

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

November 3, 2019

To the American Bahá'í community
for the Feast of Qudrat

Dearly loved Friends,

Eighteen months are all that remains of the current Five Year Plan, but they promise to be—so the Universal House of Justice has told us—a time of special potency. The diverse commemorations of the bicentenary of the Báb's Birth just days ago showed us abundant proof of new capacities developing in the worldwide community of the Greatest Name and of a commensurate outpouring of wondrous new spiritual powers.

The news and images we continue to receive from hundreds of celebrations in every corner of our country prove this to have been no less true here, and we will assuredly share highlights of these with you in subsequent messages. Meanwhile, we ask you to devote a portion of your consultations at this Feast to reflection on your recent activities and their implications for advancing the aims of the Plan. How will you further your relationships with friends and contacts who attended this year's events in such a way that more will join in our community-building work? How will we together establish communities that reflect a new pattern of life founded on unity and justice? We feel sure your reflections will be mindful of the Supreme Body's remarks on the bicentenary:

Above all, these are communities that define themselves by their commitment to the oneness of humanity. They value the rich diversity represented by all the world's kindreds, while maintaining that one's identity as a member of the human race has precedence before other identities and associations. They affirm the need for a global consciousness, arising from a shared concern for the well-being of humankind, and they count all the peoples of the earth as spiritual brothers and sisters. Not content with simply belonging to such communities, Bahá'u'lláh's followers are making constant effort to invite like-minded souls to join them in learning how to put His teachings into effect.

We are all keenly aware of the depths of divisiveness and despair into which our society is steadily sinking. Such awareness adds great urgency to our efforts:

Let every one who is awake to the condition of the world, and to the persistent evils that warp the lives of its inhabitants, heed Bahá'u'lláh's call to selfless and steadfast service—heroism for the present age. What else will rescue the world but the efforts of countless souls who each make the welfare of humanity their principal, their dominating concern?

Be assured our warm admiration, our abiding love and gratitude, and our unceasing prayers surround and support each and every one of you.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary