in certain places omissions may have occurred, or that there may be excesses or deficiencies, for no soul is able, at the very moment of revelation, to commit to writing in its entirety that which is sent down.

Whatsoever may be enquired about in these matters hath been, and will remain, beloved; albeit, to this Prisoner, the descent of fresh revelation is dearer than recourse to what hath been sent down aforetime. Yet to turn thereto is more fitting, and to direct one's gaze thereunto more easy. And God is the Lord of Causes.

As to what thou hast asked concerning attainment to the divine presence, be patient, for thy Lord is the All-Patient. For just as this land hath become the dawning-place of the Chosen One and the habitation of the righteous, likewise hath it become the source of the wicked and the abode of the impious. For every truth there is falsehood, yet despair not of God's spirit and mercy. When He willeth, He changeth all through His word "Be!" and it is. We testify that thou art among those who have attained the presence of God, associated with Him, heard His call, and stood before His Most Great Gate. Grieve not over anything; remain steadfast in thy condition, for the Cause is mighty, mighty indeed.

Behold the weakness of the people who, despite the manifestation of truth, power, majesty and His signs, have been kept back from the Lord of Oneness by artificial words of the past and vain imaginings. By My life! They are among the lost. Woe unto those who turn to them and hear what they possess. Blessed are they who are detached. This Most Great Revelation—the Truth alone is established upon the throne. Whosoever pondereth upon this Most Great Revelation and the dawning of the Ancient Beauty will testify to this Manifestation, whereby is established the sanctification of His Essence from any likeness and the purification of His Self from any resemblance.

Observe the people of the Bayan who are in truth worshippers of names and vain imaginings. With their tongues they profess His oneness, yet whoever pondereth on what they say will testify that they are among the idolaters. Hence the sum of their deeds hath become turning away from the Truth. Upon them be what they deserve.

Concerning the Hidden Words which thou didst mention—some were revealed at one time in a single tablet, while others were revealed at different times. Some have gathered them all together, while others remain scattered. It would be best if they were all gathered together, in the estimation of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

Regarding inheritance, that which the Primal Point—may the spirit of all else be sacrificed for His sake—hath commanded is beloved. Whatever exists of those entitled to portions, let them divide their wealth among themselves. For those below this rank, the matter must be referred to the Most Holy Court. The command is in His hands—He ordaineth as He pleaseth. In this connection, a decree was revealed in the Land of Mystery, and the portions of missing persons were temporarily assigned to existing heirs until the establishment of the House of Justice. After its establishment, its ruling shall become manifest. However, the inheritance of those who emigrated in the year in which the Ancient Beauty emigrated shall return to their heirs. This is from God's bounty unto them.

The possessions of Jinab-i-Mulla Hasan, upon him be the Glory of God, rightfully revert [to God], for he is among those martyred in His path and those who have attained His presence. Blessed is he for having fulfilled God's Covenant and Testament. By My life! He hath attained the lights of the Countenance and hath drunk the choice wine of life from the fingers of his Lord's bounty, the All-Forgiving, the Most Generous. Send to the Most Holy Court even a small amount of his ink, though it be as small as a chickpea, and the remainder is bestowed upon you. Look not upon its outward unworthiness, for with God it hath a distinguished station. He, verily, is the All-Loving, the All-Forgiving.

Should anyone return to Iran, write concerning Jinab-i-Ha', upon him be the Glory of God, informing the Trustee. Pause in what thou wast commanded regarding the matter of the handmaidens. Verily, He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. There is no God but Him, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Blessed art thou, O Zayn, in thy steadfastness in the Cause of thy Lord. We testify that he is among the sincere ones. We send him Our greetings from this most exalted, most glorious Station, and We beseech God to protect him from those who have disbelieved, to assist him in His service in every circumstance, and to ordain for him what He hath ordained for His chosen ones. Verily, He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

May the Glory be upon thee and upon him and upon those who are there, from this Captive, this Exile. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH00795: This is what hath been sent down…

This is what hath been sent down from the heaven of loving-kindness:

O My physician! We have loved thee and made mention of thee in divers Tablets. Verily thy Lord is with such of His servants as have turned unto Him and have detached themselves from all else. He is the Protector of them that have turned unto Him. Through thy gratitude to thy Lord the ocean of grace surgeth and mentioneth thee with this glorious mention. Grieve thou not over anything, but place thy trust in God, the Sovereign, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. By My life! There hath been sent down for thee in the Tablets that which nothing in all creation can equal. Verily thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Glorify the praise of thy Lord, then praise Him at morn and eventide.

Say: My soul be a sacrifice for Thine exile, O Root of Glory and Tree of the Uttermost End and Source of all good amongst the people of creation! My spirit be a sacrifice for Thy imprisonment, O Thou Who hast sacrificed Thyself for the Cause of God, the Lord of all names! By Thy glory, O Beloved of the worlds and Desire of them that have recognized Thee! I love naught but Thy remembrance, desire naught but Thy good-pleasure, and turn to none save Thy luminous countenance. I beseech Thee to ordain for me what Thou hast ordained for them who have tasted the sweetness of utterance from the mouth of Thy Will and who have circled round Thy Cause until they were martyred in Thy path.

O Lord! Thou art the Generous One—all atoms testify to Thy generosity. Thou art the Merciful One—Thy mercy hath preceded all created things, and in the grasp of Thy Will is the control of all existence. Thou seest me burning with the fire of separation and aflame with the heat of longing. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the Covenant was manifested on the Day of Separation and which Thou didst

manifest in human form, and concerning which Thou didst question those who clung to it, by Thy power that dominateth the world, to make me in all conditions one who gazeth upon Thy countenance, is certain of Thy Cause, standeth in Thy service, sitteth in Thy love, is adorned with the ornament of Thy grace, uttereth the remembrance of Thy days and what befell Thy Beauty at the hands of the oppressors.

O my Lord! O my Lord! O my Lord! Thou art He before Whose sovereignty and power all things bow down, and before Whose grandeur and majesty all necks are humbled. I beseech Thee by the water that hath flowed from the wellsprings of Thy Will and which Thou hast made the cause of life for Thy creation, to raise me to such a station that nothing shall prevent me from that which draweth hearts and minds to the court of Thy mercy and Thy favors. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Dominant, the Self-Subsisting.

As to what was mentioned concerning the handmaidens of God, you must certainly exert your utmost effort and endeavor in managing the affairs of the loved ones of God. Some of the friends of God are somewhat saddened due to the apparent dispersion of means. Say: Be not grieved, but trust in God in all matters. Verily He is with you and hath ordained for you greater things than what you desired or desire. They should not be saddened in any way by the separation of outward things. They have never been and will never be forgotten. Some matters depend upon means and are dealt with accordingly, and if there be delay, they should not be disheartened. What is beloved is that they should be grateful and content with what hath been and will be manifested.

Concerning Haydar-Qabli-ʿAli, upon him be the glory of God, We have indeed accepted him through Our grace and clothed him in the garment of bounty and favor whereby all Paradise was illumined. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. However, this station was sealed with him, and whosoever shall commit after him what he committed, God will not make mention of him. Verily He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. Such matters have in truth never been and are not pleasing. Likewise, a limited number in the past sacrificed their lives by their own hands in the path of the Beloved of all creation, and the station of each hath been revealed in the Tablets. Blessed be the King of Martyrs who sacrificed his life in Iraq and his likes in other lands.

O physician! There hath appeared in this Revelation that which hath not appeared before. Verily thy Lord is the Attractive, the Moving, the Penetrating, the Powerful, the Pulsating, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. However, after the martyrdom of the Pride of Martyrs, who was named Badi' in the Kingdom of Names, all are commanded to preserve their lives that perchance some service to the Cause of God might be rendered by souls. This is what We have desired for them. No one should transgress the bounds set by his Lord. Inform the people of what hath flowed from the Most Exalted Pen in this regard that they may know and be of those who act.

As for what thou hast mentioned concerning Muhammad-Qabli-Rida, say: Turn toward the Most Great Scene. We have accepted what thou didst desire for him and have confirmed it. Be thou grateful and of those who give thanks. However, since prohibition hath preceded and this was truly in the interest of the people—for this land is much disturbed and travelers pass through from every direction, and despite the greatest prohibition they arrive every day—yet this hath not been and is not pleasing, for the harm of these matters affects the root of the Tree. Nevertheless, in view of the favor shown to Rida and through

thy intercession, We have sought another matter that his heart may rejoice through the fragrances of these precincts wherein the fragrance of the All-Merciful wafteth over all who dwell in the realm of possibility.

Concerning children, let them not grieve at all, for whosoever hath turned to God, God hath been and shall be his heir. Children are in truth for the remembrance of good, and what remembrance of good can surpass the mention of God? Every mention that hath been made of him in the Tablets is equivalent to a thousand righteous offspring who might have spent their lives and wealth in the path of God. Say: Be grateful, O My loved ones, for this bounty and say: Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds! O physician! The servant in attendance before the Countenance hath in these days been afflicted with headache to such extent as to be somewhat prevented from writing, such that last night when a Tablet was revealed concerning thee, he later reported that much had been dropped from the pen and omitted. We have therefore repeated and revealed this Tablet in brief. Be thou grateful and say: Thine is the grace, O my Lord, the Powerful, the Unconstrained.

O servant, ʿAbdu'r-Rahim! Hearken unto the call of the All-Merciful from the Dawning-Place of sorrows in this Prison of contingent being. Verily, there is none other God but Him, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Blessed art thou for having turned thy face toward the Countenance whilst it was in the hands of the oppressors. Grieve not that thou wert prevented from entering; verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Hatred hath appeared in that land—this is that whereof We had informed Our servants aforetime. With Him is the knowledge of all things preserved in a guarding Tablet. Were anyone to behold Me with the eye of insight, he would see each member of My body in the mouth of a serpent.

Soon shall that which hath been concealed and treasured be made manifest. Verily, thy Lord is He Who unveileth, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Be thou thankful that thou hast been mentioned by the Most Exalted Pen, and that the face of thy Lord's loving-kindness, the Mighty, the Great, hath been turned toward thee. Verily, he who hath ascended unto God is of those who have drawn nigh. We have accepted him as a bounty from Our presence. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the Bountiful. Blessed is he who hath drawn nigh unto the sepulchre and hath said:

> "Upon thee be greetings, O thou who hast turned toward God, the Remembrance of God and His praise! I testify that thou didst turn unto the Intended One and didst hasten unto God until thou didst reach the resting-place of those who bore tribulations in the path of God, the Lord of all names, and didst sacrifice thyself therein for the love of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. I testify that thou art of those who, when they heard the call, responded to their Lord and fulfilled His Covenant and His Testament on a day wherein the foundations of the doubters were shaken. Upon thee be the mercy of God and His grace, and the sweet fragrances of God and His spirit, O thou stranger and exile!"

BH00793: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who has shattered the idol of vain imaginings through the sovereignty of the remembrance of his Lord, the Lord of all men, and who has turned unto the Countenance in days wherein all names were overturned, save those whom thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, did will. Faces have turned black and souls have been perturbed when God came with the Kingdom of verses. One said: "Why hath He come?" Say: "Despite thy will, O thou who art a misbeliever and filled with doubt!" Another said: "Hath the appointed time come?" Say: "Yea, by Him Who sendeth down the rain! The appointed time is none other than His own Self, could ye but understand, O people of insight!"

Among the idolaters is he who said: "Will the All-Merciful come before the creation of the Bayan appeareth?" Say: "Behold with His eyes—He hath come from the heaven of Command with power and sovereignty. Can the veils of allusions prevent Him? Nay, by the Manifestor of clear evidences!" Among them is he who said: "That which was ordained in the Book hath not been fulfilled." Say: "Through My manifestation all things are perfected. Reflect, O ye who are endued with insight! Were it not for My mention, the Bayan would not have been revealed, and were it not for My appearance, its creation would not have been completed, even were it to endure as long as the kingdom and the realm endure." Thus hath the matter been decreed from the presence of God, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. Through My confirmation is every matter established and all that hath been mentioned in the Tablets perfected.

Say: Were We to abrogate what hath been ordained in the Bayan, none hath the right to say "why" or "wherefore." Thus hath it been sent down in the Tablets from the presence of Him Who causeth the dawn to break. We have not abrogated the Bayan, but rather have been as the morning dew to that which was sown therein with justice. To this testifieth all things, and beyond them He Who knoweth both the hidden and the manifest. Through My manifestation the heaven of the Bayan was raised up and what was revealed therein was established. Those who have denied this are in heedlessness and error.

By My Self! I have rolled up the heaven of vain imaginings and the Sun of wisdom hath shone forth from the horizon of power. Every matter hath been made dependent upon My Word. This is what the All-Merciful hath revealed in the Bayan—read it, that ye may know Him by Whose light the horizons have been illumined. Say: Be fair, O people of the Bayan! Were it not for My manifestation, who would help the All-Merciful amidst all creation? Fear God, O ye by whose words the pillars of the Throne have been shaken and the clouds have wept. Through My arising hath the Sun of remembrance shone forth and the banners of unity been raised upon the hills.

What hath been set forth in the Bayan is a gift unto Mine own Self, and a leaf from the garden of Ridvan. Ponder thereon, that ye may comprehend that wherein the minds have faltered and the eyes have been debarred. We, verily, came not to enact the ordinances of the body, but to quicken the souls—this beareth witness your Lord, the Sender of the winds. Say: In the Bayan He fixed that which befitteth the peoples of the world, that this Most Delicate, Most Subtle, Most Exalted Pen might not be occupied with that which is mentioned in the realms of creation. Yet ye committed, in His Cause, that whereat the Eye of the All-Merciful wept in the loftiest gardens of Paradise.

From the secret retreats of the unseen have I come forth, that I might speak in the Pivot of the world. The Ancient of Days hath appeared—sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Omnipotent, the Supreme, the Almighty, the Subduer. Ye have cast aside that which God, your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath willed, and

have seized upon that which the base passions and desires command, until My Most Exalted Pen was constrained to busy itself with the lowest of words. Wherefore did the eyes stream with tears, and the Holy Spirit lament from the loftiest seat.

Do ye know for what cause ye have been debarred from the precincts of bounty? Nay, by the Lord of lords!

O people! If ye seek the manifestations of power—by God! the horizons are encompassed therewith. If ye desire the tokens, the lands and seas are filled with them. And if ye long for the effulgences of Divine Unity, ye shall find them in all things touched by the breathings of the garment of your Lord, the Most Glorious, in this Day wherein every neck is bowed low in humility. Is there doubt therein? Or doth the doubt lie within your hearts? Be fair, O possessors of understanding!

Verily, the latter Manifestation is the more manifest, and His countenance the more resplendent—thereunto testifieth He Who sitteth upon the throne in might and sovereignty.

O people! Would ye contend with Him Who, beneath the sword, calleth you unto God, the Lord of the Day of Summoning? Desireth He aught from you in recompense? Nay, by the Lord of Names! Demandeth He a wage? Nay, and by this dawn which hath broken from the horizon of the Divine Will, invested with power and dominion!

Whence, then, shall He find life for His own Self, when He is cast between the teeth of ravening wolves? By God! The Proof weepeth for My sorrow, and the Eye of Testimony weepeth for the sake of this Wronged One, the All-Merciful. Thus hath the crimson blood flowed from the Most Exalted Pen, melting the heart of Baha with the fire of those who have disbelieved in the Lord of Names. Woe unto them, and woe upon every idolater and doubter!

Doth it beseem to hesitate in this Cause, after the crimson Ark hath sailed upon the sea of names? Nay, by this Beauty through Whose Name the mountains have passed away! Say: Do ye deny Him through Whom all existence hath turned toward the direction of its Purpose, and through Whom the Luminary of the Cause hath shone forth from the horizon of the lands? The head of the Bayan hath been adorned with the crown of My remembrance, and its temple with the robe of My love, yet ye have stripped it bare, O people of the veils! Among them is he who saith “I have believed in the Bayan.” Say: Silence thy tongue, O thou denier and deceiver! The Bayan waileth by reason of thy deed, and with it wail the people of Paradise and the denizens of the holy sanctuaries at eventide and at dawn.

If thou didst believe in the Bayan, why didst thou draw the sword of renunciation against the Beloved of the All-Merciful, through Whom the All-Glorious smiled and through Whom the preamble of the Book of Creation was adorned? Verily, they that have turned away rejoice in their deeds; they walk while the wrath of God pursueth them. We testify that the Bayan is clear of them, and We are clear of them. Thus hath testified He Whom God hath made the Dawning-Place of lights.

Say: Die in your wrath! The heaven of idle fancies hath been rolled up by the grasp of power and might. We have raised up the heaven of the Bayan with wisdom and clear proof, and We have adorned it with the star of Our wondrous Name, whereby all the tribes were seized with trembling, the idol wailed, and

the pillars were shaken. Do they see for themselves any refuge? Say: There is no shelter for you this day from God. Whither can they flee, and to whom can they turn? Can they find anyone to protect them? Nay, by My life, they have no protector this day!

O people! This is the Ancient of the heavens and earth. Ponder, that ye may recognize the decree of the Wondrous One. When ye have recognized it, ye shall know this Cause whereof ye were promised in the Tablets and Scriptures. Be united, O peoples of the earth! Through your unity the heaven of tyranny shall be cleft asunder and the idols shall fall. We have borne afflictions for your salvation. To this testifieth this Pen which God hath made the Sovereign of all pens.

Blessed art thou for having been mentioned before the Throne, and for that which hath descended unto thee from the heaven of the Prison, whereby spirits are gladdened. Follow thy Lord in such wise that tribulation shall not prevent thee from remembering the Creator of heaven. Remember thy Lord at morn and eventide. Grieve not over the world and its conditions. That which is visible shall pass away, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Supreme Protector, the Concealer.

Say: O people of creation! This is the Day of Hearkening. Hearken unto the Call of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, which hath been raised between earth and heaven. By His Call the things have been attracted and faces have turned unto God, the Mighty, the Bestower. Verily, they that have been prevented—these shall have no portion in the kingdom. Soon shall they lament and shall find no refuge for themselves.

Take thou the chalice of eternity in My Name, then drink it by My leave. Thus doth thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, command thee. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have turned unto the Countenance with spirit and fragrance.

According to the Most Holy Command, a copy of the missive has been sent. This evanescent servant conveys his salutations to your honor. Blessed art thou for that which hath flowed from thy pen in remembrance of thy Lord. This is what the Lord of Eternity informed me of when I was present before the Throne. Upon thee, O promulgator of God's Cause, rest the remembrance of God, His praise, and the praise of His near-serving ones. I beseech God that He may aid thy honor under all conditions.

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BH00796: The Most Holy, the Most Exalted

The Most Holy, the Most Exalted

Praise be to God! Through the effulgent rays of the Most Great Luminary the horizon of the world is illumined and resplendent, and the outpourings of divine grace are streaming down and descending from the heaven of mercy and bounty. Blessed are they who through the promptings of malicious souls have not been debarred from the shores of the sea of oneness, and who through the favors of the Lord of creation have rent asunder the veils of idle fancy. These are they who have taken the wine of mercy from the hands of grace without hesitation and have quaffed thereof. Theirs is a goodly habitation.

O ye who soar in the atmosphere of the All-Merciful and who circle round the Kaaba of divine knowledge! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One Who, in the midst of intense tribulation and affliction, hath not forgotten you and at all times enjoineth upon the loved ones of the All-Merciful that which is best for them, transcending all that hath been created in the heavens and on earth. The greatest of all things is steadfastness and unity around God's all-embracing Word. God willing, through divine grace and heavenly bounty, may ye all attain unto this. It is clearly evident that whatsoever is mentioned herein hath as its purpose the deliverance of souls from the prison of self and passion and their advancement unto the Most Exalted Horizon. All must hold fast unto the cord of steadfastness and cling to the hem of unity and concord. They must be so firm in the Cause that the fragrance thereof may guide aright those who are unsettled and wavering. This is not difficult for God to achieve.

If ye see [the letter] Jim, say to him:

> "By what proof didst thou accept and by what evidence didst thou turn away from God, the Almighty, the Exalted, the Wise? Verily thou hast followed the desires of one who knoweth not his right hand from his left—he is assuredly among the most lost. And he who led thee astray—We have seized him for his transgression. Now in the sea of fire he saith: I repent unto Thee, O Beloved of the worlds!' The hand of power hath struck his mouth and it was said: Be silent, O thou remote misbeliever! Thou didst call the people unto one whom thou hadst neither seen nor known nor had any knowledge of his cause, and thou thyself dost testify to this, wert thou to be fair.' O servant! Have mercy upon thyself and upon the people, and follow not those who follow vain imaginings and have taken these as lords besides God. Cast away what they possess, then stand with supreme steadfastness in the Cause of thy Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven. Thus doth the Lord of Names command thee, wert thou of them that comprehend."

Speak in the Persian tongue, that perchance he may comprehend the counselling words of the Lord and return to the shore of the Most Great Ocean. Strange it is that after the wondrous and exalted waves of the seas of divine favors and the effulgences of the words of the Lord, they are seen to be deprived and kept back from the shore of the sea of oneness by ancient allusions to the worn-out and obsolete notion of succession and the like. Say: God knoweth what is in your hearts and that which ye utter and speak. In these spiritual days all must attain unto the new divine adornment, sanctified from all that is in the hands of men and from all that they have heard, let alone the false succession which hath appeared from the direction of the liars.

Such mentions have been veils of glory which most of humanity have been powerless to rend, yet God hath servants who, through divine power, have rent them all asunder and joined their Beloved. Today the people of God are those souls who regard all in the heavens and earth as dependent upon God's will, to such extent that were He to desire, by the movement of the Finger of His Will, He could raise a speck of dust to the loftiest heights of creation, and likewise return the highest summit to the lowliest particle. All that He saith is truth and all that He decreeth behooveth to be the beloved of them that know. Wondrous in all respects hath this Revelation appeared, were men to ponder thereon.

In brief, certain people of the Bayan have, through the utterances of the widows of the people of the Furqan, forbidden men from the Law of the All-Merciful. Say unto him of the letter Jim and his like: Observe with the eye of insight how for a thousand years or more all the Twelver sects assigned a specific place in imaginary cities for an imaginary being who never existed, along with imaginary wives and children, and they prostrated themselves before him. And if anyone denied him they would issue a decree for his death. Lo! They are recorded as worshippers of vain imaginings in the Book of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. And after the birth of the Point in a known land, it became clear to them that possess insight that all that was in the hands of that people was false and meaningless.

Similarly observe all the beliefs held by that people. I do not wish to rend certain veils. Blessed is the strong one who rendeth with the fingers of certitude that he may behold what is intended by his Lord, the Possessor of existence. All are commanded in this Revelation to observe the Revelation itself and its verses in complete sanctification from all else. This bounty hath been specific to this Revelation. And likewise He saith: When He appeareth He changeth light into darkness and darkness into light. Despite this, by your own self, since ye are unaware of His beginning and end, ye remain deprived of the Dawning-Place of the lights of oneness and the Dayspring of divine verses.

Say: Consider for a moment the Persian Bayan, that perchance ye may abandon vain imaginings and behold the Sun of the name of your Lord, the Self-Subsisting, shining between the heavens and the earth. Hearken unto the voice of the faithful counsellor and, putting aside all that ye have heard, observe the divine verses and ponder upon that which hath appeared in the Revelation, that perchance ye may abandon selfish desire and turn unto God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. If ye and all on earth deny, verily He is the Self-Sufficient, the All-Praised.

O My loved ones in Qaf! Leave these people, then turn with your hearts toward the court of God, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved. Be ye of such character that through you the horizons will be illumined and faces will be turned toward the court of your Lord, the Mighty, the Loving. Give thanks unto God that your names have flowed from the Pen of Revelation and that the tongue of the Prisoner makes mention of you. We beseech God to aid you to be united in the Cause of your Lord, the Master of the Day of Judgment, and to make you among those who have no fear and who shall not grieve. Drink ye the cup of life with spirit and fragrance, in spite of those who have denied the All-Merciful and who have turned away from His presence. Blessed are ye for having been mentioned by the Lord of Eternity in the Most Great Prison, and for having been the object of the gaze of God, the All-Powerful, the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal.

Stand ye firm in the Cause of God in such wise that every wavering one may become steadfast and every mouldering bone may be set in motion. Strive ye that the darkness of contingent being may be illumined by the lights of the mention of the All-Merciful. God willing, may ye all arise to that which befits your stations and your relationship to God. The Divine Lote Tree speaks—hearken ye with the ear of the soul. The tongue of the All-Merciful is uttering—attain ye unto its hearing. Thus doth your Lord, the All-Speaking, the All-Knowing, remind you.

O My handmaidens in that land! Rejoice that ye have been mentioned by the Most Exalted Pen, then remain steadfast in the Cause of God, the Lord of Names. Thus doth your Lord counsel you in this Tablet

which hath been adorned with the ornament of the utterance of God, the Mighty, the All-Praised. O handmaidens of Mine! God willing, drink ye forever and always from the Kawthar of the love of the Self-Sufficient, the Ever-Abiding, and be ye engaged in His mention and praise. Verily, the glory be upon you, O loved ones of God, and upon those who hearken to your words concerning this most wondrous and mighty Cause.

BH00811: The exalted Arabic Tablet was sent. Now…

He is the Everlasting One, manifest and evident from the Most Glorious Horizon

The exalted Arabic Tablet was sent. Now in the Persian tongue the wondrous holy divine words are being revealed. Blessed are they that hear!

The True One, exalted be His mention, has ever been and shall ever be sanctified above manifestation and appearance—an unknowable Mystery, an imperceptible Concealment, an unmanifested Inner Reality, an unhidden Treasure, and an unwitnessed Secret. For the term "mystery" applies only when something is not witnessed; in such case it is not manifest that it might be known. And after witnessing, the term "mystery" no longer exists that it might be understood. Therefore the Mystery has been and shall ever be unknowable. Blessed is the soul that ponders this perfect, firm, divine Word and attains to the jewel of its purpose which is deposited in that Treasure. Should any soul claim to know the Mystery as it is in itself, such a one has been and shall ever be among the falsifiers. That Ancient Beauty is too exalted to be known through aught but Himself, and too sublime to be described save through His own holy Being. For whatever created beings may comprehend at the ultimate degree of their understanding is but a fancy they have invented for themselves by themselves. Exalted is He above being known by that which is contingent!

And since the doors of knowledge and understanding were closed, and the ultimate degree of the servants' knowledge rejected, the King of existence, through His grace and bounty, made the Manifestations of His Oneness and Daysprings of His eternal might to appear from the horizon of "Verily I am the One manifest above all things," that all people might attain to the knowledge of God through recognition of these Suns rising from the horizon of truth, and might be blessed with obedience to God and conformity with His good-pleasure through obedience to these holy Beings.

And in accordance with justice and the manifestation of grace, He bestowed upon each of these eternal and glorious Manifestations a proof and evidence, that no soul might have excuse to turn away or object, and that the divine proof might be complete and perfect for all. The purpose of this greatest grace is that people might be educated, that perchance they may enter the kingdom of the divine countenance and attain to the station where "thy Lord's face endureth"—which is the ultimate goal of human existence—and may abide forever. I swear by the Ancient Beauty that if a soul becomes purified and sanctified from this world even once and ascends to the Supreme Companion, he will never see extinction but will attain unto existence within existence, and annihilation and extinction shall never find their way to this existence and subsistence. But what benefit when these people with their impure hearts do not comprehend this divine melody?

In any case, these glorious divine Manifestations have existed from the beginning that hath no beginning until the time ended with the wondrous First Manifestation in the garment of the Last, and the Primal Point, exalted be His grandeur, elevated be His signs, and mighty be His glory, rose from the Most Exalted Horizon and guided the people to the pathway of eternity. All the servants clung to their religious leaders among the divines and never turned to the Essence of Divine Unity, although He appeared with such compelling proof that all found themselves powerless to produce the like thereof. Then they arose in opposition and demanded supernatural signs.

That Ancient Being hath revealed the treatise of proof, known as the Seven Proofs, and hath concluded every argument and evidence with the divine verses. From the Pen of Holiness hath flowed the declaration that, in this Day, these verses—sent down from the clouds of majesty—are the conclusive proof unto the East and unto the West of the world, and that no testimony above them hath ever been, nor ever shall be, vouchsafed. Even as the Crown Prince summoned that Essence of Eternality to his court and demanded proof, that Ancient Beauty declared that the verses were the testimony. Yet in the end they accepted it not, and all pronounced sentence of death upon that Quintessence of pre-existence, save a few who became assured through the divine verses and turned from the west of unbelief and error to the east of faith and recognition.

Thereafter did that Pre-existent Being, in all His revealed tablets, give glad tidings to all of this Most Great Revelation, such that not a single line of the Bayan was revealed except that this most glorious mention was recorded therein, and He counseled all lest they remain, at the time of His manifestation, veiled from the Beauty of the All-Merciful by the letters of the Bayan and the words revealed therein, even as the people of the Furqan. Despite these counsels, and this Most Great Revelation, and this most holy and glorious Dawning which hath appeared with all divine power and with all the proofs of the Manifestations of abiding glory, all have turned away.

Would that they had contented themselves with what the people of the Furqan committed, for the people of the Furqan merely pronounced sentence of death upon the Beauty of the All-Glorious. But this people have striven to cut down the divine Tree, and when they found themselves powerless, they loosened their tongues in calumny. Surely by now the clamor of the ungodly hath reached that land. Yet praise be to God that they have attributed to this most pure Essence such things that any soul possessing the least grain of discernment and the tiniest particle of insight would perceive that these calumnies have issued from the source of rancor, the treasury of envy, and the mine of hatred. Therefore do the tongues of all atoms proclaim:

> “The curse of God be upon the first oppressor who wronged the Primal Point in His latter Manifestation, who warred against Him, who disputed His verses, who denied His presence, and who then calumniated Him.”

O servant! Such is the condition of these immature souls. For twenty years hath the Ancient Beauty been in the hands of His enemies, such that at every moment He hath been exposed to destruction—at times imprisoned by His foes, at times in chains and fetters, at times captive to the wicked. Yet despite this they have attributed worldliness and love thereof to this Essence of Spirit, though all the world and whatsoever is therein were His creation. And if the Temple of the Throne were to rest upon a ground of

diamonds, it would be befitting—nay, worthy of even the servants at His threshold. Yet I swear by the King of Pre-existence that they who circle round His court have been and shall ever remain sanctified above the world and all that is therein. Indeed, were anyone to observe, he would not find even a penny of worldly goods or belongings with the emigrants. Praise be to my Beloved, Who hath created all to be patient and thankful.

They have mentioned these words and their like only to cast doubt in hearts, unaware that the deed of Truth is even as the manifest and shining sun, and every possessor of sight hath perceived and will perceive it. O servant! With spiritual wings soar to the divine holy heaven, and having purified thyself from the hints of all else but God, gaze upon the Most Great Scene. I swear by the Truth that My grief and sorrow are greater than can be recorded by the pen. I pour out my sorrow and lamentation unto God, and verily, He is the best Protector and the best Helper. God willing, in these days you will not be deprived of the wondrous favors of the eternal Sovereign, nor be forbidden from partaking of the peerless nectar of the All-Glorious. And the Glory be upon you and upon all who are with you among the believers who are steadfast, assured, patient and thankful.

BH00813: This is a Book from the presence of Baha…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Impregnable, the Most Holy!

This is a Book from the presence of Baha to those whom God hath preserved from the shame of self and passion, and caused them to enter the pavilion of the Most Glorious through His grace. Verily, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful. That the breezes of the All-Merciful may waft over them from this distant quarter and remind them in these days wherein every tree proclaimeth: “There is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Wise.”

Give thanks unto God for having delivered you through His sovereignty and preserved you through the hosts of the seen and the unseen, until He made you recognize the Manifestation of His Self, before Whom the Faithful Spirit doth speak. The Kingdom of God hath appeared and been established upon the throne, the Beloved of the worlds. Through Him were opened the gates of reunion before the faces of the Prophets and Messengers, all of whom drew strength from His remembrance and rejoiced in His mighty, glorious Name.

Until We sent ʿAli in truth and made him the herald of this wise Remembrance. Verily, he spoke not from desire, but through that which We inspired him with from Our greatest signs. He was the one who called out on land and sea, summoning the people to the Greatest Scene. When the veils were rent asunder and the All-Bestower came in the shadows of clouds, all the tribes of the earth were thrown into confusion, the suns of idle fancies were darkened, and the moon of vain imaginings was eclipsed. Thus was the matter decreed from God, the Mighty, the Wise.

Those who remained immersed in the oceans of vain imaginings after the Sun of Certitude had dawned from the horizon of divine inspiration are indeed among the idolaters. We have left them to themselves and delivered those who held fast to the handle of grace—these are among the sincere ones.

We have sent down the Bayan in such wise that none hath excuse save that he turn unto God or be numbered with the perishing ones. God hath made the Bayan a gift unto My Self and adorned it with My mighty, wondrous Name, such that every word thereof proclaimeth: “The Beloved of the worlds hath come!” Yet when that which was the purpose of all Tablets appeared, the people of the Bayan who claim allegiance to the All-Merciful opposed Him and committed that which the Pen is powerless to recount. To this doth the Ancient Beauty testify, if ye be of those who know.

Among them were those who sought to take My life, and those who said He hath fabricated a lie against God, even after each of My deeds testifieth to God’s Manifestation, His sovereignty, might and grandeur. Thus do We recount unto you that which We have reckoned. Verily your Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Do ye object to Him through Whom the Most Exalted Pen was set in motion and through Whose appearance every leaf of the Lote-Tree of the utmost boundary doth speak? O people of creation! This is He concerning Whom God took your covenant in all the Tablets. Fear ye the All-Merciful and be not of those who violated the Covenant and denied God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

By My life! He who hath ears hath heard God’s call and hath detached himself for love of Him from all the worlds. And he who hath eyes beholdeth God’s power in this mighty News. Those who have denied—they are deaf and blind. Their names shall not be mentioned before the Throne; they are among those who have perished.

Know ye then, O My loved ones, that such weakness hath seized Me as to hinder My tongue from remembrance and utterance. Whenever from the direction of the Throne a Tablet, or yet another, is sent down, this feebleness overtaketh Me by reason of that which hath befallen this body at the hands of those who have turned away from the Countenance and waxed arrogant before God, the Almighty, the All-Wise.

Yet, in truth, the spirit abideth in might and in power—no host among the first or the last can stand against it. At every moment it speaketh forth, and summoneth the concourse of all created things unto God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Beautiful. He is never still, praising His Lord by night and day, and nothing frightens Him even if He faces what no one before Him has faced at the hands of the oppressors. When the idolaters cast Us into this Most Great Prison, We desired to convey the Cause to the kings and rulers, and We did convey it to them with a sovereignty from Us and a power from Our presence, even while We were in the hands of Our enemies. He is verily the Almighty, the Powerful.

Arise to aid your Lord, that perchance through your mention those who slumber on the couch of heedlessness and pride may be awakened. This is what you have been commanded by the Supreme Pen after My establishment upon the throne of My Most Great Name. Let not the opposition of those on earth grieve you. Cling to the hem of your Lord’s mercy; He will verily suffice you in truth, and He is the Protector of those near ones who speak His praise and glorification among the servants. These are the companions of Baha, whose names have been inscribed by this Luminous Pen.

Let not the world grieve you. Follow your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. In hardship and tribulation He calls the people to this Straight Path. Do sorrows overtake you while you see yourselves

beneath the canopy of your Lord's mercy, the Most Merciful? Rejoice in My joy, then turn to the Kingdom of eternity and what has been ordained for you by God, the Lord of Names. By My life! This is better than all that has been created in the kingdoms of heaven and earth.

Read My verses with joy and fragrance; they will draw you to God and make you detached from all else. This is how you have been counseled in the Tablets and in this Clear Tablet. Beware lest you exceed the bounds of wisdom. Preserve the Cause among you lest discord arise and the hearts of the weak be troubled. Should anyone come to you with the writing of the wicked, cast it behind you, then read to him a tablet from the tablets of your Lord, the Mighty, the Generous. If you see in his face the radiance of the All-Merciful, turn to him; but if it is covered with the dust of fire, leave him and turn with your hearts to God, the Lord of all worlds.

We have sent down to you before clear verses to comfort your eyes, and We have sufficed in this instance with this Mighty Tablet. Command My male and female servants to purity and righteousness, that they may arise from the slumber of passion and turn to God, Creator of earth and heaven. Thus did We command the servants when the light of the horizons dawned from the direction of Iraq. Among the people are those who broke the Covenant, and among them are those who followed what was commanded by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

My harm is not My imprisonment and tribulation, nor what befalls Me from the tyrants among My servants, but rather the deeds of those who attribute themselves to this Wronged One and commit that which causes the sanctity of God to be lost among His creation. They are assuredly among the corrupt. Those who spread corruption in the land and seize people's property and enter houses without permission—I am innocent of them unless they repent and return to God, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Thus have We revealed in most tablets that they might become aware within themselves and follow the truth in their days. Among them are those who accepted and those who rejected, and those who accepted are among the near ones.

Blessed are you, O My loved ones, for My Pen has flowed with your names and My tongue has spoken your mention in My imprisonment and tribulation, that it might draw you to the Kingdom.

It will acquaint you with My grandeur and power, and will bring you to such a station that you will behold naught but My beauty and hear naught but My call. Cast away all else save Me and take the chalice of My remembrance from the hand of My bounty and favour. Then drink deeply therefrom in My Name and My sovereignty. By My life! It will cause you to become detached from all else but Me and draw you nigh unto that which We have desired for you in the realm of My power. Thus have We revealed unto you Our verses and caused the sun of My loving-kindness to shine forth upon you from the horizon of My bounty, that you may become aware of My love for you, My compassion towards you, and My tender care for those who have turned their faces to My resplendent and luminous countenance. Spirit and glory be upon you, O companions of guidance and people of Baha, from the presence of One Who is mighty and wise. Praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH00875: This is a Book from the Self-Subsisting to people…

This is a Book from the Self-Subsisting to people who know. Are they who turned away based on anything? Nay, by thy Lord, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting! Are they who denied among the people of witness asleep? Yea, by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Loving!

They say "We were promised in the Tablets," yet when the Promised One came, they denied the Witness and the Witnessed. When told "The verses have been revealed," they say "Are they according to the innate nature?" Say: Silence thy tongue, O stubborn misbeliever! The innate nature itself was created by His command, if ye but understand.

The Herald proclaimed: If thou deniest the verses, what sayest thou about power? Then was confounded he who denied God, Lord of the unseen and the seen. We have seen from the people of the Bayan what the Point's eyes saw not from the people of the Furqan, nor the Spirit's eyes from the people of the Jews. The Bayan hath disowned them, yet they perceive not. God's wrath pursueth them, yet they rejoice. Are they the people of faith? Nay, by my Lord, the Most Merciful! The Bayan curseth them, yet they are thunderstruck.

Blessed is he who casteth away desire and taketh hold of righteousness—he is of the people of Baha, inscribed in a preserved tablet. Say: God calleth you to everlasting life, yet ye wander distracted. Cast off the burden of desire, turning to God, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Thus doth the Pen teach you, if ye but know. Can desire profit you? Nay, by your Lord, the Mighty, the Beloved!

Say: For Myself, the eye of the All-Merciful weepeth in the garden of the Bayan, yet ye care not. The Maidens of Inner Meaning lament in the palaces of utterance, yet ye laugh. By God! The Most Exalted Pen hath been forbidden from mention and praise, yet ye write what ye understand not. The leaves of the Lote-Tree have yellowed from the blasts of rejection's winds, yet ye hasten in the wilderness of error. The pillars of justice have shaken from your oppression, yet ye slumber behind your veils.

Can anything revealed before equal a single verse of His? Nay, by the Manifestation of Grace! Thus hath the All-Merciful testified in the Bayan, yet ye are not fair. Ye have taken desire and cast away guidance—why do ye not reflect? Were ye to hearken with the ear of nature, ye would hear from all atoms: "The Lord of attributes hath come with the kingdom of verses," yet ye turn away from Him.

The tongue of power proclaimeth: "The Beloved hath come"—a written tablet. Have ye seen anything greater than what hath appeared? Nay, by the Lord of destiny! But desire hath prevented you from your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. By My life, ye shall not be helped!

Say: Is doubt befitting after ye behold the All-Bestower riding upon the clouds? Why do ye look, yet deny? Hath any excuse remained for anyone? Say: Consider, O people! They have denied, and the smoke's darkness hath enveloped them, yet they see not. When verses are recited unto them, thou seest them playing, and when power is manifested, they say "The like hath appeared in ages past." Thus do they treat their heart's wound, yet know not.

Say: Nothing shall profit you today, even if ye cling to all in the unseen and seen. This is your Lord, the All-Merciful—to whom do ye flee? This is the King of the Bayan—to whom do ye hasten?

Say to him who turned away after accepting: Cast thyself down, then come! Thus commandeth thee the Dayspring of Beauty, as grace from Him, and I am the Generous, the Forgiving. Say: Can desire profit thee? Nay, by thy Most Glorious Lord! Can the first to deny suffice thee? Nay, by the Most Great Scene! Hear My counsel, purely for thy Lord's sake, and follow not every rejected misbeliever.

If poverty's fear restraineth thee, We shall fulfill thy measure. Verily, thy Lord is the One with power over whatsoever He willeth through His word "Be" and it is! If thou fearest for thy faith, read the Bayan detached from all thou hast heard, then behold with the eye of fairness that which hath been sent down from the heaven of certitude by thy Lord, the All-Merciful.

Then shalt thou witness the Sun of thy Lord's remembrance dawning from the horizon of proof and evidence, and thou shalt say:

> "Praise be unto Thee, O Heaven of bounty and Educator of existence!"

By My life! Every proof hath been abashed before My proof, and every evidence hath bowed down before Mine evidence, and all things lament for My sake, could ye but hear.

Say: Can ye prevent the sun from its dawning place? Verily it hath shone forth with truth. Blessed are they who possess eyes to see. Say: If ye inhale the fragrance of the Bayan, by God ye shall find therein the fragrance of My garment, the Mighty, the Well-Beloved.

Say: Have ye taken fancy as your lord and cast behind you the Source of Certitude? What aileth you that ye ponder not? Say to him who turneth away: Dost thou see thyself following aught save that which is in the Preserved Tablet? Say: Be fair, O servant! Were it not for the Beauty, who would assist the Lord of heaven with manifest sovereignty?

The pillars of might were shaken when the Tablet was sent unto him from the presence of One mighty and ancient. When We reached the prison, We desired to convey unto all the messages of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Say: Hast thou not seen how We created the wondrous One through the spirit of power and might, and sent Him forth like a ball of fire with thy Lord's chosen Tablet? Can His Cause be compared with aught in creation? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! Say: Hast thou seen the like of what hath appeared in any previous Manifestation? Nay, by the Creator of the heavens and earth!

Say: Free thyself for an hour for the sake of God's countenance, then read the Tablet with joy and delight, that perchance thou mayest find the fragrance of the All-Merciful and be among the detached. Therein hath been revealed of every matter that which the servants are powerless to comprehend, save whom thy Lord willeth, the Mighty, the Wise.

And therein the Dove of Utterance hath warbled various melodies, though We have restrained the Pen and not loosened its reins, as a bounty to the peoples. Read, that perchance the breaths of revelation may attract thee and render thee detached unto God, the Mighty, the Praised.

Say: Dost thou think thy faith profiteth Me or thy rejection harmeth Me, after thou witnesseth that I have never compromised God's Cause with anyone? If thou deniest, every fair-minded one who is well-informed beareth witness for Me. Say: God's proof hath been completed against thee. Choose for thyself what thou desirest. He is indeed independent of all the worlds.

O thou who art mentioned before the Throne! Convey the messages of thy Lord. Blessed is he who turneth unto Him, and woe unto them that turn away. Gather My loved ones and remind them from Me, then those who are around thee. Verily thy Lord is the best of rememberers.

Aid thy Lord through wisdom and utterance, and for thee is with Us a mighty station. God shall soon exalt thy mention among His creation for having detached thyself in His love from all else and been among the steadfast. Grieve not for what they say. Nations like unto them have spoken similarly. We seized them and made them a warning to the worlds.

And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon thy brother and thy mother and thy father and those among thy kindred, and upon those who have believed in this Most Great and Mighty Announcement.

O Samandar! Today thou must appear among people in such wise that through word and deed thou mayest guide those who have lost their way in the valley of heedlessness. The divine fragrance of sanctity must be inhaled from thee, that all creation may thereby turn toward the court of oneness. Beware lest there appear from thee that which beseemeth not thy station. Know thy rank before God and be among the thankful ones. Strive night and day that perchance thou mayest guide a soul from the depths of error to the expanse of guidance. Beware lest there appear from thee that which would disturb souls.

BH00874: This is an epistle from the Wronged One, Who…

In His Name, the All-Compelling Lord of the heavens and earth!

This is an epistle from the Wronged One, Who was named Husayn before ʿAli, unto thee, that it may draw thee nigh unto God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting. Be not of those who clung to learning when there came unto them the All-Knowing One from God, the Mighty, the Loving. Rend asunder the greatest veil by God's leave, the Lord of destiny, then turn thy face toward the Most Pure Horizon. This is better for thee than all the learning thou dost possess. Cast aside vain imaginings. By God! The morn of faith hath dawned through the light of certitude. Blessed be the All-Merciful Who created man and made him the repository of His hidden knowledge. Is there any doubt about His power which hath encompassed all horizons? Or concerning His sovereignty? Vain indeed are their imaginings.

We impart unto thee a word that perchance thereby the slumberers may be awakened. Behold and call to mind when the Sun of Truth shone forth from the horizon of Hijaz: the divines opposed Him while those who tended sheep believed in Him. Thus doth this imprisoned Youth remind thee. Then consider when the Spirit came: the Pharisees among the scholars of the Torah opposed Him, while those who

caught fish believed in Him. Shouldst thou ponder that which We have imparted unto thee purely for thy Lord's sake, God will surely open before thy heart's face the gate of true knowledge, and the breaths of utterance will so attract thee that thou wilt become detached from all possibility, turning unto God, the Lord of what was and what shall be. Cast aside doubts, for the rose of certitude hath smiled in the garden of revelation and witnessing.

In the Persian tongue We make utterance, that perchance through the favors of the Lord of Lords thou mayest not, in this most perfect of all seasons of possibility, be deprived of the outpourings of the All-Merciful. The world hath never had, nor hath it now, any worth. This is what hath passed away, and this is what remaineth. Seize ye the opportunity, O people of insight and understanding! In view of the promotion of God's Cause and the former friendship, it was necessary that a mention be made unto thee concerning that which God hath willed, that perchance through the assistance of the King of Oneness, the seed of remembrance may find its place in thy heart, and from the rain of the All-Merciful's mercy, which in these spiritual days poureth down from the clouds of divine bounty, there may spring forth from that seed the ears of divine knowledge and wisdom. This is not difficult for God.

Ever have the vain imaginings and idle fancies of men kept them from the All-Glorious Truth. Let your honor ponder the times of the manifestation of the Divine Luminaries. Although in every age mankind has sought perfection and waited day and night, yet when the hour came, most turned away and remained deprived of the waters of divine grace. Consider the days of the Manifestation of the Apostle of God. After that Sun of Truth rose from the horizon of Hijaz, how many were the people of fancy who afflicted that divine Tree with the stones of denial and objection. In the early years, the Jewish and Christian divines strove with utmost diligence to extinguish the light of that resplendent Luminary. Through their turning away, all people, both high and low, turned away as well. Some of these divines lived in complete detachment and seclusion, dwelling in temples in the name of God and abstaining from all worldly pleasures. Nevertheless, they remained debarred from the glorious Truth and distant from the stations of nearness. Reflect upon this, that perchance the veils of idle fancy may be rent asunder by the hand of certitude, and you may attain to the manifest light which is the recognition of the Manifestation of the Lord of all worlds.

Likewise consider the appearance of Jesus, son of Mary. All the Pharisees among the Jewish clergy denounced that King of existence, and Annas, who was the most learned divine of that age, pronounced the death sentence against Him. Yet Peter, known as Simon, who was but a fisherman on the shores of the sea and had not learned a word of the outward sciences, accepted and believed in Him upon hearing but a single word from that Manifestation of the Divine Cause. Such is God's grace—He bestoweth it upon whomsoever He willeth.

The purpose of these words is that your honor should not heed the denial and objection of the people, whether learned or ignorant. Look to the essence of the Cause, that you may attain the Most Sublime Vision. For the turning away of people has never been and will never be of consequence. O ye who thirst in the desert of separation, deprive not yourselves of the surging ocean of attainment. The Sun of Recognition has risen from the horizon of the mercy of the All-Merciful—deny not yourselves its effulgent rays. Should your honor reflect upon the Cause of this servant, it would suffice. For you yourself bear

witness that this servant has not acquired the outward sciences nor attended any school. Yet the waters of divine knowledge and wisdom flow from his tongue and pen in such measure that all creation is powerless to comprehend or enumerate them. This is mentioned not to display station, but in light of the blessed verse which says “But as for thy Lord’s favour, proclaim it!”—that perchance a stranger might turn to his true home, the station to which all must return, or that decayed bones might attain eternal life through the breaths of divine utterances.

O Abbas! We have summoned thee unto God, the Lord of all names, whilst We lay imprisoned beneath the swords of the enemy. Thus was the decree ordained. No affliction deterreth Us from making mention of God, the Creator of earth and heaven. Blessed is he who hath turned unto Him in these days wherein eyes are intoxicated save those who have laid fast hold on the Sure Handle and have turned toward His Countenance with humility and contrition. We beseech God to aid thee to know the Manifestation of His Self, and to draw thee nigh unto the Dayspring of revelation and inspiration. Count ye these days as precious; that which escapeth a soul today cannot be regained even in a hundred years. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. When thou hearest the call of the Herald, turn thy face toward God, the Lord of creation. Say:

O my Lord! I beseech Thee by the blood of Thy lovers which was shed in Thy path, and by the cry of the yearning ones which was raised in their separation from Thee, and by Him Who hath borne tribulations in His love for Thee until He was imprisoned in the most desolate of lands through what the hands of the heedless among Thy creatures have wrought—not to render me deprived of the breezes of these days wherein Thou hast manifested Thyself through Thy Most Great Name unto all nations. Then cause me, O my God, to be a servant of Thy Cause and a champion of Thy Faith in such wise that neither the oppression of the oppressors may hold me back from Thy remembrance and praise, nor the turning away of the heedless from directing myself toward the horizon of Thy Cause and Thy favors.

O Lord! I am weak and Thou art the Strong One; I am poor and Thou art the All-Possessing, the Most High. O my God! I am one who hath cast away idle fancy and taken hold of what Thou hast commanded me, O Lord of Names and Creator of earth and heaven. I beseech Thee to make me turn wholly unto Thee, detached from all else but Thee. Verily Thou art the Lord of the worlds and the Goal of all who are in the heavens and on earth. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

BH00889: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having…

In the name of God, the Almighty, the Unconstrained!

Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having gathered together Thy loved ones to celebrate Thy Most Great Festival, whereon Thou didst shed the splendour of Thy most excellent names upon all who are in heaven and on earth, the Festival whereon the Day-Star of truth hath shone resplendent above the horizon of Thy will and the Ancient King ascended the throne of Thy mercy.

This is the ninth day of Ridvan, O my God, and on this day one of Thy loved ones hath, as a token of his love for Thy Beauty and in the eagerness of his devotion to Thee, invited Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Dayspring of Thy glory to leave His room in the prison for another. There he hath spread

before Thy presence such of Thy gifts as he hath been able to provide, notwithstanding that the people had plundered all his possessions and the possessions of others among Thy loved ones.

O Lord, since Thou hast gathered them round Thee and aided them to attain this surpassing grace, endue them with constancy in Thy Cause and bind their hearts together in such wise that no differences may arise in their midst. Grant, then, that they may guide all people unto this Luminary, the like of which the eye of creation hath never beheld and which standeth peerless in the realms of the seen and the unseen. Thou well knowest, O Lord, that it hath been the desire of all that circle round Thee to receive Thee during the days of Ridvan. A few have been enabled, in accordance with their means, to attain this honour, while others, through its want, have been prevented therefrom. These have contented themselves with passing round in white vessels that crimson-coloured wine that is brewed from the leaves of China.

I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy Word which Thou hast made to be the lodestone of the hearts and souls of men, the Word whereby Thou hast drawn Thy servants unto the heaven of Thy loving-kindness and the horizon of Thy grace and bounty, to accept from the former all that they have accomplished in Thy path and to ordain for the latter the recompense of whatsoever they had purposed to accomplish. Thou, verily, art the Lord of bounty and generosity, of grace and glory. O Lord, help certain souls among them to know their own selves and to restrain their tongues, lest they utter that which would abase their stations and bring their works to naught. Thou, verily, hast power over all things.

O Lord, hear Thou the lamentations of the sincere amongst Thy loved ones who were hindered from meeting Thee during these days, days which Thou hast ordained as a festival unto Thy people and as a treasure and honour unto the inhabitants of Thy realm.

And among them is Ha', who hath not halted in this Cause—through which the trembling seized all that are in earth and heaven—save those whom Thou hast willed, O Lord of Names. And among them is one whom I have named Mansur, whose temple Thou hast adorned with the vesture of Thy love, O All-Forgiving. And among them are they whose plaintive moanings Thou hearest from without the City—those who have been denied Thy meeting in these days wherein all things have attained unto Thy favours.

And among them is Nabil, who, in the presence of the Throne, hath chanted what he chanted in remembrance of Thee and in Thy praise; and among them is Nabil, before ʿAli, whose call Thou hearest from the quarter which Thou hast honoured with the name of the Spirit. And among them is he who is named Abu'l-Hasan.

And among them was Rasul, and another servant from among the people of Alif and Ra—upon him and upon his father be glory—who, O my God, emigrated in Thy path, turning toward the Ka'bah of Thy meeting. They entered the City and found the fragrance of the garment of Thy reunion; yet were they withheld from attaining the presence before the throne of Thy majesty, by reason of that which the hands of the oppressors among Thy creatures had wrought; and they were driven forth from the City with an injustice whereat all who dwell in the Kingdom and the Realm on high lamented.

And among them was one named ʿAbdu'llah, whose longing kindled the lamp of exultant joy; and among them one named Nasir, who drew nigh unto the Station and was nevertheless prevented therefrom—and Thou hearest, O my God, the outcry of the faithful from the quarter of Hayfa. And among them was one named Khalil, who speaketh forth Thy remembrance and Thy praise—he, and his brother, and his mother. And among them was one named Isma'il, through whom Thy Most Great House was, the first time, rebuilt; and among them one named Yusuf, who was hindered from visiting Thy Beauty through that which the hands of the wicked among Thy creatures have committed. And there were other servants besides these—and then he who arrived there in those days.

Accept from them, O Lord, that which they have purposed in their love for Thee, and ordain for each and every one of them the recompense of such as have attained unto every good Thou hast in store. Thou, verily, hast power over all things.

Look Thou moreover, O my God, with the glances of the eye of Thy mercy, upon Thy loved ones who are scattered in the land of Ta. They have tarried there ever since they were prevented from seeking shelter beneath the shade of the Tree of Thy oneness. O Lord, deny them not the things Thou dost possess. Verily, Thou art the Ruler of the heavens and of the earth. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Wise. Praise be to Thee, O Lord of the worlds and Desire of all them that have recognized Thee!

The glory of Thy might beareth me witness, O my God! It behoveth all to lay down their lives for the sake of Thine ear that heareth the cries of Thine ardent lovers in every land and the sighs of Thy friends who suffer at the hands of Thine enemies. Verily, the voice of their lamentation hath been raised on account of their love for Thee, and their hearts are consumed with the fire of separation in Thy days. May my soul be a ransom for Thy long-suffering, O Countenance of glory, and may my spirit be a sacrifice for Thy forbearance, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of earth and heaven!

I swear by Thy glory, O Beloved of them that yearn after Thee and Desire of those who cherish Thy love! Were any man of insight to press upon this holy Tablet, he would see the blood of my heart flowing from it, a blood that hath melted for the love of Thee and of those who have been hindered from beholding Thy face after having directed their steps towards Thee and having come to abide within the city or its precincts. May my entire being be offered up as a sacrifice for Thy patience, O Lord of might and power! May my soul be a ransom for Thy forbearance, O Thou the fear of Whose wrath causeth the hearts of the dwellers of the kingdom of names to tremble!

Praise be to Thee, O solace of the hearts of the people of Baha! I testify, O my God, that none besides Thee can fathom Thine inscrutable wisdom or apprehend the truths and mysteries enshrined in all that hath proceeded from the manifold tokens of Thy power and the manifestations of Thy will. I entreat Thee moreover, O my God, to graciously enable my loved ones to show their hospitality unto Thee through their character and their conduct, that the heavenly table of Thy loving-kindness may thereby be spread before all Thy servants and that all the peoples of the world may gather round it. This, verily, is the true meaning of offering hospitality unto one's fellow men. Thy might and Thy power are, verily, equal to all things. Praise be to Thee, O Lord of the worlds, Thou Whose power embraceth the heavens and the earth!

On the ninth day of Ridvan, one of the inmates of the prison invited this Prisoner unto his dwelling; and in that most pure abode and most august retreat—after the effulgences of the Sun of knowledge had shone forth from the horizon of Our Name, the Self-Subsisting—the divine decree so ordained that an account of these days and of that which befell therein should be set down for that aforementioned person, that he might become acquainted with what hath been inflicted upon Us by a people utterly lost. Wherefore hath that which flowed from the Pen been sent down from the heaven of eternity.

God willing, that honoured one should devote all his times to the service of the Cause of God. The diffusion of the Cause throughout all regions hath been brought to pass through that which hath appeared from the Chosen One, and the seed of divine knowledge hath been scattered in hearts. Therefore must the water of remembrance and utterance reach him at all times; in no wise is neglect permissible. Ere long shalt thou behold the lights of the Cause from every quarter. Remind and proclaim! Thus hast thou been created, and thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconquerable. And glory be upon thee from One Who is Mighty, All-Knowing.

BH00915: Lawh-i-Laylatu'l-Quds (Tablet of the Sacred Night—'Akka)

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst deliver Adam from Satan, and Noah from the flood, and Abraham from the fire, and Moses from Pharaoh, and the Spirit from the Jews, and Muhammad from the Abu-Jahl of the age; and by Thy Name through which the breezes of Thy bounty wafted over the bodies of all created things, and the sun of Thy grace shone upon all who dwell in earth and heaven; and by Thy Name through which every poor one was enriched at the gate of Thy wealth, and every abased one was exalted through the manifestations of Thy mighty glory, and every remote one drew near to the wonders of Thy grace and favors; and by Thy Name through which the sun rose from the horizon of Thy providence, and the pavilion of glory was raised in the kingdom of Thy beneficence, and the trees of unity were planted in the paradise of Thy grace and bounty; and furthermore by Thy Name through which all faces were turned toward Thy face, and all souls were drawn to the shore of Thy holy nearness and meeting, and the birds of the hearts of them who are nigh unto Thee soared in the atmosphere of Thy reunion and glory, and the hearts of the holy ones drank from the cups of Thy divine oneness—that Thou mayest look, O my Beloved, with the glance of Thy favor upon these who have kept vigil on this Night which Thou hast made a festival for Thy creation, wherein Thou didst manifest Thyself by Thy Name the All-Merciful unto all creation, and wherein the Beauty of Thy Lordship was established upon the throne of forgiveness.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by this Night and by those who have kept vigil therein, that Thou mayest send down upon these souls every most perfect good, every most excellent bounty, every most abundant wealth, every most beauteous beauty, every most manifest manifestation, every most steadfast utterance, every most enduring sovereignty, every most perfect word, every most ancient providence, every most powerful sign, every most great name, every most excellent beneficence, every most resplendent glory, every most brilliant radiance, every most powerful might, every most clear permission, every most wondrous book, and every most gentle fruit. For they, O my God, have gathered around Thee on a day when the dwellers of earth have turned away from Thy presence, and have sought the sanctuary of Thy knowledge after all others rejected it.

I beseech Thee, O my God, to change their sorrow into joy from Thy presence, and their grief into gladness from Thy court. Send down upon them, O my God, from the clouds of Thy mercy that which will cause to grow from their hearts the plants of Thy knowledge and wisdom. Make them, O my Beloved, so steadfast in Thy love and Thy Cause that should all who are in the heavens and on earth endeavor to prevent them, they would pay no heed to any of them, but would turn with their inner and outer beings toward the court of Thy bounty and grace. Honor them, O my Beloved, with Thy presence on the Day when Thou wilt be established upon the throne of eternity, when the feet of the wise shall slip, and the dwellers of earth and heaven shall tremble.

Then, O my God, leave them not to themselves. Take their hands with the power of Thy grace and gather them before the sovereign of the might of Thy bountifulness. Then raise them up, O my Beloved, unto that which Thou hast purposed for them through the sovereignty of Thy mighty dominion, for this is the good than which there is no likeness in creation nor equal in invention. Verily, Thou art powerful over this, mighty and omnipotent. Glory be unto Thee, O my Beloved! I beseech Thee by Thy hidden Name, and by Thy treasured Sign, and by Thy guarded Secret, that Thou deprive not these souls of the surging waves of the sea of Thy oneness, and cause them, O my Desire, to embark upon the ark of Thy glorious might.

O My Hope! Withhold not from them that which Thou hast, and send down upon them that whereby their spirits may be calmed, their hearts reassured, their souls established, their tongues loosed, their minds soar, their eyes be gladdened, their ears hear, and their hearts be enraptured, that they may be drawn, O my Beloved, by the breezes of Thy days, which none have attained save those whom Thou hast chosen for the recognition of Thy Self, elected for Thy Revelation and inspiration, approved for the manifestation of Thy Cause and sovereignty, and made the dawning-places of Thy Cause in Thy lands, the daysprings of Thy divine sustenance amongst Thy creatures, and the manifestations of Thy lordship between Thy heaven and Thy earth. Thou art, verily, the Powerful over what Thou willest, and the Dominant over what Thou desirest. None can resist Thy command or reverse Thy decree. Thou doest what Thou willest by Thy sovereignty and ordainest what Thou desirest by Thy will. Thou art, verily, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, the Giver, the Bountiful, the Beloved, the Generous.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the oceans of Thy names surged in the kingdom of Thy attributes, and the sun of Thy decree shone forth from the horizon of Thy judgment, to gather these beneath the shade of the tree of Thy oneness. Then grant them, O my God, from the wonders of Thy bounties which Thou hast sent down at all times from the heaven of Thy will and concealed from the eyes of Thy creatures, that they may delight in secret as they have delighted openly in the wondrous gifts of Thy divine unity. Send down, O my Beloved, into their hearts that which will purify them from all else but Thee and draw them near to the sanctuary of Thy good-pleasure and the source of Thy will, that they may speak naught except in Thy love, turn to none save in devotion to Thee, face no direction but the direction of Thy mercy and bounty, raise not their hands save toward the heaven of Thy might and generosity, and open not their eyes save unto the wondrous splendors of the lights of Thy countenance.

O Beloved! Give them to drink from the cups of everlasting life by the hand of this Youth in this paradise, that they may be severed from the idols of Satan and unite in Thy Cause in these days, remembering Thee at eventide and at dawn beneath the canopy of Thy grace, O Thou Bestower! O Thou Who sendeth down the Revelation, and bringeth the contingent world into being! I beseech Thee, O my Beloved, to remove discord from among these, then clothe them in the robe of Thy grace and the garments of Thy favors, in such wise that they may speak only of the wondrous traces of Thy divine sovereignty, and there may appear from them naught but that which will guide all created things to the court of Thy holy love, whereby the servants may ascend to the atmosphere of nearness to Thy unity, rise unto the heaven of Thy uniqueness, gather in the precincts of Thy mercy, and be as one soul before the sanctuary of Thy grandeur.

Then I beseech Thee, O my God, to purify their hearts from the dust of contingent things and the soil of created things, that the mirrors of their hearts may be cleansed and there may be reflected therein the wondrous splendors of the lights of Thy luminous beauty. Verily, Thou art the Giver, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, and verily, Thou art wise over all things.

Bless, then, O my God, those who have believed in Thee and in Thy signs and in Thy Beauty which shineth between Thy earth and Thy heaven. Thou art, verily, the Lord of forgiveness and mercy, and the Lord of grandeur and majesty. Then, O my God, detach Thy servants from all else but Thee and draw them to the court of Thy glory. Verily, Thou art the Forgiving, the Resurrector, the Life-Giver, the Almighty, the Powerful.

BH00972: In the Name of the Nameless Friend! Your letter…

In the Name of the Nameless Friend! Your letter was received before Us and what was written therein was noted and heard. God willing, may you remain engaged at all times in the remembrance of the Lord of all names.

As to what was asked concerning the verse revealed in the Suriy-i-Muluk, it is correct as revealed, with no word omitted. The movement of the Supreme Pen in the fields of Tablets is witnessed in different styles. In one instance, the matter is revealed with brevity—this expression is known as easily impossible'—and in another instance, both modes are combined. Therefore in the Surih of Kings the aforementioned verses were mentioned concisely, and this is most eloquent. "When it is asked, For what crime have they imprisoned Him?' they answer, 'Indeed, they desired to renew religion"'—meaning that if it be asked for what crime and transgression have ye imprisoned the Luminary of creation, they say these people desired to renew religion.

From the Most Exalted Source the answer was revealed: If ye choose the ancient and it is preferred by you, why then did ye abandon the previous religions? At the beginning of this verse, "Say" is implied, so it would read "Say: If the ancient is what is chosen…" etc. And since the meaning of "Say" is understood from the utterance of the All-Merciful, it was therefore not mentioned, and this is the manifestation of perfect eloquence. In any case, this verse is not missing anything and is correct. And what you mentioned regarding the other verse, His exalted Word was "He hath dawned from the horizon of detachment."

As to what you asked about the verse revealed in the Tablet to the Pope, these expressions are allusions to the words of the Son [Christ] that were mentioned. In one place He says: “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And in another place it is mentioned: “Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” From these two passages, the allusion in the words of the Lord of Names in the revealed verse becomes clear.

Some statements in certain Tablets refer to previous Books and what was written therein. In these days, Tablets have been specifically revealed for the Zoroastrian people, and what had remained hidden in their books until today has been mentioned. However, until what they possess becomes known, no one will understand the allusions in the revealed verses.

With regard to what you asked about spirits and their awareness of each other after their ascension, know that the people of Baha who are established in the Crimson Ark consort with each other, associate intimately, gather together, soar, aim for their goals, and ascend as if they were one soul—except that they are the discerning ones, they are the seeing ones, they are the knowing ones. Thus has the matter been decreed from the presence of One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise. The people of Baha who dwell in the divine Ark are all aware of each other’s conditions and are intimate companions and associates with one another. This station depends on the certitude and deeds of souls. Those souls who are at the same level are aware of each other’s qualities, characteristics, ranks and stations. But souls who are below them cannot fully comprehend the levels and stations of those souls who are above them. Each has their portion with your Lord. Blessed is the soul that has turned to God and remained steadfast in His love until its spirit took flight unto God, the King, the Almighty, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

As for the spirits of the infidels, by My life, at the time of death they recognize what has passed them by, and they lament and implore. Likewise after their spirits depart from their bodies. It is very clear and evident that after death all will become aware of their deeds and actions. By the Sun of the horizon of might! The people of truth will at that time experience such joy as cannot be described. Similarly, the people of error will be seized by such fear, anxiety and terror as cannot be imagined. How excellent is the state of that soul who has taken and drunk the choice and everlasting wine of faith from the hand of the favors and bounties of the Lord of all religions.

Since a promise was previously made to respond, therefore this brief message is revealed and sent at a time when the clamor of the slanderers is raised and the cry of the heedless has drowned out the sound and echo of thunder. Today the loved ones of God must fix their gaze upon the Manifestation and what appears from Him. Some previous traditions had and have no foundation, and most of what former peoples understood and recorded in their books was according to their own desires, as you have observed that most of what people possess of meanings and interpretations of divine verses has been contrary to truth. Thus after the rending of the veil some things became clear and evident and they acknowledged they had not understood a single word of God’s words. The intent is that if God’s loved

ones would purify their hearts and ears from what they have heard before, and with complete attention fix their gaze upon the Dawning-Place of the Cause and what has appeared from His presence, this would be most loved before God.

Despite these afflictions that have befallen and trials that have descended, the Most Exalted Pen has not liked and does not like aught save what speaks the truth: Verily there is no God but Me, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. For the fragrance of this word prevents the entry of sorrows, but if one becomes occupied with interpretations of previous words it will aid sorrows. We shall see what God wills and what time requires. For now this much will suffice. Give thanks and be among the grateful ones.

Convey My greetings to My loved ones whom God has singled out for His love and made them among the successful ones. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH01012: In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible…

In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Exalted, the Most High, the Most Glorious!

These are the verses of the Book which have been sent down in truth. God hath made them a proof from His presence and a manifestation from His own Self unto all who are in the heavens and on the earth. Verily, He accepteth what He willeth through His command, and He is, in truth, wise over all things. His is the creation and the command. He giveth life unto whom He willeth through His command and causeth death unto whom He desireth through His sovereignty. He shall not be asked of His doings, and He hath ever been, through His sovereignty, encompassing all the worlds.

O servant who gazes upon the Countenance! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, from this Most Glorious Horizon, that verily there is none other God but Him, and that He Who speaketh at all times in all things, that there is none other God but Him, hath been the Manifestation of His Cause, the Dawning-Place of His Revelation, the Repository of His knowledge, and the Treasury of His revelation unto all worlds. Say: O people, fear ye God and follow not every sinful infidel. Have ye forgotten God’s sovereignty and His power, and God’s might and His glory in the days when He stood forth by His own Self and revealed His Cause between the heavens and the earth, whereunto ye were witnesses?

O Trustworthy One! We did promise these people in a previous Manifestation that I would reveal unto them My beauty once again and would reveal unto them a mystery beyond reckoning, and when We manifested Ourselves once again by Our Most Glorious Name and We did not unveil the mystery but rather desired to bring the fingers of My will near to its veil, thereupon all who dwell in the heavens and on earth were struck with terror, and all returned to their original station, and God was witness to this. We had informed them beforehand that upon the unveiling of the mystery, those of Sinai would be thunderstruck and those of light would perish upon the Sinai of destiny by reason of this Most Great News. Yet they were unaware of this, and when a number were struck down, the hearts of those who had believed in God and witnessed the wonders of His power every morn and eve were sorely troubled.

O Trustworthy One! By the True God! He who fought against My Self and whom the servants took as a lord besides God was created by My Word and did circle round Me, as every fair-minded one who is

possessed of knowledge doth testify. Thou beholdest the people as those who walk yet know not the way, or like the blind who walk in the shadow of the sun yet recognize it not and inquire about it from every ignorant blind one, or like sheep whose shepherd hath become the wolves of the earth and who can find no safe retreat. Thus do We set forth similitudes for thee that thou mayest recognize those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, and that thou mayest abide in an impregnable stronghold.

Blessed art thou for having drunk the cup of life from the fingers of the All-Merciful in this Paradise which hath appeared at the heart of heaven, wherein all created things speak even as the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing spoke at the ultimate retreat, and the Tree of Sinai upon the crimson hillock, and the Tree of Eternity beyond the sea of grandeur. Thus is thy Lord powerful over whatsoever He willeth, and verily He encompasseth all things.

Be thou ignited by the fire We have kindled in the paradise of thy heart, then ignite the servants therewith. By God! The Spirit of Glory will strengthen thee in all matters, and the Holy Spirit will speak within thy breast and will aid thee in times when thou openest thy tongue in remembrance of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Verily, He strengtheneth whom He willeth through His grace, but the people are wrapped in thick veils.

Know thou then that thy letter hath come before Us and the gaze of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds, hath fallen upon it, and We have witnessed from it thy longing for God and thy yearning for Him. How excellent it is for thee that the breezes of Paradise have wafted upon thee from this direction which hath been, from time immemorial, raised above the knowledge of the worlds. Therefore, give thanks unto God for having protected thee through the sovereignty of His Cause and delivered thee from the depths.

O thou who art attracted by My love and hast been raised to a station which is, in truth, praiseworthy! Sanctify thyself from the allusions of those who have disbelieved, and arise to praise thy Lord with a pure and wondrous tongue. Say: O people, be fair in the name of God—by what proof did ye believe in the Manifestations of the past, and by what evidence do ye establish your faith, after having denied this Sun which hath dawned from the horizon of eternity and by Whose light all who are in the heavens and on earth have been illumined? And now It standeth at its zenith with the sovereignty of grandeur, might and glory, having come unto you with God's proof and His testimony, then His evidence and magnificent signs.

Fear ye God, and war not against Him Who hath come unto you with all the signs, through Whom God's power and proof, then His greatness and might have been made manifest. Fear God, O people, and be God-fearing in His Cause. If thou detectest from them the sweet savors of the All-Merciful, turn towards them; otherwise leave them to themselves and say "In the Name of God and by God," then embark upon the Crimson Ark in My Most Glorious Name, which saileth upon the sea of grandeur from whose essence have appeared the seas of attributes and names.

Thus do We impart unto thee in this night which hath been illumined by this Sun that was visible from God's horizon. Were We to recount unto thee what hath befallen Us in this prison, thou wouldst weep and lament and become detached from all things in creation. But We have been patient and concealed it,

and patience is from none but thy Lord, and verily He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful unto His servants. Be thou at peace within thyself, then rejoice in God's joy, for there hath been ordained for thee in the Tablet a station that is, in truth, magnificent.

God's glorification from this prison be upon thy countenance, and by His glorification have the denizens of the highest paradise and the dwellers of the crimson chambers beyond the veils of the cloud-shrouded mysteries glorified thee. Thus doth God single out whom He willeth through His grace, and verily His grace hath ever been nigh unto them that are brought near. And the mercy that descendeth from the heaven that hath been raised in its essence be upon thee and upon them that are with thee and upon those who hearken unto thy words concerning God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creation.

BH01053: This is an epistle from the servant…

He is God, the Most Manifest, the Most Powerful, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

This is an epistle from the servant of the All-Merciful, who is named Abdullah and known as Aqa Jan, to those who have detached themselves from the shadow of Satan and have held fast to the cord of God, the Mighty, the Bestower, that it may be a remembrance to them that believe in divine unity, a light to the mystics, a fire to the deceivers, a sword to the idolaters, and a reminder to those who shall come after, to them that have eyes to see and minds to perceive.

Be it known that some time ago, when the Beauty of God was dwelling alone in the House, certain matters were mentioned concerning Mirza Husayn-i-Mutavalli-yi-Qumi. Therefore, Hadrat-i-Kalim, exalted be His praise, out of pure kindness and affection, penned a letter to the aforementioned person. By God, besides Whom there is no other God! With the utmost mercy and compassion, and with pure kindness and affection, they wished to remind him, for none among the people of the Bayan was aware of this matter. Out of kindness to him, they wrote to him about certain matters, that perchance he might be illumined by the light of piety and guidance, leaving the darkness of fancy and error. And in that letter, they wrote in detail about their brother. By God! They had no purpose save his guidance.

Later, news arrived that the aforementioned Mirza Husayn had gone to Bombay. Time passed until these days, and this servant was dwelling in utmost grief and lamentation when someone came and gave this servant a sealed writing. I observed that the blessed name of the Embodiment of the Cause, exalted be His glory, was written on the letter. From this supreme violation, I realized that this letter must be from one of those who have turned away from God. Therefore, I opened it and observed that in response to Hadrat-i-Kalim, exalted be His praise, the aforementioned person had written fabricated words with a pen of hatred, ink of animosity, and fingers of polytheism….

And so the letter of that rejected one, that manifestation of Nimrod, was read to its end….

Hadrat-i-Kalim narrated in detail the story of the two brothers' departure from Persian Iraq to Arab Iraq…

He saith, mighty be His utterance: "O people of the Bayan! Be fair within yourselves and speak with pure truthfulness and be among the truthful ones. Most of you have associated with Me and have become aware of My nature. Has anyone witnessed from Me that which would grieve his soul? No, by Him Who

sent Me with the truth, if you be of the fair-minded. I have been ever-forgiving to whoever repented, concealing the sins of whoever committed wrongs, most merciful unto him who hath repented and returned, compassionate unto him who hath failed, a refuge unto him who hath feared, and responsive unto him who hath called at the Gate—to this every discerning and fair-minded soul doth testify. Can any among you deny this bounty? Nay, by My own Self, the Truth! None save he who denieth all the favors of God and followeth the path of them that imagine vain things….

In another instance, in denial of God and in opposition to Him, he wrote that the Primal Point had decreed that that Person must never have smoked a water-pipe nor lived in the time of the late Shaykh. Say: O associator with God! How did you ascertain that the one whom you now wrongfully consider as truth apart from God never smoked a water-pipe and was not present in the Shaykh's time? In the land of Ta, he was the keeper of the water-pipe in his assembly. Though this servant was not present and did not witness it, I have heard from all who were with him in the land of Ta that he indeed smoked frequently. Even in Baghdad, whenever he went to Ibn-i-Alusi's or to the coffeehouse to rent lodgings, he would both smoke the water-pipe and drink coffee. Ask Ibn-i-Alusi…

You are the one who emigrated from your land called Qum until you joined the hosts of God and associated with them in the place called Tabarsi, wherein was the holy and luminous Beauty named Muhammad-ʿAli in the Kingdom of Names and Quddus among the Concourse of eternity. You remained with them until circumstances changed and the oppressors surrounded the hosts of the All-Merciful. When thou didst behold the outward weakness of the loved ones of God and the fewness of their helpers, thou didst flee from them and desert them, joining the hosts of Satan. The curse of God be upon those who have wronged God, warred against Him, disputed with Him, denied His signs, turned away from what He possesseth, and joined the company of the polytheists.

By God! Through thine actions the heavens and earth have wept, and the hearts of them that profess His unity who were present there were troubled. Yet thou wert heedless within thyself and rejoiced in thy deed. And thou didst all this only to save thine own wicked self. This was the first harm thou didst inflict upon God and His chosen ones, His loved ones, His intimate friends, and His trusted ones, and thou wert with the polytheists until the hosts of tyranny outwardly prevailed over the hosts of God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling. The polytheists slew some and took others captive.

Yet thou wert not content with what thou hadst done, O thou who hast associated partners with God, turned away from His signs, and warred against His very Self, until thou didst desire to absolve thyself from God, His love, and His good-pleasure. Thou didst perpetrate such tyranny that I am ashamed to mention it, and all created things are ashamed to hear it. By God! The dwellers of the pavilions of eternity have wept at thy tyranny, yet thou wert not aware of it and wert among the heedless ones. O thou wicked one! Is this thy faithfulness to thy Lord's covenant, or thy steadfastness upon the throne of love? Fie upon thee and upon those like thee….

Until such time as certain of those souls were delivered forth, wholly for God, and returned unto their own land; and others, escaping from the hands of the idolaters upon the road, went back unto their homes…

Among them was the honored Mulla Muhammad Sadiq, who is now in Mashhad, and the honored Mirza Muhammad…

Aqa Mirza Husayn, when he perceived that affairs had taken such a turn, came into the presence of the idolaters, before the face of His Holiness Quddus—may the spirit of all else beside Him be offered up for His sake—and, solely that he might prove unto the idolaters his repudiation of the Truth, committed an act which this feeble tongue is powerless to utter; whereupon his vile life was spared from being slain, and they sent him to Tihran. And after his arrival in Tihran he again professed faith, that there might appear the final disclosure of his unbelief…

BH01068: Lawh-i-Husayn

The Friend is eternal and all else perishable. O Husayn! Be intimate with the remembrance of God and heedless of aught else, for His remembrance is a companion without duplicity and an associate in perfect harmony—a guest who betrays not and a comrade who works neither harm nor treachery. It is a reliable assembly and a steadfast and established intimate. It is a faithful friend who, wherever thou goest, accompanies thee and never parts from thee. It transforms sorrow into joy and wipes away the rust of heedlessness.

This is the Day wherein the attractive Word of God is suspended between earth and heaven, drawing unto itself the essences of the hearts of all created things. As for those souls who have not ascended from their earthly habitations, the decree of former religions and their rejection has been issued concerning them from God. I swear by the Sun of inner meanings that were there to be found but a particle—nay, less than that—of the essence concealed in a mountain, the attractive and distinguishing Word would assuredly draw that particle and separate it from that mountain.

Thus do you observe in the Concourse of the Bayan that whatsoever hearts were pure, souls sanctified, and breasts holy among that people have ascended to the most exalted stronghold and the ultimate station of the Divine Lote-Tree. And whatsoever souls were impure and sullied have returned to their origin. For a mere fancy they have turned away from the King of certitude, and through attachment to a passing shadow they have become heedless of the eternal Beauty. They are now seen before God as the most rejected of the world and the most limited of all people, for they have disbelieved in that which is greater, more perfect and mightier than that wherein they had previously believed and whereof they had boasted over other peoples. Thus doth God render vain the deeds of those who disbelieved and associated partners with God, and were in doubt about meeting their Lord after He had appeared with all the signs and with manifest sovereignty.

O Husayn! The chalices of eternity and extinction have both appeared with utmost manifestation and evident emergence, borne by the angels of paradise and hell. How excellent is the state of that soul who becomes the recipient of the chalice of eternity and leaves the chalice of extinction to its people.

O Husayn! Behold the Cause of God today as thou wouldst the sun, and all created things as mirrors. Any mirror that faces and turns toward the sun will have its image reflected therein, clear and evident. Today, in any heart that turns toward the Divine Beauty, the lights of His countenance become manifest and

visible, and without this it remains deprived, nay, as one lost. Today none have turned except a few, and these are the essences of existence in the sight of God.

The Most Exalted Pen declares: None but Mine ear can hear My words, and none but Mine eye can recognize My beauty. How can the eye afflicted with the ophthalmia of desire behold the Most Great Scene? My love hath been the physician for all ailments, and My affection shall be the healer of all diseases. Know divine love to be purifying—wherever it enters, no defilement remains. It transforms illness into health and sin into mercy. Blessed are the souls who attain unto this matchless grace.

Therefore, O thou servant who art assured in God, be thankful that thou art mentioned before God among the enduring letters. The cloud of His All-Merciful grace hath rained upon thee, and the clouds of His glorified bounty have showered their favors upon thee in thy native land and praiseworthy station.

You have taken up residence in the City of Divine Love. God willing, strive at all times to attain and be nourished by His wondrous mercy which is specially designated for that time, for in every moment the Divine Beauty sheds Its most wondrous effulgence. The heedful ones have no share of this celebrated grace. You must remain steadfast in the Cause of God and strive to the extent possible to teach His Cause, for today this most exalted and glorious station is the nearest of all things that draw one nigh unto the King of Names and Attributes.

O Husayn, follow in the footsteps of the Servant and walk therein, and never be saddened by any afflictions that may come to pass. By Him Who holdeth my soul in His hand! If God's infinite worlds were limited to this world, and its delights confined to what is witnessed by its people, I would never have subjected Myself to these countless afflictions. Consider the near ones among the Prophets and the tribulations each endured in the path of God. By the Most Exalted Pen! Were anyone to possess consciousness even less than an atom and reflect upon this utterance, they would never pay heed to this world nor be saddened by its existence or absence. Moreover, they would become assured of that which none hath been assured save those whom God hath aided to recognize Him and whose eyes He hath opened to witness His mysteries.

Were I to mention the afflictions We have endured in this City, you would surely be saddened, but know this much: By Him Who caused the tongue of dawn to speak His praise! From the beginning of creation until now such tyranny hath never appeared, nor hath anyone endured what the Beauty of the Divine Unity hath endured, and thereby all things have lamented, though they perceive it not. And I say: Nothing shall befall Us except what God hath decreed for Us. In Him do We put Our trust, and upon Him let the near ones place their trust.

Jinab-i-Nabil-i-ʿAli is with Us; be thou assured concerning him and give thanks unto God for having made him one of His companions among the worlds. Praise be to God that he beholdeth the Most Great Scene with his eyes, heareth the words of God with his ears, and with his heart is turned to His remembrance. Blessed is he and blessed are ye. Convey the mention of this Wronged One to the loved ones of God.

BH01171: O ye beloved of God! May ye ever be…

In the Name of the peerless One God!

O ye beloved of God! May ye ever be and continue to be blessed and joyful through the grace shining from the horizon of the Cause of the immortal King. At all times be ye engaged in the triumph of the Cause of the All-Merciful. O thou servant who gazeth unto God, gird up firmly the loins of service, in such wise that thou mayest be known and renowned for thy service to God amongst all else. The world and whatsoever is witnessed therein shall ere long perish, and that which shall endure is what hath been ordained by the Truth for His loved ones, and ever shall be.

Today must such a breeze of steadfastness waft from the loved ones of God that none can prevent those enkindled souls from the divine Unity. Say: O servants, guard yourselves and take refuge in God, exalted be His mention, lest the croak of the raven prevent you from the Lord of Lords. For in most lands the call of false pretenders shall be raised—tidings We gave at the time of Our migration from Iraq, and which hath been detailed in numerous Tablets from the Pen of the Lord of creation. Say: Take ye the chalice of steadfastness in the name of your Lord, then drink therefrom with this wise Remembrance.

Today all must manifest spiritual qualities among mankind, that all people may inhale the sweet fragrances of sanctity and detachment from those who are related to the Truth. Praise God that thou art mentioned before the Divine Presence and the Pen of God's Cause hath flowed in thy remembrance. Most great is this station—blessed is he who recognizeth its worth and is of them that preserve it.

O thou bird soaring in the heaven of divine love! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner. Convey to all the beloved ones the greetings from God. Blessed are they in that they have believed, turned unto Him, heard and responded on a Day wherein the mountains were scattered and flesh did quiver.

God willing, all must act according to the loving counsels that have shone forth from the horizon of the Will of the Lord of creation. We have enjoined wisdom upon all, for corruption, conflict, contention and unauthorized seizure of others' property have all been forbidden in this Most Great Revelation. Say: O servants, hear ye the call of the Most Exalted Pen which crieth out betwixt earth and heaven. Strive ye, that perchance through divine grace and heavenly favors there may appear from you that which befitteth this Most Great Revelation.

All must be united, and through deeds, character and conduct must attract and draw people from the gloomy wilderness to the pleasant spiritual realm. The essence of man is his humanity. Blessed is he from whom it is manifested—he is indeed of them that have attained. Man must not expend all his energy on his own imaginings, but must strive with utmost endeavor to attend to one another's affairs. This is the binding command of the Lord of nations that hath flowed from the Pen of the Ancient of Days.

A Tablet hath been sent down from the heaven of Will concerning the education of all, but in these days it hath not been dispatched, as the time was not propitious. When the hour cometh, We shall send it unto you. By My life, it is a perspicuous Book sent down from your Lord, the Lord of the worlds.

O friends of the Truth! Let your endeavors be directed towards serving the loved ones of God. To care for the weak is essential and to assist the poor is among those things most necessary before the All-Forgiving, and shall ever be so. I swear by the Sun of sanctified glory that has risen from the horizon of the prison, that the cry of those who are oppressed among the loved ones of God and the poor among His friends has been and shall ever be effective. Had people perceived the station of the Truth and turned towards

God's direction, there would have surely appeared a matter that would have caused the enrichment of all. What they have withheld from themselves of that which their Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, desired has been concealed.

Hearken unto that which the Lord of Destiny reveals unto thee from the direction of His Most Great Scene. Verily, there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Powerful. Arise to serve the Cause and be steadfast through God's might and power, then convey that which thou hast been commanded by the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people! The Sun of Beauty hath risen from the horizon of your Lord's Command, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy, and all things have proclaimed: The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the One, the Peerless, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Say: Are ye among the dead? Yea, by my Lord! Were there in you a breath of life, ye would have heard the call of your Lord and would have turned to Him and said:

> "My spirit be a sacrifice for Thy tribulations, O Beloved of the worlds! Thou art He Who hath borne hardships in God's path for the quickening of all beings, until Thou wert imprisoned in a mighty prison."

Were ye to find the sweetness of that which hath flowed from the Most Exalted Pen and hear that which the Tongue of Grandeur and Glory proclaimeth, ye would surely abandon what ye possess and hasten to the seat of the Throne with evident submission. Fear ye God and deprive not yourselves of the breezes of these days. Turn ye with illumined hearts and radiant faces. Thus doth your Lord, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the Beauteous, command you.

O thou who gazest! Rejoice in God's remembrance of thee and turn not unto those who speak what they comprehend not. The glory rest upon thee and upon thy son and upon those who have turned to the Countenance. They are indeed the triumphant ones. Praise be to God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH01172: Exalted is He Who sendeth down verses…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Exalted is He Who sendeth down verses from the Kingdom which was illumined with the lights of the Throne, and Who speaketh in the Lote Tree of Revelation that perchance men may find a way unto Him.

Say: O servants, fear ye the Lord of the Day of Mutual Calling, and await the grace that was made manifest from the horizon of the All-Merciful. Say: The Sun of Utterance hath dawned from the horizon of the revelation of the King of Names and Attributes. Prostrate yourselves before God, your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, Who was remembered in the heaven of eternity by the name of Glory, and in the kingdom of names as the Most High.

O people! Deny not the verses of the All-Merciful after their revelation. Follow that which ye have been commanded in the Book. Verily His grace draweth nigh unto the doers of good. Say: The names were shaken and the heaven was cleft asunder when the Glory came with the kingdom of eternity, save him who took Him as his protector. Cast away that which veils you from God, then soar on the wings of sanctity unto this atmosphere which was raised through this Name.

The breezes of grace have wafted, and by them were all things borne, and God is witness to what I say. Soon shall there appear from all things that which shall gladden the hearts of the believers. Then shall the idolaters flee to the right and to the left, and shall find for themselves no secure refuge.

Say: O people! Take ye the chalice of eternity from the hands of Glory, then turn ye unto God, the Lord of Names. And if ye are able within yourselves, then sail upon the crimson ark in My Most Exalted Name and traverse the sea of grandeur that ye may find yourselves beneath a shade illumined by the lights of His countenance.

Hearken, O people, unto the call of the All-Merciful, for verily it is raised at all times. Turn not your gaze toward him who disbelieved in Him Who believed, and was far removed from the truth. Among men are some who have halted in this Cause—though the Tablets were revealed for none other end than this Manifestation, which was, in truth, promised. And among the deniers are such as strove, with their substance and their very lives, to exalt the Word of God; yet when it appeared and shone forth from the horizon of elucidation, they disbelieved in the All-Merciful and turned back upon their heels.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause in such wise that no affliction can withhold thee from thy Lord, the Most Glorious. Then thank Him morning and evening for having sent down unto thee a Tablet truly wondrous. Thus have We bestowed upon thee of the marvels of Our bounty, and sent unto thee that whereby thou mayest inhale the fragrance of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, that thou mayest take, beneath His shadow, a stronghold impregnable.

They who, openly, have turned away from God—when the verses of God are recited unto them—their faces are darkened; yet are they in a state of abasement, deprived of the fragrances of Revelation. Whoso hath turned away from God and forged lies against Him, his works are rendered vain; he is of those who denied the Prophets and the Messengers, and in the religion of God became a transgressor.

Say: O people! Fear God, and utter not that which the idolaters uttered in all the days, until there came the Day wherein the Beauty of Eternity shone forth from the horizon of a Name that, with God's Throne, was exalted and high. Sanctify the ears of men from the words of the idolaters, and then lead them into the ocean of recognition by the leave of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, that they may find the precious pearl of knowledge.

Say: We took a handful of dust and kneaded it with the waters of power and assurance, and breathed into it a spirit from Our presence; then did We adorn it with the vesture of the Names in the kingdom of creation, and sent it unto the sovereign with the Book of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Exalted be this Cause which hath encompassed all the worlds!

Say: Naught shall hinder Us from the remembrance of God, the Fashioner of earth and heaven. The Tongue of Eternity speaketh in this Most Great Prison, and summoneth the peoples unto their Lord, the All-Merciful. Thus have We announced unto thee and informed thee, that thine eye and the eyes of the Concourse on high may be gladdened, and that perchance men may behold the power of God and take Him for their helper.

Say: O people! if ye deny this power and this proof, by what word shall your faith in your Lord, the All-Merciful, be established? Nay, by Him through Whom earth and heaven have shone with the light of glory, they shall find no path unto the truth.

Say: O people! when the Messenger of God entereth in upon you bearing His Tablet, arise from your seats; then turn unto Him, and take hold of Him with the fingers of certainty and assurance. Inhale His fragrance: if ye perceive in Him the scent of utterance and the perfume of the garment of the mercy of your Lord, the All-Merciful, then deny Him not. Thus have We sent down the Cause from the Realm of Eternity—a Revelation from One Who is Mighty, powerful over all worlds.

O people! Follow the religion of God and His command, and commit not that whereat the sincere ones lament in the Most Exalted Companion. This is that wherewith ye have been admonished in the Tablets, and God is witness unto what I say.

And if one of the idolaters should bring thee the Book of the Sijjin, cast it behind thy back, and say: I have abandoned the religion of a people that believed not in God; these are the inmates of the Fire. Thus hath the decree been inscribed by the Pen of the Chosen One in the Tablet.

O people! Fear God, and pursue not them upon whom the word of chastisement hath been made binding, and whose faces are covered with the dust of fire; verily they are of the people of the coffin. Thus hath the matter been decreed by the King of kings and Sovereign of the Kingdom, Who hath come down from the heaven of the Cause in a Name that was, in truth, well-known.

Know thou the worth of these days, and gird thy loins therein for the triumph of My Cause. Let not the world and what befalleth therein grieve thee. That which thou seest shall soon pass away, and abiding glory and power shall remain with God, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Chosen.

BH01217: Lawh-i-Hirtik (Tablet to David Hardegg)

In the name of God, the Most Holy

Thy sealed letter hath reached the presence of this Wronged One, and from it We have inhaled the sweet savour of thy devotion to God, the Omnipotent Protector, the Self-Subsistent. We beseech Him to make known unto thee that which is con cealed within the Written Tablet, and to grant that thou mayest catch the accents of the Mystic Dove that singeth upon the celestial bough, and hear the soft murmur of the water that is life indeed as it floweth in a stream of utterance and wisdom from the fountainhead of the Will of Him Who is the Lord of all mankind.

O friend! It behoveth thee to reflect upon the Word of God, to ponder its greatness, and to meditate upon its sweetness. This Word, verily, is sufficient unto the peoples of the earth. The first one to believe in Him Who was the Spirit was so enraptured by the Word of God that, in his eagerness to embrace its truth, he detached himself from everything that men possess. Such is the condition of all who would be leviathans in the Most Mighty Ocean.

O thou learned doctor and percipient divine! Know that the people have, for the most part, been hindered by their passions from turning themselves to God, the Lord of all names. Whoso looketh with his

inner eye, however, shall be granted vision, and shall testify to what he witnesseth, exclaiming: “All praise be unto my Lord, the Most Exalted!” The tidings of God’s loving-kindness have been announced to land and sea, and unto the nations hath been given the promise of the advent of Him Who shall heal their sicknesses, even Him Who shall build up the Temple of the Lord. Well is it with them who understand!

Lo, the appointed time is now arrived, and Carmel crieth out as if moved to ecstasy by the soul-stirring breezes of her Lord. Happy are those who hear her cry! Whoso hearkeneth with his inner ear shall hear the voice of the Rock as he beareth witness, with a mighty voice, to the Everlasting God. Blessed are they who perceive the savour of Divine utterance and, severing themselves from the world of being, advance towards the Kingdom. Behold! The things that had been mentioned in the Books of old have now appeared, and yet the people, though they look upon them, comprehend them not!

Regard thou, O friend, the mystery of the Great Reversal in the Sign of the Sovereign. Through this reversal He hath caused the exalted to be abased and the abased to be exalted. Call thou to mind how, in the days of Jesus, it was those who were distinguished for their learning, the men of letters and religion, who denied Him, whilst humble fishermen made haste to gain admittance into the Kingdom—this is the meaning of that which hath been expressed by symbol and allusion in the obscurities of words.

Great, immeasurably great is the Cause! Peter, the Apostle, despite the pre-eminence of his rank and the loftiness of his station, when questioned held back from speaking. Wert thou, with thy thoughts centred wholly on God, to reflect upon the happenings of former times, thou wouldst see the light shining refulgently before thy face, and wouldst keep it constantly before thy gaze. The truth is, of a certainty, too evident to be enshrouded in a veil, the way too clear to be obscured by darkness, and certitude too manifest to be eclipsed by any fleeting whim. Those who have been debarred therefrom are the followers of their corrupt desires. Today they are reposing on their bed of slumber; erelong they shall awake and rush, without avail, to find the things that have escaped them. Well is it with them who have inhaled the Divine fragrance at the time when it was shed abroad: These, verily, have attained unto that which is the portion of the sincere among God’s servants.

Know thou that We have seen the letter “Sad”, which appeareth in the word “Sulh”, become embellished by the ornament of the upright Alif. This, verily, is that which hath been recorded in an outspread Tablet. No sooner were the splendours of that Divine Word revealed than the portals of heaven were unlocked, the Kingdom of Names made manifest, and all was brought to consummation by the appearance of the letter “Ha”, which had been connected to the recumbent Alif, itself embellished by the Point from which had sprung the Treasured Name, the Hidden Secret, and the Guarded Symbol—that same Point from which all things have appeared and unto which they have all returned. Thereupon We saw the Word give utterance to a Word which was received by every people in accordance with its own particular tongue and language.

As it spoke forth, there rose above the horizon of its utterance a Sun of such effulgent splendour that, overshadowed by its radiance, the celestial sun grew dark; then it cried out: “The brow of seventy hath been adorned with the diadem of forty and united with the seven before ten”; at this it sighed, and moaned aloud: “Alas, I see the house oblivious of its Master, the son unmindful of his Father, the seeker heedless of the sanctuary and refuge for which he yearneth.”

O thou who soarest in the atmosphere of understanding! Whoso perceiveth that which though solid, floweth; which though static, flieth; which is both manifest and hidden, both resplendent and obscure will be so enraptured by the effulgence of heavenly illumination that he will rise up on the wings of ardent longing into the empyrean of nearness, holiness, and heavenly reunion.

Respecting thy comments on the question of "darkness", We testify that it hath encompassed all mankind. Happy the man who hath been illumined by the light of Him Who hath shone forth resplendent from the horizon of the mercy of His Lord, the Most Holy. This darkness is naught but the idle imaginings of men, by which they have been prevented from directing themselves towards the Kingdom when, by the bidding of God, the Lord of the realm on high, it was made manifest.

As for thy mention of the opinion expressed to thee by a certain individual that, in so far as concerneth the Spirit, there existeth no difference between us, his assertion is correct, for the Spirit is too exalted either to admit of differences or to be comprehended by allusions. It is the revelation of the Light of God's singleness amongst men, the Sign of His ancient eternity before the nations. Whoso turneth himself thereto hath turned himself unto Him Who sent it forth, and whoso turneth away therefrom hath turned away from the One by Whose power it hath been manifested and endowed with utterance. It hath not changed from age to age, and such as it hath been it shall remain. Such differences as may be witnessed in the effulgence of its light are to be attributed to the mirrors that receive it, and to the disparity, in form and colour, of the images they reflect.

O friend! Were but a single token to be revealed of the Secret which hath lain wrapped in mystery, the hearts of all those who, clinging to the things of men, have cast away the things of God, would be thrown into perturbation. Shouldst thou, having meditated upon the words that We have addressed to thee, arise with perfect steadfastness to act in such wise as We have intimated, thou wouldst undoubtedly accomplish such things as have been witnessed in a former age.

O friend! This Bird lieth imprisoned beneath the talons of cruelty and malice; It seeth for itself neither nest wherein to shelter nor heavenly expanse in which to fly. In such a plight as this, it summoneth mankind unto everlasting life. Blessed then be the attentive ear!

We beseech God to unite us in one holy court, and to graciously assist us to do that which is pleasing and acceptable unto Him.

BH01237: This is a letter from the Prisoner to him…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

This is a letter from the Prisoner to him towards whom His glance was directed ere any among created things knew him, for We concealed the matter and clothed one of the servants in the garment of names, through a wisdom which none hath comprehended save God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Great.

O servant! Hearken unto the Call of God from the holy precincts, the spot wherein the Sun of eternity hath shone forth from the horizon of My Most Glorious Name, that there is none other God but He, the Almighty over what He willeth, and He is the Mighty, the Wise. Say: O people! The dawn of eternity hath

broken from the horizon of your Lord, the Most High, and its lights have encompassed the worlds. Fear God, and corrupt not the earth, nor measure the words of God by your own standards. Fear God and be among the God-fearing.

O thou servant who gazeth toward God! Remember those days when thou wert present before the Countenance, and We imparted unto thee secrets veiled by screens and coverings. Thus did thy Lord's mercy precede thee and thou wert among the successful. Yet hadst thou known in those days what befell Me, thou wouldst have wept and lamented and detached thyself from all the worlds.

By God, the True One! We manifested the Cause with the power of might and authority, and We sacrificed Ourself in the path of God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forebears. All peoples disputed with Me with whatsoever they possessed, and I arose to fulfill the Cause as I was commanded by an Almighty, All-Powerful, Mighty, and Ancient Ordainer.

When the traces of God were noised abroad throughout the lands, and the lights of the Cause appeared amongst all peoples, then did he arise against Me—he whose mention We had exalted among the servants—and he waged war upon My very self, until he purposed to shed My blood, without proof and without a luminous Book. By God, O Sacrifice! whatsoever thou hast heard concerning his affair was from Our presence; and none hath been aware thereof save God, Who hath numbered all things in the Tablets of unassailable might.

They who, this day, object against God—these have not been informed of the origin of the Cause; and though they claim otherwise, they lie. This is the certain truth. Do thou hearken unto My word; then be steadfast in the Cause, and shun them from whose hearts thou dost perceive the odours of hatred toward this Youth who hath expended His life for God, the All-Powerful, the Most High, the Most Great.

For We loved thee aforetime, and God hath ordained for thee, in the heaven of decree, a station that is, in truth, exalted; and God will assuredly raise thee up in truth, and will send down upon thee that which shall gladden thy heart. Verily He doeth whatsoever He willeth by a command from His presence, and He is indeed the Ruler over what He desireth.

Leave men to themselves and to their vain desires; then turn thou, with thy heart, toward that quarter wherein the remembrance of God is raised up at every morn and eventide. And know thou that, when We departed from 'Iraq, We apprised the servants of the uprising of the Samiri, and then of the cry of the Calf, that they might be of them that are aware. And We revealed in the Tablets that when the sun setteth, the birds of night are set in motion. When, therefore, the birds moved, most of the servants dispersed from around the Cause, and returned unto the lowest of the low.

He whom God made his outward self an admonition unto men—he it is who rose up in opposition there, and was sunk in grievous idolatry. Say: O people! Deal justly before God. By what proof did ye believe in God and the Manifestations of His Self aforetime, and by what evidence did ye disbelieve in Him Who hath arisen in His own Person amongst all created things, from Whom, at every moment, hath shone forth the power of God and His greatness, then the sovereignty of God and His dominion—Who was wont to recite in your midst that whereunto the hearts of the Concourse on high, and then of the angels nigh unto God, were drawn?

Say: Could ye but see with piercing sight, ye would bear witness that the Primal Point, in that hour, in the Most Exalted Companion, weepeth and lamenteth for that which your hands have wrought, O company of liars! Would that thou hadst been with Us in this prison, and hadst learned that whereof none of the servants have learned, and hadst attained unto a wondrous insight.

They who were not acquainted with so much as a letter of the Cause have risen to falsehood, speaking only as their own selves and desires have bidden them; and thereby are they accursed in this world and in the world to come, though they perceive it not. Thou seest them not this day but as a rabble—nay, thou wilt find them more contemptible than that, wert thou of them that know. Woe unto them, and unto that which their hands have wrought! By My life! they are indeed in manifest error.

Do thou, then, be steadfast in the Cause; arise to praise God, thy Lord; fear no one, for He shall preserve thee with the hosts of the unseen and the seen; verily He hath ever been nigh unto the doers of good.

Thus have We met thee, and thus have We informed thee, and have set forth for thee some part of what hath befallen Us, as a mercy from Our presence toward thee, that thy soul may rejoice at the holy breezes that have blown upon thee from this radiant and luminous Scene. And glory—which hath dawned from the Daybreak of eternity—be upon thee, and upon them that have clung to the Firm Handle and cut themselves off from all the worlds. And praise be to God, my Lord and thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds.

BH01278: Praise be to God! The pearls in the shells…

Praise be to God! The pearls in the shells of the sea of divine bounty are ever manifest and renowned. His signs have encompassed the world, and His evidences shine resplendent before all faces. Yet all remain heedless and veiled. What hath prevented thee from beholding, and likewise from hearkening to the call raised from the direction of the Divine Throne by day and by night? The light of His Cause doth shine forth and is manifest from every direction, such that the signs of the Hour and the mysteries of the Resurrection have become apparent in a manner that all the pens in the world are powerless to recount. This servant conveyeth greetings to each of the loved ones, and from the ocean of God's bounty and the sun of His mercy beseecheth that all may be assisted in that which will cause the exaltation of the Word of God and their own stations.

Blessed are those souls who, having acknowledged and recognized this incomparable Treasury, have attained unto the Most Great Steadfastness. Today the pavilion of glory hath been raised to its loftiest station, and the lights of the dawn of His Revelation have appeared from the Most Exalted Paradise in such wise that no fair-minded person hath denied or will deny it. This servant and the loved ones in that land must, with the utmost lowliness and supplication, beseech from the Self-Sufficing One whatsoever is worthy of this Day and cleave unto it. Verily He is the Kind, the Generous, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

And this is what was revealed for his honor Mirza Muhammad-ʿAli, upon him be the glory of God. His word, exalted be His majesty and His glory: O Tongue of Grandeur! Withhold not Thy bounties from Thy loved ones, nor disappoint them of that which Thou hast ordained in Thy Book for Thy chosen ones. Turn unto him who hath turned unto Thee, then make mention of him with such remembrance as to attract

the hearts of all the world. I testify that this Day is Thy Day—sing before all faces and warble that the Kingdom of Utterance and its dominion have come to hearken unto Thy most exalted call and the shrill voice of Thy most exalted Pen. Withhold not those who have turned unto Thee from the Day-Star of Thy Revelation. Take their hands with the hands of Thy power and deliver them from the mire of idle fancies through Thy might, Thy sovereignty, Thy strength and Thy will. Thou art He Whom the affairs of men cannot hinder, nor the turning away of them that have denied and disbelieved. There is none other God but Thee, the All-Bountiful, the Generous.

O Muhammad-ʿAli! Verily We have mentioned thee before and at this time, and We beseech God, blessed and exalted be He, to aid thee and those who have believed in that which beseemeth the heaven of His generosity and the ocean of His bounty. Say: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having guided me and sent down unto me from the heaven of Thy grace the signs of Thy grandeur. O my Lord! Thou seest the poor one standing before the gate of Thy bounty, and the helpless one clinging to the cord of Thy power and sovereignty. Ordain for him that which beseemeth Thy glory and Thy bounty. Verily Thou art the Almighty, the Powerful.

We have desired to make mention of him who is named Ustad-Aqa, that he may rejoice and be of them that are thankful. Today the Sun of Truth hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of will, proclaiming: O peoples of the earth! Ye have been created for this Day—recognize ye its station and that which hath appeared therein from God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And He saith: O party of God! Be not grieved at that which hath befallen you in My path. Soon shall ye behold that which no eye in creation hath beheld, and shall find yourselves in a glorious station. Strive that ye may attain unto that which will adorn you with the glory of God's good-pleasure. Rejoice not in that which ye possess.

You find yourselves in a noble station; strive that perchance ye may attain unto that which adorns you with the glory of God's good-pleasure. Be not gladdened by what ye possess, nor despair of the Spirit of God and His mercy. Verily He is with His servants who turn unto Him. Great is this Day and great is its bounty. Deprive not yourselves. The Truth, exalted be His glory, hath ordained for His loved ones that which is the cause of eternal life and everlasting rest.

Say: Praise be unto Thee for having caused me to hear Thy call and enabled me to turn towards Thee, and for having given me to drink of the choice wine of Thy knowledge, and for having mentioned me in Thy verses and shown forth unto me Thy clear tokens. O my Lord! I am Thy servant and the son of Thy servant. I beseech Thee not to withhold from me the heaven of Thy grace nor the ocean of Thy bounty. Thou art verily the Generous, the Lord of abundant grace.

O teacher, O Husayn! Hear My call from the precincts of My prison and remember My days and what hath befallen Me in the path of God, the Goal of all mystic knowers. He whom I had nurtured turned away from Me and rose up to slay Me after I had protected him for successive years. I testify that he denied My verses and rejected My favor and turned away from My beauty after We created him from the clay of refinement. He who possesseth the perspicuous Book beareth witness to this.

Say: My God, my God! Praise be unto Thee for having remembered me, and thanks be unto Thee for having guided me, and glory be unto Thee for having caused me to hear. I beseech Thee to strengthen

them that deny to acknowledge, them that turn away to turn towards Thee, and the oppressors to be just. O my Lord! I have forsaken my self, turning unto the lights of Thy countenance. I beseech Thee not to disappoint me from the wonders of Thy grace and bounty. Verily Thou art the Almighty over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Supporter, the Helper.

BH01280: O Ali! From the fire of separation from thee…

He is the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate!

O Ali! From the fire of separation from thee were consumed the hearts of them that are nigh unto God, and by thy departure have wept the eyes of the inhabitants of the cities of eternity, and the Maids of Paradise have rent their garments in the lofty chambers, and the Holy Spirit hath cried out, and the Dawning-Place of the Most Beautiful Names hath lamented in the Most Glorious Paradise, and the eyes of the sincere ones have shed tears. O Ali! From thy sighs were the veils consumed and the pillars of the House did quake, and the Faithful Spirit did cry out.

By God! When thou didst turn thy face toward the Most Holy Court, the scene of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, the denizens of the Supreme Kingdom did journey with thee and circle round thee, until there appeared the darkness of the City wherein was imprisoned the Beloved of the worlds. By God! At every footstep did the people of the Kingdom and they that dwell in the cities of Names send their blessings upon thee, from thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

And the Most Great Spirit addressed thee between earth and heaven, saying: “O Ali! Blessed art thou for having drawn nigh unto the Spot round which circle the Manifestations of the Cause from among the Prophets and Messengers. Blessed art thou for having inhaled the fragrance of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate, and for having desired to attain the presence of Him for Whose loss Moses, He Who conversed with God, did lament. O Ali! Thou art he who hath been named in the Supreme Concourse the Sultan of Pilgrims. By God! None among all created things hath preceded thee in this, and all things bear witness unto this, even as thy Lord, the Possessor of all Names and the Creator of earth and heaven, hath testified.

How excellent is this station which none hath attained save him whom thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised, hath willed. Thou art he at whose lamentation the heart of the world hath lamented, and at whose cry of longing and wail of separation the Eye of Grandeur hath wept upon the Spot wherefrom mention of the worlds hath been cut off. Blessed art thou for having attained unto the Most Great Pilgrimage. By the Beauty of the Wronged One, Who speaketh between the heavens and the earth: Mina yearneth for thy presence, and the Hill hath moved from its place in its longing to behold thy countenance, and the Station longeth for thy station, and the Sacred Monument perceiveth what thou hast been given by God, the All-Forgiving, the Most Bountiful.

O Ali! This is the shore of the Most Great Sea—thine eyes have been solaced by gazing thereon, and from it wafteth the breeze of reunion and the fragrance of attainment. Give thanks unto thy Lord, then prostrate thyself and say: Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds!’ This is the station wherein the Son of Imran cast off the shoes of separation and drank the choice wine of verses from the cup of thy Lord’s will,

the Lord of all names and attributes, and the intoxication of the wine of thy Lord's call seized him in such wise that he swooned, and when he recovered his senses he said: Thou art my God and the God of all that are in the heavens and on earth.' And before him came the Friend of God, and We lifted for him from the hem of the veil a thousand thousand veils, whereupon he said: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having shown me the kingdom of command and creation and made me one of them that have attained.'

O Ali! Verily, We were with thee in all conditions, beholding thy burning with the fire of separation and thy longing for the precincts wherein every atom proclaimeth that there is none other God but Him, the King, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. O Ali! Thy purpose was the Purpose of the world, and thy turning toward the Kaaba of eternity is better than the deeds of them that circle round the Ancient House. There hath been ordained for thee that which none can reckon save thy Lord, the All-Encompassing, the All-Knowing.

Say: Glorified art Thou, O my God, O Beloved of my heart and Purpose of my inner being! Praise be unto Thee for having enabled me to draw nigh unto the station wherein the lights of Thy countenance have shone forth and the sun of Thy bounty hath dawned. O Lord! I know not by what deed Thou hast honored me with this station which hath ever been the goal of Thy chosen ones and the refuge of Thy loved ones. And praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having heard the cry of the yearning one in his separation and guided him to the abode of nearness and glory and reunion. O Lord! Deprive not Thy servants from drawing nigh unto the seat of Thy Cause, and drive them not from the court which Thou hast made the dawning-place of Thy bounty.

O Lord! Thou seest the burning of the hearts of them that yearn in their separation from Thee, and the agitation of the hearts of them that hope in their remoteness from Thee. O Lord! Give them to drink the wine of reunion by the hand of Thy mercy, and grant them the pure water of nearness and meeting through Thy grace and favor. Verily, Thou art the One with power over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Praise be to the Beloved of the worlds that thou hast attained unto the Most Great Pilgrimage and been blessed with the greatest good deed. From thy longing for the Most Exalted Horizon, all the dwellers in the cities of names are in lamentation and burning, and they have beseeched God—exalted be His grandeur—to honor thee with attainment unto the Most Pure Station and the Most Great Vista. By the Ancient Beauty! Thou hast attained unto a bounty that hath no likeness. Be not grieved, for thy grief causeth signs of sorrow to appear upon the Countenance of the Ancient Beauty. Hearken unto the divine call from the horizon of the will of the Lord of the world and Creator of the cities of names, and return with utmost tranquility and composure to the Dawning-Place of the revelation of the All-Merciful. However, there is no need for haste. Verily, God loveth them that are patient.

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BH01325: Lawh-i-Ru'ya (Tablet of the Vision)

In the name of Him Who warbleth upon the branches!

O My name! Hearken unto My call from around My throne that I may acquaint thee with an ocean that hath no shore and whose depths no swimmer hath reached. Verily, thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Bountiful. We have willed to bestow upon thee a remembrance of what We have seen, that thou mayest behold the luminous world within this world of darkness and be assured that We have worlds within this world, and that thou mayest thank thy Lord, the All-Informed. Verily, were He to desire to manifest from an atom the lights of the sun, and from a drop the waves of the sea, He is able to do so, even as He hath detailed from the Point the knowledge of what hath been and what shall be.

While We were seated upon the throne, there entered a radiant leaf, clad in fine white raiment, appearing as the full moon rising from the horizon of heaven. Exalted be God Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

When she lifted her veil, the heavens and earth were illumined as though the Ancient Essence had shed upon her its splendors. Exalted be God Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

She smiled and swayed like a willow branch in the vision of the All-Merciful. Exalted be He Who manifested her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

Then she walked and circled about, without intention or will of her own, as though love's needle were drawn by the magnet of Beauty shining before her face. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

She walked while Glory served her, and the Kingdom of Beauty sang her praise from behind her, such was her wondrous beauty, her allurement, and the perfection of her form. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

Then We beheld her black tresses upon her white neck, as though night and day had embraced in this Most Glorious Spot and Ultimate Goal. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

How sweet was her nectar! Whoso tasted it testified that the stream of life flowed from the point of her mouth. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

When We gazed upon her face, We found the Point that was concealed beneath the veil of Oneness shining from the horizon of her brow, as though through it were detailed the tablets of the love of the All-Merciful throughout creation and the scrolls of lovers throughout all regions. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

And that Point was reflected by another point above her right breast. Exalted be the Lord of the hidden and manifest, Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

And the Temple of God arose and walked, and she walked behind Him, hearing, moving, drawn by the verses of her Lord. Blessed be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

Then her joy, delight and longing increased until she was transformed and swooned. When she recovered, she drew near and said:

> "May my soul be a sacrifice for Thy prison, O Mystery of the Unseen in the kingdom of creation!"

Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

And she gazed upon the Dayspring of the throne like one intoxicated and bewildered, until she placed her hand around her Lord's neck and drew Him to her. When she drew near and We drew near, We found from her what had been sent down in the Hidden Crimson Scroll by My Most Exalted Pen. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

Then she inclined her head and rested her face upon her two fingers, as though the crescent moon had conjoined with the full moon. Exalted be He Who created her! No eye hath ever seen her like.

At that moment she cried out, saying:

> "May all existence be a sacrifice for Thy tribulations, O King of earth and heaven! How long wilt Thou confine Thyself among these people in the city of ʿAkka? Repair to Thy other realms, to places whereupon the eyes of the people of names have never fallen."

Thereupon We smiled. Know ye this most sweet remembrance and what We intended by this most hidden Secret, manifest yet most concealed.

O men of wisdom among the companions of My crimson Ark! This Remembrance hath fallen upon a day whereon My Herald—He Who hath proclaimed My sovereignty and heralded unto the people the heaven of My Will, the ocean of My Purpose and the sun of My Manifestation—was born. We have further glorified it through another day whereon was manifested the Hidden Mystery, the Treasured Secret, the Well-Guarded Symbol, by which the dwellers of the Kingdom of Names were seized with perturbation, and they that dwell on earth and in heaven were thunderstruck, save those whom We delivered through a sovereignty and power proceeding from Us. Verily, I am the All-Powerful over whatsoever I will. There is no God but Me, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Blessed is he who hath inhaled the fragrance of God on this Day which is the Dawning-Place of the Manifestation and the Dayspring of My Name, the All-Forgiving—a Day whereon the Divine Breathing wafted, and the Breeze stirred, and the attraction of the Manifestation quickened them that lay in their graves, and the Mountain cried out:

> "The Kingdom is God's, the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed!"

And whereon every seeker attained his heart's desire, every mystic found the Object of his recognition, and every wayfarer discovered His straight path.

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Bless Thy loved ones and send down upon them from the heaven of Thy bounty that which will cause them to be detached from all else save Thee, and to turn toward the horizon whence the sun of Thy grace hath shone forth. Ordain, O my God, for them that which will profit them in this world and the world to come. Verily, Thou art the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Bestower, the Bountiful, the Self-Sufficient, the All-Generous.

BH01343: Suriy-i-Amin

In the Name of God, the Eternal, the Everlasting

This is a Book from God, the All-Governing, the Self-Subsisting, unto him through whom was manifested supreme steadfastness on a Day wherein the hearts of the men of understanding were troubled and souls and minds were thunderstruck. Blessed art thou, for thou hast cast behind thee all else save God and hast spoken forth the truth when the idolaters had encompassed thee round about. Thou hast fulfilled God's Covenant and His Testament, and discharged that which was incumbent upon thee. Verily, thou art with Me in the Most Glorious Pavilion. Thy Lord is, in truth, the Mighty, the All-Loving. It behooveth the people of Iraq to glory in thee. They shall glory, but today they comprehend not. Let not the words of the unbelievers grieve thee.

They are a people who perceive not. A glorious station hath been ordained for thee. Soon shalt thou behold that which thy Lord hath preserved, while all mankind shall pass away. Do they imagine they stand secure, and do they suppose they do good? Nay, by thy Lord, the All-Merciful! But today they know not. Say: Be fair, O people! Can any among your divines compete with the Knight of inner meanings in the arena of wisdom and utterance, or race his swift steed in the field of mystic knowledge and vision at the time of the revelation of the sign of the All-Merciful? Nay, by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Forgiving! O people, stay your pens, for the Most Great Pen hath been raised by the Ancient King. Then be silent, for the call of the All-Glorious God hath been raised in the wilderness of guidance: "There is none other God but Me, the All-Governing, the Self-Subsisting."

O Amin! Thou hast delivered what We commanded thee in thy dream and informed thee in the Tablet. Thy Lord is, verily, the Truth, the Knower of the unseen. Say: O people of the Qur'an! Verily, the Prophet of God, Muhammad, sheddeth tears at the sight of your cruelty. Ye have assuredly followed your evil and corrupt desires, and turned away your face from the light of guidance. Erelong will ye witness the result of your deeds; for the Lord, My God, lieth in wait and is watchful of your behavior. Ye have pronounced judgment against him who hath believed in God on a Day wherein faces were darkened and eyes were dimmed. Have ye not heard the voice of the Summoner who called betwixt earth and heaven and gave you glad tidings of this Revelation whereby the horizons were illumined?

Ye turned away from Him as did those before you when the Sun of Knowledge dawned above the horizon of Hijaz. God seized them for their sins and made them a sign for men of understanding. Doth their leader imagine he guideth the people? Nay, by the Lord of Lords! Woe unto them for having denied God and violated the Covenant through their iniquity. The Holy Spirit lamenteth, the thunder crieth out, and the clouds weep. Say: Fear ye God and wax not proud before Him Who created you by His command. Return unto Him, for He is the Mighty, the Ever-Forgiving.

Say: Do ye rejoice in the tribulations that have befallen Us? By God! We have accepted them in God's path, and from beneath the sword We summon mankind unto the Lord of the Day of Judgment. None on earth can deter Us from that whereunto We were bidden by thy Lord, the Almighty, the Unconstrained. Can the power of creation prevent Us? Nay, by My true Self, even should every possessor of might and

dominion rise against Us. Hearken ye unto the words of him who counseleth you for the sake of God. If ye hear, it shall be for your own good, and if ye turn away, verily He is the Self-Sufficient, the Most High.

O Most Exalted Pen! Tell the tale of the Trustworthy One concerning him who writhed in agony when the stupor of death overtook him and the stern angels surrounded him. An angel called to him from the right of the Throne: "O heart! These are stern angels—seest thou any way of escape?" He replied: "Nay, by the Lord of creation, save into the fire wherein hearts are made to boil! He it is Who hath decreed this fate for us in this return. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Knowing." We seized him even as We seized the factions before him. Verily He is powerful when He willeth, and He is severe in punishment. How many were the houses We left to the spider, and how many were the kings We brought down from their palaces to their graves, making them a lesson for those possessed of vision.

Know then that We took a handful of dust and kneaded it with the waters of might and power, and breathed into it the spirit of assurance. And when he reached maturity, We sent him to the chief of the oppressors with a luminous Book wherein We conveyed to the two kings that which thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wise, desired. Say: Verily this is another sign from God, the Lord of all names. We sent it forth in truth and dispatched it with manifest authority. We strengthened his heart with a word from Us to such extent that were We to command him, he would face all who are in the heavens and on earth. Verily thy Lord is the Omnipotent, the Almighty.

Let them know that neither their might nor anyone in the heavens and earth can intimidate Us. Be thou as thy Lord was, yet We enjoin thee to wisdom before utterance. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. Thus do We set forth the verses and send them down in truth, and We have sent them to thee that thou mayest glory in them among the worlds. God shall soon exalt thee in truth and bring low those who have denied His signs. Be thou assured and say: Praise be to Thee, O God of the worlds!

BH01386: Glorified art Thou, O Lord my God! Thou seest…

Glorified art Thou, O Lord my God! Thou seest me dwelling in this prison-house that lieth behind the seas and the mountains, and knowest full well what I have endured for love of Thee and for the sake of Thy Cause. Thou art He, O my God, Who hath raised me up at Thy behest, and bidden me to occupy Thy seat, and to summon all men to the court of Thy mercy. It is Thou Who hast commanded me to tell out the things Thou didst destine for them in the Tablet of Thy decree and didst inscribe with the pen of Thy Revelation, and Who hast enjoined on me the duty of kindling the fire of Thy love in the hearts of Thy servants, and of drawing all the peoples of the earth nearer to the habitation of Thy throne.

And when, as bidden by Thee, I arose and called out, by Thy leave, all Thy creatures, the wayward among Thy servants opposed me. Some turned away from me, others disowned my claim, a few hesitated, while others were sore perplexed, notwithstanding that Thy testimony was set forth before the followers of all religions, and Thy proof demonstrated unto all the peoples of the earth, and the signs of Thy might so powerfully manifested as to encompass the entire creation.

I was, moreover, opposed by mine own kindred, although, as Thou knowest, they were dear to me and I had desired for them that which I had desired for mine own self. These are the ones who, when learning that I had been cast into prison, perpetrated against me what no man else on earth had perpetrated.

I entreat Thee, therefore, O my God, by Thy name by which Thou hast separated between truth and denial, to purify their hearts of all evil suggestions, and to enable them to draw nigh unto Him Who is the Day-Spring of Thy names and Thine attributes.

Thou knowest, O my God, that I have severed every tie that bindeth me to any of Thy creatures except that most exalted tie that uniteth me with whosoever cleaveth unto Thee, in this the day of the revelation of Thy most august Self, that hath appeared in Thy name, the All-Glorious. Thou knowest that I have dissolved every bond that knitteth me to any one of my kindred except such as have enjoyed near access to Thy most effulgent face.

I have no will but Thy will, O my Lord, and cherish no desire except Thy desire. From my pen floweth only the summons which Thine own exalted pen hath voiced, and my tongue uttereth naught save what the Most Great Spirit hath itself proclaimed in the kingdom of Thine eternity. I am stirred by nothing else except the winds of Thy will, and breathe no word except the words which, by Thy leave and Thine inspiration, I am led to pronounce.

Praise be to Thee, O Thou Who art the Well-Beloved of all that have known Thee, and the Desire of the hearts of such as are devoted to Thee, inasmuch as Thou hast made me a target for the ills that I suffer in my love for Thee, and the object of the assaults launched against me in Thy path. Thy glory beareth me witness! I can, on no account, feel impatient of the adversities that I have borne in my love for Thee. From the very day Thou didst reveal Thyself unto me, I have accepted for myself every manner of tribulation. Every moment of my life my head crieth out to Thee and saith: “Would, O my Lord, that I could be raised on the spear-point in Thy path!” while my blood entreateth Thee saying: “Dye the earth with me, O my God, for the sake of Thy love and Thy pleasure!” Thou knowest that I have, at no time, sought to guard my body against any affliction, nay rather I have continually anticipated the things Thou didst ordain for me in the Tablet of Thy decree.

Behold, then, O my God, my loneliness among Thy servants and my remoteness from Thy friends and Thy chosen ones. I beseech Thee, by the showers of the clouds of Thy mercy, whereby Thou hast caused the blossoms of Thy praise and utterance and the flowers of Thy wisdom and testimony to spring forth in the hearts of all them that have recognized Thy oneness, to supply Thy servants and my kindred with the fruits of the tree of Thy unity, in these days when Thou hast been established upon the throne of Thy mercy. Hinder them not, O my Lord, from attaining unto the things Thou dost possess, and write down for them that which will aid them to scale the heights of Thy grace and favor. Give them, moreover, to drink of the living waters of Thy knowledge, and ordain for them the good of this world and of the world to come.

Thou art, verily, the Lord of Baha, and the Beloved of his heart, and the Object of his desire, and the Inspirer of his tongue, and the Source of his soul. No God is there but Thee, the Inaccessible, the Most High. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

O thou who gazest toward the Countenance! We have sorrowed by reason of thy sorrow in an affliction wherein the Eye of Grandeur wept within the pavilion of might and majesty. By God! through it all things have lamented, and they who are immersed in the oceans of the Names have been seized with fear. The Most Exalted Pen hath, after her ascent unto the Most Exalted Companion, revealed in her remembrance words that cause the tears of the sincere to flow in the Kingdom of creation.

Blessed is he who readeth that which hath been sent down for her, and who visiteth her after her ascension; for honoured servants shall, from the dust of her grave, inhale a fragrance such as Jacob never found in the garment of a name from among Our names. Nay, the difference is as between earth and heaven: for Jacob perceived, from the garment, the scent of his son, whereas the people of certitude shall perceive therein the fragrance of the All-Merciful. Thus hath the Tongue of Man spokenâ€“He by Whose command revelation and inspiration are made to hang suspended.

We ask God to reward thee with the best reward in this Most Great calamity; yet sorrow thou not. Be patient, and still more patient. By the True One! she is now in the Kingdom of the Most Glorious; and thy Lord shall, in full, render the recompense of him that endureth with patience in His path. Verily He is powerful over all things.

BH01403: Lawh-i-Salman II

He is God, exalted be His glory!

O Salman! In all matters follow the example of God and be content with His divine decrees. Observe how this Servant, though from all directions outwardly beset with hardships and though all outer doors are shut, and though at every moment the demons are busy extinguishing the lamp of God and quenching His fire, is yet so radiant and illumined that “the heavens and earth are lit up thereby,” and is so manifest among men as though no harm had ever touched Him. Complain not of the heights and depths, the glory and abasement of this world. In all conditions, keep your gaze fixed upon the end, for all that is visible shall pass away.

That thou witnessest some among men who are gladdened by worldly glory and made proud by its elevation—this stems from the heedlessness of such souls. Every person of insight and vision testifies that these words are true and that this utterance hath shone forth from the Dayspring of exposition. For all know that these matters are neither worthy nor lasting, and when the messenger of death arrives, all things change. Thus it is evident and established that souls who have set their hearts upon such things are heedless, and it is due to heedlessness that they occupy themselves with these outward means.

In one of the Tablets it was revealed that among the signs of the world’s maturity is that no one will accept to bear alone the weight of kingship. Sovereignty will remain, but none will be willing to bear alone its burden. Those will be the days when wisdom will be manifest among mankind, save for him who may take on this mighty weight for the sake of propagating God’s Cause and spreading His Faith. How blessed is his state who, for the love of God and His Cause, and for His sake and the demonstration of His Faith, casteth himself into such great peril and accepteth such hardships and troubles. Thus hath it been revealed in the Tablets that prayer for and love of such a sovereign is incumbent.

O Salman! The world is passing away, and ere long all who dwell on earth shall return to dust from what thou now beholdest. We beseech God to assist all His loved ones to inhale the sweet fragrances of the divine rose-garden. Whosoever attaineth unto this will never gaze upon aught save God, and will remain content, patient and thankful in face of His decrees. Grieve not that thou didst not attain His presence. God hath written down for thee the reward of those who attained His presence. Strive, God willing, that righteous deeds may be manifested from thee and that thou mayest be as a fire from which all may derive warmth.

Turn to God with a pure heart, a sanctified soul, a truthful tongue and a hallowed sight, then call upon Him in all conditions. Verily, He is the Helper of those who turn unto Him, and He is indeed the Forgiving, the Merciful. We have heard the cry of the prisoners from among My kindred and loved ones. Praise be to God for having made Me and My kindred and loved ones captives in His path. Though the sun may set, this mention shall not set. God will soon manifest what He willeth. He is verily the Mighty, the Powerful.

No Tablet was revealed for any of the prisoners except for the name of God, Mim, upon him be the Glory of God, this being due to wisdom, but convey greetings to them all. The affairs of all are evident. One Tablet was revealed specifically for Abdul-Wahhab—deliver it to him. Though it was revealed in the language of the people and their outward rules, yet it sufficeth all on earth, would they but understand. In the Tablets for various regions no specific name was mentioned, yet all are known and evident before God, and each of the Tablets was revealed according to necessity. Blessed is he who understandeth and is among the thankful ones.

A box of sweets was given for the honoured ones of Mosul—deliver it to them. We beseech Thee, O my God, by those whom the wicked have made captives from Zawra to Hadba, and by the connection that existed between them and the Manifestation of Thy Cause, to make firm Thy loved ones in Thy love and to establish them in that whereon they were in spreading Thy Cause. O my God! Thou seest and knowest what hath befallen them in Thy love and good-pleasure, such that the eyes of Thy chosen ones and the dwellers of the pavilion of Thy glory have wept for them. I beseech Thee not to deprive them of Thy tender mercies and favours, and to make them abide near Thy mercy in this world and the next. Verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

BH01426: He the Mighty, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting!

He the Mighty, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting!

O beloved one, hear what God calleth thee to from this Tree which hath been raised up in truth, and sing that verily He is God, the Mighty, the Beauteous. Bear thou witness within thyself that He is God, there is none other God but Him, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Exalted.

Then know thou that the Beauty of the Nine hath appeared in truth while all were heedless thereof. Say: This is what ye were promised in the year Eighty, if ye be of them that know. Say: This is He Whom no one's knowledge hath preceded and Whom the minds of the unity-professing ones have failed to comprehend. Say: We were among the servants for months and years, and We veiled Our face lest every

deceitful wretch should recognize Us, until God's appointed time was fulfilled and the days were accomplished and the Promise came, and God's Cause appeared from this brilliant, luminous Dayspring.

Say: By God, He hath appeared through a Word whereby all who are in the heavens and earth would be rent asunder, save whom thy Lord willeth, and this is indeed a great trial. None hath any escape, refuge or shelter save by entering beneath this shade or by acknowledging within himself that he hath departed from God's shelter in the primal eternity of eternities.

Say: O people, this is in truth the Husayn Whom ye were promised in all the Tablets, if ye be of them that perceive. He hath come to you with verses whereof a single letter cannot be equaled by all who are in the heavens and earth. Say: O people, behold ye God's Balance in these days, for it hath appeared in truth upon a straight and just measure. And thou, be thou assured in thyself, then stand firm in thy love; thereupon the earth would quake from this firm and mighty Cause. Say: O people, fear ye God and transgress not what hath been ordained in the Bayan by One mighty and all-knowing. Beware lest ye follow your desires; rather look with the Most Great Vision upon this most evident and ancient Beauty.

Say: Fear ye God and deal not with Him as ye dealt with His Lord when He came in the name of ʿAli with truth, bearing a manifest Book. He said: "O people, these are God's verses which have been sent down in truth from One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Beware lest ye deny them and cast them behind your backs, lest your works be rendered vain and ye be among the lost." They said: "We see thee not possessed of any truth from God; this is naught but tales of the ancients." Thus did they speak before, and before that, and they will speak likewise thereafter—such is the way of the idolaters who believe in part of the Book and deny part thereof. Say: Woe unto you for what your hands have wrought, O company of the heedless!

And thou, seek refuge in God throughout thy days lest thou break God's Covenant within thyself, and lest thy feet slip from this exalted and luminous Path. Then know that the people were in veils and delusions, but when the Promise came, We rent asunder the veils and burned away delusions with this ancient and blazing Fire. Therefore gird up thy loins to aid God's Cause and fear no one, but put thy trust in God, thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. He will verily help thee in truth as He helped thee before, and He is the Best of helpers.

Say: By God, the trial hath come, and the thunderbolt hath appeared, and the Youth hath come with a manifest serpent that swalloweth up all that the idolaters have wrought and consumeth the works of the opposers. Thus have We explained the truth unto thee and sent down upon thee the verses and showed thee that whereby thy soul might find assurance and thou mightest be of them that give thanks unto God, unto Whom is thy return and abode, and unto Whom return the deeds of all created things together.

Then know that when the idolaters brought Us to the prison, We therefore revealed Our face and removed the veil, in spite of them and those who turned away from this manifest, pure, mighty and wondrous Light. We have indeed sent thee some of what hath been revealed in this prison that thine eyes and the eyes of the unity-professing ones might be consoled thereby. And when it reacheth thee, share it with those in whose hearts thou findest the sweet fragrance of holy and generous love.

Then convey Our greetings to all who are in thy land, every small one and great one, from among those who have been guided by the lights of God, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Powerful. The Spirit, the Glory, and the Great Glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among the believers.

BH01438: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou knowest…

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou knowest that my sole aim in revealing Thy Cause hath been to reveal Thee and not my self, and to manifest Thy glory rather than my glory. In Thy path, and to attain Thy pleasure, I have scorned rest, joy, delight. At all times and under all conditions my gaze hath been fixed on Thy precepts, and mine eyes bent upon the things Thou hast bidden me observe in Thy Tablets. I have wakened every morning to the light of Thy praise and Thy remembrance, and reached every evening inhaling the fragrances of Thy mercy.

And when the entire creation was stirred up, and the whole earth was convulsed, and the sweet savors of Thy name, the All-Praised, had almost ceased to breathe over Thy realms, and the winds of Thy mercy had well-nigh been stilled throughout Thy dominions, Thou didst, through the power of Thy might, raise me up among Thy servants, and bid me to show forth Thy sovereignty amidst Thy people. Thereupon I arose before all Thy creatures, strengthened by Thy help and Thy power, and summoned all the multitudes unto Thee, and announced unto all Thy servants Thy favors and Thy gifts, and invited them to turn towards this Ocean, every drop of the waters of which crieth out, proclaiming unto all that are in heaven and on earth that He is, in truth, the Fountain of all life, and the Quickener of the entire creation, and the Object of the adoration of all worlds, and the Best-Beloved of every understanding heart, and the Desire of all them that are nigh unto Thee.

Though the fierce winds of the hatred of the wicked doers blew and beat on this Lamp, He was, at no time, in His love for Thy beauty, hindered from shedding the fragrance of His light. As the transgressions committed against Thee waxed greater and greater, my eagerness to reveal Thy Cause correspondingly increased, and as the tribulations deepened—and to this Thy glory beareth me witness—a fuller measure of Thy sovereignty and of Thy power was vouchsafed by me unto Thy creatures.

And finally, I was cast by the transgressors into the prison-city of ʿAkka, and my kindred were made captives in Baghdad. The power of Thy might beareth me witness, O my God! Every trouble that hath touched me in Thy path hath added to my joy and increased my gladness. I swear by Thee, O Thou Who art the King of Kings! None of the kings of the earth hath power to hinder me from remembering Thee or from extolling Thy virtues. Were they to be leagued—as they have been leagued—against me, and to brandish their sharpest swords and most afflictive spears against me, I would not hesitate to magnify Thy name before all them that are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth. Nay rather, I would cry out and say:

> "This, O my Beloved, is my face which I have offered up for Thy face, and this is my spirit which I have sacrificed for Thy spirit, and this is my blood that seetheth in my veins, in its longing to be shed for love of Thee and in Thy path."

Though—as Thou beholdest me, O my God—I be dwelling in a place within whose walls no voice can be heard except the sound of the echo, though all the gates of ease and comfort be shut against us, and

thick darkness appear to have compassed us on every side, yet my soul hath been so inflamed by its love for Thee, that nothing whatsoever can either quench the fire of its love or abate the consuming flame of its desire. Lifting up its voice, it crieth aloud amidst Thy servants, and calleth them, at all times and under all conditions, unto Thee.

I beseech Thee, by Thy Most Great Name, to open the eyes of Thy servants, that they may behold Thee shining above the horizon of Thy majesty and glory, and that they may not be hindered by the croaking of the raven from hearkening to the voice of the Dove of Thy sublime oneness, nor be prevented by the corrupt waters from partaking of the pure wine of Thy bounty and the everlasting streams of Thy gifts.

Gather them, then, together around this Divine Law, the covenant of which Thou hast established with all Thy Prophets and Thy Messengers, and Whose ordinances Thou hast written down in Thy Tablets and Thy Scriptures. Raise them up, moreover, to such heights as will enable them to perceive Thy Call.

Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou art, verily, the Inaccessible, the All-Glorious.

O ye servants of the All-Merciful! Hearken unto My call, and be steadfast in the Cause, and make mention of them who were heedless and turned away among the concourse of the Bayan. O people! Fear God, and work no corruption in the earth after it hath been set in order. Ponder within yourselves: is it meet for any one to object unto Him through Whom the showers of bounty have been sent down from the clouds of the mercy of your Lord, the All-Merciful; through Whom the Bayan was revealed and the religions were made firm?

By Him in Whose hand is My soul! should any one oppose Him, he would be powerless to establish the advent of God in any age of the ages, or the verses of God, the Mighty, the Chosen. Say: By God! the one whom ye have taken unto yourselves as a lord beside Godâ€“through him hath the Cause of God been laid waste; for him the Spirit of Holiness lamented in the Most Exalted Kingdom, and the eyes of the Messengers wept at the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing.

Say: Hearken unto the word of One from whom all the delights and favours of this world have been withheld. Wrest not the Most Great Word from its place, nor rend asunder its pillars. Thou, O servant, arise in the Cause through the help of God and His power, and admonish them that are heedless this day, that perchance they may remember, that dissension may be lifted up, and that they may restrain themselves from injustice and turn unto the Lord of Names and Attributes.

Be not still, nor show patience, in that whereunto thou art commanded. Thy Lord shall aid him that aideth Him, and shall confirm him that ariseth for His Cause with pure detachment, and shall grant him whatsoever He willeth of the good of this world and of the world to come. Verily He is powerful over all things.

BH01491: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou beholdest me…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou beholdest me oppressed among the wayward ones of Thy creation, and a stranger in Thy realm. Whenever I dwelt in a city by Thy command and leave, the tyrannous among

Thy creatures and they who denied Thy bounty, which Thou didst send down from the heaven of Thy grace and the clouds of Thy will, drove us forth therefrom—though in its horizon there was naught but the sun of Thy loving-kindness, and in its gardens naught but the breezes of the spring of Thy mercy, and in its fields naught but the rains of Thy generosity and favors, and in its darkness naught but the lamp of Thy Cause and the light of Thy guidance.

Whenever a face turned unto the countenance of Thy oneness, Thou didst deliver it from the depths of heedlessness and raised it to the heights of Thy unity's glory, and gave it to drink from the wine of Thy revelation and inspiration. And whenever Thou didst behold one turning toward the sanctuary of Thy might and the Kaaba of Thy bounty, Thou didst turn toward him out of love for Thyself and his orientation to Thy face, and Thou didst descend to such a degree that he might draw near to the Tree of Thy Cause, and Thou didst lower Thyself to a station wherein Thou didst commune with him and comfort him as though Thou wert one like unto him—though Thou hadst placed all things within the grasp of my power by Thy power, and all winds were dispatched by my will through Thy will.

And in every city wherein we raised Thy remembrance and Thy name, there gathered against us those servants who denied Thy Self and turned away from Thy presence and arose in hypocrisy, until they expelled us therefrom and caused us to wander from city to city, until they unjustly brought us into this fortress built of solid rock, and this city wherefrom naught can be heard save the echo's voice. And upon our first entry, they barred from us the goods of the world and shut in our faces the gates of comfort. By Thy glory, O Beloved of Baha! I find tribulations in Thy love as the rains of the clouds of Thy bounty and grace, whereby the heart of Baha and the liver of Baha were made verdant, and from them grew the ears of Thy wisdom, O Thou in Whose hand is the dominion of all things!

By Thy glory, O Beloved of the worlds and Goal of them that know! Whoso hath inhaled the fragrance of the garment of Thy mercy, and been seized by Thy fragrance and favors—tribulations cannot hold him back from Thy will, nor can ordeals deter him from Thy love and good-pleasure. Thou knowest, O my Beloved and my Purpose, that I call upon Thee with the tongue of Thy loved ones, and whatsoever floweth from this Most Exalted Pen hath no purpose save that I might call upon Thee with the tongue of Thy loved ones and commune with Thee on their behalf, that Thy melodies might seize them from their own selves and draw them to Thy Most Glorious Face, and strengthen them to turn toward the Most Exalted Horizon. Otherwise, my calling upon Thy Self is but as Thy calling upon my self, and none can comprehend it save those whom Thou hast caused to be detached from all else but Thee and to hasten along the paths of Thy Cause and Thy good-pleasure.

The nights and days have passed us by, O my God, in this Most Great Prison, until this night arrived wherein he who loveth Thee and desireth Thy face—the Manifestation of Thy Self, the Repository of Thine Essence, and the Source of Thy Cause—hath called, and hath spread the feast of bounty for the brethren out of love for Thy Self. Thou knowest, O my God, that he seeketh Thy face and gazeth toward the direction of Thy gifts, and desireth naught thereby save Thy good-pleasure and Thy love, yet he hath been prevented from entering this gathering wherein the verses of Thy Divine Unity's glory are being revealed and inscribed by Thy servant who is present before the throne of Thy grandeur.

I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the faces of the Prophets among Thy chosen ones and those nigh unto Thee among the people of Thy holy dominion were illumined, and whereby they subdued the people of Thy realm and brought them into the kingdom of Thy glory—to rend asunder, with the fingers of Thy power, the veil that hath come between him and Thy beauty. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent over what Thou willest, and Thou art the Sovereign, the Self-Subsisting.

Then ordain, O my God, for him and those with him, to attain Thy presence and to stand before Thee in the visible realm, and deprive him not of that which is with Thee. There is no God but Thee, the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful.

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Cause Thy seeking servants to soar in the atmosphere of Thy nearness and Thy majesty, and raise them at all times to the kingdom of Thy holiness and detachment. Then open before the face of him who desireth Thee the gates of Thy mercy and loving-kindness, and bestow upon him the good of this world and the next through the wonders of Thy beneficence. Then send upon him, at all times, the sweet-scented breezes of the mercy of Thy Name, the All-Merciful. Then make, O my God, the fire of his separation into light, and his sighs of remoteness into mercy. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent, the Sovereign, the All-Effectual.

BH01525: Lawh-i-Baytu'l-'Adl

He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

It hath been prescribed that in every city a House of Justice be established wherein shall gather together people to the number of Baha, and should it exceed this number it mattereth not. They should consider themselves as entering the Presence of God, the Most High, and as beholding Him Who is invisible. It behooveth them to be the trusted ones of the Merciful among men and the deputies of God for such as dwell on earth. They should consult together in such wise as to win the good pleasure of God and should choose that which is approved, even as the Lord, your God, the Ruler, the All-Wise hath commanded.

The Ancient Beauty, addressing the peoples, ordaineth that in every city of the earth a house should be established in the name of justice, wherein shall gather pure and tranquil souls to the number of the Greatest Name. At the time of their gathering they must conduct themselves as though in the presence of God, for such is the binding command that hath flowed from the Pen of the Ancient of Days, and God's gaze is fixed upon that assembly. Upon entering, they must, as deputies of all souls, consult concerning matters and interests affecting all—first regarding the teaching of God's Cause, as this is the most important of all affairs, so that all may enter the pavilion of oneness as a single soul and all upon earth may be seen as one body. Likewise must they consider the refinement of souls, the preservation of human dignity, the development of cities, and the policies that God hath made the foundation of cities and the fortress of His servants.

The teaching of God's Cause must be conducted with due regard to times and seasons, considering what is fitting, as with all other matters, and implemented accordingly—but ever mindful not to contravene what hath been revealed in the divine verses in this most mighty Manifestation, for whatsoever the Lord

hath decreed is indeed what is best for His servants. He is more merciful to you than ye are to yourselves. He is in truth the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

If the aforementioned souls act according to the prescribed conditions, they will surely be assisted by the invisible confirmations. This is a matter whose benefits return to all. There are many affairs which, if neglected, will be wasted and lost. How many children are seen in the land without father or mother—if no attention is paid to their education and training they will remain fruitless, and a fruitless soul's death is preferable to its life. Likewise with the wealthy and noble who through weakness and old age or other cause have fallen into poverty and abasement. These souls must, for God's sake, consider and reflect upon all such matters and others pertaining to the earth, and implement what they deem proper. If people would look with the eye of justice they would with certainty know that whatsoever hath been revealed from the Source of Command is purely for the good of all who dwell on earth. All must be as wings for one another.

Man's honor lieth in wisdom, understanding and praiseworthy character, not in the accumulation of riches and pride and vainglory. All were created from dust and unto it shall return. O people of Baha! Man's adornment consisteth not in the things of this world, but rather in the knowledge of God—exalted be His glory—and in sciences, crafts and proper conduct.

Ye are the pearls of the sea of oneness—consider the pearl, whose luster and dignity are inherent to itself. Were it to be wrapped in the finest of silks, that silk would prevent the manifestation of its freshness and beauty. Its adornment is within itself. Seek ye this adornment and be not saddened by lack of outward means.

O trees of the Ridvan! Withhold not yourselves from the spring breezes of divine bounty, and deprive not yourselves of the sweet fragrances of the wisdom-laden words of your Lord. Such is the extent of His grace that, despite the heedlessness of all, He hath caused to flow from the Most Exalted Pen in the prison of Akka that which is for the good of His servants. Verily He is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH01530: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious! This is a Tablet which hath been sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and wise, wherein is mentioned that which attracteth the minds of them that have recognized the unity of God. Is this the day of silence? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! Is this the day of rest? Nay, by My true Self, were ye of them that know! All things have been stirred by the breezes of Revelation. Do ye remain seated in your places, even though ye be of the sincere ones? Leave the people behind thee, then stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Wise. When the breezes of the verses take hold of thee and awaken thee from slumber, arise and say:

> "O people! By God, He is indeed the Beloved of the heavens and earth! He hath been imprisoned after having sacrificed Himself for our sakes. Where is your sense of honor, and where is your fidelity, O ye who have turned towards Him?"

He is in such tribulation as the eye of creation hath never beheld its like, after having summoned the people unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

Grieve not for what hath befallen Us, and be patient. He, verily, hath power over all things. Then know that thy mention hath been made before Us, and We have sent down verses unto thee and dispatched them to thee that thine eyes may be solaced thereby. This, verily, is a manifest bounty. Then remind the people of the Bayan there. Say: “Have ye denied your Lord, the All-Merciful, after He came upon the clouds of explanation with a mighty proof?” Say: “Fear ye God and cast not the Truth behind your backs. Take what ye have been given from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.”

Do ye find any other than Me in the Bayan? Nay, by Him Who caused Me to speak His praise amongst the worlds! Hath there flowed from the Most Exalted Pen any mention save My mention? Nay, by My true Self, were ye of them that know! Were it not for My mention, the Bayan would not have been revealed, and by My Name was adorned the heaven of the Cause. Here is its Sun, which hath dawned from its horizon. Blessed be God Who hath manifested Himself in truth with evident sovereignty!

Say: “O people! Arise from the slumber of passion and turn unto the Dayspring of the Cause, the Source of the signs of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted.” Thus doth He counsel you from the Most Glorious Horizon. Hearken unto that whereunto ye are called from the direction of the Throne, and be not of them that hesitate. Say: “Beware lest ye follow him who hath turned away from the Truth and clung to them who have denied God from time immemorial. They are indeed of an evil people, among the most lost.”

Quicken the servants through My Name, then give them to drink in My days that which floweth from the right hand of the Throne, that they may unite in the Cause and not be of the doubtful ones. Say:

> “O people! Be fair! Do ye find anyone who speaketh between the heavens and the earth, whom neither the oppression of the wrongdoers nor the might of sovereigns can prevent?”

Those who preserve themselves behind veils call upon the people to deny the Lord of Lords. They are indeed in manifest error.

Say: “Have mercy upon yourselves and upon Him through Whom the eyes of the Primal Point were consoled in the Most Exalted Companion. This is He Who took the covenant of His own Self before the creation of the heavens and earth.” Say: “Have ye not heard the Cry which was raised in the atmosphere of the will of your Lord, the All-Merciful? And have ye not heard that which came from the Kingdom of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful?”

Say: “We have desired naught for Ourselves, but rather for your sakes, were ye to be fair-minded. We have accepted the swords of the enemies for your life, and every fair-minded, well-informed person beareth witness to this. We have turned away from all who are on earth for the sake of your turning unto the direction of the mercy of your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate.”

Say: “Would ye slay with the sword of hatred him who hath sacrificed his life for your sake? Woe unto you, O heedless ones! If ye deny the All-Merciful, by what discourse will your souls find assurance? Fear God and follow not every idolatrous doubter.”

Place thy trust in God and convey that which thou art commanded. Let not the might of the oppressors frighten thee. He is with those who make mention of Him, and He aideth him who speaketh His praise. He, verily, rewardeth the rememberers. Be thou assured of thy Lord's grace.

Say: "O my Lord! I have turned with my whole being to the Dawning-Place of the signs of Thy oneness, and have turned away from those who have opposed the Dayspring of Thy Cause. Preserve me, O my God, beneath the shadow of Thy great mercy. Then make me to be of those who have stood firm in Thy Cause, who have been faithful to Thy Covenant, and who have cast behind their backs all who are in the realm. Ordain for me, O my God, the victory of Thy Cause and Thy remembrance amongst Thy servants, and disappoint me not of that which Thou hast ordained for the choicest among Thy creatures. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

BH01527: In the Name of God, the Most Holy! This…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy! This Book hath been sent down in truth, and by it We have rent asunder the veils. Verily, We are the Mighty, the Bountiful. Through it hath shone forth the Sun of Divine Revelation, and the Face hath been illumined by the Light that hath dawned from the horizon of mysteries. Say: Is there any doubt concerning God? He hath come with the Kingdom of verses. Verily, the Word proclaimeth: The Kingdom is God's, the Almighty, the Unconstrained. Say: Cast away your idle fancies, and take hold of that which ye are bidden by Him Who is the Dawning-Place of inspiration. The veils have been rent asunder by the finger of the Will of your Lord, the Lord of all men. He verily seeth him that turneth towards Him, and heareth that which he calleth upon Him with, whether in secret or openly.

Heedlessness hath overtaken the dwellers of the earth, save those whose eyes have been opened by the light of God, the Mighty, the All-Luminous. Verily, sight was created for this most great vision; therefore look, O ye who are endowed with insight! He who said "Show me" heard "Look, thou shalt see Me." Exalted be this bounty the like of which eyes have never beheld! All things testify to My Self, while the people are in wondrous drunkenness.

Among the idolaters are those who say He hath come nigh. Say: Yea, by my Lord! He is verily the One Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth. Every sect hath endeavored to extinguish the light of God. God hath refused save by His authority, until He filled the horizons. Can anyone stand against His Command? Say: What aileth thee, O thou fly? The gate of heaven hath been opened, and the All-Bountiful hath come, riding upon the clouds. Thereupon were blinded the eyes of those who disbelieved, and every deceitful idolater was confounded.

Blessed art thou, O thou who hast turned to God, the Cleaver of the daybreak! Thy letter and that which was presented before the Face hath been mentioned. Thy Lord is verily the Mighty, the All-Knowing. There hath dawned from the horizon of the Pen that which will draw thee nigh unto God, the Lord of all nations. He is verily the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Stand firm, by His power, in His Cause, then remind the people with wisdom and utterance. Soon shalt thou behold the Cause dominant over all who are on earth, and its effulgence from every direction. Can prison and tribulation prevent Him from that which He desireth? Nay, by the Lord of Lords!

Blessed is the heart that is quickened by the breath of God, and the tongue that is adorned with His remembrance amidst all worlds. If thou art enkindled by this Fire that hath been kindled in the world, those in the lands shall be enkindled by thee. Think not it is fire; it is light whose effects shall soon encompass those in all regions. Be thou assured through God's grace and mercy. He verily exalteth whom He willeth by a command from Him, and confirmeth his mention in the Mother Book.

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou beholdest me amidst the idolaters among Thy creation and those who have turned away from among Thy creatures, and Thou knowest that I have desired naught but what Thou hast desired, and desire naught but what Thou desirest. I have conveyed Thy Cause to the east and west of the earth, and thereby there hath befallen me that which hath caused the dwellers of Thy dominion and kingdom to lament, until they cast me and seventy souls into this Most Great Prison. When We arrived, We desired to convey unto all once again, that they might know that tribulations have not prevented the Manifestation of Thyself from manifesting Thy sovereignty and exalting Thy Word. We have conveyed unto the manifestations of Thy power in Thy earth that which Thou didst command me, by Thy command and Thy sovereignty. I have not compromised with anyone in Thy path, and have accepted all tribulations in Thy love and in manifesting Thy Cause.

I beseech Thee, O Lord of creation and King of invention, to transmute the brass of existence by the elixir of Thy utterance and wisdom. Then reveal unto them from Thy All-Comprehensive Book that which will render them independent through Thy riches. I testify, O my God, that with Thee is the knowledge of what was and what will be, and the knowledge of all things in Thy Hidden Book. I beseech Thee by Thy Self to make known unto the servants the Manifestation of Thy Cause and the Dawning-Place of Thy verses, that they might find in His every condition the sweet savors of Thy knowledge and the fragrant breezes of the garment of Thy mercy. Then aid them in that which is chosen by Thee, that they might choose what Thou hast chosen for them through Thy bounty, for that which appeareth from Thee is best for Thy servants.

O Lord! Aid this servant who hath turned toward the direction of Thy gifts, then ordain for him the good of this world and the next. Then assist him in helping Thy Cause and conveying that which Thou hast willed by Thy sovereignty, for this is the most excellent of deeds with Thee, and the most exalted in Thy Book. O Lord! Aid him in all conditions to stand firm in Thy love. Verily, Thou art the Self-Sufficient, the Most Exalted. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous. Praise be unto Thee, O God of all who are in the heavens and the earth.

BH01536: Ziyarat-Namiy-i-Bayt (Lawh-i-Hajj Baghdad)

In the name of God, Most Mighty, Most Wise

O thou who gazest toward the Most Great Scene! Hearken unto the call of the Beauty of Eternity from the quarter of His Most Great Prison: Verily there is no God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Thou hast been beneath the gaze of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, at all times. He is the Protector of him that turneth unto Him, and He is the Lord of all worlds.

Let not that which hath befallen Us—and thee—make thee sorrowful. Hold fast to the cord of the mercy of thy Lord, and cling to this radiant hem. Remind the people with wisdom and utterance. Let not the ظلم of them that disbelieve in God, the Most High, the Most Great, affright thee. Speak to the people of that which thou hast known and seen when thou wast about the Throne; thus doth thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised, command thee.

We were with thee, and We were aware of that which befell thee in the path of God, and We heard what thou didst utter for His love and His good-pleasure. Thy recompense resteth with Him; verily He will fully repay the rewards of the sincere. Blessed art thou, in that thou hast been faithful to My covenant and hast turned away from them that disbelieved in God. Verily thou art of the triumphant.

Grieve not at hardships: the kingdom of ease shall come unto thee. He, indeed, is the All-Powerful, the Almighty. And glory be upon thee, and upon them that have laid aside what they possessed and taken hold of that which they were commanded, from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

When thou art departed out of the court of My presence, O Muhammad, direct thy steps towards My House (Ba{gh}dad House), and visit it on behalf of thy Lord.

When thou reachest its door, stand thou before it and say: Whither is the Ancient Beauty gone, O most great House of God, He through Whom God hath made thee the cynosure of an adoring world, and proclaimed thee to be the sign of His remembrance unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth? Oh! for the former days when thou, O House of God, wert made His footstool, the days when in ceaseless strains the melody of the All-Merciful poured forth from thee! What hath become of thy jewel whose glory hath irradiated all creation? Whither are gone the days in which He, the Ancient King, had made thee the throne of His glory, the days in which He had chosen thee alone to be the lamp of salvation between earth and heaven, and caused thee to diffuse, at dawn and at eventide, the sweet fragrance of the All-Glorious?

Where, O House of God, is the Sun of majesty and power Who had enveloped thee with the brightness of His presence? Where is He, the Day Spring of the tender mercies of thy Lord, the Unconstrained, Who had established His seat within thy walls? What is it, O throne of God, that hath altered thy countenance, and made thy pillars to tremble? What could have closed thy door to the face of them that eagerly seek thee? What hath made thee so desolate? Couldst thou have been told that the Beloved of the world is pursued by the swords of His enemies? The Lord bless thee, and bless thy fidelity unto Him, inasmuch as thou hast remained His companion through all His sorrows and His sufferings. I testify that thou art the scene of His transcendent glory, His most holy habitation. Out of thee hath gone forth the Breath of the All-Glorious, a Breath that hath breathed over all created things, and filled with joy the breasts of the devout that dwell in the mansions of Paradise. The Concourse on high, and they that inhabit the Cities of the Names of God, weep over thee, and bewail the things that have befallen thee.

Thou art still the symbol of the names and attributes of the Almighty, the Point towards which the eyes of the Lord of earth and heaven are directed. There hath befallen thee what hath befallen the Ark in which God’s pledge of security had been made to dwell. Well is it with him that apprehendeth the intent of these words, and recognizeth the purpose of Him Who is the Lord of all creation.

Happy are those that inhale from thee the sweet savors of the Merciful, that acknowledge thine exaltation, that safeguard thy sanctity, that reverence, at all times, thy station. We implore the Almighty to grant that the eyes of those who have turned away from thee, and failed to appreciate thy worth, may be opened, that they may truly recognize thee, and Him Who, through the power of truth, hath raised thee up on high. Blind, indeed, are they about thee, and utterly unaware of thee in this day. Thy Lord is, verily, the Gracious, the Forgiving. I bear witness that through thee God hath proved the hearts of His servants. Blessed be the man that directeth his steps towards thee, and visiteth thee. Woe to him that denieth thy right, that turneth away from thee, that dishonoreth thy name, and profaneth thy holiness.

Grieve not, O House of God, if the veil of thy sanctity be rent asunder by the infidels. God hath, in the world of creation, adorned thee with the jewel of His remembrance. Such an ornament no man can, at any time, profane. Towards thee the eyes of thy Lord shall, under all conditions, remain directed. He, verily, will incline His ear to the prayer of every one that visiteth thee, who will circle around thee, and calleth upon Him in thy name. He, in truth, is the Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

I beseech Thee, O my God, by this House that hath suffered such change in its separation from Thee, that bewaileth its remoteness from Thy presence, and lamenteth Thy tribulation, to forgive me, and my parents, and my kindred, and such of my brethren as have believed in Thee. Grant that all my needs be satisfied, through Thy bounty, O Thou Who art the King of Names. Thou art the most Bountiful of the bountiful, the Lord of all worlds.

BH01559: In the Name of the One God, Who hath…

In the Name of the One God, Who hath no partner! We hear the Call from all things, as though they were stirred within themselves through their longing for that which hath appeared and shone forth from the horizon of eternity with manifest sovereignty. Our dwelling-places, wherein the fragrance of Our raiment hath wafted, draw near to Us through Our most beautiful names, which We have made the dawning-places of Our revelation throughout all worlds. Therefore hath the City and all that surroundeth it been illumined by the advent of its Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

Verily, the Sadrih crieth out, saying: “I perceive the fragrance of Thy raiment, O God of all worlds!” And the Mount shineth forth through this Manifestation and proclaimeth: “The Beloved of the heavens and earth hath come!” And the Ka’bih of mankind, having sensed the breezes of its Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, hath called aloud and cried out: “The Desired One hath come with great glory!” And the House of the Son hath been illumined by the lights of Beauty, declaring: “The Father hath come with His kingdom and His sovereignty!” Blessed be they who turn unto Him!

Even the pebbles of creation remember their Lord with this wise remembrance. The Tongue of Grandeur proclaimeth above all things:

> “The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Single, the One, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Great!”

At all times We hear from everything the mention of their Lord—this indeed is a wondrous thing. In the evening We hear the glorification of all things in remembrance of their Lord, and at daybreak We hear from them other words. By My life! The Spirit of the Cause speaketh within them at all times such words

that were the possessors of ears to hear them, they would fall prostrate upon their faces before their Lord, the All-Merciful. Thus have We set forth Our verses in detail, from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Informed.

Blessed is he who hath risen from among the dead and turned unto God, the Revealer of verses, Who hath appeared in truth from the horizon of the Cause in such wise as to attract the hearts of those who have recognized Him. This is the Day of hearkening—hearken ye unto the Call of your Lord from the direction of the Prison. Verily, there is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command, and within His grasp lieth the Kingdom of the dominion of the heavens and earth. Whoso hath heard His call and answered it, verily he is of the people of Paradise in this noble court.

Blessed is he who hath arisen to serve My Cause and hath cast aside all else but Me. He is indeed of the people of the realms of My footstool. My angels shall enter upon them with the lights of My grandeur. They are verily the lamps of guidance from whom the denizens of the Supreme Paradise derive their light. Thus hath the matter been decreed by the Pen of Baha, and God is witness unto what I say. Leave the dead, and hold fast unto God, the Creator of names. Verily, He hath come in this resplendent raiment.

Say: O people! Commit not acts of mischief and indecency, and follow not every doubting misbeliever. Beware lest ye backbite one another. This hath been forbidden in the Tablets. Fear ye the All-Merciful, and be not of those who spread corruption. Enter not a house except with permission, betray not the trust of others in their possessions, and lean not towards them that have acted unjustly, for this indeed is a grievous error. Aid Me through My loved ones. They who love them for My sake shall find themselves in pavilions of My bounty, and shall ere long behold themselves in an exalted station.

Beware lest ye dispute one with another. Unite in the religion of God and His Cause, lest there occur among you that which your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised, desireth not. Say: This is My path. Walk ye therein with My leave, and be not of them that doubt. This is My straight path; verily it is the right way. We have set forth in the Book the details of all things, that perchance men may follow that which is best for them. He is but a faithful counsellor. They who follow their own desires are not of the people of guidance, as doth testify your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, if ye be of them that are assured.

Say: O people! Do ye frequent the mosques for My remembrance, yet oppose Mine own Self? What aileth you, O concourse of the heedless! Remind the people in the days of thy Lord, then lead them out of darkness and guide them to the horizon whence hath shone the Sun of the beauty of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most Beautiful. Beware lest the things of this world withhold thee from thy Lord, the Lord of all names. Drink thou the waters of immortality from the utterance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

They who remained heedless in those days are as mere asses—they have no way to the Truth. They rejoice while the wrath of God pursueth them. Verily, they are the companions of the fire. They who have turned to the Countenance shall ere long find themselves beneath the canopy of their Lord's mercy. Verily, they are of them that are nigh unto God. Thus have We instructed thee and taught thee that thou mayest rejoice in the days of thy Lord and be of the thankful ones.

BH01613: In the name of the Desired One…

In the name of the Desired One of the worlds! The Divine Lote-Tree calleth out from the crimson spot, addressing the people of creation, saying: O My chosen ones throughout the lands! Hearken unto My most sweet call and unto My rustling which hath been raised betwixt earth and heaven. Beware lest the affairs of the world grieve you. By the life of God! They shall pass away and perish, while glory and power shall endure for you in the worlds which none can alter. God hath sanctified them from all that is mentioned and seen. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, is the Truthful, the All-Informed One.

O ʿAli! Thy letter which thou didst send to Nabil-i-Qa'in hath come before the Wronged One, and the servant who standeth before the Throne presented it, and We found therein that which moved My Most Exalted Pen, as a token of Our favor unto thee. Verily thy Lord is the All-Hearing, the Answering One.

O ʿAli! Thou hast heard the call of God time and again. Now hearken unto this call wherein the Most Pure Countenance turneth toward thee and calleth thee from the direction of His Greatest Horizon with a call whereby the eyes of the mystics are gladdened and the hearts of the sincere ones are stirred. By the life of God! Wert thou to inhale the breaths of revelation as befitteth, longing would seize thee in such wise that the affairs of the world would not disturb thee, nor what hath appeared and shall appear from those who have cast the Command of God behind their backs and have chosen that which will lead them to the nethermost fire.

Give thou the glad-tidings of My remembrance unto My loved ones. Say: By God! We remember you at all times, and Mine eye hath ever been directed toward My chosen ones, and My glances have been cast over My servants. My tongue, My Pen, and My pages whereby all in the world are stirred bear witness to this, and beyond them, My all-encompassing knowledge. Say: Hold ye fast unto the wisdom We have sent down in the Book, then act according to what is therein. Verily it is the Most Great Stronghold. Blessed is he who hath turned unto it and held fast thereunto. He is of those who have attained.

O ʿAli! Where is thy previous day and where is that which appeared in the previous year? The world testifieth to its evanescence, yet most of the people are heedless. Say: Cling ye unto that which shall endure for you throughout the endurance of the Kingdom and the Realm, and abandon that which every truthful and trustworthy one acknowledgeth as perishable. Say: We have ordained for you in Our Crimson Tablet from My Most Glorious Pen that which shall gladden your hearts, rejoice your souls, and cause the hearts of the slumbering ones to soar. It behooveth you to stand firm in the Cause, and it behooveth Him to fulfill what He hath promised you in His Guarded Book.

O loved ones of the All-Merciful! The Beloved mentioneth you in His Most Great Prison and calleth you with such sweetness that were anyone to sense it, he would soar on the wings of detachment throughout creation and celebrate the praise of God with such remembrance as would cause hearts to be attracted and the breasts of those who have turned unto Him to be dilated.

Convey My Great Glory unto My loved ones who have soared in the atmosphere of My love, who have quaffed the choice wine of My bounty and have attained unto the Kawthar of My steadfastness. We testify that they are they upon whom the Concourse on High pray, and who have circumambulated the

Throne by God's leave, the Mighty, the Wise. Then convey My Great Glory unto him whose grief thou didst mention, and give him glad-tidings from the Wronged One that he may rejoice and be of those who are gladdened. Say: By God! There hath been sent down for thee on this Day of God that which a single verse thereof surpasseth all that hath been created in the heavens and earth. Be thou assured in the grace of thy Lord. He ordaineth for thee that which shall profit thee in this world and the next. He, verily, is the Almighty, the Powerful. Reflect upon thy Lord's favor, how He hath turned toward thee from this spot and remembereth thee in this far-off stronghold. Say: I testify that Thou art the Lord of the world and the Sovereign over the nations. Thou doest what Thou willest by Thy command, and Thou art the Munificent, the Mighty, the Generous.

Then We convey from this spot Our Great Glory unto the faces of My handmaidens who have sought the horizon of My bounty, who have heard My call, who have turned with their hearts toward My Beautiful Countenance, who have drunk the Kawthar of My knowledge, and who have remembered their Lord through successive years. They are assuredly of the people of this wondrous Scene. At the end of Our utterance, We counsel Our servants with wisdom, then again with wisdom. Say: Ask ye God to grant you success therein and to bestow upon you that which floweth from this wondrous Spring.

BH05074: God testifieth that there is none other God beside…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

God testifieth that there is none other God beside Him. His is the majesty and the power, the dominion and the authority. He giveth life and causeth death, and then raiseth up whomsoever He willeth. He, verily, is the Ruler over all who dwell in the unseen and the visible realms. He, verily, is the Omnipotent over all things. He sendeth down whatsoever He willeth through His sovereignty and ordaineth what He desireth by His word "Be" and it is. When We encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth, We found thee in a cleft of the Cause. Therefore have We made mention of thee in truth, that the remembrance of thy Lord might draw thee to a praiseworthy station, that thou mightest inhale from the Holy Tablet the fragrance of intimacy, that thou mightest turn with thy whole being unto God and arise to aid this Wronged One Who hath been imprisoned in this land for the sake of God, and before Whose face the doors of ingress and egress have been sealed.

Hearken unto My words, then cast away all that is in the contingent world and take what hath come to thee from thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Arise and say: O people of the Bayan! By God, the Quickener of all creation hath come! Detach yourselves from all who are on earth, then turn unto God, the King, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling. If thou aidest Him on earth, He will assuredly aid thee in His Kingdom and will send down upon thee hosts from the manifestations of power and might, and will assist thee thereby. There is none other God but He, the Omnipotent, the Mighty, the All-Loving.

Say: O people! Do ye deny Him Who revealed the Bayan unto Himself? What aileth you that ye understand not? Have ye clung to aught else besides Him after ye were commanded not to cling to any but Him at the time of His appearance? Have ye disbelieved while ye yourselves bear witness? Fear God, O people! This indeed is He through Whom the Tablets of God were sent down in every age, and that which was revealed in the Bayan testifieth to His own Self. Beware lest ye deny Him.

Stand firm in the Cause, then kindle the fire of oneness in the hearts of all creatures that it may purify them from the defilement of idle fancy and draw them nigh unto God, the Lord of the former and latter generations. Beware lest thou be halted by the cawing of them that are unbelievers. Take the rod by Our strength, then cleave asunder therewith the sea of vain imaginings, that perchance the people may turn their faces toward the holy precincts. Array the hearts in the name of the Beloved, that the effulgences of the Sun from this manifest horizon may be imprinted thereon.

Say: O people! Behold Him with His own eyes, even as ye were commanded in the Bayan wherein hath been set forth all that ye do. Say: He informed Me of your turning away from the direction of God and of that which would befall His Beloved, but ye have forgotten what was revealed by Him, and have broken His Covenant, and have disbelieved in Him through Whom was manifested that which was hidden. Turn aside from them that have disbelieved, and say:

Glorified art Thou, O my God! All praise be to Thee—praise whereby souls may be made steadfast in Thy love and good-pleasure. All praise be to Thee—praise whereby the oceans of Thy knowledge surge in every heart, preserving it from turning to any save Thee. All praise be to Thee—praise whereby existence is set aflame with the fire of Thy love and turned toward the holy precincts, the dawning-place of the lights of Thy oneness. All praise be to Thee—praise whereby every soul is made independent of all else save Thee, and all faces are directed to the splendors of the light of Thy countenance.

O Lord! I am he who hath sought the sanctuary of Thy unity and the Ka'bah of Thy singleness, who hath detached himself from all else save Thee and turned toward Thee. O Lord! Deprive me not of the outpourings of Thy days, the manifestations of the glory of Thy unity, and the revelations of Thy holy oneness. O Lord! Thou art the All-Bountiful, and I am the needy one. I have come unto Thee, detached from all save Thee, clinging to the cord of Thy bounty and favor.

O Lord! Draw me, then, through the wondrous melodies whereby Thou hast attracted the hearts of the sincere ones among Thy creation and the souls of them that are nigh unto Thee among Thy creatures, that I may stand firm in Thy love in such wise that the turning away of the idolaters and the denial of the doubters may not hinder me. Enable me to arise to serve Thee and to praise Thy Self. Verily, Thou art He Who hath ever been powerful to do as He pleaseth and sovereign over whatsoever He willeth. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

O Lord! Make us helpers of Thy religion, supporters of Thy loved ones, and those who turn away from Thine enemies. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Ruling, the All-Willing.

BH01611: You had mentioned the tribulations of the friends. Praise…

He is God, exalted be His glory

You had mentioned the tribulations of the friends. Praise be to God that each of His loved ones, according to their capacity, has drunk from the cup of tribulation in His path and partaken of the chalice of destiny. No glory endures, nor abasement, neither heat remains, nor shade. Will those who recline upon the couches of might and majesty endure, while those who walk barefoot perish? No, by God! All shall perish

outwardly, but the former, if they walked the path of desire, shall be destroyed and perish, while the latter, if they turned to God, shall be saved and endure.

Those who are occupied with the world and heedless of God, the Most High, are all worshippers of vain imaginings, for that with which they are occupied and for which they turn away from Truth is unreal and evanescent, like a mirage that appears to exist but leaves no trace to those possessed of insight. That which is subject to change and alteration has no worth and never will. Say: O servants! Look beneath the earth—can you distinguish between master and servant, noble and base, wise and heedless, rich and poor? Can any distinguish between the bones of kings and subjects? Where are those who sat upon thrones of glory and reclined upon couches of grandeur? And where are those who rose up to war against God and considered all in the realm their possessions? Is there any trace of those souls to be found, or any mention of their fruits? All have become a ruined people, and destiny has scattered them like dust.

We should view things with an eye that changing circumstances cannot alter, and trust in God's grace and thank Him for whatever He has willed and for all that appears from Him. In brief, comfort and hardship, ease and difficulty, sorrows and joys are all passing. All these matters depend upon and are sustained by human existence, which is itself subject to change and transformation; how much more so then the branch than the root! Blessed is the state of those who, in their love for God, are tried by the love of His creatures. Not an atom of the deeds of men is hidden from God. Today He regards with the eye of grace His loved ones who have turned to Him and remained steadfast in His love, and mentions them with the tongue of His grandeur. By God! This is what the chosen ones prefer, and nothing past or future can equal it.

O thou who art renowned in the land and mentioned in all regions! Hear My words: Be not grieved by what has befallen thee and the loved ones of God. Aid thy Lord within thyself, then remember Him among thy brothers and thank Him in all conditions. Indeed He has protected thee from those upon whom the sun has not risen upon any more wretched. Know thou that this Ocean's waves will not still, this Breeze's wafting will not cease, this Musk no vessel can contain, this Fragrance no seal can confine. How excellent are these words:

> "Were the sweet-scented breezes of Thy fragrance to blow in the East, while in the West one suffered from a cold, his sense of smell would be restored."

Praise God that in this great calamity, mighty tribulation, and countless afflictions, thou hast entered this fortified ruined city. By God! This remembrance and what has appeared and will appear in this city shall endure unto the eternal future. Soon shall the gates be opened, for thy Lord is the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful. Blessed are they who do not stumble in this upheaval but remain firm. In this imprisonment are concealed a hundred thousand wisdoms—soon shall what is hidden from all eyes be revealed.

Since you had written about the details of the tribulations of the friends, it was mentioned before the Divine Presence that one of the servants should recount some details of events that occurred from the

time of departure from the Land of Mystery until arrival in this land, that the two accounts might be joined together. And He is the All-Remembering, the Mighty, the Bestower.

BH01631: Hear what the Beauty of the Manifestation sings…

He is the Almighty

Hear what the Beauty of the Manifestation sings in this cycle upon this blessed spot which has been raised up from the right hand of the Throne—that there is none other God but Him and that the Primal Point Who was made manifest in the year sixty is verily the Word of God and His sovereignty, and the wisdom of God and His proof, and the Command of God and His splendor, and in Him the Beloved and the Loved One became united, and He is verily the Word from which the letters were differentiated through His command "Be! and it is," and He is verily the Point from which appeared the letters and words, and through Him was manifested every hidden knowledge, and through Him was the Kaf joined with the Nun, and every firm and decreed matter became manifest, and He is verily the Book of God wherein is inscribed the knowledge of all that was, were ye to know, and He is verily the Balance of God and His wisdom, and the Path of God and His Command, and through Him every believer was separated from every rejected misbeliever, and through His nearness appeared the decree of Paradise and after Him the decree of the Fire, were ye to understand.

Through Him the Dove sang upon the branches and the voice of the All-Merciful appeared from behind the veils of concealment and covering that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal, and through Him were the contingent beings resurrected and all who are in the heavens and earth were gathered together, and the earth brought forth its hidden pearls of glory, and He appeared to the gaze of the lovers with the name of Ali in truth and came with manifest sovereignty, and to the gaze of the believers with all names, were ye to comprehend, and to the gaze of those near to God the names and attributes appeared by His command, and verily He is the Single, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy, and to My gaze all this is in His creation and verily this is His creation, were ye to behold with the eye of God therein.

By God! The Dove sings upon a branch of the branches with melodies that no melody can resemble, were ye to hear—through one melody He guides the misguided to an extended path of glory, and through another melody He guides the believers to the heaven of holiness and then the lovers to the beauty of the Beloved, and through a melody all who are in the heavens and earth swoon away such that none remains in the kingdom possessed of limitation and consciousness, then calls out "To whom belongs the Kingdom?" and none answers Him, and He answers Himself by Himself "To God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Sovereign, the Single, the One, the All-Conquering, the Self-Subsisting." Thus does the Dove sing upon the melody of possibility according to a determined measure. By God! She has melody after melody and sings song after song, and were one of her melodies to appear as God has ordained for her, hearts would be convulsed and bodies would tremble and faces would be transformed.

And thou, O handmaiden of God, then O my mother, rejoice within thyself and be glad in thine essence at what has been sent down to thee—an inscribed Book wherein are recorded the mysteries of knowledge and wisdom from the Pen through which appeared the decree of the Kaf and the Nun. Then know that

thy letter came before Us and We learned what was in it, and We ask God that He may enable thee in His Cause and draw thee near to His presence and grant thee the good of this world and the next and all that thou lovest and art pleased with, and verily He is the Generous, the Giving, the Forgiving. Beware, O handmaiden of God, grieve not over anything in this world and trust in all matters in God thy Lord, for in Him do the detached ones put their trust.

Then know that We have arrived in the prison beyond seas and valleys and cities and lofty mountains, and for this We thank God and praise Him and glorify Him and mention Him and sanctify Him for what He has sent down upon Us of His firm decree and His determined ordainment, and We are patient through His might and power, and verily He will fulfill the rewards of those who were patient and trusted and were of those who return unto Him.

And the Spirit and the Light and the Glory and the Splendor be upon thee and upon those who keep company with thee for the love of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH01680: God willing, mayest thou at all times and under…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

God willing, mayest thou at all times and under all conditions abide beneath the shade of the All-Merciful, occupied in service to the Ancient Beauty amidst the peoples. The gaze of loving-kindness and the glance of favor have ever been directed towards thee. Give thanks unto thy Lord for this and be thou of the grateful ones.

Arise to serve the Cause in such wise that neither the contingent happenings of the world nor the whisperings of the idolatrous souls may sadden thee or prevent thee from the remembrance of the Lord of all created things. Observe how this Wronged One is afflicted in the Most Great Prison between two parties. By the truth of His own Self, wert thou to be truly informed of what hath befallen Him, thou wouldst weep with the weeping of them that are bereft. Nevertheless, at all times the stream of wisdom and utterance floweth from the right hand of the throne. Draw near to thy chalice unto Him and fill it, then drink in the name of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful. How many who are distant are with Me in the loftiest heights of detachment, and how many who are near are in a place remote.

Thy services are remembered before God and recorded in the divine Tablets. Their reward hath not been and shall not be lost. If certain outward matters have not proceeded according to thy desire, be not saddened. God willing, through divine bounty and merciful grace they shall be set right. Every matter is bound to its time. This is naught but divine wisdom and infinite mercy.

Then know thou that Rida hath openly rebelled against God and committed that which none before him hath committed. He hath squandered God’s Cause and spread abroad that which the Pen is powerless to mention. Thus have We been afflicted in this mighty Prison. He committed in the Land of Mystery that which caused the Spirit of God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds, to lament. Yet We concealed it, for thy Lord is the Concealer, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. They consumed swine’s flesh there. We said: Fear God and commit not that which would cause God’s Cause to be lost among the Muslim people. Thereby did hatred intensify until fate arrived. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

When Victory saw the signs of death he repented and returned, then passed away at that time. Therefore We forgave him and recorded him among the penitent. And after him Rida appeared and repented of what he had done. Though We found him in hypocrisy, We concealed his affair as a grace from Us. Verily thy Lord is the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days.

When We entered this Prison he committed lewdness and spread the carpet of wine-drinking, showing no shame before God. He rebelled and led astray a number of souls to his deed. Then his sister joined in his actions. Thus do We recount unto thee the truth that thou mayest be among them that are informed. One day she entered before the Presence. We saw her in great drunkenness. When she was forbidden, she left and cried out. Thus were We afflicted by a wicked and most lost people.

O servant who gazeth toward God! Thou knowest the ocean of My mercy and the mountains of My tranquility and the heaven of My patience. Observe what deeds they have committed, that despite My mercy which hath preceded and encompassed all the worlds, they have become outcasts. Be not thou grieved by this. Verily thou hast an exalted station with thy Lord. Hold fast to thy connection with Him. He sufficeth thee. Be thou detached from all the worlds. Manifest in thy love for thy Lord a fire that the waters cannot quench and a light that the veils of them that are on earth cannot obscure. This beseemeth thee, for thou art of the people of this luminous station.

Thy likeness and those who have believed have appeared before the Presence. We have therefore recorded for thee and for them the reward of them that have attained the presence of their Lord in this manifest Prison. Give thanks unto God for having been mentioned by the Most Exalted Pen, and We have ordained for you the reward of them that have won this noble perspective. Verily the Glory be upon thee and upon them and upon thy family and thy descendants from the presence of One Mighty, Praiseworthy.

BH01696: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

He is the Mighty

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth, that they might serve as a clear testimony unto all the worlds, and that through them His Cause and sovereignty might be made manifest. This hath ever been, from time immemorial, and to this We do bear witness. They who have been given the insight of knowledge from God are assured that these verses have been sent down from One Who is All-Wise, All-Informed. Through them truth hath been distinguished from falsehood, and light from darkness, since ancient times.

Say: By God! He is, of His own Self, the Sovereign of all created things, their Originator, the Creator of all beings, and their Fashioner. He needeth no proof other than Himself for this, if ye be possessed of keen insight into the mystery of the Cause. For His Cause is more manifest than to be veiled by aught or concealed behind any veil—this is known to every one endowed with knowledge. Indeed, were there any proof besides Him, that proof would become a veil unto Him. None knoweth this save every assured and wise one.

However, since men are weak in themselves and diverse in their understanding and recognition, He manifesteth that which all in the heavens and earth are powerless to produce, that it might serve as an eloquent testimony from Him unto all the worlds. This is naught but to demonstrate His bounty unto all created things and to manifest His grace unto every one, be they poor or rich. Otherwise, He, exalted be He, hath no need of anything to demonstrate His Cause and manifest His sovereignty, as every pure nature doth testify.

Say: O people of the earth! Do ye not witness how He hath appeared with the truth and risen above all created things with an authority mighty and impregnable? Say: Though enemies have encompassed Him from every side and darkness hath seized Him from all directions, yet doth He shine forth among them like an illuminating pearl of holiness. Say: By God! His utterance is a testimony unto the peoples of the heavens and of the earth, if men's ears be attentive. Say: The proof is manifest in all His deeds and actions—this is a truth which every fair-minded and trustworthy one doth recognize. Can light be compared to darkness, or shade to heat, or spirit to aught else? Glory be to God! This is naught but grievous heedlessness.

Say: O people of the earth! Open your eyes, sharpen your vision, and purify your ears that ye may witness that which God hath testified for you in a Tablet that hath been hidden from sight.

O Ali! Bear thou witness that there is none other God but Him, and that Ali is the Manifestation of His Self and the Manifestation of His Name. Thus doth the Bird of the Divine Throne warble with sorrowful voice. Know thou that We have been cast into prison through that which the hands of every tyrannical oppressor have wrought. For this We give thanks unto God and praise Him, and We fear no one even should tribulations greater than any great tribulation descend upon Us.

And thou, O servant, preserve this Tablet and recite it with a sweet voice, that there might be kindled in thy heart from this Fire which hath been secretly illuminating. Then give thanks unto God, rejoice in God's gladness, be steadfast in thy love, and be keen in vision. Entrust not the reins of thy sight and heart to anyone. Look upon all that cometh unto thee with the vision God hath created within thee—this is the best counsel, and God is indeed aware of this.

For the Cause hath been veiled from sight, and none hath comprehended it, even if they were nigh unto the truth. And thou, rend asunder the veils of idle fancy and blind imitation, and be possessed of spiritual insight. Pay no heed to the people, for they are caught in the grip of creation and are weak in their essence. Whoso attaineth not unto this station hath achieved naught, even should he lay claim within himself to every wondrous thing.

Thus do We reveal unto thee the verses and make mention of thee with love and aid thee in the Cause, that thou mayest be assured within thyself and content with God. The Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon every lofty heart.

BH09243: O Suleiman! Hear My call from the direction…

He is God, the Most Exalted, the Most High, the Most Glorious

O Suleiman! Hear My call from the direction of My prison, that My melodies may attract thee and detach thee from all else save Me, and cause thee to soar in My atmosphere, and draw thee nigh unto the Dayspring of My Beauty, and make thee speak My praise amidst My servants, and enable thee to drink the Kawthar of immortality from the Salsabil of My mercy and the holy Tasnim from the river of My bounty. Verily, My fragrances guide the yearning ones to the paradise of My remembrance, and My sweet scents lead the seeking ones to the court of My presence and meeting. Thus doth the Youth make mention of thee in these days wherein the ignorant among the people have encompassed Him.

O Son of Man! Say: O followers of religions among the people of all worlds! He Who ascended to heaven hath come upon the crimson clouds with hosts of His holiness, and the Kingdom of God moveth before Him and behind Him are the hosts of revelation, did ye but know it. Say: The Comforter Whose advent all the scriptures have promised is now come that He may reveal unto you all knowledge and wisdom. Seek Him over the entire surface of the earth, haply ye may find Him. And should ye find Him, beware lest ye crucify the body of the Promised One as did the Jews crucify aforetime. Fear God, O people, and be not of the wrongdoers.

Blessed is the eye that beholdeth His beauty, and the ear that heareth His melodies, and the tongue that speaketh His praise, and the foot that walketh in the paths of His good-pleasure, and the heart that is filled with the knowledge of His Self, and the soul that beareth the trust of His love. Thus doth the Cock of the Throne crow that the people of the horizons may exchange discord for concord. Beware lest ye stone Him with your glances after He guideth you to the divine paradise. Say: He hath sacrificed His spirit even as He sacrificed aforetime His body, and He feareth no one among all that hath been created between earth and heaven, and He guideth men unto God, the Lord of the worlds.

Say: O people of the earth! Gather ye at the table of your Lord, the All-Merciful, which hath descended once again from the heaven of divine decree after its ascension, and hath appeared in the temple of man at the midmost heart of contingent being. O concourse of the worlds! Deprive not yourselves of that which hath been ordained for you by God, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful.

Say: O people! Purify your hearts from rancor and hatred, and sanctify your souls from transgression and iniquity, then adorn your bodies with the robe of faithfulness and your tongues with truthfulness in the land of creation. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen command you in the heaven of destiny, if ye be of them that know. Say: Through His fragrances the realities of all things have been stirred in their longing for His presence and in their search for reunion with Him. O people! Deprive not yourselves of the sanctuary of His knowledge, and differ not concerning Him, that ye may be numbered among the believers.

Blessed art thou for having drunk the Kawthar of life from the hand of the favors of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. We beseech God to make thee steadfast in His love and established in His Cause, for verily He is powerful over all things. Say: Through Him hath God given life to the world and created the world for His own Self, yet the people of the world have wronged Him and knew Him not, and were of the heedless ones.

And if thou desirest to become acquainted with My Cause and what hath befallen My person, know thou that the tribulations have reached such a degree as to transcend all mention and utterance, and none

knoweth the afflictions of the Youth save His Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. And We thank God for what He hath decreed for Us by His command, and We shall be patient even as We were patient before, and We seek help from no one, and help cometh only from thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing.

This wondrous Tablet was sent, but that servant must move with the utmost wisdom so that none of the ungodly become aware of the origin of the previous Cause before its manifestation. And as for what you wrote regarding that which was sent down from the heaven of grace to be distributed to all regions—its time and season shall come. Verily He is the Powerful over whatsoever He willeth. He doeth what He pleaseth and ordaineth what He desireth.

BH01728: The Tablet which hath been raised unto God hath…

The Tablet which hath been raised unto God hath been sent down from the heaven of immortality unto him who was named Aqa Baba, that he may read it at eventide and at dawn.

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted! Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses in truth and through them draweth unto Him the hearts of whomsoever He pleaseth. Verily, He hath ever been powerful over whatsoever He willeth. All that is in the heavens and all that is on earth glorify Him, and all are mentioned in His Tablet.

O servant! Consecrate thy heart to the Sacred House, then visit it with manifest humility. When the way to thy Lord was barred, He ordained for the pilgrims to turn their hearts unto the seat of His mighty throne, for the people had blocked the path and prevented the servants from attaining the shore of impregnable glory. Therefore hath God accepted from them their turning toward the direction of the House with pure and luminous hearts.

When thou desirest to make the pilgrimage, perform ablutions as thou wert commanded in the Book, then turn thy face toward the Throne and say: The praise which hath proceeded from Thy Most Exalted Self, and the glory which hath dawned from Thy Most Resplendent Beauty, be upon Thee, O Manifestation of Grandeur, Sovereign of Immortality, and King of all who are in earth and heaven! I testify that through Thee were revealed the sovereignty of God and His power, the majesty of God and His grandeur. Through Thee the Suns of eternity shone forth in the heaven of destiny and the Beauty of the Unseen appeared from the horizon of creation. I testify that through one movement of Thy Pen the command of “Be” was made manifest, and God’s hidden secret was disclosed, all created things began to exist, and all manifestations were raised up.

I testify that through Thy beauty the Beauty of the Worshipped One was revealed and through Thy face the Face of the Desired One shone forth. Through a word from Thee was made the distinction among all created things, the faithful ascended unto the heights of glory and the idolaters descended into the lowest depths. I testify that he who hath known Thee hath known God, and he who hath attained unto Thy presence hath attained unto the presence of God. Blessed is he who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs, who hath humbled himself before Thy sovereignty, who hath been honored with meeting Thee, who hath attained the good pleasure of Thy will, who hath circled round Thee, and who hath presented himself before Thy Throne.

Woe betide him who hath wronged Thee, and denied Thee, and repudiated Thy signs, and gainsaid Thy sovereignty, and risen up against Thee, and waxed proud before Thy face, and hath disputed Thy testimonies, and fled from Thy rule and Thy dominion, and been numbered with the infidels whose names have been inscribed by the fingers of Thy command upon Thy holy Tablets.

O my God and my Beloved! Waft, then, to me from the right hand of Thy mercy and Thy loving-kindness, the holy breaths of Thy favors, that they may draw me away from myself and from the world unto the precincts of Thy nearness and Thy presence. Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou, verily, hast been supreme over all things.

Thus have We commanded thee, O servant! Arise and act as thou hast been bidden. This shall suffice thee above all who dwell on earth. Whosoever visiteth this Wronged One, this Sorrowful One, this Prisoner, and reciteth what the Spirit hath revealed in this Tablet, God shall forgive him and his parents and his kindred who have believed in God, and shall raise him up in every Revelation with a radiant and luminous countenance. He shall shelter him beneath His shadow and cause him to abide near His mercy, and shall sustain him with the holy fruits of Paradise, and shall send down upon him that which shall make him independent of all who are in the heavens and on earth. Thus hath it been decreed in the Tablets.

Blessed is he who hath followed the command of his Lord in these days wherein most of the servants have become heedless and have deprived themselves of the wondrous favors of God. As for thee, render thanks unto God for having singled thee out for this bounty and sent unto thee that from which thou wilt find the fragrance of the beloved Glory. Upon thee, and upon thy wife, and upon those who have remained steadfast in the Cause this day, be glory.

BH01721: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious! These are the verses of God sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty glory. God has made them a proof for all who dwell in the dominion of Command and Creation, and a remembrance for all who are on earth.

O people! Believe in what has been sent down to you and dispute not the verses of God after their revelation, lest a severe chastisement befall you in justice. Fear God, O people, then consider what was sent down to the Prophets and Messengers, and what has been revealed in these days, that the truth may become manifest to you and you may be possessed of illumined insight.

God has sent Messengers to His servants since time immemorial, who called the people to Him and gave them glad tidings of the days of God. But when the Day appeared and God came with the Manifestation of His Self, they disbelieved in Him and turned away until they arose to slay Him. Thus was the matter decreed. No Messenger was sent except the people denied Him and disputed with Him vainly, until God established the truth through His verses and seized those who disbelieved and associated partners with God and were deprived of the Kawthar of faith.

Forget not those days when you entered the Garden of Paradise before the Countenance and were illumined by His lights. In those days We concealed Our face lest anyone recognize Us, according to the wisdom inscribed in the Tablets by the Pen of Command. When the appointed time of concealment was

fulfilled, We unveiled the Face with a sovereignty witnessed by all creation. None deny it save those who are heedless of the remembrance of their Lord and are debarred from the shore of grace.

Hearken to My words and purify yourself from all that prevents you from God, your Lord. Then take for yourself a guardian in truth, and he will protect you from all that displeases you and guard you from the harm of every harmful thing. His mercy is ever nigh unto you. Trust in all matters to your Lord and He will aid you with the hosts of the unseen with power.

If you find in your father's heart love for God and the Manifestation of His Self, remind him, that perchance he may arise from the sleep of heedlessness and find a path to God. Otherwise, leave him to himself, for verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, is independent of all created things. He gives sovereignty to whom He wishes among His servants and withholds it from whom He wishes. He has power over all things.

Forget not the favor of your Lord when enemies surrounded you, and He protected you in truth, set right your affairs, sent down tranquility from His presence upon you, and delivered you from sorrow with an all-encompassing sovereignty. Turn your face to Him and trust in His grace. Fear no one, for He will exalt you in truth and fulfill what you desire that you may be steadfast in the Cause.

Read this Tablet in times when you find yourself detached from this world and all that is therein, that it may attract you to a station praised from all eternity. Know that We have not forgotten you in this prison and sent you before this a Tablet inscribed by the Finger of Command. And now We send you this Tablet that you may rejoice in your soul and be gladdened by God's loving-kindness. When it reaches you, take it with the power of your Lord, then act according to what is in it. Thus do We teach you and impart to you that your eyes may be consoled and you may be among those who, when verses are sent down to them from the King of Names and Attributes, fall prostrate upon their faces before God Who created them by His command and made them among those who are mentioned before the Throne.

And glory be upon you and upon those who have held fast to the cord of God and the handle of His grace and who have remained faithful to the Cause.

BH01784: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a Book from Us to him who turned to God and detached himself from all else—verily he is among those who have attained the presence of God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Wise, and who circled the Spot of God until he entered therein by His leave and appeared before the Throne with evident humility. Blinded were the eyes of those who prevented the servants from entering the precincts of their Lord's mercy, the Forgiving, the Generous. And whenever he desired to attain the presence, the eyes of those who denied God were blinded and prevented His loved ones from turning to His shining and radiant Face.

O Muhammad! Hear the call of God from the direction of His Most Glorious Name, then consider the leaders of the Qur'an who denied the verses of God, the Mighty, the Wise. They attribute themselves to Muhammad the Messenger of God while He weeps and laments, yet they understand not. They oppose

His very Being and slay Him unjustly, while in His Name they glory, unaware. Say: He calls you from the Supreme Horizon saying:

> "O people! This is He of Whom We gave you tidings, and verily this is the Beloved of the worlds. This is He but for Whom I would not have revealed Myself nor sent down the Qur'an and the Gospel. Fear God and follow not those who call you to vain desires. This truly is the Most Glorious Horizon—turn to it from near and far. Beware lest you violate the sanctity of God among you. Cast away what you possess and take what you are given from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise."

O Muhammad! Blessed art thou for having heard the melodies of thy Lord and attained His presence after the Ancient Beauty was imprisoned in the Most Great Prison. At this, every atom bears witness that thou art among the triumphant. Recount to My loved ones what thou hast seen, known and understood, lest tribulations prevent them from the Lord of Names. Thus does the Youth command thee from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Praiseworthy.

We counsel thee and Our loved ones to fear God and to detach from all else but Him, that there may appear from them that which will attract the hearts of the world. This is the path of thy Lord between the heavens and the earth. Give thanks to God for having entered a place which He made the circling-point of the angels of the near ones, and for entering the Spot of God by Our leave and departing by Our command. Verily thy Lord does what He wills and ordains what He desires. Grieve not at departing, but ask God to make thee a destroyer of the edifices of Gog, for this is the greatest of deeds in the sight of the Self-Sufficient, the Most High—though the people know it not. Leave the outward edifices—We mean the edifices of hearts. Thus does thy Lord, the All-Knowing, teach thee.

Say: O people! Spread not corruption in the earth nor follow every obstinate tyrant. It behooves My loved ones to call the people to their Merciful Lord with wisdom and utterance. Disputation has been forbidden in this mighty and glorious Revelation. The people have been prevented by veils of their own making—had they but known, they would have cast away what they possess and turned to the direction of God, wherein the Ancient Beauty has shone forth with manifest sovereignty. Thy Lord desires not the harm of anyone—verily He is the Forgiving, the Merciful—and He desires that all on earth should enter His holy and mighty and resplendent kingdom. Look not at those who wronged My loved ones—they are heedless. Had they known, they would have sacrificed themselves in My path. Soon will come a day when they shall bite their fingers in remorse and weep for themselves. Thus has the matter been decreed from the presence of One Mighty, Ancient.

Convey My greetings to the faces of My loved ones and say: Blessed are ye for having recognized Me and stood firm in a Cause at which the feet of those who deemed themselves virtuous have slipped. Know ye that they are among the corrupt ones, to which the bearers of the mighty Throne bear witness. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH01744: Is this a glorious Book, or the temple…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Is this a glorious Book, or the temple of man wherein hath been inscribed by the Pen of the All-Merciful the knowledge of what hath been and what is to come? Blessed be God, the Most Excellent of Creators! Or is it the Water of Life for the quickening of all the worlds? Doth the Book walk, nay, We behold it soaring. Glorified be He Who hath moved it, causing all who are in the heavens and on earth to move. Or is it a clock, for by it have the tribes of the earth lamented and the Great Terror appeared? Say: Glory be unto Him! Glory be unto Him! It was created by His command, and was seized with such wonderment that it forgot itself, and inquireth about itself, asking "Hath it come?" Say: Nay, it hath passed, and this is the manifest Beauty.

If this be a Book, by My life, it is verily the King of Books. If thou sayest it is man, by My beauty, it is the apple of the All-Merciful's eye, made manifest in creation. Exalted be this wondrous grace! If We declare it to be water, We behold the hearts of men consumed by it, and if We say it is fire, it hath illumined all lands with its radiant and gleaming light. Can anyone truly know it as it deserveth to be known? Nay, by the Beauty of the All-Glorious! Exalted, exalted, then more exalted, far exalted is it above the flight of the birds of the hearts of the believers to the atmosphere of its knowledge.

Blessed is he whom the breath of God hath awakened, who hath turned to the sanctuary of the Messengers with a pure and luminous heart. The Beloved proclaimeth that which hath appeared, and Moses glorieth in what he hath beheld, and Abraham hath turned to the Most Great Scene, and He Who hath come speaketh, saying:

> "Blessed is he who hath attained unto this Day wherein the veil hath been rent asunder and the All-Bountiful hath come upon the clouds with manifest sovereignty."

O Ancient Pen! Didst Thou desire to rend asunder the greatest veil? Be patient, for the ears of the ungodly are stretched toward Thee that they might hear that whereby they can object to God, the Mighty, the Wise. He saith: "O my Merciful Lord! Since Thy gaze is fixed upon him who hath loved Thee, grant me leave to sing what Thou hast inspired me through Thy bounty which hath encompassed all created things. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent over what Thou willest. Blessed is he whom Thou rememberest in the prison with that which shall establish his remembrance for the duration of Thy Self. Blessed is he who hath turned to Thee after most of the servants turned away. Blessed is he whom Thou hast chosen for Thy service and whom nothing hath prevented from turning to his Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

O thou who art yearning! Blessed art thou, for thy face hath been illumined by the light that hath shone forth from the Day-Star of the horizons on this Day of the Covenant, and thou hast turned to the Qiblih of the worlds. We have found the fragrance of thy love and have sent thee from the precincts of the Prison that which will cause thee to inhale the sweet savors of thy Lord's garment in this time wherein the Sun of Revelation hath shone forth from the horizon of might with a magnificent command. Blessed art thou for having honored him who came to thee from thy Lord, for having found solace in him, and for being among those who have turned unto Him. Be thou steadfast in the Cause, verily thy Lord is with thee and will aid thee with a sovereignty from His presence. He is, in truth, the Forgiving, the Generous.

Remember Him in all conditions and say:

> “Praise be unto Thee, O Beloved of the mystics, for having remembered me after I was in the hands of the ungodly.”

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou beholdest my dwelling place and my tribulation, and Thou knowest that in this Tablet I have desired naught save one of Thy loved ones who hath turned to the court of Thy favor, that the breathings of Thy revelation might attract him in Thy days, and that the rapture of reunion might seize him in such wise as to cause him to arise to serve Thee amidst Thy creatures. O Lord! Accept from him that which hath proceeded from him in Thy path, then enable him to do what Thou lovest and approvest. O Lord! Write down for him what Thou hast written for Thy chosen ones, then make him to circle round Thee in all Thy worlds. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent over what Thou pleasest, and the Sovereign over what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH01811: The remembrance of God from the sacred leaf upon…

He is the Mighty, the Triumphant, the Powerful

The remembrance of God from the sacred leaf upon the tree of paradise in this hallowed and luminous spot. God, there is no God but Him.

Verily the Tree of the Bayan was the first tree raised up in truth, and it spoke: “I am God, the Mighty, the Generous.” Through it the fire was kindled in existence and the beauty of the Worshipped One appeared to every seeing eye. Through it the face of misbelief was veiled and the beauty of divine unity dawned from the dayspring of the name All-Knowing. Through it the idols were shattered and God was established upon the throne of manifest might. Through it mysteries were revealed, lights shone forth, and darkness was transformed by this rising, luminous dawn. Thus do my tongue, my heart, my bones, my form, my body, and this wise and brilliant Pen bear witness.

Say: By God the Truth, my lips will not open concerning that which hath aroused hatred in the hearts of the ungodly, nor will my tongue move with that which God my Lord taught me before the creation of the heavens and earths. Say: We desire not to speak a word, but the Spirit speaks within my breast and causes to flow from my pen whatsoever He willeth, for He doeth what He pleaseth. Therefore, O concourse of the earth, take not vengeance upon me for this, but judge fairly in my cause and be not of the wrongdoers. And if this be my crime and sin, and the word of the sinners hath been fulfilled against me, then have mercy, O people, upon me and upon my exile and my suffering and my tribulation at the hands of the deniers. Fear God and transgress not the bounds of God which ye have been commanded to observe in the Book of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Thus did the Dove speak before and speaketh now with verses of compelling attraction, that God’s favor may be completed for those who have believed and His proof may be perfected against the turn-aways.

O Leaf of Paradise! Thy letter hath come before Us and We have learned what was therein, and We were among the witnesses. We heard thy cry of separation after the fire of longing was kindled in thy breast, and We learned what was therein of every sigh and lamentation. Verily thou didst weep in places of joy, so how much more in this tribulation which hath dawned from the horizon of God by mighty decree. And if thou shouldst weep in this sorrow for the duration of the kingdom and rend the garment of patience,

thou wouldst be justified, for by this the mantle of grandeur was rent, the mountains of the Cause were leveled, and the Maids of Heaven cried out in chambers of holy and luminous sanctity. But if thine eyes should turn toward the direction of patience, this would be better for thee with God, thy Lord, the Patient, the Powerful, the Mighty.

And if thou desirest to know what hath befallen Us after Our departure from the City of God, the Mighty, the Generous, know that We journeyed for four known months until We arrived at this prison, which is cut off from the feet of seekers, for it lieth beyond upraised mountains and unnumbered cities and a surging sea and a deep ravine. And We remained therein in sorrow and bewilderment until God should please, for He is the best of judges and the wisest of rulers. And thou, remember thou Our days, then Our sorrow, then Our exile and what befell Us from these wrongdoers. Thus have We imparted to thee what was decreed for Us in this journey and inspired thee with that which is concealed from the eyes of the mystics.

Then convey Our remembrance to all who are in thy land of those who have believed in God and turned away from every rebellious devil. And the Spirit and the light and the glory and the splendor be upon thee and upon every servant who turneth repentant unto God Who created him and fashioned him and made him to be of the guided ones.

BH01850: Lawh-i-Shaykh Fani

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible

The Most Exalted Pen calleth aloud unto all created things, and guideth, in very truth, unto the one Reality. O aged Shaykh! Render thou thanks unto the Well-Beloved of the worlds, in that He hath confirmed thee to attain once again unto the Most Holy Court, and to circumambulate the Ka'bah of the Desired One. This day it behoveth thee to direct mankind unto one single Word— a Word made manifest in the Temple of the Best-Beloved, Who is the All-Compelling over the world and all that is therein. That Word is self-subsisting, and ever shall be. From it all things have appeared, and unto it shall all return. It is the verse: "There is none like unto Him."

He is indeed a true believer in the unity of God who, in this Day, will regard Him as One immeasurably exalted above all the comparisons and likenesses with which men have compared Him. He hath erred grievously who hath mistaken these comparisons and likenesses for God Himself. Consider the relation between the craftsman and his handiwork, between the painter and his painting.

Can it it ever be maintained that the work their hands have produced is the same as themselves? By Him Who is the Lord of the Throne above and of earth below! They can be regarded in no other light except as evidences that proclaim the excellence and perfection of their author.

O Shaykh Fani! By self-surrender [fana'] and perpetual union with God [baqa] is meant that men should merge their will wholly in the Will of God, and regard their desires as utter nothingness beside His Purpose. Whatsoever the Creator commandeth His creatures to observe, the same must they diligently, and with the utmost joy and eagerness, arise and fulfil. They should in no wise allow their fancy to

obscure their judgment, neither should they regard their own imaginings as the voice of the Eternal. In the Prayer of Fasting We have revealed:

> "Should Thy Will decree that out of Thy mouth these words proceed and be addressed unto them, 'Observe, for My Beauty's sake, the fast, O people, and set no limit to its duration,' I swear by the majesty of Thy glory, that every one of them will faithfully observe it, will abstain from whatsoever will violate Thy law, and will continue to do so until they yield up their souls unto Thee."

In this consisteth the complete surrender of one's will to the Will of God. Meditate on this, that thou mayest drink in the waters of everlasting life which flow through the words of the Lord of all mankind, and mayest testify that the one true God hath ever been immeasurably exalted above His creatures. He, verily, is the Incomparable, the Ever-Abiding, the Omniscient, the All-Wise. The station of absolute self-surrender transcendeth, and will ever remain exalted above, every other station.

It behoveth thee to consecrate thyself to the Will of God. Whatsoever hath been revealed in His Tablets is but a reflection of His Will. So complete must be thy consecration, that every trace of worldly desire will be washed from thine heart. This is the meaning of true unity.

Do thou beseech God to enable thee to remain steadfast in this path, and to aid thee to guide the peoples of the world to Him Who is the manifest and sovereign Ruler, Who hath revealed Himself in a distinct attire, Who giveth utterance to a Divine and specific Message.

This is the essence of faith and certitude. They that are the worshipers of the idol which their imaginations have carved, and who call it Inner Reality, such men are in truth accounted among the heathen. To this hath the All-Merciful borne witness in His Tablets. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Through the loving-kindness of the All-Merciful ye must arise to serve in such wise that its fruits may become manifest. Say: O servants! Look ye with the eye of fairness, and take not unto yourselves, in each day, a partner or a likeness beside the True One. Blessed is he that knoweth his station and transgresseth it not—meaning, blessed is the soul that discerneth his own measure and passeth not beyond it.

God willing, ye must, relying upon God, speak in accordance with that which is written in this Tablet, that perchance the vain imaginations may be delivered from the arena of illusion into the expanse of certitude—namely, the recognition of the Temple of Manifestation—one by one. Verily God speaketh the truth, yet men are sunk in grievous delusion. We beseech God to enable all to do that which He loveth and is well pleased with. He is powerful over all things.

BH01854: Suriy-i-Man'

He is the Most Wondrous, the Exalted, the Most Sublime

This is a tablet that speaketh the truth and remembereth one of our servants so that he may render thanks unto God, his Lord, and be counted among them who are grateful. O thou servant, rejoice in thyself inasmuch as God hath made mention of thee on this night—in which the embodiments of all

names were resurrected through the potency of My sovereign and most exalted might and every resplendent dawn yearneth to attain its presence.

Say: O people! By the righteousness of the One True God, the dawn of the Day of God hath risen from the Day Spring of Baha and the Ancient Beauty hath appeared from behind the veils of names in the raiment of My name, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Hasten, O people, to the tabernacle of God and the adored sanctuary of His presence. This is, verily, that which we have ordained for ye in the kingdom of Our irrevocable decree with the pen of glory and wisdom. Journey, O people, with your hearts and not your feet, for We have entered the prison by reason of that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought. This Spot lay behind a thousand mountains and whosoever hath reached for Us wert hindered from clinging to the hem of Our sacred vesture.

Say: those who have forsaken their selves and journeyed towards God and entered paradise—the abode where the Beauty of the All-Merciful was seated upon the Throne of His Name, the Most Mighty, the Great—and were honored by attaining the presence of the All-Glorious, and the glance of God, the King, the Powerful, the Almighty, the All-Knowing turned towards them; they have, verily, attained unto all good. The angels of eternity in the realms above, and the hosts of the unseen behind the mystic tabernacles and the embodiments of names in the kingdom of creation extol their praises. Thus hath the mercy of Thy Lord surpassed His servants who yearn for Him.

By the One in whose hand is my soul, one glance at My Beauty is preferable to that which hath been created between the heavens and the earth and from that which is ordained for all that dwell in the kingdoms of Creation and Revelation. Yet, in this day, whosoever directeth his heart towards the scene of His transcendent glory, God will verily compensate him for this. He is the All-Bountiful, the Ancient One. Say: O people of Baha! Journey not to this Sanctified Spot before leave is granted by Us, thus biddeth ye the Tongue of Might and Grandeur, if ye are of them who observe my precepts. O people! Direct thy steps towards the holy court of God with His acquiescence and at His behest and follow not your own selves and your corrupt desires. Follow the command of thy God, the Exalted, the All-knowing. Say: Heed O people the call of the One amongst you who summoneth you to God, and cast not His testimony behind your backs, and be not of them that transgress.

They who repudiated the signs of God in these days; they have verily reversed the favors of God upon themselves and have worshiped the idols of their vain imaginings and busied themselves therewith. O thou servant! Raise thyself from among them who denied the verses of God after they were sent down unto them and contended with Him and were among the infidels. Know ye that they who believed not in God, their Creator, in this Revelation, had verily waged war against God, and denied His proofs and gainsaid His signs and disbelieved in His sovereignty and were counted among the infidels in the mighty and wondrous tablets. Cleanse thou yourself from the love of these people, turn not thy face to them and befriend them not even for less than an instant.

Avoid the likes of them and cling to the mercy of God and His generosity. Enter then the shores of His holiness—that impregnable and sanctified habitation. Rejoice then in your heart for God hath mentioned thee in His Tablet. By the righteousness of God, this is a blessing with which compareth none other that

hath been created betwixt the earth and heaven. Thus have We revealed unto thee the word of truth, so that thou may follow that which thou hast been commanded by the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

The mercy flowing from the cloud of eternity rest upon ye, O people of Baha! This verily is a manifest mercy from a generous Lord.

BH01837: O Ali-Qabli-Akbar! God willing, through the grace…

In the Name of the Beloved of the Worlds!

O Ali-Qabli-Akbar! God willing, through the grace of the Lord of Destiny thou shalt in all times and conditions be gazing toward the Most Great Horizon and drinking the water of life from the fingers of the mercy of the All-Merciful. Thy turning to the Friend hath been accepted, and thy orientation toward the face of the Beloved is beloved. Although the most exalted summit and the highest station is the meeting place of the two stations in the presence of the Lord of the Worlds—that station being the conjunction of the two nearnesses, namely the outward and inward nearness—this is of God's grace which He bestoweth upon whomsoever He willeth. This station dependeth upon the Divine Will and the Holy Purpose. Often hath it been that the reward of this station hath been recorded for a soul that hath turned to God and found peace, even though outwardly it was not present before the Throne. And likewise hath it often been that less than this hath been recorded for one who was with Him. O Ali! Verily He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth, and He is verily the Mighty, the Powerful.

Be not grieved by separation and remoteness, for the Pen of Divine Command hath decreed nearness and reunion in thy case. The differences in this land and its hidden upheavals are many, many and great, great. Soon that which is concealed therein shall be revealed. I swear by the Sun of holy transcendence that the Ancient King hath been afflicted between two parties. Were anyone to look toward the heart, they would see Him in the two prisons. Thus doth the Dawning-Place of the two Commands and the Possessor of the two Pillars and the Rising-Place of the two Suns recount unto thee.

O ʿAli! Hearken unto the call of the Ancient King, Who calleth from the direction of the Most Great Prison, and praise the Beloved of the world Who hath enabled thee to turn toward the Divine Ka'bah and the Dawning-Place of unique Light. This station is most great—know thou its worth and be grateful at all times.

Previously, wondrous and sublime Tablets were sent down from the heaven of Divine favor specifically for thee and thy relatives, one after another. God willing, you shall attain unto them. Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the Hour was troubled and the Resurrection was shaken, to make me one of those who move not save by Thy leave and breathe not except by Thy command. Verily Thou art powerful over what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous.

O my Lord! I beseech Thee by Thy Name, the All-Prevailing over all names and the Ruler over all who are in earth and heaven, to make me in all conditions one who circleth round Thy Will and gazeth toward the horizon of Thy Purpose, in such wise that I desire naught from Thee except what Thou hast desired and

seek naught save what Thou hast decreed in the Tablets of Thy Decree and written with the Pen of Thy Destiny.

O my God! I testify that Thou art God, there is none other God but Thee. Thou hast ever been established upon the throne of Thy oneness and seated upon the seat of Thy singleness. None can draw nigh unto Thee or soar in the atmosphere of Thy knowledge save to the extent which Thou hast ordained for them through Thy mercy which hath preceded all created things and Thy grace which hath encompassed all existing things.

O my Lord! Ordain for me from Thy bounty that which shall profit me. Verily Thou knowest what is within my soul and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Then write down for me, O my God, the good of this world and the next, and make me one of those for whom Thou hast ordained circumambulation around Thee in every world of Thy worlds. Verily Thou art the Giver, the Bountiful, the Generous.

I am the one, O my God, who hath left his abode, turning toward Thy abode. Thou hearest the lamentation of my heart in my separation from Thee and my yearning to meet Thee. This is my condition, and Thou art the Almighty, the Unconstrained over what Thou desirest.

BH01836: In the Name of the Beloved of the horizons!…

In the Name of the Beloved of the horizons! O Husayn! Hearken to the call of Husayn, Who from the Most Great Prison summons thee. This call quickens the body and brings the soul to its Beloved. O Husayn! Listen with thy heart's ear, that thou mayest attain, through the sweetness of the divine Word, to such a station that thou wilt find thyself, at all times, in a state of joy and delight.

A great bounty hath been bestowed upon thee, in that thou hast twice entered the Most Great Prison and attained the station of nearness and reunion. Though the grace of this station may be concealed today, owing to the lack of capacity of the people of the world, it is witnessed and remembered before God. God willing, thou must arise to serve the Cause and be one of its servants. This station is most great—know thou its worth and act according to its conditions. With complete detachment and spiritual qualities thou must occupy thyself among the servants with the mention and praise of God, that perchance the worshippers of vain imaginings may become mindful and turn to the Lord of all beings.

To the friends in every land, if thou meetest them, convey greetings from this Wronged One. Say: O ye who soar in the atmosphere of divine love and O ye who seek the heavenly Sanctuary! This is the day of steadfastness. Ye must become so steadfast that the fragrances of your steadfastness may waft over the people of all lands. Today is the day of assistance—strive that ye may not remain deprived of service to the Cause in the days of God. The people of hypocrisy lie in wait—be vigilant! And the companions of wickedness are filled with hatred—be aware! Ye are all mentioned in the presence of this Face and all your names are recorded in the Tablet. This is among the great divine bounties, as the Tongue of Grandeur and Power doth testify. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed Witness.

O Husayn! Were this Wronged One to recount what hath befallen Him, it would surely cause grief to all the peoples of the world. We have therefore concealed most of these matters and deemed it inappropriate to reveal them, in consideration of the Most Great Mercy. Yet thou art aware of some of

these things. Nevertheless, at all times We speak forth the verses of God and stand firm in the promotion of His Cause. The tyranny of the oppressors, the harm of the transgressors, the turning away of the deniers, and the afflictions and successive tribulations that have befallen Us—all these are as nothing and unworthy of mention, for whatever hath occurred and continueth to occur hath been in the path of the Beloved of the worlds. With yearning soul We long for it.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou seest the Wronged One in the hands of the oppressors among Thy creation and the idolaters among Thy creatures. I beseech Thee by Thy power which Thou didst manifest from the horizon of the prison, the Dawning-Place of Thy verses, and by the call which was raised therein through Thy might and sovereignty, to make me detached from all who are on earth, turning unto Thee, firm in Thy love, steadfast in Thy Cause, celebrating Thy remembrance, and proclaiming Thy Name. O Lord! Aid me to serve Thee amongst Thy servants and to praise Thee amidst Thy creation. Then ordain for me that which befitteth the heaven of Thy generosity and bounty, and the clouds of Thy grace and favors.

O Lord! I have hastened unto Thee and turned to the Dayspring of Thy Cause and the Dawning-Place of Thy power, and have attained unto that which most of Thy creatures have been prevented from. I beseech Thee by Thy Most Exalted Name and by Thy Most Supreme Self to make me one of those who recognize Thy bounty and what Thou hast bestowed upon them at the dawning of the lights of Thy countenance and the manifestations of the Sun of Thy mercy. I am he who, O my God, hath been assured of Thy greatness and hath acknowledged Thy majesty. Preserve me, then, in all conditions, from that which Thy good-pleasure abhorreth. Verily, Thou art the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH01834: O Ali! Hear My call from this Prison wherein…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O Ali! Hear My call from this Prison wherein I remain alone amidst enemies, finding no helper for Myself save God, thy Lord and the Lord of all things and the Lord of all worlds. Beware lest thou forget the days when thou wert in the presence of the Countenance. Remember thy Lord and be not of the heedless. We have not forgotten thee, for We have loved faithfulness before the creation of the heavens and the earth.

Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord. By God the Truth! This is the Day to aid thy Lord—aid Him and be not of the patient ones. Leave those who have denied on thy left, then turn to the right, the seat of thy Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Remember the days thou wert with Us and what thou didst hear from this truthful, pure and wondrous Mouth.

Stand firm in the love of thy Lord, for by it all created things are purified, wert thou of those who know. Yet by it God distinguished between the concourse of creation and he in whose heart was the love of God—he is today among the denizens of the Supreme Concourse, wert thou of those who know. Arise and remember thy Lord, and fear no one but place thy trust in God, the King of the Mighty Throne.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Do ye deny Him Who was among you, from Whom in every moment there dawned upon you suns of glory and majesty, then suns of power and sovereignty, and Who was more

merciful to you than your own selves, and Who watched over you and conversed with you as one of you, and associated with you morning and evening, and from Whom ye perceived the fragrance of the Beloved at dawn and at dusk? By God the Truth! Whoso denieth Him after He hath come with all the signs hath denied God from all eternity and will deny Him unto all eternity.

Say: I know not, O people of the Bayan, what ye seek to prove the Truth. If ye seek God's power, by God it hath appeared in truth. If ye seek the attributes of the All-Merciful, they have emerged with justice. If ye desire God's signs, they have been sent down in truth in such wise as to fill the East and West, were ye of the fair-minded. Fear God and His Manifestation, and ascribe not partners unto Him after all atoms testify that there is no God but Him—He hath no likeness, no peer, no opposite, no equal, no similitude, no partner.

Say: O people! Hearken unto the melodies of the All-Merciful from the direction of the Ridvan at this time wherein the Beauty of the Unseen hath appeared with all His attributes, manifestations, signs, tokens, evidences, proofs, arguments and words. Be not among the dead! O people! Be quickened by this Kawthar which floweth from the right side of this Most Great, Mighty and Firm Corner. Cast not God's Cause behind you, render not your deeds vain, and be not among the rebellious.

Thus hath the Tongue of God conversed with His servant that he might hear and be among the thankful. Be content with what hath flowed unto thee from the Holy Pen, then read it that it might kindle in thy heart the Fire of God, the Kindled, the Luminous. Then convey Our greetings to thy wife and give her the glad-tidings of Our mention of her, that she might be among the grateful women. This is a mighty bounty.

And the Glory be upon thee and upon those with thee among the loved ones of God, the King, the Truth, the Just, the Wise.

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BH11719: These are the holy verses sent down…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

These are the holy verses sent down from the presence of God, the One, the Single, the Alone, calling the people to the paradise of eternity, the station of My Most Glorious Name in the heaven of thy Lord, the Most High, the Trusted One. Verily, those endowed with illumined vision behold the effulgences of the Countenance from the direction of God, the One, the Single, the Alone, the Self-Subsisting. When the lights of eternity dawned upon them from the horizon of their Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, they fell prostrate before Him.

O servant! Know thou that thy name hath been mentioned in the holy presence, and We have revealed unto thee decisive verses whereby the eyes of all created things are cleansed from every veil and inflammation. Say: O people! Take hold of the Book of God with strength, cast behind you all that hindereth you from it, and take up your abode in the shade of thy Lord's mercy, an impregnable station.

O people! Deprive not yourselves of God's sanctuary, and consort not with those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, and are among those who recognized God's bounty, then denied it. Purify thyself with the living waters flowing from the right hand of the Throne, then seek His grace, for His grace descendeth upon all created things without measure or count.

Grieve not over the world and its hardships, but place thy trust in all matters in thy Lord. Verily, He preserveth whosoever trusteth in Him and seeketh His aid. He will assist thee with the means of the heavens and earth, and will send down from the clouds of grace that which will draw thee nigh unto Him and distance thee from all who deny and deviate.

O servant! If thou desirest to know what hath befallen the Youth, know that He hath been cast into the well of hatred, and there hath befallen Him from oppression that which hath befallen none else among all created things. To this testify all atoms and beyond them the Most Knowing, Most Truthful, Most Witnessing Tongue of God. Say: O people! Ye have committed that which hath caused the pillars of the Cause to crumble, the foundations of the Throne to tremble, the fire above the air to be extinguished, and the water of paradise to freeze.

Say: God is the Creator of all things and is powerful over whatsoever He willeth. Soon will He assist whomsoever He pleaseth with the hosts of might and power. There is no helper save Him; He causeth whomsoever He willeth to triumph over whomsoever He pleaseth through assembled hosts.

Know thou that I have fallen into the well of rancor and hatred in this most remote and distant prison, and there befalleth Me at every moment that which none can reckon save God. Would that I had not been born into creation, or had I been born, would that I had not been suckled, or had I been suckled, would that I had not been reared, or had I been reared, would that I had not reached maturity, or had I reached maturity, would that I had not been inspired, or had I been inspired, would that I had not revealed the mysteries through utterance, for thereby have risen against Me all who believed in God, then turned away.

Say: We have spent Our soul and all We possess in the path of God. Once was I slain by the sword of hatred in the time of the First Adam, once was I cast into the fire, once was My head severed upon the platter, once was I crucified upon the cross, once was I suspended in the air, and now have I fallen into the pit of envy. We thank God for all this and for what hath befallen Us, and We praise Him for His decree. Verily, He heareth the cry of those who are in distress.

Thus have We revealed unto thee what hath befallen Us, that thou mayest be apprised of My Cause and remain steadfast upon the path of God, the Mighty, the Extended. And glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among those who have remained firm in their station of certitude in the Cause of their Lord, the All-Merciful, and who are among the people of guidance.

BH01883: Thy letter was presented before the Countenance and was…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Thy letter was presented before the Countenance and was the object of loving attention. Praise be to God that thou art adorned with the ornament of the praise and glorification of Him Who is the Self-Sufficing, and art embellished with love for the Beloved of all creation. Blessed is the life that is spent in the service of the Truth, blessed is the tongue that speaketh His praise, and blessed is the heart that is gladdened by His remembrance. Give thanks unto God for having been enabled to inhale the fragrance of the garment of thy Lord's remembrance amongst His servants. We beseech Him, exalted be He, to strengthen thee in that which thou art engaged in, and to inspire thee at every moment with that which shall guide all who dwell in the realms of being to the Cause of thy Lord.

That which thou didst mention concerning the people of M hath been observed. We beseech God, glorified and exalted be He, to aid all to turn unto the true Kaaba. How excellent is the state of those souls who, in these days, have drunk from the Kawthar of the knowledge of the All-Merciful, who have detached themselves from that which the people possess, and who have held fast unto the Truth. Upon them be the glory of their Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Strive with utmost endeavor to unite hearts and souls. He, verily, will aid thee under all conditions. He is with thee and will help thee through the truth. He, verily, is potent over all things.

This land is in great turmoil, and this Wronged One is afflicted between two parties. Consider what hath befallen and continueth to befall the seventy souls in the Most Great Prison. Reflect upon those who were imprisoned with the Point for but a few hours, and likewise those who gathered with the Beloved in Tiberias. When matters became severe, they intensified and committed what they committed. Thus was it ordained and thus will it be ordained. Thy Lord is, verily, the Self-Subsisting, the Almighty, Whom nothing whatsoever can frustrate in His purpose. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. That which was revealed in the Tablets sent down in Iraq and in the Land of Mystery, and at the beginning of Our arrival in the Most Great Prison, hath come to pass. Thy Lord is, verily, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Know thou that Rida-Quli hath rebelled against God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Thou beholdest Thy servant, who is named Ali, who hath turned towards Thee and set his face toward Thy countenance, who hath inhaled the fragrance of the garment of Thy mercy, who hath arisen to serve Thy Cause and to aid Thy Faith among Thy creatures, and who remembereth Thee amongst Thy servants. I beseech Thee by Thy power that hath prevailed over all things, and by Thy Name which Thou hast made the Sovereign of all names, to aid him in such wise that there may appear through him that which will exalt Thy Cause in Thy lands and uplift Thy Word in Thy realms. O my Lord! Thou hast ever been powerful over whatsoever Thou hast willed, and wilt ever remain as Thou hast been from time immemorial. Ordain for him that which beseemeth the loftiness of Thy glory and the sublimity of Thy majesty. Then write down for him that which Thou hast written for the sincere ones among Thy chosen ones. Then inspire him with that which will draw men nigh unto the shore of the glory of Thy sanctification and bring them to the stronghold of the glory of Thy unity. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Ever-Forgiving.

Convey My greetings to the loved ones of thy Lord in that place, then gladden them with this perspicuous remembrance, and to those who have believed among the people of Sin. Thy Lord is, verily, the All-Remembering, the All-Knowing. Say: O My loved ones! While ye are in your homes, the Lord of all worlds

remembereth you in the prison. Rejoice ye in the breezes of the remembrance of your Lord and in the rustling that hath been raised from the Most Exalted Pen for your remembrance, O ye who have turned towards Him. That which beseemeth you is steadfastness in this straight Path. Glory be upon you and upon those on whose faces can be seen the radiance of God, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH01880: Say: We have caused the rivers of Divine utterance…

Say: We have caused the rivers of Divine utterance to proceed out of Our throne, that the tender herbs of wisdom and understanding may spring forth from the soil of your hearts. Will ye not be thankful? They who disdain to worship their Lord shall be of those who are cast off. And oft as Our verses are rehearsed unto them, they persist in proud disdain, and in their gross violation of His law, and know it not. As for them who have disbelieved in Him, they shall be in the shadow of a black smoke. "The Hour" hath come upon them, while they are disporting themselves. They have been seized by their forelock, and yet know it not.

The thing that must come hath come suddenly; behold how they flee from it! The inevitable hath come to pass; witness how they have cast it behind their backs! This is the Day whereon every man will fly from himself, how much more from his kindred, could ye but perceive it. Say: By God! The blast hath been blown on the trumpet, and lo, mankind hath swooned away before us! The Herald hath cried out, and the Summoner raised His voice saying:

> "The Kingdom is God's, the Most Powerful, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting."

This is the Day on which all eyes shall stare up with terror, the Day in which the hearts of them that dwell on earth shall tremble, save them whom thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, pleaseth to deliver. All faces have turned black except those to whom the God of Mercy hath vouchsafed a radiant heart. Drunken are the eyes of those men that have openly refused to behold the face of God, the All-Glorious, the All-Praised.

Say: Perused ye not the Qur'an? Read it, that haply ye may find the Truth, for this Book is verily the Straight Path. This is the Way of God unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth. If ye have been careless of the Qur'an, the Bayan cannot be regarded to be remote from you. Behold it open before your eyes. Read ye its verses, that perchance ye desist from committing that which will cause the Messengers of God to mourn and lament.

Speed out of your sepulchers. How long will ye sleep? The second blast hath been blown on the trumpet. On whom are ye gazing? This is your Lord, the God of Mercy. Witness how ye gainsay His signs! The earth hath quaked with a great quaking, and cast forth her burdens. Will ye not admit it? Say: Will ye not recognize how the mountains have become like flocks of wool, how the people are sore vexed at the awful majesty of the Cause of God? Witness how their houses are empty ruins, and they themselves a drowned host.

This is the Day whereon the All-Merciful hath come down in the clouds of knowledge, clothed with manifest sovereignty. He well knoweth the actions of men. He it is Whose glory none can mistake, could ye but comprehend it. The heaven of every religion hath been rent, and the earth of human

understanding been cleft asunder, and the angels of God are seen descending. Say: This is the Day of mutual deceit; whither do ye flee? The mountains have passed away, and the heavens have been folded together, and the whole earth is held within His grasp, could ye but understand it. Who is it that can protect you? None, by Him Who is the All-Merciful! None, except God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Beneficent. Every woman that hath had a burden in her womb hath cast her burden. We see men drunken in this Day, the Day in which men and angels have been gathered together.

Say: Is there any doubt concerning God? Behold how He hath come down from the heaven of His grace, girded with power and invested with sovereignty. Is there any doubt concerning His signs? Open ye your eyes, and consider His clear evidence. Paradise is on your right hand, and hath been brought nigh unto you, while Hell hath been made to blaze. Witness its devouring flame. Haste ye to enter into Paradise, as a token of Our mercy unto you, and drink ye from the hands of the All-Merciful the Wine that is life indeed. Drink with healthy relish, O people of Baha. Ye are indeed they with whom it shall be well. This is what they who have near access to God have attained. This is the flowing water ye were promised in the Qur'an, and later in the Bayan, as a recompense from your Lord, the God of Mercy. Blessed are they that quaff it.

O My servant that hath turned thy face towards Me! Render thanks unto God for having sent down unto thee this Tablet in this Prison, that thou mayest remind the people of the days of thy Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing. Thus have We established for thee, through the waters of Our wisdom and utterance, the foundations of thy belief. This, verily, is the water whereon the Throne of thy Lord hath been raised. "His Throne had stood upon the waters." Ponder this in thine heart, that thou mayest comprehend its meaning. Say: Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH01888: These are, O my God, the days whereon Thou…

These are, O my God, the days whereon Thou didst enjoin Thy servants to observe the fast. With it Thou didst adorn the preamble of the Book of Thy Laws revealed unto Thy creatures, and didst deck forth the Repositories of Thy commandments in the sight of all who are in Thy heaven and all who are on Thy earth. Thou hast endowed every hour of these days with a special virtue, inscrutable to all except Thee, Whose knowledge embraceth all created things. Thou hast, also, assigned unto every soul a portion of this virtue in accordance with the Tablet of Thy decree and the Scriptures of Thine irrevocable judgment. Every leaf of these Books and Scriptures Thou hast, moreover, alloted to each one of the peoples and kindreds of the earth.

For Thine ardent lovers Thou hast, according to Thy decree, reserved, at each daybreak, the cup of Thy remembrance, O Thou Who art the Ruler of rulers! These are they who have been so inebriated with the wine of Thy manifold wisdom that they forsake their couches in their longing to celebrate Thy praise and extol Thy virtues, and flee from sleep in their eagerness to approach Thy presence and partake of Thy bounty. Their eyes have, at all times, been bent upon the Day-Spring of Thy loving-kindness, and their faces set towards the Fountain-Head of Thine inspiration. Rain down, then, upon us and upon them from the clouds of Thy mercy what beseemeth the heaven of Thy bounteousness and grace.

Lauded be Thy name, O my God! This is the hour when Thou hast unlocked the doors of Thy bounty before the faces of Thy creatures, and opened wide the portals of Thy tender mercy unto all the dwellers of Thine earth. I beseech Thee, by all them whose blood was shed in Thy path, who, in their yearning over Thee, rid themselves from all attachment to any of Thy creatures, and who were so carried away by the sweet savors of Thine inspiration that every single member of their bodies intoned Thy praise and vibrated to Thy remembrance, not to withhold from us the things Thou hast irrevocably ordained in this Revelation—a Revelation the potency of which hath caused every tree to cry out what the Burning Bush had aforetime proclaimed unto Moses, Who conversed with Thee, a Revelation that hath enabled every least pebble to resound again with Thy praise, as the stones glorified Thee in the days of Muhammad, Thy Friend.

These are the ones, O my God, whom Thou hast graciously enabled to have fellowship with Thee and to commune with Him Who is the Revealer of Thyself. The winds of Thy will have scattered them abroad until Thou didst gather them together beneath Thy shadow, and didst cause them to enter into the precincts of Thy court. Now that Thou hast made them to abide under the shade of the canopy of Thy mercy, do Thou assist them to attain what must befit so august a station. Suffer them not, O my Lord, to be numbered with them who, though enjoying near access to Thee, have been kept back from recognizing Thy face, and who, though meeting with Thee, are deprived of Thy presence.

These are Thy servants, O my Lord, who have entered with Thee in this, the Most Great Prison, who have kept the fast within its walls according to what Thou hadst commanded them in the Tablets of Thy decree and the Books of Thy behest. Send down, therefore, upon them what will thoroughly purge them of all Thou abhorrest, that they may be wholly devoted to Thee, and may detach themselves entirely from all except Thyself.

Rain down, then, upon us, O my God, that which beseemeth Thy grace and befitteth Thy bounty. Enable us, then, O my God, to live in remembrance of Thee and to die in love of Thee, and supply us with the gift of Thy presence in Thy worlds hereafter—worlds which are inscrutable to all except Thee. Thou art our Lord and the Lord of all worlds, and the God of all that are in heaven and all that are on earth.

Thou beholdest, O my God, what hath befallen Thy dear ones in Thy days. Thy glory beareth me witness! The voice of the lamentation of Thy chosen ones hath been lifted up throughout Thy realm. Some were ensnared by the infidels in Thy land, and were hindered by them from having near access to Thee and from attaining the court of Thy glory. Others were able to approach Thee, but were kept back from beholding Thy face. Still others were permitted, in their eagerness to look upon Thee, to enter the precincts of Thy court, but they allowed the veils of the imaginations of Thy creatures and the wrongs inflicted by the oppressors among Thy people to come in between them and Thee.

This is the hour, O my Lord, which Thou hast caused to excel every other hour, and hast related it to the choicest among Thy creatures. I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy Self and by them, to ordain in the course of this year what shall exalt Thy loved ones. Do Thou, moreover, decree within this year what will enable the Day-Star of Thy power to shine brightly above the horizon of Thy glory, and to illuminate, by Thy sovereign might, the whole world.

Render Thy Cause victorious, O my Lord, and abase Thou Thine enemies. Write down, then, for us the good of this life and of the life to come. Thou art the Truth, Who knoweth the secret things. No God is there but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful.

BH01924: By Him Who is the Great Announcement! The All-Merciful…

In the name of God, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate

By Him Who is the Great Announcement! The All-Merciful is come invested with undoubted sovereignty. The Balance hath been appointed, and all them that dwell on earth have been gathered together. The Trumpet hath been blown, and lo, all eyes have stared up with terror, and the hearts of all who are in the heavens and on the earth have trembled, except them whom the breath of the verses of God hath quickened, and who have detached themselves from all things.

This is the Day whereon the earth shall tell out her tidings. The workers of iniquity are her burdens, could ye but perceive it. The moon of idle fancy hath been cleft, and the heaven hath given out a palpable smoke. We see the people laid low, awed with the dread of thy Lord, the Almighty, the Most Powerful. The Crier hath cried out, and men have been torn away, so great hath been the fury of His wrath. The people of the left hand sigh and bemoan. The people of the right abide in noble habitations: they quaff the Wine that is life indeed, from the hands of the All-Merciful, and are, verily, the blissful.

The earth hath been shaken, and the mountains have passed away, and the angels have appeared, rank on rank, before Us. Most of the people are bewildered in their drunkenness and wear on their faces the evidences of anger. Thus have We gathered together the workers of iniquity. We see them rushing on towards their idol. Say: None shall be secure this Day from the decree of God. This indeed is a grievous Day. We point out to them those that led them astray. They see them, and yet recognize them not. Their eyes are drunken; they are indeed a blind people. Their proofs are the calumnies they uttered; condemned are their calumnies by God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. The Evil One hath stirred up mischief in their hearts, and they are afflicted with a torment that none can avert. They hasten to the wicked, bearing the register of the workers of iniquity. Such are their doings.

Say: The heavens have been folded together, and the earth is held within His grasp, and the corrupt doers have been held by their forelock, and still they understand not. They drink of the tainted water, and know it not. Say: The shout hath been raised, and the people have come forth from their graves, and arising, are gazing around them. Some have made haste to attain the court of the God of Mercy, others have fallen down on their faces in the fire of Hell, while still others are lost in bewilderment. The verses of God have been revealed, and yet they have turned away from them. His proof hath been manifested, and yet they are unaware of it. And when they behold the face of the All-Merciful, their own faces are saddened, while they are disporting themselves. They hasten forward to Hell Fire, and mistake it for light. Far from God be what they fondly imagine! Say: Whether ye rejoice or whether ye burst for fury, the heavens are cleft asunder, and God hath come down, invested with radiant sovereignty. All created things are heard exclaiming: “The Kingdom is God’s, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.”

Know thou, moreover, that We have been cast into an afflictive Prison, and are encompassed with the hosts of tyranny, as a result of what the hands of the infidels have wrought. Such is the gladness, however, which the Youth hath tasted that no earthly joy can compare unto it. By God! The harm He suffereth at the hands of the oppressor can never grieve His heart, nor can He be saddened by the ascendancy of such as have repudiated His truth.

Say: Tribulation is a horizon unto My Revelation. The daystar of grace shineth above it, and sheddeth a light which neither the clouds of men's idle fancy nor the vain imaginations of the aggressor can obscure.

Follow thou the footsteps of thy Lord, and remember His servants even as He doth remember thee, undeterred by either the clamor of the heedless ones or the sword of the enemy....

We have, ere now, sent unto thee a Tablet; and unto every soul in every land have been sent down the verses of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing. We beseech God that thine eyes may be comforted thereby and through them; verily He is powerful over all things.

Spread abroad the sweet savors of thy Lord, and hesitate not, though it be for less than a moment, in the service of His Cause. The day is approaching when the victory of thy Lord, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Bountiful, will be proclaimed.

Warn the people on behalf of thy Lord; then gather them upon the shore of the sea, and be not of those who are patient. And glory be upon thee from God, the Lord of all worlds, and upon thy family—each one, the young and the old.

BH01938: In the Name of God, the Most Holy...

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! This is a noble Book sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and all-knowing. Verily it is the Spirit of the Command through which the hearts of them that know are quickened, and verily it is the Lamp of God between the heavens and the earth, and verily it is a mercy and remembrance for all the worlds.

O Mim, hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, from the direction of His Name, the Most High, the Most Great. He calleth thee from the prison at a time when entrance and exit are forbidden, due to that which the hands of the transgressors have wrought. Soon shall the prison door be opened—thus doth thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, apprise thee. He loveth tribulation in the path of His Lord even as they that are sincere love the countenance of their Lord, the Dawning, the Luminous. Sorrows have not prevented Us from remembering the name of Our Lord, the All-Merciful, nor shall the might of the oppressors prevent Me. Remember Him at all times and summon the people unto Him—thus hast thou been commanded by One mighty and powerful.

O Ha', hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Most Glorious. Arise to serve the Cause, then remind the people of this momentous News, that perchance they may arise from the slumber of vain desires and turn towards the supreme horizon in these days wherein the Sun of the beauty of thy Lord hath dawned upon all created things with manifest sovereignty. Be thou of such constancy that the vicissitudes of time prevent thee not from the direction of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, that thy face may shine amongst Our

heedless servants. Confine thy affairs to His remembrance and praise, then gather the people unto the Most Great Ocean—thus hath the Tongue of Revelation commanded thee from this remote prison.

O Mim, hearken once again unto the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. He speaketh the truth: "Verily I am God, there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Bestower." Arise to serve the Cause, then stand firm and say: "O people! The heaven hath been folded up, and the moon hath been cleft asunder, and the All-Glorious hath come upon the clouds of divine knowledge. Fear God and break not God's Covenant and Testament. Hasten to the Kawthar of grace—this is better for you than all that hath been created in existence." Behold those who were unjust of old—their traces have been effaced, their roofs have fallen in, and their couches have been rolled up until the flames encompassed them. Soon shall the breezes of torment seize these who have denied God. Verily thy Lord is severe in punishment, and He is the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

O Letter Dal! Call the people with wisdom and utterance—thus have We commanded the servants in all the Tablets, yet most of them understand not. They cast the Command of God behind their backs until sedition seized all regions, and thy Lord witnessed what they did. Had they followed God's Command it would have been better for them than what they desired. Soon will He raise up His Cause as He pleaseth—there is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

Make mention of My loved ones on My behalf, then bring them beneath the shadow of thy Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the Loving. Say: O My loved ones! The Pen hath been prevented from remembrance, and behind Me are an oppressive people—otherwise I would have sent down for each one of you verses from the All-Merciful from this praiseworthy station. Be ye united in the Cause of your Lord, then hearken unto him who remindeth you by Our leave, and hold fast in all conditions to the Sure Handle, and trust in Him at all times. He is with you and will aid you with His sovereignty, and with Him is the knowledge of all things, and He is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

Make mention of the worshipper on Our behalf—his name was mentioned at this moment before the Throne, therefore hath the Pen inscribed his name. Thy Lord is possessed of great bounty. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH01979: This is a Book wherein is mentioned every good…

He is the Mighty.

This is a Book wherein is mentioned every good thing detailed from God, the Exalted, the Great, and wherein every soul receives its portion according as it is, if ye be of them that understand. Blessed is he who withholds not from himself that which is ordained for him and is of them that are detached. We beseech God at all times that He shut not the gates of mercy before his face and cut not off from him that which descendeth from the heaven of mighty, resplendent glory. Thus have We commanded the servants from a beginning that hath no beginning, and thus do We command them now, if ye be of them that understand.

Then know thou that thy letter hath come before Us and We have learned what was therein, and We were among the witnesses. We have ordained for thee as recompense therefor in the heaven of holiness

abundant good which none among the worlds can reckon. Thus have We shown favor unto thee even as We showed favor unto Our near-serving servants, that thou mayest rejoice in thy soul and be steadfast in the love of thy Lord. Verily there is no God but He and He is the protector of the doers of good.

We have learned in thy letter how thou hast made for Us a couch of woven damask and desired to send it unto Us, that thou mightest be of them that send gifts. Know thou that We have accepted it from thee and We beseech God to recompense thee from Us with a goodly recompense and to bestow upon thee the knowledge of His Self, and this is better than whatsoever is in the heavens and earths. However, after accepting it We have bestowed it back upon thee, for We have desired to sit upon the earth in this remote prison, and silk carpets befit not the imprisoned one, if ye be of them that understand. And if thou art not content with this, then send it to Our name the penitent one that he may do what is intended. Thus have We commanded thee in this Tablet that thou mayest be of them that act.

Remind thyself and then thy father not to be heedless of that which the Spirit cast upon him when he was seated before God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Powerful, and not to doubt what We have revealed unto him, that he may be of them that are firmly established. Say: By God, thou hast attained unto that which none in all the worlds hath attained, for when people came before God they knew Him not, and therefore attained not unto that which thou hast attained according as thou wert, and thus none shall surpass thee if thou be of them that are certain.

Be thou steadfast in thy love to such degree that were all who are on earth to draw swords against thee and the Samiri to call thee to all that is on earth with every manifest deception, thou wouldst stand against them through God's power and sovereignty and God's might and glory in such wise that thou wouldst neither be troubled in thy soul nor would thine eye turn away from this blessed and luminous Face. And when thou art adorned with what We have cast upon thee of the comprehensive Word, thou wilt be able to soar with Me in the realms of eternity, a station unto which neither the birds of hearts nor minds of the believers can soar. Thus have We inspired thee and taught thee and cast upon thee that which will preserve thee from the darts of satans.

Preserve thou this Tablet and recite it most days lest thou become heedless of what God hath willed for thee therein and be of them that are detached. And the Spirit and Glory be upon thee and upon thy father and upon all who have believed in God and His signs, whether female or male, young or old.

BH01962: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious! Blessed art thou, for thy letter hath come before Our presence in this mighty prison. Whosoever calleth upon God after the Ancient Beauty hath entered the Most Great Prison, the Supreme Pen recordeth for him that which the people of creation cannot reckon. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

This is the Day of remembrance and utterance. Blessed is he whose letter cometh before the face of his Lord, the All-Merciful, and who is adorned with the ornament of faith. He is, verily, on a straight path. Give thanks unto God, thy Lord, for having enabled thee to attain unto this. This is indeed a manifest grace.

Be thou so steadfast in the Cause that through thee may be made steadfast those servants who are perturbed and hesitant in the Cause of their Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Proclaim the Cause of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, with wisdom and utterance. Thus doth the Beloved of the worlds command thee.

Drink thou the pure water of immortality from the word of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised. He who drinketh thereof, neither the allusions of all who dwell on earth can deter him from the Lord of Names, nor the veils of the people of idle fancy from drawing nigh unto the kingdom of his Lord, the Most Glorious. Cast behind thee that which occureth to the minds of men and turn thou unto the Most Sublime Vision. Thus doth the Ancient of Days command thee. Verily thy Lord is the Commander, the All-Knowing.

Say: O concourse of divines! Hold your pens, for by God the Supreme Pen moveth upon the Tablet of Destiny. Therefore keep silent about that which ye mention, for lo, the Tree beyond which there is no passing speaketh the truth. Turn ye unto it and be not of the heedless. Are ye occupied with your words? Open your eyes, O company of evil ones! The King of Words hath appeared from the heaven of utterance on the part of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Say: Leave ye the barking of dogs, for the Dove warbleth upon the branches in diverse melodies upon the twigs of the Tree of Manifestation with such strains as draw unto them the hearts of all on earth. Verily your Lord, the All-Merciful, is witness unto what I say. Say: Abandon ye the pond, for lo, the Most Great Ocean hath appeared, gathered from the Kawthar which flowed from the Source of the letter “H” that endeth in the Sovereign of Names. Thus doth the All-Informed apprise you.

Say: Do ye imagine that He desireth aught for Himself? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! He hath sacrificed Himself for your life. How strange that those who have drawn the swords of passion against the countenance of Him Who desired to admit them into the kingdom of their Lord, the Mighty, the All-Wise! We desired immortality for the people of creation, yet they have gathered to slay Me. Soon shall they find themselves in manifest loss.

We have nurtured thee for My help and have cast upon thee the Word from the tongue of grandeur that thou mayest arise to make mention of Me amongst My servants and bring them nigh unto the heaven of My loving-kindness and cause them to enter My hallowed and exalted Kingdom. It behooveth thee to be stirred by My will. By this will God exalt thee through a command from His presence. He is verily the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Adorn thy temple with the ornament of servitude in such wise that the servants who slumber upon their couches may thereby be awakened after the Summoner hath proclaimed: “The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Mighty, the All-Praised!” Through this shall the Cause be established and that which thy Lord, the Lord of all worlds, hath purposed shall be confirmed.

Grieve not because of those who have disbelieved and acted unjustly. Turn thou unto God under all conditions. Arise and say: O people! The Self-Subsisting hath come from the Orient of the Will of your Lord, the All-Merciful. Fear ye God and be not of the mischief-makers. Verily thy Lord will protect thee through the truth and will send down upon thee from the heaven of His bounty that which will gladden thy heart. He is verily the Mighty, the All-Wise. And glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee.

BH02009: Know thou that the heedless banished us…

In the Name of God the Most Holy, the Exalted, the Most High

Know thou that the heedless banished us from the City of God with such manifest injustice that the voice of weeping was raised betwixt earth and heaven, and the dwellers of the Realm above cried out in lamentation; yet was this Youth filled with perspicuous gladness.

At the time of Our departure one of the believers offered up his life as a sacrifice in his love for God, the Lord of all worlds. In ringing tones We called upon the people, summoning them unto the Court of Holiness; nor did Our tribulations prevent Us on that momentous Day from yielding praises unto God. So continuous was the stream of Verses descending from the Heaven of thy Lord, the Possessor of all Names and Attributes, that their sweet savours encompassed all the worlds. Those in whose hearts was the light of thy Lord perceived the fragrance of Our raiment and, turning their faces towards God, severed themselves from all else but Him; while the heedless inhaled not the sweet breaths of holiness, which passed over them even as the wafting of the dawn breezes over those who slumber.

At length we arrived at the ocean's shore; then did He Who is the Most Mighty Ocean embark upon the ship, and in this there are signs for them that truly believe. The ship set sail upon its voyage, continuing on its course until at length it came to rest before a city named Izmir. Here the one who hath been designated by Our Name, Munir, fell down upon his face before this Youth, laid hold upon His foot, and begged that he might sacrifice his life in the way of God even as he lay there before Us with his arms clasped around Our foot. Thy Lord, verily, hath power over all things. Ever had Our suppliant entreated of his Lord this exalted, glorious, and peerless station. God granted him his wish, and We commanded that he leave the ship. Shortly after he had disembarked, his soul ascended unto the Supreme Horizon.

By God! The company of God's well-favoured angels came forth to meet him, and on that day a continual descending and ascending took place as one group from the Concourse on High came down to meet him and another group returned unto their retreats on high. Thus, truly, did it come to pass. Thy Lord, verily, is the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.

Then did the ship continue on its way by the leave of God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, until we arrived before the city in which hath been imprisoned He through Whose appearance the eyes of God's Messengers were gladdened. We disembarked from the ship, and with Us the whole band of Our companions save only four, who were prevented by the oppressors from accompanying Us, and whose hearts so blazed forth that one of them, in his grief at separation from Us, cast himself from the first deck of the ship into the sea. Such was the treatment We received from those who, though they invoke Our Name by day and by night, are bereft of understanding. Even as he cast himself into the sea he called upon God by this Most Great, this Glorious Name, whereupon a company of guardian angels laid hold upon him, as bidden by God, the Sovereign, the Just, the All-Knowing, and bore him up until such time as help could reach him. Thus was it decreed by One Who is the Most Powerful, the Almighty.

God is My witness! The things that have befallen us in the way of God are such as neither the pens of the whole earth can describe nor the tongues of all its peoples recount; yet, filled by a joy with which the joy of all the world cannot compare, We say:

> "Praise be to Thee, O Lord my God, for having made us the object of Thine irrevocable decree, and for having singled us out to bear tribulations in the pathway of Thy love and Thy good pleasure. I ask Thee by Thine own Self to protect Thy loved ones from whatsoever may prevent them from remembering Thee and from speaking forth Thy praise. Cause them, then, to remain steadfast in these days when most of the people of Thy Kingdom have been held back from turning towards Thy face. Thou, truly, art powerful to do what Thou willest, and Thou, truly, art the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting."

The things that befell Us on Our departure and Our arrival had previously been revealed, and now in this Tablet We have reiterated them, that thou mayest be of those who are informed. Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds!

BH02005: Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

Glorified be He Who sendeth down the verses in truth. Verily there is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command. He ordains whatsoever He willeth by His command, and He encompasseth all things. He hath sent down by His command a Word in truth and made it the sword of His Cause between the heavens and the earth, whereby He distinguisheth between the misbeliever and the believer in divine unity, for He is powerful over all things. He hath made it the magnet of attraction between the heavens and the earth, drawing unto itself the essences of existence while leaving behind mere accidents, for He is wise over all things.

O servant! Blessed art thou in that thou hast remained steadfast in the Cause in days wherein the feet of all have slipped, when they were veiled from the beauty of God by the veils of their own selves. When they are asked by what sign they believed in God, they say "the verses." Yet when the Beauty through Whom were manifested the Manifestations of the past from a beginning that hath no beginning appears before them, they are overwhelmed by the dust of the fire, for thus hath the matter been decreed.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause by Our command and fear no one. Then make mention of thy Lord through what the Spirit hath uttered in thy breast, for He will aid thee at all times. Turn thy face toward God, then turn away from all else, for He will suffice thee against all who dwell on earth. We have received word of thy steadfastness in the Cause of God thy Lord. God will surely reward thee with the most excellent reward and will send down upon thee that which will gladden thy soul, for He is knowing of all things.

Take thou the chalice of glory by the power of thy Lord and pay no heed to anyone. Then drink in the name of this Youth, around Whom circle the kingdoms of names and Whose name hath been recorded by the Pen of the Command in all the Tablets. Know thou that he whom We strengthened, protected and taught, when the breezes of might wafted and he felt secure in himself, rose up like a serpent against the

Beauty of the All-Merciful. Thus hath the matter transpired against this Youth Who languisheth imprisoned in this prison.

By God, O thou servant who gazeth upon the Throne! Were We to cast upon thee what hath befallen Us, thou wouldst cut thyself off from all souls, cast ashes upon thy head, and cry out morning and night. But We have concealed it from thee to preserve thy soul. Would that thou wert with Us to witness those whom the people have taken as lords besides God. Alas for them in that they have taken such as their beloved! Thou seest these people only as one dumb who asketh about speech and what of God's utterance is treasured therein, or as one blind who asketh about the sun—nay, more abject still, and God is witness to this.

Cast them and all they possess beneath thy feet, then ascend to the heaven which God hath raised up at the Pole of eternity, from whose horizon hath shone forth the Sun of eternity with this Name which was, in the Mother Book, gloriously radiant in truth. Thus have We informed thee and made mention of thee, that thou mayest know We have not forgotten thee and that thou mayest be witnessed by Us in the most excellent station in truth. And glory be upon thee and upon those with thee who are faithful and thankful believers.

BH02011: Lawh-i-Zuhur

The Book of Revelation hath been sent down from the heaven of divine bounty unto him who hath turned towards God, the Sender of Winds. Verily, in the establishment of the Ancient Beauty upon the Most Great Throne and the rising of the Sun from the horizon of the Prison are signs for those endowed with insight. Cast aside, O people of guidance, that which your idle fancies bid you. Hold fast unto this Cord, whereby, when it is stirred, the worlds are stirred. It hath dawned from the horizon of Names by the leave of the Creator of Heaven. Then aid thy Lord amidst the concourse of creation. Thus art thou commanded from the Dayspring of Inspiration.

Through My remembrance, the believers soar unto the heights of truth, and the sincere ascend unto the Daybreak of Lights. Through My name copper is transmuted into gold. My love is the religion of the righteous. Through My sweet call the world was set ablaze, and through My Most Glorious Name the rivers gushed forth from the rocks. The Pen hath been so transported by the wine of the love of the Lord of Eternity that were We to reveal it, it would draw unto itself all that dwell in the lands.

Say: Through My Most Exalted Name the Water of Life hath been proffered unto all creation, and through My name, the All-Merciful, the breezes of forgiveness have wafted. Exalted be My renowned Name—when it is mentioned, the Maids of Paradise emerge from their chambers, advancing toward the seat of Revelation. And through its other pillar the Most Great Scene was illumined, and the Lord of Destiny proclaimed: The Beloved is come and the horizons are brightened. For such a Lord praise beseemeth the people of all religions and faiths.

Be fair, O peoples of the world! Say: Do ye sport with that which floweth from His Pen? By My life! Were it to be cast upon the mountain it would soar unto the Lord of Causes, and were its fragrance to pass over Sinai, it would hasten to the seat of Revelation. Fear God, O ye who are endued with insight! Say: Would

ye test His power after it hath encompassed the earth and the heavens? Fear God and question not concerning that which ye are forbidden in the Book. Choose for yourselves that which God hath chosen for you—this is the root of the matter, if ye be among them that perceive.

Say: The Spirit was abashed before the delicacy of His nature, and Light was ashamed to appear before His countenance. Ye have committed that which the Pens are powerless to recount. He, beneath Whose feet the mirrors would be ashamed to be trodden, dwelleth in the most desolate of abodes. Have We borne these trials for Our own sake? Nay, rather for your sake—to this testifieth every atom. Is it meet for anyone to hesitate when they hear the All-Loving proclaim: To Me, to Me,' O ye who comprehend! Have I desired aught for Myself in the kingdom? Ponder My deeds, then speak, O ye that are veiled! Have ye found in that which hath appeared from Me any self-preservation? Nay, by the Lord of Lords! Then did the Most Exalted Pen tremble and raise from it the lamentation of weeping, saying: After Thee there shall be no mention, O Lord of Names, and no pen, O Thou through Whose remembrance all remembrance is obliterated! How can I move across the Tablet after Thee, and how can anyone hear my shrill voice? Nay, by Thy life, O Thou in Whose grasp is the kingdom of verses!'

Thus have We revealed unto thee, O thou who art mentioned before the Throne, that which God hath made the crown of the pages of creation. Preserve it as thou wouldst preserve thine eyes, then recite it with the sweetest of melodies. Beware lest anything debar thee from God. Hold fast unto His remembrance and glorify His praise at eventide and dawn. When thou hast attained the Tablet, turn thy face toward the Most Glorious Horizon and say: Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having remembered me in Thy Most Great Prison. May my soul be a sacrifice for Thy prison, O Thou in Whose hand is the Kingdom of might and power.

BH02035: O Muṣtafa! Thy letter hath been laid before Us…

He is the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the All-Glorious.

O Muṣtafa! Thy letter hath been laid before Us, and We have read it—verily We are of them that read. We heard, moreover, the plaint of thy heart in God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds, and We have answered thee in this Tablet with words whereof not one letter can be matched by all that hath been created in the realm of origination—if thou be of them that know.

And when thou shalt be honoured by attaining His presence, take it in the hands of surrender; then lay it upon thine eyes, and read it in the accents of them that are drawn nigh.

Recall thou to mind My sorrows, My cares and anxieties, My woes and trials, the state of My captivity, the tears that I have shed, the bitterness of Mine anguish, and now My imprisonment in this far-off land. God, O Mustafa, beareth Me witness. Couldst thou be told what hath befallen the Ancient Beauty, thou wouldst flee into the wilderness, and weep with a great weeping. In thy grief, thou wouldst smite thyself on the head, and cry out as one stung by the sting of the adder. Be thou grateful to God, that We have refused to divulge unto thee the secrets of those unsearchable decrees that have been sent down unto Us from the heaven of the Will of thy Lord, the Most Powerful, the Almighty.

By the righteousness of God! Every morning I arose from My bed, I discovered the hosts of countless afflictions massed behind My door; and every night when I lay down, lo! My heart was torn with agony at what it had suffered from the fiendish cruelty of its foes. With every piece of bread the Ancient Beauty breaketh is coupled the assault of a fresh affliction, and with every drop He drinketh is mixed the bitterness of the most woeful of trials. He is preceded in every step He taketh by an army of unforeseen calamities, while in His rear follow legions of agonizing sorrows.

Such is My plight, wert thou to ponder it in thine heart. Let not, however, thy soul grieve over that which God hath rained down upon Us. Merge thy will in His pleasure, for We have, at no time, desired anything whatsoever except His Will, and have welcomed each one of His irrevocable decrees. Let thine heart be patient, and be thou not dismayed. Follow not in the way of them that are sorely agitated.

Walk thou in My footsteps, and put thy trust in God in whatsoever may befall thee, and fear not the hosts of the idolaters. Know, moreover, that in those days the cry of the liars was raised, as though they had never in their whole lifetime spoken a single word of truth. They lied, and they made others to lie; then they forged calumnies against the Ancient Beauty, that thereby the fetter of a base youth might be fastened upon the breasts of the rebellious. Leave thou behind thee the mention of them and the thought of them, and whatsoever proceedeth from them; then stand steadfast in the Cause through My power which hath encompassed all contingent things. This is, verily, an injunction from Our presence unto thee: do thou what thou hast been commanded, and be of them that act.

Admonish the people with goodly counsel, and contend not with any one; for We have relinquished the world and whatsoever is in it and upon it unto its people, and what We desire not for Ourself is naught but the hearts of Our near servants. Cleanse thy heart for My love, then thy tongue for My remembrance, then thine eyes for beholding the lights that shall dawn upon thee from this holy, luminous morn.

And whoso possesseth this day a sight too scant to reckon, or a sensibility less than a mustard-seed—by God!—shall recognize, in what they have written concerning Me, the enormity of their falsehood, the fierceness of their rancour, and the abundance of their hatred for this holy, mighty, resplendent Beauty. And glory be upon thee, and upon thy spouse, and upon thy son, and upon whoso remaineth steadfast in the Cause of God, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Most Great.

BH02059: O My Nabil! Most people have asked for poison…

O My Nabil! Most people have asked for poison from God and continue to do so, while in their imagination they sought honey. They have chosen the colocynth of selfish desires over the honey of the Divine Will. By my Lord, the All-Merciful, this is truly loss! If an infant asks poison from an adult, is it permissible to give it? No, by my Self, even if it cries and wails. The affairs of this land are veiled and the poisons of enemies concealed. Were the veil to be rent, death would result.

O Nabil! This servant is in the Most Great Prison while enemies are at the height of opposition. Yet despite the supreme prohibition, by what means do they still consider it permissible to turn toward this direction? A group from every tribe surrounds us—what can be done about their vain imaginings? The essence was God's good-pleasure, from which most have departed. Would that We could find

opportunity to release what is in Our heart! Ah! By My life, if you could see Me with My own eyes, you would see each of My limbs in the mouth of a serpent. Alas, alas for what is concealed and must not be revealed! Soon will its covering be removed.

Seventy souls are imprisoned with the Ancient Beauty—imprisoned according to their belief. By My life, I am the Prisoner! By My Beauty, I am the Prisoner! By My Life, I am the Prisoner! Whose purposes shall be fulfilled? Who shall bear the countless favors? I have no word but "yes," no answer but "indeed."

Reflect on past centuries and ages. By My Beauty, none was afflicted as I am afflicted! Yes, in former times Divine Manifestations were among people when outward power existed and none could transgress beyond what God decreed. Would that they understood the cause of the Primal Point's lamentation in this Revelation! If you would reflect, you would know your own station, not what is with your All-Knowing Lord.

O Muhammad! Hear what I say: Read the Tablets revealed in Iraq along with what was revealed upon Our first arrival here, that you may know and discover what befell the Beloved of God, the Most High, the Most Great. The Herald of My Beauty says He has but two words: "yes" and "no." Now only "yes" remains. Know thou the melody of utterance and be of those who cry out! Then the Tablet and what appeared—wherein We were.

Your letter reached the Divine Throne. What was mentioned regarding Ali is understood and known. It is very clear that God's favor was with him. If permissible, We would surely have revealed and sought it ourselves. Abu'l-Qasim Khan has long wandered in the wilderness of bewilderment. We beseech God to make known to him what He intended. He is the All-Wise, the All-Informed.

O Nabil! O Nabil! By My life, you are with Me! How many near ones are strangers, and how many strangers are near! Blessed is he who is near and draws near! This is the red elixir—take it as a trust from Me with you. And glory be upon My people!

Through your mediation, Ali's coming to Haifa is permitted, but after the passing of numbered days, return to Shahba unto Hadba is most proper, best and closest to righteousness.

As for outward affairs, verily the two names Ha and Mim, from excessive transfers, nearly fled from Akka to Mecca. And peace be upon the best of creation.

BH02039: These are the verses of God which have been…

He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

These are the verses of God which have been sent down in remembrance of one of His handmaidens who ascended to the Most Glorious Companion and entered the Garden of Paradise, and whom the mercy of her Lord encompassed. Thus was the matter decreed from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful. God distinguished her with this station because she bore a servant who loved God and the Manifestation of His Self, and who migrated with Him and was afflicted with sorrows in the path of his Beloved until he entered with Him into a remote prison, and aided his Lord to the extent of his ability, and hesitated not in the Cause for less than a moment. And when the Sun of Eternity dawned upon him from the horizon of

Glory, he fell prostrate before a Beauty holy and resplendent. Thus does God assist whomsoever He willeth of His servants and purify the hearts of those who fear God and are possessed of insight.

O handmaiden of God! Glory thou over the Maidens of Paradise, for thy mention hath flowed from the Finger of Eternity—and this is a mighty favor. Blessed art thou, O handmaiden of God, for the breathings of the All-Merciful seized thee from every direction and turned thee toward the right hand of Paradise, an exalted and impregnable station. Therefore eat of whatsoever fruits of Paradise thou desirest, for they have been ordained for thee from the presence of One mighty and wise. And find solace with the maidens of Paradise in chambers of luminous glory. Thus hath God changed thy sorrow to joy and the Hand of Grace hath clothed thee in a beautiful robe of glory. Therefore doth the Tongue of God magnify thee from this Tongue which hath not opened concerning what hath befallen it from the hosts of the wicked and rebellious.

O handmaiden of God! Should the Manifestations of Paradise ask thee concerning the Beauty of the All-Merciful, say: By God! There hath befallen Him that which hath exhausted the tongues of all worlds from mentioning it. By God! The people of wickedness have encompassed Him with swords of hatred, and He remaineth among them alone and solitary. His grief and tribulation have reached such a state that His food is from a piece of His liver and His drink is from His blood, and He writhes upon the dust at every moment like unto Solomon. And whenever He crieth out for help, He is aided by spears, then swords, then sharp daggers. By God! The eye of creation hath not witnessed one oppressed like unto Him, nor any imprisoned equal to Him, nor any wounded similar to Him, nor any sorrowful comparable to Him. Say: By God! He now walketh among the servants without liver or heart or entrails—and God is witness to this.

O Beauty of Eternity! By God! Through what hath flowed from Thy Pen, the hearts of the people of Paradise are set ablaze—how then could they bear to hear what hath befallen Thee from those who have disbelieved in God and His signs from ancient times? Therefore have the tongues of all created things spoken, saying: The curse of God be upon the first oppressor who wronged the Primal Point in His latter Manifestation in His Most Glorious Name, and upon those who fought against Him and disputed His signs and denied His sovereignty and were among the opposers in the Tablets of glorious and wondrous might. Blessed is he who attained His presence and acknowledged His sovereignty and recognized His court and turned to His face and heard from His lips the melodies of God and was among those drawn nigh in the Tablets of glorious and bountiful might. And the Glory which hath shone forth from the horizon of grandeur be upon thee, O handmaiden of God, and upon the maidens who serve thee in the highest Paradise at all times.

BH02112: I know not, O my God, by what call…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Impregnable, the Most Glorious!

I know not, O my God, by what call Thou didst draw the hearts of Thy loved ones, or by what fire Thou didst ignite the hearts of Thy chosen ones, or by what arrow Thou didst pierce the breasts of those who love Thee, or by what cord Thou didst bind the necks of those who long for Thee. For I observe, O my Beloved, that whenever the clouds of destiny rain down upon them the showers of tribulation, the soil of

their beings grows verdant, bringing forth the ears of Thy love and the flowers of Thy attraction. And whenever the hands of tyranny and oppression are raised against them from every direction to sever the hand of any one of them from the hem of Thy love, they neither can nor are able to do so.

And whenever the oceans of hardship are poured upon them, they neither quench the fire of their attraction nor extinguish the heat of their longing. It is as though in that station, O my God, they are like fish swimming and glorifying Thy remembrance, and should they be cast into the fire, they become as the salamander, living and delighting therein, drawn by the flames of the fire of Thy love and passion. And should the swords of the horizons be raised against them in enmity, they lift up their heads and say:

> "The Covenant has come, and this is the cup of the Compact, and here we are, the longing ones!"

By Thy glory, O my God, I am bewildered by them and by what hath appeared from them in the path of Thy love. Blessed are they, and joy be unto them! How the fire of Thy love was kindled in their hearts, and how the lights of Thy attraction appeared in their breasts, and how resplendent was the rising of the sun of Thy verses in the crystal of their realities and the mirror of their hearts! It is as though Thou didst fashion them for Thy love and chose them for Thy attraction and cast into them the spirit of Thy Cause and showed them the beauty of Thy oneness. Therefore they became detached from their selves and their dwellings in Thy path, and every day they were afflicted with a trial in Thy Cause. Yet with all this, tribulations prevented them not from turning to Thy most exalted horizon, nor did the opposition of all in creation bar them from gazing upon Thy most glorious countenance.

Therefore I beseech Thee, O my most glorious God, by Thy Self which Thou hast cast into the Most Great Prison for the liberation of mankind, that Thou assist Thy loved ones at all times through Thy wondrous confirmations and mighty inspirations, that they may all arise to aid Thy Cause and spread Thy remembrance, and that they may all become detached from all else save Thee and turn to none other than Thee, O our Lord, the All-Merciful, and O our Beloved, the Help in Peril!

And among those sanctified souls, O my God, is this one whom Thou hast made a servant to the name of Thy divinity and named him thus in the kingdom of Thy names. Therefore assist him, O my Beloved, to perfect himself in that name and to manifest from him that which befitteth the court of Thy glory and the sanctuary of Thy holiness. Then ordain, O my God, for all Thy most beautiful names that they may find the sweetness of Thy servitude and the delight of Thy obedience, lest there appear from any possessor of attributes aught save Thy Cause, and lest any existent being see its own existence before the sanctuary of Thy manifestation.

For verily Thou art the righteous Ruler and the Doer of what Thou willest. All are Thy servants and within Thy grasp, but we beseech Thee, O my God, to look upon us with the glances of the eyes of Thy bounty and grace, not with Thy justice, for we are weak, and verily Thou art the Generous Sovereign, possessed of great bounty. There is no God but Thee, the Protector, the Mighty, the Ancient of Days.

BH02095: Glorified is He Who has ordained for all things…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Glorified is He Who has ordained for all things whatsoever He hath willed. He, verily, is the One Who ruleth as He pleaseth. He hath created the Word in the form of man, and through it He hath drawn all worlds unto Him. He who is not attracted by the Word of God cannot truly be said to exist. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Through it hath God raised up whom He willeth and distinguished between the ungodly and the believers. It is a fire unto them that have waxed proud, and a light unto them that have turned towards the Dayspring of Revelation. Thus hath the matter been decreed in a preserved Tablet.

Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as thou hast attained and visited thy Lord, the All-Merciful, when He shone forth from the horizon of the Prison with manifest sovereignty, and entered through the gate which they who desired to prevent it seized with tyranny through what Satan had whispered in the hearts of the heedless ones. We have blinded the eyes of them that wished to prevent it and caused you to enter by Our power. Thy Lord, verily, is the Almighty, the Powerful. He ordaineth what He pleaseth with sovereignty from His presence and doeth what He willeth. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. They who beheld God's power and denied it are indeed the lost and are in manifest error.

Remember when thou didst enter the seat of the Throne and didst hear with thine own ears what was uttered by the Tongue of Grandeur while He was in the Most Great Prison through what the hands of the nations had wrought—they who disbelieved after the clear proofs had come unto them from their Lord, the Revealer of verses. They are indeed among the perishing ones. When it was said unto them: "By what crime have ye imprisoned Him through Whom the tooth of faith hath gleamed and the sign of the All-Merciful hath appeared?" they said: "It hath been proven that He desired to change God's laws and His religion, and He hath no excellence over us; rather, we see Him as one of the mischief-makers." Thus spoke nations like them before. We seized them for what they said and made them a lesson to them that have insight. Soon shall We seize these as We seized those who were mightier than them in strength. Thy Lord, verily, is powerful over what He willeth and ruleth over what He pleaseth.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having called me through Thy grace, drawn me nigh unto the Manifestation of Thy Self, shown me Thy beauty, and caused me to hear Thy call in days wherein every seeker was prevented, every visitor seized, every observer driven away, every hopeful one distanced, and every rememberer slain.

O Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having enabled me and admitted me into the precincts of Thy mercy. I beseech Thee, O Creator of the heavens and Lord of Names, to inscribe me among the people of Baha who were not hindered by wealth and beauty from turning to Thy face, O my Exalted Lord, and whom the manifestations of the Name of Majesty did not frighten in Thy days, O Thou in Whose hand is the beginning and the end. O Lord! Since Thou hast called me unto Thee, make me steadfast in Thy Cause in all conditions, then grant me what Thou hast ordained for them that are near unto Thee among Thy servants, and decree for me the good of this world and the next. Verily, Thou art powerful over what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02169: Lawh-i-Baqa

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious! This is the Tablet of Immortality from Baha unto him who hath attained unto the recognition of God, hath quaffed the Living Waters from the chalice of the words of his Lord, the All-Merciful, and hath turned with his heart unto the Supreme Horizon, the Station wherein hath shone forth the countenance of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Hearken unto My voice from the direction of tribulation. Verily, there is no God but Him, and He Who hath appeared with the truth—neither doth the decree prevent Him from making mention of the Lord of Names, nor do the veils of them who have disbelieved in God, the Exalted, the Great, conceal Him from that which He desireth.

Know thou, O servant, that thy letter hath come before Us, and We have taken it with the hand of loving-kindness, and the glances of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy, have been directed towards it. We have become acquainted with its contents and have ordained for thee in the Tablet a station which, wert thou to behold it, would cause thee to prostrate thyself and say: “Praise be unto God, the Lord of the worlds!” We have recorded for thee the reward of one who hath attained unto the presence of God, and We shall fulfill that which We have purposed for thee. Verily, thy Lord is the Almighty, the Powerful.

Give thanks unto thy Lord for having sent down unto thee from the heaven of grace this gleaming, this luminous Tablet. Be thou assured of thy Lord’s favor in all conditions and arise to aid His Cause amidst the heavens and the earth. Beware lest the cawing of them who have disbelieved in God should deter thee, or the veils of them who have turned away from the Face after it hath shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord’s will with manifest sovereignty should hinder thee. He, verily, aideth him who ariseth to serve His Cause and calleth the people unto Him. Blessed is he who hath detached himself from all else save Him and hath turned with his heart unto that which he hath been commanded by One Who is Mighty, All-Knowing.

Know thou, moreover, that We cast upon him who hath wronged a word from Our presence. He turned away therefrom; soon shall We make him a lesson unto all peoples. We sent one of Our servants, attired him in the raiment of detachment, adorned him with the ornament of strength and certitude, and dispatched him unto him with a manifest book. We delivered unto him the messages of his Lord that he might take heed and fear. Verily, thy Lord is He Who judgeth as He pleaseth; the might of the oppressors hindereth Him not. Thus have We informed thee that thou mayest become aware of that which hath been ordained by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

We had indeed sent aforetime unto Our servant, the Imam, a Tablet that gladdeneth the eyes of the sincere ones. Blessed art thou and he for having attained unto that which most of the servants who claim faith within themselves have failed to attain. When the All-Merciful came with the kingdom of utterance, they denied Him. The curse of God be upon them that have wronged and were among the mischief-makers.

This is not the day of patience save in My remembrance, the Mighty, the Wondrous. It behooveth you both to arise at all times to make mention of Me and to aid My Cause in such wise that the might of the

oppressors shall not deter you. Remind those who believed before of thy Lord, then clothe them with the garments of glorification and utterance from the tongue of their Lord, the All-Merciful. This, verily, is a great favor. Beware lest thou overstep the bounds of wisdom wherewith We have commanded Our servants from thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Soon shall there be sent down unto thee from the heaven of divine decree that which hath been ordained by thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. When the Tablet of thy Lord reacheth thee, take it with the hand of submission and say: "Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds!"

BH02152: He has been revealed for the brother who gazes…

He has been revealed for the brother who gazes upon the Face, who was named Abu'l-Qasim, that his heart may rejoice and that he may find for himself a path to God, the Most High, the All-Knowing.

Glorified be He Who sends down verses at all times for people who are aware, for verily there is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. All who are in the heavens and earth sing His praise, and all that was and will be.

O servant who believes in God, hear the call of Him Who has been imprisoned in this remote prison, from Whom have been cut off the hands of those who desired the presence of God, the Mighty, the Beloved. He remembers you purely for the sake of God, that you may detach yourself from those who have disbelieved and associated partners with Him in Whom they believed, and who have turned back on their heels in opposition.

Would that you had been with your Lord when He departed from Iraq with manifest sovereignty, and witnessed what befell Him from those who were created by His word "Be!" By God the Truth, those whom We created by Our command and whom We aided at all times and protected from the harm of every harmful one morning and evening—when they witnessed that the Word was exalted and the breezes of power wafted from the direction of your Chosen Lord, they emerged from behind the veil with sharp drawn swords. By God, at every moment I was struck by the arrows of discord from the hypocrites, and at every instant was struck by the swords of hatred, and none knew of this save God your Lord and a few numbered souls. Then they cast Me into the well of darkness in this prison while they rejoiced within themselves. Thus do We inform you that you may be possessed of clear insight.

You must inform the people and remind them of God's verses that they may remember within themselves and be among those who are certain. Let nothing veil you from remembering your Lord at all times, and grieve not for the world and what befalls you therein. Be among those who have no fear and who do not sorrow. Follow God's command in what has been ordained in this Tablet and He will protect you from the harm of those who have denied God's verses and who do not understand. Come forth from the veils of sorrow through the name of your Lord, the Most Merciful, then open your tongue in utterance, for this is best for you, as honored servants bear witness.

Know that your brother Nabil has attained the presence of the Throne and has won what was ordained for him in preserved tablets of glory. He has reached the summit of grace and has heard the verses of

God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. The lights seized him from all directions—none comprehend this save those who have attained the presence of God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Thus have We detailed the matter for you and sent down verses and dispatched them to you that your eyes may be consoled and that you may gaze toward your Lord's direction with praiseworthy humility. Glory be upon you and upon those who are steadfast in the Cause, who when proof dawns upon them from the Dayspring of the All-Merciful, fall prostrate before God and are among those who bow down in worship.

BH02139: O Dhabih, I speak in the Persian tongue so…

O Dhabih, I speak in the Persian tongue so that whoever wishes may attain its meaning. Today is the Day when all who are in the heavens and earth are present in one place before God. Therefore, whoever has detached himself from all save God and soared in the holy divine atmosphere is mentioned before God as being among the people of the highest Paradise, and whoever has hesitated is counted among the people of the lowest abyss. God has never had and will never have any relation or connection with anyone. Whoever turns to Him is counted as being of Him, and apart from that has been and will be unmentioned.

I swear by the Sun of the heaven of inner meanings that there has not been and is not in this heart anything except the dawning rays of the Morn of eternity, and to the extent possible, nay beyond that, I have strived to aid the Cause of God and for twenty years have never seen comfort or rest, and God is sufficient witness to this. Until, by God's might and power, the Cause was exalted and this servant arrived at this Most Great Prison.

After that God is witness to what has befallen Me from one for whom, by God besides Whom there is no God, I exerted mighty efforts night and day for his protection, education and training. When I became assured of his character, he arose to kill Me. The hand of divine power prevented what he intended. Afterward he spread abroad what he had done and made accusations against this servant such as no one has ever made against another, sending these to all regions, such that today some of his writings have been sent from various places and are present before Me.

Say: O servants! I swear by the Sun of the morn of holy transcendence that what he has mentioned is pure falsehood and he had no purpose except to cast hatred of this servant into hearts. Whoever has doubts should come to this land to become informed of matters which no one has understood. Although every person of insight perceives that all he has written about this servant has been and will be pure lies and calumny, since not all people possess insight, they must not be content with conjecture. And since it is not possible for all to come to this land, and it would cause harm, therefore two fair-minded persons should come and become informed of all matters and inform the people, so that God's proof may be completed for all. Otherwise, verily thy Lord is independent of the worlds.

In brief, the harm done to this servant is greater than can be mentioned. I complain of my anguish and grief unto God, for He is the best helper and protector.

BH02163: This is a Book from the Word of God…

This is a Book from the Word of God and the Manifestation of His Cause to him whom the breezes of the All-Merciful have turned from the left hand of temptation to the right hand of contentment, that he may be ever mindful of the remembrance of his Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower, and be among those who have attained.

O servant! Blessed art thou, for the clouds of holiness have sprinkled upon thee the drops of resplendent glory and purified thee from the allusions of the people of veils, and caused thee to hear the most wondrous melodies from the songs of the birds of the heaven of contentment, and drawn thee to a glorious and wondrous court, and made thee speak in praise of thy Creator, and inspired thee with the knowledge of His Self, the All-Encompassing, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

There hath come before the Countenance that which thy tongue hath uttered in remembrance of this imprisoned, lonely and unique One. We beseech God to assist thee in His Cause and make thee so steadfast that thou wilt arise with thy spirit, thy soul and thine essence to exalt His Word in this Most Great, Most Glorious, Mighty and Inaccessible Announcement, and aid thee at all times with the Most Great Spirit, and cause thee to speak a word that will shatter the pillars of the satans. How excellent art thou for having drunk from the Kawthar of God's mercy and attained to the knowledge of Him, after which every learned scholar was veiled therefrom.

Say: O people of the Bayan! Glory lieth not in placing green and white turbans upon your heads. Were glory to lie in this, then the camel that carrieth them from town to town should glory over all the worlds, for it beareth a thousand times what ye wind round your heads, O heedless ones! Beware lest names keep you from the remembrance of your Lord, the Most High, in this Revelation which hath appeared with all signs and holy and wondrous scrolls. Say: Adorn your heads with the turbans of the love of your Lord, the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. Beware lest what ye possess prevent you from God, from Whom hath appeared every wise command. Know ye that true knowledge is your detachment from all save God, your Lord, and your recognition of His Self, the All-Encompassing, the Mighty, the Powerful.

And thou, O servant who speaketh in praise of thy Lord, arise to help God and teach the people with wisdom and utterance, and pay no heed to those who have denied Him in Whom they had believed, and whom vain imaginings have so seized that they read the words of God and yet deny their Revealer and Sender, and are not among those who perceive. Arise thou from the horizon of detachment with a face of wondrous radiance, then behold those who claim knowledge among these people beneath thy feet, then soar on the wings of the spirit to the atmosphere wherein waft the fragrances of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Generous.

God hath accepted what thou hast composed in His praise, and He shall surely reward thee justly, for He doth reward His remembering servants. Be thou so enkindled with the love of God that should one of the idolaters confront thee, he would be unable to speak in thy presence. Thus doth the Spirit command thee at this moment when He walketh alone in the house and His tongue uttereth that whereby all created things would be quickened, were they of the assured ones.

Spirit, glory and splendor be upon thee and upon those who have detached themselves from all things and clung to the hem of God, the King, the Mighty, the Ancient.

BH02236: And whosoever wishes to know the mystery of what…

And whosoever wishes to know the mystery of what appeared from the previous Manifestation regarding the sun and His standing before it [BB00020, 7:17]—blessed is he who asks about that and desires to know what was hidden from the hearts of the worlds. Say: By God, He desired naught from the sun except My Beauty which was shining behind the clouds with mighty splendors. When We made the sun among Our greatest signs between earth and heaven, therefore He stood before it in humility before My Self, the Inaccessible, the Mighty, the Impregnable. And when He stood before it on His first day, He spoke a word than which there was nothing sweeter or greater in thy Lord's knowledge, wert thou of those who know.

And when His gaze turned to it He said—and His word is the truth:

> "Verily the glory from God be upon thy countenance, O rising Sun! Bear thou witness to that which God hath witnessed concerning Himself, that there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved,"

that all may be assured of the appearance of the Sun in the mystery of mysteries and may witness what God hath witnessed, that there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

Hearken unto this in Persian: In those days the Sun was risen, yet concealed behind clouds, in fulfillment of God's appointed time. Therefore that Primal Being stood before the Sun, for he was the greatest sign of the True Sun, that his submission to God, the One, the Single, the Unique might be made manifest. And they spoke with this Most Great Name, that all might bear witness in the Day of Manifestation to that which they had testified. This utterance is among the fundamental divine commandments that have been revealed. Today it is incumbent upon every soul, in whatever land they may be, to turn on Friday towards the Sanctuary of God and speak these words, making mention of the Beloved of all worlds. It is evident to those endowed with insight that the sun itself has ever been a sign among the signs of the Lord. How then could it be permissible for that Primal Being, by whose word all created things were brought into existence, to show such humility and submissiveness before a mere sign among signs? Rather, this was done out of love for Him Who was promised in the Tablets, and ever shall be.

Even in outward matters this can be observed—for instance, when one receives a letter from his beloved, he shows the utmost humility and reverence towards it, placing it upon his eyes and head and inhaling its fragrance. To those possessed of vision it is clear that these outward acts are not directed to the letter itself, but rather because of its connection to the beloved, and ever shall be thus. Now consider how heedless the people of the Bayan have become, that they have grown unmindful of Him Whom the Beloved of all worlds showed such love through His verses, and instead followed one unworthy of mention. The original law revealed in the Bayan, whose observance equaled all other deeds, and similar matters pertaining to the Manifestation—of all these they remained heedless, moved by their own desires. Fie upon them and their fidelity!…

BH02196: In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Invincible!…

In the Name of God, the Mighty, the Invincible! O Muhammad! Hearken unto the call of Husayn, who hath arisen to proclaim the Cause, and against whom all the people have risen up from every direction—some denouncing him as an infidel, some denying him, some opposing him, and some seeking to slay him with grievous wrong. Know thou that he feared no one and championed His Cause until the mention of God became renowned throughout the worlds.

By God! Through him were raised up the pavilion of glory, the tabernacle of knowledge, the canopy of the Cause, and the tents of revelation and inspiration between the heavens and the earth. All peoples, and behind them all governments, united to prevent him from helping the Cause of God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the All-Wise. Yet he was never deterred, and continued to proclaim the remembrance of God, the Almighty, the Most High, the Most Great, in their midst. Thus did there befall him what had befallen no one before—and God is witness to what I say.

By God! Husayn remained alone amidst the hands of the idolaters, and when imprisoned in this prison, even those servants who served Him and were created by His transcendent command rose up against Him. Every day they plotted to kill Me, yet God aided Me with truth and delivered Me from among them with manifest sovereignty.

As for thee, leave those who have disbelieved, and shouldst thou find any among the people of the Bayan who have turned away from this resplendent Countenance, say:

> "O thou that art far removed! If thou didst believe in the Bayan, by what proof hast thou rejected the Beloved of the worlds? By God! Not a word was revealed except in My remembrance and praise, nor was he raised up save to proclaim My Cause—if ye be of them that understand. He spoke not from desire, but spoke as inspired by God concerning this Youth, around whom circle the Manifestations of eternity—if ye be of the assured ones."

Say: "Fear God, and deny not Him but for Whom the Revelation would not have been sent down to the Beloved, nor would ʿAli have spoken the verses of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Wise." Say: "O people! By God! Through His appearance were gladdened the eyes of the Concourse on High, and by what befell Him the Spirit of God did weep. Fear God, O people, and oppose not Him against Whom all on earth wage war. Other peoples suffice to oppose Him—leave Him to them, and be not of the wrongdoers."

Blessed art thou, O servant, in that thou hast been enabled to recognize thy Lord and hast migrated to the city wherein were raised the melodies of thy Lord, the All-Merciful—the city which God hath made the point of adoration for the people of Paradise and the angels brought nigh. We have been with thee at all times, and thy Lord doth observe all things.

Grieve not over the world and its hardships, for soon they shall pass away and the Cause shall remain with thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Convey the Cause of thy Lord to them that are heedless and are as the dead, that perchance they may arise from the sleep of vain desires and turn unto God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment.

Glory be upon thee and upon them that have turned toward the horizon of the Cause and turned away from the evil ones. Praise be to God, the Beloved of them that know.

BH02214: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee…

He is the Ever-Abiding, the All-Remembering, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I beseech Thee by the wondrous dawning rays of the light of Thy Beauty, and the manifestations of the glory of Thy sovereignty and majesty, and by the lamentation of them that yearn for Thee in their separation and remoteness from Thee, and by the cry of them that love Thee at the appearance of the Sun of Thy reunion and presence.

Then I beseech Thee, O my Beloved, by Thy splendor whereby shone forth the lights of the Sun of Thy countenance, and by Thy radiance whereby appeared the manifestations of the glory of Thy Self-Subsistence, and by Thy light whereby Thou didst illumine the Most Beautiful Names in the kingdom of Thy decree, and by Thy knowledge whereby Thou hast numbered all things through Thy sovereignty and power, and by the breezes that blow in the breasts of Thy chosen ones out of love for Thy Beauty, and by Thy words whereby were perfected the mysteries of Thy wisdom and Thy proof was completed against all who dwell in Thy earth and heaven, and whereby Thy favor was perfected upon Thy loved ones and trustees among the people of Thy realm, and by Thy sovereignty which was established over all things and from which appeared the signs of Thy holy Oneness and the evidences of Thy glorious greatness, and by Thy might whereby the breezes of glory wafted over Thy creation and creatures, and by Thy Name preserved in the treasuries of Thy protection, and by Thy Word imprisoned in the land of exile through what the hands of Thy enemies have wrought—that Thou mayest turn this face toward the face of Thy singleness, then give it to drink from the cups of Thy holy oneness, then send down upon it that which will sever it from all who are in the heavens and earth and cause it to dwell in the vicinity of Thy loving-kindness.

Then aid it, O my God, with the power of Thy triumph and victory in such wise that it shall not be heedless of Thee in the watches of Thy night and the ends of Thy day. Then manifest through it the evidences of Thy names and the wonders of Thy attributes. Then inspire it with the translation of Thy Revelation and the wonders of Thy knowledge. Then make it rich through Thy wealth and self-sufficiency. Then exalt it through Thy majesty and glory. Then beautify it through Thy beauty and grace.

Then send down upon us, O our God and our Lord and our Beloved and our Desire, the rain of Thy mercy from the clouds of Thy glory and bounty, and the outpourings of Thy mercy from the clouds of Thy holiness and Thy gifts and favors, lest we be deprived of the wonders of Thy grace and generosity. Then preserve us, O my Beloved, from every affliction and harm and all that Thy good-pleasure abhorreth. Verily Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth and Who ruleth over whatsoever He desireth. Thou art the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Then I beseech Thee, O my Sovereign, by the captives who were taken prisoner in Thy love and affection, and by the tears that flowed from the eyes of them that know Thee concerning what befell the Manifestations of Thy beauty and the Dawning-Places of the glory of Thy sovereignty, and by the sighs

that rose from the hearts of them that are near unto Thee in the wilderness of their longing and yearning for Thee, that Thou assist me with every assistance encompassed by Thy knowledge and will, and raise me to a station wherein I shall hear naught except the wondrous melodies of the Dove of Thy holy oneness, and shall behold naught except the beauty of Thy creation, and shall turn to none besides Thee, and that Thou mayest prevent the hands of the oppressors from being laid upon our heads, and destroy our enemies, and exalt our names, and change our abasement. Verily Thou art the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, the All-Informed, the Sovereign, the Judge, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

BH02263: O thou who art mentioned before the Throne! Know…

In the Name of God, Who ruleth over whomsoever He desireth

O thou who art mentioned before the Throne! Know that the idolaters made My family and loved ones captives from Iraq and brought them to other lands. Yet the fire of hatred in their breasts was not quieted thereby. Then they turned with blackened faces against faces of light, and banished Us from the Land of Mystery and made Us enter ʿAkka. It is the most desolate of the cities of the world. When We entered the prison, its doors were guarded by souls who had never inhaled the fragrance of faith from the Egypt of certitude, nor had the breezes of the All-Glorious ever wafted upon their hearts. Three successive months passed and We did not enter a bath. Thus did it befall the Youth at the hands of those who denied God's favor after its descent.

By God! We have not complained of what befell Us, nor shall We ever complain, through God's might and power. Would that no tribulations had touched anyone in His path save Me! By His glory, I long for all of them in His love and the manifestation of His Cause. Hardship and ease both pass away, and what endures is what is with thy Lord.

Where is he who built As-Sadir? Where is he who sought to ascend to the ether? Where are the Pharaohs and where are the kings of old? Where are their trellised gardens and furnished houses? Where is he who drank pure water while beauties circled round him? Where are their couches and crowns and might and dominion? They have descended from their strongholds to their graves. By My life! If all people were to hear the cry of but one of them, they would forsake the world and turn to the Most Exalted Horizon.

Has not the time come for those who sleep to awaken and those who are heedless to become aware? Do they think they shall not depart, shall not enter the graves, shall not be gathered tomorrow and questioned? Far from it! Their imaginings are false, their abode is the abyss, and they shall find none to protect them unless they return to God, the Lord of creation.

My Pen has been restrained and My body imprisoned. I face toward the Most Exalted Horizon while behind Me a serpent lurks. Soon shall the veil be lifted and the companions emerge. Thus have We related unto thee from the tales of the Youth, of what was and what shall be, after We were forbidden remembrance and utterance. Say: By God! The Youth shall not be prevented from the remembrance of God, though all who are on earth should oppose Him.

Be thou not grieved by anything. Remember thy Lord—He is with thee and will aid thee through His sovereignty. He is the Protector of those who remember Him. Say: O people of Baha! By God, this is the

Day wherein the sincere shall stand firm and the doubters shall flee. Say: It behooveth you in such days to manifest your certitude and steadfastness and love for your Lord, the All-Merciful, and your support of His Cause amidst His servants. He will protect you in truth—He hath power over all things.

Convey My greetings to My loved ones, then gather them on the seashore and remind them at all times. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02273: O Ahmad! Hearken thou to the soul-stirring Voice…

In the Name of the Lord of all the worlds!

O Ahmad! Hearken thou to the soul-stirring Voice of thy Most Beloved, calling from the Realm of the All-Glorious. His Word causeth to spring forth, in hearts that are ready and pure souls, the fresh and tender flowers of divine love and the blossoms of affection for the One Beloved. Well is it with him who hath hearkened to His Call and recognized Him. Be thou intimate with God and detached from all else. Praise be to God that through the radiance of His favors thou dwellest beneath His shadow and hast attained His presence. By Him Who causeth me to speak the truth! No station is loftier than this. Well is it with him who hath not squandered this bounty and hath acted according to His good-pleasure. We hope that all may attain this bounty and arise to remember Him, to sit and stand and speak and hear, for all these acts exist through His power and will. This is the station where "there is no power nor strength except through God."

O Ahmad! Be not grieved at outward circumstances, nor saddened by events that occur. The ocean of joy is surging and the sun of gladness is shining. God willing, thou shalt ever drink from this ocean and attain this joy. What bounty is greater than this bounty, and what station is higher than this station—that thou didst migrate in His path and enter the Most Great Prison for love of Him, and in all conditions the Wronged One of the world was well-pleased with thee. Nothing can equal this—that the word of good-pleasure hath been revealed concerning thee. Hold fast unto it and be of the thankful ones.

Say: O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the hearts of them that are near unto Thee were drawn to the horizon of Thy revelation and the souls of the sincere were attracted to the Dayspring of Thy signs, to make me of them who were so content with Thy good-pleasure that were they to be afflicted with what their souls abhor, they would not violate Thy Covenant nor be perturbed by the revelations of Thy Cause. In all conditions they hastened unto Thee with their hearts and gazed toward Thee with their eyes. O Lord! I have laid hold on the cord of Thy glory and clung to the hem of Thy might. Preserve me beneath the shadow of the Tree of Thy Cause and give me to drink, at every moment, the choice wine of Thy bestowals and favors, that I may remain steadfast in Thy love and firm in Thy Cause in such wise that the signs of them who have turned away from the Dawning-Place of Thy power and the Manifestation of Thy sovereignty may not disturb me. Verily Thou art powerful to do what Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

O Lord! Send down Thy blessings upon them who have arisen to aid Thy Cause and spoken forth Thy praise and stood firm amidst the revelations of Thy tests and the manifestations of Thy trials. Then ordain for me, O my God, what Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones who have believed in Thee and Thy signs

and sought refuge at Thy court and shelter at Thy threshold. O Lord! Thou art the All-Sufficient in every state. I have turned to Thy grace and bounty and favor and loving-kindness. Deal with me as beseemeth Thee. Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Best-Beloved.

BH02282: Glorified art Thou, O my God and the God…

In His Name, the Mighty, the Great!

Glorified art Thou, O my God and the God of all who dwell in the Kingdom of Names, and my Sovereign and the Sovereign of earth and heaven, and my King and the King of all who abide in the realms of eternity! Thou seest and knowest that I have arisen to make mention of Thee in days wherein the limbs of the world have trembled with fear of the Manifestations of Thy wrath who have disbelieved in Thy most great signs and turned away from Thy most exalted horizon.

O Lord! Thou knowest that I have migrated in Thy path and turned to the ocean of Thy knowledge and the heaven of Thy bounty until I entered the prison by Thy command and was honored by meeting Thee and attained unto the hearing of Thy call and drank the choice wine of reunion from the hands of Thy bestowal. I beseech Thee, O God of the world and Goal of the nations, not to drive me from the door of Thy grace. Ordain for me from Thy Most Exalted Pen what Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones and trusted ones.

O Lord! This is the Day wherein Thou didst give the glad-tidings to the servants of Thy manifestation and appearance and the exaltation of Thy Word and the operation of Thy Will. Thou didst say—and Thy word is most sweet—"On the day when thy Lord cometh, or some of the signs of thy Lord," and "The Day when mankind shall stand before the Lord of the Worlds." I beseech Thee, O Cleaver of the dawn and Subduer of the winds, by this Day and by the Lamp which Thy finger of will hath lit between Thy earth and Thy heaven, to assist Thy loved ones to be steadfast in Thy Cause.

O Lord! Illumine their faces with the lights of the dawn of Thy manifestation, and their hearts with the splendors of the Sun of Thy knowledge and recognition, and their breasts with the lights of Thy Kingdom and Thy Dominion. O Lord! They have borne for love of Thee what none of Thy servants before them have borne, and have witnessed in Thy path what no eye hath seen and no ear hath heard. Ordain for them, O God of existence, from Thy grace that which befitteth Thy greatness and is worthy of Thy sovereignty.

O Lord! These are days wherein Thou hast sent down Thy Books and Scrolls of glory and Psalms and Tablets, and wherein the stars of Thy commandments have shone forth from the horizons of the heaven of Thy grace. I beseech Thee by them and by those who have submitted to the manifestations of Thy Cause, to ordain for Thy loved ones that which will gladden their hearts and solace their eyes.

O Lord! Illumine the face of the earth with the lights of the sun of Thy justice and adorn its thrones with the temples of the dawning-places of truth and fairness, that the countenances of those who love Thee and who have believed in Thy signs may smile with joy. O Lord! Thou art the Generous, possessed of great bounty. Thou givest and withholdest, and verily Thou are the Almighty, the Powerful.

O Lord! I beseech Thee by the Manifestations of Thy unity and the Daysprings of Thy detachment to ordain for me and for Thy loved ones that which will profit us in all the worlds of Thy worlds and preserve us through Thy sovereignty. Verily Thou art He Whom nothing frustrateth and no command preventeth. There is no God but Thee, the Most Exalted, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

And send blessings, O my God, upon Thy Prophets and Thy chosen ones and Thy loved ones and upon those who have advanced toward the arrows of destiny in Thy path and attained unto the Most Great Martyrdom in Thy love. I testify that they are Thy servants who have fulfilled Thy Covenant and drunk the Kawthar of martyrdom in Thy Name, the Bestower, the Generous.

BH02283: Glorified art Thou, O Thou Who hearest the cry…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O Thou Who hearest the cry of those who are detached and the lamentation of those who are sincere, and Who beholdest what hath befallen them at the hands of the oppressors among Thy creatures and the transgressors among Thy people. By Thy glory, O King of the kingdoms of justice and Sovereign of the cities of bounty! Such tribulations have come upon them that no pen of creation can recount, and should it attempt to mention them, it would not know what to record. Yet since these afflictions have been endured in Thy path and for love of Thee, they give thanks to Thee in all conditions, saying:

> "O Beloved of our hearts and One remembered in our breasts! Should the arrows of tribulation rain down upon us from the clouds of destiny, we would not complain in our love for Thee, but would thank Thee for this, for we have recognized and are certain that Thou hast ordained for us naught but what is best for us. And though our bodies may at times be distressed by these trials, our souls rejoice in them. By Thy glory, O Desire of our hearts and Joy of our breasts! Every punishment in Thy love is mercy, every fire is light, every torment is sweet, every toil is rest, and every sorrow is gladness. O Lord! Whoso complaineth of tribulations in Thy path hath not drunk from the cup of Thy love nor tasted the sweetness of Thy remembrance."

I beseech Thee by the Sovereign of Names and its King, and the Manifestation of attributes and their Creator, and by those who have soared in the atmosphere of Thy nearness and meeting and have tasted the sword's edge in Thy path, to assist all Thy creatures to recognize the Manifestation of Thy Self, Who is imprisoned in exile for having summoned all creation unto Thee. O Lord! Thy mercy hath preceded Thy wrath, Thy loving-kindness Thy fury, and Thy grace Thy justice. Take hold of the hands of Thy creatures through the wondrous tokens of Thy favors and gifts, and cut them not off from the means which Thou hast ordained for the recognition of Thy Self. By Thy glory! When these are cut off, every soul becometh perturbed, every man of wisdom is bewildered, and every knower is confounded, save him whom the hands of Thy Cause have taken and whom the evidences of Thy grace and the influences of Thy favors have seized.

By Thy glory, O my God! If Thou shouldst regard Thy servants according to their deserts in Thy days, they would merit naught except Thy chastisement and torment. But Thou art the Generous One, possessed of

great bounty. Look not upon them, O my God, with the glances of Thy justice, but rather with the glances of the eyes of Thy grace and favor. Then deal with them according to what beseemeth Thy generosity and bounty. Thou art, verily, powerful to do what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Lord of the Throne on high and of earth below, the Ruler of this world and of the world to come. Verily, Thou art the All-Merciful, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Bountiful, the Most Generous.

Send down Thy blessings, O my God, upon Him through Whom the mysteries of Thy Lordship were made manifest, then were exalted the evidences of Thy Divinity, and there appeared the pearls of Thy knowledge and wisdom, and were spread abroad Thy signs, and Thy Word was expounded, and Thy countenance shone forth, and Thy sovereignty was established, and upon those who turned unto Him with pure hearts for Thy sake. Then send down, O my God, upon Him and upon them from the wonders of Thy mercy that which beseemeth Thy presence. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the Most Glorious, the Self-Subsisting.

BH02287: He is God, exalted be His glory! Your letter…

He is God, exalted be His glory! Your letter has reached this Prisoner and We have noted its contents. We beseech God to aid you to recognize Him and assist you in His Cause, and to give you to drink from the cup of everlasting life that He may detach you from all created things and draw you nigh unto a station wherein you will inhale the fragrance of the All-Glorious from the garment of the Manifestation of His name, the Most Merciful, in these days when the transgressors have assailed Him and the idolaters have opposed Him—they who were created by His word “Be, and it is.”

The spiritual fragrance from the divine Egypt has ever been and will continue to be wafting and passing by. The mystics have always received and will receive their portion of that merciful fragrance, while those afflicted with the cold of self and desire have been and shall be deprived of this holy and eternal fragrance. The blind have no share in beholding the dawning of the Day-Star of the horizons, and the deaf have no portion in hearing the melodies of the birds of eternity.

That which has ever deprived people from the living waters has been imitation and idle fancy, as you observe among the people—they worship vain imaginings and perceive it not, they bow down before idols and understand not. Consider the physical eye—how by a thin veil it is prevented from beholding all that exists between earth and heaven. Likewise, how can the inner eye, with the thick veils of idle fancy and imitation, perceive the shining of the lights of divine unity without limitation?

In brief, this is the condition of the people that has been mentioned, and this servant has been afflicted among such a group throughout his life. We beseech God that He may cause to appear the Friend of divine might and power, that He may shatter the idols of idle fancy and desire. Verily He is the Powerful, the Unconstrained.

Furthermore, since you have traversed the paths and drawn nigh, joy has appeared—perchance God will bring about through this some matter. It is hoped that with purified vision you will gaze upon the Greatest Scene in such wise that the veils of the people of creation will not prevent you, nor will the

opposition and objection of the people of misbelief and hypocrisy become an obstacle. This is not difficult for God.

Moreover, you had expressed bewilderment. Although bewilderment in one station is beloved and acceptable, as the Prince of the Chosen Ones, may the spirit of all else but Him be sacrificed for His sake, has said: “Lord, increase my wonderment in Thee”—for such bewilderment arises from beholding the lights of the revelations of the Beloved. Thus it has been said: “I became not bewildered until I chose Thy love as my path; How great then is my bewilderment if it be not in Thee!”

The glance of love has ever been directed towards you, and it is hoped that through divine assistance you will emerge from the bewilderment you mentioned and enter the paradise of holy unveiling and witnessing, and arrive at the city of certitude and assurance. Peace and mercy be upon you and upon the assured servants of God.

BH02360: O My loved ones! Baha does not know…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Great

O My loved ones! Baha does not know which of His tribulations to recount to you. Shall He mention what was inflicted upon Him by the oppressors, or what was visited upon you by Satan’s party who disbelieved in their Lord, the All-Merciful?

We were sitting in prison while two watchmen, through whom the clouds were prevented and fires were kindled, stood guard. Whenever anyone entered the city gate turning toward God, they would inform their chief. Thus were the loved ones prevented from drawing nigh unto their Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. Thus does the Ancient Beauty inform you after grief has seized Him.

And remember when Nabil-i-Akbar sought to attain the presence of the Throne—the heedless ones seized him and expelled him from the city. At this the Dove lamented, all things wept, and the faces of those who had turned to God, the Mighty, the Gracious, grew pale.

Every day these two visited upon Us what had never been visited upon anyone before—with thy Lord is the knowledge of what was and what will be. When We would send Tablets, they would whisper in hearts to seize God’s Tablet and its effect. Thus was the water of life withheld and the gates of reunion were closed to those who had turned to their Lord’s face, the Mighty, the Help in Peril.

At all times they consulted on shedding My blood, after they had imprisoned Us for what their hands and the hands of those who denied the proof and disbelieved in the evidence had wrought. When they entered the seat of government they would say “We have disbelieved in God,” but when they saw others like themselves they would say “We are among those who follow what was revealed in the Bayan.” Every atom testifies to their falsehood and the Concourse on High curse them. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

We remember God at all times and convey His messages in such wise that the followers of all religions cannot prevent Us. Those who turned away after God came upon white clouds with power and

sovereignty are among those upon whose foreheads the Most Exalted Pen has inscribed “This one is among the lost.”

O thou who art mentioned before the Throne! Remember thy Lord among His loved ones that they may know what was visited upon Him by the oppressors. Take care not to grieve at anything—put your trust in God your Lord. He aids whomsoever He wishes with hosts of angels—verily He is the Help in Peril.

It behooveth everyone who has turned to God to manifest that whereby God’s remembrance may be exalted among His servants. These are indeed the people of Paradise—thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most High, beareth witness to this.

The people are as dead, except those who have attained the Kawthar of life flowing from the direction of the Throne of the All-Merciful at all times. Blessed is he who hath cast away all else save Me, adorned his heart with the ornament of My remembrance and his face with the lights of My love—he dwelleth within the tabernacles of My mercy, around which circle the denizens of Paradise.

Thus have We recounted for thee what We desire today, and have sent down for thee a decisive utterance, making it a sign for those possessed of understanding.

BH02317: The Most Great, the Most Great! Hearken unto what…

The Most Great, the Most Great! Hearken unto what is being revealed from the direction of tribulation, upon the spot of ordeal and test, from the Divine Lote Tree: Verily there is no God but Me, the Solitary Prisoner. All things lament for what hath befallen the Ancient Beauty from the nations, while He Himself is in manifest joy. We have taken, in Our Most Exalted Name, the cup of tribulation and drink thereof in My Name, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Through tribulation have We adorned the Cause in the kingdom of creation, yet the people remain in a mighty veil. In every moment there befalleth Us what hath befallen no one before, yet the mercy of God, the Almighty, the Powerful, hath preceded His wrath. Can anyone prevent Us from what We desire? Nay, by the Lord of the Exalted Throne! Had We found in the world any good or permanence, We would not have left it to Our enemies. This word sufficeth Our discerning servants.

O loved ones of God and His chosen ones! Seize what remaineth of your days. Beware lest ye squander it. Turn ye unto God and what ye have been commanded, then seek this grace which hath shone forth from the horizon of justice with manifest sovereignty. Say: This is a sun whom clouds cannot obscure, and a moon whom veils cannot eclipse, and a light whom the veils of those who have disbelieved in God, the One, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, cannot prevent.

How many servants have risen against Us in tyranny—We seized them through a power from Us and made them among the perished ones. Where are they who dwelt in palaces and reclined upon the cushions of pride? By My life, We returned them to their graves in manifest sorrow. Where is he who built Al-Khawarnaq? Where is he who warred against the Truth? Where is Pharaoh and his hosts, and Nimrod and his might? We seized them all after We had sent unto them the Prophets and Messengers.

Say: O people! What hath made you heedless of God, and by what reason have ye turned away from His face after He came with the truth in His great glory? He desired naught for you save that ye should turn unto Him and draw near to the glorious horizon. Ye have occupied yourselves with passion and turned away from what is better for you from the Lord of the First and the Last. Fear God, then have mercy upon yourselves and follow not every sinful oppressor.

O thou who gazest toward the direction of the Cause! Guide the people unto this Straight Path, then cast upon them the word whereby We have distinguished between all creatures. Beware lest the waters of rejection from those who have disbelieved in God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment, extinguish thee. If thou findest one athirst, be as water unto him, and if thou findest one hungry for the knowledge of God, nourish him with what We have sent down from the heaven of oneness—the eternal feast—that he may know and thank his Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Wise. Blessed art thou and blessed is he who limiteth affairs to the remembrance of his Lord and calleth the people unto this luminous horizon. The glory from Us be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among My loved ones, from one mighty and beautiful. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH02328: Praise God that you became an emigrant and made…

In the Name of the One Beloved:

Praise God that you became an emigrant and made your migration, and that which hath been visited upon this imprisoned servant hath also in part been visited upon you. Fear not the divine decree and be content with His good pleasure. Consider not this migration as abasement, but rather know it as the source of eternal glory. I swear by the Sun of Grandeur that were people to become aware of even less than can be counted, all would sacrifice their souls and spirits in the path of the Friend. Consider the wine of divine trials as a bounty—this cup is not the portion of every soul, but rather the share of those who have attained and the portion of those drawn nigh.

Praise be to God that you remained preserved from the tribulation of grievous days which was recorded in the tablets of preservation, and turned toward the direction of the Beloved. Consider it a bounty to remain settled in that land, and with utmost tranquility recline upon the cushions of certitude, preserving yourself from the whisperings of the Evil One who is engaged in suggesting doubts among the people. Place your trust in the Truth and turn away from all else, hold fast to the cord of His grace and detach yourself from all besides Him. In these days the earthly satans have appeared in different forms, as was mentioned in a previous tablet.

O emigrant! The divine verses are distinguished from all else—all that is mentioned and concealed between the heavens and earth cannot equal a single word thereof. Now observe the words of others, that you may become illumined and enlightened by the Sun of meanings which hath dawned from the horizon of divine utterances, and become independent of all else. The Truth was with you at the time when that misbeliever was casting doubts in your heart. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth, He knoweth what is manifest and what is hidden, and He is indeed knowing of all things.

Let not your illumined heart be veiled by the allusions in the words of the ungodly and the objections of the hypocrites. For today if books were to appear equal in number to the leaves of the trees, and from them the fragrance of the love of this Youth were not inhaled, they would not be mentioned or accepted in the presence of God.

O emigrant servant! Drink the pure water of meanings and knowledge from the hands of the people of Baha. I swear by the Truth that with but a drop thereof thou wouldst find thyself independent of all else besides God. Mention of these days and their trials hath been recorded in the Tablet of Proofs which was sent down from the heaven of oneness addressed to the maternal uncle, and likewise in other tablets. Should you now observe them, you would become aware of certain mysteries.

And the Spirit be upon you and upon the tranquil servants of God.

BH02334: It has been a long time since the breezes…

He is God, exalted be His glory, the Most Great, the Most Powerful

It has been a long time since the breezes of love have wafted from your direction, and this servant, mindful of prudence, has made no expression. Yet the sublime Truth bears witness that love for you has dwelled in my heart and mention of you upon my tongue. We beseech God that through His grace you may arise to serve His Cause, detached from all else. This is what endures in the Kingdom of your Lord; all else shall perish. The days have passed—we must spend what remains in service to the Beloved of the worlds.

If you ask about this servant's condition—never before has any Manifestation of the Divine Unity been imprisoned together with seventy souls. From this you can imagine what has transpired and continues to transpire. Yet through divine grace and heavenly favor, We shine forth from the horizon of tribulation, summoning all to the Truth. Whatever befalls Us has been and will be beloved. We beseech God to aid Us to remain steadfast in His Cause and love, for He is the Protector of the sincere ones. Pray that We may meet one day, so that hidden matters may be witnessed unveiled.

Convey My greetings to those who circle round. Tell your sister that if her lack of love stems from love for Yahya, God and all in the heavens and earth bear witness that you had and have no knowledge of his cause, and whatever you have heard was all due to wisdom. Even now, if you reflect purely for the sake of God on what is mentioned, you will become certain.

In any case, your lack of love has had no cause. Setting all else aside, it is not befitting to break the covenant of love due to the suppositions of deluded souls. Hear the call of this Wronged One and speak with fairness. I beseech God to aid you to be just and not to deprive you of the spiritual waters of mercy flowing from the heaven of divine grace. What is mentioned is for God's sake—this is most evident. This servant has fallen into a barren valley where tribulations have reached such a state that no good decreases them and no evil increases them. We praise God, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High, in all conditions. God willing, We hope you will break the chains of imitation with the strength of certitude and enter the pleasant expanse of detachment. This intensity and that ease shall both soon pass away—what

endures is steadfastness in love and faithfulness. Thus has the All-Merciful testified in the Tablets. We beseech God to aid you in what He loves and is pleased with. Verily, He has power over all things.

BH02403: My remembrance is for him who turned his face…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

My remembrance is for him who turned his face to the Countenance twice and entered the presence of the Throne twice in this Great Prison, that he might rejoice in the remembrance of God and arise to serve Him amongst His servants. Thus did We command him before and in this glorious Tablet. Give thanks to thy Lord for having aided thee to remain steadfast in His Cause, the Mighty, the Wondrous. Remember thou the days when thou wert near the mercy of thy Lord and the Ancient Beauty shone upon thee with the lights of His luminous countenance. Grieve not at anything, but put thy trust in God, the One, the All-Knowing. He, verily, will assist whoever hath assisted Him and will aid whoever hath held fast to His mighty cord.

O ʿAli! God willing, mayest thou be ever mindful of God's remembrance and turned towards His face. In every land thou visitest, convey profound greetings from the Chosen One to the righteous ones. Exert thy utmost effort and endeavor to unite the people of the land. Adorn those of A and Sh with the ornament of the glorification of Truth. Say: O loved ones! The Abha Fountain of Mercy exists and its Bestower is the Countenance of the Desired One. Blessed is the soul who, detached from the world, hath taken and drunk the Fountain of Ancient Days from the hand of the Lord of all peoples. Strive that perchance in this Day, which is the King of Days, ye may attain to the remembrance and praise of the Friend.

The greatest of all things is steadfastness. Ask ye of God that ye may be enabled to attain this supreme nobility and mighty gift, in such wise that the imaginings of the people of creation may not prevent you from the Lord of Names. Hold ye fast to the cord of His bounty and cling to the hem of His mercy, and praise ye the Beloved of the world Who, despite tribulations and afflictions, is occupied with your remembrance in the Most Great Prison. By My life! This is indeed a supreme favor.

Likewise convey greetings to the loved ones in the land of T, both men and women. Since Tablets were sent before, this time it remaineth suspended and preserved in the heaven of the divine Will until such time as it shall shine forth in the realm of manifestation.

O ʿAli! God willing, thou must be as a fire to ignite the hearts and as a spirit to quicken souls, that all may gather in perfect unity and harmony upon the enduring divine Law. And the glory be upon thee and upon thy family and those with thee from God, the One, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Forgiving, the Merciful. Then glory which hath shone forth from the horizon of eternity upon Kamali and those who were imprisoned in My path and his family and his descendants. By My life! For those who were imprisoned in God's path there hath been ordained a mighty station in a preserved Tablet. Blessed are they and their steadfastness in the Cause of their Lord, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH02381: May you ever be occupied with service…

He is the Most Great, the Most Ancient

May you ever be occupied with service to the Self-Sufficing Supreme One and drink from His imperishable Kawthar. By My life! The inner reality of the inner reality of the inner reality unto infinity has appeared in the form of a chalice, that it might be the vessel for this pure water which flows from the right hand of the Throne of the Lord of Manifestation. Then hearken to another strain: Verily the inner reality of the inner reality of the inner reality unto whatsoever God willeth hath appeared in the form of a chalice, that it might bear the sweet waters of thy Lord's mercy which flow from the direction of the Throne of My Name, the Most High, the Great.

God willing, drink ye of these waters and bestow them upon the people. Shouldst thou attain unto the station We have mentioned, thou wouldst find thyself in such rapture as would render the tongues of all beings powerless to describe it, and thou wouldst reach a station wherein thou wouldst soar in the atmosphere of thy Lord's love, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. That which He ordaineth for His servants outwardly is a reality around which revolve inner meanings, and thy Lord is sanctified above all that hath been said or shall be said. He is the Mighty, the Generous.

It is desired that you arise with the utmost devotion to serve the Cause and reflect upon the condition of this wronged Prisoner Who hath been afflicted between two factions, and seek to follow His example. The contingent world and all therein is transient. We must all arise to serve the Eternal, that perchance our lives be not wasted and we may render some service. The foundation of all things is the unity of the people upon one Law. Observe ye the Muslim community and its weakness, and ponder its cause. This weakness hath come about solely due to the differences that have appeared therein, as thou canst see how each faction hath chosen its own path and walketh in its own way. And if someone should say "The paths to God are as numerous as the souls of creation" and that these paths have branched from the Most Great Path—even granting this claim, surely if one walketh upon the Most Great and Supreme Path it would be best and ever shall be, and nearest to righteousness. There are countless utterances regarding these matters, but in view of the sorrows that have descended, We have confined Ourselves to this much.

In truth, Our main purpose was to make mention of you, lest you think you have been forgotten from the Most Great Scene. You have ever been remembered and, God willing, shall continue to be. We beseech God to manifest through you that which will revive the hearts of men, attract souls, cause spirits to soar, and raise up every moldering bone. Verily, glory be upon you and upon those who have turned to the Qiblih of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

BH02417: This is a Book from Us to one who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to one who has sought the Desired One and turned with his face toward the face of the Adored One, and traversed land and sea until he entered the City which God has made the point of circumambulation of the Concourse on High and the favored angels, and attained the presence before the Countenance and visited the Ancient Beauty after most of the servants were prevented from attaining His presence. Thus has the matter been decreed from the presence of the Mighty, the Wise.

Blessed art thou, O thou who hast turned, for having turned and arrived and visited the Qiblih of all who are in the heavens and on earth. God hath witnessed for thee thy visitation of His Beauty and thy entry into the pavilion of His grandeur. Can any bounty created on earth attain unto this? Nay, by My Self! Be grateful to thy Lord for having enabled thee to attain this. He is verily the Forgiving, the Generous.

How many servants desired to come but were turned away at the gate due to what Satan whispered into the hearts of those who ruled in the City, and thereby the eye of Ali wept, and then the eyes of the sincere ones. No harm hath befallen Us and the people of Baha except through what the hands of the people of the Bayan have wrought, and thy Lord beareth witness to this. He is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Satan lieth in wait—when anyone entereth seeking the abode of the Desired One, he informeth the government gate. Ask God to raise up one who will suffice to ward off his evil. He hath power over all things.

Inform My loved ones of what hath come to pass, then recount to them what thou hast seen and known, that they may become aware of what hath befallen Us from the hosts of the heedless ones. Convey Our greetings to all who have believed in God and the Manifestation of His Self, and give them glad tidings of mercy from Our presence, that the breezes of mercy may draw them to God, the Lord of creation. Thus hath the Tongue of Unity spoken, as a grace from His presence. He is verily the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having honored me with Thy presence and caused me to hear Thy call and to behold the lights of Thy countenance in these days wherein I was imprisoned in the most desolate of lands and held captive in the hands of the wicked ones. How can I thank Thee, O my God, for what Thou hast bestowed upon me through Thy bounty and honored me through Thy favor, such that Thou didst open before my face the gate of unveiling and meeting after it had been closed through what the hands of the most wretched among Thy creatures and the most rebellious among Thy creation had wrought?

O Lord! By Thy might and majesty, were I to find for myself at every moment a life to sacrifice it for Thy Self, it would be little compared to the manifestation of Thy bestowals and the appearance of Thy gifts. I beseech Thee, O Lord of Names and Creator of earth and heaven, to make me steadfast in Thy Cause, turning unto Thee, detached from all else besides Thee. Then ordain for me what Thou hast ordained for the sincere ones among Thy creatures and the unified ones among Thy loved ones. Thou art verily the Powerful over what Thou willest, and Thou art verily the Truth, the Knower of the unseen, and the Powerful over what Thou desirest through Thy word “Be” and it is.

BH02484: This is a Tablet from Us to him who…

This is a Tablet from Us to him who hath walked in the path of God, the manifest, the straight, who hath held fast unto the sure handle and answered the call of his Lord, the Exalted, the Great, that the wine of recognition may so intoxicate him through that which hath flowed from the Pen of the All-Merciful that he may be moved to remember and praise Him amidst His servants who have forgotten the Day they were promised in a preserved Tablet.

Arise and say: O people! The Day hath come, and He Who is the Manifestation of the Cause calleth out from the right hand of the Throne unto all who are in the heavens and on earth. Fear ye God and follow not those who, when the verses are recited unto them, persist in pride. These, verily, are in grievous torment.

The Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner within this most mighty Stronghold that the whole world may attain unto true liberty. He hath drained to its dregs the cup of sorrow, that all the peoples of the earth may attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness. This is of the mercy of your Lord, the Compassionate, the Most Merciful. We have accepted to be abased, O believers in the Unity of God, that ye may be exalted, and have suffered manifold afflictions, that ye might prosper and flourish. He Who hath come to build anew the whole world, behold, how they that have joined partners with God have forced Him to dwell within the most desolate of cities!

Thus hath the matter been decreed, and We have confirmed it through the Pen of Revelation. Thy Lord, verily, is the Omnipotent over what He willeth.

Say: O people! He Who hath sacrificed Himself for your life—would ye oppose Him or slay Him? Alas for you, O company of the heedless! Glorify thy Lord with praise in the morning and the evening, at sunset and at dawn. Thus doth the Wronged One command thee from this remote spot.

We prevented those who sought to draw nigh unto God aforetime only because of what befell Us in those days. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth and of that which is hidden from the eyes of the near ones. All that He commandeth the servants is for their good, and He intendeth naught save to protect them from the Great Terror or draw them nigh unto the seat of their Lord, the Mighty, the Wise. Were they to discover what We possess, they would move only by My luminous, resplendent command.

Say: O people! This is a Day wherein the Face hath shone forth from the horizon of holiness, and the Herald calleth out between earth and heaven: “The Prison belongeth to God, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Praiseworthy.” Remember Him in your seats; verily He remembereth you in this Prison and summoneth you to the supreme horizon. This, truly, is a great bounty.

Convey My glory to those servants who have not been held back by veils from the court of their Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Bestowing, who, when they hear My mention, lament My separation and weep for My imprisonment and tribulations. Yet I, by the All-Merciful, am in manifest joy. Whoso hath found the sweetness of tribulation in the path of God, Creator of Names, would not exchange it for aught created in the kingdom of creation. Thy Lord is witness to what I say.

BH02471: Say: God hath heard the words of those who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible!

Say: God hath heard the words of those who dispute concerning this Cause, morning and evening. Among them are those who have turned unto God and those who have turned away. He who hath turned unto

God hath ascended to the most exalted seats of holiness, while he who hath turned away hath disbelieved in God and returned to the lowest depths of the fire. Thus hath the matter been decreed.

Say: O people! If ye deny what hath appeared from the Dayspring of this Countenance, by what proof can ye establish your faith in the Manifestations of the Cause who appeared from the horizon of holiness with manifest sovereignty?

Say: Fear ye God and doubt not Him through Whom the heavens of holiness were raised up and the waters of knowledge flowed unto all who drew near. Purify your hearts, for verily He knoweth what is within you, what occupieth you, and what proceedeth from your mouths. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and earth and the knowledge of all the worlds.

O people! By God, I desire nothing from you. I mention you for the sake of God. Fear ye the Day wherein secrets shall be disclosed and the sinners shall be seized with a chastisement bereft of God's mercy. Thus do We teach thee that thou mayest stand firm in the Cause and be severed from every sinful idolater.

Then make mention from Us to the servant named Isma'il after Muhammad, that he may remember within himself and be numbered among those remembered in the Tablet. O servant! Stand firm in the Cause through God's grace and sovereignty, and follow not every rebellious satan. Remind the people of My remembrance, then leave the world behind thee. Thus behoveth everyone who attributeth himself to the Beauty of divine holiness.

Then doth the Pen of the Cause make mention of him who was named Muhammad before Rida, that he may rejoice within himself with the joy of God and be clear-sighted in the Cause. O servant! Purify thyself from doubt and uncertainty, then remember God and fear no one, even should all the idolaters gather against thee. Thus doth God teach thee in this Prison. Follow what thou art commanded, and He will guard thee with the hosts of the unseen with power.

Then make mention of ʿAbdu'llah Ibrahim that he may stand firm in the Cause and draw near to the shore of wondrous glory. O servant! Leave the world to its people, then ascend on wings of detachment to a heaven of exalted glory. Purify thyself from drawing near to those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, then aid thy Lord with whatsoever thou art able. This is God's command from before and after, if thou be aware thereof.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have arisen in the Cause and were mighty therein.

BH02478: My affliction is not My imprisonment, nor what has…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious.

My affliction is not My imprisonment, nor what has befallen Me at the hands of My enemies. Rather, My affliction is to be surrounded by those who do not recognize My station. I summon mankind unto life everlasting, yet they cling to every oppressor seeking My death. I desire their salvation, while they dig a pit for My destruction. Thus have the servants who call upon Me day and night become veiled.

Say: O people, open your eyes! This is your Lord, the Chosen One, Who has come with the truth—and every atom proclaims: "The Kingdom belongeth to God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling!" Say: Whither do ye flee? Do ye see any protector who can shield you from the Fire? Nay, by My life, though ye search throughout all regions! Say: The heavens have encompassed you—can ye penetrate through them? Nay, by your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving!

O servant who gazeth upon the Countenance! All things testify that thou art he who hath stood firm in the Cause of thy Lord in days when hearts were troubled and eyes were fixed in fear. Upon thee be the glory of God, thy Lord, and the glory of the Concourse on high, then Our chosen servants. Ask God, thy Lord, at all times to strengthen thee in that whereunto thou hast attained and to make thee one who can break the might of the aggressors who have denied God, Who causeth the night and day to succeed each other.

Associate with those whom thou findest to be weak. We love not that the reward of those who have turned to the Countenance should be lost. Thus hath the matter been decreed by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Compelling.

Make mention of My servants and raise them to the kingdom of My loving-kindness that they may behold My signs and the manifestations of My grandeur. Thus hath the tongue of revelation spoken at a time when it was surrounded by the hosts of the wicked.

Arise to make mention of Me and to praise Me, then strike the hearts with the rod of My Name that there may gush forth therefrom rivers. Within them lie the treasures of the waters of My knowledge which, when their veils are removed, flow forth in the name of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One.

Be wise in all matters. Those who exceed the bounds of wisdom are overcome by heedlessness. Thus hath the command been sent down in the Tablets from the Pen of thy Lord, and none understand it save those possessed of insight.

Blessed art thou for having gazed upon the Countenance on a day when skin did creep and the faces of those who disbelieved in the Lord of Lords turned black. Take the chalice of detachment through the remembrance of thy Lord, the Creator of all things. Say: O people, I have come to you from the Dayspring of utterance by the command of your Lord, the All-Merciful. This is the chalice of divine knowledge—drink ye thereof and follow not every doubtful idolater. Adorn your heads with the crown of My remembrance and your hearts with the ornament of My love. Thus have ye been commanded by the Lord of the Day of Mutual Calling.

Then make mention of My loved ones there and say: Blessed are ye for having attained unto the recognition of your Lord on the day when He came with the truth and necks were brought low before Him.

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BH02542: That which you sent from your pen in remembrance…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Pure

That which you sent from your pen in remembrance of God to Our name Mihdi has come before Us. Blessed are you, for your heart, veins and inner being are filled with the love of your Lord, the Mighty, the Generous. We have recognized your steadfastness in the Cause of God, your firmness in His religion, your rootedness in His love, and your passionate longing to attain His presence. Thus it behooveth you and those whose hearts God hath purified from the defilement of satans. As We previously sent you a Tablet, We therefore content Ourselves with what was revealed at that time. We beseech God to grant you the best of rewards and not separate you from His Most Exalted Word—and this indeed is a mighty bounty. Convey Our greetings to the faces of those who have turned wholly to God and turned away from those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Omnipotent.

Convey the greetings of this imprisoned servant to all the loved ones of God. It is incumbent upon every soul, to the extent possible, to protect people from the wolves of the earth—that is, from the ungodly among the people of the Bayan. I swear by the Luminary of the horizon of holy glory, they have arisen to practice such deceit and hypocrisy that the mention of it transcends the pen of all existence. How quickly changed the faces of those who claimed belief! Would that you could have known the object of worship of this group! Would that these servants had worshipped one like themselves! They worship naught but delusion, and they serve naught but delusion. Their origin is the fire and unto it shall they return.

Strange it is how awareness has been stripped from this people! It is not known by what evidence and proof they establish their own belief. They have drawn the swords of hatred against One for Whom the Primal Point sacrificed His very Self, and with utmost determination they have arisen to cut down the divine Tree. Yet still they count themselves among the people of certitude! God willing, We hope that the people of that blessed land will remain protected from the evil of these satanic manifestations and hold fast to the hem of the divine mantle.

Blessed are they who attain! Convey Our infinite greetings to K. A detailed and extensive Tablet was previously sent especially for him. God willing, they must become detached from all the world and what is therein, and occupy themselves with the remembrance and praise of God. The greatest of all matters today has been and will continue to be the unity of the loved ones of God. And the Spirit and Glory be upon you, O people of the Spirit!

BH02513: O servant who gazeth toward God! Hearken to My…

In the Name of the Most Exalted, the Incomparable

O servant who gazeth toward God! Hearken to My call from around the throne: verily there is no God but the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal!

Blessed art thou for having migrated unto God and detached thyself from thy home for the love of God, the King, the Mighty, the Loving. By the True One! They who turned toward the throne after My arrival in the Most Great Prison—the Concourse on High pray for them and perceive from them the sweet fragrances of the mercy of their Lord, the All-Merciful. This is most excellent with God, the Mighty, the Praised. And they whose letters reached the throne after the Ancient Beauty entered the Supreme Prison—this is nearer to piety, did ye but know. For in the turning of the servants to the court of the Lord of creation there ariseth a tumult that causeth hearts to tremble. God hath ordained for those who desired the Face and whose letters reached the throne the reward of one who attained His presence and circled round the pavilion of His glory. Thus hath the bounty of your Lord encompassed all, would ye but understand.

Let not the hardships of the world sadden thee in the path of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. By God! We would not exchange an atom thereof for the treasuries of the worlds. When the Face of the Ancient One turned crimson from the breezes of revelation and His tongue spoke between the heavens and earth:

> "I am He Who hath accepted for Himself the harm of the worlds, and the hardships of the world in their entirety dismay Me not, nor the might of the idolaters."

Be as thy Lord was. Thus doth the Pen of the Ancient One counsel thee from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise. We have ordained for thee in the Tablet that which the hearts of the mystics cannot comprehend, save those who have drunk the cup of eternity from the hand of Baha. Thus was the command, but the people are in evident remoteness. And praise be to God, the Beloved of the mystics.

He is God, exalted be His station. Glory and majesty belong to Him!

O migrant unto God! Pass beyond all else but Him and be content with the love of God, which is the source of wealth. Though this station be hidden today, due to the lack of capacity of the peoples of the world, ere long in the kingdom of the All-Merciful the greatness and majesty of the lovers of Truth and their wealth and exaltation shall be made manifest. Blessed are they who strive to the extent possible to improve your outward affairs and who secretly spend what God hath given them with the utmost humility and submissiveness, that thereby your worldly affairs may be set right. Never before hath such a word flowed from the Pen of the Ancient One, and this is naught but His grace toward His honored servants. And glory be upon thee and upon them and upon those who counsel one another to good deeds and righteous acts. Praise be to God, the Lord of names and attributes.

BH11737: Glory be to Him Who maketh mention of His…

He is the Most Manifest

Glory be to Him Who maketh mention of His handmaidens who have believed in Him, who have detached themselves from all that is repugnant to His good-pleasure, who have walked in the ways of the righteous, and have hearkened unto the melodies of the birds of eternity from the direction of the Throne of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and who soar on the wings of love and faithfulness toward the most sublime and resplendent heaven at dawn and in the early hours.

O My handmaiden! Hearken with thy heart's ear unto the call of Ali in truth, then unto the call of Muhammad, then unto the call of the Spirit from the precincts of the Prison, that there is none other God but He, and that He Who hath appeared in truth is, verily, His sovereignty, His might and His grandeur unto all who dwell in the unseen and the visible realms.

O My handmaiden! Know thou that God hath heard thy call and hath become aware of how His love hath consumed thee, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in the sacred Scrolls and Books. Rejoice in that thou hast been given to drink from the cup of everlasting life and hast attained unto that which they who have wound their heads in white cotton to display their learning have failed to attain, and who remained heedless of the Day wherein the Sun of utterance hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

By God! A single step taken by one of My handmaidens is better than the deeds of those who have denied God, even should they be among the great ones of the earth. Thus hath the command been sent down with sovereignty and power. Know thou that knowledge is the recognition of God, and when thou hast recognized Him, thou art better in the sight of thy Lord than the learned ones of the age. Therefore give thanks and bow down before the countenance of God, Who hath caused the night to be followed by day.

In every moment, taste the holy water of nearness from the fingers of divine companionship, then turn away from every prideful oppressor. They who have denied God after He appeared in truth are among the most evil of men, and have no station with thy Lord—these are the companions of the fire.

We have been with thee in thy rising up and thy sitting down, and in thy migration unto God, and We have accepted thy deeds and have ordained for thee in the heaven of Our command a station which none can comprehend save them who are endued with insight. Thus doth God make mention of such of His handmaidens as He pleaseth. There is none other God but Him. His is the creation and the command. He doeth what He willeth, and He is the Mighty, the Unconstrained.

And the Glory rest upon thee and upon those handmaidens who have believed in God in this Day wherein God hath come upon clouds of light. Convey Our greetings unto their faces, then give them to drink the wine of verses from the chalices of the words of thy Lord, that they may stand firm in the love of God and be detached from every denying deceiver.

BH02800: Lawh-i-Quds 2

O Muhammad Hasan! In the name of God, the Ancient, the Everlasting! This is the Holy Tablet sent down from the heaven of divine command for one who has found the fragrance of the Divine Garment from the direction of holiness and has turned to God, the Lord of the worlds. Blessed art thou for having drunk from the cup of everlasting life and turned toward God, the Creator of names. This indeed is a great bounty.

Give thanks to God for having revealed in this Prison what has caused the sweet savors of the All-Merciful to waft throughout creation. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. Whosoever speaks His praise on His earth speaks His remembrance in His kingdom. His grace has encompassed all things and His mercy

has preceded all who are in earth and heaven. Thus has the matter been decreed by One Who is mighty and wise.

Let not the intimations of those who have disbelieved in God sadden thee. The breaths of chastisement have seized them from every direction and today they burn in the fire of their own selves. God will soon return them to their abode—evil indeed is the abode of the wrongdoers.

Turn with thy heart to the Qiblih of all who are in the heavens and earth and address those who have disbelieved among the people of the Bayan, saying: O people! Have ye disbelieved in your All-Merciful Lord after He announced to you His advent—He Who came with the truth with manifest sovereignty? He called you in the wilderness of guidance saying ʿThe days of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious, draw nigh.' But when the promise was fulfilled and the Promised One came, ye turned away and became among the idolaters.

Say: If ye desire the power of God, verily it has shone forth from the horizon of the will of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. And if ye desire that which the servants are powerless to achieve, then look at all that hath appeared from Him, then ask Iraq and the City which God made the Throne of His Most Great Name, if ye be fair and not among the heedless. And if ye desire signs, the east and west of the earth have been filled therewith. Fear God, O people, and follow not every stubborn idolater.

O thou who gazest upon the Most Great Vision! Say: By God! The Hour has struck and the moon is cleft asunder. None has any refuge or resting place except by turning to a station of glorious dignity. Hold fast to the cord of grace in such wise that the hosts of earth and heaven cannot separate thee from it. Forget all else but Me and take comfort in My remembrance. Then confine thy affairs to teaching My Cause and making mention of Me amongst My servants, that they might cast away what they possess and take what they have been given by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Informed.

BH02808: O thou who dwellest in Hadba (Mosul)! Hearken unto…

He is God—exalted be His glory and majesty!

O thou who dwellest in Hadba (Mosul)! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One Who is imprisoned in ʿAkka. Then remember those days when the heedless made captives of the family of the Apostle—those by whose faces Yathrib and Batha were illumined—until they entered spacious Damascus. Among them was the Lord of the Worshippers and the Ornament of the Unity of God. They were asked: "Are you the rebels?" He replied: "No, by God! We are servants who have believed in God and His signs. The smile of faith hath appeared on our faces and the darkness of creation hath been dispelled by our presence. Through us was raised the pavilion of divine knowledge and strengthened the pillars of faith." They were asked: "Have you made lawful what God hath forbidden, or forbidden what God hath made lawful?" He replied: "No, by God! We are the first to follow God's commandments." They were asked: "Have you abandoned the Qur'an?" He replied: "We are of the household wherein the Qur'an was revealed. Through us appeared the sign of the All-Merciful, and with us are its meanings and mysteries. From us came its remembrance and its spread." They were asked: "For what crime have you been afflicted?" He replied: "For the love of God and our detachment from all else."

Today people deny the deeds of those who tyrannized in the past, while they commit tyranny worse than what was committed before, and they perceive it not. It is as though they feel secure from the grave and are guaranteed immortality. I know not in what valley they wander. Do they not see that they depart and return not? Do they not know that tomorrow they shall be called to account and shall not be ransomed? How long will they drag the skirts of passion and traverse the hills of error? By God! If they knew what lies behind the veil of the life-giving waters of their Lord's knowledge, the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing, they would cast away their vain imaginings and occupy themselves with the remembrance of the Most Great Name by night and day.

We, by God's grace and favor, are content with His decree. Neither tribulations prevent Us from His love, nor calamities from His remembrance. Even if all who are on earth were to assemble against Me with piercing spears and sharp swords, My tongue would not cease from the remembrance of God. Reflect thou, then look upon what befell God's loved ones in ages past and what hath befallen Us in these darkened days. Soon shall the hand of the All-Forgiving rend asunder the hem of this darkness, for verily He hath ever been a helper to the weak. We beseech God to draw thee nigh unto Him, to grant thee the good of this world and the next, and to make thee a helper to His weak servants and one who is confirmed in that which He loveth and is pleased with. Verily, He is powerful over all things and worthy to answer prayer.

BH02798: This is the Book revealed from the Kingdom…

He is the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

This is the Book revealed from the Kingdom of your Lord, the All-Merciful. Take it with the hand of power and assurance. Thus does the Pen command you at this hour when the Ancient King has established Himself upon the throne of His Most Great Name, the All-Glorious. Blessed is he who has drunk the living waters from the cup of the mercy of his Lord, the All-Merciful, and having drunk, has said: "All praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds."

O servant! You have drawn near to the Divine Lote-Tree and heard from it the melodies of your Lord, the Most Exalted. You have attained His presence, beheld His countenance, and appeared before God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. All this is from God's bounty upon you. Give thanks to Him by night and day, and glorify your Lord with praise among His slumbering servants, that perchance they may arise from sleep and turn toward the Face whereby the Hour has come and earthquakes have seized all who dwell on earth, and whereby all in the heavens and earth were terrified, save those whom the hand of your Lord's grace had taken hold, the Almighty, the All-Powerful, the Most High, the All-Praiseworthy.

Know then that what you crafted has been presented before the Throne in this Prison. We beseech God to aid you in His love and good-pleasure and to grant you what He has ordained for His sincere servants. But the Youth has not taken for Himself any house adorned with worldly ornaments, nor has He desired for Himself any life sustained by what exists in earth and heaven. At all times His gaze has been fixed upon the direction of His Lord, the All-Merciful, desiring naught save to ascend unto Him and to dwell in that station which transcends mention and utterance.

Thus have We sent down the verses to you from this remote spot. Grieve not for what has befallen Us, for tribulations do not cause Us to despair of God's spirit and mercy. Verily your Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Assist Him throughout all days—thus have We commanded you in this glorious Tablet.

What you crafted out of love for God—We have accepted it from you and from him who was the cause of it, as a grace from Us. God will soon reward you with the best of rewards in both beginning and end. Even if you had no other deed in this world, this deed would suffice you and make you independent of all else. Glorify your Lord with praise and give thanks to Him for this bounty by night and day, at eventide and dawn.

BH02758: Lawh-i-Jamal 2

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O J.L.! Hear the call of thy Lord, the Self-Sufficing, the Most Exalted. Arise to promote the Cause and enjoin what is right unto the people. Thus doth thy Lord, the Compassionate, command thee from this Prison which is encompassed by the hosts of heedlessness and error. We have made thee one of Our Most Beautiful Names that thou mayest summon the people unto thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Thus hath the Sun of Wisdom shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord's Will, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. None hath the right to object to thee; rather must every soul follow that which thou hast been commanded in the Tablets. The hearts of those who have turned away from the Countenance have been corrupted. Verily, they are in doubt and dissension.

Arise to promote the Cause. Say: O people! The Cause hath come, and ye have no protector from God this Day. Abandon what ye possess and take what hath been given you from God, the Mighty, the Compelling.

O My Name! Hear My call once again from the horizon of tribulation. The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the One, the Almighty, the All-Compelling. Tribulation hath not prevented Us from Our Cause. Soon shall We seize those who have wronged—verily thy Lord is severe in punishment.

Adorn thyself with the ornament of servitude unto God, the True One. Through it shall God's Cause be established throughout creation. Thus did We command thee aforetime. Glorify thy Lord with praise at eventide and at dawn. We have been with thee in all conditions. Grieve not at what hath befallen thee in thy Lord's path, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing. Soon will God exalt His Cause and manifest what hath been revealed in the Tablet. He is the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Magnify those who are present before the Throne. Blessed is the face wherein thou findest the radiance of thy Lord, the Most Merciful. Gather the people on the shore of the Most Great Ocean. Say: O people! Fear God and follow not every doubtful idolater. Soon shall the world and all that ye behold today perish, and the throes of death shall overtake you. Then shall ye find no escape, save for him in whose heart is the love of God. His face shall be illumined in that hour and he shall see at his right hand the angels of Paradise with goblets and cups. He shall drink from their hands the Water of Life and his spirit shall ascend to the highest horizon. Thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

Confine matters to the remembrance of thy Lord and grieve not at the cawing of the wicked. Soon shalt thou see them prostrate for what they have denied. Verily, thy Lord is severe in chastisement. And glory be upon thee and upon whoso hath turned unto God, the Lord of the Day of Mutual Calling.

BH02934: The Wronged One desires to make mention of him…

He is the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous

The Wronged One desires to make mention of him who drank the choice wine of divine proof when he was barred therefrom by those who disbelieved in the All-Merciful, and who turned to the surging ocean of utterance when all in creation turned away from it, and who responded when the Call was raised between earth and heaven on a day wherein ears were prevented from hearkening and tongues were stilled from remembrance and praise.

O Muhammad-Qabli-ʿAli! I bear witness that thou wert with the Wronged One in Iraq until the time of separation drew nigh, and thou didst migrate with the Ancient Beauty, directing thy steps toward the Land of Mystery by reason of what the hands of the people of discord had wrought on the day of parting, and thence to the Most Great Prison which We have named, in the Scriptures and Tablets, with Our most comely names. Through My remembrance of thee the ocean of forgiveness surgeth, and through My call the fragrance of the mercy of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is diffused. Blessed art thou, inasmuch as thou hast attained unto the testimony of My Most Exalted Pen in the Most Glorious Horizon.

Thou art he who hast attained unto that which God hath revealed in His perspicuous Book. Thou didst forsake that which was with the people, clinging fast to the Self-Subsisting One through Whom the hidden Secret was unveiled and the seal of the choice sealed Wine was broken. My Pen and My Tongue have borne witness unto thee with that whose fragrance shall never cease to endure so long as the kingdom of God, the Lord of the Throne and of the dust, and the Possessor of the next world and of this, shall endure.

Thy death was naught but a translation from the earthly abode to the divine dwelling, from the lowest station to the Most Exalted Companion. Thou art he who didst drink the Kawthar of divine knowledge in the earliest days and who didst circle round the Cause until thy days were ended. Blessed art thou, and blessed is he who maketh mention of thee through that which hath been sent down at this time from the Mighty Announcement whereby the heaven of idle fancies was cleft asunder and the earth was rent and the mountains were crushed—a command from God, the Lord of all men.

Praise be unto Thee, O God of the world and Desire of the nations, for having fulfilled Thy promise and purified, through the rain-showers of Thy mercy, him who ascended unto Thee and held fast unto Thy cord and was attracted by Thy verses and dwelt in Thy presence. O my Lord! Send down upon him, at all times, the signs of Thy mercy and the heavenly table of Thy grace. Thou, verily, art powerful to do what Thou willest, and in Thy grasp are the reins of all who are in the heavens and on earth. Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds!

BH03026: This is the Book of God which hath been…

In the Name of our Most Holy, Most Inaccessible, Most Mighty, Most Glorious Lord!

This is the Book of God which hath been sent down in truth, and wherein mention is made of a servant who was martyred in His path, and whom the breezes of longing bore away until they turned him toward the countenance of the All-Merciful in the heavenly Pole, an exalted and gracious station. And the near ones make mention of him in the heaven of eternity, for the Most Exalted Pen hath been moved to his remembrance by the fingers of Glory. Thus did the bounty of his Lord encompass him, and verily His bounty towards the sincere ones hath ever preceded in truth.

Blessed art thou, O servant, for thou hast dyed thy radiance with fire. By God! By radiance We mean but thy hair which turned white in thy faith in God, and by fire We mean but thy crimson blood. Thus did the Dove of the Spirit warble upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree in this dark and gloomy night, that the mercy of God might be witnessed by all the worlds. How wonderful art thou, O servant who hast ascended unto God and detached thyself from all else, for thy beard was reddened with thy blood in the path of thy Lord. By God! This is a station which the Ancient Beauty Himself longeth for, and God is witness unto this.

O ye dwellers in the tabernacle of holiness, whom God hath related unto Himself! By God! It behooveth you to glory in him and make mention of him throughout all nights and days. Thus doth the Pen of the All-Merciful command you now upon a luminous and mighty finger. And the Maids of Paradise, and the secluded Maidens of eternity, and the Countenances whom God created from the light of Glory before the creation of earth and heaven, find his fragrance. And upon their brows is inscribed by the golden Pen:

> "By God! They are the handmaidens of Glory and were created for those who were martyred in the path of this Youth Who sitteth upon the throne of cloud."

Thus was the matter decreed in truth by the finger of the Spirit upon the Tablet.

Thus doth God strengthen whom He willeth with might from His presence, and verily He hath made might exclusively His own and His loved ones', if thou be of them that know. And glory be upon Him and upon you, O remnant of the family of Hasan who was deemed good in God's path, to whose deed every atom beareth witness, and upon this Beauty Who hath been imprisoned in this pit through that which the hands of every wretched tyrant have wrought.

BH02986: Infinite harm hath been inflicted by the doings…

He is the Most Great, the Most Holy

Infinite harm hath been inflicted by the doings of the oppressors, yet boundless joy existeth, for we gaze upon God, the Most High, the Most Great. His trials are the hope of them that love Him, and His decree the desire of them that long for Him. Chains in His path are as sweet waters, and deadly poison in His love is as pure honey without compare. He hath ever appeared from the horizon of tribulation, and now gazeth from the horizon of prison.

Praise be to God that despite these afflictions We are in gladness and ease, and despite this abasement We dwell in supreme glory. In the midst of tribulation We shine forth from the Most Exalted Horizon, proclaiming that there is none other God but Him. The tongue hath not been prevented from remembering the All-Merciful, nor have the verses from the right hand of the throne of the All-Glorious been cut off.

The cawing of the ravens preventeth not the Day-Star of the horizons from shining forth, nor doth the tyranny of the wicked impede the helping standard of the Chosen One. The winds are commanded to pass over all, both ruin and prosperity, neither sorrowing at ruin nor rejoicing at prosperity. Whatsoever occurreth on earth preventeth it not from its commanded course—this is evident in the realm of creation, how much more so with the Truth, exalted is He, Whom none in earth or heaven can prevent from that which He desireth.

The waves of the Most Great Ocean of the All-Merciful cannot be impeded by worldly happenings, nor can the Day-Star of inner meanings be veiled by the dark superstitions of fancy. The moon poureth forth its light while the dog barketh. Although it beseemeth not the Supreme Pen to record such words, yet out of love for thee they are mentioned, that thou mayest know with certitude that the Truth sitteth with manifest joy upon the throne of establishment. Sorrow be unto him who loseth aught of this, for verily none in the heavens or earth can escape His grasp.

God willing, be thou occupied at all times with the remembrance of the True One, the Most High. Strive that perchance some heart may be admitted through the wine of the remembrance of the All-Merciful to the Kingdom of life. The effects of these deeds endure by the perpetuity of God, yet wisdom, the Ever-Beloved, hath ever been remembered in the Most Great Scene and witnessed in the Most Pure Spot.

Thou hast been mentioned in the Supreme Horizon and witnessed in the Most Pure Station. We beseech God to grant thee the good of this world and the next. And glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee.

BH03110: Glorified art Thou, O my God! I call upon…

He is the Ever-Abiding One!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! I call upon Thee in this hour when sorrows have encompassed me from all sides and the arrows of hatred have been directed toward me from every quarter by those who believed not in Thee and in Thy mighty signs from time immemorial, and whose essence was created from the fire of envy and the clay of error. Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for all that Thou hast caused to descend from the clouds of Thy decree and the heaven of Thy determination upon this servant who is imprisoned in this distant land.

By Thy might! I complain not of whatsoever Thou hast ordained for me, nay rather I yearn for all that is associated with Thee, even though it be beyond my strength and capacity. Yet I beseech Thee, O my God, by this Name through which the heaven of names was rent asunder, to protect Thy servants from the evil of Satan and from those who have taken their idle fancies as their god. Then guard them, O my God, within the stronghold of Thy care and beneath the canopy of Thy grace and favors. Then purify, O my

Beloved, their eyes that they may recognize Thee in the garment of Thy Most Glorious Name and attain unto Thy presence in the Revelation of the Manifestation of Thy Most Exalted Self. Thou art, verily, the One Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth, and Thou art, verily, powerful over all things.

Furthermore, I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thy pure Name which none among all created things hath known, and which no soul among the manifestations of Names and Attributes hath understood as it truly is, to send down upon Thy loved ones that which will draw them nigh unto Thee and detach them from all else besides Thee. Then send down upon them from the clouds of Thy mercy the good of this world and the world to come, for they are poor at Thy gate and helpless before the manifestations of Thy power, hoping for the wonders of Thy grace and gazing toward the direction of Thy mercy and bounty. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, the All-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

O thou who art my companion! Know thou that were I to recount unto thee what hath befallen me, my weeping and the sorrow of my heart would prevent me. We have therefore concealed it and withheld the Pen from its mention. We beseech God to raise up through His sovereignty one who will make mention of my grief and tribulation. There is no God but Him, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. And glory be upon thee and upon those who were around thee among those who were present.

BH03095: God maketh mention of His servant, that he may…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Glorious!

God maketh mention of His servant, that he may remember within himself and detach himself from all that hath been created between the heavens and the earth, and stand firm in the Cause in such wise that the winds of differences will not move him, and he may remain steadfast in the Cause.

O servant! Hear the call of thy Lord from this Prison, and turn not unto those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, and were far removed from the gardens of witness, and who eat of the tree of Zaqqum while imagining it to be of the fruits of Paradise. Nay, by My Self, the All-Merciful! They have no knowledge thereof, and they walk in the grades of fire while fancying they walk in wondrous gardens of glory. Thus do We seize the guilty ones and seal their hearts and minds in such wise that they perceive not and become as visible asses upon the earth.

Thou must shun such as these, then suffice thyself with God, thy Lord, and He will suffice thee against all the worlds. Then make mention of Him according to thy capacity, and follow not every base misbeliever. Soon will Satan call out among you and command you to disbelieve in God. Thus do We inform you through Our grace that ye may remain steadfast upon the path.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Most Glorious Name in Thy Later Manifestation that Thou protect me from the evil of every Satan and the call of every calf and the guile of every impostor and the filth of every wretched misbeliever. Then preserve me, O my God, within the protection of Thy safekeeping, and send down upon me the good of this world and the next, for Thou art powerful over all things.

O Lord! Send down upon me from the clouds of Thy grace that which will make me detached from all else save Thee and draw me nigh unto the seat of Thy mercy and favors. Then give me to drink, O my God, from the Kawthar of life that the breaths of Satan may not affect me. Then establish for me a seat of truth with Thee, and make me one of Thy servants who have detached themselves from all who are in the heavens and the earth and have turned unto Thee with an illumined and pure heart.

Thus have We taught thee that thou mayest read what hath been revealed in the Tablet and mayest be well-pleasing unto God. And glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee and upon every trustworthy one who hath turned unto God.

BH03097: The Remembrance of God from the Tree of Fire…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

The Remembrance of God from the Tree of Fire upon the Spot of Light in the Mount of Revelation hath appeared in human form with the name of the All-Merciful, in truth made manifest. He speaketh at all times that sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower. Thus hath the Command been sent down from the presence of the All-Merciful.

O attentive servant! Arise and warn those who are veiled. Say: The All-Merciful hath come with clear proof. Fear God and make not His Cause forsaken among you. Hold fast unto the Sure Handle which hath been suspended between earth and heaven. Beware lest ye follow him who hath denied God and was far removed from the sanctuary of nearness.

This is the Day wherein necks are bowed down and the idolaters have risen in hypocrisy, even to the point of breaking the Covenant and taking Satan as their helper. Say: Nothing shall profit you this Day, nor shall all that hath been created in the worlds avail you before the Sovereign of the Throne. Thus hath the All-Merciful spoken in this Tablet which hath been illumined by the lights of His countenance.

Say: From each letter We create beings whose number none knoweth save God, and He hath knowledge of all things. Say: Have ye occupied yourselves with the world and turned away from the Lord of Names? How long will ye slumber and not arise? Lift up your heads! By God, the Sun of Grace hath dawned from the horizon of justice with a light that encompasseth all worlds.

As for those who have cast the Command of God behind their backs, We have forbidden them the Living Waters. Soon shall they find themselves in the abyss of wrath and shall find no helper.

Rejoice thou in the Tablet of God. He remembereth thee in the prison while encompassed by the hosts of misbelief. His grace toward thee hath been great. Be not saddened by their acts. Take comfort in His remembrance, then detach thyself from all else. He verily sufficeth thee in truth. He hath power over all things.

Grieve not over anything. All that thou beholdest shall perish, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Truth, while loss shall be for those who have not taken a path unto Him. Convey the greetings of thy Lord to those with thee who have believed, and give them the glad-tidings of what hath been ordained for them in a Tablet that lieth concealed behind the veil of glory.

BH03098: This is a remembrance from God, from the Tree…

He is the Most Wondrous, the Most Impregnable, the Most Glorious.

This is a remembrance from God, from the Tree of Light in the form of fire, which was witnessed from the direction of the Throne. Verily He hath unveiled Beauty, whereat all those of lofty station were thunderstruck. Through Him God tested His servants who claimed faith within themselves, and through Him truth was distinguished from falsehood from that time until the Day when the Beauty of Baha will come upon the crimson Buraq and the matter will be decided by One mighty and powerful. Those who believed in God in those days—these will God raise up on that Day with faces from which all created things will be illumined. And those who disbelieved and joined partners with God—the angels of chastisement will drive them away with whips of wrath, and they shall find no way unto God. Thus do We set forth the verses and explain the two paths that whosoever willeth may choose for himself what he desireth. Verily my Lord is independent of all worlds.

O Leaf of paradise! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, from the direction of the Throne, that it may draw thee to a station holy and luminous. Purify thyself from the hints of earth and whatsoever is thereon, that thou mayest be detached from the world and its ornaments, remembering thy Lord with a pure and wondrous heart. Remember thy Lord in the darkness of night and at the break of dawn, that God may make thee one of the leaves that were witnessed upon the Branch of the Cause. Hold fast to the cord of God and His grace, then place thy trust in Him in all matters. Verily He watcheth over all things. Give thanks to thy Lord that We have sent down the verses in this Tablet and dispatched them unto thee, that thou mayest find from it the fragrance of holiness from this Youth Who was imprisoned under oppression.

O handmaid of God! Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord and be not of those women who take for themselves in every age a god to worship. Turn thy face toward God and sanctify thyself from the defilement of sovereignty, that God may cause thee to dwell in the shadow of His protection in a station that was exalted in truth. And glory be upon thee and upon those women who have turned their faces to the countenance that shone from the horizon of holiness with radiant light.

BH03071: O Khalil! Arise to serve the Glorious Cause…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy!

O Khalil! Arise to serve the Glorious Cause in these days wherein faces have darkened and eyes have turned away, save those who have set their faces toward the Dayspring of the bounty of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Say: O concourse of divines! Consider and call to mind the days when the Sun of Hijaz shone forth from the horizon of the Will of your Lord, the Chosen One. The learned ones turned away from Him and the scholars objected, until the earth became strait for Him by Whom the horizons were illumined. Say: Were ye to ponder that which appeared aforetime and in those days, ye would surely cast away what ye possess and hasten to the Holy Court in humility and submission.

Say: Ali came to you before and gave you glad tidings of this Kawthar through which God hath quickened hearts and souls. Ye turned away from Him and from that for which ye were created. Fear God, O people of understanding! Soon shall come upon you a day wherein ye shall be called to account for your deeds in this vain life, and ye shall find no place of refuge.

Verily thou hearest My words and dost appear from the horizon of assurance in the name of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Remind the people with wisdom and utterance. Say: O people! Fear God and commit not that which causeth the Messengers to lament in the highest Paradise.

Know then that calamities have encompassed Us from all sides through that which the hands of the unbelievers have wrought, they who have denied God, the Mighty, the Glorious, the All-Forgiving. Yet the Youth hath not been deterred from that which He was commanded by the Lord of Names and Attributes. Nothing can withstand His Cause. Verily thy Lord is the Almighty, the Powerful, the Chosen One.

Neither the ascendancy of kings nor all who are on earth can hinder Us, as witnesseth the Call that hath been raised from this Prison whose gate hath been seized by the hosts of the wicked. Seest thou any protector for anyone? Nay, by thy Lord Who hath subdued the names and caused the Youth to speak, save God, the Lord of earth and heaven!

Soon shall the world and all that is therein perish; seek thou therefore that which shall cause thy remembrance to endure in the Scriptures and Tablets. We beseech God to aid thee in His Cause, to enable thee to make mention of Him and praise Him, and to grant thee that which He hath ordained for His chosen ones who have detached themselves from all on earth for love of Him and have turned unto the Dawning-Place of lights.

BH03143: This is a gracious Book sent down…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

This is a gracious Book sent down from the heaven of the Will of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Within it is the Water of Life, whereby the hearts of those who have recognized Him are quickened. Verily, he whom the fragrances of My raiment have stirred findeth in every word of God's words the sweet scents of his Lord, the All-Merciful, if he be of them that are assured.

Say: O people, abandon transgression and error. We created you for My knowledge and remembrance, if ye be of them that know. Say: Doth vain desire profit you? Nay, by the Lord of Names! It calleth you unto wickedness, while We summon you unto guidance. Which of these two is more worthy, if ye be fair, and follow not every doubting idolater. Sanctify your souls for My knowledge, your hearts for My love, and your tongues for My wondrous remembrance. Though I be in prison, I desire for you naught save to draw you nigh unto God, the Mighty, the Peerless. Soon shall that wherewith the people of vain desires are occupied perish, and sovereignty shall remain with God, the Creator of earth and heaven. He who turneth away from guidance is in manifest error.

Hold fast unto the Book of thy Lord, then recite it by night and by day. It shall verily protect thee and draw thee nigh unto the Most Sublime Vision. Thy Lord is He Who ruleth as He pleaseth. Be thou steadfast in the love of thy Lord in such wise that nothing that happeneth on earth may disturb thee.

Say: O my Lord! I have turned with my whole being to the Dayspring of Thy Cause and the Dawning-Place of Thy Revelation. Make me pure for Thy sake, that I may desire naught save what Thou desirest, and will naught save what Thou willest. O my Lord! I have laid down my will and taken up Thy will. Write down for me what beseemeth Thy bounty and grace. Verily, Thou art the Most Merciful of the merciful. Praise be to Thee, O God of the worlds! The Most Glorious!

Grieve not for thy brother. By My life! He dwelleth in the precincts of thy Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. He saith: Would that the people had known this exalted station! He is in the presence of his Lord's loving-kindness, turning not his gaze toward those on earth. Thus doth the All-Knowing, the All-Informed, acquaint thee, that thou mayest know thy Lord and thank Him, saying: Praise be to Thee, O God of all who are in the heavens and on earth! Then make mention from Us to those who are round about thee. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

BH03067: In the Name of God, the Most Great…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Glorious! Hearken unto what is revealed unto thee from the direction of the mercy of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Verily, there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Self-Subsisting. Cast behind thy back all created things, then turn thy face toward God with a countenance from which the lights shine forth. By God! Should anyone hear the call of his Lord and taste the sweetness therein, it would surely draw him to the court of nearness and glory and beauty.

O Ha! Hear once again the call of thy Lord, the Most Glorious, from the direction of this Prison from whose horizon hath shown forth the Sun of the beauty of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. Arise to make mention of Him amongst the servants and fear not those who have denied the Return. Say: This is the Day wherein the faces of the idolaters have been darkened, and the faces of the righteous have been illumined—they who have detached themselves from all that is with the people, seeking that which is with their Lord, the Mighty, the Compelling. By My life! Should one possessed of hearing turn toward all things, he would hear from them "The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Forgiving!"

O Sin! That which was hidden in the breasts hath been unveiled, the secrets have been revealed, and every soul hath been gathered according to its deeds in this Day whereon the Ancient Beauty hath been established upon the throne of grandeur and power. Say: O people! Do ye deny that which ye were promised? Fear God and be not of them whom We behold in doubt and schism. This is the Promised One Who hath come from the dawning-place of the Promise with proof and evidence.

O Nun! Be thou as the letter Nun of this Ocean—immerse thyself therein by thy Lord's leave at morn and eventide. Stand firm in His love and remind the people of thy Lord's verses. This is better for thee than all that hath been created in the contingent world. Let not the words of those who have disbelieved in God

grieve thee. Already hath been inscribed upon their foreheads: “These are they who have disbelieved in the Lord of Lords.” Beware lest thou pause in the remembrance of thy Lord. Be thou a herald of My Name and glorify His praise at eve and dawn. Soon shall come a day when thou shalt behold the wrongdoers in the fire, and thyself in the vicinity of the mercy of thy Lord, the Self-Subsisting.

And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath believed in this Day wherein the Herald doth call out from the right hand of the throne of thy Lord, the One, the Powerful, the All-Compelling. And praise be to God, the King, the Mighty, the Most Exalted.

BH03174: O Leaf of the Divine Tree! Blessed art thou…

In the Name of God, the Most Pure

O Leaf of the Divine Tree! Blessed art thou, for the breezes of thy Lord’s mercy have stirred thee, severed thee from all else, and turned thee toward the Most Holy Paradise where the lights have dawned from the countenance of thy Lord, the Most High, the Great. Happy art thou for having drunk from the cup of camphor, the pure wine in this Revelation wherein hath appeared the Preserved Tablet that was hidden from the eyes of the heedless. Therefore God proclaims His greatness upon thy face from this remote prison, and through His proclamation the tongues of all things speak forth the glorification of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Stand firm then in His love and inhale the fragrance of holiness from My garment that hath been suspended between the heavens and the earth. O Leaf! By God, wert thou to behold it with thine eyes, thou wouldst find it pierced by the spears of the ungodly and the arrows of the deniers. Every thread thereof crieth out between earth and heaven saying:

> “O peoples of earth and heaven! If ye desire to gaze upon your Best Beloved, the Most High, look upon me that ye may know what hath befallen Him at the hands of the hosts of Satan. Behold, O people, the blood that floweth from me—it is indeed the blood of God, yet the people are in manifest heedlessness.”

Were We to detail for thee what hath befallen Us, thou wouldst hear the lamentation of the Concourse on High and the cry of the angels drawn nigh. I am indeed the Youth heralded by the Primal Point and, before Him, by the Prophets and Messengers. Yet when I came from the heaven of command and rent asunder the veils, there arose the clamor of the perverse ones who broke God’s covenant and His testament, cast the Bayan behind their backs, and worshipped the calf instead of God. Woe unto them from the torment of a mighty day!

And thou, loose thy tongue in My remembrance and praise among My handmaidens, that they may detach themselves from their own selves and desires and turn unto the King of kings and rulers. Verily thy Lord knoweth what hath befallen thee. Grieve not in His path, but place thy trust in Him. He will, in truth, protect thee from the harm of the corrupt ones. And the glory rest upon thee and upon those who have shown patience in hardship out of love for God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Powerful.

BH03117: Blessed art thou, for God hath named thee…

In the Name of our Lord, the Most Invincible, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Blessed art thou, for God hath named thee the first pillar of the two Names derived from this Name, before which all who are in the heavens and earth were struck with terror, all faces were transformed, all feet did stumble, and the skin of every sinful unbeliever did quiver. Glad tidings unto thee, O servant, for thou didst draw nigh unto God and didst detach thyself from those who disbelieved and associated partners with God, and didst turn thy face toward God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Unconstrained. Therefore, rejoice within thyself, for God hath magnified thy face from this Prison and doth make mention of thee at this moment with such remembrances through which all things were created from a beginning that hath no beginning, through which spirits were raised up and lights did shine.

Thus doth God give unto whomsoever He willeth from the Kawthar of grace and bounty, and clotheth with the robe of forgiveness those who were martyred in His path and soared in the atmosphere of nearness on two wings of detachment. Thus doth God single out whomsoever He willeth through a command from His presence. There is no God but Him, the One, the Powerful, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. He forgiveth whomsoever He willeth through His sovereignty and chastiseth whomsoever He desireth through His command. He shall not be questioned about what He doeth. There is no God but Him, the Guardian, the Powerful, the All-Compelling.

O remnants of the family of Husayn! Rejoice within yourselves and grieve not over anything, for your Lord, the All-Merciful, hath ordained for you in Paradise a station that none knoweth save God, the One, the All-Seeing. Were you to witness the station of Our servant in the highest Paradise, you would beseech God to raise you up unto him. But it hath been veiled from you by a wisdom that none hath comprehended save God, Who perceiveth all vision while no vision perceiveth Him. Were people to become aware of the station that God hath ordained for those who were martyred in His path, they would sacrifice their own souls in hope of attaining that station. Thus hath the matter been decreed from the presence of God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Effulgent. Glory be upon him and upon you, O dwellers of the pavilion of glory, from this Beauty from Whose face suns have dawned and from Whose brow moons have shone forth.

BH03249: The Covenant was taken at the break of morn…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Impregnable, the Most Holy

The Covenant was taken at the break of morn from those who believed, that they should worship none but God and should not corrupt the earth. Among them are those who have attained unto guidance and those who have followed vain desire—these are indeed among the heedless.

I sorrow not for the burden of My imprisonment. Neither do I grieve over My abasement, or the tribulation I suffer at the hands of Mine enemies. By My life! They are My glory, a glory wherewith God hath adorned His own Self. Would that ye know it!

The shame I was made to bear hath uncovered the glory with which the whole of creation had been invested, and through the cruelties I have endured, the Daystar of Justice hath manifested itself, and shed its splendor upon men.

My sorrows are for those who have involved themselves in their corrupt passions, and claim to be associated with the Faith of God, the Gracious, the All-Praised.

It behooveth the people of Baha to die to the world and all that is therein, to be so detached from all earthly things that the inmates of Paradise may inhale from their garment the sweet smelling savor of sanctity, that all the peoples of the earth may recognize in their faces the brightness of the All-Merciful, and that through them may be spread abroad the signs and tokens of God, the Almighty, the All-Wise. They that have tarnished the fair name of the Cause of God, by following the things of the flesh—these are in palpable error!

Ask thou God that He may guide them unto what He hath willed, and strengthen them in that whereby the breezes of detachment may waft over all the worlds.

We have servants who, were all the treasures of the heavens and earth to be offered unto them, would pay no heed nor turn their gaze from the Most Great Vision—these indeed dwell within the pavilion of My protection. The people of the holy precincts seek blessings through them. Verily thy Lord is knowing of all things.

These have passed by the world and its adornments as clouds pass by, and thy Lord is witness to what I say.

Take thou the cup of detachment in the name of thy Lord, the Creator of invention, then drink thereof and say: Praise be unto Thee, O God of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

Be thou content with His good-pleasure, then make thy desire what thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, hath desired. For verily the world and all that is therein shall perish and change, while that which hath been ordained for thee in My great Kingdom shall never end.

Forget not the favor of thy Lord, for He hath called thee unto Himself and delivered thee from the depths of vain imaginings, and hath sent down unto thee clear verses. Read them and be thou among the thankful ones.

BH03190: O My companion on the pages and My name…

He is the All-Knowing, the Most Glorious!

O My companion on the pages and My name in the Books! Hearken unto the Call of God from the shore of the Ancient Sea in the luminous spot from the Most Glorious Tree—verily there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Powerful.

God's curse be upon him who hath wronged thee and denied thy rights in the Bayan. We testify that he is among the wrongdoers. Grieve thou not—God hath frustrated what they intended and hath sent down for thee that whereby thy mention shall endure amongst the worlds.

Arise by My leave from the horizon of the heaven of My Cause and convey unto the people with wisdom and utterance. Thus hast thou been commanded by thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Beware lest those in the contingent world prevent thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised.

Consider the people of the Bayan and their lack of understanding. They have denied Him by Whose name the heaven of the Bayan was adorned with the sun of wisdom and exposition. But for Him the Tree of Sinai would not have spoken nor would the Dove of the Cause have warbled upon the branches of the Tree of Revelation. Thus hath the Sun of Revelation shone forth from the horizon of thy Lord's remembrance, the Mighty, the Wise.

Say: O people! Were anyone to inhale, he would detect from every letter revealed in the Bayan the fragrance of My luminous garment. Say: This is He Whose covenant God took before His own covenant and before the creation of the heavens and earths. The winds of destiny have blown from the direction of might and power and deprived them of stability. Verily thy Lord is the Ruler over what He willeth.

After Our arrival in the Most Great Prison, We delivered God's messages to the East and West of the earth that all might know that tribulations prevented not their Lord, the Most Glorious, from what He desired. And from the horizon of the Prison We summon the nations unto God, the Lord of eternity. Thus have We manifested power despite those who disbelieved in God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

Leave the heedless in their vain disputes, then remember thy Lord with spirit and fragrance. He is with thee and will aid thee with truth at all times. Make mention of the son on My behalf and give him glad tidings of My remembrance of him. Soon will God remove those who have wronged without clear proof or enlightening Book. And glory be upon thee and upon them from God, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

BH03299: O Abdu'l-Nazir! We have turned toward you as you…

He is the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

O Abdu'l-Nazir! We have turned toward you as you have turned toward God, the Lord of the worlds, and We have faced you as you have faced the Dawning-Place of the Cause. Know this and be of the thankful ones. Whoso occupieth himself with My remembrance amongst My servants, him will I remember in My kingdom and My realms of might. Verily My mercy hath preceded all things and I am the Forgiving, the Merciful. Blessed is he who hath found and turned, who hath cast away and taken up, who hath heard and responded—he is of those who have attained.

Let not My imprisonment and tribulation grieve you, nor your hardship and affliction. By My life! Behind you lies the ocean of joy which yearns for your arrival. Soon shall you enter it through My Name, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. God hath ordained joy beneath My shadow—whoso departeth from it is of the distracted ones. The people of Baha behold the passing of all things as they see the sun in the sky. These are the dwellers in the cities of eternity. The harm of the ungodly grieveth them not—though their bodies

be grieved, their spirits find glad tidings and manifest joy. We have found in the cup of tribulation the sweetness of Kawthar and Tasnim in the love of God and His path. To this do My limbs bear witness, saying: Yea, by the Lord of the mighty Throne!

Be thou in such wise that the people of thy realm may detect from thee the fragrance of My garment. Glorify thy Lord with praise and be of those who remember. Those whom this world hath deluded—for them there is no escape. Soon shall a violent wind pass over them and render them like scattered stubble or scattered dust, and return them to the flames. Verily thy Lord is the Powerful, the Mighty. The world laughs at those who desire it and says: "Have you seen from me any good or faithfulness?" Should anyone reply "Yes," it cries out saying: "Thou hast lied, by the Lord of the exalted Throne!" Leave those who have turned away from God and faced toward it, then turn thy heart's face toward God, the Mighty, the Generous.

Know thou the worth of what hath been sent down and dispatched to thee, then recite it morning and evening, nay rather at all times. Verily He is with His remembering servants. Say: Praise be to Thee, O God of the worlds and Object of worship of all in the heavens and earths.

BH03274: This is a mighty Tablet revealed from the Kingdom…

In the name of God, the Eternal, the Ever-Abiding

This is a mighty Tablet revealed from the Kingdom of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. In each word surgeth the ocean of names from the Fashioner of earth and heaven. Blessed are they that comprehend. And in each verse thereof is ordained the creation of that which none knoweth save God, the Lord of all worlds.

They whose eyes are illumined with the light of recognition, these shall behold in My traces the beauty of the All-Merciful. Thus have We expounded the Cause from the presence of One knowing, wise. They who have forsaken that which is with the people and have turned with their hearts to the Dawning-Place of inspiration, these are of the people of Baha, as attesteth that which hath been sent down in a preserved Tablet.

Say: O people, follow not your desires, follow rather guidance. Verily it hath appeared in truth from the horizon of the Will of your Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Beware lest the world prevent you from turning to the Kingdom of immortality, or the hosts of the oppressors frighten you. Remember your Lord amongst My servants, that perchance they may recognize their Creator and be drawn by the traces of truth to the scene of His mighty Name.

They who are heedless and have turned away, these are cursed by the atoms, though they are today among those who rejoice. Then shall chastisement come upon them from every direction, whereupon their faces shall be seen turned yellow from fear of thy Lord, the Subduer, the Mighty, the Powerful.

When the idolaters drove Us from the Land of Mystery, We called out to the servants with the most exalted call and summoned them unto God, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Until they cast Us into another prison, whereupon We arose with another call and conveyed the Command of thy Lord to kings and

monarchs. That which befell Us did not prevent Us from His remembrance, and that which appeared is a witness to what is recorded. But the people are in evident veils.

Through His love, no harm from those in the worlds can dismay Us, nor can what the hands of the aggressors have wrought sadden Us. Thus have We set forth the verses for thee and sent them down in truth that thou mayest find the sweetness of the table that hath descended from heaven. By My life, through it shall thy face shine forth amongst Our hesitating servants. Blessed is he who readeth what hath been sent down from the direction of the Throne and pondereth My Cause. He is of those brought near.

Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03252: That which thou didst address to God, thy Lord…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious

That which thou didst address to God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds, hath reached Us in the Prison. This is better for thee than all that hath been created on earth. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. We have answered thee in truth as a bounty from Our presence. Verily thy Lord is He Who hath power over whatsoever He willeth. In His right hand is the kingdom of names, and within His grasp the dominion of the realms of eternity. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

At the moment when thou didst open thy lips in remembrance of God, the Lord of Names, We heard it and answered thee in truth, and ordained for thee in the Most Glorious Pavilion a station that was illumined by the lights of the countenance of thy Lord, the Most High, the Great. Wert thou to become aware of what We have ordained for thee, thou wouldst soar on the wings of longing in the atmosphere of detachment and behold all who are in creation beneath the shadow of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised.

When thou dost inhale the fragrance of the verses which have descended from the right hand of the throne of thy Lord, the Lord of Names and Attributes, turn thy face toward the Prison and say: O my Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having caused me to soar in the atmosphere of Thy knowledge and to turn toward the sanctuary of Thy certitude and the Kaaba of Thy presence. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the tongue of all things hath spoken in praise of Thy Self, to make me in all conditions to gaze toward the direction of Thy good-pleasure and whatsoever Thou hast ordained for me in the heaven of Thy decree. Then make me to be detached from the cawing of those who have disbelieved in Thy signs, of whom Thou hast informed us in Thy Tablets. Cause me, O my God, to be so steadfast in Thy love that were all who are on earth to claim the stations of Thy Cause and the conditions of Thy Manifestation, I would not turn toward them, for I bear witness that the seal of the Manifestation of God is set in this Most Great Revelation, and whosoever layeth claim to a Revelation speaketh through the promptings of self and passion.

Thus hath it been inscribed by Thy Most Exalted Pen upon the Tablets which have been adorned with the ornament of Thy words, O Creator of the heavens! I am certain, O my God, that Thou hast answered what

I have beseeched of Thee and ordained for me what I have desired, through Thy grace and bounty. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Exalted, the Forgiving, the Merciful. Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH03404: Has the earth carried one whom kinship cannot prevent…

In the Name of God, the Everlasting, the Inexhaustible

Has the earth carried one whom kinship cannot prevent from turning to the Lord of creation, and who casts behind him relationships and allusions out of love for God, the Lord of names and attributes? Blessed is he who sees no glory for himself except through the glory of God and who is detached from all else. He is indeed among the most exalted of creatures before the Truth. Thus has the matter been decreed and the verses have come. And he whom love of kindred does not prevent from turning to his Lord—his face shall shine forth between earth and heaven. The hosts of the unseen and the visible shall assist him, and the angels of the Command shall aid him in drawing near to the station wherein the lights of the Divine Essence are kindled and shine forth.

Hearken to what is revealed to thee from the direction of the Prison and what hath been sent down from the Pen of Command. It is musk from which fragrances waft. When the Tablet of Fire cometh unto thee, set it aside and take what hath been given thee from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

Glory be to Thee, O my God! Thou hearest my lamentation in this Prison and knowest that I have summoned the servants only to the court of Thy mercy and favors, and have commanded them only what Thou hast commanded in the kingdom of Thy decree and the dominion of Thy judgment. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst subjugate the winds, to protect this servant who hath turned to Thee and held fast to the hem of Thy bounty. O Lord! Thou knowest what is in hearts, verily Thou art the Truth, the Knower of things unseen. Thou knowest the secrets of breasts. I beseech Thee by Thy Most Great Name to strengthen him in such wise that nothing shall prevent him from Thy love, that he may arise to aid Thy Cause and stand firm in Thy Command. O Lord! When Thou hast made known to him the paths of Thy grace and guidance, deprive him not through Thy generosity. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

O thou attentive servant! Arise to aid thy Lord in these days, that the dwellers of Paradise may glory in thee. Thus doth the Pen of Grace command thee from before God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And praise be to God, the Beloved of the mystics and the Goal of the sincere ones.

BH03411: O My handmaiden adorned with the ornament of My…

He is the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Wise.

O My handmaiden adorned with the ornament of My love! Happy art thou and that handmaiden who hath attained My days, turned toward My face, and answered when My call was uplifted; who was blessed with My remembrance when other maidservants turned against Me; who hath testified to that which My tongue hath declared and acknowledged what hath been sent down in My Book.

O My handmaiden! Let not grief overwhelm thee on account of that which hath occurred in the early days of our arrival in this prison. We have sacrificed Mihdi for a purpose inscrutable to all save God. That branch offered up his soul in the flower of his youth and with the utmost joy and gladness he hastened to the realm beyond. Every soul that departeth from this world with the love of God in his heart is and hath ever been the possessor of all good. If this be attained by virtue of the verses of the Pen of the Most High, this is a gift eternal and a grace everlasting. Praise be to God that he attained unto that to which nothing else can compare.

Today, because of the lack of capacity of the people of the world, the station of the Word of God is concealed. I swear by the waves of the ocean of God's utterance, O My handmaiden, that a single word thereof excelleth whatsoever is now evident in the world of being. How many princes of the earth and queens of the world have passed away, yearning to hear these words: "O My servant" or "O My maidservant," but they heard them not. As Ansari says:

O my God! If but once Thou sayest: "My servant," By the Throne my laughter will pass.

Since thou hast attained this time and again, be full of joy.

God, glorified be His glory, is faithful, and He received His trust with joy and gladness. What occurred was in accordance with the exigencies of consummate wisdom. Be thou patient, therefore, for, verily, thy Lord is the Most Patient, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, and He shall not delay the recompense of those who endure with patience. We send praise to all the maidservants of that land and exhort them to be steadfast in His Cause.

BH03326: O Muhammad! Hear the call of the Beloved…

In the name of God, the Exalted, the Great.

O Muhammad! Hear the call of the Beloved in these days when He was cast into the well of hatred by the hands of the oppressors. And He, from the depths of the well, calls out saying: O people! Forget not the days in which the Beauty of God shone upon you and His tongue spoke unto you from the holy, mighty, powerful and wise verses of God. And He walked among you yet none recognized Him save His own all-knowing, all-informed Self. And there appeared from Him the signs of God and His grandeur, then the sovereignty of God and His power, but none was aware of this save God, your Lord and the Lord of all creation.

And you, O servant, remember My days and what you heard from My tongue, and forget not My favor upon you, for My favor upon you has indeed been great. Then remember My tribulations which have befallen Me in this remote prison. Beware, beware lest you become occupied with the world and its ornaments. Then purify yourself from all that prevents you from God, your Lord. This is My counsel unto you and unto Our believing servants.

Say: O people! Fear God and commit not that which would cause God's Cause to be lost among His servants, even though His Cause is sanctified above the defilement of the guilty ones. And if harm befalls you, be patient, then show forth yet more patience, then remember My harm. And if sorrow comes upon

you, be patient, then reflect on the sorrows that have befallen the Beauty of your Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate. And when you are settled in a place and find rest within yourself, then weep for My tribulations among the company of the ungodly. And if you find comfort with anyone, then remember My loneliness in this land from which the feet of seekers are cut off.

Thus have We remembered you and commanded you that you may remain steadfast in the Cause of your Lord and remember Him morning and evening. And the glory be upon you and upon those who have believed in God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

BH03362: The clouds of holiness have been raised up…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted

The clouds of holiness have been raised up in truth in this heaven that towers above all contingent things, raining down upon all created things from the outpourings of an impregnable mercy. Through it there have sprouted forth from the breasts of the sincere the flowers of wisdom and utterance. Thus has the grace of the All-Merciful encompassed all the worlds. O servant! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One, Who has fallen beneath the sword of the enemies and in this prison lies captive in the hands of the idolaters. By God! Those who were given the Furqan did not wrong Us—those who wronged this Beauty were of the people of the Bayan, who were renowned among all creation. They arose in such wise that none can recount it.

By God! Because of this all who dwell in the heavens and earth wept, and all within the sacred and impregnable pavilion. They imagine within themselves that they have believed in God and the Manifestation of His Self, but when the veils were rent asunder and the Countenance of the Chosen One appeared, they dispersed from around Him, denied Him, warred against His Self, and disputed His verses. Thus has it befallen this Youth, if thou be of those who know. O servant! Stand firm in thy love for thy Lord and turn not unto those who have wronged and associated partners with God. Then seek the grace of Him Who was observed above the horizon of eternity with My Most Glorious Name. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have stood firm in the Cause at which the feet of every learned one have slipped.

O servant! Make mention from Us to him who was named Husayn, that he may rejoice within himself at having been remembered by the Pen of Holiness, and may stand firm in that which was inscribed in the Tablet. Then glorify him who was named Hasan in the Kingdom of Names and who was at that time mentioned before the Throne. Say: Blessed are ye both if ye forsake sovereignty behind you and turn with your hearts unto God Who created you by His command and guided you to a holy and wondrous path.

BH03353: The Most Holy, the Most Glorious! Glorified is He…

The Most Holy, the Most Glorious! Glorified is He Who remembers His loved ones while in prison, when He was in the hands of the wicked, that the fragrances of revelation might draw them and lead them forth from all directions. Blessed is he whom the breath of the All-Merciful hath caught in these days

wherein souls were shaken with fear of thy Lord, the Almighty. Is there any path for anyone? Nay, by My life, save this path which was heralded by the Bayan from God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.

How many servants heard the call of God yet answered not—these lay asleep on the couch of heedlessness and error. And how many heard and hastened to the court of His Cause—these verily are the essence of creation in the sight of the Truth, as thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, doth testify. And among them were those who turned to the Dayspring of Revelation and were of those who heard and answered.

Verily those who drank the wine of life in the days of their Lord, the All-Merciful—these are not held back by the veils of those in creation from turning toward God, the Lord of the Day of Mutual Disengagement. They hasten, detached from all directions, turning to God, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing.

When asked by what proof they believed, they say:

> "Blind be thine eye, O perfidious misbeliever! Hast thou not seen God's manifestation in every condition, and hast thou not seen His power which hath encompassed the lands? Hast thou not heard the call of the Herald when the appointed time came and eyes were dazzled? Is there doubt in His sovereignty? Nay, by the Lord of lords! Or in His manifestation which hath shone forth from the horizon of the Cause with grandeur and power? Do ye deny the Sun after His rays have encompassed the horizons?"

These are servants who adduce no proof except the sovereignty of the Manifestation and what hath appeared from Him. Exalted is this station whence the lights have shone forth! Thus hath flowed from the Pen the Kawthar of pre-existence, and this Sea hath surged, each drop whereof proclaimeth: "Sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Mighty, the All-Compelling!"

When the wine of revelation hath taken thee from this luminous cup, arise to make mention of thy Lord amongst the servants, that thy words might affect hearts in such wise as to transform the horizons. Thus have We imparted to thee from the prison-quarter that thou mightest remember thy Lord at morn and eventide.

BH03358: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how He Who is the Manifestation of Thy Name, the Unique, and the Dawning-Place of Thy glorious Book, spendeth the days of the Festival in the prison of Thine enemies, where they have prevented Him from going forth and Thy loved ones from entering. In such condition He calleth upon Thee, saying:

> "O my God! Grant Thy loved ones patience in their separation from Thee, then make them content with Thy good-pleasure and the manifestation of Thy decree."

Thou knowest, O my God, what hath befallen those of Thy servants who have turned toward Thee, after they sought the Ka'bih of Thy presence and the sanctuary of Thy nearness and reunion. Among them

were servants who entered the city, turning toward the Spot which Thou hadst made the Qiblih of those in Thy heaven and earth, yet were prevented from beholding Thy beauty—those whom Thou didst name Abu'l-Hasan and Rasul, and another from the land of Alif and Ra. By their prevention, tears flowed from the eyes of the maidens in their chambers, and the hearts of the meanings were set aflame in the palaces of words.

When Thou didst know, through Thy hidden knowledge, the fire of Thy love and longing for Thy beauty that was in their hearts, there came Thy binding command from the heaven of eternity, and there was revealed concerning them that which stirred the hearts of all created things with longing for the sweet savors of Thy revelation and yearning for the fragrances of Thy days. Thou didst decree for them the reward of those who attained Thy presence and appeared and beheld and heard that which shone forth and dawned and was sent down from Thy throne and Thy beauty and Thy verses, and Thou didst accept their deeds in such wise that mention thereof flowed from the Pen of Thy Revelation in numbered Tablets. I thank Thee, O my God, on their behalf, for what Thou hast granted them, O Lord of all names and attributes!

Blessed is he who draweth nigh unto the lands wherein Thou dwellest. Blessed is he who turneth toward the heaven from whose horizon Thou dost shine forth. Blessed is he who visiteth the wall of the City from which Thy fragrances waft. Blessed is the soul that hath turned toward the land of Syria and wandered therein with longing for Thee. Blessed is he who is content with what Thou hast decreed for him. Blessed is he who hath been enabled to turn toward Thee, O Lord of grandeur and majesty!

There is none other God but Thee, the Omnipotent, the Single, the Self-Sufficient, the Most Exalted.

BH03553: This is a Book from Us to him whom…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy.

This is a Book from Us to him whom nothing prevented from this wise Remembrance, and by it the idol wailed and the liver of the false one melted when he entered unto them by permission of his Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful.

O thou who gazest upon the Face and art turned toward the Throne! Hearken unto the Call from the wilderness of guidance: "Verily, there is no God but Me, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy." Then know that the deniers have cast Us into the Most Great Prison. When We arrived therein, We adorned the heaven of utterance with the stars of wisdom and expression. Exalted is He Whom the tyranny of the worlds prevented not from mentioning thy Lord, the Most Merciful. By My life! We blew the Trumpet once again, whereupon those who were in Sinai fell swooning, and all who were on earth were shaken, save whom thy Lord willed, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. Can the tyranny of the oppressors or the assault of the infidels prevent Him? Far be it from the Most Merciful that the hosts of earth and heaven should prevent Him from what He willeth. He is powerful over what He pleaseth through His wise and wondrous command.

We were with thee and saw what befell thee in the path of God and what thou didst bear in His love. Thy Lord is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Grieve not, for thou art with Me and thy reward is with

God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. Be thou steadfast in the Cause, then spread abroad thy Lord's command amongst His servants, that they may recognize their Lord in this radiant morn. The signs of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One, have appeared throughout all regions. Soon shalt thou behold the idolaters in manifest loss.

Recount unto the people of Baha what thou hast seen and known when thou wert before the Throne, that their eyes may be solaced in the days of their Lord, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Say: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having honored me with Thy presence and mentioned me in Thy prison. I testify that Thou art the best of rememberers and the most merciful of the merciful. And praise be to Thee, O Thou Who art the goal of the mystics and the Beloved of all in the worlds.

BH03551: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a Book from Us to him who hath attained unto the lights of faith in the days of his Lord, the All-Merciful. We make mention in the Tablet of whomsoever We please, that his remembrance may thereby be established amongst all worlds. At the time when there floweth from the Most Exalted Pen the name of any one of the people of creation, the Concourse on High make mention of him and his name is spread abroad in the Kingdom of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Wise. Blessed is he who hath been mentioned by the Pen of the Ancient of Days and whose name hath been inscribed in the preserved Tablet.

Give thanks, O servant, for having attained unto this mighty, this exalted Tablet. Know thou that We have stirred up the land of tyranny through a Book from Our presence, and by this means the smoke hath ascended. For this reason We have withheld the Pen of grace from making mention of those who have believed in God, the Almighty, the All-Praised—a wisdom from Our presence, and I am verily the All-Wise, the All-Knowing.

Know thou further that thy brother serveth his Lord in the prison. Be thou assured and be of them that render thanks. Remember on My behalf those servants whom the might of them that have disbelieved in God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling, hath failed to perturb. O youth! We counsel thee with a word from thy Lord, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord in such wise that nothing whatsoever, even should all that are in the worlds perish, shall deter thee. Whoso is not steadfast in this path, his feet shall slip. Thy Lord, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Though under the sword, We make mention of the servants with that which shall profit them and draw them nigh unto God, the Mighty, the Peerless. By My life! I have sacrificed My soul for your sake, O My servants. Fear ye God and be not of the heedless. He who drinketh of this choice wine shall not be dismayed by the oppression of them that have oppressed, nor by the might of the chief of the idolaters. He shall regard him as more contemptible than an ant. Thy Lord, verily, is the Strong, the Lord of power, the All-Compelling. Thus have We imparted unto thee a word from Our presence; whoso apprehendeth it and that which is contained therein shall find himself independent of all worlds. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03460: O ʿAli! We have indeed been witness to those…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

O ʿAli! We have indeed been witness to those who consult regarding thy affair, and among them is one who said that he had denied God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. We were with thee when the people wronged thee. Verily thy Lord knoweth what is in the breasts. Thou wert indeed Our partner in Our tribulations when the ungodly surrounded Us with grievous tyranny. Grieve not over anything. God shall soon seize those who have wronged thee. He is severe in punishment. He best knoweth the transgressors. Know thou that the Youth remembereth thee in this prison whose door is shut. God shall soon open it in truth. He is verily the Powerful, the Mighty.

Say: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! I praise Thee and thank Thee for what hath befallen me in Thy love and good-pleasure. My shortcoming before Thy creatures was only my turning toward the horizon of Thy Revelation and my drawing nigh unto the Tree of Thy Oneness. O Lord! Make me steadfast in Thy Cause and firm in Thy love in such wise that tribulations may not prevent me from turning toward Thy direction, O Thou in Whose hand are the names. Moreover, cause me, O my God, to be focused upon Thee in all conditions, for what is with Thee and what belongeth unto Thee endureth through the perpetuity of Thy sovereignty, while all else perisheth in numbered days.

Thou art the Possessor of Names and Attributes. O Lord! Preserve me beneath the shadow of Thy Most Great Mercy, then send down upon me the good of the last and the first. Verily Thou art the Ruler over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Possessor of Names and Creator of heaven. Convey My greetings to the loved ones of God. Be thou a bearer of glad-tidings unto them through wisdom and utterance. Verily thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is with thee and He is the Protector of the sincere ones. Praise be to God, Creator of the heavens and earths.

BH03459: In the Name of God, the Lord of Names…

In the Name of God, the Lord of Names and Attributes! O servant who hast ascended unto God! Know thou that We have sent thee that whose fragrances have been wafted and whose perfume hath been found by him who hath renounced the world and turned toward the direction from whose horizon hath shone the Sun of Knowledge. Blessed is he who hath been illumined by its lights!

Know thou further that the Youth hath arrived in the Most Great Prison through that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought. Thus hath the land of tyranny cast forth its burdens even as the land of power hath made manifest its sovereign. Thou findest the Youth in joy while the people have been seized by the power of the Hour and its convulsion.

The seas of meaning and utterance have surged through the mention of thy Lord, the All-Merciful—these are their sprinklings. Say: When the Youth came, the heaven was rolled up and every soul was summoned according to its deeds. The Tablets have been sent down from the heaven of the Will of the All-Glorious. Blessed is he who hath been attracted by its verses.

Grieve not for the Youth. He hath accepted tribulations in the path of God and their hardship doth not dismay Him. Consider those who oppressed aforetime—where are their lofty palaces? Those are their houses, fallen into ruin with their trellises. Say: By my Lord, the Most Glorious! That which was created shall perish even as the kings and palaces perished, and today thou seest not their traces.

The Tree of Knowledge hath been planted by the hand of the All-Merciful and soon shall its branches bear fruit. The melodies of God have been raised from the right of the Throne and the believers have been attracted by their rapture. Arise to serve the Cause in such wise that the tree of Zaqqum and its branches shall not hinder thee. Say: The Tree hath been raised in truth. Blessed is he who hath been seized by its modes and hath tasted of its fruits.

Say: O people! Turn ye to the supreme horizon. By God! The world and its riches shall not profit you. Enter ye the Garden by God's leave and eat freely of its bounties. The City of Immortality hath been built by the sovereignty of thy Lord, the Most High. Soon shall its gates be opened and thou shalt hear the melodies of the birds of Paradise from its precincts.

And glory be upon thee and upon every soul that hath fulfilled its covenant.

BH03515: The Most Great, the Most Glorious! The Promise hath…

The Most Great, the Most Glorious! The Promise hath come, and this indeed is the Promised One. The earth hath told its tidings, and the mountains have passed away, yet the people understand not. The heaven hath come with its smoke, and the matter hath been decreed by God, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting.

Say: O people, ye hear the call of God—what aileth you that ye answer not? By God, the True Call hath come, yet ye perceive it not. The heaven hath been cleft asunder with clouds, and the Youth hath come upon the clouds, yet ye know Him not. Say: Do ye read the verses of God and then deny them? What aileth you that ye are not guided?

Power hath encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth, and the Call hath been raised between earth and heaven, yet ye are as dead. The Trumpet hath been blown, and bodies have swooned away, while the Tongue of Grandeur proclaimeth: The Kingdom belongeth unto God, the Mighty, the Loving! Say: Do ye deny while ye witness? Will ye not remember while ye hear?

Arise from the slumber of passion, in the name of your Lord, the Most Glorious—this would be better for you, did ye but know. Say: He hath borne tribulation for your sake, yet ye turn away from Him. At every moment He drinketh the cup of destiny, yet ye remain heedless of Him. Do ye sit while He standeth before your faces? Arise at My call, then walk in My Kingdom which We have adorned with My Name, the Mighty, the Beloved.

O servant! Hearken unto the call of the Wronged One—He calleth thee from this Prison, after being surrounded by the hosts of the idolaters. Arise to serve God and remember Him, then summon the people through utterance to thy Lord, the All-Merciful. He will aid thee—verily He is the Truth, the Knower of the unseen.

Blessed art thou for having turned to the Countenance and turned away from those who act unjustly. Leave the world behind thee and remind the people in the days of thy Lord, that perchance the breaths of revelation may attract them and make them turn toward the Goal. Thus have We commanded thee and inspired thee—act according to what thou art commanded. He will verily reward thee in truth—there is no God but He, the Almighty, the Self-Subsisting.

BH11752: Glory be to Thee, O my God!

Glory be to Thee, O my God!

We are Thy servants and in Thy grasp. We desire naught but what Thou hast desired through Thy Will, and we wish for naught save what Thou hast wished through Thy power and sovereignty and ordained in the Tablet of Thy decree by the Pen of Thy determination.

O Lord! We bear witness, and those who uphold the throne of Thy grandeur, and the dwellers of the pavilion of Thy glory, and all created things besides, that we have acknowledged Thy oneness and been assured of Thy unity and submitted to what Thou hast sent down upon Thy Prophets and Messengers and upon Him Whom Thou hast made the Seal of Thy chosen ones and made Him a bearer of glad tidings to those of Thy creation who are on the right hand and a warner to those who are on the left hand among the rebellious of Thy creatures. Nothing hath appeared from us in Thy kingdom that would be contrary to Thy laws and ordinances. I beseech Thee, therefore, O my God, by Thy Most Beautiful Names and Thy Most Exalted Attributes, to make this Prison blessed for us, and make it a remembrance for Thy servants and a sign for Thy creatures. Verily, Thou art the One with power over what Thou willest.

O Lord! Thou knowest that we love what Thou hast ordained for us and desire naught except what Thou hast willed through Thy command. We know not what lieth with Thee. If Thou hast decreed our release from this Prison, deliver us from it through Thy power and sovereignty, and manifest what is in our hearts before Thy servants that they may know that we desire none other than Thee and have chosen naught for ourselves save Thy love and good-pleasure, and that we were not corrupting Thy realm but desired to journey through Thy lands and visit Thy Sacred House and stand at the Sacred Monument and Station. I beseech Thee by the flame in the hearts of them that are one in their love for Thee and by the burning of the sincere ones in their passion for Thee to ordain for us what is best for us and gather us with Thy loved ones in the paradise of Thy mighty oneness and the carpet of Thy holy mercy.

Thou art our Purpose and our Object of worship. Through Thee we have become independent of all else, and through Thy grace we have detached ourselves from the worlds. Verily, Thou art the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful, and verily, Thou art the Most Merciful of the merciful.

BH03550: This is a Book from Our presence unto him…

In the Name of God, the Most Glorious, the Most Sublime.

This is a Book from Our presence unto him whom the breaths of the verses of his Lord, the All-Merciful, have seized, and who hath attained unto the lights of guidance in this luminous dawn. Give ear unto My call from the right side of the Throne, within this manifest Prison: Verily there is none other God but Him,

the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Wilt thou remain silent, when the Day of the Call hath come? Arise, in My Cause, to commemorate Me and to celebrate My praise amongst My servants, and be not of them that sleep.

The Pen of the Most High hath decreed and imposed upon every one the obligation to teach this Cause. Follow thou that which thou hast been commanded by One Who is All-Powerful and Almighty. Let not what hath befallen Us at the hands of them that have disbelieved in God grieve thee. Verily, this Youth hath accepted every affliction for the life of all worlds. The aversion of the unjust saddeneth Me not, neither doth the turning of all upon the earth toward Me rejoice Me. We summon the people unto God, the Possessor of the Day of Calling aloud; and no trial shall withhold Us from that whereunto We have been commanded by thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great.

Gaze not upon men and their turning away; fix thine eyes upon the horizon of the Cause and upon that whereunto thou hast been bidden. Thus doth the Tongue of Grandeur command thee in this remote Prison. God will, no doubt, inspire whosoever detacheth himself from all else but Him, and will cause the pure waters of wisdom and utterance to gush out and flow copiously from his heart. Verily, thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is powerful to do as He willeth, and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth.

Wert thou to consider this world, and realize how fleeting are the things that pertain unto it, thou wouldst choose to tread no path except the path of service to the Cause of thy Lord. None would have the power to deter thee from celebrating His praise, though all men should arise to oppose thee.

Go thou straight on and persevere in His service. Say: O people! The Day, promised unto you in all the Scriptures, is now come. Fear ye God, and withhold not yourselves from recognizing the One Who is the Object of your creation. Hasten ye unto Him. Better is this for you than the world and all that is therein. Would that ye could perceive it!

And the Spirit be upon thee, and upon them that have remained steadfast in the Cause of their Lord, the All-Powerful, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH03500: Glorified be He Who remembers His servant in this…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

Glorified be He Who remembers His servant in this night that he may remember God, the Exalted, the Great, and draw him nigh unto the shore of immortality which hath appeared through My Most Glorious Name, and be of them that are sincere. O servant! Forget the world, then remember My Self and find solace in My Name which was named Mihdi and which We made one of Our most beautiful names among the worlds. Associate with him that what wafteth from the direction of Names from this luminous and shining quarter may attract thee. Then aid thy Lord with what thou art able and be of the helpers.

Say: O people! Take not the calf as your lord besides Me. Fear God, verily We are of them that fear. Beware lest ye join partners with God or ascribe to God any rival, equal or likeness. Thus do We command thee in truth, verily We are the Commander. Drink thou from the Kawthar of justice from the fingers of grace, then find rest within thyself—verily We are imprisoned. And if thou desirest to know what hath

befallen Me, look at the clouds when they rain upon you—thus mayest thou know Mine eyes if thou art of them that know. And if thou desirest to know My heart, look at the flame of fire. By God, it blazeth with what hath befallen it from the hosts of devils. And if thou desirest to know My liver—by God, no spot remaineth therein but hath been pierced by the spears of the idolaters and arrows of the hateful ones. Thus hath befallen the One Whom God created and nurtured through all months and years.

O servant! Leave behind all remembrance, then remember thy Lord at all times and be not of the patient ones. Then thank Him for having made Himself known to thee and sent down verses unto thee that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be of them that rejoice. And glory be upon thee and upon whoso hath relied upon God in these days and been of them that trust.

BH03489: This is a mention from Us to the servants…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

This is a mention from Us to the servants of the All-Merciful who have believed in God, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower, in days wherein the Sun of Grandeur and Power hath shone forth, the moon been eclipsed, and the Balance set up, that the Call of God might draw them to the Dawning-Place of Revelation and detach them from all else. Be thou severed from all save Him in the path of God, then turn with thy heart toward the quarter from which the lights have shone forth. We have indeed sent down verses unto thee before—these once again—that thou mayest give thanks unto thy Lord at eventide and at dawn. Let nothing grieve thee. Hold fast unto the cord of thy Lord. He hath verily appeared with the truth, and before Him the Spirit proclaimeth:

> “The Kingdom is God’s, the One, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Chosen!”

Behold him who fabricated lies against Us—God seized him with power and authority. Then he who claimed sovereignty for himself—God seized him for his sin and made him a lesson for those possessed of insight. O people! This is He Who hath borne all tribulations for your salvation. If ye will not help Him, at least oppose Him not. Fear God Who hath caused the dawn to break and subjected the winds. None can draw breath save by His leave. Thus hath the Command been sent down in the Book from the presence of One mighty in bestowal. He protecteth whom He willeth through His sovereignty and chastiseth those who have disbelieved in God, the Lord of lords. Say: Protection lieth in God’s hands—He protecteth whom He willeth, even were he in the serpent’s mouth. Those whom this world hath deluded shall soon find themselves in the fires.

How many generations did We send Messengers unto, but they denied the signs of their Lord. We seized them for their sins and left them as a reminder for those possessed of understanding. Blessed art thou, O thou who hast turned to God after the servants turned away from Him. Turn thy face toward the Prison, the seat of thy Lord. Say: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having enabled me to recognize the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Dawning-Place of Thy signs. I beseech Thee by Him not to shut me out from Thy door, then make me steadfast in Thy love and good-pleasure. Thou art verily the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower.

BH03556: This is a Book sent down in truth unto…

In the Name of the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

This is a Book sent down in truth unto those who have chosen a path unto God and followed the Truth when it came from the Dayspring of the Unseen with clear sovereignty. Say: By my Lord, the All-Loving! The Promised One hath appeared, and on His right hand are the hosts of divine revelation and inspiration, and on His left hand is the Kingdom of God, the Mighty, the All-Praiseworthy. Beware lest ye deprive yourselves of the Most Great News, for which the Concourse on High and the Prophets and Messengers yearn to attain. Turn unto Him with your hearts, for He is the One with Whom God made His covenant before the creation of the heavens and earth.

O people! Do ye disbelieve in God in Whom ye had believed? This is naught but manifest calumny. Cast not behind you that which God hath entrusted unto you; turn unto it with an illumined heart. Unite in the days of God—thereby will His Cause be spread amongst His servants and His sweet savors waft over all lands. Hearken unto that wherewith ye have been counseled by the Pen of Revelation from the presence of One mighty and beauteous. Differ not in the Cause of God, for thereby are gladdened the hearts of the idolaters. Gather ye together in spirit and fragrance, then recite the verses of the All-Merciful—through them shall the gates of true knowledge be opened unto your hearts. Then shall ye find yourselves possessed of steadfastness and behold your hearts in manifest joy.

Grieve not at anything. Remember My tribulations and afflictions, then My imprisonment and trials. Thus do We impart unto thee that which shall tranquilize thy heart and cause thee to be of them that are firmly established. Give thanks unto thy Lord for having caused His Pen to move in the prison in remembrance of thee. By My life! This is naught but a supreme bounty. Seize thy chance in these days. Arise to aid thy Lord amidst all peoples. He, verily, aideth whomsoever He willeth and ordaineth for every soul that which beseemeth it. Thy Lord is, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

BH03720: This is a tablet from this Youth…

In the Name of God, the Most Sanctified, the Most Exalted

This is a tablet from this Youth to the one who, no sooner had he hearkened the Call of His Lord, than he turned to the Dawning-Place of splendors. Verily, numerous signs can be perceived by those who comprehend, as the Ancient Beauty abideth upon His Most Great Throne in the Fortress of Akka. Take heed, O ye who are endued with insight.

He Who created the world for Himself resides in the most desolate of cities as a result of what the hands of those who disbelieved in God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment, hath wrought.

Ponder thou the world and the pettiness of its state. If it was of any worth, We would not have accepted this lowest of conditions, notwithstanding that every great one is raised to loftiness by the will of thy Lord, the Gracious, the All-Powerful.

The Pen exclaimeth: ʻO My Lord, how long will Thee desire that I move upon the tablets. The whole world hath been filled with Thy wondrous tokens. One word from Thee suffices Thy servants, if they but taste the sweetness of the utterance flowing forth from the Lips of the All-Merciful and partake of the treasuries of wisdom and mysteries that lay within.'

O thou My Pen! With thy praise of thy Lord, the world is regenerated and the hearts of the true ones are stirred in such wise that will set the whole world on fire. Grieve not as you witness the people in waywardness and error. Erelong, the pure waters of utterance that have surged from thy lips, at eventide and at dawn, will flow in all directions. Summon thou the people of the earth to the mystic wine of everlasting life. Wherefore have thou been created by the will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Beneficent.

Call thou to mind My servant who sought Me, say, if thou hearkeneth to My call from this Court, arise thou to proclaim My Cause amongst My servants, and diffuse My praises amongst My people, thus have thou been commanded in this Day in which all eyes stare up with terror.

Sorrow not in the oppression thou encountereth, erelong will your Lord take the tyrants. He is verily powerful in His command and He is mighty in prowess.

Counsel thou the people with wisdom and utterance, so that thy words may create in their hearts what will draw them nigh unto God, your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Compelling.

May the glory of God rest upon thee and those who remain loyal in the Covenant.

BH03667: In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding, Who perisheth…

In the Name of God, the Ever-Abiding, Who perisheth not! Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest what hath befallen Thy loved ones, and what hath touched Thy servants and Thy handmaidens in Thy path. From every quarter rise the cries of them that long for Thee, the sighs of the grief-stricken, and the lamentations of them that are wronged.

Among them are those who are imprisoned with the Manifestation of Thy Beauty in the prison of ʻAkka, and those who are confined in other places, and those who have migrated unto Thee out of love for meeting Thee, desiring to attain unto Thy holy presence. But after traversing land and sea, they were prevented from meeting Thee by what the hands of Thine enemies have wrought.

And among Thy handmaidens is this one who hath migrated in Thy path and desired to visit the Most Great House and circumambulate the sacred precincts. The winds of Thy decree seized her and prevented her from entering into the sea of nearness unto Thee and from dwelling in Thy presence.

Though I bear witness, O my God, that they who have left their homes, hastening toward the seat of Thy glory and gazing toward the horizon of Thy grace, are ever dwelling within the precincts of Thy mercy and drinking from the wine whose seal hath been broken by the hands of Thy power, yet I beseech Thee, O Thou the Beloved of Baha, to ordain for her the reward of those who have outwardly entered the pavilion of Thy grandeur, heard the melodies of Thy transcendent unity, and drunk from Thy hand the Kawthar of Thy mercy.

O my God! Thou knowest the yearning of the lovers in their separation and remoteness from Thee, and the sighs of them that long for Thee when prevented from turning to the heaven of Thy grace. I beseech Thee to accept their deeds and to send down upon them that which will gladden their hearts at the descent of Thy decree and cause them to be content with what Thou hast ordained for them in Thy Tablets.

Then send down upon her, O my God, from the wonders of Thy mercy that which will comfort her heart, tranquilize her being, and give rest to her body. Verily, Thou art powerful to do what Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the All-Compelling, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH03730: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy! This is a Tablet that lamenteth and saith: O people! Oppose not Him Who hath come for your life, and turn not away from Him to Whom the All-Merciful hath testified in all conditions that He is the Goal of all worlds.

O people! He desired for you everlasting life, yet ye imprisoned Him in the prison of ʿAkka. He opened before your faces the gates of bounties, yet ye prevented Him from that which was created for His Own Self. What aileth you that ye have cast aside your God and taken your vain desires? Open your eyes that perchance ye may recognize your Lord, the Unconstrained One. Thus doth the Tongue of Revelation counsel you from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

O servant! Grieve not at what hath befallen Us. By God! Baha was created for tribulation and hath accepted fate in the path of God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Powerful. This is He for Whom the Point of the Bayan wept most times, and calleth unto Him at all times, and before Him, He Who dawned from the dayspring of Batha by the command of God, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

Say: O people! What ye possess profiteth Him not, nor harmeth Him the power of those on earth. He calleth you for the sake of God, and every just and clear-sighted one beareth witness to this. Do ye take desire and set aside your Lord, the Most Glorious? This indeed is a grievous wrong. Soon will come days wherein ye shall lament for your souls by reason of what ye neglected in the Cause of God, and shall find for yourselves neither intimate friend nor helper.

Soar then with the wings of detachment in this atmosphere which God hath made sanctified from the knowledge of all who are on earth save those who have clung to this exalted Cord. Remind the servants and give them the glad-tidings of thy Lord’s command, that perchance they may arise from the slumber of desire and turn unto the Lord of Names. Thus have We commanded thee before and in this glorious Tablet. Remember those who are with thee from before thy Lord. Verily thy Lord is the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days.

BH03723: This is a Book sent down in truth…

In the Name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, the Most Beautiful

This is a Book sent down in truth from God, the Most High, the Most Great, wherein mention is made of Our servant who was named Muhammad in the Kingdom of Names, who attained the presence of God and did not break His Covenant, and was among those who remained firm upon the tablets of might well-preserved.

O Muhammad! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One, upon whom at every moment the spears of tribulation rain down from the clouds of destiny, and around whom circle the wolves of the earth in this Prison wherein He is cut off from the hands of them that yearn after Him. Blessed art thou for having remained steadfast in the Cause of God, thy Beloved and the Beloved of the worlds.

By God! He who hath risen up against Me in enmity—I created him with a word from My presence and preserved him for twenty years, and whatsoever was heard concerning him proceeded from Me, for I am the Doer of whatsoever I will, and I am the Ruler over whatsoever I desire. Leave behind the world and those who have disbelieved, and associate not with them, for their likeness is as the likeness of the serpent, nay worse than it, if thou be of them that know. Shun those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, then sanctify thy heart that there may be reflected therein at every moment the effulgences of this resplendent and luminous Sun.

Say: O concourse of unbelievers! Have ye not witnessed the signs of God and His sovereignty, and then the manifestation of God and His power? Blind are your eyes, O heedless ones! Do ye worship a calf and forsake Him Who created you and fashioned you and came unto you with manifest sovereignty? Fear God, O people, and render not your works vain, then detach yourselves from all that ye possess and take what is with God with mighty strength.

Thus doth the Ancient Pen command thee. Act according to what thou hast been commanded and be at peace concerning the Cause of thy Lord, the Ancient of Days. And the glory be upon thee and upon them that are with thee and upon them that hearken unto thy words concerning God, thy Lord and the Lord of the worlds.

BH03617: In the Name of God, the Most Holy! O…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy! O Nabil-i-ʿAli! Hearken unto that which the Pen of Glory addresses thee with from the prison precincts on this night. Verily, He is the Stranger in the lands of destiny and the Wronged One in the hands of enemies, in the path of God, the King, the Mighty, the Beloved.

By God! No morning dawns except that calamity overtakes Me, and no evening falls save that another tribulation touches Me. It is as though trials were created for My wronged Self alone, and whenever I move, affliction moves with Me, and when I rest and sleep, it never rests. Thus has the matter been decreed by the Pen of mighty destiny.

As for the Youth, He shall never be dismayed by what befalls Him in the path of God, but rather shall drink from the cups of destiny the sealed choice wine of holiness. However, when We see those who were created by a word rise up in tyranny and calumny, and commit that which causes the Cause to be lost, My soul is troubled thereby, My skin crawls, and My wounded heart is agitated.

Would that God might raise up one possessed of discernment who would perceive the fragrance of sorrows from the garment of the All-Merciful and become aware of what hath befallen Him at the hands of these ungrateful ones. Say: Through the garment of the former did Jacob's sight return after he found therein the fragrance of his Beloved. Thus was the matter inscribed by the finger of mighty glory. And were the fragrance of sorrows to waft from the garment of God, those who have turned to God, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting, would surely perish thereby.

And thou, O youth, though We have sent down unto thee words of sorrow, grieve not in thy soul, but put thy trust in God. Verily, He will protect His Cause and aid it, for He is the Omnipotent over whatsoever He willeth. He doeth by His sovereignty that which every accursed misbeliever is powerless to achieve. Rejoice thou in the joy of God, then stand firm in the Cause, and He will verily aid thee with the truth through victorious hosts. And glory be upon thee and upon every patient and grateful one.

BH03645: This is a remembrance from God unto His servant…

In the Name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most High, the Most High!

This is a remembrance from God unto His servant who was touched with adversity in the path of his Lord and ascended unto God at a time when he was wronged at the hands of the oppressors, and who believed in God his Creator and recognized His Cause in days wherein all faces were turned away from the court of sublime glory and most of the servants denied God Who created and fashioned them—thus was the matter irrevocably decreed.

O servant! How excellent it is for thee that thou didst fulfill thy covenant, and if there occurred to thy heart that which was not befitting God thy Lord, He hath verily forgiven thee in truth and purified thee at the time of thy ascension from the defilement of all the idolaters. The angels drawn nigh welcomed thee from the highest paradise until they reached thee between earth and heaven, and thou didst witness with thine own eyes the grace of God—thus did the mercy of sublime glory encompass thee.

Would that thy people knew how thy Lord forgave thee and made thee among the honored ones in Tablets of resplendent glory, and how thy name flowed from the Ancient Pen and thy remembrance was recorded in a Tablet preserved from the eyes of all the worlds. We were with thee at the time when the clouds of death enveloped thee, and We took thee with the hand of mercy and caused thee to ascend to a station which We had ordained for thee before Adam was created from a handful of subtle clay.

Therefore, walk thou through the levels of paradise and partake of the fruits of the holy Lote-Trees as thou pleasest, by the command of One Who is mighty and bountiful. And associate with the maidens in chambers of moist crimson ruby, then mention unto them what hath befallen this Wronged One in this Prison which was concealed from the eyes of the loved ones.

And glory be upon thee, O servant who hath ascended unto God, and upon those whom God hath related unto thee, and verily He was their Guardian, then their Protector, then their Helper.

BH03651: A remembrance from the All-Merciful to His servant…

In the Name of God, the All-Powerful, the All-Encompassing

A remembrance from the All-Merciful to His servant, that He might draw him to the Dayspring of the Cause with a countenance illumined by the lights of the Throne. We make mention of thee in the prison, that thou mayest make mention of thy Lord in thy days, that perchance they that slumber may rise from their graves and find a way unto Him Who is the Lord of Grace.

Say: O people! The All-Merciful hath come in the shadows of light, while the evil ones flee to the right and to the left. Say: There is no protection this Day save for him who hath laid hold on the cord of his Lord, the Chosen One. Thus hath the matter been decreed. And he who believed and then denied, in every age hath he been in doubt concerning the Cause. Say: O people! Doth He Who calleth you amidst the floods of tribulation desire aught for Himself? Nay, by His Lord, the All-Merciful! He desireth from you neither recompense nor thanks. He calleth you for the sake of God, and whoso hesitateth, he is indeed far removed from the precincts of nearness.

Say: O people! Dispute not in the days of God. Sanctify your seats from the mention of those who have disbelieved. And he who layeth hold on the remembrance of the All-Merciful, he is indeed independent of the mention of all else. The heavenly table hath been sent down; abandon ye the carrion behind you. Drink ye from the Most Great Ocean, then forsake the brackish water. Arise to aid the Cause with wisdom and utterance on this Day wherein eyes are fixed in wonder while the idolaters are thunderstruck by this Light that hath shone forth upon the horizons. Thus hath the matter been ordained in the Tablet.

Say: Had the idolaters heard the verses of God and found the sweetness of what they contain from the Kawthar of utterance, they would have cast away what they possess and would have turned unto a station known by the name of God. Thus have We sent down unto thee clear verses that thine eyes may be solaced thereby and that thou mayest remind the people of this Dawn which hath been witnessed from the horizon of God. And glory be upon thee and upon him who hath turned unto the Countenance. By God! He hath indeed been mentioned before the Truth as among the most exalted of creation.

BH03727: The Most Great, the Most Holy

The Most Great, the Most Holy

This is a Tablet that hath been sent down in truth, that it may draw men nigh unto God, the Almighty, the All-Wise. Verily, those who have turned towards Him, when the verses of their Lord are recited unto them, soar aloft with longing—these are the people of Baha, inscribed in a preserved Tablet. Draw ye nigh unto God with your hearts—this indeed is the true purpose. He hath come on the Day of Judgment.

When We revealed a mystery from Our Most Great Mystery with clear proof and evidence, the people of the Bayan fell stunned upon the dust of idle fancy. Thus was the matter decreed by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Informed. Then rose up against Us the people of the Furqan in rebellion, until they cast Us into the Most Great Prison. Thus were We under the swords of the idolaters. We give thanks to God for this, and We summon the servants unto God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Tribulation is indeed the garment of Baha, did ye but know it. When it is in the path of my Lord, it is the crown of My head, were ye of them that are well-assured.

Would that thou hadst been present before the Throne when We shone forth from the horizon of mystery with manifest sovereignty, and at the time when We were driven from the city wherein We dwelt with grievous tyranny, and hadst witnessed the power of God with thine own eyes and heard His verses with thine own ears. In those days the verses were sent down openly amidst all creation. Thy Lord is verily the Almighty, the Powerful.

Among the people were those whom the radiance of revelation overwhelmed, and they were struck down, and were among the perishing. And among them were those whom the attraction of the Compeller seized and raised to an exalted station.

Until We arrived at the seashore, when one of the military chiefs came before Us. Then did the Tongue of Grandeur speak and informed him of what would appear thereafter, from One Who is All-Knowing, All-Informed. His condition was transformed and he nearly wept before Our face. Thus was the matter decreed by thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

Be thou steadfast in the Cause of thy Lord in such wise that the steps of them that have turned aside shall not cause thee to slip, and remember Him in thy days. Verily, He is with His remembering servants. And praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH03792: O thou who dyest in the divine cloud! Dye…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Glorious!

O thou who dyest in the divine cloud! Dye all created things with this dye which hath appeared on the horizons, that they may be dyed with the dye of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all creation. His dye is to purify the soul from all colors, and whoso attaineth unto this hath indeed attained unto the dye of God and is numbered among the successful ones in the preserved Tablets. Beware, beware lest thou dye thyself with the dye of allusions from those who make claims. Purify thyself from these, and if thou art able, cause all created things to enter the vats of the dye of My power, that they may all appear in the color of My love—and this is indeed a mighty favor.

Empty thy spirit of those who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, then thy heart of those who have warred against the Self of God that standeth over all things. Then turn thy face toward the quarter that shineth with truth. Beware lest thou forget thy Lord, for We have not forgotten thee and have remembered thee in this Tablet which verily shineth with truth.

Preserve the verses of thy Lord, then recite them that thou mayest be reminded of the remembrance of this solitary, lonely Prisoner Who hath been imprisoned in the prison of destiny, and beyond the prison the idolaters have cast Him into the depths of the pit of darkness. None hath comprehended Him, His Self, and what hath befallen Him save He Who created Him in truth, raised Him up through grace, and sent Him forth with justice unto all who are in the worlds.

Thus have We cast upon thee the word of truth and sent from the quarter of loving-kindness the holy and beloved fragrances, that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and give thanks unto God thy Lord and be numbered among the thankful ones in the mighty and glorious Tablets. And glory be upon thee and upon all who have believed in God and turned away from all else, whether small or great.

BH03940: In the Name of Him Whom all seek yet…

In the Name of Him Whom all seek yet know not! O thou who gazest upon the Countenance, hear My call from the precincts of the Prison, that there is none other God but Him, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

Know thou that the ungodly drove forth the Youth from the City of Mystery with manifest tyranny, and its inhabitants of every creed lamented over Us. Thus was the matter decreed, and We had forewarned of this in a Tablet of mighty glory which We sent to Iraq. Verily thy Lord is cognizant of all things.

Yet the Youth went forth adorned with the ornament of thy Lord, in such wise that the Most Great Name became renowned throughout the realms that were attributed to the Son, until We reached the shore of a mighty sea. Then did the Most Great Sea take its place upon the Ark with manifest sovereignty, until We arrived in this land through that which the hands of the hypocrites had wrought.

But know thou and be assured that the calamities in the path of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the Great, do not dismay Us, nor can the winds of tribulations extinguish this Lamp from which the heavens and earth are illumined. Grieve not for what hath befallen Us. Say: By God! Calamities prevent Him not from His Cause, nor do tribulations hold back His sovereignty. Should all who are in the heavens and earth assemble against Him with drawn swords and piercing spears, He would still speak forth and proclaim:

> “Verily, I am the Beauty of God amongst all worlds, and neither your swords harm Me nor your spears dismay Me, and I yearn in the path of God for that which none before Me hath borne.”

Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Arise to promote the Cause, then summon the people unto it. God will soon reward thee with the best of rewards. He is with thee, and He is the best of helpers.

Convey My remembrance to My loved ones there, that the fire of the love of thy Lord may be kindled in their hearts and their covenant in this luminous Cause be renewed. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH03923: This is a Book from God unto His servant…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from God unto His servant who was named Haydar before ʿAli, that the fragrances of the Command may seize him from this Paradise wherein the Beauty of the All-Merciful shineth with holy and wondrous lights, and may detach him and enrich him from all that he possesseth, and may turn him from

the left hand of evanescence to the right hand of eternity, and make him among those who are recorded as steadfast in the Mother Book by the Pen of Command.

O servant! Be not grieved within thyself that thou hast migrated unto God and hast not been honored with His presence, for God hath accepted thy obedience and hath inscribed thy name with the finger of power among those who have attained the presence of God, and this is of His bounty unto thee, that thou mayest be steadfast in the Cause. We were verily with thee in thy departure and arrival, and in thy bewilderment and grief, and We witnessed thy condition. Therefore, grieve not within thyself, but be joyous through the loving-kindness of thy Lord.

Beware lest thou hesitate in this Cause in these days wherein the feet of most of the servants have slipped from this Path which hath been raised up in the name of God. Arise in the Cause and fear no one. Then shun those who have disbelieved in God after He came upon the shadows of the Cause with manifest and evident sovereignty, and everything speaketh that there is no God but Him, and that this is indeed ʿAli Who hath appeared from the Most Glorious Horizon with a Command that hath encompassed all the worlds. Purify thyself from allusions and cling not to that which the people of the Furqan clung when We manifested the Face from behind the veils with a radiance that was mighty indeed upon the truth. Rejoice within thyself that the Beloved of the worlds hath remembered thee in this Prison wherefrom the feet of those who seek have been forbidden.

BH03871: Your letter came before the Countenance while in prison…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Your letter came before the Countenance while in prison, and its opening was adorned with the word which We have loved in the path of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, and which We have desired for Myself and for those with Me. And your Lord, the All-Merciful, He is indeed cognizant of what I say. And this is it: “Would that I had been among those martyred in Thy path!” By My life! By this yearning the Glance of God turned toward you and the denizens of the Supreme Concourse drew near unto you, but the people do not understand. Because of this, your yearning, We have recorded for you the reward of one martyred in My path. Verily your Lord is the Forgiving, the Loving.

Know thou that in such days as these, whoso arises to make mention of God, the Creator of Names, amidst His ignorant servants—he is indeed of those who have attained unto the best of what hath been and what shall be. Reflect upon these days, that their greatness and He Who hath appeared in them through the sovereignty of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised, may become evident unto thee. The greatest of all deeds is the mention of thy Lord amongst His servants—thus hath it been sent down in a preserved Tablet. Whoso attaineth unto this hath attained unto that which God hath desired for him. With thy Lord is the knowledge of all things, but the people remain veiled therefrom.

Arise from the horizon of certitude through the power of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Then enter the dwelling-place of the ungodly among the people of the Bayan who have disbelieved in God, the Creator of earth and heaven. Say: O people! Abandon that which is vain—the Self-Subsisting hath come

upon the clouds of proof. Verily, He is your Lord, the All-Merciful, upon Whom the Bayan depended. Fear God and follow not those who are heedless.

Thus have We imparted unto thee that whereby the hearts of those who have turned toward the Countenance with humility and reverence may be quickened. We have ordained for thee a reward unfailing. Rejoice thou in this and hold fast unto the cord of God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

BH04042: Verily they have expelled Us from one city…

He is the One Who Speaketh within all things.

Verily they have expelled Us from one city and caused Us to enter another, and at the pole of tribulation the Most Exalted Pen proclaimeth between earth and heaven:

> "The Beloved of the worlds hath been imprisoned. He Who desired to free all who are on earth from the prison of self and passion hath been imprisoned through what the hands of the idolaters have wrought."

Say: Tribulation is as water for that which We have sown in hearts. Soon there shall grow from it ears of corn, each grain whereof shall proclaim: "There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Wise." Let not the words of those who have denied God grieve thee, nor the deeds of the oppressors. By God! We are in manifest joy and call the servants unto God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

God hath made tribulation a crown for the head of Baha. Through it shall the horizons shine forth, even as We informed you before. Verily thy Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. This is a day wherein that which lay hidden in the breasts of the idolaters is made manifest and the faces of those near unto God shine forth.

Arise from the horizon of assurance with the remembrance of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, in such wise as to attract thereby the hearts of those who have advanced. Look not upon the world and what thou seest therein of hardship and prosperity. By My life! All who are therein shall perish, and there shall endure what hath been ordained for thee by One mighty and powerful. Were there any glory in it, the Ancient Beauty would not have remained in this Most Great Prison. By God! Were We to desire it, We could seize the spirits of all who are on earth with but one word from Him. Verily thy Lord hath power over whatsoever He willeth.

Be thou a helper to the Cause of thy Lord through wisdom and utterance, that perchance through thee the veil may be removed from the eyes of the heedless. This is the greatest of all deeds in the sight of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most Exalted. He aideth whomsoever He willeth through His command. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

BH04003: These are verses of holiness which have been sent…

He is God, the Most Pure, the Most Manifest, the Most High, the Most Exalted!

These are verses of holiness which have been sent down in truth from the heaven of God, the Exalted, the Great. In each letter thereof lies concealed an ocean from among the oceans of inner meanings. Blessed is he who attaineth thereunto and entereth into its depths, stripped of all else save Him, and from which appear the pearls of a luminous sanctity.

O servant! Thy mention hath been made before the Countenance, and the Pen of God hath moved to inscribe thy name, as a favor from Him unto thee, that thou mayest be among the thankful. Hearken unto that which this Prisoner calleth unto thee from the shore of fate: that there is none other God but Him, and that this is He Who hath arisen between earth and heaven with the praise of God, and feared no one after all the peoples contended with Him, as ye have heard and were among those who heard.

And thou—walk thou in My footsteps. Arise to serve the Cause through God's might and power. Then inform the people of this Most Great, this mighty Announcement. Fear thou no one, but place thy trust in God. Verily He will protect thee in truth and aid thee with the hosts of the unseen. His victory is nigh unto them that are detached. However, act with wisdom and counsel lest harm befall thee and thou be numbered among those who are tested.

Say: O people of the Bayan! The head of wisdom is the fear of God. Fear ye Him Who created you and raised you to the heavens of knowledge, and sent down unto you wisdom and utterance, and made you to be among those endowed with understanding. Beware lest ye exchange the favor of God upon yourselves and be numbered among the deniers.

Thus have We imparted unto thee and made mention of thee in the Tablet, that thou mayest be among the steadfast. And glory be upon thee and upon every knowing believer.

BH03991: The Most Great, the Most Glorious! We, verily, remember…

The Most Great, the Most Glorious! We, verily, remember from within this prison the loved ones of God, that they may remain steadfast in this Cause on this wondrous Day and make mention of God in such wise that all faces may turn towards the Almighty, the All-Wise. From the right hand hath been raised the call of God, and from another direction the fragrance of His garment hath wafted over all creation. Blessed is he who hath cast away the world, turning unto God, the Peerless, the All-Informed. Say: Verily it shall perish, while the Cause remaineth with God, your Lord and the Lord of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

O people! I am the Manifestation of God amongst you, and His proof amidst you, and His sovereignty unto you, were ye to be of them that know. Beware lest ye deny Him through Whom the sun hath shone forth and the moon hath appeared in this heaven which hath been raised up through this Great Name. Cast behind you all created things, turning unto the Dayspring of the signs of your Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Thus have We adorned the horizon of utterance with this remembrance through which the hearts of them that know have been illumined.

O Rahim! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the All-Bountiful, from the precincts of the prison—there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Arise to make mention and say: O people! The Day hath come and the call hath been raised betwixt earth and heaven. The Lord of Names hath come with

manifest sovereignty. Beware lest anything withhold you from Him through Whom the power of God was revealed and His sovereignty encompassed all things great and small. They who have believed in the Unseen and in Him Who speaketh the truth are indeed on a straight path.

Whoso layeth claim to a Revelation before the completion of a full thousand years, such a one is assuredly a lying impostor. And whoso interpreteth this verse otherwise is of them that are lost. Thus do We instruct thee and teach thee of Our grace, that thou mayest make mention of thy Lord and be of them that are thankful.

BH04088: This is a Tablet from Baha to him who…

In the Name of God, the Eternal, the Everlasting

This is a Tablet from Baha to him who hath believed in God, Creator of all things, that he may be mindful of that which hath been sent down from the Most Exalted Pen after the imprisonment of the Ancient Beauty in the Most Great Prison through that which the hands of the aggressors have wrought.

Verily, in the departure of the Luminary of the horizons from the region of Iraq, and His embarkation upon the ship after passing through the realm, and the establishment of the Chosen One's throne in the Land of Mystery, and His departure therefrom through tyranny, are signs for those who perceive and evidences for those who discern. He it is Who hath caused the clouds to be subdued and the rain to pour forth from the heavens, and Who hath split asunder the tongue of dawn through His firm and mighty command. Say: Verily He is the One Who calleth unto Himself between the heavens and the earth, and neither the harm of those who have disbelieved nor the might of the ungodly hath deterred Him.

Say: If ye desire the supreme bounty, by God, it hath shone forth from the horizon of the will of your Lord, the Most Glorious. Seize it with the hand of certitude and cast away what ye possess of the intimations of the wayward ones. We have ordained for thee a reward in the Kingdom of recompense. Beware lest the utterances of the heedless sadden thee. Soon shalt thou behold that which thou wert promised by the True One shining forth from the horizon of faithfulness. Verily thy Lord is possessed of great bounty. Those who have cast behind them the Book of God and followed those who have turned away from the Countenance—these are among the bewildered ones in the valley of heedlessness.

Beware lest ye differ in the Cause—gather ye on the shore of this Most Great Sea. By My life! Through your unity the pillars of the deniers shall be demolished. Be ye people of this City—whoso entereth therein must needs be adorned with the attributes of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Wise. And mercy and glory be upon thee and upon him who hath restrained himself from all else save Me and hath found solace in My wondrous remembrance.

BH04015: The Most Holy, Most Holy, Most Glorious. This…

The Most Holy, Most Holy, Most Glorious. This is the remembrance of God unto His servants who have believed in their Lord, the All-Merciful, on a day when the heavens wailed, the tribes of the earth were thrown into commotion, and those who dwell in the Kingdom of Names were struck with terror, that they

may know that He remembereth those who have turned unto the Dawning-Place of Revelation. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Bountiful.

Blessed is he who hath freed himself from the depths of vain imaginings and clung to the hem of the mercy of his Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. He is assuredly among the sincere ones.

Say: O people! Doth this world prevent you from the path of your Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven? This is naught but manifest loss. Leave it to its people. Take what hath been given you from the presence of One mighty and ancient. Should tribulations befall you in My path, remember ye My trials and imprisonment. Thus have ye been commanded by One all-knowing, all-wise.

They who have sacrificed their souls in My path are of the people of Baha. The Concourse on High will seek blessings from the dust of their footsteps. O blessed be this glorious, mighty station!

They whose eyes have been opened behold this world and its ornaments as a mirage which the thirsty one thinketh to be water. They are indeed possessed of insight. Nothing can prevent them from the Most Great Vision. They shall soon find themselves in an exalted station.

Grieve not at what hath befallen Us through evil decree. We have chosen all tribulations for Ourself, and thy Lord is, of what I say, a witness and well-informed.

They who have turned away from the Path are in manifest loss. They shall soon find themselves in the fires. Thus hath the matter been decreed from the presence of the All-Merciful. He, verily, is the All-Wise, the Almighty.

Blessed art thou for having turned unto the Dawning-Place of the verses of thy Lord and for being among those who have turned unto Him. Place thy trust in Him, then hold fast to the cord of His bounty. He will suffice thee in truth, and He hath power over all things.

And the glory be upon the people of Baha from the presence of One all-knowing, all-informed.

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BH04043: The servants are occupied with their vain desires…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

The servants are occupied with their vain desires and rejoice in the possession of fleeting ornaments, while We, in tribulation, call upon the Lord of Names at eventide and at dawn. By My life! I love tribulation in the path of God, the Creator of all things, even as people love their sight—nay, even more. Your Lord, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting, bears witness to this.

Soon shall Our sorrow pass away and their joy shall end. Then shall We be in the most exalted station, while they shall be in the lowest fires. Were We to mention the stations of those who have turned to the Countenance, by My life, the pens would be thunderstruck. Do you see any permanence in what they possess, when all things testify to their transience? Take heed, O people of insight!

Say: How long will you forsake guidance and follow desire? Open your eyes! Your days are spent, and soon what remains of them shall pass. Hearken to God's counsel, then turn to Him in spirit and fragrance. Beware lest you take the Evil One as your lord instead of God. Break the idols by the power of your Lord, the Master of all necks. Beware lest you believe him who brings you Satan's news, for he is among those who have fabricated lies against God, and in whose heart burns the fire of enmity and hatred. Thus has his soul enticed him, and he has turned away from God, the Lord of lords. Purify your faces, then turn with your hearts to the Sacred House.

Say: Praise be to Thee, O my God, for having guided us to the path of righteousness, for having made Thyself known to us in Thy days, and for having sent down to us in the prison that which brings joy to the eyes of the loved ones. I beseech Thee by Thy Most Glorious Name to make us among those who are steadfast in Thy Cause, whom nothing can deter from turning to Thy Name, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH04039: God testifieth that there is none other God but…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted.

God testifieth that there is none other God but Him, and that this is indeed Ali in the Most Glorious Horizon, and Muhammad in the Kingdom of Eternity, and Husayn before Ali in this Holy and Luminous Temple.

O servant! Hearken unto the Call of God from this blessed and holy Divine Tree upon this blessed and unified Spot. God! There is none other God but Me, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. Beware lest thou forget the remembrance of God, then remember My imprisonment and tribulation among these unbelievers. Purify thy heart from what hath befallen it, then detach thyself from the worlds.

Say: O people! Do ye doubt Him through Whom every proof hath appeared, every Cause hath shone forth, and every clear evidence hath come? Say: O people! Fear ye God and dispute not with Him by Whose command the heavens and earths were created. And when thou perceivest that anyone preventeth thee from God and His love, know thou that he is Satan, even though outwardly he be of the highest of creation. Thus doth the Tongue of the Cause teach thee. Act according to what thou art commanded and be possessed of clear insight.

Neither grieve over the world nor rejoice in it, for it shall pass away and no mention of it shall remain with thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Bear thou the trust of God which is My love. Whoso beareth it shall be among the most wealthy of servants, for he possesseth that which cannot be equaled by the treasures of the heavens and earth. And whoso depriveth himself thereof shall be among the poorest of creation in the sight of thy Lord, even though he possesseth all the gold and pearls of precious worth that fill the heavens and earth.

Thus have We made mention of thee and cast upon thee the words of truth that thou mayest be of them that know.

BH04017: A mention from Us to him who sought guidance…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Great

A mention from Us to him who sought guidance in the days of his Lord and attained the lights of the Throne and was of those who turned unto Him, that he may soar from yearning into the atmosphere which God hath sanctified from the doubts of the suspicious ones.

O servant! Hearken unto the call from the direction of ʿAkka, the prison of thy Most Glorious Lord: Verily, I am the Wronged One, the Stranger. We created the servants for My service, yet they denied after We unveiled the Face with manifest light. Those who are heedless shall soon find themselves in manifest loss. Say: Were God to will, He would seize them by His command. He, verily, is the Almighty, the Powerful. They are weak and have not attained maturity. They know not what profiteth them. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. He calleth them at all times and remindeth them through His grace that they may turn to this shining and luminous Horizon.

Thou, O wayfarer unto God, remind My servants that they may cast away vain desire and hasten unto the Creator of earth and heaven. Thus hast thou been commanded from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Beware lest thou pause in the remembrance of thy Lord. We created thee for My Cause, therefore know and say: Praise be unto Thee, O God of the worlds! If thou findest in any heart the fragrance of the love of thy Lord, commune with him and remind him from Me. My mercy hath preceded all creation. Let not troubles prevent thee from the Lord of Names and Attributes, nor sorrows from the praise of thy Most Glorious Lord. Be thou occupied with His remembrance amidst His heedless servants that they may hear the call of God and find a way unto Him. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the Generous.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among thy Lord's loved ones, every young and old.

BH04054: Say: O peoples of the world! The proof hath…

He is God, the Ever-Abiding, Who knoweth no decline!

Say: O peoples of the world! The proof hath come unto you from the All-Merciful. What hath made you heedless of your Lord on this Day wherein the Point of Oneness hath been fully explained and the sovereignty of God, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling, hath been made manifest? Say: Do ye deny what the Dawning-Place of divine inspiration hath brought? Then are ye in manifest error. This is the King of Days, the Day that hath seen the coming of the Best-Beloved of the worlds. This indeed is He Who hath been the Desired One throughout all eternity. Behold ye the Bayan, that ye may recognize God's Most Great Treasure, concerning Whom the Tongue of Grandeur speaketh from His right hand, pointing unto Him. By My life! This is the Beloved of all who are in the heavens and on earth.

Arise to serve the Cause and relate unto the people this momentous News. O peoples of the lovers! The Sun of the horizons hath grown dark. This is the Day of the Covenant, if ye be of them that know. Say: Do ye deny Him by Whom the Balance hath been set up? What aileth you that ye comprehend not that which hath been sent down from the Pen of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Praised? Will the world profit

you? Nay, by the Lord of the Throne and of the dust! Will that which ye possess enrich you? Nay, by the Lord of the Mighty Throne!

Be thou steadfast in the Cause and fear not those who have disbelieved. Say: Take your pleasure in this vain life; soon shall the angels of divine wrath seize you, by the decree of One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Verily thy Lord will aid thee in all conditions and will assist thee through His grace and will inspire thee with that which shall illumine the hearts of them that turn unto Him.

Patience is praiseworthy except in teaching the Cause of thy Lord. Thus doth the Tongue of Revelation counsel thee in this manifest Prison. Every companion fleeth from his companion at the hour of death, except thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Merciful. He is with whosoever hath desired Him. Verily thy Lord is the All-Bountiful, the Ancient of Days. And praise be to God, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Compelling, the All-Bountiful.

BH04077: This is a book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a book from Us to him who hath ascended unto God, that the breezes of grace may waft upon him and adorn him among the Concourse on High with the ornament of his Lord's favor, the Most Glorious. Verily thy Lord is He Who ordaineth what He pleaseth. There is none other God but Him, the Most High, the Most Great.

O Abu'l-Javad! Grieve not, for thy son hath attained unto that which none else hath attained, and God hath ordained for thee the reward of those who have attained unto His presence, and hath assigned thee a portion. Verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the Generous. Sufficient unto thee is thy deed which We have caused to appear in human form. It is indeed a righteous deed. Give thanks and be of those who are grateful. From this day forth thou shalt be a trust of the All-Merciful among the denizens of Paradise. Blessed art thou inasmuch as the Pen of God hath moved to make mention of thee while confined in the prison with a number of souls. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful.

Say: Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having adorned my head with the crown of Thy favor amidst the people of Thy Kingdom, and for having made my son a servant of Thine in Thy prison. I beseech Thee, O Lord, by Thy power that hath encompassed all things, to enable him under all conditions to serve Thee, O Lord of all names. Then cause him to be so immersed in the ocean of Thy love that he may desire naught but what Thou hast desired, and may gaze toward the horizon of Thy good-pleasure in such wise that nothing that hath been created in the world may hinder him from remembering Thee, O Fashioner of earth and heaven. And strip not from his temple the robe of special favor throughout the everlasting dominion of Thy Kingdom, O Lord of mankind. Blind is the eye that hath not beheld Thy power and the manifestations of Thy sovereignty, and dumb is the tongue that hath not acknowledged Thy oneness and confessed Thy singleness, and hath not believed in Thy dominion and the potency of Thy command in the kingdom of Thy creation. There is no God but Thee, the Most Wise of judges and the Most Merciful of the merciful ones.

BH11004: In My Name, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

In My Name, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

O My handmaiden! Be thou attracted by My melodies, then drink from the cup of My loving-kindness, then take shelter in the shade of the cloud of My mercy, then become intoxicated with the wine of My bestowals, then hearken unto My call from the direction of My throne, then read the wondrous verses and words I have revealed. And know thou that My words are a light by which the hearts of the yearning ones are illumined, and a fire by which the hearts of the lovers are consumed, and a fountain of life by which My loved ones are quickened, and a wine by which My chosen ones are intoxicated, and an ocean wherein are treasured the pearls of My wisdom, and a treasury wherein are deposited the gems of My knowledge. Blessed is he who hath attained unto the recognition of My Self, and soared in the atmosphere of My love, and ascended unto the heaven of My gracious favors, and immersed himself in the ocean of My divinity, and discovered the sweet fragrances of holiness from the garment of My grace, and hath sanctified himself from all else save Me, and turned with his heart unto the sanctuary of My greatness, and arose to aid My Cause, and walked in the ways of My good-pleasure.

O My handmaiden! Remember thy Lord in thy standing and thy sitting, in thy sleep and thy wakefulness. By God! He who loveth Me sleepeth not even when sleeping, nor is he occupied with aught save My remembrance and My love and My praise, even should he be engaged in all the affairs of earth. Rejoice, O My handmaiden, then grieve, O My servant woman. As for the rejoicing, it is for My manifestation and My dawning and My effulgence and My exaltation and My radiance and My power and My glory; and as for the grief, it is for My anguish and My exile and My distress and My imprisonment and My tribulation. Glad-tidings unto him who readeth this and findeth that which is diffused therefrom. And upon thee, O thou who hast desired thy Lord within thyself and hast been invested with the robe of His guidance, and upon all handmaidens, pure ones, devoted ones, seeking ones, hoping ones, remembering ones.

BH04228: Glorified is He, who hath manifested Himself in His…

He is the Exalted, the Sublime, the Most Glorious

Glorified is He, who hath manifested Himself in His splendid Glory through the power of truth, thus all that dwell in the heavens and on earth were adorned with His presence, save those who turned away from His Face, and were in truth sure to perish. Blessed is he, whom the fragrances of the Day of God hath quickened and caused to be detached from all else.

This is the Day of Prophetic Cry, well is it with him who, with wisdom, calleth out This exalted and mighty Name. Thus hath been prescribed unto you by the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

It doth not beseem man to become a source of sedition; nay, rather, he should endeavor towards that which will cause the affairs of all that dwell on earth to prosper; thus hath the True One proclaimed, He, verily, is the Ever-Forgiving, the Compassionate.

Aid thou Me with good deeds—this truly behooveth ye, if ye be of them that comprehend this truth. For every day a portion hath been ordained in the Book of God. When the appointed time is come, that which

He willeth is achieved. He verily reigneth over whatsoever He pleaseth. Those who had cast away the Cause of God, they had verily abandoned the stronghold of justice, and are among the heedless.

The King of Eternity hath come for the betterment of the world. If the people but knew, they would have circumambulated His Throne. Verily, your Lord is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. They are like unto mere children, and our Lord is the Educator of the world. If We but willed, we could have seized them with a single word from Us, yet the mercy of the Lord, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Powerful, supersedes His wrath. Walk in the path of thy Lord, for He is the most merciful.

Blessed is he who, wholly for the sake of God, calleth the people to the path of His Lord. Be thou shepherds unto His sheep and guard them from the ravening wolves. Thus instructeth thee He with Whom is the knowledge of the heavens and the earth.

Well is it with thee that thou hast forsaken thyself and turned towards the exalted realms, and attained unto the days of God and the knowledge of this Announcement, at which the mountain of corrupt desires was crushed and the Day-Star of divine guidance shone from the horizon of thy Lord, the All-Glorious, the Resplendent.

BH04327: O thou who gazest upon the Countenance and art…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Great

O thou who gazest upon the Countenance and art turned towards the direction of the Throne! Praise thou God, inasmuch as thou hast been mentioned by thy Lord on most occasions. Verily thy Lord is the All-Merciful, He is the Mighty, the Bestower.

After the matter of the land was mentioned verbally to Jinab-i-Amin, it is stated that the intention was for this matter to be accomplished in secret, although some disclosed it. However, God doeth whatsoever He willeth. Verily His Will hath prevailed over the worlds.

And regarding the [direction to turn one's] face, at the time of departure from the Land of Mystery it was disclosed to Jinab-i-Jamal, and likewise to Jinab-i-Dhabih in the known land and to Abu'l-Hasan in the Most Great Prison, that they might be informed and convey God's decree to others, so that whenever circumstances require they may act according to the divine testament.

However this was not intended for these days, as the means for it are not available—that is, no soul who would arise to accomplish this matter and convey it is to be seen. It remaineth concealed within the veils of the unseen until such time as God shall manifest it through His command. However Jinab-i-Ismu'llah Mihdi submitted the details and mentioned that person's intention and acceptance of whatsoever would appear from God, the Self-Sufficient, the Most High. It is known that that person is wholly occupied in service to the Cause. We beseech God to assist thee in all conditions and to shelter thee in the vicinity of His mercy in every world of His worlds. He is the Mighty, the Powerful. Thou art the one who hath preceded others in the service of God. To this doth testify every fair-minded and informed one.

BH04150: Lawh-i-Husayn 1

In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy!

O Husayn! Hearken unto My call from the precincts of My prison, that it may draw thee to the Kingdom of My Cause and the heaven of My grandeur. Verily, thy Lord is the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

The idolaters have driven Us from the Land of Mystery and confined Us in the most desolate of lands. For this did the Faithful Spirit lament, yet the Youth was not overtaken by sorrow. He hath ever been gazing toward the direction of thy Lord's mercy, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate, and from the heart of tribulation He summoneth all created things unto God, the Almighty, the All-Praised.

Grieve not for what hath befallen Us. Through tribulation hath the temple of Baha been adorned—thus hath the matter been decreed by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise. Make mention of the servants and pay no heed to what hath transpired in the land. By His Self, the Most Merciful! All that dwelleth thereon shall perish, and there shall endure only the face of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Be as the ocean, that tribulations may not prevent thee from the surging waves of remembrance of the Lord of names and attributes. Thus doth thy Lord, the All-Commanding, the All-Knowing, bid thee. Can the barking of dogs prevent the warbling of the dove, or the clamor of the people obstruct the radiance of the sun? Nay, by thy Lord, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great!

O ʿAli! That which We foretold thee hath come to pass. With thy Lord is the knowledge of all things preserved in a guarding tablet. God shall soon manifest in the earth that which shall gladden the hearts of the sincere ones. We beseech God to assist thee in all conditions, to protect thee from those who have denied God, the One, the Mighty, the Bountiful, to cause thee to abide as long as His own Self abideth, and to grant thee the best of what He hath ordained for His chosen ones who are nigh unto Him.

Beware lest tribulation prevent thee from the remembrance of the Lord of Names. Remember Him throughout all days, that thy remembrance may endure amongst the worlds. And upon thee be glory for as long as God, the Almighty, the Mighty, the Beautiful, endureth.

BH04153: O Muhammad! Hearken unto the call of this Husayn…

In the name of the Most Ancient, the Most Precedent, the Most Exalted

O Muhammad! Hearken unto the call of this Husayn, at a time when His head lieth beneath the sword of the malevolent ones, and He crieth out saying: "O people! Fear ye God and deny not Him Whose presence was promised unto you, whereof all the Tablets bear witness, if ye be possessed of knowledge.

O people! By God, I speak not of Mine own desire, but rather I speak that which God hath taught Me at the Lote-Tree beyond which there is no passing, as attested by that which hath appeared from Him and by these verses which have encompassed all the worlds.

O people! Slay Me not with the swords of rejection and hatred, and deny not that whereby your faith was established and your station exalted and this Cause upraised, through which the feet of every wicked transgressor have slipped.

O ʿAli! If thou wishest to weep, weep for Me. By God the Truth, there hath befallen Me that which hath befallen no one before Me, as every atom doth testify, if thou hast ears to hear. And thou, arise to aid Me. Verily, to aid Me is to teach My Cause, which hath caused the hearts of all created things to tremble, save those whom God hath strengthened in His Cause and into whose hearts He hath sent down tranquility from His presence, for He, verily, hath ever been merciful unto all worlds.

Thus have We informed thee and made mention of thee, that thou mayest rejoice within thyself and be gladdened by the glad-tidings of the Spirit in these days wherein the Beauty of God lieth imprisoned in this Prison. And the glory be upon thee and upon whomsoever hath followed the Cause of God and remained steadfast in the Cause."

BH04148: O thou who believest in God! Bear thou witness…

He is the Mighty, the All-Knowing!

O thou who believest in God! Bear thou witness within thyself that there is none other God but Him and that ʿAli before Nabil is the Manifestation of His Essence and the Manifestation of His Cause unto all the worlds.

Through Him hath His proof appeared and His argument been perfected and His Word been fulfilled and His countenance shone forth and His evidence been established unto all who are in the heavens and on earth, and God was witness unto this. Through Him the Resurrection came to pass and the Hour arrived and the Balance was set up and the Bridge was raised according to that which had been ordained in the Mother Book as exalted. Through Him all things were resurrected and all who dwell on earth were gathered together, whether rich or poor.

Say: By God! He is verily the Sovereign of the Messengers and His Tablet is the Mother of Tablets, and through a single letter from Him was everything created with the ornament of luminous glory.

Take thou this Book with power and hold fast unto what is therein and fear no one, but place thy trust in God, thy Lord, the Merciful, the Compassionate, for He doth keep watch over thee. Open thou thine eyes and ponder what hath been sent down unto thee, and take it with strength that is firmly founded upon truth. Then emerge from behind the veils and arise in the name of God from a holy and resplendent horizon. Then aid thy Lord according to thy capacity and remain true to thy nature.

Know thou that We have been cast into prison through that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought, and this is what hath been decreed in truth upon preserved tablets of holiness. We give thanks unto God for what hath befallen Us and make mention of Him throughout all days, nay rather, at every moment and instant.

BH04155: O Ali! O target of fate! O Ali! O…

He is the All-Glorious!

O Ali! O target of fate! O Ali! O thou who art pierced by the arrows of hatred! Hearken to the call of Him Who preceded thee in tribulation in the path of God, Creator of heaven. There is no God but Him, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. All things have borne witness to what hath befallen you in the love of God, the Lord of Names. The winds lament for you, the thunder trembleth at your afflictions, and heaven weepeth, its tears the rain. The Youth in His prison remembereth your tribulations, detached from His own, for He hath sacrificed Himself for the life of the world. Thus hath He ascended the heaven of tribulation and calleth the people unto God, the Powerful, the Unconstrained.

Can anything prevent Him from that which He is bidden? Nay, by Him Who commandeth the winds! Can the might of kings frighten Him? Nay, by Him Who alternateth night and day! His likeness is as the sea—can the happenings of time prevent its waves? Nay, by thy Lord, the All-Merciful! Behold the sun—though the earth should quake, or the mountains fall and their roots be torn up, and people slay or be slain, it remaineth unperturbed and continueth to shed its radiance. Or like the winds that blow by the power of their Lord, and nothing can impede them. Thus do We set forth similitudes for thee. Glorify thy Lord's praise at morn and eventide. Then stand firm in the Cause and fear not the factions. Soon shall We seize them as We seized the generations of old. Verily thy Lord is the All-Compelling, and when His promise cometh, severe in His chastisement. Soon shall the sun of glory rise from the horizon of My Cause and illumine all regions. Thus have We sent down the verses unto thee that thou mayest rejoice in thy soul and arise to remember thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower.

BH04195: Praise be to the Best-Beloved of the worlds…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Great

Praise be to the Best-Beloved of the worlds that thou hast been made the recipient of His infinite bounties and hast not been debarred from the direction of His oneness. This was due to none other than the sincerity which was at times manifested from thee. Though it may not be apparent to thee now, God was and is aware of it. Know thou the value of this most great favor. Say: Praise be to Thee, O Best-Beloved of the worlds, for having enabled me to remain steadfast in Thy Cause. I testify that Thou art indeed the All-Bountiful, the Most Generous.

Thereafter, be thou not sorrowful. By My life, thou art near! This testimony which hath flowed from the Pen of Ancient Days sufficeth thee. Glory in God's testimony unto thee, for all things have been and shall ever be dependent upon His testimony. Praise be to God that thou didst attain His presence, though it was before the time of Manifestation. However, in those days the fragrance of the divine breezes was wafting with utmost delicacy and gentleness. Blessed is he who hath attained, witnessed and heard that which was uttered by the Dawning-Place of his Lord's verses, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

It is not permissible for thee to direct thyself to this quarter, for the good of the Cause. For this Wronged One is imprisoned, and the highway robbers lie in ambush. In such circumstances, it is necessary that thou protect thyself with the utmost care, that perchance through thee some service may be rendered

that will cause the exaltation of the Word. Yea, if the way were open, We would have summoned thee to Our presence. Grieve not over anything. In all matters place thy trust in the Self-Subsisting, the Eternal. Verily, He is with thee and knoweth what thou art upon. He is in truth the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. And upon thee be glory, and upon those who are with thee.

BH04188: These are the verses of God which have been…

He is God, the Most Holy, the Most Impregnable, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth unto a leaf among the leaves that was witnessed to be of the Tree of Love, that she might rejoice within herself and place her trust in God in all matters, and stand firm in the Cause which hath been sent down in truth from the heaven of mighty exaltation.

O leaf! Move upon the Tree of Paradise by the name of thy Lord, and grieve not over this world and whatsoever is therein, neither rejoice in what hath been created thereupon. Detach thyself unto God, then remember Him every eventide and morn. Know thou that God's favor hath been upon thee, and He hath sent unto thee that which quickeneth thy heart and the hearts of all the worlds together, for in every letter of God's words there flow rivers of pure wine and camphor. Blessed is he who drinketh therefrom and is not held back by the veils of every rejected misbeliever.

Be thou assured regarding thy sister, for she hath believed in her Lord and hath been mentioned in truth before the Throne in the heights of Paradise by the Tongue of Holiness. She doth circle round the Tree, and God hath made her one of the leaves of the Tree which hath been planted by the hand of God in the land of glory. Thus was the matter ordained, and We have informed thee of it that thou mightest thank thy Lord and be of those who are gladdened by the joy of the Cause.

Take comfort in the remembrance of thy Lord, and should tribulations weigh heavily upon thee, remember My afflictions in this prison from those who disbelieved in God and His verses and were deprived of the holy fragrances. And the glory be upon thee and upon those handmaidens who remember their Lord and are mentioned in the Tablet as being among the triumphant ones.

BH04289: The Grace of God hath been sent down…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Holy

The Grace of God hath been sent down from the heaven of the will of your Lord, the Most Merciful. Verily thou seest it embodied in human form. Thus hath the matter been ordained.

O people! Gather ye around this table which We have sent down in truth, and be not like those who turned away from it. Thus doth the Ancient Pen command you, for it hath power over all things.

Say: O concourse of unbelievers! From whom do ye flee? Have ye found for yourselves any helper or protector? By My life! There is no refuge for anyone save under the shade that hath been extended in the name of God.

Say: Cast behind you your vain imaginings. This is your Lord, the Most Merciful, Who hath come with the truth—He Who was promised to you in a Tablet that was preserved in truth. Follow not those who have joined partners with God, nor turn to him who hath disbelieved in God and been an obstinate oppressor. Believe in God Who created you and sustained you—God sufficeth as a Helper.

Say: We desire for you naught but the eternal life, yet ye have chosen for yourselves the abyss of wrath. Why do ye not understand this utterance?

Grieve thou not over anything. Put thy trust in God—verily He is near to the sincere ones. Remember thou My tribulation and imprisonment and trials, then rejoice in the manifestations of My majesty and grandeur. Verily thy Lord remembereth him who hath uttered His remembrance—He is merciful to His servants. If harm befalleth thee in My path, grieve not. By My life! Your names and whatsoever hath befallen you have been inscribed in the Tablet, and God thy Lord sufficeth as a Reckoner. Remember thou those who are with thee from Us—those who have taken the Most Merciful as their Helper.

BH04229: Prayer for the Ridvan festival

He Is God

Glorified art Thou, O Lord my God! This is one of the days of the Ridvan Festival whereon a dwelling-place in the Prison hath been embellished through the presence of the Exponent of Thy Beauty, Who deigned to accept an invitation at the earnest request of one that hath been carried away by longing and desire.

Magnified be Thou, inasmuch as Thou hast shone forth above the horizon of the Prison with so dazzling a splendour that all parts of the world have been illumined by virtue of the bounty Thou hast conferred upon those that have entered beneath Thy shadow and were admitted within Thy precincts. On this Day Thou didst unloose Thy tongue with holy utterances and scattered abroad pearls of inner meaning and exposition upon all the denizens of the entire creation. Through the influence of this chalice, do Thou revive O Lord, all the dwellers of the earth and ordain for the people of Baha—they that yearn to behold Thy face but have been turned away by reason of what the hands of Thine enemies have wrought—ordain for them that which will profit them, O Thou Who art the Lord of names and the Possessor of earth and heavens! Grant them then a portion from the outpourings of Thy mercy in these days, when every abased one is exalted, every believer is adorned with grace, every dejected soul is stirred up with joy, every poor one is enriched and every seeker hath voiced Thy praise.

O Lord! Glory be to Thee for Thou hast singled out Thy loved ones, distinguished them from among Thy people and hast turned Thy gaze towards them from this place, wherein the Tabernacle of Thy Cause is incarcerated. O Lord! Hinder them not from attaining the things Thou dost possess, but cause their hearts to be enraptured by the sweet savours of Thy divine Revelation, in such wise that they may, thereby, be detached from all else but Thee and may set their faces towards the court of Thy favour and loving kindness. Verily, potent art Thou to do what Thou willest; powerful art Thou over all things, and lauded art Thou, O Desire of the worlds!

BH04296: In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible…

In the Name of God, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Exalted! This is a Book from this Wronged One Who hath been imprisoned in the pit of envy and hatred through that which the hands of the wretched ones have wrought—they who claim to have believed in God, the Powerful, the Most High, the Great.

Say: O people! If ye believed in Ali aforetime, by what proof do ye slay Him Who hath come to you with the Kingdom of God and His dominion, then with God's power and His mercy which hath preceded all worlds? Nay, by the Self of the All-Merciful! They believed not in the Beauty of the All-Glorious and denied God from time immemorial and were among the idolaters.

Say: O people! We clothed some of Our servants with the garment of names in the kingdom of creation that they might aid their Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, in this Beauty Who hath appeared once again with His Most Glorious Name, and that they might be among those endued with certitude. Yet when they witnessed the spread of their names, they became veiled by leadership and turned away from the Beauty of Divine Unity and were among the heedless.

Thus have We recounted the mysteries with brevity that the righteous might become aware thereof and learn of what hath befallen the Beauty of the Chosen One in these grievous days. And thou, O servant, look not unto names and their glory, but look unto Him from Whom was manifested the Kingdom of names, and be of them that know.

Beware lest thou consort with them who have denied God, thy Lord and the Lord of all things and the Lord of all creation. But consort with them on whose foreheads hath been inscribed by the Pen of Eternity:

> "By God, this is of the people of Baha who hath embarked upon the Crimson Ark in the name of his Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, and hath detached himself from the world."

Thus have We commanded thee in truth that thou mayest be among the successful ones.

And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH04307: O loved ones of God! Be not of those…

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Glorious!

O loved ones of God! Be not of those who, when the breezes of might blow, say "We believe in God, the Lord of all creation," but when trials come are so shaken that the fire of divine unity is extinguished in their breasts. Hearken unto My call from this Prison and stand firm in the Cause of God, your Lord, the All-Merciful, in such wise that neither trials nor tribulations shall hold you back.

In these days when darkness hath encompassed all regions, it behooveth you to shine forth with the lights of the countenance of your chosen Lord. Know ye that death cometh to all, and each hath his destined portion. Its arrow pierceth and its sword is sharp. It altereth all conditions, and wealth availeth

not against it. This being so, it behooveth every seeing one to detach himself from the world and all that is therein, and every wise one to turn away from it and all that is upon it, and to turn with his whole being and essence toward God, his Lord, the Sovereign of earth and heaven.

Consider, then remember what ye have heard from the chosen ones. By God! Had the world any worth or station, they would not have abandoned it and chosen tribulation for themselves in the path of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High. And We, despite the afflictions We endure, such as no eye in all time hath witnessed the like thereof, would not exchange an atom of these trials for all the treasures of the earth. We are content with what God hath ordained for Us. Would that My loved ones might taste the sweetness of this Kawthar which floweth from this Pen in this darksome night! By God! It is the quickener of all worlds. O thou servant! Drink, and fear not the oppressors. Say: All praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH04479: The idolaters have banished Us from the City…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

The idolaters have banished Us from the City of Mystery and cast Us into the fortress of ʿAkka, wherein the Ancient Beauty hath been imprisoned. From the horizon of this Prison He calleth out to all nations: By God! I have accepted sorrows for the joy of the worlds, and afflictions for the well-being of all who dwell on earth, and imprisonment for the liberation of all on earth from the chains of self and passion. Thus doth the Most Exalted Pen speak forth from thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Adorn yourselves with My characteristics and embellish yourselves with My nature, that sorrows may not prevent you from turning toward the All-Merciful, nor the might of all possible things deter you from gazing upon the face of your Lord, the Dawning-Place, the Luminous.

This is the Day wherein the holy eyes are turned toward those who have detached themselves from all things and have turned unto the Lord of Names, and upon whom the denizens of Paradise and those within the tabernacles of holiness do shower their prayers. He, verily, is cognizant of all things. We had intended to send unto each one of you who have turned toward the Countenance manifest verses, but We have been prevented by the oppressors who have encompassed Us from every side. Woe unto them for what their hands have wrought in this vain life! Soon shall they find themselves in manifest loss. Therefore, gather My loved ones in remembrance of Me, then make mention to them of that which hath been sent down from the direction of My Throne, that they may soar in the atmosphere of My nearness and ascend unto the heaven of My grandeur. Say: He remembereth you in the prison, that ye may remember your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And praise be to God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment.

BH04569: O my God! Praise be unto Thee…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

O my God! Praise be unto Thee that the dawn of Thy Ridvan Festival hath broken, and that therein hath prospered whosoever hath turned unto Thee, O our Lord, the All-Merciful. How many of Thy loved ones,

O my God, are hastening across the Syrian wilderness, yearning for Thy beauty, yet are prevented from attaining the court of Thy transcendent oneness through the deeds wrought by the hands of Thine enemies who have disbelieved in Thee and Thy sovereignty.

O Lord! Behold the oppressors among Thy creatures with the glance of Thy wrath and might. In their tyranny they have reached a state which none can reckon save Thy all-knowing Self. Thy loved ones are content to enter and dwell in prison, yet they are not content with this, transgressing against the Manifestation of Thy Cause. Blessed is he who perceiveth in all that befalleth him in Thy path the exaltation of his station and the advancement of Thy Cause, O Thou God of the worlds.

By Thy might! Should all who are on earth gather together to harm any one of the people of Baha, they would be powerless, for whatsoever they regard as harm unto Thy chosen ones is light unto them and fire unto Thine enemies. Had the Dayspring of Thy Causation not been established in the Most Great Prison, how could Thy Cause have been spread abroad, Thy sovereignty manifested, Thy power proclaimed, and Thy signs demonstrated? Would that I might bear all tribulations out of love for Thee and for Thy creation. O Lord! Open Thou the eyes of Thy servants that they may behold Thee in all conditions seated upon the throne of Thy grandeur and ascendant over all who are in Thy earth and Thy heaven. Verily Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

BH04468: God testifieth that there is none other God but…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious

God testifieth that there is none other God but Him and that this Youth is He Who speaketh in all things: “There is none other God but Me, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.” I created all contingent beings to manifest My power and the atoms of existence to reveal My grace. I am He Who hath ever been powerful over all things, and I am the Most Exalted, the Almighty, the Glorious, the Best-Beloved.

O Rida! Give thanks unto God for having enabled thee to arrive at this Blessed, Divine, Most Holy, Eternal, and Absolute Spot, wherein every atom of its dust proclaimeth:

> “I am God, there is none other God but Him, the Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Glorious, the Witnessed.”

Beware lest thou grieve over anything. Rather, remember thy Lord at all times and forget not God’s favor upon thee, and be thou of them that render thanks. We have learned of the hardships that have befallen thee. Beware lest thou be saddened by them. Rather, call to mind My sorrow and My hardship and My imprisonment and My tribulation in this land wherefrom the feet of entry and exit have been cut off, save for whom thy Lord willeth. Verily, He doeth what He willeth through His sovereignty and createth what He desireth by His word “Be” and it is. Beware lest thou hesitate in the Cause of thy Lord. Rather, ascend at all times unto the heaven of His love and be of them that ascend.

And glory be upon thee and upon them that have desired the countenance of God and who recline upon the cushions of glory.

BH04382: O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call, then detach…

He is God, the Mighty, the Beautiful!

O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call, then detach thyself from all else besides Me, then drink from the cup of My praise from the fingers of My mercy and grandeur, then raise thy right hand in My Most Great Name and rend asunder therewith the veils of the handmaidens through My sovereignty and majesty and power and might, then hearken unto other melodies from the Divine Lote-Tree which hath been planted by the hand of Baha in the Garden of Refuge, and every leaf thereof speaketh that which attracteth the hearts of the Concourse on High. Blessed is the ear that turneth toward it and heareth therefrom its sighing and lamentation at what hath befallen its Planter from the hosts of the malicious ones. Thus hath the matter been decreed on the Day of the Covenant.

Then hearken, O My handmaiden, unto My sweetest melodies once again, that they may purify thee from all else besides Me and draw thee nigh unto My presence and bring thee to My dawning-place wherein the lights of My beauty have shone forth from the direction of My throne. Then take in My name the cup of My mercy and the chalice of My favor, then drink thereof thyself and give to drink unto My handmaidens that they may be drawn to My direction and be purified from mentions in their search for My remembrance and be detached from all things in their longing for My presence. Then arise to remember and praise Me amongst My handmaidens. Thus doth command thee in this prison the Sovereign of thy Lord's will, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Since a letter from the name of God, Nabil, was present before Me wherein mention was made of that handmaiden of God, therefore from the Pen of Command thy mention was revealed. "Remember Me in My earth, that I may remember you in My heaven." Convey My greetings to all the handmaidens of God.

BH04549: This is a letter from the Prisoner to him…

In the Name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

This is a letter from the Prisoner to him who was named Abdullah in the Tablets and whose name was mentioned before God, that he may stand firm in the Cause and detach himself from all who are in the heavens and on earth, and turn with his heart toward the direction of the Spirit, the station from whose horizon the lights were dawning. O servant! Hear the call of this Grieved One, whom adversity hath touched from every lowly oppressor. The ordeals were created for His Self, and the trials were raised up for His Being, and the afflictions for this Countenance which was, in truth, manifest from the holy horizon.

Take thou the remembrance of God and leave behind all other remembrances. Thus doth the Tongue of God command thee. Act according to that which thou hast been commanded by One All-Knowing, All-Wise. Draw near unto the Tree of the Cause with thy heart and be thou far removed from the worlds. Then mention among the servants what hath befallen Us, that perchance through thy remembrance the fire may be kindled in the hearts of those who have taken fancy as their guide. Beware lest thou grieve over anything. Put thy trust in God in all matters, for verily He will protect thee with the hosts of a mighty victory. Thus do We make mention of thee in this Tablet, that thou mayest remain steadfast in the Cause.

And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath recognized God through his sight and heart and hath detached himself from all the worlds. And praise be to God, thy Lord and the Lord of the mighty throne.

BH04747: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how…

He is the Imprisoned One

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how the Dayspring of Utterance hath been prevented from the wondrous expressions of Thy remembrance by reason of what the hands of the tyrannical ones among Thy servants have wrought, and how they have forbidden Thy loved ones, who have sought Thy face from diverse regions and countries, from attaining His presence. Among them, O my God, is he who hath purposed to attain Thy presence and turned toward the realm of Thy bounties, yet when he entered the city he was forbidden from meeting Thee; and among them is he who was seized at the door and driven from Thy vicinity; and among them is he who remained in the open, turning unto Thee and awaiting Thy grace and favors.

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by Thy Name through which the rivers of hearts have been connected with the Most Great Ocean which surgeth before Thy face, to accept their turning unto the Kaaba of Thy presence and their orientation toward that Spot wherein Thy countenance hath shone. O Lord, forgive them through Thy generosity, then ordain for them what Thou hast ordained for Thy chosen ones, and decree for them the good of this world and the next through Thy bounty and favor. O Lord, aid him who hath turned unto Thee, then raise him up before Thy face in every world of Thy worlds. Verily Thou art the Mighty, the Generous. Then cause to succeed, O my God, him whom We have desired to mention in this Tablet and assist him to aid Thy Cause and exalt Thy Word.

Then preserve him from the harm of those who have disbelieved in Thee and Thy signs, and inscribe him among the people of Baha who are established upon the Crimson Ark. Verily Thou art the Powerful over what Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH04746: Glorified be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou…

Glorified be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou beholdest my dwelling-place, and the prison into which I am cast, and the woes I suffer. By Thy might! No pen can recount them, nor can any tongue describe or number them. I know not, O my God, for what purpose Thou hast abandoned me to Thine adversaries. Thy glory beareth me witness! I sorrow not for the vexations I endure for love of Thee, nor feel perturbed by the calamities that overtake me in Thy path. My grief is rather because Thou delayest to fulfill what Thou hast determined in the Tablets of Thy Revelation, and ordained in the books of Thy decree and judgment.

My blood, at all times, addresseth me saying: “O Thou Who art the Image of the Most Merciful! How long will it be ere Thou riddest me of the captivity of this world, and deliverest me from the bondage of this life? Didst Thou not promise me that Thou shalt dye the earth with me, and sprinkle me on the faces of the inmates of Thy Paradise?” To this I make reply: “Be thou patient and quiet thyself. The things thou desireth can last but an hour. As to me, however, I quaff continually in the path of God the cup of His

decree, and wish not that the ruling of His will should cease to operate, or that the woes I suffer for the sake of my Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, should be ended.

Seek thou my wish and forsake thine own. Thy bondage is not for my protection, but to enable me to sustain successive tribulations, and to prepare me for the trials that must needs repeatedly assail me. Perish that lover who discerneth between the pleasant and the poisonous in his love for his beloved! Be thou satisfied with what God hath destined for thee. He, verily, ruleth over thee as He willeth and pleaseth. No God is there but Him, the Inaccessible, the Most High."

BH04650: In the Name of God, the Most Ancient…

In the Name of God, the Most Ancient of the Most Ancient! O Karim! Hear the call of the All-Bountiful. He is verily the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. Be not disturbed by separation. We have ordained for thee the reward of them that have circled round Me, soared in the atmosphere of My love, held fast unto My cord, and clung to My robe. Thus hath the decree been fulfilled and grace hath come from the presence of One All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Thou art of those who have kept faithful to God's Covenant and have not broken His pledge, and have sought His face from all directions. Be thou assured and be of the thankful. They who have kept faithful to the Covenant are indeed of the people of Baha. Thus hath it been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen, and they shall have a seat of truth with One mighty and powerful.

When sorrows encompass thee, remember the days of My presence and that which the tongue of might doth speak. By God! Through it are drawn the hearts of them that know. Act ye, O My loved ones, according to that which hath been sent down unto you from the realm of wisdom and utterance. They who have transgressed beyond wisdom are in the hollow of heedlessness, yet God hath pardoned them as a bounty from His presence. He is verily the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

Be thou assured of My favor unto thee, My mercy towards thee, and My loving-kindness bestowed upon thee. Say: O my Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having remembered me in Thy Most Great Prison and sent unto me that which hath gladdened mine eyes, assured my soul, and attracted my heart. I beseech Thee by Thy Most Glorious Name to ordain what is best for me, for I know not what lieth within Thy Self, and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

BH04738: Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses…

He is the Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Glorified be He Who hath sent down the verses in truth. There is no God but Him. His is the creation and the command, and He encompasseth all things. Say: O people, fear ye God and cut not asunder the strength of His Cause with the swords of your idle fancies. Fear God and be God-fearing in His religion. Eat of what hath been sent down unto you from the clouds of wisdom, the table of inner meanings, then detach yourselves from all that is on earth.

Say: Today nothing shall profit anyone save that he turn unto God and be faithful to the Covenant. And thou, O Hadi, hear My call in this prison wherein I have remained alone, and I have taken for Myself no helper save God, my Lord and thy Lord, and I shall never take any, through God's might and power. Thus hath the matter in this Tablet been ordained by the Finger of the Spirit. Give thanks unto God for having ordained for thee what thou desired, and for not depriving thee of the wondrous tokens of His grace, for He hath ever been merciful unto His servants. Beware lest thou take anyone besides Me as thy protector, or as thy beloved. Be steadfast in the Cause, then remember Me at eventide and at dawn, and be firm in thy Lord's Cause. Then convey Our greetings unto thy wife and give her the glad-tidings of what God hath mentioned of her from the Holy and Glorious Pen. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon every faithful servant.

BH04633: Hearken unto My call from the direction…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Throne: He is, verily, none other God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting. Know thou that the idolaters drove Us out of the Land of Mystery, and one sacrificed himself in My path by cutting his own throat, and when the Most Great Ocean was established upon the Ark another cast himself into the sea, dreading separation from Me, and the Luminous One offered up his spirit at the time when he was bowed before My feet, until they brought Us to the most desolate of lands in this remote prison. Thus did We receive at the hands of those who invoke Us day and night—the stupor of heedlessness and passion hath seized them and they understand not.

From the prison's precincts I summon all who dwell on earth and call them unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Beautiful. Be thou steadfast in such wise that neither veils nor sorrows shall prevent thee from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Master of the Day of Judgment. Say: He is, verily, the Originator of the heavens and earth, were ye of them that know. Follow thy Lord in all conditions such that neither the oppression of the wrongdoers nor the rejection of the idolaters shall frighten thee. We have been with thee and are aware of what hath befallen thee. Thy Lord is, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. We have ordained for thee before the Throne a magnificent station. God shall soon exalt thy name in truth—He is, verily, the Protector of the doers of good. Hold fast to the cord of servitude unto God, the True One. Through it the Cause shall be established and the pillars of the transgressors shall be broken. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH04667: O Karim! Your call reached the threshold…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great

O Karim! Your call reached the threshold of the Throne of the Merciful, and the divine sacred ear inclined to hear it. Blessed is the soul that is mentioned today in the Most Great Scene and is honored with divine favors, for this favor is like a seed deposited in noble and lofty soil. Soon, in every world of the divine worlds, its fruits and ears of corn shall appear. Blessed art thou for the seeds of thy Lord's favors, the Revealer of verses, have been sown for thee. God willing, you must at all times be occupied with the

mention of the Sovereign of possibility, in such wise that the fragrant breezes of remembrance may perfume all created things.

Praise the Beloved of the worlds that your mention was made in the Most Great Prison, and from the direction of the Ancient Beauty the tongue of the favor of the Lord of nations turned toward you, speaking these lustrous words: The spring rain of the All-Merciful's mercy is ever-descending and flowing from the clouds of grace. Blessed are they who have detached themselves from all that exists and have turned with illumined and pure hearts toward the All-Merciful. These are among the people of Baha, upon whom the dwellers of the cities of names shower their prayers.

BH04644: O Hakim! Be firm in the Cause of thy…

In the Name of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise!

O Hakim! Be firm in the Cause of thy Lord, such that the tempests that blow from the direction of the oppressors may not shake thee. Stand steadfast in the Cause through God's might and power. Say: O people! How long will ye gather the fruits of error and choose the paths of passion over guidance? Do ye not see that whoso departeth from among you returneth not, and whoso is scattered cannot be reunited? Your remaining days shall pass away even as your bygone days have passed. Fear your Lord, the All-Merciful. By God! He desireth for you naught save that which shall draw you nigh unto Him and cause you to enter the kingdom of eternity. He is, verily, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful. Eat freely of the fruits of the everlasting Tree wheresoever ye will. And whoso is deprived thereof is veiled by a thick veil.

Know thou that We have been imprisoned in a place where eyes are prevented from beholding it and ears from hearing what is revealed therein of the verses of God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. By this means they desired to prevent the servants from hearing the verses of God, that they might thereby extinguish His light amongst His near ones. But God hath refused save to perfect His light by His power, and He sendeth down what He willeth and conveyeth it to those who have turned unto Him with radiant countenance.

Preserve what We have counselled thee. Verily, thou hast with thy Lord a station among stations. Be thou grateful unto Him and be of the thankful ones. Grieve not at what hath befallen Us, but be content with what God hath ordained for Us, for We are in manifest joy. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds!

BH04884: O thou whom the Youth calleth from His prison!…

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Everlasting

O thou whom the Youth calleth from His prison! Previously were verses clear and evident sent down for thee, and verily they are a remembrance unto all the worlds. And this Tablet is sent once again in truth, and verily it is a mercy unto the sincere ones. Cast away what thou hast and take what hath come unto thee—this is better for thee than the kingdom of the heavens and earth.

Hearken unto this call which hath been raised between earth and heaven. By God! The proofs of all the world cannot match it. It hath been raised in days when kings gathered for My killing and servants for My

destruction, and whensoever one turneth to the right or to the left, one findeth naught but enemies of My Self. Therefore, O My spirit, blessed be this Day wherein the Youth hath severed Himself from all save His Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, and declareth that there is none other God but Him and that He is the Object of worship of those near unto God. We beseech God to soften thy heart through the waters of wisdom and utterance which have descended from the clouds of thy Lord's knowledge, the All-Merciful.

O My brother! By God, all that thou seest shall perish, and were the matter as they say, the Youth would not have accepted the arrows of the people nor placed Himself beneath the claws of the idolaters. Rend asunder the veils, then emerge from behind them and turn thy face toward Him Who hath fashioned the heavens and earth. Say: O my Lord! I have heard Thy call and answered Thee, and here am I, content with what Thou hast ordained for me, and I am among those who have repented. And praise be to God, the Quickener of the worlds.

BH04850: This is a Book sent down in truth…

In the name of Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed!

This is a Book sent down in truth from the heaven of the will of the All-Merciful unto the peoples of the worlds, that it may detach them from whatsoever they possess and draw them nigh unto that Paradise wherein the veils of glory were drawn aside from the countenance of Beauty, and the Cause was made manifest through a clear sovereignty.

Therein hath been sent down that which was inscribed upon the Preserved Tablet by the Pen of God, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Blessed is he who hath hearkened unto the verses of God and purified his heart from the allusions of them that have turned aside—they who opposed God after He came upon the clouds of utterance with manifest sovereignty.

O Ahmad! Know thou that God hath created every soul for the recognition of the Manifestation of His Self, and this verily is the purpose revealed in all the Tablets. Yet when He appeared, all turned away save those who held fast to the Sure Handle and detached themselves from the deluded ones. Remember thou the time when Muhammad, the Apostle of God, appeared from the horizon of Hijaz—the divines opposed Him and denied the signs of God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Among them was Ibn Suriya, who was among the most learned of Jewish scholars. He opposed Him, saying:

> "No sign hath been sent down unto thee whereby we should follow thee."

His learning kept him from turning toward God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. Among them also were Abu ʿAmir the monk, and likewise Huyay ibn Akhtab, and Ka'b ibn al-Ashraf, and their like—all opposed Muhammad, the Apostle of God and Seal of the Prophets, denied the signs of God, rejected His Cause, warred against the Manifestation of His Self, and disputed with what they possessed of satanic whisperings. Through them the people of that age turned away, distanced themselves from the law of nearness, and reached such a state of rejection that they sought to shed His blood, after He had come to them with a clear proof….

Give thanks unto God for having strengthened thee to dispel illusion, to attain unto clear knowledge, to remove the veil from thy face, and to become one of those possessed of insight. Were all the treasures of the earth of pure gold to be thine and were thou to expend them, thou wouldst not attain unto this station save by His leave. He, verily, is the Truth, and with Him is the knowledge of all things in a clear Book. Thus doth God single out whom He pleaseth with bounty from His presence, and He is verily the Most Powerful of the powerful ones….

BH04938: And We make mention of My other handmaiden…

And We make mention of My other handmaiden and remind her of God's verses and that which hath appeared from Him in this exalted station. O My handmaiden! Take the chalice of eternity in the name of thy Lord, the Lord of earth and heaven, then drink therefrom, detached from all who are in the heavens and on earth. The ocean of knowledge hath surged in the words of thy Lord. Blessed is he who hath witnessed and drunk therefrom. Woe unto the heedless ones….

O Ibrahim! By God, the Friend of God circled round the Cause of God and acknowledged and confessed that which the Tongue of Grandeur hath spoken. The Tongue of God, the Mighty, the Wondrous, beareth witness to this. Give the glad-tidings of the appearance of God, His sovereignty, His grandeur and His power unto the people, that they may perceive the fragrance of divine utterance on this blessed and luminous Day. We have commanded all with that which will exalt the station of the Word among creation, and have revealed that which causes bodies to soar, let alone spirits. Yet most of the people are fast asleep. They raise not their heads from their beds as though they were among the dead.

They have not been awakened by the cry, nor by the trumpet blast, nor by this Call which has encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth. We beseech God, blessed and exalted be He, to aid His servants to cling to His most pure and luminous hem, and to hold fast unto His firm and shining cord. We desire to mention [My handmaiden who was with thee. Give her the glad-tidings of her Lord's loving-kindness and illumine her heart with the light of] My resplendent remembrance. Thus has the matter been decreed and the verses sent down from the heaven of the bounty of God, the Mighty, the Powerful….

BH05077: Praised be Thou, O my God! Thou seest me…

Praised be Thou, O my God! Thou seest me shut up in this Prison, and art well aware that I have entered it solely for Thy sake and for the sake of the glorification of Thy word and the proclamation of Thy Cause. I cry out to Thee, at this very moment, O Thou Who art the Lord of all worlds, beseeching Thee, by Thine undoubted Name, to attract the hearts of Thy servants unto the Day-Spring of Thy most excellent titles and the Dawning-Place of Thy most resplendent signs.

But for the troubles that touch me in Thy path, O my God, how else could my heart rejoice in Thy days; and were it not for the blood which is shed for love of Thee, what else could tinge the faces of Thy chosen ones before the eyes of Thy creatures? I swear by Thy might! The ornament that adorneth the countenance of Thy dear ones is the blood which, in their love for Thee, floweth out of their foreheads over their faces.

Thou beholdest, O my God, how every bone in my body soundeth like a pipe with the music of Thine inspiration, revealing the signs of Thy oneness and the clear tokens of Thy unity. I entreat Thee, O my God, by Thy Name which irradiateth all things, to raise up such servants as shall incline their ears to the voice of the melodies that hath ascended from the right hand of the throne of Thy glory. Make them, then, to quaff from the hand of Thy grace the wine of Thy mercy, that it may assure their hearts, and cause them to turn away from the left hand of idle fancies and vain imaginings to the right hand of confidence and certitude.

Now that Thou hast guided them unto the door of Thy grace, O my Lord, cast them not away, by Thy bounty; and now that Thou hast summoned them unto the horizon of Thy Cause, keep them not back from Thee, by Thy graciousness and favor. Powerful art Thou to do as Thou pleaseth. No God is there but Thee, the Omniscient, the All-Informed.

BH05157: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted! This is a Book from Us to him who was illumined by the splendors of the light of his Lord and who journeyed from his homeland until he arrived in the vicinity of the mercy of his Lord, the All-Merciful, in the land which We had formerly named the Green Isle and subsequently the Land of Mystery, as ordained in the Tablet of Destiny by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Blessed art thou for having attained the presence of God time and again, and for having inquired of Him in this remote prison. Be thou assured through His grace that He is with those who have been faithful to His Covenant and who have laid hold of the Book with might and evident sovereignty. Be thou united with My loved ones. Through this His signs are spread amongst His servants. In His hand is the kingdom of Command and Creation. He guideth whom He willeth unto the straight path.

Those who expelled you—God will soon abase them and exalt your names and record your deeds in a Tablet wherein no deed of those who act is left unmentioned. Rejoice in My joy though sorrow encompass Me from all sides. Take the cup of tea in My Name, then drink it in remembrance of Me and My glory. Then call to mind the days of meeting Me and the warbling of the birds of eternity upon the branches of the Tree of My grandeur and majesty.

Thus have We remembered you in the Most Great Prison that you might be reminded of the Most Great Scene, the station wherein the decree of fate was suspended. Verily He beholdeth you from this Spot. He is near unto the doers of good. And glory be upon thee and upon those who have purified their hearts and have united in the Cause of God, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH05251: O My handmaid! Ponder upon that which hath befallen…

…O My handmaid! Ponder upon that which hath befallen My Beauty from My kindred and from the adherents of former Faiths, causing the heaven to be cleft asunder and the earth split. Despite all this, My own sister hath risen up against Me with a manifest sword. We beseech God to open her eyes and to purge her from worldly things that she may recognize her Lord, for verily thy God's bounty is abundant.

Recite unto thy Lord: Praised be Thou, O My God! I beseech Thee by Thy Beauty through which the Sun of Thy Oneness hath risen upon all creation, to protect the Manifestation of Thine Essence from the handmaids who have denied Thee. Thou art verily the Possessor of names and attributes. O my God! Thou beholdest Thy Best Beloved imprisoned amidst Thy enemies and saddened by what hath befallen Him at the hands of Thy servants. Notwithstanding that He is surrounded by deniers from every direction, He hath also been wronged by His sister whom Thou hast fashioned and created through Thy power and inspiration. I beseech Thee at this time, O My God, by Thyself to protect Him from her and from the harm of Thy creatures. Thou art verily the Powerful, the Mighty and the Beneficent.

BH05158: This is a Book from Us to him whom…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious.

This is a Book from Us to him whom God hath caused to grow from blessed and goodly soil. This, verily, is a great bounty.

It behooveth thee to let thy tongue make mention of thy Lord, thine eyes be directed toward the court of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, thy hands be raised unto God, the Creator of all worlds, and thy fingers point to all peoples.

By God, the Truth! O people, the veils of fancy have been rent asunder and the Ever-Abiding hath come with mighty sovereignty. Do ye follow vain imaginings after the Sovereign of certitude hath appeared from the horizon of the will of your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great? Or do ye cleave to idle fancies when this is your Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing?

Fear God, O people, and follow not those who have denied the Dawning-Place of the Cause but for Whom no revelation would have been sent down from time immemorial. Thus doth the Tongue of Grandeur speak forth from the pavilion of glory, yet the people are wrapped in a thick veil.

Rend asunder the veils through My Name, then draw strength from the power of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Say: Verily, He calleth you unto God from His prison in such wise that His tribulations have not hindered Him from making mention of the Lord of Names. Turn ye unto Him and be not of the lost.

Grieve thou not over anything. Soon shalt thou behold that which hath been ordained for thee. Thy Lord is with thee under all conditions. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

And glory be upon thee and upon those who have stood firm in the Cause of their Lord, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

BH05106: The Most Holy, the Most Glorious. There hath appeared…

The Most Holy, the Most Glorious. There hath appeared before Us the book of Our servant Al-Mihdi, who hath believed in God, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Therein he made mention of thee and of those who have cast behind their backs all created things and have laid fast hold on the Covenant of God, their Lord and the Lord of their forebears of old.

Blessed art thou for having turned to the Best-Beloved of the worlds and turned away from them that have disbelieved in God after He came with manifest sovereignty and truth. Thou hast fulfilled His Covenant and occupied thyself with His verses.

By My life! Whosoever hath caused to flow from his pen a single verse from among the verses of his Lord—God hath ordained for him the reward of one who hath circled round His presence and been honored to attain His meeting. He is assuredly among the triumphant ones. Were We to expound what We possess and reveal that which is hidden, they that are in the heavens and on earth would fall thunderstruck.

Arise to serve the Cause in My Name and place thy trust in God in all thine affairs. He is the Protector of whosoever hath turned towards Him, and He is indeed nigh unto them that do good.

Write down the verses of thy Lord and recite them, that they may draw thee to My Kingdom and thou mayest witness that which hath been forbidden to the eyes of them that have been heedless of this wise Remembrance.

Be thou of such constancy that tribulation shall not deter thee from making mention of Me, even as the kings and rulers united against Us failed to deter Us. By God! From the horizon of this Prison do We summon the servants unto the mercy of their Lord, the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

Rejoice thou in My remembrance and find solace in My praise. Verily He maketh mention of thee in His Kingdom. There is none other God but He, the Mighty, the Beautiful.

BH11775: O leaf of love! Hearken unto the call…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O leaf of love! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord from the direction of this Prison, that the melodies of the All-Merciful may draw thee to that station wherein hath shone the countenance of Him concerning Whom hath been inscribed by the Pen of God:

> “This is for the Face of God, the Powerful, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting.”

Give thanks, O leaf, that the fragrances of the Beloved have wafted upon thee, and God hath made thee one of the leaves of that Tree beneath whose shade have sought refuge servants who are detached. Remember thy Lord throughout all days and be not heedless of Him, for verily He shall suffice thee against those who have disbelieved and who have joined partners with God, the Mighty, the Beloved.

Taste of the fruits of that Tree and deny not thyself thereof. Then place thy trust in God, thy Lord, in all matters. Strive within thyself that there may be manifested from thee that which befitteth thy kinship unto God, and be not of them who claim relationship unto the Self of God, yet walk not in the paths of His good-pleasure.

Be thou lowly in thy devotion and remember thy Lord in these days wherein people have taken for themselves a lord besides God, and have perished in the ways of tyranny and error, yet they perceive it

not. Thus have We imparted unto thee the word of truth that thou mayest rejoice in the remembrance of the Beloved and be of those handmaidens who rejoice in the remembrance of their Lord.

And the glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God their Lord and have detached themselves from every enchanted idol.

BH04981: O Karim! Hear the call of thy Lord…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

O Karim! Hear the call of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. He speaketh from the precincts of the Prison and summoneth the people unto God, the King, the Mighty, the Beauteous. By God the Truth! O Karim! The more afflictions have increased in the path of God, the Lord of Names, the more hath grown the love of Baha in the Cause of his Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful.

I know not what fire hath been kindled in the horizons, such that the hearts of the peoples of the world have been set ablaze thereby. Arise at My bidding to make mention of Me amongst My servants. Beware lest the veils hinder thee or the might of monarchs overtake thee. Take refuge in the Name of thy Lord—verily He will protect thee—then shine forth from the horizon of certitude. Say: By God the Truth! The proof hath come from the All-Glorious. Fear God, O people of the Bayan, and deny not God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Be thou enkindled with the fire of thy Lord's love in such wise that its heat may be felt by all who dwell in the lands. Thus doth the Chosen One command thee from the presence of the Mighty, the Powerful. Dost thou grieve within thyself while thy Lord is manifestly joyous? He hath ordained for thee in the Kingdom of eternity that which the minds of the wise are powerless to comprehend. Turn thou unto the Sanctuary of Grandeur and say:

O my Lord! I have come unto Thee, detached from all save Thee. O my Lord! I have turned my face unto Thee. Sanctify me from whatsoever is repugnant to Thy good-pleasure, then cause me to speak Thy praise amongst Thy servants in a manner befitting Thy majesty and worthy of Thy glory. Verily, Thou art the All-Powerful, the Most Exalted, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH05203: O Leaf who hast been present before the Throne…

In His Name that overshadoweth all things

O Leaf who hast been present before the Throne in the Land of Mystery! In His name Who standeth over all things! O Leaf! That which We foretold thee hath come to pass, at the time when thou wert before the Countenance at the Spot wherein shone forth the beauty of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, and there appeared that which was concealed in the Land of Mystery, and the Youth departed therefrom according to what was ordained in the Tablet of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Bestower. Verily thy Lord knoweth best what is veiled from eyes, and with Him is the knowledge of what will be even as with Him is the knowledge of what hath been.

Grieve not for what hath befallen Us. Soon shall appear that which hath been inscribed by the Most Exalted Pen in a Tablet which God hath preserved in the pavilion of grandeur through power and might.

Forget not what We have enjoined upon thee. Guard the Cause of thy Lord and withhold thyself from that which thou hast been forbidden. Verily thy Lord is with thee at all times. When the leaves of fire approach thee, leave them behind thee. Take refuge in God thy Lord, then make mention of Him amongst His handmaidens through verses whereby the worlds are attracted.

Glorify on My behalf the handmaidens of God who have found the fragrance of the musk of inner meanings from the vessel whose seal hath been broken by the hand of the power of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most Holy.

We have sent unto thee what was presented before the Face concerning that which thou didst entrust to Our servant, Sayyah. Although thou didst spend it, yet We loved not that any but thee should dispose of it, as a favor from Us unto thee. Verily thy Lord, He is the Mighty, the Helper.

BH04943: Know thou that We have come to the Most…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Know thou that We have come to the Most Great Prison that the servants might be freed from the prison of self and desire, and turn unto the sanctuary of their Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious. We summon the servants from the horizon of this tribulation unto God, the Lord of Names, that perchance the breaths of the words of Him Who is the Fashioner of the heavens might take hold of them. Verily thy Lord is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.

We have not forgotten thee. We have revealed for thee in the Tablet that which shall gladden the eyes of them that are endued with understanding. Say: O people! The Day hath come. Arise to help your Lord, the Most Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Praised. When the clamor of them that have disbelieved is raised, shun them and turn thy face toward God, the Most High, the Most Great. Be thou in such wise that he who possesseth authority shall not withhold thee from the remembrance of God on this Day whereon eyes have been blinded and feet have slipped, save whom thy Lord willeth, the Mighty, the Peerless. Arise to the Cause of thy Lord and bid the people unto righteousness. Thus have We commanded thee before and in this hour.

Say: O people! Abandon that which ye possess and turn unto that Quarter wherefrom the Concourse on High hath been illumined. And whoso turneth away, he is indeed in manifest error. Soon shall the horizons be illumined through the Name of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious. Grieve not at anything. Verily thy Lord is with thee under all conditions. When the promise cometh to pass, there shall descend upon thee that which hath been ordained for thee. He, verily, is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth.

BH05551: This is a Tablet that speaketh the truth, wherein…

He is the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Glorious

This is a Tablet that speaketh the truth, wherein mention is made of one of the handmaidens of God who hath believed in her Lord and detached herself from every wicked transgressor, and from whose heart

have wafted the sweet savors of love. God hath therefore made mention of her in this Tablet, that she may glory therein among all the world.

O handmaiden of God! Glad-tidings unto thee for having been enabled to recognize God and for having fixed thy gaze upon His countenance, and for having fallen prostrate upon thy face before Him, weeping. We have indeed become aware of what is in thy heart and have sent unto thee that which will gladden thy heart, that thou mayest remain steadfast in the Cause. Remember thy Lord, then be devoutly obedient, and bow down in submission before God Who created thee and all things, for He hath power over all things. Beware lest thou be disturbed by that which hath disturbed the hearts of those who believed and then turned away from God and made Satan their path. Remember thou My exile and tribulation, then My imprisonment at morn and eventide. Know thou that We have ordained for thee in the heaven of the Cause a station that is truly exalted. Be thou at peace through the grace of thy Lord and forget not His remembrance, that thou mayest be numbered among those handmaidens who are mentioned in the Tablets. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who follow the command of their Lord and take refuge in His mighty stronghold.

BH05311: Thou knowest, O my God, that in Thy love…

In the Name of Him from Whom there is no escape save unto Him!

Thou knowest, O my God, that in Thy love I complain not of calamities, nor do I recoil from tribulations in Thy path. Thou seest how the kings have gathered to harm and destroy me, and how those in every land have united in hatred against me and in afflicting me. Yet despite this tumult which hath seized the worlds and all within them, I remain radiant from the horizon of Thy glory, speaking forth Thy praise and glorification. The winds of destiny have not prevented me from manifesting Thy sovereignty and power, nor have the doings of the people of creation hindered me from revealing Thy commandments and ordinances.

But my sorrow is for him whom I nurtured with the hands of My mercy and protected by My arm of power, who hath united with one as vile as himself, and together they have betrayed Thy Cause until the fire of sedition was kindled among Thy loved ones. O my God, purify Thy land of them both. Verily, Thou art powerful over what Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

O servant! We have withheld the Pen from mentioning thy name to protect thee. Behold then the faithfulness of thy Lord Who, despite His imprisonment and tribulations and trials, remembereth thee in a station round which circle the denizens of the Supreme Concourse. By God! This sufficeth thee, wert thou to gaze toward the horizon of the Cause. Be thou grateful and among the thankful ones.

Several Tablets were sent—deliver them to the Afnan and others.

BH05297: O My servant! Hearken unto My call…

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

O My servant! Hearken unto My call from the direction of My prison, for verily I am the Wronged One, the Lonely One. Remember thou the days of thy reunion with Me and what thou didst hear from My tongue as thou didst walk behind Me. Thy Lord remembereth thee even as He remembered thee before. Verily thy Lord is the Forgiving, the Merciful. Blessed art thou for having been faithful to My Covenant and held fast to My Testament, and for not having cast behind thee My remembrance after he who was created by My command turned away from Me, the Mighty, the Wondrous.

Grieve not, for thy reward is with Us. Yet We counsel thee with that wherewith We have counseled Our near servants. Sorrow not for what hath passed, neither be thou distressed by what Our servants who denied the signs of God have wrought after the Truth came with manifest sovereignty. Hearken not unto that which beseemeth not to be heard. Rather, seek thou the grace of God, the Exalted, the All-Wise. Do that which befitteth the days of thy Lord. How excellent are these fragrances which We have sent forth at all times unto those who have chosen the All-Merciful and cast the worlds behind them! These, verily, are of the sincere ones. Blessed are ye for having drunk the cup of tribulations in My path and dwelt in the lands of exile for My Name. Soon shall ye find yourselves in a station of ancient holiness with your Lord, the Most High, the Most Great.

BH05384: The Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

The Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

A remembrance for him who has rent asunder the veils when the All-Bestowing came in the shadows of the clouds. How sweet is My remembrance of My servants who were attracted by the verses in days wherein the mountains were scattered. Say: Verily, He in the prison summons the peoples unto God, the Lord of the ancient, and draws mankind near unto the Self-Sufficient, the Most Exalted.

Say: Are you content with the pool while you behold the Kawthar before your faces? What aileth you, O people of error? Take what you are commanded in the Tablet. Cast away what hopes you have from the people. Among men are those who have cast away religion and exalted clay, and among them are those who have chosen desires over guidance. By My life, all these shall perish, and sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Lord of the beginning and the end. Say: O people, do you not see the sun? Verily it is at its zenith. Through it the moon of fancy was eclipsed and the stars of idle imaginings have fallen. Blessed is he who has rent asunder the veils with the finger of might. Think not that those who are heedless are sleeping—nay, they are dead in the wilderness of error. The breezes of chastisement have seized them from all directions, and they have no protector from God this Day. Give thanks to thy Lord for having aided thee to recognize the Manifestation of His Essence and drawn thee near unto this station which hath been illumined by the lights of Beauty. Beware lest anything prevent thee from God. Leave all else but Him, then remember Him in the morning and the evening.

BH05544: This is a letter from the Wronged One…

In the name of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a letter from the Wronged One to him who hath made his way unto the All-Merciful, that it may detach him from his own self and draw him to a place illumined with the lights of His countenance.

O servant! Blessed art thou for having recognized the Truth and turned away from him who denied the All-Merciful and was recorded as a wretched one in the Mother Book. Be thou steadfast in the love of God and His Cause, then aid Him through utterance. Thus doth the All-Merciful command thee at a time when He was imprisoned by the hands of the oppressors. When tribulations overtake thee in My path, remember thou My tribulation and My exile and My imprisonment. Thus do We impart unto thee from the presence of One mighty and wise.

By My life! The day is approaching when We will have rolled up the world and all that is therein, and spread out a new order in its stead. He, verily, hath power over all things.

Sanctify thy heart for My remembrance and thine ear for hearkening unto My verses, then turn thy face toward the Spot wherein the throne of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is established.

Say: O my Lord! Praise be to Thee for having enabled me to recognize the Manifestation of Thyself and caused me to turn toward the Kaaba of Thy reunion and meeting with Thee. I beseech Thee by Thy Name through which the heaven was cleft asunder and the earth was rent to ordain for me what Thou hast ordained for him who turned away from all else save Thee and turned unto Thee, and to decree for me a seat of truth with Thee in the Most Glorious Pavilion. Thou, verily, doest what Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Wise.

BH05571: Thou beholdest, O my God, Thy servant who dwelleth…

Thou beholdest, O my God, Thy servant who dwelleth in this prison-house, wholly detached from any one but Thee, his eyes turned in the direction of the Day-Spring of Thy mercy, his heart longing for the wondrous manifestations of Thy grace. Thou, O my Lord, hast reckoned up the ills that have afflicted him in Thy path. Thou seest him compassed about with such of Thy creatures as have transgressed and rebelled against Thee, who have come in between him and Thy loved ones, who have fixed his abode in this land and wronged Thee, and who have hindered Thy servants from turning towards Thee.

For all these things I offer thanksgiving unto Thee, O my Lord! I implore Thee to assist me and them that love me to magnify Thy Word, and to endow us with such strength that the ills of this world and its tribulations will be powerless to hinder us from remembering Thee and from extolling Thy virtues. Powerful art Thou to do all things; resplendent art Thou above all things.

Every conqueror is but a serf whom Thy hand hath subjected, and the richest of the rich is as destitute before the immensity of Thy wealth. The noblest of nobles is humbled when faced with the manifestations of Thy glory, and the mightiest of potentates is a mere abject one when confronted with the compelling evidences of Thine authority.

Tear asunder, O my God, the veil of vain imaginings that hath obscured the vision of Thy people, that all may haste towards Thee, may tread the path of Thy pleasure, and walk in the ways of Thy Faith. We are, O my God, Thy servants and Thy bondsmen. Thou art sufficient unto us so that we can dispense with the

world and all that is therein. We are wholly satisfied with all that hath befallen us in Thy path, and exclaim:

> "Praised be Thou, in Whose hand are the realms of revelation and of creation, and all the kingdoms of earth and heaven!"

BH05370: In the Name of God, the Most Great…

In the Name of God, the Most Great. A remembrance from Us to a handmaiden of God, that she may give thanks to her Lord and remain steadfast in her love for Him, after feet have slipped save those whom their Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, preserved.

Know thou that thy Lord's mercy hath preceded all created things, and of His mercy is that from this Prison, whose gate is held by the hosts of passion, He calleth mankind unto God Who created the heavens and earth and caused the Youth to speak. Soon shall the prison gate be opened and he who desireth to depart shall depart. Thus doth revelation flow unto thee from the Dawning-Place of inspiration.

Remember thy Lord in prosperity even as He remembereth thee in an adversity the like of which the eyes of mankind have never beheld. Grieve not for My tribulation, My abasement and My trials. By God! I am in the most exalted Paradise, while around Me circle the hosts of revelation with standards and ensigns. That which befalleth Us in God's path is a mercy unto Us, and We accepted it aforetime; otherwise, by Him Who causeth My tongue to speak His praise, We could have subdued all who are on earth with but one word from Him. Thus hath the Pen inscribed from the irrevocable decree, and none knoweth it save him who hath drawn nigh unto Me and severed himself from all mankind.

He it is Who created the heavens by His command and the earth by His sovereignty, Who subjected the clouds and brought forth fruits from their sheaths. There is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Powerful, the All-Knowing.

BH05430: Blessed is he who hath hearkened unto the melodies…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Blessed is he who hath hearkened unto the melodies from the quarter of the All-Merciful in this station whose air hath been perfumed by the fragrant breezes wafting from the raiment of his Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. The very air of the prison hath been made to exult by reason of the breath of God having ascended unto it, were ye of them that comprehend, and its earth glorieth above all other regions of the earth.

This is a revelation from One Who is mighty and ancient. O servant! Hearken unto My words, then detach thyself from the world and all that is therein. By My life! There hath come unto thee that which is better for thee than all that is on earth, and thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, beareth witness thereto. A noble station hath been ordained for thee in the pavilions of grandeur. Seek what God hath desired, then in His love detach thyself from the peoples of the world. Thy name hath been mentioned in the presence

of the Countenance, and verses have been sent down unto thee at an hour when the denizens of Paradise and the angels drawn nigh were circling round the Throne.

Grieve not for what hath befallen Us. By God! The Youth doth not lament in the love of God even should all tribulations descend upon Him, and thy Lord is witness unto what I say. Stand firm in the Cause, then aid it through wisdom and utterance. Thus have We commanded aforetime and afterwards, but the people are in manifest error. Glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath turned unto the Dawning-Place of Revelation and turned away from the idolaters.

BH05545: The Most Holy, The Most Great. This…

The Most Holy, The Most Great. This is a Book which hath been sent down in truth from the presence of One mighty and wise. It speaketh that I am the Prisoner in this mighty Prison.

O My loved ones! Look not today to your own selves but rather to the Self of God, if ye be of them that comprehend. Ponder not upon that which would bring comfort to your bodies, but rather upon that which would exalt My remembrance amongst the worlds. Grieve not at anything, for He is with you. Soon will He open before you a gate whereby your affairs shall prosper both in this world and in the next. A mighty station is yours if ye gather together for the triumph of God and His Faith. Beware lest ye differ in the Cause of your Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

All that hath been revealed in the Bayan is My remembrance, and all that hath been revealed in this Manifestation is the embellishment of Mine Own Self, which We have created for My Temple, the Mighty, the Inaccessible. My outward calleth unto My inward, and My inward unto My outward. There is none other in the kingdom save Me, yet the people are in manifest heedlessness. Verily the Branches that have branched from the Divine Lote-Tree are My evidences amongst My creatures and My breezes between the heavens and earth.

See ye any partner or peer unto God, your Lord? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! Speak not of that which God hath not permitted you. Fear ye the All-Merciful, and be of them that are endued with insight. Grieve not thou, for nothing escapeth the knowledge of thy Lord. He is cognizant of all things. Remind the people with wisdom from thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful.

BH05301: O servant! On this Naw-Ruz, when the Sun has…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great

O servant! On this Naw-Ruz, when the Sun has risen from the constellation of grandeur, most faces have turned black except for those whom your Lord, the All-Merciful, has willed. We see people in distress and turmoil, descending and ascending, not knowing. Some faces are gloomy and frowning, others radiant and joyful. Some eyes are weeping and staring, others sharp and observant. Some ears are deaf and forbidden, others hearing and attentive. Some tongues are dull and fettered, others eloquent and speaking. Some hands are restricted and bound, others extended and giving. Some hearts are fearful and heedless, others pure and expectant. Some souls are agitated and commanding to evil, others tranquil

and well-pleased. Some feet are trembling and unsteady, others firm and steadfast. Thus do We observe the servants and inform you in this wondrous Tablet.

Grieve not for those who have disbelieved. Remember those on whose faces you find the radiance of the beauty of your Lord, the Most High, the All-Knowing. Verily, in this Great Prison We summon the people unto God, the Lord of all worlds. Be as We are in the Cause of God and fear not the oppressors. He is with you and will help you in truth. He is the Protector of those who remember Him. We beseech God to purify the servants from the world and to turn them toward the Dawning-Place of His Most Beautiful Names. Verily, He is the Hearer of Prayer and He encompasses all the worlds.

BH05457: Muhammad-Hasan! In the Name of God, the Most Manifest!…

Muhammad-Hasan! In the Name of God, the Most Manifest! Your name hath been mentioned before the Face in this prison, and verses have been revealed for thee that all the kingdoms of the world cannot equal. Look not upon what hath been sent down from the Supreme Pen as thou lookest upon what the people possess. Thus doth the All-Informed apprise thee.

From every letter of the words of God there is created in the realm of creation that which none knoweth save God and those whom He hath made the manifestations of His knowledge. Thus doth the All-Knowing teach thee in this perspicuous Tablet. The people of insight behold the effects of the Word in those who have believed even as they behold the radiance of the sun in the horizons when it riseth from the horizon of heaven. Verily thy Lord's Word hath encompassed the heavens and the earth.

Hearken thou unto My words: Leave the people and what they possess and take comfort in the remembrance of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Death is truth; its messenger cometh from the presence of One mighty and powerful. When this is established, it behooveth not the seeing one to turn unto the world and whatsoever is therein. Thus do We make mention of him whom the remembrance profiteth, from the presence of One mighty and praiseworthy.

The former generations have passed away and others will follow them. Be thou patient and grieve not over anything. If thou remainest firm in the love of thy Lord, thou shalt soon find thyself in manifest glory. In His hand is the Command. He confirmeth whatsoever He willeth of what He desireth, and He eraseth, and with Him is the Mother Book. And praise be to God, the Lord of Lords.

BH05535: In the Name of God, the Most Holy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Mighty, the Most Exalted! This is the Book of God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, unto him who hath turned towards the Dawning-Place of the Cause on a day when faces were darkened. Arise to aid the Cause of God and His Command. Thus doth the Ancient Pen enjoin thee on behalf of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Loving.

The hearts of the pure ones have been consumed by reason of what hath befallen the Dawning-Place of Names, yet the Youth remaineth in gladness and joy. Neither do adversities and hardships sadden Him, nor do the hosts of the wicked prevent Him from that which He hath been commanded by God, the Mighty, the Beloved. It behooveth everyone who hath quaffed from this Cup to be so steadfast that no

veils shall hinder him from turning unto the Mighty, the Bestower. Thus hath it been inscribed by the Finger of thy Lord's Will, the All-Merciful, in a preserved Tablet.

Thy letter hath come before Us, and thereby We have ordained for thee an exalted station. Grieve not because of the world and whatsoever happeneth therein. Verily thy Lord doth both expand and contract, and in His right hand is the dominion of the kingdom of the heavens and of the earth, but the people understand not.

Convey My greetings unto My loved ones. Say: Today it behooveth him who hath believed in Him to manifest that which will attract the hearts of men and gladden honored servants. Say: The Spirit be upon you and the Glory be upon you, O ye whom God hath singled out for this grace which minds have never comprehended the like thereof.

BH05541: This is an epistle from this wronged, grief-stricken Prisoner…

He is God, the Most Knowing, the Most Glorious

This is an epistle from this wronged, grief-stricken Prisoner unto him who hath believed in God and taken the Spirit as his beloved, and who is among those that understand in the days of God, that the words of his Lord may move him and remind him through grace and detach him from those who are not guided by the signs of God. O servant! We had previously sent down a tablet unto thee and dispatched it that thine eyes might be consoled thereby and that thou mightest soar on wings of longing in the holy atmosphere of the Beloved.

And now once again hath the breeze of sorrow and grace wafted upon thee from the direction of thy Lord's most exalted Throne, that it may free thee from thy self and cause thee to walk in the cities of holiness and establish thee firmly in the Cause of God, the Protector, the Mighty, the Self-Subsisting. Beware lest thou grieve at what hath befallen thee in this transient life, for it shall pass and come to an end, while that which hath been ordained for thee in the tablets of might shall enduringly remain. Take comfort in My remembrance and forget those who have denied My Self, for this is the best counsel shouldst thou be of them that know. Thus hath the tongue of thy Lord spoken out of love for thee, that thou mightest rejoice within thyself and be of them that take delight in the remembrance of God. And upon thee be glory, and upon whosoever hath detached himself from them that have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the One, the Single, the Mighty, the Beloved.

BH05295: O My handmaid! Mention was made of thy name…

In the name of God, the Ever-Abiding!

O My handmaid! Mention was made of thy name before the Throne, and the Sun of Grace hath shone upon thee, and this Tablet is one of its effulgences. Verily, the earth declareth unto God its tidings. The Youth hath dwelt in the prison of ʿAkka, and the sincere ones perceive the fragrance of His garment from its environs.

The verses have been sent down from the right hand of the throne of thy Lord, the Possessor of Names and Attributes, and that which hath flowed from the Pen is its proof. Be thou patient and grieve not. Soon shall the power of thy Lord be made manifest and the people shall be seized by its signs. The ranks have been drawn up and the angels have descended with crimson standards, and the earth hath trembled and its earthquake hath seized the ungodly.

This is the Tree of God—blessed is the one who draweth nigh unto it and holdeth fast to its branches. Its leaves speak: "By God, this is the Beloved of the worlds!" O people, fear ye God, then hearken unto its melodies. The heaven and earth have been rolled up in My grasp, and the transgressors bear their burdens. We have created the heavens and adorned them with shining suns—blessed is the one who is illumined by their lights.

The Hour hath come and the moon of reckoning hath been cleft, and trembling hath seized the ungodly. The palm trees have been uprooted and souls have been thunderstruck, and the houses lie desolate upon their trellises. Grieve thou not over anything, but remember thy Lord, the All-Merciful, then be thankful unto Him. Blessed is the handmaid whose face hath been illumined in the days of her Lord and who hath remained faithful to her covenant.

BH05526: In the Name of the One Friend! Thy letter…

In the Name of the One Friend! Thy letter in the Persian tongue was presented before the Divine Throne and was regarded with the glance of favor. God willing, may all praise the Goal of the world's peoples in the most wondrous Persian language, for this tongue was and shall ever be sweet. How blessed is the state of one whose mention floweth from the Pen of the Ancient in this Most Great Prison, or whose petition is regarded by the Divine Unity.

Tablets were newly revealed in answer to the question of one of the servants and these were sent. Consider the words revealed aforetime and after in the hidden knowledge, and after gaining understanding and knowledge, begin to act upon them. Be not disheartened. Be grateful and content with whatsoever hath been ordained, for God, exalted be His glory, hath been and shall ever be watching over you, and is closer and more kind to you than you are to yourself.

Since He hath ordained for every thing an effect and means through the manifestation of the Influential Name, one must seek from the Causer of causes through these means. God willing, may you ever be gladdened by divine grace, for His grace hath encompassed you, and this is more excellent than whatsoever hath been created in the heavens and on earth.

And the Spirit be upon you and upon those who are with you among the loved ones of God.

BH05518: Praise be unto Thee, O my exalted Lord…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Praise be unto Thee, O my exalted Lord, in all conditions, and for having lifted the decree of contention and ordained that in this Dispensation Thy Cause should triumph through utterance. O my God! Aid Thy

loved ones to remember and praise Thee, then inspire them with that which shall subdue the hearts of Thy creatures and the souls of them that dwell in Thy dominion. O Lord! Diffuse the fragrance of Thy raiment through the hands of them that bear glad-tidings among Thy loved ones, that the sweet-scent of Thy love may be wafted throughout Thy lands and may attract unto it the hearts of Thy servants. O Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having moved the Pen of the Most High to make mention of him whom Thou didst desire, while confined in the Most Great Prison. By Thy glory! This grace cannot be equaled by whatsoever existeth in the kingdom of creation and the realm of invention.

Blessed is he who hath inhaled Thy fragrances in Thy days and remained steadfast in Thy Cause after the concealment of Thy countenance. Blessed is he upon whom the Pen of Thy Command hath traced mention and unto whom hath been directed the glance of Thy loving-kindness from Thy prison. I beseech Thee, O my God, to aid Thy servants unto that which Thou lovest and art pleased with. Verily Thou art the Creator of earth and heaven and the Maker of names. There is none other God but Thee, the Mighty, the All-Bountiful.

BH11783: We have heard thy call and have answered thee…

He is the All-Glorious!

We have heard thy call and have answered thee. Verily thy Lord is the Answerer of prayers. He is with thee and will aid thee with truth. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. We have previously sent thee a Tablet that no sovereignty in the heavens or earth can equal, and in this Prison hath this perspicuous Tablet been revealed. Wert thou to become aware of what hath been ordained for thee in the Tablets, thou wouldst soar with joy. Thy Lord is indeed possessed of great bounty. Be thou steadfast in all conditions and place thy trust in God, the Lord of the exalted Throne. Watch over thy Lord's Cause with wisdom. Thus hath the Ancient King commanded thee through the Pen of His Most Ancient Name. Act according to what thou hast been commanded, then assist thy Lord in these days wherein feet have slipped save those who have come unto their Lord with hearts purified from all who dwell on earth.

Say: Glory be to Thee, O my God! I beseech Thee by the wafting of the breezes of Thy grace over all created things, and by the manifestation of Thy Most Great Name upon the Daysprings of Thy names and attributes, to make me steadfast in Thy Cause and detached from Thine enemies. Then ordain for me, through the Pen of Destiny, union with Thee and the attainment of Thy presence in every world of Thy worlds. Thou, verily, art the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

Soon will the cry of the Calf be raised from most lands. Avoid it and be among those who stand firm in the stronghold of the Cause. Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH05932: O son of Vahid, upon thee be the Glory…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most High

O son of Vahid, upon thee be the Glory of God! It behoveth thee to aid thy Lord in these days and to speak forth Our Most Great Name, the All-Glorious—He Who hath been imprisoned for the education of the world, that men might be guided to this Straight and Manifest Path. Be thou steadfast in the love of

God and His Cause in such wise that from thy countenance might be seen the radiance of Vahid who sacrificed himself in My path. Then, verily, in My exalted, holy and luminous Kingdom—by God!—wert thou to behold him thou wouldst swoon away with longing for that glorious and wondrous station. Turn not unto the world and whatsoever hath been created therein, be it what it may, but hold fast unto the hem of thy Lord's mercy, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

Be thou a herald of My Cause amongst My servants, that I may cause thee to enter the pavilion of My glory and show thee that which the eyes of those near unto God were prevented from beholding. Verily the grace of thy Lord hath encompassed thee aforetime, and We shall soon exalt you throughout the lands through My Name. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Stand firm in the Cause of thy Lord through God's might and power in such wise that the veils of the idolaters shall not withhold thee. Make mention of him who remembereth thee in the prison, purely for the sake of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. And the Glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath been illumined by this Light that hath shone forth from the horizon of the name of thy Lord, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.

BH05805: We have previously informed you in the Tablets…

He is God, exalted is He!

We have previously informed you in the Tablets of that which hath been ordained by the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. He hath indeed decreed with truth, and We are among those who render thanks. Grieve not over what hath been decreed and ordained, but be filled with supreme gladness, for in this mighty seizure and great captivity We are in manifest ease and comfort. Praise be unto Him for having made me a prisoner in His path, and made my kindred captives in the hands of the oppressors.

By God! The Most Great Sea hath been established upon a sea whereof every drop proclaimeth between the heavens and the earth that He is indeed the Truth and the Beloved of all the worlds. And the letter Ha circleth round it, and neither tribulations can prevent it from His Cause nor calamities from His sovereignty. Erelong will it emerge through truth, for verily He is the One with power over whatsoever He willeth.

Say: In this prison are signs for them that possess true knowledge, and clear evidences for them that are near unto God. God desired not thereby to extinguish His fire, but rather to kindle it, and in all that He doeth there is a wisdom which none comprehend save they who are endowed with clear vision.

Remember thy Lord, for verily He is with thee at all times and will aid thee through the truth. And there is no help save from Him—verily He is the Protector of the sincere ones. And praise be to God, the Lord of all the worlds.

BH05806: The heedless ones drove Us from the land…

In the name of Him Who giveth and taketh as He pleaseth!

The heedless ones drove Us from the land of mystery with manifest tyranny, until We reached the shore of the sea. Then We embarked upon the ship by God's command—He, the Exalted, the Great. At all times

the verses of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, were sent down, and by them the hearts of those who circled round were attracted, until We arrived at this Great Prison. The hosts of the oppressors seized control of the prison gate. The first to turn toward God in this land was he who was named Abu'l-Hasan. He attained the presence once and heard the melodies of God. He was indeed a trustworthy man. God accepted from him the hardships he bore in His path and which he continued to bear on his return journey. Thy Lord is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

After him entered servants who did not attain the presence of the Youth because of what the hands of the oppressors had wrought. For each one God ordained a great reward. Thus have We revealed unto thee some of what befell Us, that thou mayest be informed thereof and hear the call of this Wronged One from this far-off place, and remember thy Lord in all conditions. Verily He is with His remembering servants. And glory be upon the loved ones of God who stood fast in His Cause and were of those who remained firm. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH05971: O thou who makest mention of Me! Hear My…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O thou who makest mention of Me! Hear My call from the direction of My prison, and ponder My Cause and what hath befallen My Self. Then behold how I have stood firm in all conditions upon the Cause of God, thy Lord and the Lord of all worlds. By God! Every member of My body crieth out: O people! He is verily the Beloved of those who know, and every hair of Mine proclaimeth: O people! He is verily the Object of worship of all worlds. Tribulation shall never prevent Me from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Highest, even as it prevented Me not aforetime. Verily thy Lord is the All-Powerful, the Most High, the All-Knowing.

Say: O people! None may draw nigh unto that Tree save after his detachment from all things. Thus hath the Pen of Command inscribed in this Day wherein God hath been established upon the throne of grandeur with manifest sovereignty. We have heard thy mention and thy praise. Blessed art thou for having attained unto that which most of the servants have missed and which none in all lands have reached save those who have come unto God with radiant countenance. Be thou steadfast in My love and say: Through His remembrance God hath made me independent of the remembrance of all else. Verily He is the Guardian of those who turn unto Him. Convey the greetings of thy Lord unto those whom thou findest upon a straight path. Praise be unto God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH05715: Thou beholdest, O my God, the Day-Star of Thy…

He is the Most Manifest, the Most Glorious

Thou beholdest, O my God, the Day-Star of Thy Word shining above the horizon of Thy prison-city, inasmuch as within its walls He who is the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Day-Spring of the light of Thy unity hath raised His voice and uttered Thy praise. The fragrances of Thy love have thereby been wafted over Thy cities and have encompassed all the dwellers of Thy realm.

Since Thou hast revealed Thy grace, O my God, deter not Thy servants from directing their eyes towards it. Consider not, O my God, their estate, and their concerns and their works. Consider the greatness of Thy glory, and the plenteousness of Thy gifts, and the power of Thy might, and the excellence of Thy favors. I swear by Thy glory! Wert Thou to look upon them with the eye of justice, all would deserve Thy wrath and the rod of Thine anger. Hold Thou Thy creatures, O my God, with the hands of Thy grace, and make Thou known unto them what is best for them of all the things that have been created in the kingdom of Thine invention.

We testify, O my God, that Thou art God, and that there is no God besides Thee. From eternity Thou hast existed with none to equal or rival Thee, and wilt abide for ever the same. I beseech Thee, by the eyes which see Thee stablished upon the throne of unity and the seat of oneness, to aid all them that love Thee by Thy Most Great Name, and to lift them up into such heights that they will testify with their own beings and with their tongues that Thou art God alone, the Incomparable, the One, the Ever-Abiding. Thou hast had at no time any peer or partner. Thou, in truth, art the All-Glorious, the Almighty, Whose help is implored by all men.

BH05923: This is a Tablet from the Youth to one…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy

This is a Tablet from the Youth to one of His handmaidens, the Mother of Piety who hath visited her Lord, that she may give thanks unto her Lord and be numbered among the steadfast. Thus doth the Pen of Command enjoin His handmaidens who have believed in God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. O My handmaiden! Remember, then prostrate thyself before thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy. Grieve thou not save for My imprisonment, and rejoice not save in My manifestation, and turn not thy face except toward the Face of God, the Dawning, the Luminous. Verily, He is with thee and seeth thee in thy condition and heareth thy sighing in His love. He, verily, encompasseth all things. Await thou the lights of My Beauty, then ascend to the atmosphere of My nearness, then hearken unto My call from the direction of My Throne, and this indeed is a great bounty. Then say:

> “Glory be unto Thee, O my God! Make my life Thy Name, and my spirit Thy remembrance, and my hope Thy Beauty, and my paradise Thy nearness, and my Kawthar Thy call, and my Ka’bih Thy love, and my sanctuary Thine atmosphere, and my goal the seat of Thy mighty Throne. O Lord! Drive me not from the door of Thy mercy, and forbid me not from the wonders of Thy signs, and leave me not among Thy handmaidens. Verily, Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is no God but Thee, the Mighty, the Generous.”

BH05847: Say: Praise be to God Who hath caused…

He is the All-Wise, the All-Knowing Expositor.

Say: Praise be to God Who hath caused the people of Baha to enjoy that which none but the Supreme Power hath brought forth. I beseech Him, exalted be He, to make me one of the companions of the Crimson Ark which hath adorned the sea of grandeur when He came Who illumined thereby the Most

Exalted Horizon. O Hamid! We bear witness, as We bore witness before the creation of the heavens and earth, that there is none other God but Me, the Self-Subsisting, the All-Compelling. That which an Afnan hath praised through thy tongue hath been presented before Us. Verily thy Lord is the All-Hearing, the Answering. The months have passed during which My Most Exalted Pen moved not in this noble station. Give thanks unto God that We have answered thee and made mention of thee in this mighty prison. Remember thy Lord at all times. Verily He loveth them that remember Him. Say:

O my God and the God of all that are in the heavens and on earth! I beseech Thee by the Name through which the eyes were illumined, that Thou protect me from every affliction and hurt, and aid me to stand firm in this Cause whereby all who are on earth were shaken except such as were preserved through Thy Name, the All-Compelling, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

We send Our greetings unto thee from this spot that thou mayest rejoice in this manifest grace.

BH05716: Thou dost witness, O my God, how He Who…

He is the Most Exalted, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Thou dost witness, O my God, how He Who is Thy splendor calleth Thee to remembrance, notwithstanding the manifold troubles that have touched Him, troubles which none except Thee can number. Thou beholdest how, in His prison-house, He recounteth Thy wondrous praises with which Thou didst inspire Him. Such is His fervor that His enemies are powerless to deter Him from mentioning Thee, O Thou Who art the Possessor of all names!

Praised be Thou that Thou hast so strengthened Him with Thy strength, and endowed Him by Thine almighty power with such potency, that aught save Thee is in His estimation but a handful of dust. The lights of unfading splendor have so enveloped Him that all else but Thee is in His eyes but a shadow. And when Thine irresistible summons reached me, I arose, fortified by Thy strength, and called all that are in Thy heaven and all that are on Thy earth to turn in the direction of Thy favors and the horizon of Thy bounties. Some caviled at me, and determined to hurt me and slay me. Others drank to the full of the wine of Thy grace, and hastened towards the habitation of Thy throne.

I beseech Thee, O Thou Who art the Creator of earth and heaven and the Source of all things, to attract Thy servants through the fragrances of the Robe of Thine Inspiration and Thy Revelation, and to help them attain the Tabernacle of Thy behest and power. From eternity Thou wert by Thy transcendent might supreme over all things, and Thou wilt be exalted unto eternity in Thy Godhead and surpassing sovereignty. Let Thy mercy, then, be upon Thy servants and Thy creatures. Thou art, in truth, the Almighty, the Inaccessible, the All-Glorious, the Unconditioned.

BH11788: This is a Book which hath been sent down…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Holy!

This is a Book which hath been sent down in truth unto him who hath attained the presence of his Lord, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, at His Throne, and who hath been seized by the breezes of

revelation before His countenance. He is, verily, among those who have attained. Hearken, O servant, unto the call of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, from the horizon of tribulation, that thou mayest be moved by the Word of thy Lord and arise to celebrate His remembrance amidst His heedless servants.

We have, in truth, sent down unto thee aforetime clear verses, and verily they are glad-tidings from the Most Merciful unto thee and unto all who dwell in the realms of being, that they might inhale the fragrance of the garment from that which hath been sent down from the direction of a mighty throne. We have been with thee in all conditions and behold thee in joy and in sorrow. Hear My words: place thy trust in all things in thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Grieve thou not except for My grief. He will send down unto thee that which hath been ordained for thee. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

None shall attain immortality save him who hath quaffed the choice wine of life from the words of his Lord, the Mighty, the Bountiful. By God! He shall not see extinction. He shall soon find himself possessed of a mighty dominion. Remember thy Lord amongst His servants; verily, He remembereth thee in this Prison, and this wondrous Tablet sent down beareth witness unto this.

BH06051: That which was revealed for Rida who emigrated…

That which was revealed for Rida who emigrated and returned

In the Name of God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Glorious

O Rida! Bear thou witness to My love for thee, whereof all things bear witness, and beyond them My Self, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving. Blessed art thou, and blessed is thy emigration and thy return by the leave of God, the One, the Mighty, the Compelling. My remembrance of thee hath preceded, and likewise My description of thy soul. Be thou of such character as God loveth and as He desireth, for verily He is the Unconstrained One. Through My remembrance of thee, the realities of existence, both unseen and seen, make mention of thee. Beware lest thou forget this station which the necks of them that are endued with insight have stretched forth to attain, and which none hath reached save by Our leave. Verily, We abase whom We will and We exalt whom We will unto the Dayspring of light. Guard thyself lest thy feet slip from this station wherefrom feet have slipped, save those whom God preserved through His grace. He, verily, is the Almighty, the Mighty, the Most Bountiful. Say: The sovereignty on that Day shall be God’s, the One, the Almighty, the Mighty, the All-Compelling. And the glory be upon its people from this Servant Who hath been imprisoned in this Prison through that which the hands of the wicked have wrought.

BH06394: God calls from the prison quarter unto His chosen…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

God calls from the prison quarter unto His chosen servants and summons them to the station wherefrom the lights have shone forth, that the fragrances of their Lord’s verses, the Fashioner of earth and heaven, may take hold of them. Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the right hand of the Throne—sovereignty belongeth unto God, the Almighty, the Powerful, the Compelling. Make mention of him who maketh mention of thee in this prison, that perchance the people may turn their faces unto

their Lord, the Mighty, the Unconstrained. Say: O people! The gates of heaven have been opened, the clouds pour down their rain, and the horizons are illumined. Cast aside what ye possess and turn unto Him Who calleth you to a station that transcendeth all mention.

Thus do We command thee as a token of Our grace—verily thy Lord is the Mighty, the All-Bestowing. Beware lest the world hold thee back from the remembrance of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious. Leave it to its people and hold fast unto Him Who hath come from the dayspring of revelation with power and sovereignty. Soon shall the world and all that is therein perish, and there shall endure for thee what hath been ordained for thee in the Tablets. Rejoice in that thou hast been mentioned before the Throne and in that which hath flowed for thee from the Most Exalted Pen whereby thy mention shall be established in creation. Praise be to God, the Mighty, the Transcendent!

BH06309: This is a Book from Us to one…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a Book from Us to one of Our handmaidens who hath borne tribulations in My path, and grief in My love, and poverty for My beauty, that she may rejoice in what hath been sent down unto her from God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Know thou that We have become aware of what hath befallen thee in the path of God, and We are apprised of what thou hast witnessed in His love and good-pleasure. Thy Lord is verily the Truth, the Knower of the unseen. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge. With Him is the knowledge of the heavens and of the earth, but most people do not understand. Soon will God seize those who have wronged, and raise up those who were oppressed.

He, verily, is powerful over what He willeth through His word “Be,” and it is. Take comfort in My remembrance, for it shall suffice thee above all that is on earth. We have ordained for thee a station in a sealed tablet which none can unlock save God, the Mighty, the Loving. Be thou thankful and grieve not. Verily, thy Lord is with those who have remained faithful to the Covenant on the day of separation. He knoweth what lieth within the breasts. Give praise unto thy Lord for having sent down unto thee this Tablet after He was imprisoned through what the hands of the heedless have wrought.

BH06062: O leaf whose father hath ascended unto God! Hearken…

In the name of God, the Ruler over all who are on earth and in heaven.

O leaf whose father hath ascended unto God! Hearken thou unto the call of God from the direction of the throne of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Verily, His call unto thee from this Most Great Prison is better for thee than all that is on earth, whereunto beareth witness the Tongue of the Chosen One upon His most great and glorious Throne. Be thou assured through the grace of thy Lord, and despair not of the spirit of God. Indeed His favor upon thee is great. Let not the imprisonment of the Youth sadden thee. We had made mention of it aforetime in a perspicuous Tablet, wherein lieth consummate wisdom with thy Lord Who knoweth what was and what shall be and what is hidden from the eyes of the worlds.

We were with thee at the time when thou didst what thou didst in the name of thy Lord. Verily thy Lord is cognizant of all things. Nothing whatsoever escapeth His knowledge and He, verily, encompasseth all the

worlds. Blessed art thou for having inhaled the fragrances of the Raiment and turned away from the idolaters. Stand thou firm in the love of thy Lord. He is with thee under all conditions, and He is verily the One possessed of great bounty. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH06315: This is a Tablet from the Point…

He is God, the Most Glorious, the Most Glorious

This is a Tablet from the Point of the Bayan to Salman, that he may be illumined by the lights of his Lord, the All-Merciful, in these days wherein all have turned away from the Beauty of the All-Glorious and followed Satan in their own selves, and were among the idolaters. Hearken, O servant, to the call of this Prisoner from the depths of this pit, that perchance thou mayest aid this Wronged One Who hath been afflicted at the hands of His servants and subjects who have disbelieved and associated partners with God, the Protector, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. Be thou steadfast in the Cause of God, then summon the people unto this Paradise, the Most Great Paradise of God, and be not of them who have violated God's Covenant after it was revealed with every wise command.

Say: O people! Do ye remember the Primal Point yet deny His own Self? What aileth you that ye perceive not? Say: O My loved ones! By God the Truth, this is the Day the like of which the eyes of creation have never witnessed. Beware lest ye be heedless of it and of Him Who hath appeared therein. Remember Him at eventide and at dawn, then lament for what hath befallen Him at the hands of the hypocrites. Thus have We made mention of thee, as a token of Our grace unto thee and unto Our upright servants.

BH06318: This is a Book sent down from before…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a Book sent down from before the Throne to him who hath believed in God, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting, and who hath perceived the fragrance of the All-Merciful from the garment of Our Most Great Name, whereby all that was and will be hath arisen, surging like the sea in remembrance of God, the Mighty, the Beloved. Say: O people! This is the Day wherein the heaven hath been cleft asunder, and the earth hath been rent, and the skin hath crept with fear, save of him who hath answered his Lord and turned toward this outstretched Shadow. Be thou a lamp of the remembrance of thy Lord amongst His servants, that through thee may be illumined the faces of those whom the veils have not withheld from the remembrance of their Lord, the Munificent, the All-Bestowing.

Thus hath the Command come, but the people understand not. Soon shall the sincere ones find the signs of their Lord's victory, the All-Merciful, and by them shall those who associate partners with God be shaken. Say: Verily in this Prison are signs for the people of Baha and clear proofs for those who fear God. Arise at thy Lord's command, the All-Merciful, and remind the people of this Name whereby the Herald hath called out in the midst of the heavens: "Your Lord, the Mighty, the Loving, hath come!" And glory be upon thee and upon those who have believed in God and who in His love have detached themselves from all that is seen and unseen.

BH06236: Rest hath departed from all possibility save for him…

In the Name of God, the Ruler!

Rest hath departed from all possibility save for him who hath partaken of the wine of inner meanings and utterance from the cup of his Lord's mercy, the All-Merciful. Dost thou imagine rest to lie in wealth and riches, or in the glory wherein the people of the world pride themselves? Nay, by Him Who speaketh from the All-Glorious Horizon! Rest was not created save in the shadow of God and His love. Verily, hardship in His path is the sovereign of ease, and extinction in His love is the monarch of immortality. By His very Self! Tribulation in His good-pleasure is a gift to His lovers, and abasement in His Cause is glory to them that yearn for Him. Would that the Glory might sacrifice himself a thousand times each day in the path of his Lord!

O thou who art remembered throughout the worlds and mentioned by the tongue of thy Lord, the All-Merciful! Hearken unto My call from the precincts of My prison, and arise to serve thy Lord amongst My servants in such wise that the veils of My creatures and the clouds of My creation shall not hinder thee. In such days as these it behooveth thee to stand firm in the love of thy Master and to aid the remembrance of the name of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. Proclaim "Allah-u-Akbar" on My behalf unto My servants, that the proclamation may draw them to the countenance of thy resplendent Lord. And praise be to God, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

BH06469: O friends! Today is the day when each…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

O friends! Today is the day when each of the loved ones must arise to render assistance to the All-Merciful, inasmuch as most of those on earth have striven to extinguish the fire of God and His light. He Who hath come for the life of the peoples of the world and the salvation of all nations hath, with utmost tyranny and injustice, been imprisoned in the most desolate of cities. I swear by the Dawning-Place of the Most Great Name that all tribulations and afflictions have not and will never prevent this Servant from the remembrance of God. All the friends of Truth must exert their utmost endeavor that perchance a soul may attain unto the Salsabil of inner meanings. This deed is accounted as the most great of all deeds in the sight of God. Blessed are they who have detached themselves from all else save God in His path and who have, purely for His sake, arisen to scatter the divine utterances throughout all regions, that they might find one who is ready and call him to the eternal city. These souls are recorded in the sight of God as among His goodly names. Blessed are they and those who have followed the Truth.

BH06742: The Most Holy, Most Glorious

The Most Holy, Most Glorious

A Book from Me to My servant, that he may rejoice in My remembrance, be stirred by My fragrances, be gladdened by My verses, arise from the horizon of My steadfastness, and make mention of his Lord amongst His servants. Thus hath spoken the tongue of the Will of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, from the direction of the Prison. Be thou thankful and among those who remember. Know thou that We have

nurtured Our body in tribulations in the path of God, the Fashioner of the heavens, and We drink at every moment from the cup of destiny that which none among the worlds hath become aware. And the more tribulations increase, the more Our eagerness intensifies, and the more calamities encompass Us, We repel them through the name of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Be as thou wert in the Cause of thy Master and adorn thyself with the attributes of thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Wise, in such wise that the hardships of the world sadden thee not, nor occupy thee the vanities of all who are in the realm. Be content with thy Lord. Say:

O my God and my Master! I beseech Thee by that which Thou art, in Thy greatness and majesty, to make me one of those who have circled round Thy Will and have turned toward Thy face, detached from all else besides Thee. Thou art my Goal in this world and the next. Ordain for me, then, a seat of truth. Verily, Thou art the Forgiving, the Generous.

BH06743: How many who are near are far and know…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

How many who are near are far and know it not, and how many who are far are in truth near! Draw nigh with your hearts—this is the Beloved and My luminous Beauty. Whoso combineth in himself the outward and the inward, verily he hath attained unto all good from the presence of a mighty, a wise One. Such a one is rarer than the red sulphur—to this every possessor of sublime knowledge doth testify. Blessed is he who, though near, is not held back by human allusions from the Beauty of the Divine Unity, and blessed is he who, though far, hath found the fragrance of God from the garment of His Name, the Most Wondrous. Whoso desireth Me, verily he is near and the beauty of the Beloved; and he who desireth Me not is far, though he be in this exalted station.

Let no one feel secure in himself, for the self indeed commandeth to evil. He must needs remember it at all times. Thus hath flowed from the Pen that which was sent down from the presence of the Lord of all peoples, that it might be a reminder to the sincere ones. O thou who art mentioned before the Throne! Give thanks unto thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praised, for having inscribed thy mention by the Most Exalted Pen whilst it was in the Most Great Prison. Hold fast unto the Most Great Name and conquer hearts through this wise remembrance.

BH06443: O My servant! Hear My call from the heaven…

In the name of God, the Triumphant, the Powerful

O My servant! Hear My call from the heaven of My loving-kindness and from the right hand of the throne of My grandeur—that I am the One grief-stricken by My servants and saddened by what hath befallen My Beauty at the hands of the manifestations of My wrath. Therefore, ascend with thy heart unto the kingdom of My nearness, and soar with thy spirit in the atmosphere of My grace and favor, that thou mayest hear My melodies and become aware of what Mine enemies have brought down upon My Beauty.

O My servant! Cut thyself from the paths of heedlessness, then walk in the ways of My grace and My favors that thou mayest attain unto the Ridvan of My love and the garden of My affection and My grandeur. By God, the True One! Verily My fragrances guide the longing ones unto the gardens of My mercy, and the radiance of My countenance leadeth those who desire Me unto the seat of My throne and My power, and then unto the Kawthar of My grace and My gifts. Thus hath the breeze of wisdom wafted from the direction of My finger upon My loved ones, that they may become aware of My Self—the Wronged One, the Stranger, the Prisoner, the Lonely One, the Sorrowful, the Slain One.

And the Glory be upon thee, O servant, from thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Knowing. There is no God but Him, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Merciful, the Possessor of Grace and Bounty.

BH06535: A mention from Us to the servant who gained…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

A mention from Us to the servant who gained the days of God and was recorded among the doers of good in the Tablets, that He may make him steadfast in the Cause in such wise that the veils of the worlds shall not withhold him from the direction that was renowned by the name of the All-Merciful, and that he may summon the people unto God, that they may draw nigh unto the Source of Revelation and enter beneath the shade that hath been, through grace, extended from all eternity. Arise to serve the Cause through the might and power of God and leave all created things behind thee. Thus doth command thee the Ancient King, at a time when He was imprisoned in the most desolate of cities.

Say: O people! By God, whatsoever ye possess shall perish and your traces shall be effaced by destiny. Enter ye, then, the Kingdom of eternity. Thus doth counsel you your Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious. This indeed is the best counsel for you, and your Lord, the All-Merciful, is verily witness to what I say. There is no protector today for anyone save God, your Lord. Turn ye unto Him. He summoneth you unto that which is best for you. Fear God and follow not those who have turned away from the Truth after We called them unto the Dawning-Place that was illumined with the lights of the Throne.

BH06792: He speaketh forth with grace and is manifest…

He speaketh forth with grace and is manifest with justice

O Abul-Qasim! The Most Exalted Pen, in the prison of Akka, beareth witness to the sanctification of the Divine Being from any peer or likeness, and from any equal or similitude. The Tongue of Grandeur hath testified to the sanctification of His Essence from the mention of aught else and the exaltation of His Being from the knowledge of any other. And it beareth witness to thy turning from the earthly homeland to the divine homeland. Praise be to God Who assisted thee and through the means of heaven and earth brought thee to thy goal. Thou didst arrive at the shore of the Most Great Ocean and didst hear the call of the Lord of Eternity, and didst enter through a door that was opened unto the faces of all who are in the heavens and the earth.

Blessed art thou for having drunk, from the hands of bounty, the Kawthar of the divine encounter, and for having attained that which was recorded in the Books of the Prophets and Messengers. Praise be to God that thou didst turn and didst attain, and during numbered years thou didst arise to serve. Know thou with clear certitude that this testimony which hath in this moment been revealed and sent down from the Most Exalted Pen is better than whatsoever existeth on earth and whatsoever lieth hidden within it. Convey My greetings to the loved ones of God. Say:

My God, my God! Deliver Thy sheep from the wolves of Thy land. O Lord! Thou seest them beneath the claws of the lion of the earth. Preserve them through Thy bounty, then guard them through Thy power, Thy might and Thy sovereignty. Thou art powerful over whatsoever Thou willest. There is none other God but Thee, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. O my Lord! Ordain for me and for my wife and for those with me who have quaffed the choice wine of utterance from the cup of Thy bounty that which beseemeth the ocean of Thy generosity. Then make them to be among those whom the howling of the wolf doth not frighten when it is raised in Thy lands. Verily Thou art He Whom nothing whatsoever can frustrate and no affair can render powerless. Through Thy Name the standard of triumph was hoisted upon the most exalted ensigns. Thou art verily the Almighty, the August, the All-Knowing.

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BH11796: Wert thou to behold Me, thou wouldst not recognize…

He is the Glorious, the All-Glorious!

Wert thou to behold Me, thou wouldst not recognize Me by reason of what hath befallen Me in the path of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Chosen One. I complain not of what hath come upon Me, but rather of that which the hands of those who have broken the Covenant have wrought to quench the fire of God. When they see their like, they help them bear their burdens, and when they meet the rebellious ones, they say: “Lo, we have rejected the Lord of Lords!” When the verses come unto them, they turn away therefrom, and when the Almighty appeareth, they raise the cry of the impious. They are like unto dogs that pant in every state. Thus do We set forth similitudes for thee. God shall soon roll up their days. Verily thy Lord is the All-Powerful, the All-Compelling.

Grieve thou not, for thou art remembered before the Throne, and there have been revealed for thee in this Most Great Prison verses that shall attract the hearts of the righteous. Say: The Youth feareth not in the Cause of God; He glorifieth His Lord with praise at morn and eventide, in the night season and at dawn. God shall soon exalt the Cause through His power. He, verily, is the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Bountiful.

Be thou steadfast, then remind those around thee in whom thou findest humility before thy Lord, the All-Merciful. And glory be upon thee and upon those who believe in the Day of Reckoning.

BH06686: Unto Thee be praise, O Lord my God! I…

Unto Thee be praise, O Lord my God! I beseech Thee by Thy Most Great Name Who hath been shut up in the prison-town of ʿAkka, and Who—as Thou beholdest, O my God—hath fallen into the hands of His enemies, and is threatened by the swords of the wicked doers, to make me steadfast in His Cause, and to direct mine eyes continually towards His court, in such wise that nothing whatsoever will have the power to turn me back from Him.

I testify, O my Lord, that He hath surrendered His life in Thy path, and hath wished for Himself nothing but tribulation in the love He beareth to Thee. He hath endured all manner of vexations that He may manifest Thy sovereignty unto Thy servants, and exalt Thy word amidst Thy creatures. As the adversities deepened, and the troubles sent down by Thee compassed Him on every side, He became so impassioned by His thought of Thee, that the hosts of all them that had disbelieved in Thee and repudiated Thy signs ceased to affright Him.

I implore Thee, O my Lord, by Him and by whatsoever pertaineth unto Him, to set my affections upon Him even as He hath set His own affections upon Thyself. I testify that His love is Thy love, and His self Thy self, and His beauty Thy beauty, and His Cause Thy Cause. Deny me not, O my Lord, what is with Thee, and suffer me not to be forgetful of what Thou didst desire in Thy days. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, the All-Wise.

BH06577: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest Thy…

In the Name of God, the Most Powerful, the Most Powerful!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest Thy servants imprisoned among Thy creatures, deprived of beholding Thy countenance and visiting Thy presence, bound by the shackles of hatred through what the hands of the transgressors among Thy creation have wrought, and chained in Thy path. Should anyone say that Thou hast withdrawn from them the glance of Thy loving-kindness, all things would deny this, for I observe that Thou art watching over them, and that Thy forbearance with the idolaters is due only to a wisdom which Thou hast concealed from the eyes of Thy servants. Soon wilt Thou raise up those who have fallen in Thy love, and exalt those who have been abased in Thy path, and illumine the faces of those who have been disfigured by the blows of the ungodly for Thy Cause.

Thou hast ordained days wherein each one of Thy loved ones shall be raised up through the manifestations of Thy power and the revelations of Thy glory. Such pure ones, who have tasted the edge of swords in their longing for Thy beauty and have drunk poison in their search for Thy presence, are worthy of Thy praise, O Thou Who art the Beloved of Baha! Thou seest Thy Beloved in the prison of ʿAkka, desiring not His own ease but Thy good-pleasure and Thy will. There is no God but Thee, the One extolled by the tongue of Baha in the highest heaven and on earth. Verily, Thou art the Beloved of the worlds.

BH06591: Glorified art Thou, O Thou through Whose remembrance…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

Glorified art Thou, O Thou through Whose remembrance the intimate companions soar in the atmosphere of the glory of Thy knowledge, and the sincere ones ascend to the seat of Thy nearness and Thy presence! I beseech Thee by Thy Name which Thou hast made the King of Names, that Thou cause me to hear the wondrous melodies of Thy praise and make me drink from the Kawthar of Thy knowledge in such wise that I may detach myself from all else but Thee and turn my face toward Thy countenance, O Thou in Whose grasp is the kingdom of creation!

O my Lord! I am he who lay sleeping upon the couch of heedlessness and forgetfulness when the sweet fragrances of Thy Name, the All-Merciful, wafted over me and awakened me through Thy grace, and turned me toward Thy face, and inspired me with the wonders of Thy remembrance, until these days arrived wherein the Manifestation of Thy Cause is imprisoned in a land from which the hands of those who long for Thee among Thy servants are cut off, and the feet of those who seek Thee among Thy creatures are barred.

O my Lord! It grieves me that I should dwell in my home while I behold the Manifestation of Thy Self in the prison of the enemies. I beseech Thee by Thy Name, the Most Exalted, that Thou unite us with Him and grant us the blessing of attaining His presence. Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent over what Thou willest, and the Lord of the world to come and of the first. There is no God but Thee, the Most Exalted, the Most High.

BH06650: They have imprisoned Us in a fortress built…

In the Name of God, the Ancient One, Who changeth not!

They have imprisoned Us in a fortress built of solid rock, and have made the clouds of idle fancies a barrier between Us and [the loved ones of God, the Most High, the Most Exalted, seeking] to veil the beauty of the Sun behind the clouds of self and passion. By God! All things laugh at them, for thy Lord is, verily, powerful over whatsoever He willeth. The kings cannot withhold Him from that which He desireth, for they are but captives within the grasp of the Lord of the Day of Mutual Invocation. Soon will He manifest His Cause with evident dominion, for He is, in truth, the Quickener of all worlds. Well is it with him who remaineth steadfast in the Cause, who holdeth fast to the Covenant of God and casteth behind him the covenant of all others. He shall assuredly find himself in the All-Highest Prospect, and shall soon find himself in the most exalted station—the station wherein shine forth the lights of the countenance of the Youth. Verily, it is a noble station.

BH11802: O youth! Hearken unto My call from the direction…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O youth! Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Prison, that the call may draw thee nigh unto the scene of thy Lord, the Most Glorious. Verily, He is the Almighty, the All-Powerful. We have inhaled from thee the fragrance of love for thy Lord. Be thou steadfast in the Cause and detach thyself from them that doubt. Be thou of such constancy that shouldst all the hosts of the earth surround thee with swords of hatred, thou wouldst still speak forth My Most Great Name, the All-Glorious, saying:

> “O people! The breathings of the words of the Lord of Names and Attributes have so seized me that the veils have been rent asunder by the fingers of the power of Him Who is the Fashioner of the heavens and earth, and I have turned toward the countenance whereby the worlds have been illumined.”

O people! The proof hath come from your Lord, the All-Merciful. In what utterance, then, did ye believe at the Dayspring of utterance? Bring it forth, O company of the heedless! Think ye, after the Sun of Certitude hath shone forth before your faces? Fear ye God, and deprive not yourselves of the fragrant breezes of this Day wherein the feet of the ungodly have slipped.

We beseech God to make thee a standard among His servants, one who uttereth His remembrance and praise, and who is detached from all created things.

BH11801: O thou who art endowed with vision! Know thou…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

O thou who art endowed with vision! Know thou that We have arrived at the Most Exalted Prospect, and they who imagine that I am in prison are in manifest heedlessness. Say: Verily, He is established upon that Spot which God hath made the Point of Adoration for all the worlds. Say: Through Him every land is transformed, did ye but know. Our mention of the prison containeth signs for them that are nigh unto God, and clear proofs for them that are endowed with insight. Say: The Glory of God findeth solace in tribulation, and no harm from the idolaters nor the might of sovereigns grieveth Him in the path of His Lord. Say: From the horizon of tribulation, He calleth all who are in earth and heaven unto God, the Lord of all names, that haply the servants may find a path unto God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment.

That which thou didst send hath come before Us. Blessed art thou for having found comfort in My remembrance amongst My servants. Verily, for thee there is with Me, in the Most Glorious Pavilion, a station. Blessed be the sincere ones! Convey My greetings unto those servants who have attained the presence of God and unto those who have desired to behold His countenance from a remote horizon. For all are degrees with thy Lord, and He suffereth not the reward of the well-doers to be lost.

BH07020: These are the verses of God which have been…

In the Name of Him Who hath created all things through His binding, transcendent, irrevocable and wise Command!

These are the verses of God which have been sent down in truth from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Knowing, that through them such servants as have detached themselves from all who are in the heavens and on earth and have taken unto the court of their Lord, the All-Merciful, a true path, might be reminded.

O servant! Arise to aid the Cause of God, then hearken unto that which the Spirit imparteth unto thee at this time when He hath been imprisoned in this Prison through what the hands of the aggressors have wrought, that haply the breezes of the Spirit wafting from the Most Great Paradise, the Seat of God, the

Exalted, the Great, may attract thee and sever thee from the world and draw thee nigh unto the precincts of eternity and cause thee to voice His praise amidst all peoples, and that thou mayest aid the Beauty of the All-Merciful Who is encompassed by sorrows and findeth for Himself neither helper nor supporter.

Thus doth the Ancient Beauty command thee as a token of His grace unto thee, that thou mayest be of them that remember. And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath turned unto God and cast behind him that which issueth from the mouths of the idolaters.

BH07018: These are the verses of God, the King…

In the Name of God, the Most Great, the Most Glorious!

These are the verses of God, the King, the Truth, the Manifest Justice, sent down from the heaven of your Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Follow none but Him—this is a straight path. The Tongue of Grandeur hath testified to this, as have they who circle round the Throne, if ye be of them that comprehend.

Arise to carry out God's command and His remembrance. Say: O people! This is the Day wherein the faces of them that are nigh unto God have been illumined, and the Dove hath called out upon the branches of the Divine Lote-Tree: O peoples of earth and heaven! By God! He hath accepted all manner of tribulations—He for Whom the heavens and earth were created.

And from the precincts of the Prison He calleth you unto God and biddeth you to that which is better for you. Fear ye God, and follow not them who have denied this Day after having been promised it in the Tablets of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

We beseech God to aid thee in His remembrance and praise, and to draw thee nigh unto the place wherein the Youth speaketh forth the praise of your Lord, the All-Merciful, at eventide and at dawn, at daybreak and at dusk.

BH06979: Ziyarat-Namiy-i-Hadrat-i-Ukht

Visitation prayer for the most great Leaf, her holiness the sister

He is.

The first remembrance uttered by the Tongue of Majesty and Grandeur rest upon thee, O thou exalted leaf shining from the horizon of Command in the days of God, the Possessor of Names! I bear witness that thou didst turn toward the all-highest paradise and didst attain unto that which most of the people have not attained. I testify moreover that thou didst verily bear hardships and tribulations in the path of God, the Fashioner of the heavens. So unwavering was thy conviction that neither the blame of blamers nor the denial of the ungodly among the women held thee back in the Cause of God.

Blessed art thou and them that visit thy shrine and seek thee through that which hath appeared from the Pen of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, the One Whom the oppressors have imprisoned in the citadel of ʿAkka. I testify that thou verily surrendered thy spirit while separated after being ablaze with the fire of longing during the days of God, the Lord of the Judgement Day.

Wretched be those who have recognized not thy station and who drank not from the chalice of thy remembrance, and happy are those that remember thee through that wherewith God hath remembered thee in His Books and Tablets.

BH06930: Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee…

He is the Most Luminous, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

Hearken unto that which is revealed unto thee from the direction of the Prison, the horizon of the most grievous tribulation, from the Tree of Decree. Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Almighty, the Unconstrained. We created thee for My service and My remembrance. Grieve not over what hath befallen thee. God shall soon assist thee through the truth and shall exalt thy name. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Bestower. Know thou that the vanquished is the victor, and thy Lord is victorious over all who are on earth. He, verily, is the Mighty, the Compelling. Know what thy Lord hath purposed and grieve not because of them that have wronged. Verily thy Lord lieth in wait.

Say: Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having caused the sun of Thy beauty to shine upon me and for having made me know the Dawning-Place of Thy signs. O Lord! Make me content with what Thou hast ordained for me. Thou art, verily, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving.

BH11495: O servant who art mentioned in the scrolls…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O servant who art mentioned in the scrolls of thy Lord's protection, the Mighty, the All-Forgiving! Hearken unto the call of this Wronged One Who summoneth the servants from this Prison unto God, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting. Grieve not for what hath befallen thee and thy brother. By His very Self! He knoweth what hath been and what shall be. Looking from this horizon upon those who have wronged Us, He shall assuredly seize them through His justice. Be not sorrowful, but patient, for He is with them that endure with patience.

Consider the world and those who pursued it aforetime—dost thou see them in their former state? Nay, by thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Compelling, the Most Beloved! Soon shall the gates be opened before the faces of them who have stood firm, and when they enter therein they shall find themselves the monarchs of all who dwell in the realm of being.

Had the world held any worth in thy Lord's estimation, He would not have allowed His loved ones to suffer that which hath caused them such distress as witnessed by both the seen and the unseen. Soon shall it perish, and glory shall remain with those who accepted abasement in the path of God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting.

Convey My greetings unto those who have set their faces toward the Sacred Sanctuary—they are indeed the sincere ones.

BH11546: O thou who hast pioneered! Listen to the voice…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

O thou who hast pioneered! Listen to the voice of God from the shores of the Prison. There is no god but He, the Mighty, the Omnipotent. Do not be unhappy, do not be sad in your loneliness or separation. Your Lord is near those who have turned toward Him. He is the Beloved. God has always been with you. He is the Merciful, the Kind.

That which thou hast asked from Him in His path has already been granted to you. God is nearer to you than your own eyes. God is He who knows and has knowledge of the unknown. Read or chant the Tablets of your Lord with joy and happiness. These Tablets will bring you nearer to heaven, nearer to His Paradise. This Paradise is that place which has been lit by the Light of thy Lord's face—the merciful, the Compassionate. Come Nearer to that Light!

Beware of becoming unhappy or sorrowful as a result of those who are sowing injustice in the world. Be happy—and be happy from the joy of God! He is the Source of all joy and happiness. These Tablets will bring you nearer to heaven. Fly with the two wings of detachment into that atmosphere in which He will not see anything anymore except the effulgence or bounties of your Lord.

Then thou shalt find thyself immersed in an ocean of joy. In this way we have made descend for thee a great spiritual banquet from the clouds of heaven of the Mercy of the Lord. Always make mention of Him—such is the Will of God.

BH07163: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest what…

He is God, exalted be His radiance!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest what Thou seest, and dost witness what hath befallen this servant of Thine through that which the hands of Thy servants have wrought against him. They have assailed him and slandered him through their evil surmises and vain imaginings, and have slain him with the swords of their misbelief, and have imprisoned him in the jail of their unbelief, and have banished him from their lands and dwelling-places. They utter concerning him that which Thou hast not permitted them, and they transgress against Thee in attributing to Thy servant that for which they have no authority from Thee nor any Book from Thy presence. Thereby they seek to spread corruption in Thy land and to commit excess in Thy realm.

I beseech Thee, therefore, O my God, by the fire of Thy Essence which cannot be quenched and by the light of Thine eternity which shall never fade, to make me a fortress for Thy servants and a barrier against the Gog of Thy creation, lest they transgress the bounds which Thou hast ordained from Thy presence for the people of Thy earth and Thy heaven.

Verily, Thou art the King, the Single One, the Almighty, the Exalted, the Powerful, the Impregnable.

BH11815: This is an epistle from the Prisoner unto him…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Holy

This is an epistle from the Prisoner unto him whom the clamor of the servants did not prevent from drawing nigh unto his Lord, the Master of the Day of Gathering, until he became a stranger from his homeland, turning towards the Lord of Names, his Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious, that he might rejoice in His remembrance of him and be detached from the worlds and remain steadfast as he was, in such wise that he would be set ablaze by the heat of the love of his Lord, the Powerful, the Mighty. Beware lest thou grieve over what hath befallen thee in My path. Be thou grateful and be of the patient ones. Doth anyone imagine that he will be left uncontrolled? Nay, by the Lord of the worlds! Through your exile We draw the servants nigh unto the Salsabil of mercy—blessed are they that drink thereof! And through your abasement We clothe with the garment of glory those who hasten to the station wherein the Tongue of Grandeur and Majesty proclaimeth: "I, verily, am your Lord, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate." Blessed are ye, and blessed are the mothers who bore your bodies, and your fathers who reared you. How excellent is that lofty and exalted station!

BH11816: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who migrated with God until he entered the Most Great Prison—this Station which God hath made the Dawning-place of His Revelation and the Dayspring of His conclusive Command—that he might be assured through the grace of his Lord and be raised to a station where the allusions of the peoples shall not grieve him. Say: O people! By God, I have come to you from the Dawning-place of divine favor for the life of the world and the joy of those who have turned to God. Beware lest ye commit that which would sadden your hearts and the hearts of His loved ones. This is God's counsel given both privately and openly. Know thou that We have commanded the servants naught else but unity, and this is testified to by him who speaketh at the resurrection and then in the sanctuary and the holy precincts. Say: Beware lest ye backbite one another. This is what We have forbidden in the laws and ordinances. We have desired naught for the servants except love and unity. We beseech God to enable them to achieve what He hath willed for them and draw them nigh unto the Ancient King.

BH11818: O letter Jim! Hearken unto the call of thy…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Great, the Most Glorious

O letter Jim! Hearken unto the call of thy Lord, the Merciful, from the direction of the Prison. There is none other God but He, the Mighty, the Powerful, the Bountiful. Be thou in the Cause of thy Lord as sweet water, that there may grow from thee, in the soil of hearts, the trees of certitude and assurance. Or be as the breezes that waft from the direction of holiness, from which the servants who have turned towards the Most Great Scene, this hallowed and luminous horizon, perceive the fragrance of the garment. Thou hast been mentioned before the Throne. Soon there shall descend upon thee from the heaven of grace that which hath been ordained for thee by One Who is All-Knowing, All-Informed. Verily,

he whom We exalted hath turned away from the Truth, having been deceived by the world and its ornaments. Soon thou shalt find him in manifest loss. Despair not of the Spirit of God. He is with thee and with those who are round about thee. Remind them of the wonders of My remembrance, that they may rejoice in the glad-tidings of God, the King, the Mighty, the All-Knowing.

BH07717: The All-Glorious, the Most Great

The All-Glorious, the Most Great

Blessed art thou, inasmuch as from the direction of the Prison have been sent down unto thee the verses of thy Lord. This is of My bounty unto thee, that thou mayest be of the thankful ones. Verily, in the midst of tribulation, He calleth the loved ones unto God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. Unite ye in the Cause. Whosoever ye find heedless, remind him with wisdom for a limited number of days. Should he turn away and reject guidance after it hath come unto him, then turn away from him and set your hearts toward God, the Lord of all worlds. My mercy hath preceded My wrath. Follow ye your Lord in respect to virtuous conduct—this is better for you than whatsoever is in the heavens and earths. Say: Avoid ye grievous sins and draw not nigh unto that which calleth you to the fire. Fear ye God and be of the God-fearing.

BH07862: This is a Tablet for him who hath believed…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

This is a Tablet for him who hath believed in God, the Lord of eternity. Blessed art thou, O servant, inasmuch as God hath brought forth from thy loins one who hath attained unto the Most Great Pilgrimage and to whose love the denizens of the Supreme Concourse, and then those of the Sacred Precinct and the Holy Sanctuary, have testified. There hath been sent down in his behalf, from the heaven of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, that which the Pen is powerless to describe. Thus doth God single out whom He pleaseth through His grace, even as He singled out those who preceded him among the peoples.

Be thou thankful unto God for having been mentioned by the Most Exalted Pen in this Most Great Prison. Grieve thou not over anything, but put thy trust in God, Who quickeneth the moldering bones. If thou didst but know what hath been ordained for thee, by God, thou wouldst soar with longing to the spot wherein He Who causeth the eyes of the sincere ones, and then the Sacred Place and Zamzam, to weep, hath been imprisoned. And the glory be upon thee and upon those who are around thee, from thy Lord, the Most Bountiful.

BH07654: Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! I implore…

Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! I implore Thee by Thine Ancient Beauty and Most Great Name, Whom Thou hast sacrificed that all the dwellers of Thine earth and heaven may be born anew, and Whom Thou hast cast into prison that mankind may, as a token of Thy bounty and of Thy sovereign might, be released from the bondage of evil passions and corrupt desires, to number me with those who have so deeply inhaled the fragrance of Thy mercy, and hastened with such speed unto the living waters of Thy grace,

that no dart could hinder them from turning unto Thee, nor any spear from setting their faces towards the orient of Thy Revelation.

We testify, O my Lord, that Thou art God and that there is none other God besides Thee. From everlasting Thou wast enthroned on the inaccessible heights of Thy power, and wilt unto everlasting continue to exercise Thy transcendent and unrestrained dominion. The hosts of the world are powerless to frustrate Thy will, nor can all the dwellers of the earth and all the inmates of heaven annul Thy decree. Thou truly art the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the Most Great.

Bless, O my God, those of the followers of the Bayan as have been numbered with the people of Baha, who have entered within the Crimson Ark in Thy Name, the Most Exalted, the Most High. Thy might, verily, is equal to all things.

BH07763: While thy Lord, the Most Merciful, was confined…

In the Name of God, Who prevaileth over all things!

While thy Lord, the Most Merciful, was confined in the prison of Adhirbayjan, there were two souls: Husayn, who grasped the hand of grace, and Hasan, who rejected the hand of justice, though he had, in the sight of My Beloved and My Herald, a certain station among stations. And We were imprisoned with seventy souls of those who had emigrated with God, and among them were a few numbered souls who cast away whatever worldly vanities they possessed, who were not content with separation, and who soared in the atmosphere of longing to a station wherein gold prevented them not from attaining the presence of their Lord, the Chosen One, the Mighty. We beseech God to assist them in that which He loveth and is pleased with, and to preserve them all from self and passion, that they may circle round about Him and be moved by His command. Be thou not heedless of the remembrance of thy Lord. Remember Him in spirit and fragrance. He will guard thee from the hosts of Satan. Beware lest thou be heedless of Him, for soon shall the world pass away, and sovereignty shall remain with thy Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious.

BH07869: This is a Book from Us unto thee…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted!

This is a Book from Us unto thee that thou mayest be illumined by its lights in these days wherein darkness hath encompassed all regions, and that thou mayest aid thy Lord with a manifest victory. Know thou that every letter that proceedeth from the Pen of Command is verily a sun from which the realities of all things are illumined. Thy Lord is, in truth, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. Though We be imprisoned and prevented and afflicted with trials and tribulations, We have not been hindered from remembrance and utterance, and We speak forth upon the branches of the Tree of Exposition that He is the One worshipped by all the worlds.

It behooveth everyone who hath turned unto God to be detached from those who have disbelieved and turned away, and to be speaking in remembrance of his Lord amongst all peoples. Blessed is he who hath

fulfilled God's covenant and whom the oppression of the transgressors hath not kept back from His love. Be thou steadfast in the love of thy Lord and say with thy tongue, both in secret and openly:

> "I have turned toward Thee, O Thou Beloved of them that know, and praise be unto Thee, O Thou in Whose hand is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth."

BH11830: Verily in the departure of the Ancient Beauty…

In the name of God, Who is manifest without concealment!

Verily in the departure of the Ancient Beauty from the Land of Mystery and His entry into the Most Great Prison are signs for the nations, but they do not understand. Observe how when We sent Muhammad, the Messenger of God, the people denied Him and expelled those who believed in God and His verses from their homelands. This is from the way of thy Lord which hath been ordained in ages past, would that ye might know. By My life! Nothing descendeth upon My loved ones save that which is best for them, but the people perceive not. Turn thy face toward the Intended One and say:

O my Lord, the Mighty, the Loving! I beseech Thee by Thy Most Beautiful Names and by Thy Beauty that hath shone forth from the horizon of Thy Most Glorious Name, to make me among those whom tribulation hath not kept back from Thy direction nor decree from turning toward Thy face. Then write down for me what is best for me. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH08256: All praise be to Thee, O Lord my God!…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious.

All praise be to Thee, O Lord my God! This is one of the days of Thy Riḍvan Festival whereon a servant of Thine hath extended an invitation to the Manifestation of Thine Essence and the Revealer of Thy Sovereignty, and hath decked forth a place in the prison to receive Thine all-glorious Beauty, O Thou Who art the Lord of earth and heaven! All glory be to this hour wherein He Who is the Dayspring of Thy transcendent might hath directed His steps from one room of the prison to another. I beseech Thee, O Thou Who art the King of Names and Creator of earth and heaven, to write down for such of Thy loved ones as have been debarred from entering the precincts of Thy mercy and standing before the throne of Thy might the recompense decreed for such as have attained Thy presence and beheld Him Who is Thy Beauty.

Thou hearest, O Lord, their sighs and lamentations in their separation and remoteness from Thee. I beseech Thee to ordain for them all the good Thou dost possess. Potent art Thou to do as Thou willest. No God is there but Thee, the Almighty, the All-Praised.

BH08223: The springtime of divine mercy hath appeared in these…

In the name of the Friend

The springtime of divine mercy hath appeared in these days, and the Sun of heavenly bounty hath dawned from the horizon of the prison. Some have attained His presence, while others yearn for it from

afar. The fire of separation hath consumed hearts, and the flame of remoteness from the Ancient Beauty hath melted both horizons and souls. O friends! The most tender and sensitive heart hath endured all grievous trials, that perchance some souls might be sanctified from the allusions and veils of all who dwell in the realms of creation and turn toward the All-Merciful. O friend! Behold all things save Him as transient, and hold fast unto the Eternal Beauty. Strive that thou mayest cause a soul to drink from the Salsabil of divine knowledge and lead it to the Most Great Horizon, for this deed is accounted as the king of deeds before the presence of the Almighty. Upon thee be the glory of God.

BH08474: This is a Book sent down in truth wherein…

He is God, the Most Wondrous, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book sent down in truth wherein mention is made of Our servant who was named Muhammad before Hashim, that he may rejoice within himself and be of those who draw nigh unto the Sanctuary of Beauty and then the Kaaba of Glory, and be detached from all else save God.

O servant! Call to mind this Prisoner Who hath fallen into the pit of darkness through that which the hands of the oppressors have wrought, and upon Whom at every moment there descendeth tribulation and ordeal. Yet in all conditions He rendereth thanks and is among the thankful ones. Guard thyself lest the odors of discord stir thee, for this is My counsel unto thee and unto Our seeking servants. Remember thy Lord with thy heart and tongue, and place thy trust in Him in all matters, for verily He loveth those who place their trust in Him.

And the glory rest upon thee and upon those who have held fast to the cord of the love of God in these grievous days.

BH08062: O servant! Be trustworthy in the trust of thy…

He is God, exalted be His sovereignty!

O servant! Be trustworthy in the trust of thy Lord, which is the love of God and the love of His chosen ones. Withhold not thyself from bearing the trust which neither the heavens nor the earth could bear, save whom thy Lord willeth. Thus hath the matter been decreed, if thou be of them that know. Know thou that God hath made the hearts of His loved ones the treasury of the pearls of His love. Strive thou therefore to preserve them, and be thou faithful to the truth. Thus doth this Prisoner make mention of thee, that thou mayest be mindful of God, thy Lord, at morn and eventide. Beware lest thou forget the remembrance of thy Lord. Be thou intimate with Him, and be not of them that are deprived of the wonders of His grace. Soon shall the world and all that thou beholdest perish, and sovereignty shall remain with God, thy Lord and the Lord of all created things.

BH11686: This is a Book from Us to him who…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

This is a Book from Us to him who hath attained the lights of the Countenance and heard the call of his Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise, that it may be unto him a glad-tiding from Our presence and a mercy from Us. Verily, the bounty of thy Lord hath encompassed the worlds. Thou art the first one to attain the divine presence in His Most Great Prison. Take heed lest what thou hast heard from the tongue of thy Lord, the Potent, the Powerful, be obliterated from thy heart. Make thou mention of Him all the time and call to mind the days when thou didst enter the most desolate of the cities until thou didst present thyself before the face of thy Lord, the Ruler of the Day of Judgement, and achieved that which is ordained for thee in His Preserved Tablet.

Let not the happenings of the earth grieve thee. Turn thou unto the Most Glorious Horizon and detach thyself from the hosts of the heedless. Convey My greetings unto the faces of My loved ones and thy kindred who have believed in God, the Single, the One, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

BH08261: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how…

In the Name of God, the One Who has power over whatsoever He pleaseth!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest how I have been imprisoned in this city wherein none dwelleth save its inhabitants, and which is the most hideous and ruined of all the cities of the world. The heedless ones have prevented us from leaving it and have shut all doors before our faces. By Thy glory! I am not dismayed by this, for I have accepted all tribulations in Thy love and have chosen all ordeals in Thy path. But what perplexes me is certain of Thy decrees and ordinances—how Thou hast unsealed the musk-vessel among those who know not its fragrance but rather flee from it.

I bear witness, O my God, that in every one of Thy deeds there is wisdom upon wisdom, and mystery upon mystery, which Thou revealest in its time and manifesteth in its season. I beseech Thee by Thy Self not to withhold from those who love Thee this musk whose sweet scents have been wafted abroad. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

BH08362: The breezes of opposition from those who walk upon…

He is the One, the Eternal!

The breezes of opposition from those who walk upon the shifting sands of heedlessness and negligence have wafted over the meadows of thy bountiful Lord, that what was recorded in the Tablets might be fulfilled. Say: The Youth hath grown so intimate with tribulations even as infants are intimate with their mothers' breasts. Whenever tribulations and trials touch Him, His love for God, the Mighty, the Trusted, the Knower of the seen and unseen, increaseth. Grieve not that I have become a captive in the hands of the enemies and that My family are prisoners in the land of falsehood. The Youth shall soon appear with the adornment of the All-Merciful amidst all existence. He shall be recognized by those who knew Him not, and shall be seen by those who saw Him not. On that day the heedless shall lament while the sincere shall rejoice.

Blessed is he who is steadfast today and aideth his Lord and spreadeth His verses among His servants. He is indeed of the people of Baha in the Kingdom of eternity, and the Concourse on High shall assist him. Thus hath it been sent down from the heaven of God, the Exalted, the Great.

BH08369: Say: O My loved ones and My chosen ones!…

Say: O My loved ones and My chosen ones! Hearken unto the call of this Prisoner Who is confined in this Most Great Prison. Should you find anyone who showeth the least sign of aversion, turn away from him and eschew his fellowship. This is what We have enjoined upon you in all the Tablets, and to this do all things bear witness, both from the unseen realm and from the visible world, and beyond them the Beauty of matchless glory. For they are the manifestations of Satan in this day. By God the True One! The name of God floweth not from their tongues except to turn the servants of the All-Merciful away from the shore of resplendent glory. Beware, O loved ones of God! Draw not nigh unto these people, nor associate with them in any place. Hold fast unto the cord of God, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the All-Knowing. Sanctify your souls from the love of aught else but God, then detach yourselves from those who follow naught but the paths of the deluded ones.

BH11834: Hearken unto My voice from the direction…

In the name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Hearken unto My voice from the direction of the Prison, that the call of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, may draw thee to the dawning-place of His most excellent names and bring thee nigh unto a station that hath been recorded in the Tablets. Strive in thy Lord's Cause and make mention of Him amongst the servants, that perchance they may arise from the slumber of passion and turn towards the countenance of their Lord, the Most High, the Most Exalted. Thus hath the tongue of revelation spoken forth in this station which hath been illumined by the lights of the Countenance. They that follow their passions have no way to reach unto God. Leave those who have denied their Lord to their vain imaginings, and commune with them whom the breathings of thy Lord's mercy have stirred. Thus doth the Pen command thee in this Tablet which hath been made to shine with the light of the Countenance. And glory be upon thee and upon whosoever hath stood firm in this Day wherein feet have slipped save those who have drawn nigh unto a station that hath been praised from all eternity.

BH08670: O My handmaiden! Grieve not for that which hath…

In the name of Him Who sendeth the winds!

O My handmaiden! Grieve not for that which hath befallen Us. We have ordained whatsoever hath appeared in the Tablets. Verily thy Lord is powerful over all things. The hosts of earth and heaven cannot frustrate Him. He hath decreed for Us the Most Great Prison, wherein lieth a wisdom which none knoweth save thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Remember thy Lord in the hours of night and at the break of day, and He remembereth thee through His grace, and verily His remembrance of thee is better for thee than the kingdom of the worlds. Stand firm in the love of God and His Cause, for soon shall the world and all that is therein pass away, and there shall remain unto thee that which hath been

ordained for thee. Verily thy Lord is the All-Bountiful, and all praise be to God, the King, the Compeller, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

BH09182: O My sister and the leaf of My Tree!…

In His Name, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

O My sister and the leaf of My Tree! Give ear to the call of this Wronged One raised from the direction of His renowned and infamous Prison: ‘There is no God save Him, the Help-in-Peril, the Self-Subsisting’, and say:

All grace, O Thou Beloved of the world, and all bounty and generosity, O Possessor of nations, are Thine for having called me to the heaven of Thy recognition and the ocean of Thy reunion. Thou hast aided me to recognize the Dawning-place of Thy Revelation and the Dayspring of the splendours of Thy Oneness. I beseech Thee by Thy name through which Thou hast conquered all the dwellers of earth and heaven, to ordain for me and for Thy handmaids that which will draw them close to Thee in every world of Thy worlds. Write down, then, for me and for them, from Thy Supreme Pen, that which will be of benefit to me and to them in this world and the next. Verily, Thou rulest over whatever Thou desirest. Thou art verily the Most Powerful.

BH09022: Whenever I remember Thee, O my God, in prison…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Great, the Most Glorious!

Whenever I remember Thee, O my God, in prison, I witness that all created things join with me in glorifying Thee, O Lord of Names and Attributes. Among them are those who know Thee and make mention of Thee, and those who make mention of Thee yet know not Thy sovereignty and power, even though, O my God, they may cling to one of Thy names. But since they have turned aside from what Thou didst desire, their mention shall not be remembered before Thy face. I beseech Thee by that Name through which Thou didst subdue all who are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth, and through which Thy power and sovereignty were made manifest, to draw Thy servants nigh unto the court of Thy gifts and the dawning-place of the light of Thy favors. Verily Thou art He Who hath ever been mighty through Thy sovereignty, and all-compelling through Thy power and strength. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

BH11839: O Talib! The Sought One calls out to you…

He is the Most Great, the Most Great!

O Talib! The Sought One calls out to you, saying: Leave mankind behind you, then drink the wine of inner meanings from the cup of your Lord’s countenance. And when you have partaken of the chalices and the warmth of the wine of your Lord’s knowledge has seized you, then greet the dawn, arise amidst the concourse of the earth and say:

> “To Me, to Me, O people of righteousness, that I may draw you nigh unto the Most Sublime Vision and cause you to know your Lord, the Ordainer of destiny, through Whom the sun was darkened and the moon was cleft asunder!”

Beware lest you deprive yourselves of that for which you were created. Abandon vain desire and hold fast unto the Lord of the Throne on high and of the earth below. This is better for you, as doth testify thereunto the Tongue of Ancient Days in His Most Great Prison, and he who hath knowledge of the Book. Blessed art thou for having attained unto recognition and held fast unto God, thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful, the All-Bountiful.

BH08842: Glorified art Thou, O my God! This…

In the Name of God, the Most Glorious

Glorified art Thou, O my God! This is a day among the days of Ridvan wherein Thou didst manifest Thyself to all who are on earth through Thy name, the All-Merciful, and didst reveal Thy power and dominion to all who dwell in the realms of creation. O Lord! Thou seest this day one of Thy loved ones who hath invited the Manifestation of Thy Being from one place to another within the prison, and a gathering hath been held in Thy name and adorned by Thy presence, such that the sun of Thy beauty hath shone forth from its horizon. Blessed is the soul that hath attained thereunto, and blessed the day that hath been honored by Thy manifestation, and blessed the land that hath been illumined by the lights of Thy countenance. O Lord! Ordain for him and for Thy servants who have been deprived of meeting Thee the reward of those who have attained Thy presence and arranged an assembly for Thy name and remembrance. Then write down for them what Thou hast written for those near unto Thee. Verily, Thou art powerful over all things.

BH08669: O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most High!

O My handmaiden! Hearken unto My call from the direction of the Prison, then make mention of thy Lord at eventide and at dawn. Cast behind thee all else besides Him—thus doth the Luminary of the horizons command thee. Grieve not over anything, but place thy trust in God. Verily, He is with His steadfast handmaidens. Remember thou the Youth and what hath befallen Him morning and evening. They who have denied God—these are they who dwell in heedlessness and error. Blessed art thou for having drunk the water of life from the hands of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Most High. Take comfort in Him—verily He sufficeth thee above all women and men. God shall soon send down that which shall gladden the hearts of His chosen ones. He is, in truth, the Almighty, the Glorious, the All-Bountiful. And the Glory rest upon whosoever hath turned unto the Countenance and detached himself from all earthly hopes.

BH08903: Praise be to Thee, O my God! Thou beholdest…

He is the Almighty

Praise be to Thee, O my God! Thou beholdest my dwelling-place in the prison of the enemies, and my seat in the jail of the wicked, whereby I have become far removed from the nearness of Thy loved ones and forbidden from meeting Thy chosen ones. Through this the life of those whose hands are cut off from the hem of Thy robe hath become troubled, and whose bodies are kept distant from drawing nigh unto the lights of Thy beauty. Therefore, O my God! Glory be unto Thee! Since Thou hast prevented them from entering the sanctuary of Thy nearness and presence, cut not off from their hearts the sweet-scented breezes of Thy oneness and the winds of Thy holy bounty. Verily, Thou hast power over all things.

He was vigilant in preserving and protecting at all times, and was with his master in utmost truthfulness and sincerity, for therein lies divine good-pleasure. And peace be upon him who followeth guidance.

BH08827: I give praise to Thee, O Lord my God!...

I give praise to Thee, O Lord my God! I entreat Thee by Thy Name through which Thou didst cause the dawn to appear, and the winds to blow, and the seas to surge, and the trees to bring forth their fruits, and the earth to be beautified with its rivers, that Thou wilt aid all them that are dear to Thee with both Thy visible and invisible hosts. Render them, moreover, victorious over all those who have so rebelled in Thy land, and dishonored Thy name, and disbelieved in Thy signs, and broken Thy Covenant, and cast behind their backs Thy laws, and have to such an extent risen up against Thee, that they carried into captivity Thy kindred, and flung the Manifestation of Thy Self into prison, and immured Him Who is the Day-Spring of Thine Essence in the most desolate of cities.

Thou, O my Lord, art He whose strength is immense, Whose decree is terrible. Lay hold on Thine adversaries by the power of Thy sovereignty, and assemble Thy loved ones beneath the shadow of the tree of Thy oneness, that they may stand before Thy throne, and catch the accents of Thy voice, and gaze on Thy beauty, and discover the power of Thy might. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, the Almighty.

BH08927: God hath heard the cry of His loved ones...

In the Name of God, the Most Mighty, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

God hath heard the cry of His loved ones from all regions, and the gaze of God hath been fixed upon them in all conditions. The deeds of His servants escape not His knowledge, and He suffereth not to be lost the reward of anyone who draweth breath in His love, how much less of one who endureth hardships in His path. O My loved ones! Be steadfast in the love of God and His Cause. Despite all the tribulations that have befallen Him, He remembereth you in this prison. He loveth faithfulness, abandoneth not those who love Him, wasteth not the reward of those who seek Him, and remaineth not distant from those who draw nigh unto Him. For such a Lord must ye offer your praise and remembrance and render Him assistance through your own selves. We beseech God to gather you all in His most exalted Paradise. Verily He doeth what He willeth. There is none other God but He, the Lord, the Mighty, the Generous.

BH09085: Salat-i-Mayyit (Prayer for the Dead)

O my God! This is Thy servant and the son of Thy servant who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs, and set his face towards Thee, wholly detached from all except Thee. Thou art, verily, of those who show

mercy the most merciful. Deal with him, O Thou Who forgivest the sins of men and concealest their faults, as beseemeth the heaven of Thy bounty and the ocean of Thy grace. Grant him admission within the precincts of Thy transcendent mercy that was before the foundation of earth and heaven. There is no God but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous.

[Let him, then, repeat six times the greeting "Allah-u-Abha," and then repeat nineteen times each of the following verses:]

We all, verily, worship God.

We all, verily, bow down before God.

We all, verily, are devoted unto God.

We all, verily, give praise unto God.

We all, verily, yield thanks unto God.

We all, verily, are patient in God.

[If the dead be a woman, let him say: This is Thy handmaiden and the daughter of Thy handmaiden, etc.]

BH09628: O My handmaiden! Verily a noble letter hath been…

In the name of God, the Most Holy

O My handmaiden! Verily a noble letter hath been written for thee from the presence of the All-Merciful, the Most Compassionate. The veils of those who have denied the signs of thy Lord have come between thee and it. God willing, He may rend them asunder through His sovereignty and honor thee with that which hath been sent down from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. Once again it hath been revealed from the right hand of the throne of thy Lord, the Forgiving, the Generous.

Grieve thou not over anything, but place thy trust in Him under all conditions. Verily He is nearer to thee than thyself, and He, verily, encompasseth all the worlds. Make mention of Him among the handmaidens, that they may turn unto God and recognize thy Ancient Lord. Preserve what hath been revealed from the Supreme Pen, then recite it unto My handmaidens with a wondrous melody.

Be thou so steadfast in the love of God that should all beings in the universe deny the All-Merciful, no disturbance would overtake thee. Thus doth thy Lord, the Mighty, the All-Bestowing, command thee. Verily He is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. Blessed is the one who soareth in My atmosphere, who hath detached himself from all else save Me, and who hath held fast unto the cord of God, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Convey My supreme glorification unto the faces of My handmaidens from this Prisoner, the Stranger, Who abideth alone. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH09400: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Praise be unto…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Praise be unto Thee for having delivered Thy Cause and manifested Thy sovereignty and power, and for having sent unto every chief that which made known unto him Thy path and the loftiness of what Thou didst desire for Thy creatures, after having been imprisoned by the hands of the heedless ones among Thy creation. I testify, O my God, that Thou art the One Who hath power over whatsoever Thou willest. The oppression of others cannot prevent that which Thou hast purposed through Thy will. Thou rulest as Thou pleasest by Thy command and doest what Thou desirest through Thy sovereignty. I beseech Thee, O my God, by this power which hath subdued all things, to assist those who have turned towards Thee and have aided the Manifestation of Thy Self. Then make them to be among the steadfast ones whom the veils of humanity have not withheld from beholding the Most Great Scene. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Exalted, the All-Wise.

BH09356: My remembrance unto My handmaiden whom God hath manifested…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Glorious!

My remembrance unto My handmaiden whom God hath manifested in His days that she may inhale the fragrances of her Lord, the All-Merciful, from the direction of the Ridvan. This is a mighty triumph. Give thanks unto thy Lord for having been present before the Face through one whom God hath related unto thee. This is an honor for thee, and thy Lord is the Ruler over whatsoever He willeth. He exalteth whomsoever He pleaseth through His command. Verily, He is the Protector of the doers of good. Blessed art thou and blessed are those handmaidens who have believed in God and who have detached themselves in His love from all else except Him. Take comfort in the remembrance of My Name. Verily thy Lord remembereth thee in this mighty prison. And upon thee be the glory, and upon those handmaidens who have attained unto this Most Great, this wondrous Remembrance. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH09584: This is the Most Glorious Book unto him who…

He is God!

This is the Most Glorious Book unto him who hath held fast to the cord of guidance. O Mustafa! Hear My call from the precincts of the Prison, that verily there is none other God but Him, the Lord of the Last and the First. Aid thy Lord according to thy power, then make mention of Him that perchance the fragrances of the remembrance of the name of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, may be diffused. Say: O people! The Lord of the Throne and of the dust hath come, and from all His parts, even unto the hair, thou hearest the most great signs of your Lord. Say: Do ye forsake God and worship Lat and Uzza? This is naught but manifest error, O people of tyranny and transgression. And the Spirit be upon thee and upon those who are with thee among the companions of guidance.

BH09185: How canst thou grieve over anything after having endured…

He is the Most Great, the Most Great

How canst thou grieve over anything after having endured tribulations in My love and calamities in My path? By My life! If thou but knew and saw with Mine eye, thou wouldst soar in thy longing to the heaven of My gladness, to the kingdom of My delight, and to the dominion of My joy and loving-kindness. Whence cometh sorrow unto thee? Is it from the world, after thou hast seen it passing, passing away? Is it from thy remoteness from My presence, after the Tongue of the All-Merciful hath testified that thou art with Him at all times? Be happy and say: O my Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having remembered me in Thy prison and sent unto me a Tablet that nothing in Thy earth can equal, and from which I have inhaled the fragrance of Thy mercy, O Thou in Whose hand is the dominion of the heavens and the earth.

BH09463: They have imprisoned Us in a city whose air…

In the Name of God, the Everlasting One Who knoweth no death!

They have imprisoned Us in a city whose air is foul, wherein naught can be perceived save fever and wherein no sound is heard from its outskirts save the bleating of sheep. Though outwardly We are in straits, affliction and abasement, inwardly We find Ourselves in expansion, ease, amplitude and a glory that no glory of the worlds can equal. Say: Tribulation shall not deter Us from that which We have purposed, nor shall destiny prevent Us from that which We have been bidden. Can the crowing of the raven prevent the warbling of the dove? Nay, by my Lord, the All-Merciful! She warbleth upon the twigs of the Divine Lote-Tree and giveth glad tidings unto them that are nigh and unto the sincere ones. The hosts of the heedless shall not prevent her, and praise be to God, the Beloved of the mystics.

BH09472: God hath heard thy cry and answereth thee…

In the name of Him before Whose fear all are struck with terror!

God hath heard thy cry and answereth thee from the direction of His Throne. Hearken unto that which is being revealed unto thee. He is verily none other but God—His is the majesty and the glory. He giveth unto whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He pleaseth. He is in truth the Almighty, the All-Powerful. Grieve not over this world. Rather, rejoice in this Most Great Name, the Most Mighty. Despair not of God's grace and bounty. He sendeth down for whomsoever He loveth that which is best for him. He is verily the All-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. Be thou steadfast in thy love for God, then make mention of Him and He verily maketh mention of thee in this Prison—the place wherefrom ascend and descend the angels that are nigh unto God. Say: All praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds.

BH11848: This is a book from Baha unto a handmaiden…

In the name of God, the Most Wondrous!

This is a book from Baha unto a handmaiden among the handmaidens of God, that the melodies of her Lord may attract her and draw her nigh unto her Creator, and bestow upon her that which may solace her

eyes and give her to drink that whereby her heart may be tranquillized and her breast illumined, her soul purified and her tongue moved to make mention, throughout her days, of her Creator, her Fashioner, her Beloved and her Goal, and to remember her Lord among the handmaidens of God. O My handmaiden! Be not grieved, rather be thou gladdened by the Tablet of God and its influence. Take hold of it with the hand of certitude, then give thanks unto thy Lord Who hath sent down unto thee the verses in this mighty Prison. And praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds.

BH11850: This is a Tablet from the Most High…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Exalted

This is a Tablet from the Most High, the Most Holy One, from the Prisoner to the prisoner, that He may make him soar in the atmosphere of longing in such wise that neither the happenings of the world nor the tyranny of the hypocritical ones may grieve him, and that He may prosper him in the Cause of his Lord, the Mighty, the All-Wise. Sorrow not for that which hath befallen thee in the path of thy Lord, the Most High, the Most Great. Say:

O my Lord! Praise be unto Thee for having made me steadfast in Thy Cause and firm in Thy love, in such wise that neither tribulations have deterred me from Thy path nor calamities from turning unto Thy face. O my Lord! Ordain for me a seat of truth with Thee and decree for me that which shall cause me to endure through the endurance of Thy Kingdom. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Forgiver, the Merciful.

BH09819: Praise be to the Beloved Who, through His supreme…

In the Name of the Beloved of the horizons!

Praise be to the Beloved Who, through His supreme benevolence, sacrificed the Blessed Beauty for the life of the peoples of the world. How excellent is the state of the one who, amidst these darknesses, shineth even as a lamp. The Life of the World saith: O My handmaidens! Consider My mercy. While ye repose in your gatherings, the Ancient Beauty, together with a number of friends and members of the household, hath fallen into the hands of enemies and in this Most Great Prison is occupied with the remembrance of the friends of God. It therefore behooveth you to act in accordance with the requirements of love and to be ever turned toward God. And the glory be upon you.

BH09852: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest my…

He is God, exalted is He!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou seest my tribulation in all these days. Thou hast imprisoned me with seventy souls from among Thy servants, in accordance with what Thou hast ordained in the tablets of Thy Cause through Thy fixed decree. Among them are those who gaze upon Thee, who are submissive unto Thee and humble before Thy Cause, and among them are those who rise up at one time and fall at another. I beseech Thee by those whose eyes Thou hast opened and who behold at every moment the signs of Thy power and the evidences of Thy greatness, that Thou forgive those who have been heedless, as a token of grace and bounty toward those who circle round Thee, whose faces are illumined by the

lights of Thy countenance, and whose hearts are transformed by the fingers of Thy might. Verily, Thou art the Mighty, the Generous.

BH10055: O thou who walkest in the wilderness of guidance!…

He is the Almighty, the Most Glorious

O thou who walkest in the wilderness of guidance! Hearken unto the call from the right side of the Most Exalted Tree: Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Mighty, the Bestower. By My life! Were all who are on earth to turn towards that which hath proceeded from the mouth of God, He would surely draw them to the horizon of His Cause. Thus hath the matter been decreed by thy Lord, the Chosen One. Blessed art thou for having attained unto the remembrance of God. Verily, He remembereth thee in the Prison midst tribulations the like of which the eye of time hath never beheld. To this testifieth He with Whom is the knowledge of all things and with Whom is the knowledge of the Tablets.

BH09865: Glory be unto Thee, O my God! One…

In the Name of God, the Most Unapproachable!

Glory be unto Thee, O my God! One of Thy handmaidens hath believed in Thee in this Revelation through which Thou hast manifested Thyself unto the people of Thy kingdom with Thy most beautiful names and most exalted attributes. The winds of Thy love seized her in such wise that she turned unto Thee and detached herself from all else except Thee. I beseech Thee, O my God, by Thyself and by Him Who was imprisoned in Thy path and bore tribulations in Thy love, leave her not to herself. Protect her from the assaults of the evil ones who call the people unto other than Thee. Comfort her eyes, O my God, by gazing upon the horizon of Thy favors. Verily, Thou art the Ruler over whatsoever Thou willest, and Thou art the Mighty, the Generous.

BH09921: Blessed is the face that shineth forth amidst…

In the Name of Him at Whose bidding the mountains pass away

Blessed is the face that shineth forth amidst the darkness of these days, and is not affected by the vain imaginings of the peoples, and beholdeth the lights of his Lord's countenance through the veils. By God! From his face do the dwellers in the cities of Names derive their radiance. O thou who hast turned toward Me! Hear My call from this Most Great Prison. By God! Whenever the winds blow from this direction, they waft the fragrances of thy Lord, the All-Merciful. Turn unto them that thou mayest discover the sweet savours of thy Lord therefrom and hear from their wafting that there is none other God but He and that He is the Object of worship of all worlds. And praise be to Him Who quickeneth, through a word from His presence, the hearts of them that know.

BH10159: God—there is no God but Him…

He is the Most Glorious!

God—there is no God but Him, the Protector, the Self-Subsisting.

In the name of the Beloved of the worlds

This is a Day wherein all the denizens of heaven are gazing upon the faces of those souls who are standing firm and steadfast in the path of truth, inasmuch as the Ancient Beauty hath entered into the Most Great Prison. The handmaids of God must, God willing, fix their gaze upon the Luminary of the horizons and be detached from the people of hypocrisy, and like unto the rays of the dawn of inner meanings, shine forth resplendent from the horizon of the Countenance of the All-Merciful amongst the handmaids of God. Be not grieved, for the hand of divine power is not fettered. He verily is powerful and mighty over all things.

BH10330: He is the Mighty. Glorified art Thou, O my…

He is the Mighty. Glorified art Thou, O my God! This is Thy servant who hath sewn the robe of the glory of Thy sovereignty and the garments of the sanctity of Thy Temple, and who emigrated with Thy Most Exalted Beauty until he entered with Him into this Most Great Prison. I beseech Thee therefore, O my God, not to sever the thread which Thou hast made a means between him and the lights of Thy Beauty and the knowledge of Thyself. Then make him steadfast in Thy love, and grant him the best of what lieth with Thee, and establish for him from Thy grace a seat of constancy, and prepare for him from Thy command in this Cause guidance.

BH10639: This is the Clear Book sent down from God…

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious.

This is the Clear Book sent down from God, the Lord of the worlds, unto him who hath grasped His firm and mighty cord. He remembereth in the prison His servant that he may rejoice in the verses of God, the Lord of the mighty throne. Beware lest the things of the world withhold thee from the Lord of Names. Drink thou the water of life in My Name, the Mighty, the Wondrous. Say: O my God! Thou beholdest me turning towards the sanctuary of Thy presence and the Kaaba of Thy Cause. I beseech Thee by Thy radiant and luminous Beauty to make me steadfast in Thy love in such wise that the power of the oppressors shall not frighten me.

BH10535: God is Most Great with exceeding greatness!

God is Most Great with exceeding greatness!

O father of the emigrant! Hear the call of the King of Kings from the right-hand side from this Prison which We built by the hand of power for Our Own Self, the Truth, before the creation of the heavens and the earth—that there is no God but Me, the Beloved, from a beginning that hath no beginning. Then he whom God brought forth from thy loins, verily he hath emigrated with God and is now circling round the mighty throne.

BH01782: As for the matter of that person’s dream, these…

As for the matter of that person’s dream, these words issued from the Source of Command:

> “We are commanded to look to the outward, not the inward. God willing this dream is true, and if, God forbid, it be mixed with fancy, We decree for him what We decreed for him who was in prison when he said ‘The matter about which ye inquired is decreed.’ Reflect that thou mayest understand, and be of the thankful ones.”

BH11006: O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call…

He is the Most Glorious

O handmaiden of God! Hearken unto the call of this Youth Who hath been afflicted in the prison of envy and hath been slain at every moment by the sword of hatred—and God is my witness to what I say. I weep for My loneliness and solitude and exile. Purify thyself, then, from the love of aught else but Me, that thou mayest find a way to attain My presence.

BH11070: Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thanks be…

In the Name of God, the Most Holy, the Most Exalted, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thanks be to Thee for having sacrificed me for the life of the worlds, and thanks be to Thee for having imprisoned me for the emancipation of the worlds. I beseech Thee by Thyself not to turn away Thy servants from the Dayspring of Thy grace, nor to withhold them from the Kawthar of Life in Thy days. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting.

BH10741: I testify that thou hast rendered victorious assistance unto…

He is the Helper

I testify that thou hast rendered victorious assistance unto thy Lord and art accounted among His helpers. By My testimony all things bear witness—this is the foundation, wert thou to be among those who know. What thou doest by His command and good-pleasure is true help in the sight of thy Lord, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Go forth but commit not that which would cause sedition. Trust in God—verily He seizeth whom He willest, and He hath power over all things. We have accepted what thou didst intend in the path of God. Return to thy place, then remember thy Lord, the Mighty, the Praiseworthy.

BH01732: Verily, the sea of calamity hath surged, and gales…

Verily, the sea of calamity hath surged, and gales have overtaken the Ark of God, the All-Encompassing, the Self-Subsistent. O Mariner! Be not daunted by gales, for He Who is the Breaker of Dawns is with Thee in this darkness which hath enveloped the worlds. Place thy trust in God under all conditions, and fear not the tempests of hatred. Take refuge in God, thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Knowing. He protecteth whomsoever He willeth through His sovereign might. He, verily, is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

In the midst of darkness, the Face was radiant with a light that encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth. In that state, We summon all beings unto God, and the gathering of those who disbelieved in God when He came with a wondrous Cause shall not frighten Us. The thief hath stolen what was revealed from the Throne and presented it before those who rule over the servants. Thus did that remote

misbeliever. Say: Die in thy fury, O ignorant one! Dost thou imagine that thou canst outstrip Us? Nay, by My Name, through which the sweet savors of the Spirit have wafted over all things small and great! We have conveyed the Cause through Our messengers, for verily We are powerful. Then We spread it through the hands of those who turned away. The schemes of the schemers shall not harm it.

The slinking whisperer hath appeared with My letter amongst the people, thinking thereby they would assail the Dayspring of the Cause and thereby diminish God's sovereignty over all else. Thus did his soul entice him, and the word of punishment from the presence of the Mighty, the All-Encompassing, was fulfilled against him. Say: Thereby is His Cause exalted, His verses spread abroad, and this Remembrance elevated, through which every wise matter hath been ordained.

Would that the servants would gather against Us and shed Our blood in this straight Path! We have sacrificed what We possess in God's path. This is attested by the tribulations We endure, and beyond them by the Pen through which God's Cause, the Mighty, the Wise, hath been established. Say: I await the day wherein I shall find Myself among the parties of the oppressors' hosts. By God! Then shall they hear what they have never heard before, and shall witness what no eyes of those gone before have seen. He, verily, is the Ruler over what He willeth, and He is the Strong, the Powerful.

Say: O fly! Canst thou soar with the Dove in this atmosphere wherein no birds of the world have flown? All that befalleth Us is a mercy unto Us—to this testifieth every discerning believer. The atoms weep at Our affliction, yet We are in manifest joy. We have made gladness appear from the horizon of sorrows. He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth.

O servant who gazeth toward God! Were I to recount for thee what hath befallen Us through the tyranny of the wicked ones and the rancor of the enemies, thou wouldst wail and weep until thy spirit would take flight from thy body. Therefore have We concealed it and shall continue to do so. Thy Lord, verily, is the Concealer, the Forgiving, the Merciful.

We drink the cup of tribulation at all times, yet disclose it to no one, lest the dust of grief should cloud them in this resplendent morn. Grieve not at what We have revealed unto thee. Rejoice in God and His signs, and be thou of the thankful. He calleth thee from this Prison in such a state, purely for the sake of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Generous. My love and remembrance have preceded thee. Rejoice in this remembrance which hath flowed from the mouth of the Will of thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Inaccessible. Thus have We sprinkled upon thee a drop from the ocean of Our tribulation, that thou mayest be of those who are informed.

Stand firm in the Cause through God's might and power, and be of the steadfast. Convey My glorification to the faces of My loved ones who have turned to My countenance, spoken in My praise, and arisen to make mention of Me. These are assuredly among the triumphant. Blessed are they and those who love them for the sake of God. They are among the most exalted of creation in the sight of the Truth. Thus hath the matter been decreed in a preserved Tablet.

BH00708: God the Blessed, the Exalted, hath revealed unto certain…

God the Blessed, the Exalted, hath revealed unto certain of His Prophets in some of His revelations: By My glory and majesty! I shall assuredly sever all hope of any who hopeth in aught but Me, and shall clothe him with the garment of humiliation before all people, and shall remove him far from My grace and My relief. Doth My servant look to others in times of hardship when the key thereof is in My hands? How is it that I see My servant turning away from Me when I have given him what he hath not asked of Me? Shall one ask and I not be generous? Nay! Do not bounty and generosity belong to Me? Are not this world and the next in My hands? Were each one of the inhabitants of the heavens to ask of Me the like of the heavens and earth, and were I to grant his wish, this would not diminish from My dominion even to the extent of a gnat's wing.

Such utterances as these, most of which do not now come to mind, continually streamed forth from the Fountain of the All-Merciful's mouth. The cups of utterance have been filled with the wine of thy Lord's remembrance, the All-Merciful.

That which remaineth in this servant's memory hath been submitted. How can I describe how the verses of power, majesty and sovereignty were revealed and made manifest on that blessed night? It was as though the Salsabil of utterance was bestowed upon all creation, and the ocean of generosity washed over all nations, and the Mystery veiled in mystery was revealed unto all who dwell in the realm of the seen and unseen. Many utterances have entirely passed from memory.

Then at the seventh hour, one of the officers came and took away the Ancient Beauty, the two Most Great Branches, and Aqa Mirza Muhammad-Quli. As mentioned in the previous petition, the Ancient Beauty and the Greater Branch were placed in a location adjacent to the prison, Aqay-i-Aqa in another place, and His Holiness the Most Great Branch in the prison under chains. This servant and the other loved ones were imprisoned under chains in a very dark place within the building itself. On the second night a telegram arrived from the governor and they changed the location of the Ancient Beauty to an elevated dome above the prison. The two Most Great Branches and Aqay-i-Aqa were in His most holy presence.

After thirty-eight and a half hours in the dome, again on Thursday at the fourth hour after sunrise they were summoned to the building for questioning. While proceeding to the assembly, the Tongue of Grandeur uttered these words:

> "Ye have taken your own principles and cast the principles of God behind your backs. Why do ye not understand?"

This verse was repeatedly uttered by the Tongue of Grandeur.

After the Ancient Beauty's arrival, the Pasha and the members of the assembly apologized, saying they were obliged to investigate since three people had been killed and all the inhabitants of the city were fearful and terrified, therefore they must proceed according to law. The poor man seemed to have no knowledge of the law.

In any case, they asked about His blessed name and homeland, explaining that according to law these questions must be asked and recorded. He said: “It is more manifest than the sun.” They asked again. He said: “It behooveth not to mention the name. Look at the government decree which is in your possession.” Then with utmost courtesy they requested that He Himself tell them. The Temple of Grandeur sat composed upon the chair and spoke with the tongue of power and might: “My name is Baha’u’llah and My country is Nur. Be ye apprized of it.”

Then the Ancient Face turned toward the Mufti and spoke, mighty in His grandeur: “Had ye but known, We would have caused you to hear the cooing of the Dove of Glory upon the branch of the Divine Lote-Tree, that ye might perceive what servitude hath spoken—that essence whose inmost reality is lordship.” Those present were struck dumb by this eternal Word of God. Then, addressing all, He said: “What is the purpose of this gathering, this question and answer? If ye wish to acknowledge what is your true purpose and the desire of your hearts—for I do not wish to remain in this world even for an hour.” And He recited verses from the Surih of the Kings, including this blessed passage: “I have never passed by a tree, but My heart addressed it saying: ‘O would that thou wert cut down in My name, and My body crucified upon thee for My Lord’s sake.”’ During this utterance, the pillars of the All-Merciful were seized with trembling. Then He arose and the Beauty of Youth turned toward another place outside the gathering.

Indeed, what a wondrous day and remarkable time it was! In some souls the Sun of the Word of God had dawned and they showed forth their love. In truth, this servant is powerless to recount the divine utterances. The author of the Mathnavi has spoken words fitting for this station:

“Those words the Prophet spoke in that moment If cast upon night would turn it to dawn

That night would become bright as morning-tide Those holy words I cannot now describe

Thou knowest what the sun in Aries Speaks to the flowers with pure sincerity

Thou knowest what the crystal waters say Unto the flowers and saplings day by day”

In truth, this servant was and will ever be powerless to recount the divine utterances and heavenly expressions.

Afterward, the Pasha sent word requesting His return to the house and apologized for what had transpired. He said return to the prison was preferable, as many were imprisoned there. Some who were present before Him submitted that the townspeople were in commotion and the prisoners could not be brought out; it would be better to wait some days. Then He returned to the house, and this was at the eleventh hour on Thursday.

The summary of the incident is this: From the moment the Ancient Beauty set forth from the Sanctuary until the time of His arrival, there elapsed sixty-nine and one-half hours. The halt at the caravanserai on the first night lasted five and one-half hours; the imprisonment beside the barracks endured eighteen and one-half hours; the confinement in the vaulted chamber above the barracks continued thirty-eight and one-half hours; and the entry into the caravanserai, and the sojourn therein for the second time, lasted

seven hours. Thus was the matter consummated by the will of God, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

Furthermore, there is one named Sohbat from the people of Za'—upon him be God's curse—when he invented lies, when he made promises he broke them, and when he was trusted he betrayed. These are the attributes of the hypocrites, and a hundred thousand times worse than these exist in that vile one. Before the occurrence of these mentioned events, he arrived in this land and dwelt in the abode of the ungodly, and for some time associated with evil souls, then returned with false and erroneous reports. In every place he reached, he mentioned calumnies. He and Aqa Jan—upon both be God's wrath—became narrators of fabricated calumnies from false sources. Thus after the upheavals in the great city and the dismissal of Mushir and death of the Grand Vizier, they attributed these events as having occurred due to the oppression against Us, and claimed that the chief of the ungodly had foretold these matters—all of this is pure falsehood. Any fair-minded person who has attained even a portion of justice would testify to their lies, for all souls from among the Arabs, Persians and Turks were pursuing the Ancient Beauty and had risen up in complete enmity, and they did not consider others to even exist, and whatever befell others was merely incidental.

In any case, the seizure of the oppressors and what befell them and what will befall them has all been revealed with perfect clarity in the Tablet of Ra'is and other Tablets, and now this servant mentions some of these so all may know that those souls were and will be liars, and that the Dawning-Place of divine verses and Source of merciful outpourings had foretold what would occur. Among these is the Tablet of Ibn-i-Nabil—upon him be the Glory of God—which was revealed upon first arrival at the Most Great Prison, and the original is with the aforementioned person and copies of it are with Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin—upon him be the Glory of God—and the loved ones. Let them seek it out and investigate so they may know with certainty that the reins of knowledge have been in the hands of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. None knoweth the unseen except Him; He revealeth to whom He willeth and concealeth from whom He willeth what He willeth. Verily He is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

BH00015: Lawh-i-Istintaq (Tablet of the Interrogation)

Section 1: "In the Name of our Lord, the Most…"

In the Name of our Lord, the Most Inaccessible, the Most Holy, the Most Mighty, the Most Glorious!

Glorified art Thou, O Thou through Whom the Essence is realized in the Essence, and through Whom the Being of Eternity is adorned with the mantle of Names and Attributes! Through Thy Name, the Manifest, all manifestations have been made manifest from a beginning that hath no beginning, and through Thy Name, the Hidden, all that lay concealed remained hidden in the mystery of mysteries, such that naught hath appeared from pre-eternity, nor will appear unto a end that hath no end. Through the dawning of the Sun of Thy most glorious Beauty, the Luminary of the heights hath risen from the horizon of origination, bearing glad-tidings unto them that dwell in the heaven of the divine cloud, the Concourse of eternity, and the denizens of worlds which no pen can describe nor the minds of the wise comprehend, and then unto them that dwell in this nether realm, that this indeed is the Most Glorious Beauty and the

Most Resplendent Countenance, Who hath appeared in a manner sanctified above my mention, my indication, my knowledge, my description, my glorification, my praise, my sanctification, my exaltation, my attestation of His unity, and my recognition of His uniqueness, and above whatsoever lieth in the essence of my essence and the reality of my reality when His remembrance and His glory are concerned.

Therefore, O ye who were created in the Bayan through My verses to know Him, be not veiled from Him for Whom the entire Bayan is but as a ring upon the finger of His Will and a leaf in the paradise of His Cause. Glorified art Thou, O Thou Whom the Most Great Remembrance is powerless to remember, and the Pen of eternity is unable to praise! How then can this evanescent one, who is the most abject of servants before the gate of Thy grace which hath been opened unto all nations, venture to extol Thee save through a drop from the oceans of Thy bounty which surge over all created things, and through an outpouring from the fathomless deep of Thy favors which encompass all who dwell in the kingdoms of the first and the last? Whereupon the tongues of all things have been loosened with the most wondrous praise in glorification of Thy chosen Self, and the call hath been raised from the heart of the solid rock in the depths of the seas and from all the heights, that Thou art God, the Lord of the seen and the unseen.

Therefore, O my God, I beseech Thee by this bounty which hath encompassed all things, and by this mercy which hath preceded all who dwell in the realm of creation, that Thou wilt send down at this moment upon this evanescent one a breath from the breezes of Thy most bountiful grace and a waft from the fragrances of Thy creativity, whereby decayed bones are quickened and lifeless bodies are raised up—for verily Thou art God, the Ever-Abiding, the Everlasting, the Ancient of Days—that I may arise to praise Thy loved ones and make mention of those whom Thou hast made the lights of guidance amidst Thy creation and the torches of unity among Thy servants and Thy creatures, and that I may speak that which Thou dost confirm and inspire within me, for I know nothing and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

Thou knowest, O my God, that my love for them and my remembrance of them are purely for Thy sake and sanctified from beholding aught else but Thee. I desire, O my God, that they may become fully aware of the truth of all matters in Thy days, and recognize that which had been hidden from them with true recognition, that thereby their beings, their realities, their spirits, and their likenesses may endure in every world of Thy worlds, knowing Thy truth, perceiving that which hath appeared from Thee, and understanding what Thou hast desired for them in the pavilion of Thy bounty and grace. For verily, O my God, should they become aware of all things yet remain veiled from even a single thing, they would be veiled to that extent from Thy most great perspective and would not turn to Thee with complete vision. This can only be achieved through sanctification from all that Thou hast created and wilt create, all that Thou hast manifested or wilt manifest, even as Thy true and perspicuous Tongue hath spoken:

> “Were the eyes, though as vast as the heavens and earth, to turn for less than the twinkling of an eye toward any direction save this, they could not behold this Most Exalted Vision as befitteth its right to be seen.”

Exalted, exalted is Thy Cause, O my God, and sublime, sublime is Thy Revelation, O my Beloved! Most grievous is it unto this servant, beyond all grief, that anyone should be veiled in such days as these, the like of which the eyes of creation have never witnessed, nor hath any in all existence beheld their

parallel—days wherein Thou hast appeared with the pure essence of Thy Beauty, the camphor of Thy Countenance, and the pristine nature of Thy Beloved-ness, and wherein the heavens and earth have been encompassed by the manifestations of Thy grace and the evidences of Thy favors, such that every hidden matter, treasured secret, and guarded mystery hath been revealed, and the Sun of Meanings hath shone forth from the horizon of the heaven of exposition, manifesting itself through the revelations of Thy most beauteous Names and most exalted Attributes unto all who dwell in the realm of possibility and the kingdoms of creation.

They who desire to enter upon this most mighty and impregnable carpet, this most exalted and lofty station, must needs have their hearts sanctified from the mention of the allusions of the past and the words established by the ignorant ones who have become renowned for learning and excellence. Praise be unto Thee, O my God, for having assigned unto them that enter upon this most exalted and most sublime carpet a station that cannot be attained by the birds of the hearts of them that dwell in eternity, nor by the realities of any in all creation, even as hath been uttered by the Manifestation of Thy Revelation, the Dayspring of Thy Inspiration, and the Point of Thy Will:

> "A single drop from the ocean of that Manifestation is mightier than all utterance."

Thus too hath it been revealed in the Qayyumu'l-Asma and other Tablets concerning this most exalted station, in such wise as to stupefy the minds of them that are possessed of understanding.

How sublime then is the loftiness of these beings whom Thou hast created from the essence of Thy Cause and brought into existence from the substance of Thy nature! How then, O my God, can it be befitting that this wondrous creation and this most exalted and sublime handiwork—I am astonished, O my God, at the heaviness of certain ears, the covering of eyes, and the veils over certain hearts, such that by Thy Call the Thrones were shaken, the heavens were cleft asunder, the endless veils were rent, and the mountains of the realities of all contingent things were crushed through but a single gleam from the effulgences of the lights of Thy Countenance. Yet despite all this, some among Thy servants and creatures have not awakened, though Thou callest out at all times with the most exalted call above their heads, and standest before their eyes with all lights. Thou hast brought forth from the sleeve of Will the Hand of Divine Purpose, and sayest with the sovereignty of might and grandeur:

> "Behold this Hand of My power which I have stretched out over the heaven of My grandeur, the realm of My might, the kingdom of My sovereignty, the domains of My eternity, the regions of My Cause, and I have rolled them all up, and all that I have ordained in them through My all-encompassing knowledge, in My hand—and lo, it is white with the lights of My Countenance, radiant with the splendor of My Beauty, and gleaming with the lights of My brow. Through My grace and bounty have I bestowed it upon whoso entereth My kingdom and My realm of might."

Yet they make mention, amidst the surgings of these oceans of light, of the utterances of them that are steeped in darkness and pride.

O my God! All existence is ashamed of their remembrances, yet they are not ashamed. All contingent things are abashed by their words, yet they feel no shame. Can one who hath been awakened by Thy call,

who hath arisen through the spirit of Thy Cause, and been quickened by the breath of Thy mercy, and drunk from the chalice of Thy bounty, move his tongue to make mention of vain imaginings which were upon the tongues of the heedless among Thy creatures and the ignorant among Thy people? Nay, by Thy Chosen Beauty! Save him for whom Thou hast made hearing a sign of torment from Thee and sight a pit of hell in his face by Thy command.

O my God! I have committed transgressions through these mentions before the Sovereign of Thy grandeur, but verily Thou knowest that fire consumeth my very hairs when I hear the words of those who have not discovered the mysteries of Thy Cause and the hidden things within Thy knowledge, and who have forsaken the lofty stations and contented themselves with base ranks as though they had forgotten what was sent down from the heaven of Thy Command. Thou didst say—and Thy word is the truth—"O son of the Supreme Horizon! I have ordained for thee from the Divine Tree the purest fruits. How is it that thou hast turned away from them and art content with that which is inferior? Return unto that which is better for thee in the supreme horizon."

And I see some of them, O my God, who have been veiled by a word from the Book, although it was revealed explicitly, without allusion, that all the Bayan cannot equal one word from Him. All that hath been mentioned of proof and evidence, then of argument and verses and clear tokens and signs, was naught but for this Most Great, Most Great Revelation, wherein no word was mentioned and no thing was found and no letter was uttered except it was a sign of Thy Cause and an evidence of Thy sovereignty, even as the Tongue of Will from Thy presence hath spoken:

> "All that hath been created and shall be created is a sign unto Him. He created by His word that it might be His proof unto Himself on the Day of His manifestation."

Nay, He hath made, O my God, all the Bayan dependent upon Thy leave and acceptance. Say: His word is the truth. By Thy glory! If Thou shouldst forgive the Bayan and all that is therein, it would not diminish anything from Thy dominion, and if Thou shouldst not accept the Bayan and all that is therein, it would not add anything to Thy dominion. Rather, if Thou acceptest it, those enchanted hearts will enter beneath the shade of the canopy of Thy love, and if Thou rejectest it, it will perish as though it had never been mentioned before.

Therefore I beseech Thee, O Lord of existence and King of the seen and unseen, to aid all to turn toward the horizon of Thy grace and bounty, sanctified from the allusions of before and after, and to make them know what Thou hast revealed in Thy Book, that they may hold fast unto the essence thereof, for this is Thy purpose in what was truly revealed and Thy beloved in what Thou didst send down in Thy Books and Thy Tablets. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Supreme, the Exalted, the Mighty, the All-Wise.

O my eternal God! Thou art witness and well aware that this servant hath at all times and under all conditions sought naught but Thy good pleasure, and God willing, through Thy grace will continue thus. At all times the eyes of this servant have been fixed upon the Most Great Horizon and his heart turned to the Source of Thy Cause. Whatsoever he hath seen and become cognizant of, he hath, purely for Thy sake, conveyed to Thy friends in service, that perchance worthy souls might drink from the Living Waters

which in these days of manifestation have streamed forth from the Finger of grace and bounty, and might turn toward the Dayspring of Thy Cause and the Dawning-Place of revelation.

For some time this servant chose silence over speech, until in these days it was observed that a dark and gloomy dust had arisen from the direction of heedless souls, and there was fear lest it might darken some weak eyes. Therefore did this servant, placing his trust in Thee and detached from all else besides Thee, deem it necessary to lay before Thy loved ones who recline upon the couch of steadfastness and have quaffed the wine of Thy tender mercy, certain matters that have transpired, that perchance they might protect the weak from the darkness of selfish desires and satanic doubts. I swear by Thy greatness, O my Lord, that at this moment all my limbs tremble and my frame doth shake. How can this servant be worthy that his words find acceptance or his utterances be remembered? How can utter nothingness raise the banner of existence, and how can absolute nothingness manifest itself before the revelation of the Ancient of Days? For to present such matters is itself a claim to existence, which is counted among the gravest of sins.

Yet since it is offered for the sake of drawing near Thy servants to the shore of nearness and reunion, and for the turning of souls to the Qiblih of all who are in earth and heaven, therefore do I seek forgiveness from the ocean of Thy pardon, even though this servant knoweth with certainty that Thou hast ever been and art sanctified above the mention, recognition and acceptance of men. Their acceptance profiteth Thee not, neither doth their rejection harm Thee. No description can reach Thy most holy court, and no mention can attain the threshold of Thy oneness. Indeed, the very mention of oneness in Thy most holy court is pure sin and sheer heedlessness, for its dignity deriveth from its relation to Thee, not from Thy relation to it. Were Thou to cast them all away, who could prevent Thee in this? And wert Thou to exalt them as Thou hast exalted them, who could object to Thy deed? Thou art the One Who is praised in all that Thou hast willed and willest, in all that Thou hast said and sayest, and in all that Thou hast manifested and manifestest.

By Thy might, O my God! I love not to choose for myself save what Thou hast chosen for me, nor do I wish to speak save what Thou hast commanded me. Let the gaze of my very essence be directed to the horizon of Thy commandments and the Dawning-Place of Thy laws. Wert Thou to roll up the carpet of mention that is spread throughout the earth, I would say: Thou art the Ruler in Thy Cause. And wert Thou to command me to that which all in the kingdom would deny, I would say: Thou art the One to be obeyed in Thy judgment. I beseech Thee, O my God, to make me one of those who speak not except by Thy leave, and move not except by Thy will. Verily Thou art the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Subduing, the Self-Subsisting.

It is submitted that, at the time when the Beauty of the Ancient of Days entered the prison of Akka, for some days the Cause was passing through a most grievous crisis. The details were, in those very days, related to certain of the friends; to repeat them now is not necessary. All were in the utmost distress and hardship, until one day a Tablet was revealed from the Source of the Cause, and this servant was writing in the presence of the Countenance. Then was a verse sent down from the heaven of the divine Will, wherein this prison was designated by the name of the Most Great Prison. This servant imagined that it had been so named in view of the afflictions that had descended, and the hardships endured.

Yet, on another day, verses were revealed, the purport of which was this: He saith, “Reflect: for what cause have We called this prison Most Great’?” When this utterance, proceeding from the Dawning-place of the revelation of the All-Merciful, was made manifest, this servant found himself greatly perturbed and shaken. Nevertheless, trusting in God, I remained composed, and dared not, in any wise, to venture upon a question. Until, one day, mention was laid before the Throne of the love and turning of heart displayed by one of the people of this city. A special Tablet was revealed for him from the heaven of Oneness, wherein, in detail, He recounted the events that had transpired in this land. That Tablet is still extant.

After the revelation of that Tablet, this servant understood that the cause of this prison being called “Most Great” was the universal afflictions which were to befall the Beauty of Oneness. Then, on a certain day, one of the companions rose up, together with some of the friends, to dispute and contention—though he himself was the wrongdoer and the oppressor. He presented a petition to the Most Holy Court, and in that petition laid claim to his own wronged condition. In answer, a Tablet in Persian was revealed from the clouds of the divine sorrow, and its text is as followeth:

Section 2: “It beseemeth not a lover to express his…”

He is God

It beseemeth not a lover to express his existence and self before his Beloved. Should he take but one step beyond this path, he would no longer be counted among the true lovers. Love accepteth not a living soul; The falcon preyeth not on lifeless game.

Yea, certain lovers have recounted their grievous trials in the presence of the Best-Beloved of all creation, their purpose being communion with the Beloved and attentiveness to the Lord of their adoration, not the mention of self and desire. Now a messenger from the most exalted purposes of glory’s Object hath descended and uttereth certain words—understand ye who speaketh and what He saith. By God! Were ye to know and learn what lieth behind the veil of grandeur of the mysteries of your Lord, the Most Exalted, ye would sacrifice yourselves out of love for God, the Lord of all names.

In any case, the aforementioned messenger related a tale that once, when We were at the Mount of Splendor, and the Beloved of all horizons went forth to the mountains, He implored with utmost humility those who claimed to love Him, saying that though this journey and migration might outwardly seem easy and simple, yet inwardly it was severe and a test, and though appearing as sovereignty and power, in reality it concealed countless hardships and distress. “Consider not your own desires and burden not yourselves—let Me migrate alone.” Whatever words of love and kindness He spoke, whether by allusion or clearly stated, proved ineffective. This servant and a group, claiming we desired naught save the good-pleasure of the Friend and had no purpose but the countenance of the Beloved, secluded ourselves in our own imagination, heedless of the counsel and certainty of the Friend, and resolved to journey forth. We became fellow-travelers and companions with the Countenance of the Beloved. After traversing some distance in the wilderness, the fire of love was extinguished and the beauty of longing was veiled, until we passed beyond that place. We began to see good deeds as evil and counted evil deeds as good, until we arrived at the Green Island. There the divine ark settled upon the Judi of the Cause.

Thereafter we traveled morning and night upon the steeds of desire through the wilderness of suspicion and fancy—sometimes together, sometimes apart, sometimes in love, sometimes in heedlessness we passed our days and nights. The Salsabil of utterance flowed constantly from the Kawthar of the mouth of the All-Merciful, yet thirst was absent; the lights of His countenance shone from the horizon of glory, yet acceptance was not to be found. Each day we increased in conjecture and imagination while decreasing in attention to the Truth. In such unacceptable conditions and unseemly circumstances, we became so immersed in the depths of heedlessness and desire that we grew unconscious even of our own state.

Throughout all conditions we observed the Countenance of the Beloved showing perfect kindness and gentleness. Some of us wondered: if divine all-encompassing knowledge exists, how could we be accepted despite such reprehensible deeds? Finally we considered the Truth heedless and ourselves wise and knowing, unaware that the Most Great Mercy preventeth the rending of veils. If we rendered any service, we followed it with reproach and injury.

After that land, He desired to migrate and again forbade all from accompanying Him. We neither perceived nor awakened to what was the cause of this prohibition and what was its reason. Once again we migrated and traversed wildernesses with the Lord of our adoration until we arrived at another land and settled with the Friend in one place, secretly occupying ourselves with the desires of self until the fire of passion prevailed and we were debarred from the Most Glorious Horizon. Through the frequency of attainment, we lost sight of the value of union, and the veil of shame was rent asunder.

And now We have confined the Beloved in a certain place, and at every moment, with such measure of strength and power as we possess, we spare Him not—from the arrows of suspicion and the spears of vain imaginings. For we have found Him a prisoner, incarcerated, and alone. Our heedlessness hath reached such a pitch that, in that very spot—upon which all the denizens of the Concourse on high are gazing, and from which they seek assistance—we, in that blessed place, utter aloud the most vile of words, and commit the most erring, the most ruinous of deeds. Woe unto us! How little have the words of God taken effect in us; and yet we have not been awakened. At the least, if we be not faithful, let us not be treacherous; if we render not service, let us not inflict injury. Not a single night are we mindful of Him, nor occupy ourselves with turning unto Him.

They relate that Fadil of Khurasan was among the most wretched of servants, and that he would waylay travellers. He fell in love with a maidservant, and came to her one night and climbed the wall. Thereupon he heard someone reciting this verse: “Hath not the time come for them that believe, that their hearts should be humbled for the remembrance of God?” It smote his heart, and he cried out: “Yea, O my Lord! The time hath come, and it is now!” Then he returned, repented, and set out for the Sacred House of God; and he abode there thirty years, until his spirit ascended unto the most lofty horizon. How strange! He heard the Word of God from the tongue of one of His servants, and it fell with such power upon him that, in one instant, he turned from the abyss of earthly existence unto the horizon of the All-Merciful. Yet we, servants that we are, have, night after night and day after day, successively and unceasingly, heard the melodies of the Breath of the All-Merciful from the Tongue of power and majesty—yet it hath had not such effect upon us that we should, at the least, become aware of the foulness of our deeds and actions, our suspicions and vain imaginings.

The tale having reached this point, the heaven of utterance was thunderstruck upon the summit of Judi, and the Pen was cut off from the fingers—dazed and bereft of sense. "Nothing shall befall us save that which God hath ordained for us." We beseech God to open our eyes, and to cause us to know our own selves and our deeds. If we be not granted success in the knowledge of His own Self—glorified be He—may we at least be granted to know our heedless selves; and may He remove from our faces the veils that hinder, that we may behold Him shining from the horizon of grace and loving-kindness; that we may sever ourselves from all who dwell in the realm of possibility and the worlds of being, and turn unto Him with our whole hearts. Verily He is our Lord, the All-Merciful. And we ask Him to assist us to repentance and return, at every morn and eventide; and to preserve the Dayspring of the lights of His Countenance from the spears of His loved ones—for He hath desired no helper but Him, and unto Him is his beginning and his end. And he saith: "There is none other God but God." Ended.

Though it was revealed in general terms, yet He said it was intended particularly for those souls that have turned aside, who now outwardly lay claim to love; but hereafter that which is in their inmost hearts shall be made manifest. It was read to a number of the friends, yet it was hidden from that very person. All men have known, and do know, that certain claimants to the love of the All-Merciful in Iraq and other cities were occupied with unseemly deeds; yet the mercy of the All-Merciful prevented the rending of the veil and the disclosure of their acts. Even so, that tyrannous soul, during the days of his sojourn in Iraq, was secretly engaged in the drinking of wine and in other deeds besides; and in the latter days of ʿIraq he would at times pass from secrecy to open display. Yet, notwithstanding this, the circlers around the Veil would conceal him—although continually words of counsel were revealed from the Dawning-place of the divine verses, as is mentioned in most of the Tablets that have been sent down.

The acts and deeds of certain people of the Bayan in the early days of the Cause were not and are not hidden from anyone, yet they considered such matters acceptable and believed themselves authorized by God, exalted be His station, although the foundation of God's commands has been sanctified from evil, unacceptable deeds and His most holy court purified from repugnant, unseemly conditions. By His very truth, during the years in Iraq and the days of exile, night and day clear and explicit verses descended from the heaven of will, forbidding the servants from all that God had not ordained, and these were dispatched to all regions, until, praise be to God, some of the servants came to know and act upon what God desired, and the fragrance of the divine sanctification and purification wafted among creation. In view of people's lack of awareness of the divine commands, this word was heard from the tongue of oneness as a favor to them: "God forgives what is past." We beseech God to assist them to achieve sanctification and purification and to act in accordance with what they have been commanded by the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

In truth, that oppressive soul and Rida-Quli were ever secretly engaged in reprehensible deeds, and this servant repeatedly counseled them both—whether in Iraq, in the Land of Mystery, or in the Most Great Prison—that perchance they might take heed and awaken from their slumber of heedlessness. But it had no effect whatsoever. Neither words of counsel nor manifest healing utterances influenced them, until Rida-Quli openly engaged in drinking and shameful acts with certain Christians. Thus did God banish him by His authority, whereupon he allied himself with the evil ones—namely Siyyid Muhammad and Aqa Jan.

Some time passed, and one day he sent a petition to the Most Holy Court expressing repentance for his past transgressions, followed by another petition some days later. However, since he had repeatedly repented yet violated God's Covenant and Testament, his petitions were not accepted. Moreover, certain deeds emerged from him that were without precedent or parallel, causing the Cause of God to be compromised among the servants. This evanescent servant does not wish to mention them, though perhaps the angels who spread tidings will broadcast throughout the earth the deeds of that rejected evil one. The curse of God be upon the wrongdoing people! Through the association of that evil one with other evil ones, the fire of sedition and hatred was kindled to such an extent that neither pen nor utterance can reckon it. However, the All-Merciful extinguished and quenched it. Verily, He is the Almighty, the Powerful.

Every person of insight perceives from the Ancient Beauty's rejection of these souls the fragrance of sanctification and detachment, for the deeds of Rida-Quli and the evil Aqa Jan and his transgression are evident and manifest to all. We beseech God to open people's eyes and make known to them, through His deeds and judgments—exalted and glorified be He—that which demonstrates the sanctity of His Essence, the detachment of His Being, and the purity of His Cause. Though most people are asleep, there exist, through divine grace, certain pure souls and penetrating eyes who distinguish truth from falsehood and recognize from the fragrance of every matter that which brings tranquility to their hearts and souls. Verily, they are honored servants.

The matter reached such a state that the Ancient Beauty secluded Himself in the house and commanded that the door be closed to all. No one could attain His presence by any means, and outwardly, no directive emerged from the Dayspring of divine commands in response to all that was heard of the calumnies of the ungodly and the schemes of the malicious ones.

Then one day in the month of Rajab or Sha'ban, a letter arrived from Aqa Siyyid ʿAli, titled "The Most Great," son of the brother of Aqa'i Ism'ullah—upon him be all the most glorious Glory. After its contents were presented before His countenance, there was revealed from the Dawning-Place of the All-Merciful's utterance an answer in the form of a most mighty, most holy Tablet which God made a mercy unto the sincere ones and a punishment unto the ungodly. After the revelation of that blessed Tablet, the horizon of this land changed and appeared crimson red, increasing each day, until one day verses of grace were revealed from the Dawning-Place of mercy. Upon hearing them, this servant was assured, praise be to God, that divine wrath had been specifically directed toward those evil souls. Some verses of that blessed Tablet concerned the longing and yearning of the lovers, while others dealt with the wrath and overwhelming power against the people of hypocrisy. And here is that blessed Tablet, these are His words, exalted be His grandeur:

"O My Name Mihdi! There hath appeared before Our face that which thy nephew hath composed in praise of his Lord. We have perceived therefrom his longing and yearning, and have revealed for him that which shall kindle ardor and burning in the love of God, the Lord of the Day of Judgment. Blessed is he who readeth and pondereth that which hath been sent down from God, the Almighty, the All-Powerful.

"In the Name of God, the Most Ancient, the Most Great

“Indeed the hearts of the sincere are consumed in the fire of separation: Where is the gleaming of the light of Thy Countenance, O Beloved of the worlds? Those who are near unto Thee have been abandoned in the darkness of desolation: Where is the shining of the morn of Thy reunion, O Desire of the worlds? The bodies of Thy chosen ones lie quivering on distant sands: Where is the ocean of Thy presence, O Enchanter of the worlds? Longing hands are uplifted to the heaven of Thy grace and generosity: Where are the rains of Thy bestowal, O Answerer of the worlds? The infidels have arisen in tyranny on every hand: Where is the compelling power of Thine ordaining pen, O Conqueror of the worlds?

The barking of dogs is loud on every side: Where is the lion of the forest of Thy might, O Chastiser of the worlds? Coldness hath gripped all mankind: Where is the warmth of Thy love, O Fire of the worlds? Calamity hath reached its height: Where are the signs of Thy succor, O Salvation of the worlds? Darkness hath enveloped most of the peoples: Where is the brightness of Thy splendor, O Radiance of the worlds? The necks of men are stretched out in malice: Where are the swords of Thy vengeance, O Destroyer of the worlds? Abasement hath reached its lowest depth: Where are the emblems of Thy glory, O Glory of the worlds? Sorrows have afflicted the Revealer of Thy Name, the All-Merciful: Where is the joy of the Dayspring of Thy Revelation, O Delight of the worlds? Anguish hath befallen all the peoples of the earth: Where are the ensigns of Thy gladness, O Joy of the worlds?

Section 3: “Thou seest the Dawning Place of Thy signs…”

Thou seest the Dawning Place of Thy signs veiled by evil suggestions: Where are the fingers of Thy might, O Power of the worlds? Sore thirst hath overcome all men: Where is the river of Thy bounty, O Mercy of the worlds? Greed hath made captive all mankind: Where are the embodiments of detachment, O Lord of the worlds? Thou seest this Wronged One lonely in exile: Where are the hosts of the heaven of Thy Command, O Sovereign of the worlds? I have been forsaken in a foreign land: Where are the emblems of Thy faithfulness, O Trust of the worlds? The agonies of death have laid hold on all men: Where is the surging of Thine ocean of eternal life, O Life of the worlds?

The whisperings of Satan have been breathed to every creature: Where is the meteor of Thy fire, O Light of the worlds? The drunkenness of passion hath perverted most of mankind: Where are the daysprings of purity, O Desire of the worlds? Thou seest this Wronged One veiled in tyranny among the Syrians: Where is the radiance of Thy dawning light, O Light of the worlds? Thou seest Me forbidden to speak forth: Then from where will spring Thy melodies, O Nightingale of the worlds? Most of the people are enwrapped in fancy and idle imaginings: Where are the exponents of Thy certitude, O Assurance of the worlds? Baha is drowning in a sea of tribulation: Where is the Ark of Thy salvation, O Savior of the worlds?

Thou seest the Dayspring of Thine utterance in the darkness of creation: Where is the sun of the heaven of Thy grace, O Light-Giver of the worlds? The lamps of truth and purity, of loyalty and honor, have been put out: Where are the signs of Thine avenging wrath, O Mover of the worlds? Canst Thou see any who have championed Thy Self, or who ponder on what hath befallen Him in the pathway of Thy love? Now doth My pen halt, O Beloved of the worlds.

“The branches of the Divine Lote-Tree lie broken by the onrushing gales of destiny: Where are the banners of Thy succor, O Champion of the worlds? This Face is hidden in the dust of slander: Where are

the breezes of Thy compassion, O Mercy of the worlds? The robe of sanctity is sullied by the people of deceit: Where is the vesture of Thy holiness, O Adorner of the worlds? The sea of grace is stilled for what the hands of men have wrought: Where are the waves of Thy bounty, O Desire of the worlds? The door leading to the Divine Presence is locked through the tyranny of Thy foes: Where is the key of Thy bestowal, O Unlocker of the worlds? The leaves are yellowed by the poisoning winds of sedition: Where is the downpour of the clouds of Thy bounty, O Giver of the worlds? The universe is darkened with the dust of sin: Where are the breezes of Thy forgiveness, O Forgiver of the worlds? This Youth is lonely in a desolate land: Where is the rain of Thy heavenly grace, O Bestower of the worlds?

"O Supreme Pen, We have heard Thy most sweet call in the eternal realm: Give Thou ear unto what the Tongue of Grandeur uttereth, O Wronged One of the worlds! Were it not for the cold, how would the heat of Thy words prevail, O Expounder of the worlds? Were it not for calamity, how would the sun of Thy patience shine, O Light of the worlds? Lament not because of the wicked. Thou wert created to bear and endure, O Patience of the worlds. How sweet was Thy dawning on the horizon of the Covenant among the stirrers of sedition, and Thy yearning after God, O Love of the worlds. By Thee the banner of independence was planted on the highest peaks, and the sea of bounty surged, O Rapture of the worlds.

By Thine aloneness the Sun of Oneness shone, and by Thy banishment the land of Unity was adorned. Be patient, O Thou Exile of the worlds. We have made abasement the garment of glory, and affliction the adornment of Thy temple, O Pride of the worlds. We see the hearts are filled with hate, and to overlook is Thine, O Thou Concealer of the sins of the worlds. When the swords flash, go forward! When the shafts fly, press onward! O Thou Sacrifice of the worlds. Dost Thou wail, or shall I wail? Rather shall I weep at the fewness of Thy champions, O Thou Who hast caused the wailing of the worlds.

"Verily, I have heard Thy Call, O All-Glorious Beloved; and now is the face of Baha flaming with the heat of tribulation and with the fire of Thy shining word, and He hath risen up in faithfulness at the place of sacrifice, looking toward Thy pleasure, O Ordainer of the worlds.

O ʿAli-Akbar, thank thy Lord for this Tablet whence thou canst breathe the fragrance of My meekness, and know what hath beset Us in the path of God, the Adored of all the worlds. Should all the servants read and ponder this, there shall be kindled in their veins a fire that shall set aflame the worlds."

In those days, this servant had never heard verses of divine wrath expressed with such majesty, and thus was deeply contemplative about what would transpire and what matter would emerge from the dawning-place of the unseen. In any case, each day the corruption and opposition of the wicked increased, until Rida-Quli took a large collection of writings in his possession, mixed certain passages with blasphemous statements, and distributed them to many of the townspeople, claiming:

> "I was one of their followers but have now repented and become Muslim."

He, Aqa Jan and Siyyid Muhammad, all three declared their remorse before the people, claiming to be followers of Islam. The town became so agitated that most people openly engaged in cursing and hatred. When the wicked Siyyid Muhammad observed that the Ancient Beauty was confined to His house, the door apparently closed, and the Most Great Branch separated from the companions, he seized the opportunity to establish friendship and association with some of the companions.

These servants remained quiet and patient, with no word issuing from the Source of Command regarding these matters, relying upon God and waiting to see what would appear and what would emerge from the pavilion of the unseen into the realm of manifestation. Then on Monday the twelfth of Dhi'l-Qa'dah, at eleven o'clock, an uproar arose. It was observed that the Pasha of the town with all his soldiers, bearing drawn swords, had surrounded the house. They likewise arrested all the companions. This servant was occupied with writing the revealed verses. Such commotion and disturbance was witnessed in the city that nothing could exceed it. Suddenly all the townspeople along with soldiers and officers were stirred up, raising such shouts and clamor that the pen is powerless to describe it. At that moment, being in His presence, He said: "Pay no attention to their clamor."

Then the blessed tongue spoke verses while this servant was occupied with recording them. The Most Great Branch came before Him and reported that they had summoned Him to the government house. The Ancient Beauty went with the Most Great Branch. The Greater Branch and Aqayi Aqa Mirza Muhammad-Quli and this servant wished to accompany them but were forbidden. After an hour they returned and took the Greater Branch and this servant also. Upon arrival at the government house, the officials stated that seven Persians had gone and killed Aqa Jan, Siyyid Muhammad and Rida-Quli. How excellent are these words about the youths of the hosts of divine wrath:

Their assaults left no sound or fame for thunder; A people who, when encountered, were angels in beauty; But when fought against became as demons.

And all the people were observed to be agitated and fearful, and the signs of wrath so encompassed them that most of the townspeople and government officials were deprived of food and sleep that night. Strange it is that although the Ancient Beauty had, for several months, along with the Two Most Great Branches, closed His door and had no association whatsoever with anyone from within or without—and Siyyid Muhammad himself had written to various places that all the companions had turned away—yet after this vile and false incident occurred, upon which be the curse of God and His loved ones, he went to the government council and claimed that the Ancient Beauty had ordered these people to be killed. Yet, by God, the All-Compelling, the Self-Subsisting, no such command was ever outwardly issued from the Seat of Authority, and He had always forbidden all from committing such acts, saying:

> "The dog barks and the wolf howls; leave them be and do not confront them. Be ye of the patient ones."

In any case, one of the divine loved ones inquired of this servant from a distant land about the details of the government council meeting. This servant submitted what was remembered to him, and now it is recorded again in this paper so that all creatures may benefit from the divine utterances of that night. It was the first night, at the time of the evening prayer, when He went to the Pasha's council. A large gathering was assembled there, all in utmost terror and agitation. The Ancient Beauty was seated reclined at the head of the council and uttered not a word, as the council members were occupied in consultation and discussion among themselves. None accompanied Him to that council except the Most Great Branch.

Then the Pasha rose and submitted that He should proceed to another location, as they now wished to interrogate those who had been arrested. Thus He went to another place known as the police detention center, and in that prison we were present before His face: the Two Most Great Branches, Aqay-i-Aqa Mirza Muhammad-Quli, Aqa Muhammad-Ali Isfahani, Aqa Muhammad-Javad, and Aqa Muhammad-Husayn ibn Haji Ali-ʿAskar, along with some officials and others from the government. Until the seventh hour He remained in that place, continuously uttering verses of grandeur. Among other things, He said to this servant: "Do you remember the verses that were revealed the night before?" Then in the most exalted voice He recited these verses:

In the Name of the Everlasting, the Eternal, the Mighty, the Great

The ocean of tribulation hath surged, and its waves have encompassed the Ark of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Fear not, O Mariner, the tempestuous winds, for He Who causeth the dawn to break is with thee in this darkness that hath enveloped the worlds. Put thy trust in God under all conditions, and fear not the violent gusts of the winds of hatred. Take refuge in God, thy Lord, the All-Powerful, the All-Knowing. He, verily, protecteth whomsoever He willeth through His sovereign might. He is, in truth, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

In the midst of darkness, the Face was radiant with a light that encompassed all who are in the heavens and on earth. In that state We summoned all created things unto God, and We were not daunted by the gathering of those who disbelieved in God when He came with a wondrous Cause.

The thief hath stolen that which was revealed from the Throne and presented it before those who rule over the servants. Thus did that distant idolater. Say: Die in thy wrath, O thou ignorant one! Dost thou imagine that thou canst outstrip Us? Nay, by My Name, through which the fragrances of the Spirit have wafted over all things small and great! We delivered Our Cause through Our messengers, for verily We were powerful. Then We spread it through the hands of those who turned away. The schemes of the schemers can never harm it.

The sneaking whisperer came before the people with My Book, thinking thereby to assault the Dayspring of the Cause and to demean God's station in all else. Thus did his soul entice him, and the word of chastisement was realized from the presence of the Almighty, the All-Encompassing. Say: Thereby is His Cause exalted, His verses spread abroad, and this Remembrance elevated, whereby every wise matter hath been ordained.

Would that the servants would gather against Us and shed Our blood in this straight Path! We have sacrificed what We possess in the path of God. This is attested by the tribulations We endure, and beyond them the Pen whereby God's Cause, the Mighty, the Wise, hath been established. Say: I await the day wherein I shall behold Myself among the parties of the oppressors' hosts. By God! Then shall they hear what they have never heard before, and shall see what no eyes of those who preceded them have ever seen. He, verily, is the Ruler over what He willeth, and He is the Strong, the Powerful.

Say: O lowly gnat! Canst thou soar with the Dove in this atmosphere wherein no birds of the worlds have ever soared? All that befalleth Us is a mercy unto Us—to this every discerning believer beareth witness.

The atoms lament Our affliction, while We are in manifest joy. We have manifested gladness from the horizon of sorrows. He doeth what He willeth and ordaineth what He pleaseth.

In those moments, He paid no attention to the officials. The Blessed Countenance was turned toward the Most Great Branch and the Greater Branch (may my spirit be sacrificed for them both) and some of the loved ones who were present in service. Then the ocean of the All-Merciful's utterance surged forth, and among other things He said:

"God, the Blessed and Exalted, revealed to one of His Prophets in His revelation: ʿBy My glory and majesty! I shall surely cut off the hope of every hopeful one who hopes in other than Me, and I shall clothe him in the garment of humiliation before all people, and I shall keep him distant from My grace and My relief. Does My servant hope in other than Me in times of hardship while the key is in My hand? Why do I see My servant turning away from Me when I have given him what he has not asked of Me? Shall I be asked and not be generous? Never! Does not generosity and bounty belong to Me? Are not this world and the next in My hands? If everyone in the heavens and earth were to ask of Me the equivalent of the heavens and earth, and I were to give it to them, it would not diminish My dominion by so much as the wing of a gnat."'

And similar utterances which most are not recalled continually flowed from the divine lips. The cups of utterance were filled with the wine of thy Lord's remembrance, the All-Merciful. What this servant remembers has been presented. How can I describe how the signs of power, grandeur and sovereignty flowed, streamed and descended on that blessed night! It was as if the Salsabil of utterance was bestowed upon all creation, and the sea of generosity sprinkled upon the nations, and the mystery enveloped in mystery was manifested to all in the unseen and visible realms. Many utterances are not remembered at all.

Section 4: "Verily, at the seventh hour, one…"

Verily, at the seventh hour, one of the officers came and took away the Blessed Beauty, the two Greatest Branches, and His Honor Aqa Mirza Muhammad-Ali. As was mentioned in the previous petition, they confined the Blessed Beauty and the Greater Branch in a place adjacent to the port, and His Honor Aqa Mirza Muhammad-Ali in another location, while the Most Great Branch was imprisoned in the port under chains. This servant and the other friends were confined under chains in the seraglio itself, a most darksome place.

On the second night, a telegram came from the governor and they changed the Ancient Beauty's location to a high domed chamber above the prison. This was at the time of the evening prayer, and the Most Great Branch, the Greater Branch and Aqay-i were also in the Most Holy Presence. The stay in the dome was thirty-eight and a half hours. Then again on Thursday, at the fourth hour after sunrise, they summoned them to the building for questioning.

While proceeding to the assembly, the Tongue of Grandeur uttered these words repeatedly:

> "You have taken hold of your own principles and cast the principles of God behind your backs. What is wrong with you that you do not understand?"

After the Pasha and the members of the assembly arrived, they apologized saying that they were obliged to investigate since three people had been killed and all the people of the city were frightened and terrified, therefore the law must be followed. Apparently the poor man had no knowledge even of the law.

They inquired concerning the blessed Name and birthplace, and submitted that according to the law, these questions must be asked and recorded. He replied: "Verily, it is more manifest than the sun." When the question was repeated, He declared: "It behooveth not to mention the Name. Look ye into the governmental decree that is with you." Thereafter, with utmost gentleness, they requested: "Do Thou Thyself speak."

Then did the Temple of Grandeur seat Himself upright upon the divan and speak with the Tongue of Power and Might: "My Name is Baha'u'llah and My country is Nur. Be ye apprized of it!" He then turned His blessed Countenance toward the Mufti and declared in His transcendent majesty: "Were ye to know, We would cause you to hear the cooing of the Dove of Grandeur upon the branch of the Divine Lote-Tree, that there might be manifested unto you that which speaketh: 'Servitude is a substance whose essence is Lordship."'

All present were struck with amazement at the eternal Word of God. Thereafter, addressing all, He declared: "What is the purpose of this gathering and this questioning and answering? If ye desire, I will confess to that which is your aim and the desire of your hearts, for I love not to remain in this world for the duration of an hour." And He recited verses from the Surih of Kings, including this blessed passage: "I passed by no tree but My heart addressed it, saying: 'O would that thou wert cut down in My name and My body crucified upon thee in the path of My Lord!"'

During this exposition, trembling seized the pillars of the All-Merciful. Then He arose and the Beauty of the All-Knowing departed to another place, withdrawing from the assembly.

Verily, it was a day of wonders and a time of marvels. In some of the people, the Sun of the Word of God shone forth, and they manifested love. In truth, this servant is powerless and incapable of recounting the divine utterances. The author of the Mathnavi hath made mention befitting this station:

"That discourse which the Prophet spoke that day, If it should strike the night, would turn it day;

That dark night would become bright as the morn, But I cannot speak that sacred tongue now born.

You know what says the sun in Aries, To herbs and plants in gardens such as these;

You know what says that pure and flowing stream, To plants and flowers that on its borders gleam."

Verily, this servant hath been and shall ever be powerless to mention the divine utterances and heavenly expressions.

Later the Pasha sent word requesting a return to the house and apologized for what had transpired. They said returning to the original prison was preferable since many were imprisoned there. Some who were in His presence submitted that since the people of the city were in commotion, the prisoners could not be

brought out, and it would be better to wait some days. Then they returned to the house, and this was at eleven o'clock on Thursday.

In brief, from the time of the Blessed Beauty's departure from the sanctuary until His return, sixty-nine and a half hours had elapsed: five and a half hours' stay in the palace the first night, eighteen and a half hours in prison near the barracks, thirty-eight and a half hours confined above the barracks, and seven hours in the palace the second time. Thus was the matter ordained by God, the Mighty, the All-Knowing, the Wise.

Furthermore, there is one among the people of dissension, upon whom be God's curse—when he speaks he lies, when he makes a promise he breaks it, and when trusted he betrays. These are the attributes of the hypocrites, and a hundred thousand times worse are found in that vile one. Before these mentioned events occurred, he arrived in this land and dwelled among the ungodly, associating with evil souls for some time. Then he returned spreading false and erroneous accounts. Wherever he went, he spread fabrications. He and Aqa Jan, upon them both be God's wrath, became narrators of fabricated falsehoods from the realm of lies. After the upheavals in the great city and the dismissal of the counselor and death of the Grand Vizier, they attributed these events to persecution against us, claiming the chief of the ungodly had foretold this—all of this is pure falsehood. Any fair-minded person who has attained even a trace of justice would testify to their lies, for all souls from Arab, Persian and Turk were pursuing the Ancient Beauty with complete enmity, not considering others worthy of notice, and whatever befell others was merely incidental.

In any case, the seizure of the oppressors and what befell them and what will befall them have all been clearly revealed in the Tablet of Ra'is and other Tablets. Now this servant shall mention some of these so all may know those souls were and are liars, and that the Dawning Place of divine verses and Source of merciful bounties had foretold what would transpire. Among these is the Tablet to Ibn-i-Nabil, upon him be the Glory of God, which was revealed upon first arrival at the Most Great Prison. The original tablet is with the aforementioned person and copies are with Zaynu'l-Muqarrabin, upon him be the Glory of God, and the friends. Let them investigate and verify so they may know with certainty that the reins of knowledge have been and shall ever be in the hands of the Mighty, the All-Knowing. None knoweth the unseen except Him. He revealeth to whomsoever He willeth whatsoever He willeth, and concealeth from whomsoever He desireth whatsoever He desireth. He is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Some of the verses revealed in the Tablet of Ibn-i-Nabil are these:

He is the Most Holy, the Most Glorious

Kaf. Za. When We called unto thee from beyond the Sea of Grandeur on the crimson earth from the horizon of tribulation: Verily there is none other God but Him, the Mighty, the Bestower. Stand firm in My Cause, and be not of those who, when given what they desired, denied God, the Lord of Lords. God shall soon seize them with His might, for He is the Omnipotent, the All-Compelling. Know thou that God hath already seized with power and dominion the greatest of those who pronounced judgment against Us…. Soon shall We depose one like unto him and seize their prince who ruleth the land, for I am the Mighty, the Compelling.

Not long passed before the one who was the direct cause of the exile of the Truth and the Family of God was himself exiled from the great city, and their leader from whom all decrees issued forth perished. Now observe that despite these verses which were revealed aforetime in God's Book and spread throughout the lands, the Zanjani spoke after the fact, claiming the Chief of the Misguided had foretold it. Nay! The curse of God be upon the liars!

Likewise consider the Suriy-i-Ra'is which was revealed after the exile to the Land of Mystery and arrival at the seashore, and also the verses of the Temple specifically revealed for the King of Paris and the people of that land, foretelling what would later befall him. His word, exalted be His grandeur:

"O King! Hearken to the call from this Fire kindled within the verdant Tree upon this elevated Mount on the white holy spot behind the Sea of Eternity: Verily there is none other God but Me, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful"' until His words, exalted be His grandeur: "O King! We heard from thee a word thou spokest when the Russian monarch asked thee concerning the war decree. Thy Lord is verily the All-Knowing, the All-Informed. Thou didst say: I was asleep upon my couch when the cry of the oppressed subjects awakened me, until they were drowned in the Black Sea.' Thus did We hear, and thy Lord beareth witness to what I say. We testify that it was not their cry that awakened thee, but rather thy passions, for We tested thee and found thee heedless. Know thou the meaning of words and be among the discerning.

"We desire not to address thee with harsh words, out of respect for the station We have given thee in this outward life. We have chosen courtesy and made it the attribute of them that are nigh unto God. It is a garment that befitteth all, both great and small. Well is it with him who adorneth his temple therewith, and woe unto him who is deprived of this great bounty. Hadst thou been sincere in thy word, thou wouldst not have cast the Book of God behind thy back when it was sent unto thee from the presence of Him Who is the Mighty, the Wise.

> "We have tested thee thereby and found thee other than what thou didst claim. Arise and make amends for what hath escaped thee. Soon will the world and all that thou possessest perish, and the kingdom will remain with God, thy Lord and the Lord of thy forefathers. It behooveth thee not to conduct affairs according to the dictates of thy desires. Fear thou the sighs of this Wronged One and shield Him from the darts of such as act unjustly. For what thou hast done, affairs shall be altered in thy kingdom, and the empire shall depart from thy hands, as a punishment for thy action. Then wilt thou find thyself in manifest loss, and commotion shall seize all the people there, unless thou arisest to help this Cause and followest Him Who is the Spirit in this straight Path. Hath thy pomp made thee proud? By My Life! It shall not endure; nay, it shall soon pass away, unless thou holdest fast to this firm Cord. We see abasement hastening after thee, while thou art of the heedless."

The friends of God are aware that during Our sojourn in the land of mystery, exalted Tablets were revealed and sent to certain monarchs to complete God's testimony. Among these was a Tablet to the King of Paris who was, in those days, preeminent among kings. The reason for this was that one day, while in the presence of the Divine Throne, it was mentioned how after the Russian-Ottoman dispute, the King of Paris had risen to aid the Ottomans. After conflict, strife, bloodshed and plunder, several

monarchs intervened and a peace treaty was established. Subsequently, the Russian King inquired of the King of Paris: “We both belonged to the same people—what caused you to dishonor those of your own faith and assist those of another?”

He replied in writing that there was no reason save that when Russian forces had suddenly attacked and drowned Ottoman subjects in the Black Sea, the cry of those oppressed ones had awakened him from slumber, and he had risen to assist them. After relating this incident, it was declared: “Now We shall send him a Tablet and test him. If he rises to assist the oppressed people of Bayan, We shall confirm the truth of what he claimed. Otherwise, his falsehood in what he asserted and declared will become evident.” Thus a Tablet was revealed and sent to him, but no response ever came, despite the fact that one of his ministers, who secretly professed love for the Cause, had reported to the Most Holy Court that he had personally delivered the Tablet to the king and had verbally conveyed all details.

Nevertheless, no answer was received. It was then that, following the absence of any reply to that Tablet, this second Tablet was revealed and sent, written in French. Now observe what was revealed explicitly, without any ambiguity, in that Tablet concerning what would later befall him. Blessed are they who read! Blessed are they who ponder! Blessed are they who are fair-minded!

Ponder likewise the wondrous creation, and its despatch in power and majesty; and behold how, after the Proof had been made complete and might had been manifested, tribulations of famine, dearth, and fear encompassed Persia. Tidings of these matters were revealed in divers Tablets. By God—beside Whom there is none other God—were souls to reflect upon that wondrous creation, upon its sending forth, upon its Tablet, and upon what thereafter befell, it would suffice them all; and the divine proof would become to every one evident and manifest, more apparent than the sun itself. Yet those fabricated beings are busied with their own world; they have taken no portion, nor shall they ever take a portion, of the holy breaths and the fragrance of the verses of the All-Merciful—save such as God willeth.

Even as is plainly seen, notwithstanding this Most Great Exaltation, this Supreme Manifestation, and these clear and perspicuous signs, certain of the servants have chosen to follow souls who have ever been, and shall ever remain, behind a veil, and from whom no matter hath ever appeared. What profit is there? This servant hath not leisure; otherwise I would lay before them all that hath appeared and doth appear—every one of the signs of God, revealed expressly, without interpretation or equivocation. We beseech God to aid His servants to be fair-minded, and to efface from them the vain imaginings they possess, and what hath been handed down in former times.

Truly wondrous is the case of them that followed the deluded ones after the fragrance of the Best-Beloved had been diffused among the worlds—like those who have been veiled by Siyyid Muhammad of Isfahan and his sayings, who never had any true knowledge of the root of the Cause and who hath, from earliest times, been occupied with corruption, remaining shut out from the Most Holy and Inaccessible Truth. Though it be but a common proverb, it befitteth this station: Behold the blind man, led by the staff of another blind! By God, by God! Whosoever hath sight, and whosoever possesseth a sense of smell, who hath but once beheld him, hath found in his countenance the trace of hellfire, and in his breath the stench of the denizens of Sijjin.

Each day he is busied with some deception. When we entered the Most Great Prison he named himself "Quddus Effendi," imagining that a meaningless name would raise up the one so named. Woe unto him, and unto them that follow him! And likewise he called Aqa Jan—the chief of the idolaters—"Sayfu'l-Haqq," and promised him ʿIraq, as is witnessed by Aqa Jan's own letter still extant, written unto the "chief of the idolaters," wherein he imploreth and crieth for aid, saying: "When shall that promise thou gavest be fulfilled?" In this land, before every person, he would say: "I am the Sword of God, and ere long I shall conquer most lands." God's curse be upon the liars!

Section 5: "At this point, verses were revealed…"

At this point, verses were revealed from the heaven of divine will, exalted be His glory. He says:

The Most Holy, Most Great, Most Glorious

Verily in the tribulations of the Lord of all creation in every time there are signs for all who dwell in the realms of being. He has accepted hardship for the ease of all creatures, and difficulty for the comfort of all who dwell in the realm of possibility. My self be a sacrifice for His favor, my being be a sacrifice for His mercy, and my spirit be a sacrifice for His grace that has encompassed all horizons. No morning dawned except that He was surrounded by the darkness of allusions from those who denied God, the Revealer of verses. Yet nothing can prevent Him from what He desires in God's Cause, the King of the Day of Mutual Calling. At times He calls out with His clear tongue, and at others He beckons with the finger of certitude, summoning all to God, the Lord of all men. Were We to recount what has befallen Us, the heavens would be cleft asunder and the mountains would crumble.

Those who denied took pride in their titles. The mute one named himself Quddus and claimed what the slinking whisperer claimed, while the other named himself the Sword of Truth and said "I am the conqueror of lands." God has sent one who struck his mouth, that all might be convinced that he is the tail of Satan, cut off by the sword of the All-Merciful. He continued to await the days of his glory and manifestation as promised by him who denied God, the Cleaver of daybreak. Thus does God seize those who turn away from Him and arise to waste His Cause among the servants.

When they perished, the spring breezes blew and the gates of heaven were opened and the clouds rained. Blessed is he who has attained the knowledge of God in His days and has completely detached himself from all directions. Say: Does not the Lord of the heavens and earth suffice you? He has indeed come with the truth in His Name, the One Who oversees creation. Illumine your heart with the Most Great Lamp which the Lord of Eternity has lit, then stand firm in the Cause through the sovereignty of your Lord, the Powerful, the Chosen One.

Any person who appeared in this city was among the divines of the great city, and Aqa Jan frequented him and related to him in detail: "I am the Sword of Truth, and soon most lands will be conquered by my hand." That ignorant divine, though far from the path of truth, uttered a fitting word, as if the Holy Spirit spoke through his tongue. Thus, after the slaying of the idolaters, he immediately appeared with the Pasha of the land before Aqa Jan's corpse and declared: "This accursed one claimed ʿI am the Sword of

Truth,' but now it is evident that the Sword of Truth was that which struck his waist and consigned him to the lowest depths of hell."

Praise be to God, after this incident and the return of the idolaters to the lowest depths of hell, the rains of mercy poured forth day and night, after having been withheld for several years during which people suffered from drought and famine.

When We were in Adrianople, that vile one had written a letter to someone. Among its contents, We observed that he had plagiarized a passage from a Tablet revealed in Iraq and attributed it to himself. That passage reads: "We are as the rising sun and as the manifest moon." That heedless and vile soul failed to realize that the realm of the Phoenix has never been, nor will ever be, the playground of flies, and darkness has no right to claim the station of the sun. By God! Seeing some people as weak and foolish, he arose with his personal fabrications, such that some have taken his forged writings and read them. The writer and reader have both lost, and through various whispers and intrigues, he prevented people from the Lord of mankind and led some astray through past delusions.

Even so, a certain person met this servant in the market-place and said: "For an hour I desire to meet with thee—on condition that none be present save thee and me." I had never seen him before. I replied, "Very well." A time was fixed, and he came. Some discourse ensued, and it became apparent that he held intercourse with one who had associated partners with God. He then said, "They have told me that thou art of the Shi'ih." At this, such laughter overcame this servant that the reins of patience slipped from my hand. The man marvelled and said, "Wherefore dost thou laugh?" I answered: "O hapless poor one! Thy Shi'ih, scattered in the lands of Persia like pebbles, to what station have they attained? or what rank have they possessed with God, that now thou wouldst fain walk in the footsteps of those rejected, deluded souls? Hast thou not seen that all were false and in sheer error—inasmuch as, with their own hands, they slew the Inviolable Truth? God's curse be upon the oppressors!"

After these words were spoken, he became very thoughtful. Then, for the sake of God, I conveyed to him some of the exalted words I had heard from the Source of the Cause. It was observed that he was not devoid of capacity. Among other things, I said to him: "Consider—of all that the Shi'ites possessed and counted as fundamental to their religion and community, which of these claims are true, now that you wish to enter the ocean of divine truth and wisdom based on such vain imaginings and false utterances? Did these Shi'ihs of whom you speak truly comprehend the meaning of the Resurrection?"No," he replied. I asked: Did they recognize the Balance? "No," he replied. Did they understand the gathering and raising of the dead? "No," he replied. Was that which they understood concerning the Mention of the Qa'im, as they comprehended it, the truth? "No," he replied. Then I stated: "You yourself bear witness that all was false. Now this matter which they have told you—how do you know it to be true?"

Then I sat upright facing him and spoke what I had memorized of the verses of God, the Sovereign, the Supreme, the Self-Subsisting, and I conveyed to him that which I was commanded by God, the Mighty, the Beloved. I said: O servant! Have you not heard what the Tongue of Grandeur hath spoken when He was established upon His throne, supreme over all who witness and are witnessed? His word is truth: "Abandon what you possess of vain imaginings, then hearken unto that which your Lord, the Mighty, the

All-Knowing, doth speak. How long will ye follow your desires? The Sun of Guidance hath dawned. Turn ye towards it, sanctified from that which was mentioned aforetime by your divines.

By God! This is the Manifestation of God and the sign of His hiddenness from all else. It cannot be compared with what was mentioned in the remotest past, nor can it be known through the words of the contentious. Draw nigh unto Him with illumined eyes and radiant faces. Thus have ye been commanded in the Tablets from God, the Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Informed." And His word, exalted be His grandeur, addressing someone: "We behold thee immersed in the pool of the veiled ones and the waters of the heedless ones' imaginings. Come forth therefrom through My name and My sovereignty, then plunge into this Most Great Ocean, whereof every drop proclaimeth 'There is none other God but Me, the Powerful, the Exalted, the Supreme, the Mighty, the Generous."'

I said:

> "O man, for the sake of God I speak, and purely for God I make mention. Cast away these vain imaginings and ascend from these base, limited, and fanciful stations, that you may soar on wings of divine mercy to the heavens of the Lord's command and attain success. Today is the day of 'Say: God!' then leave them to amuse themselves in their vain discourse.' This blessed verse was revealed aforetime specifically for this Day, for in this Revelation it has become clear and evident that the Truth alone is sovereign over all and has not taken, nor will ever take, any partner or likeness. Though the followers of religions previously acknowledged this statement, most were false in their claim, for each day they would set up a partner for God."

Then, at this point, this servant submitted what was befitting and mentioned what is required today. I said to act upon this same verse which I have cited—leave these vain souls and their utterances and enter into the sweet and wondrous expanse, that you may drink of the everlasting wine from the verse of divine mercy which states: "Through My manifestation is established the decree of innovation, and this is truly the innovation of the heavens and the earth. Pass beyond before and after, and with the eye of manifestation behold the Manifestation itself, for all are commanded thus in this Most Great Revelation, and this is specific to this Revelation." Then I mentioned that certain weak souls were prevented by that evil being from the Chosen One through such utterances, just as Yahya writes to some "You are of my followers"—and the intent of this statement is clear.

Every lying scribe has gone astray. Now observe where stands the station of that evil being's utterances and where stands the station that the Lord of Lords has desired for His servants. O brother, cast away all the limited, unworthy phrases of the past and soar with new wings in the sweet and wondrous expanse, that through divine grace you may drink of the new wine and fathom the mystery of this wondrous Cause. Furthermore, some servants have complained about certain actions of weak souls who circle round, attributing these to God, exalted be His glory. Thus has one person asked, how it can be that while this Cause proclaims its truth and its exaltation has encompassed the world, certain souls who claim connection with the Truth occupy themselves with unseemly deeds?

In any case, this matter stems from that heedless one's negligence. It seems he has not heard this poem famous among people which says: ʿShould all creation turn to unbelief, No dust would settle on His garment's hem.'

One day I was present before the Throne when the Countenance of God turned toward me and He said:

> "Hast thou heard that the sincere ones are in great danger? O servant in attendance before the Throne! The outward divines have differed concerning the companions of the Messenger as to whom the title of ʿcompanion' may truly be applied. Some have said the companions were those who were in His presence for a year or more and who arose to strive in the path of God. Others have said that whoever attested to the oneness of God and met the Messenger was counted among the companions, even if but once. Some have said this title applies to those whom the Messenger Himself specifically addressed by this name. Others have said they were those who were trusted by Him and were present in His journeys and at home. But most of the divines have said that whoever accepted Islam and saw the Prophet, peace be upon Him and His companions, even for the briefest time, was among the companions. According to this, forty thousand souls were with Him during the Farewell Pilgrimage, and on the day of His passing, one hundred and twenty-four thousand gathered in Medina. According to the latter view, all these souls were called companions. Nevertheless, there were but few who had drunk from the pure wine of certitude and had entered the source of the merciful outpourings. In any case, such words arise from heedlessness and continue to do so. We beseech God to assist all to do what He loves and is pleased with. O friends of Truth! Be not content with mere hearing, nor attach your hearts to past imaginings. For by God, today malicious souls have prevented the weak ones from the Divine Law through past imaginings."

Hear the petition of this servant present before the Throne, and with steadfast feet stand firm upon the path of oneness. Truth hath been made so manifest that none hath any excuse to turn away. All divine books bear witness and point to this, as some time ago one of the friends from different religions submitted a petition containing two well-known traditions that had been translated from Greek into Arabic in ancient books.

The first passage states: "Satan shall appear in the Isle of Qaf and shall prevent the people from the All-Merciful. When that time cometh, turn ye toward the Holy Land from whence the Breath of God passeth." And Qaf is Cyprus, which is well-known, as all Turks call it "Satan's Isle." And the Holy Land is known to be where the Throne is now established.

The second passage states: "Hubab shall appear on the isle ascribed to him. He is short of stature, with a long beard, narrow of forehead and chest, with yellow eyes and hair, with camel-like fur on his back and goat-like hair on his chest. When that time cometh, draw ye near unto Carmel, even if ye must crawl, then turn toward the Holy Valley, the gathering place, the white spot." It is known that Hubab is the name of Satan and serpent. He says Satan will appear in the isle ascribed to him, which is Cyprus, known as Satan's Isle. And He says "When that time cometh, draw ye near unto Carmel"—and Carmel is the mountain facing Akka—"even if ye must crawl on your chest, then turn toward the Holy Valley, the gathering place, the white spot"—these three being titles of the land of Akka, as is well known to all.

Mount Carmel stands opposite to Akka, and though it be with difficulty, even if it be upon its breast, then turn ye towards the holy valley, the land of the gathering, the white spot—these three titles belong to the land of Akka, as is renowned amongst all and recorded in the books. Would that someone might journey to Cyprus and with their own eyes behold in that person all these attributes that have been mentioned.

In any case, O servants of God, there is no need for such mentions, and examples of such mentions are purely out of grace, for this lowly servant has supposed that through such examples some might awaken from the slumber of heedlessness. Otherwise, Truth is sanctified from the mention of this or that. He cannot be known except through His own Self, nor can He be described except by that which His Essence hath described for His Essence. All else are created by His command and return to their places in the worlds of His creation and invention.

We hope that the petitions of this servant, having been offered purely for the sake of God, may become healing for hearts and light for breasts, that all may arise in the love of God in such wise that none shall have opportunity for turning away or objection, and may regard as utter nothingness all that the idolaters have said or will say. Therefore I say: I turn unto Thee, O my God, for what I have committed in Thy presence. Forgive me then by Thy sovereignty and grace. Verily Thou art the Most Generous of the generous. And praise be to Thee, O God of the worlds.

The servant of God