




THE COMING OF AGE OF THE HUMAN RACE!

HUMANITY'S PASSAGE INTO MATURITY!



THE INDIVIDUAL, THE INSTITUTION, AND THE COMMUNITY
(RECAP)

THE THREE PROTAGONISTS





THE INDIVIDUAL

- THE DESIRE TO ADVANCE ONESELF OVER OTHERS AS A MOTIVATING FORCE IN ONE'S LIFE IS A DEFECT OF HUMAN CHARACTER THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS BEING PROMOTED BY CERTAIN SOCIAL THEORIES AS A PRAISEWORTHY TRAIT. AGGRESSION AND UNBRIDLED COMPETITION ARE CONSIDERED INHERENT TO THE HUMAN CONDITION. IT IS EVEN BELIEVED THAT SOCIETY IS BEST SERVED IF EACH INDIVIDUAL PURSUES HIS OR HER OWN SELF-INTEREST; THE EUPHEMISM "ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST" IS USED TO COVER UP THE INADEQUACIES OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS BUILT ON COMPETITION

INSTITUTIONS

- THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THE INTERESTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL HAVE CLASHED WITH THOSE OF INSTITUTIONS. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES AND IDEOLOGIES RISE AND FALL, EACH EXPRESSING A DISTINCT PERSPECTIVE ON THIS RELATIONSHIP. DOES THE INDIVIDUAL EXIST TO SERVE THE AIMS OF THE STATE? DOES THE STATE EXIST TO GUARANTEE MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM? TENSION ARISES BECAUSE THE NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONS ARE PERCEIVED TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO ONE ANOTHER.



COMMUNITIES

- CAPACITY BUILDING IS BUILT UPON THE EVER-INCREASING EXERCISE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL INITIATIVE. THE DESIRE TO ADVANCE ONESELF OVER OTHERS AS A MOTIVATING FORCE IN ONE'S LIFE IS A DEFECT OF HUMAN CHARACTER THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS BEING PROMOTED BY CERTAIN SOCIAL THEORIES AS A PRAISEWORTHY TRAIT. AGGRESSION AND UNBRIDLED COMPETITION ARE CONSIDERED INHERENT TO THE HUMAN CONDITION. IT IS EVEN BELIEVED THAT SOCIETY IS BEST SERVED IF EACH INDIVIDUAL PURSUES HIS OR HER OWN SELF-INTEREST; THE EUPHEMISM "ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST" IS USED TO COVER UP THE INADEQUACIES OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS BUILT ON COMPETITION



SHIFTING TO AN ENLIGHTENED UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE.

- THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THESE THREE PROTAGONISTS IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVILIZATION HAS TO BE RECOGNIZED AND OLD PARADIGMS OF CONFLICT, IN WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, INSTITUTIONS DEMAND SUBMISSION WHILE INDIVIDUALS' CLAMOR FOR FREEDOM, NEED TO BE REPLACED WITH MORE PROFOUND CONCEPTIONS OF THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES TO BE PLAYED BY EACH IN BUILDING A BETTER WORLD.

CHANGE IN
MIND BECOMES
CHANGE IN
DEED, AND
THEN CHANGE
IN THE WORLD!

- [THE]...ANTIQUATED FORMS OF BELIEF AND ANCESTRAL IMITATIONS WHICH ARE AT VARIANCE WITH THE FOUNDATIONS OF DIVINE REALITY MUST ALSO PASS AWAY AND BE REFORMED.
- 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ, "THE PROMULGATION OF UNIVERSAL PEACE", 54.2
- [HTTPS://LNKER.COM/RRDPR](https://lnker.com/rrdpr)



CONSCIOUSNESS AS THE BASIS OF MATURE ACTION

- THE POWER OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S REVELATION HAS ENGENDERED A METAMORPHOSIS IN HUMANITY'S COLLECTIVE LIFE—VAST, STEADY, AND IRRESISTIBLE.
- [IT]...HAS PROVOKED A TUMULT IN HUMAN SOCIETY SUCH AS NO MIND CAN FATHOM.
- SHOGHI EFFENDI, "GOD PASSES BY", F.2
- [HTTPS://LNKER.COM/TADTC](https://lnker.com/tadtc)

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ, ELUCIDATING THIS FUNDAMENTAL VERITY, HAS WRITTEN:



"ALL CREATED THINGS HAVE THEIR DEGREE OR STAGE OF MATURITY. THE PERIOD OF MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF A TREE IS THE TIME OF ITS FRUIT-BEARING... THE ANIMAL ATTAINS A STAGE OF FULL GROWTH AND COMPLETENESS, AND IN THE HUMAN KINGDOM MAN REACHES HIS MATURITY WHEN THE LIGHT OF HIS INTELLIGENCE ATTAINS ITS GREATEST POWER AND DEVELOPMENT... SIMILARLY THERE ARE PERIODS AND STAGES IN THE COLLECTIVE LIFE OF HUMANITY. AT ONE TIME IT WAS PASSING THROUGH ITS STAGE OF CHILDHOOD, AT ANOTHER ITS PERIOD OF YOUTH, BUT NOW IT HAS ENTERED ITS LONG-PREDICTED PHASE OF MATURITY, THE EVIDENCES OF WHICH ARE EVERYWHERE APPARENT... THAT WHICH WAS APPLICABLE TO HUMAN NEEDS DURING THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE RACE CAN NEITHER MEET NOR SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THIS DAY, THIS PERIOD OF NEWNESS AND CONSUMMATION. HUMANITY HAS EMERGED FROM ITS FORMER STATE OF LIMITATION AND PRELIMINARY TRAINING. MAN MUST NOW BECOME IMBUED WITH NEW VIRTUES AND POWERS, NEW MORAL STANDARDS, NEW CAPACITIES. NEW BOUNTIES, PERFECT BESTOWALS, ARE AWAITING AND ALREADY DESCENDING UPON HIM. THE GIFTS AND BLESSINGS OF THE PERIOD OF YOUTH, ALTHOUGH TIMELY AND SUFFICIENT DURING THE ADOLESCENCE OF MANKIND, ARE NOW INCAPABLE OF MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF ITS MATURITY."¹


THE STAGE OF ADOLESCENCE

- THE LONG AGES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD, THROUGH WHICH THE HUMAN RACE HAD TO PASS, HAVE RECEDED INTO THE BACKGROUND. HUMANITY IS NOW EXPERIENCING THE COMMOTIONS INVARIABLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOST TURBULENT STAGE OF ITS EVOLUTION, THE STAGE OF ADOLESCENCE, WHEN THE IMPETUOSITY OF YOUTH AND ITS VEHEMENCE REACH THEIR CLIMAX, AND MUST GRADUALLY BE SUPERSEDED BY THE CALMNESS, THE WISDOM, AND THE MATURITY THAT CHARACTERIZE THE STAGE OF MANHOOD...

AGE OF AGES

THE AGES OF ITS INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD ARE PAST, NEVER AGAIN TO RETURN, WHILE THE GREAT AGE, THE CONSUMMATION OF ALL AGES, WHICH MUST SIGNALIZE THE COMING OF AGE OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE, IS YET TO COME. THE CONVULSIONS OF THIS TRANSITIONAL AND MOST TURBULENT PERIOD IN THE ANNALS OF HUMANITY ARE THE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES, AND HERALD THE INEVITABLE APPROACH, OF THAT AGE OF AGES, "THE TIME OF THE END," IN WHICH THE FOLLY AND TUMULT OF STRIFE THAT HAS, SINCE THE DAWN OF HISTORY, BLACKENED THE ANNALS OF MANKIND, WILL HAVE BEEN FINALLY TRANSMUTED INTO THE WISDOM AND THE TRANQUILITY OF AN UNDISTURBED, A UNIVERSAL, AND LASTING PEACE, IN WHICH THE DISCORD AND SEPARATION OF THE CHILDREN OF MEN WILL HAVE GIVEN WAY TO THE WORLDWIDE RECONCILIATION, AND THE COMPLETE UNIFICATION OF THE DIVERS ELEMENTS THAT CONSTITUTE HUMAN SOCIETY.[3](#)

(THE PROMISED DAY IS COME)



TODAYS ILLUMINED AND SPIRITUAL CHILDREN ARE THE PIVOTAL POINT OF MATURITY

“...EXCEPT YE BE CONVERTED, AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN, YE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”—THAT IS, MEN MUST BECOME PURE IN HEART TO KNOW GOD. THE TEACHINGS HAVE HAD GREAT EFFECT. SPIRITUAL SOULS! TENDER SOULS! THE HEARTS OF ALL CHILDREN ARE OF THE UTMOST PURITY. THEY ARE MIRRORS UPON WHICH NO DUST HAS FALLEN. BUT THIS PURITY IS ON ACCOUNT OF WEAKNESS AND INNOCENCE, NOT ON ACCOUNT OF ANY STRENGTH AND TESTING, FOR AS THIS IS THE EARLY PERIOD OF THEIR CHILDHOOD, THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS ARE UNSULLIED BY THE WORLD. THEY CANNOT DISPLAY ANY GREAT INTELLIGENCE. THEY HAVE NEITHER HYPOCRISY NOR DECEIT. THIS IS ON ACCOUNT OF THE CHILD’S WEAKNESS, WHEREAS THE MAN BECOMES PURE THROUGH HIS STRENGTH. THROUGH THE POWER OF INTELLIGENCE HE BECOMES SIMPLE; THROUGH THE GREAT POWER OF REASON AND UNDERSTANDING AND NOT THROUGH THE POWER OF WEAKNESS HE BECOMES SINCERE” [5](#)

(THE PROMULGATION OF UNIVERSAL PEACE)

WWW.BAHAI.ORG/R/785172279

'ABDU'L-BAHA FURTHER STRESSES THAT THE SAME DIVINE TRAITS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDHOOD

...SUCH AS PURITY OF HEART, HONESTY, AND
SINCERITY, MUST DISTINGUISH THE ADULT—NOT
THROUGH INNOCENCE, BUT THROUGH DELIBERATE
EFFORT AND THE EXERCISE OF ONE'S POWERS.



WITH HEART AND SOUL – THE INDIVIDUAL

...SO IT IS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL, WITH NO REGARD FOR “PERSONAL BENEFITS AND SELFISH ADVANTAGES,” COMES TO SEE HIM- OR HERSELF AS “ONE OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, THE ALL-POSSESSING,” WHOSE ONLY DESIRE IS TO CARRY OUT HIS LAWS. SO IT IS THAT THE FRIENDS COME TO RECOGNIZE THAT “WEALTH OF SENTIMENT, ABUNDANCE OF GOOD-WILL AND EFFORT” ARE OF LITTLE AVAIL WHEN THEIR FLOW IS NOT DIRECTED ALONG PROPER CHANNELS, THAT “THE UNFETTERED FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE TEMPERED WITH MUTUAL CONSULTATION AND SACRIFICE,” AND THAT “THE SPIRIT OF INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY A DEEPER REALIZATION OF THE SUPREME NECESSITY FOR CONCERTED ACTION AND A FULLER DEVOTION TO THE COMMON WEAL...”⁶

(28 DECEMBER 2010 – TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTINENTAL BOARDS OF COUNSELLORS)

WWW.BAHAI.ORG/R/876815088

WITH HEART AND SOUL – THE INDIVIDUAL

"... AND SO IT IS THAT ALL COME TO DISCERN WITH EASE THOSE AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL CAN BEST EXERCISE INITIATIVE AND THOSE WHICH FALL TO THE INSTITUTIONS ALONE. "WITH HEART AND SOUL", THE FRIENDS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVES OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS, SO THAT, AS 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ EXPLAINS, "THINGS MAY BE PROPERLY ORDERED AND WELL ARRANGED". THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT A BLIND OBEDIENCE; IT IS AN OBEDIENCE THAT MARKS THE EMERGENCE OF A MATURE HUMAN RACE WHICH GRASPS THE IMPLICATIONS OF A SYSTEM AS FAR-REACHING AS BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S NEW WORLD ORDER.⁶

(28 DECEMBER 2010 – TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTINENTAL BOARDS OF COUNSELLORS)

WWW.BAHAI.ORG/R/876815088

MATURATION OF HUMANITY'S COLLECTIVE EXISTENCE

WE NEED TO THINK MORE ABOUT HUMANITY'S MATURATION AS WE EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ABOVE QUOTATIONS. WE MIGHT START BY CONSIDERING THE CHANGES THAT OCCUR WHEN A PERSON LEAVES BEHIND THEIR CHILDHOOD HABITS AND MOVE TOWARDS MORE MATURE BEHAVIORS.



PURSUIT OF SELF- INTEREST

TODAY, ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE INDULGING IN SELF-INTEREST AND EXERT THE UTMOST EFFORT AND ENDEAVOR TO PROMOTE THEIR OWN MATERIAL INTERESTS. THEY ARE WORSHIPPING THEMSELVES AND NOT THE DIVINE REALITY, NOR THE WORLD OF MANKIND. THEY SEEK DILIGENTLY THEIR OWN BENEFIT AND NOT THE COMMON WEAL. THIS IS BECAUSE THEY ARE CAPTIVES OF THE WORLD OF NATURE AND UNAWARE OF THE DIVINE TEACHINGS, OF THE BOUNTY OF THE KINGDOM AND OF THE SUN OF TRUTH.^Z

(SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ)

WWW.BAHAI.ORG/R/408524523



WHAT CRITERIA WILL WE USE TO MAKE OUR DECISIONS?

"WHAT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD" HAS BECOME A CRUCIAL CRITERION BY WHICH JUDGMENTS REGARDING RIGHT AND WRONG—INDEED, MOST MATTERS IN LIFE—ARE MADE IN TODAY'S CULTURE.



DISTRACTION GIVES WAY TO FOCUS

WE FREQUENTLY REFER TO A CHILD'S ABILITY TO BE QUICKLY DISTRACTED. THIS INCLINATION GIVES WAY TO THE ABILITY TO FOCUS, PRIORITIZE, AND SUSTAIN PURPOSEFUL ACTION AS ONE GROWS OLDER.



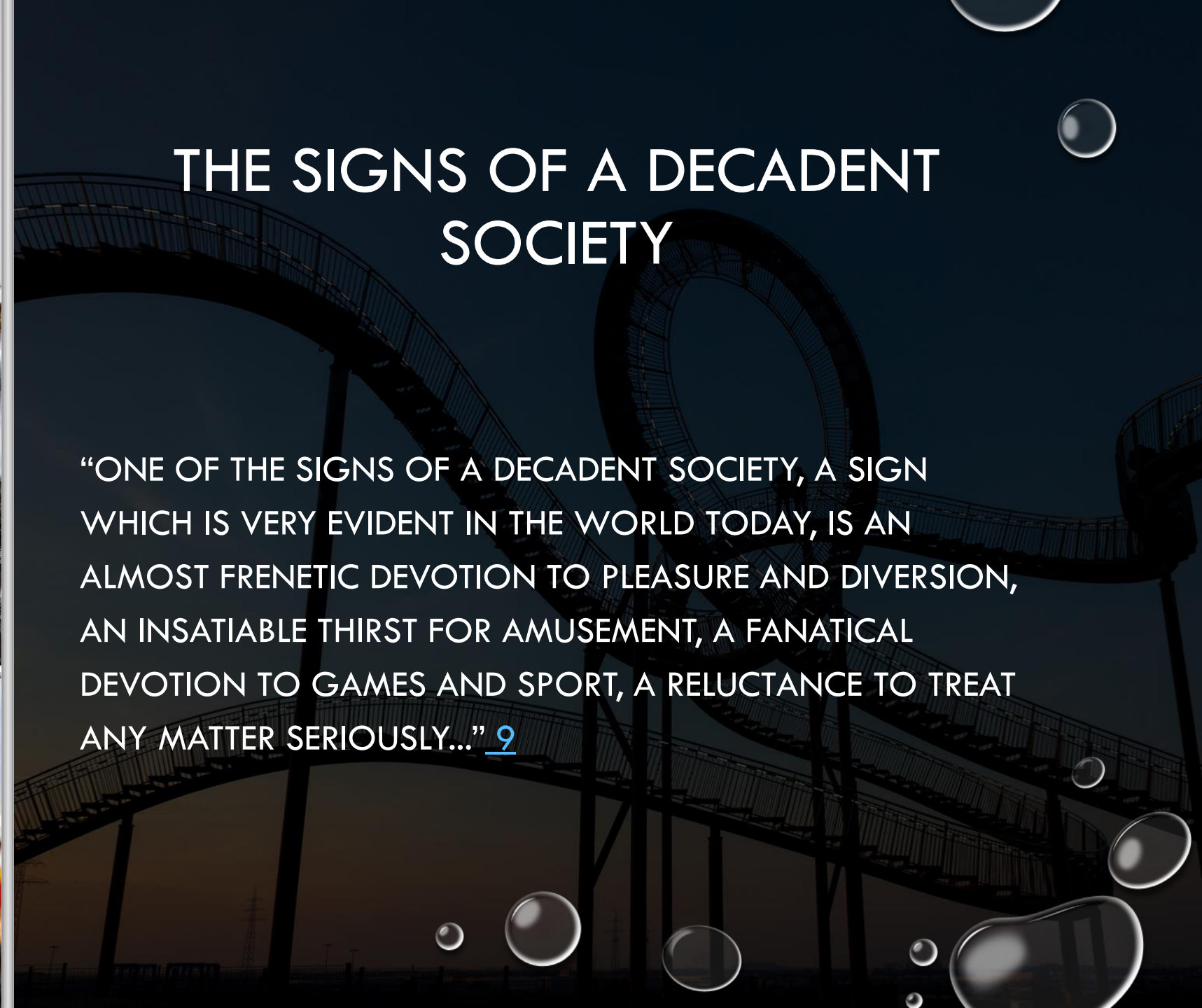
IT IS A HARD JOB

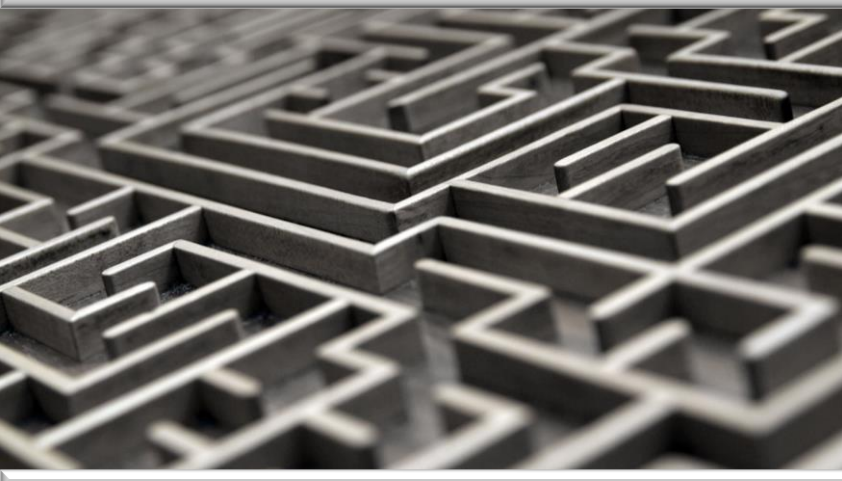
“PEOPLE TODAY INDEED DO TEND TO BE VERY SUPERFICIAL IN THEIR THINKING, AND IT WOULD SEEM AS IF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS IN USE ARE SORELY LACKING IN ABILITY TO PRODUCE A MATURE MIND IN A PERSON WHO HAS REACHED SUPPOSEDLY ADULT LIFE! ALL THE OUTSIDE INFLUENCES THAT SURROUND THE INDIVIDUAL SEEM TO HAVE AN INTENSELY DISTRACTING EFFECT, AND IT IS A HARD JOB TO GET THE AVERAGE PERSON TO DO ANY DEEP THINKING OR EVEN A LITTLE MEDITATION ON THE PROBLEMS FACING HIM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.⁸



THE SIGNS OF A DECADENT SOCIETY

“ONE OF THE SIGNS OF A DECADENT SOCIETY, A SIGN WHICH IS VERY EVIDENT IN THE WORLD TODAY, IS AN ALMOST FRENETIC DEVOTION TO PLEASURE AND DIVERSION, AN INSATIABLE THIRST FOR AMUSEMENT, A FANATICAL DEVOTION TO GAMES AND SPORT, A RELUCTANCE TO TREAT ANY MATTER SERIOUSLY...” [9](#)



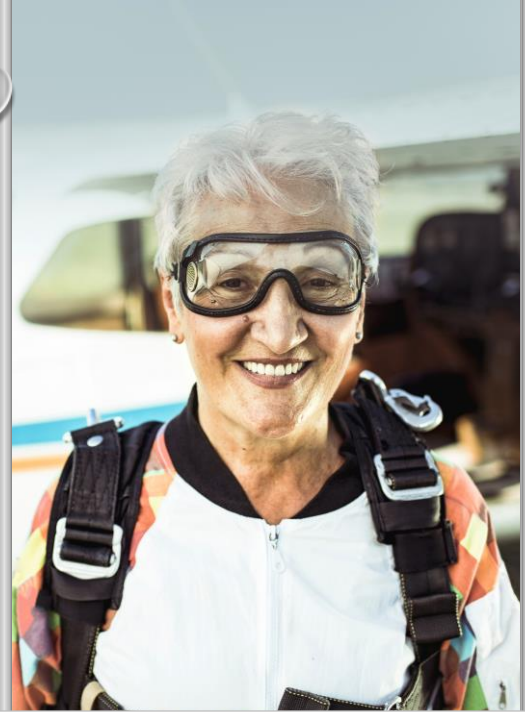


SUPERFICIAL EMOTIONS

PASSIVITY IS BRED BY THE FORCES OF SOCIETY TODAY. A DESIRE TO BE ENTERTAINED IS NURTURED FROM CHILDHOOD, WITH INCREASING EFFICIENCY, CULTIVATING GENERATIONS WILLING TO BE LED BY WHOEVER PROVES SKILFUL AT APPEALING TO SUPERFICIAL EMOTIONS.[10](#)

(RIDVÁN 2010 – TO THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE WORLD)

WWW.BAHAI.ORG/R/432258610



WHAT FORCES WILL
OPPOSE AND
EVENTUALLY
NEUTRALIZE THEM?

CONSIDER SUPERFICIALITY AND
PASSIVITY AS EXAMPLES AND
ANALYZE HOW THESE CONTRIBUTE
TO THE INCLINATION TO BE
DISTRACTED. WHAT ARE SOME OF
THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL,
AND CULTURAL FACTORS THAT KEEP
PEOPLE OCCUPIED? AS MANKIND
PROGRESSES INTO MATURITY, WHAT
FORCES WILL OPPOSE AND
EVENTUALLY NEUTRALIZE THEM?



CRASS MATERIALISM

WHICH LAYS EXCESSIVE AND EVER-INCREASING EMPHASIS ON MATERIAL WELL-BEING, FORGETFUL OF THOSE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT ON WHICH ALONE A SURE AND STABLE FOUNDATION CAN BE LAID FOR HUMAN SOCIETY. IT IS THIS SAME CANCEROUS MATERIALISM, BORN ORIGINALLY IN EUROPE, CARRIED TO EXCESS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, CONTAMINATING THE ASIATIC PEOPLES AND NATIONS, SPREADING ITS OMINOUS TENTACLES TO THE BORDERS OF AFRICA, AND NOW INVADING ITS VERY HEART, WHICH BAHÁ'U'LLÁH IN UNEQUIVOCAL AND EMPHATIC LANGUAGE DENOUNCED IN HIS WRITINGS... 11

[RÚHÍYYIH RABBANI, "THE PRICELESS PEARL", 1.4.37](#)





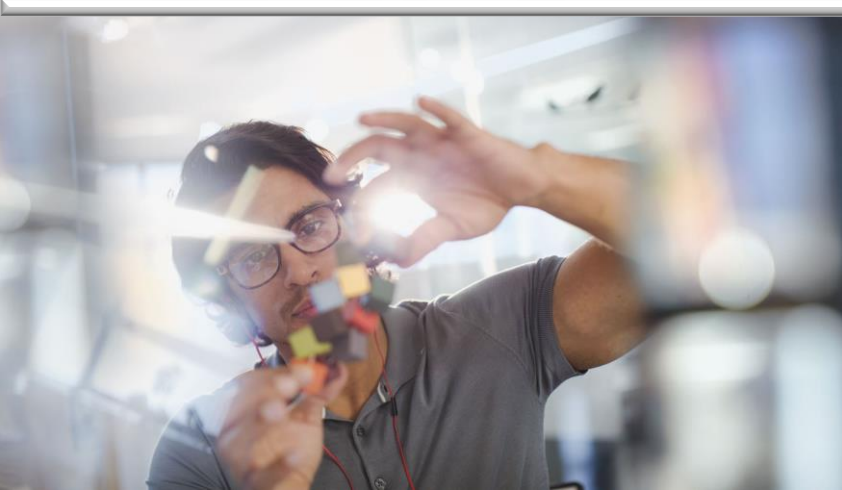
THE EXAGGERATION OF MISTRUST

IN GENERAL ONE CAN SAY THAT MODERN DEMOCRACIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AS THE OUTCOME OF ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT THE POWER OF ABSOLUTE MONARCHY, OF DICTATORSHIPS, OR OF CERTAIN DOMINANT CLASSES. THIS MAY HAVE COME ABOUT GRADUALLY THROUGH THE CENTURIES, OR TUMULTUOUSLY BY A SERIES OF REVOLUTIONS. THUS, EVEN WHEN DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, THERE REMAINS A SUSPICION OF AUTHORITY AS SUCH, AND A TENSION BETWEEN THE DEGREE OF FREEDOM ACCORDED TO INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND THE IMPOSITION OF SUFFICIENT PUBLIC DISCIPLINE TO PROTECT THE WEAK AGAINST THE SELFISH PURSUITS OF THE STRONG AMONG THE CITIZENRY...[12](#)

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND ROLE OF THE PRESS IN A NEW WORLD SYSTEM ARE CONSPICUOUS IN THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE ORDER OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH PLACES ON ACCESSIBILITY TO INFORMATION AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. SHOGHI EFFENDI TELLS US THAT BAHÁ'U'LLÁH MAKES "SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO 'THE SWIFTLY APPEARING NEWSPAPERS', DESCRIBES THEM AS 'THE MIRROR OF THE WORLD' AND AS 'AN AMAZING AND POTENT PHENOMENON', AND PRESCRIBES TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PRODUCTION THE DUTY TO BE SANCTIFIED FROM MALICE, PASSION AND PREJUDICE, TO BE JUST AND FAIR-MINDED, TO BE PAINSTAKING IN THEIR INQUIRIES, AND ASCERTAIN ALL THE FACTS IN EVERY SITUATION".

ON AIR





39. IN HIS SOCIAL TREATISE, "THE SECRET OF DIVINE CIVILIZATION", 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ OFFERS INSIGHT AS TO THE INDISPENSABILITY OF THE PRESS IN FUTURE SOCIETY. HE SAYS IT IS "URGENT THAT BENEFICIAL ARTICLES AND BOOKS BE WRITTEN, CLEARLY AND DEFINITELY ESTABLISHING WHAT THE PRESENT-DAY REQUIREMENTS OF THE PEOPLE ARE, AND WHAT WILL CONDUCE TO THE HAPPINESS AND ADVANCEMENT OF SOCIETY". FURTHER, HE WRITES OF THE "PUBLICATION OF HIGH THOUGHTS" AS THE "DYNAMIC POWER IN THE ARTERIES OF LIFE", "THE VERY SOUL OF THE WORLD". MOREOVER, HE STATES THAT, "PUBLIC OPINION MUST BE DIRECTED TOWARD WHATEVER IS WORTHY OF THIS DAY, AND THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE EXCEPT THROUGH THE USE OF ADEQUATE ARGUMENTS AND THE ADDUCING OF CLEAR, COMPREHENSIVE AND CONCLUSIVE PROOFS.



¶40. AS TO MANNER AND STYLE, BAHÁ'U'LLÁH HAS EXHORTED "AUTHORS AMONG THE FRIENDS" TO "WRITE IN SUCH A WAY AS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO FAIR-MINDED SOULS, AND NOT LEAD TO CAVILLING BY THE PEOPLE". AND HE ISSUES A REMINDER: "WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT ONE WORD HATH THE INFLUENCE OF SPRING AND CAUSETH HEARTS TO BECOME FRESH AND VERDANT, WHILE ANOTHER IS LIKE UNTO BLIGHT WHICH CAUSETH THE BLOSSOMS AND FLOWERS TO WITHER."



¶41. IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THIS, THE CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE PRESS MUST EMBRACE THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF CONSULTATION AS REVEALED BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH. ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL THE PRESS BE ABLE TO MAKE ITS FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AND BECOME A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES OF SOCIETY, AND HENCE FOR THE UNITY OF THE HUMAN RACE.[13](#)



POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPAGANDA HAS BECOME A POWERFUL FORCE IN SOCIETY. BEHIND IT IS A COMPLEX MACHINERY SUPPORTED BY A GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF MASS PSYCHOLOGY; PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE ARE GETTING ADDICTED TO AND CONDITIONED TO RESPOND TO ITS IMPULSES. HOW WILL HUMANITY'S MATURATION PROCESS COUNTERACT THIS TENDENCY?



TWO KEY FEATURES FOR THE MATURITY OF HUMANITY

THE PRECEDING SLIDES WERE INTENDED TO HIGHLIGHT ONLY A FEW OF THE NUMEROUS TRAITS OF OUR PERIOD THAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO MAKE WAY TO OTHER ONES THAT ARE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR HUMANITY'S STAGE OF MATURITY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TWO FEATURES THAT DESERVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN THIS SECTION.

- THE FIRST IS A PROCLIVITY FOR THINKING AND ACTING IN EXTREMES.
- THE SECOND IS THE PRACTICE OF REDUCING IDEAS TO SIMPLE, INFLEXIBLE STATEMENTS AND THEN PITTING THEM AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

THESE TWO TRAITS ARE SIMILAR BUT NOT IDENTICAL.