

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

March 19, 2020

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

Dearly loved Friends,

With joy and boundless love, we greet you on the opening of this New Year, a season when the world of Nature reflects the same freshness, light, and sweet savors that have filled the spiritual world to overflowing ever since the coming of this Divine Springtime. We invite you on this special occasion to pause from your labors and join us in marveling on the magnificence of this Age and the impact of the life-giving Revelation of the Sun of Truth – Bahá'u'lláh.

Like a seedling – tender, but staunch and unbending – the Bahá'í Revelation broke through the cold, barren, and inhospitable soil of the land of its Birth. Despite the fierce opposition it met and the countless adversities it has suffered, through the devoted and sacrificial effort of its adherents the young tree of this Cause has today extended its branches over all parts of the earth. Strong and resilient, it is steadily readying itself to bear the fruits of a new World Order.

Any person with unbiased eyes cannot but gaze with admiration and wonder at the nature of the community Bahá'u'lláh's unifying teachings have created, a community embracing people from every land and of every conceivable origin, now learning to walk side by side with their fellow humans in a spirit of genuine love and common quest for the betterment of the world. Protected and sustained by a mighty Covenant, led by a Universal House of Justice whose pronouncements are rendered unerring through the ever-present guidance and protection of the King of Glory and His Exalted Herald, this blessed community is united in purpose and is gaining daily in strength and capacity. It is a proud and visionary community, devoted heart and soul to recognition of the equality and dignity of all of the children of God and to the full development of each and every member's unique potential.

Though storms of tests may sweep the globe with ever-greater severity, this community's faith is firm that their clouds will ultimately break and dissolve. Our history has already shown us in a multitude of ways that the tree of this Cause will never be toppled nor prevented from achieving its divinely ordained destiny to gather the whole of humanity beneath its sheltering shade. Our task is to carry on, supremely confident in the promises of the Beloved of the World and in perfect fidelity to the Institution He established to serve as a "last refuge of a tottering civilization." Let us continue to press forward, then, till we gain the ultimate victory!

As the beloved Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, counseled us:

The doors of the Kingdom are opened. The lights of the Sun of Truth are shining. The clouds of divine mercy are raining down their priceless jewels. The zephyrs of a new and divine springtime are wafting their fragrant breaths from the invisible world. Know ye then the value of these days.

Awake ye to the realization of this heavenly opportunity. Strive with all the power of your souls, your deeds, actions and words to assist the spread of these glad tidings and the descent of this merciful bounty. You are the reality and expression of your deeds and actions. If you abide by the precepts and teachings of the Blessed Perfection, the heavenly world and ancient Kingdom will be yours—eternal happiness, love and everlasting life. The divine bounties are flowing. Each one of you has been given the opportunity of becoming a tree yielding abundant fruits. This is the springtime of Bahá'u'lláh. The verdure and foliage of spiritual growth are appearing in great abundance in the gardens of human hearts. Know ye the value of these passing days and vanishing nights. Strive to attain a station of absolute love one toward another. By the absence of love, enmity increases. By the exercise of love, love strengthens and enmities dwindle away.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
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Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary