

Extract from a Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

O daughter of the Kingdom! Thy letter was received and its contents noted. It gave evidence of thine ardent supplications and proof of thine attraction and enkindlement. How great is thy blessedness that thou art in such a state and steadfast to such an extent. O daughter of the Kingdom! The Lord of the Kingdom, the Sun of Truth, cast one ray of His effulgent splendour upon the universe and, through the radiance of that light, all creation came into being and stepped forth into the realm of existence. All created things are as reflecting surfaces upon which the Sun of Truth hath shed the light of its grace. All these surfaces are mirrors and tell of the Sun of Truth. Its grace is one and its radiance is one, but these divers mirrors are different. Some, in the utmost purity and clarity, reflect the rays of the Sun of Truth, and the effulgence of the Sun shineth through them, visible and manifest. Others are stained with dust and grime and therefore remain bereft and deprived of this grace.

The beloved of God are as polished mirrors that reflect, with great clarity and purity, the rays of the world’s great Luminary. There are others who are like dusty stones and clods of earth, particularly those who are characterized by hatred and enmity, by tyranny and injustice, and by ignorant prejudice. Such people are so tarnished with dust that they have become like dull pebbles on which the light of the sun produceth no radiance or reflection. Yet, such mirrors as have been deprived of this grace must not be considered aliens and strangers, or seen as enemies, or accounted as savages. Rather, they must, with the utmost love and kindness, be accounted as members of one’s own family. They must not be called strangers, but friends, nor considered aliens, but companions. One must educate them, care for them, console them, and guide them unto heavenly qualities, so that the dust may be cleared from the surface of those mirrors and the light of the Sun of Truth may shine brilliantly.

O daughter of the Kingdom! Beware, beware, lest thou regard anyone as a stranger, even though he be the most savage being on earth and utterly bereft of the knowledge of God, or even an avowed enemy. Seek rather to be at one with him, and wish for him freedom and wisdom, so that all this hatred and malice, animosity and treachery, cruelty and enmity, falsehood and slander, arrogance and rebellion may be completely obliterated, and that the world may become the Abhá paradise, the realm of existence may become the Kingdom of heaven, the human race may become angelic, and all people may manifest the bestowals of the most glorious Lord. This is the bounty of the human world; this is God’s holy guidance.

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá