

The Forces of Light and Darkness

*A Compilation from the Writings of Shoghi Effendi
and Letters Written on His Behalf*

1 *Revelation as the Source and Origin of Creative Energies*

It is the **creative energies** which His Revelation has released in the “year sixty,” and later reinforced by the **successive effusions of celestial power** vouchsafed in the “year nine” and the “year eighty” to all mankind, that have instilled into humanity the capacity to attain this final stage in its organic and collective evolution.

(The Promised Day is Come, p. 118)

...that nothing short of a **power that is born of God** can succeed in establishing it [the Oneness of Mankind].

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 43)

...a ministry extending over a period of almost forty years -- a ministry which, by virtue of its **creative power**, its cleansing force, its healing influences, and the irresistible operation of **the world-directing, world-shaping forces it released**, stands unparalleled in the religious annals of the entire human race.

(God Passes By, p. 106)

...be spiritually welded into a unit at once dynamic and coherent, and be **suffused with the creative, the directing and propelling forces** proceeding from the Source of the Revelation Himself, and be made...the vehicle of His grace from on high...

(Messages to the Bahá'í World - 1950-1957, p. 140)

...a Revelation which, flowing out...from His travailing soul, pierced the gloom that had settled upon that pestilential pit, and, bursting through its walls, and propagating itself as far as the ends of the earth, **infused** into the entire body of mankind its **boundless potentialities**, and is now under our very eyes, shaping the course of human society...

(God Passes By, p. 93)

The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh has assimilated, by virtue of its **creative, its regulative and ennobling energies**, the varied races, nationalities, creeds and classes that have sought its shadow, and have pledged unswerving fealty to its cause.

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 197)

The impetus that has been given by the Manifestation of God for this Age is the sole one that can regenerate humanity, and as we Bahá'ís are the only ones yet aware of **this new force in the world**, our obligation towards our fellow men is tremendous and inescapable!

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 172)

Ours rather the duty...to lend our share of assistance, in whichever way circumstances may enable us, to the **operation of the forces which, as marshaled and directed by Bahá'u'lláh**, are leading humanity out of the valley of misery and shame to the loftiest summits of power and glory.

(The Promised Day is Come, p. 123)

...a clear indication of **those hidden and transforming influences** which, from the source of Bahá'u'lláh's mystic strength, **continue to flow with ever-increasing vitality** into the heart of this troubled world.

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 59)

The **spiritual forces**, mysteriously released, are already operating with increasing momentum, unchallenged and unchecked.

(Messages to America, p. 28)

That the Cause associated with the name of Bahá'u'lláh feeds itself upon those **hidden springs of celestial strength** which no force of human personality, whatever its glamour, can replace...

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 51)

2 *Revelation as Experienced by the Manifestation of God*

...He Who is the vehicle of **so mysterious an energy** must needs be invested.

(The World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 127)

...He describes, briefly and graphically, the impact of the **onrushing force** of the Divine Summons upon His entire being...

(God Passes By, p. 101)

...a period of great spiritual ferment, during which the Recipient of so weighty a Message restlessly anticipated the hour at which He could unburden His heavily laden soul, so replete with the **potent energies** released by God's nascent Revelation.

(God Passes By, p. 103)

As the year "eighty" steadily and inexorably approached, He Who had become the real leader of that community increasingly experienced, and progressively communicated to His future followers, the onrushing influences of its **informing force**.

(God Passes By, p. 152)

Its influence [the soul of Bahá'u'lláh] no longer circumscribed by any physical limitations, its radiance no longer beclouded by its human temple, that soul could henceforth **energize** the whole world to a degree unapproached at any stage in the course of its existence on this planet.

(God Passes By, p. 244)

...a Revelation which, flowing out, in that extremely perilous hour, from His travailing soul, pierced the gloom that had settled upon that pestilential pit, and, bursting through its walls, and propagating itself as far as the ends of the earth, infused into the entire body of mankind its **boundless potentialities**, and is now under our very eyes, shaping the course of human society?

(God Passes By, p. 93)

3 *The Impact of the Creative Energies on Human Society*

Already in the space of less than a century the operation of the mysterious processes generated by its **creative spirit** has provoked a tumult in human society such as no mind can fathom. Itself undergoing a period of incubation during its primitive age, it has, through the emergence of its slowly-crystallizing system, induced a fermentation in the general life of mankind designed to shake the very foundations of a disordered society, to purify its life-blood, to reorientate and reconstruct its institutions, and shape its final destiny.

...To what agency, if not to the irresistible diffusion of that **world-shaking, world-energizing, world-redeeming spirit**, which the Báb has affirmed is “*vibrating in the innermost realities of all created things*” can the origins of this portentous crisis, incomprehensible to man, and admittedly unprecedented in the annals of the human race, be attributed? ...in these we can readily recognize the evidences of the travail of an age that has sustained the impact of His Revelation, that has ignored His summons, and is now laboring to be delivered of its burden, as a direct consequence of the impulse communicated to it by the **generative, the purifying, the transmuting influence of His Spirit**.

(God Passes By, p. xi)

The **disruptive forces** associated with humanity’s world-shaking ordeal are closely interrelated with the constructive potentialities inherent in the American believers’ Divinely-ordained Plan. Both are directly hastening the emergence of the spiritual World Order stirring in the womb of a travailing age.

(Messages to America, p. 42)

As the **administrative processes** expand, as their operation steadily improves, as their necessity is more fully and strikingly demonstrated, and their beneficent influence correspondingly grows more apparent and evident, so will the blessings, the strength and guidance bestowed by **Him Who animates and directs these processes** be more abundantly vouchsafed to those who have been called upon to utilize them, in this age, for the execution of God's Purpose and for the ultimate redemption of a sore-stricken travailing humanity. Many will be the setbacks, the shocks and the disturbances, which the commotions of a convulsive age must produce; yet no force, however violent and world-wide in its range and catastrophic in its immediate consequences, can either halt these processes or deflect their appointed course.

(Messages to America, p. 41)

For no matter how ignorant of the Source from which those **directing energies** proceed, and however slow and laborious the process, it is becoming increasingly evident that the nation as a whole, whether through the agency of its government or otherwise, is gravitating, under the influence of **forces** that it can neither comprehend nor control, towards such associations and policies, wherein, as indicated by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, her true destiny must lie. Both the community of the American believers, who are aware of that Source, and the great mass of their countrymen, who have not as yet recognized the Hand that directs their destiny, are contributing, each in its own way, to the realization of the hopes, and the fulfillment of the promises... of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

(The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 86)

4 *Revelation as a Source of Universal Ferment*

As we view the world around us, we are compelled to observe the manifold evidences of that universal fermentation which, in every continent of the globe and in every department of human life, be it religious, social, economic or political, is purging and reshaping humanity in anticipation of the Day when the wholeness of the human race will have been recognized and its unity established. A twofold process, however, can be distinguished, each tending, in its own way and with an accelerated momentum, to bring to a climax the **forces that are transforming the face of our planet**. The first is essentially an integrating process, while the second is fundamentally disruptive. The former, as it steadily evolves, unfolds a System which may well serve as a pattern for that world polity towards which a strangely-disordered world is continually advancing; while the latter, as its disintegrating influence deepens, tends to tear down, with increasing violence, the antiquated barriers that seek to block humanity's progress towards its destined goal. The constructive process stands associated with the nascent Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and is the harbinger of the New World Order that Faith must ere long establish. The **destructive forces** that characterize the other should be identified with a civilization that has refused to answer to the expectation of a new age, and is consequently falling into chaos and decline.

A titanic, a spiritual struggle, unparalleled in its magnitude yet unspeakably glorious in its ultimate consequences, is being waged as a result of these opposing tendencies, in this age of transition through which the organized community of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh and mankind as a whole are passing.

The Spirit that has incarnated itself in the institutions of a rising Faith has, in the course of its onward march for the redemption of the world, encountered and is now battling with such **forces** as are, in most instances, the very negation of that Spirit, and whose continued existence must inevitably hinder it from achieving its purpose. The

hollow and outworn institutions, the obsolescent doctrines and beliefs, the effete and discredited traditions which these **forces** represent, it should be observed, have, in certain instances, been undermined by virtue of their senility, the loss of their cohesive power, and their own inherent corruption. A few have been swept away by the **onrushing forces** which the Bahá'í Faith has, at the hour of its birth, so **mysteriously released**. Others, as a direct result of a vain and feeble resistance to its rise in the initial stages of its development, have died out and been utterly discredited. Still others, fearful of the pervasive influence of the institutions in which that same Spirit had, at a later stage, been embodied, had mobilized their forces and launched their attack, destined to sustain, in their turn, after a brief and illusory success, an ignominious defeat.

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 169)

From every fresh token of His unfailing blessing on the one hand, and of His visitation on the other, they cannot but derive immense hope and courage. Alert to seize every opportunity which the revolutions of the wheel of destiny within their Faith offers them, and undismayed by the prospect of **spasmodic convulsions that must sooner or later fatally affect those who have refused to embrace its light**, they, and those who will labor after them, must press forward until the **processes now set in motion will have each spent its force** and contributed its share towards the birth of the Order now stirring in the womb of a travailing age.

(The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 2)

The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh -- that priceless gem of Divine Revelation **enshrining the Spirit of God and incarnating His Purpose** for mankind in this age -- can neither aspire nor expect to escape unhurt amid the hurricane of human disasters that blows around it. By most men unnoticed, scorned and ridiculed by some, feared and challenged by others, this world redemptive Faith, for whose precious sake the world is undergoing such agonies, finds its virgin strength assailed, and its infant institutions hemmed in, by the **dark forces** which a godless civilization has unloosed over the face of the planet

(Messages to America, p. 46)

The weight of the potentialities with which this Faith...has been endowed, staggers our imagination...

Already in the space of less than a century the operation of the mysterious processes generated by its **creative spirit** has provoked a tumult in human society such as no mind can fathom. Itself undergoing a period of incubation during its primitive age, it has, through the emergence of its slowly-crystallizing system, induced a **fermentation** in the general life of mankind designed to shake the very foundations of a disordered society, to purify its life-blood, to reorientate and reconstruct its institutions, and shape its final destiny.

To what else can the observant eye or the unprejudiced mind, acquainted with the signs and portents heralding the birth, and accompanying the rise, of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh ascribe this dire, this planetary upheaval, with its attendant destruction, misery and fear, if not to the emergence of His embryonic World Order, which, as He Himself has unequivocally proclaimed, has “*deranged the equilibrium of the world and revolutionized mankind’s ordered life*”? To what agency, if not to the irresistible diffusion of that **world-shaking, world-energizing, world-redeeming spirit**, which the Báb has affirmed is “*vibrating in the innermost realities of all created things*” can the origins of this portentous crisis, incomprehensible to man, and admittedly unprecedented in the annals of the human race, be attributed? ...in these we can readily recognize the evidences of the travail of an age that has sustained the impact of His Revelation, that has ignored His summons, and is now laboring to be delivered of its burden, as a direct consequence of the impulse communicated to it by the **generative, the purifying, the transmuting influence of His Spirit**.

...the century that has seen this **Spirit** burst forth upon the world, as well as the initial stages of its subsequent incarnation in a System that must evolve into an Order designed to embrace the whole of mankind, and capable of fulfilling the high destiny that awaits man on this planet.

(*God Passes By*, p. xi-xii)

But it seems apparent that the great failure to respond to Bahá'u'lláh's instructions, appeals and warnings issued in the 19th century, has now sent the world along a path, or **released forces**, which must culminate in a still more violent upheaval and agony. The thing is out of hand, so to speak, and it is too late to avert catastrophic trials.

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 454)

The **creative energies** released at the hour of the birth of His Revelation, endowing mankind with the potentialities of the attainment of maturity are **deranging**, during the present transitional age, the **equilibrium** of the entire planet as the inevitable prelude to the consummation in world unity of the coming of age of the human race.

(Citadel of Faith, p. 81)

5 *The Progressive Release of Divine Energies*

Lastly the Holy Seed of infinite preciousness, holding within itself incalculable potentialities representing the culmination of the centuries-old process of the evolution of humanity through the **energies released** by the series of progressive Revelations starting with Adam and concluded by the Revelation of the Seal of the Prophets, marked by the successive appearance of the branches, leaves, buds, blossoms and plucked, after six brief years by the hand of destiny, ground in the mill of martyrdom and oppression but yielding the oil whose first flickering light cast upon the somber, subterranean walls of the Síyáh-Chál of Tihrán, whose fire gathered brilliance in Baghdád and shone in full resplendency in its crystal globe in Adrianople, whose rays warmed and illuminated the fringes of the American, European, Australian continents through the tender ministerings of the Center of the Covenant, whose **radiance** is now overspreading the surface of the globe during the present Formative Age, whose full **splendor** is destined in the course of future milleniums to **suffuse the entire planet**.

(Citadel of Faith, p. 82)

A process, God-impelled, endowed with measureless potentialities, mysterious in its workings, awful in the retribution meted out to every one seeking to resist its operation, infinitely rich in its promise for the regeneration and redemption of human kind, had been set in motion in Shíráz, had gained momentum successively in Tihrán, Baghdád, Adrianople and ‘Akká, had projected itself across the seas, poured its generative influences into the West, and manifested the initial evidences of its marvelous, **world-energizing force** in the midst of the North American continent.

(God Passes By, p. 402)

The Golden Age of the Faith itself that must witness the unification of all the peoples and nations of the world, the establishment of the Most Great Peace, the inauguration of the Kingdom of the Father upon earth, the coming of age of the entire human race and the birth of a world civilization, **inspired and directed by the creative energies released by Bahá'u'lláh's World Order**, shining in its meridian splendor

(God Passes By, p. 410)

...a civilization destined as it unfolds to derive its initial impulse from the **spirit** animating the very institutions which, in their embryonic state, are now stirring in the womb of the present Formative Age of the Faith.

(Messages to the Bahá'í World - 1950-1957, p. 75)

Who can visualize the realms which the human spirit, **vitalized by the outpouring light of Bahá'u'lláh**, shining in the plenitude of its glory, will discover?

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 205)

6 *The Crystallization of Creative Energies: The Emergence of World Order*

...the century that has seen **this Spirit** burst forth upon the world, as well as the initial stages of its subsequent **incarnation in a System** that must evolve into an Order designed to embrace the whole of mankind, and capable of fulfilling the high destiny that awaits man on this planet.

(God Passes By, p. xii)

The moment had now arrived for that undying, that **world-vitalizing Spirit**...to **incarnate** itself in institutions designed to canalize its outspreading **energies** and stimulate its growth.

(God Passes By, p. 324)

Few will fail to recognize that the **Spirit breathed** by Bahá'u'lláh upon the world, and which is manifesting itself with varying degrees of intensity through the efforts consciously displayed by His avowed supporters and indirectly through certain humanitarian organizations, can never permeate and exercise an abiding influence upon mankind unless and until it **incarnates itself in a visible Order**, which would bear His name, wholly identify itself with His principles, and function in conformity with His laws.

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 19)

The **onrushing forces** so **miraculously released** through the agency of two independent and swiftly successive Manifestations are now under our very eyes and through the care of the chosen stewards of a far-flung Faith **being gradually mustered and disciplined**. They are **slowly crystallizing into institutions** that will come to be regarded as the hall-mark and glory of the age we are called upon to establish and by our deeds immortalize.

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 98)

...this **healing Agency**, this **leavening Power**, this **cementing Force**, **intensely alive** and **all-pervasive**, has been **taking shape**, is **crystallizing into institutions**, is **mobilizing its forces**, and is preparing for the spiritual conquest and the complete redemption of mankind.

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 195)

...that World Order that must **incarnate the soul**, execute the laws, and fulfill the purpose of the Faith of God in this day.

(God Passes By, p. xiii)

To what else if not to the power and majesty which this Administrative Order -- the rudiments of the future all-enfolding Bahá'í Commonwealth -- is destined to manifest, can these utterances of Bahá'u'lláh allude: *“The world’s equilibrium hath been upset through the **vibrating influence** of this most great, this new World Order. Mankind’s ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System -- the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed.”*

(The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 146)

As the administrative processes expand, as their operation steadily improves, as their necessity is more fully and strikingly demonstrated, and their beneficent influence correspondingly grows more apparent and evident, so will the blessings, the strength and guidance bestowed by **Him Who animates and directs these processes** be more abundantly vouchsafed to those who have been called upon to utilize them, in this age, for the execution of God’s Purpose and for the ultimate redemption of a sore-stricken travailing humanity.

(Messages to America, p. 41)

Then and only then will this tender sapling, embedded in the fertile soil of a Divinely appointed Administrative Order, and **energized by the dynamic processes of its institutions**, yield its richest and destined fruit.

(Messages to America, p. 15)

In the Holy Land, the world seat of this System, where its heart pulsates, where the dust of its Founders reposes, where **the processes disclosing its purposes, energizing its life and shaping its destiny** all originate...

(God Passes By, p. 355)

And as I contemplate the far-reaching possibilities involved in a careful handling of **those forces** which Bahá'u'lláh's almighty arm has now released...

(Bahá'í Administration, p. 115)

The primary consideration is **the spirit** that has to **permeate** our economic life, and this will **gradually crystallize** itself into definite institutions and principles that will help to bring about the ideal condition foretold by Bahá'u'lláh.

(Directives from the Guardian, p. 20)

7 *The Forces of Darkness*

Let us pray to God that in these days of world-encircling gloom, when the **dark forces of nature, of hate, rebellion, anarchy and reaction** are threatening the very stability of human society, when the most precious fruits of civilization are undergoing severe and unparalleled tests, we may all realize, more profoundly than ever, that though but a mere handful amidst the seething masses of the world, we are in this day the chosen instruments of God's grace, that our mission is most urgent and vital to the fate of humanity, and, fortified by these sentiments, arise to achieve God's holy purpose for mankind.

(Bahá'í Administration, p. 52)

We know absence of light is darkness, but no one would assert darkness was not a fact. It exists even though it is only the absence of something else. So evil exists too, and we cannot close our eyes to it, even though it is a negative existence. We must seek to supplant it by good, and if we see an evil person is not influenceable by us, then we should shun his company for it is unhealthy.

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 457)

We have but to turn our eyes to the world without to realize the fierceness and the magnitude of the **forces of darkness** that are struggling with the dawning light of the Abhá Revelation. Nations, though exhausted and disillusioned, have seemingly begun to cherish anew the spirit of revenge, of domination, and strife. Peoples, convulsed by economic upheavals, are slowly drifting into two great opposing camps with all their menace of social chaos, class hatreds, and worldwide ruin. Races, alienated more than ever before, are filled with mistrust, humiliation and fear, and seem to prepare themselves for a fresh and fateful encounter. Creeds and religions, caught in this whirlpool of conflict and passion, appear to gaze with impotence and despair at this spectacle of unceasing turmoil.

(Bahá'í Administration, p. 67)

...as to evil, there is no doubt that it exerts a very strong influence both in this world and in the next.

(Lights of Guidance, p. 521)

They should therefore open their eyes to the existing conditions, study the **evil forces** that are at play and then with a concerted effort arise and bring about the necessary reforms - reforms that shall contain within their scope the spiritual as well as social and political phases of human life.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 13 March 1932)

There are **dark forces** in the world today of despair and hatred and suspicion; the believers must, as the Master said, turn their backs on these and their faces to Him, confident of His help and protection.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 9 August 1944)

The world is full of **evil and dark forces** and the friends must not permit these forces to get hold of them by thinking and feeling negatively towards each other....

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 442)

...when Bahá'ís permit the **dark forces of the world** to enter into their own relationships within the Faith they gravely jeopardize its progress.

(Letters from the Guardian to Australia and New Zealand, p. 54)

Evil forces do take control of our life, but it is within our power to free ourselves from falling under their subjection.

(Lights of Guidance, p. 520)

We have been told over and over again in the Teachings that the **forces of darkness** attack Bahá'ís; and it is these forces which are seeking to disrupt your national body. It is more important than individual feelings or side-taking. It is the disruptive, dark, evil powers let loose in the world through the godlessness of humanity that, through the human weaknesses of Bahá'ís, break forth into Assemblies, and often into communities, and seek to destroy the constructive things that the Bahá'ís are striving to accomplish.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, February 11, 1952)

It would be perhaps impossible to find a nation or people not in a state of crisis today. The materialism, the lack of true religion and the consequent **baser forces in human nature** which are being released, have brought the whole world to the brink of probably the greatest crisis it has ever faced or will have to face. The Bahá'ís are a part of the world. They too feel the great pressures which are brought to bear upon all people today, whoever and wherever they may be.

(Lights of Guidance, p. 131)

For Bahá'u'lláh has promised His Divine assistance to every one who arises with a pure and detached heart to spread His Holy Word, even though he may be bereft of every human knowledge and capacity, and notwithstanding the **forces of darkness and of opposition** which may be arrayed against him.

(Unfolding Destiny, p. 436)

He wishes you to persevere in your efforts and not be disheartened by the **forces of darkness** assailing you on every side. By the power of action and prayer, he feels certain, you will be able to overcome them all... He will surely keep, guide, and protect you through all the vicissitudes, test and trials of this mortal life.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, February 16, 1934)

The Bahá'í teacher must be all confidence. Therein lies his strength and the secret of his success. Though single-handed, and no matter how great the apathy of the people around you may be, you should have faith that the hosts of the Kingdom are on your side, and that through their help you are bound to overcome the **forces of darkness** that are facing the Cause of God. Persevere, be happy and confident, therefore.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 30 June 1937)

The believers, to better understand their own internal condition, should realize that the **forces of darkness** in the world are so prevalent and strong that their morbid and turbulent influence is felt by all. They should therefore consciously strive to be more loving, more united, more dedicated and prayerful than ever before, in order to fight against the atmosphere of present day society which is unloving, disunited, careless of right and wrong, and heedless of God.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, March 20, 1946)

8 *Divine Energies and the*

Individual Believer

Assured and content that he is exerting his utmost in a conscious effort to approach nearer every day the lofty station to which his gracious Master summons him, let him turn to his second task, and, with befitting confidence and vigor, assail the **devastating power of those forces** which in his own heart he has already succeeded in subduing. Fully alive to the unfailing efficacy of the **power of Bahá'u'lláh**, and armed with the essential weapons of wise restraint and inflexible resolve, let him wage a constant fight against the inherited tendencies, the corruptive instincts, the fluctuating fashions, the false pretences of the society in which he lives and moves.

(Bahá'í Administration, p. 130)

No true and faithful Bahá'í should in this day remain idle or seek what would give him comfort or even inner satisfaction. We should be constantly assailing the **forces of darkness** that have enveloped the earth and hasten the dawn of the new day foretold by Bahá'u'lláh.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 19 April 1933)

The Cause of God is endowed with **tremendous powers**, and the reason the believers do not gain more from it is because they have not learned to draw fully on these **mighty forces of love and strength and harmony** generated by the Faith.

(Directives from the Guardian, p. 27)

...most important of all, its **spiritual driving force** must be constantly reinforced through a firmer grasp by the individuals, ultimately responsible for its progress, of the distinguishing verities and fundamental purposes of their Faith, through a fuller dedication to its glorious Mission, and through a closer communion with its **animating Spirit**.

(Messages to the Bahá'í World - 1950-1957, p. 119)

The condition of the world necessitates that not a single one of us sit idly, but arise and carry the hope and cheer that our message has, to every home. Consider the importance the Master lays upon teaching and the way, in His last will, He bids us leave our abode and, like the disciples of Christ, spread the Cause until the last breath of our life. He surely knew the troubled days the world is facing and desired to see His faithful followers, as the army of goodness, assail the **forces of evil**, which have been obtaining ascendancy throughout the different continents. He is now watching our movements with great expectations. Let us remain true to our oath of servitude and do our utmost for the rapid realization of His cherished hopes.

(Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, April 2, 1933)

The friends must, at all times, bear in mind that they are, in a way, like soldiers under attack. The world is at present in an exceedingly dark condition spiritually; hatred and prejudice of every sort are literally tearing it to pieces. We, on the other hand, are the custodians of the **opposite forces, the forces of love, of unity, of peace and integration**, and we must continually be on our guard, whether as individuals or as an Assembly or Community, lest through us these **destructive, negative forces** enter into our midst. In other words, we must beware lest the darkness of society become reflected in our acts and attitudes, perhaps all unconsciously. Love for each other, the deep sense that we are a new organism, the dawn-breakers of a new World Order, must constantly animate our Bahá'í lives, and we must pray to be protected from the contamination of society which is so diseased with prejudice.

(*Directives from the Guardian*, p. 41)

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“...soar high toward the apex of heaven so that your blessed hearts may become illumined more and more, day by day, through the rays of the Sun of Reality...at every moment the spirits may obtain a new life, and the darkness of the world of nature may be entirely dispelled; thus you may become incarnate light and personified spirit...”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá