‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ’S MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AMERICA is a noble nation, the standard-bearer of peace throughout the world, shedding her light to all regions. Foreign nations are not untrammeled and free of intrigues like the United States, and are unable to bring about universal peace. But America, thank God, is at peace with all the world, and is worthy of raising the flag of brotherhood and International Peace. When the summons to International Peace is raised by America, all the rest of the world will cry: “Yes, we accept.” The nations of every clime will join in adopting the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh, revealed over fifty years ago. In His Epistles He asked the parliaments of the world to send their best and wisest men to an international world parliament that should decide all questions between the peoples and establish universal peace. This would be the last court of appeal, and the Parliament of Man, long dreamed of by the poets, would be realized. It would be much more far-reaching than The Hague Tribunal. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 6, No. 11, p. 81.)

The body of the human world is sick. Its remedy and healing will be the oneness of the kingdom of humanity. Its life is the Most Great Peace. Its illumination and quickening is love. Its happiness is the attainment of spiritual perfections. It is my wish and hope that in the bounties and favors of the Blessed Perfection (Bahá’u’lláh) we may find a new life, acquire a new power and attain to a wonderful and supreme source of energy so that the “Most Great Peace” of divine intention shall be established upon the foundations of the unity of the world of men with God. May the love of God be spread from this city, from this meeting to all the surrounding countries. Nay, may America become the distributing center of spiritual enlightenment, and all the world receive this heavenly blessing! For America has developed powers and capacities greater and more wonderful than other nations. While it is true that its people have attained a marvelous material civilization, I hope that spiritual forces may animate this great body and a corresponding spiritual civilization be established. May the inhabitants of this country become like angels of heaven with faces turned continually toward God. May all of them become the servants of the Omnipotent One. May they rise from present material attainments to such a height that heavenly illumination may stream from this center to all the peoples of the world. (From an address in New York, Pro. Of U. P., p. 17.)

THIS REVERED American nation presents evidences of greatness and worth. It is my hope that this just government will stand for peace so that warfare may be abolished throughout the world and the standards of national unity and reconciliation be upraised. This is the greatest attainment of the world of humanity. This American nation is equipped and empowered to accomplish that which will adorn the pages of history, to become the envy of
the world and be blest in the East and the West for the triumph of its democracy. (Pro. Of U. P., p. 99.)

I LOVE this country (America) with exceeding love, for its inhabitants are a noble people and government is fair and just. Its citizens are enjoying the greatest amount of political and civic freedom. In reality, every soul is a real sovereign and delights in the fruit of his hard-won liberty. No one is harassed by secret fears, but expresses his thoughts freely and without apprehension. The sphere of the mind is made radiant with brilliant ideals, and the field for the discussion of the progressive and advanced problems of the age is as spacious as heaven. Consequently, I hope that this illustrious democracy may become confirmed in establishment of universal peace. ... because the greatest principle of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh is universal peace. He wrote concerning this in wonderful epistles to the governments of the world, urging them to come forward and lay the foundation of international conciliation amongst the religions, nations and races. America has demonstrated great organizing capacity in this direction. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 5, p. 119.)

PRAISE BE to God! The United States has in reality made extraordinary progress; day by day they are advancing toward the ultimate goal. The material virtues of the people are many; now they must think of the ideal virtues, so that the highest of the perfections of humanity may illumine the regions of America.

Among the highest virtues are universal peace and the oneness of humanity. The chief ailment of humanity today is international strife; this militates against the advancement of the material and ideal virtues. ...

But, praise be to God! The American government is no warlike government; the American democracy is not founded upon warlike doctrines. Hence it becomes this democracy to uphold international peace and spread it throughout the world. Through the promulgation of this doctrine will be distributed the greatest blessing. ... My fervent hope and fond desire concerning the American people is that through their instrumentality the scope of this project will be enlarged and that earnest concerted action between the nations of the world will result therefrom. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 5, p. 166.)

Envy and rancor arise between nations, but because I find the American nation so capable of achievement, and the American government the fairest of the western governments, its systems superior to others, my wish and hope is that the banner of peace may be raised first on this continent and that the standard of the Most Great Peace may here be unfurled.

May the nation of America and its government unite in their efforts, in order that this light may dawn from this point and spread to all regions, for this is one of the greatest bestowals of God. In order that America may avail herself of this opportunity, I request that you strive and supplicate with heart and soul, devoting all your energies to this end, and that
the banner of international peace in reality may be unfurled here and that American
democracy may be the cause of the cessation of warfare in all other countries. (Wisdom Talks,
p. 13.)

I WAS most pleased with the results of my trip to America. I found a wonderful spirit of
peace hovering over that vast continent. The people are inspired with the thought of peace
and are working for its final realization. I hope that they will be the first nation to unfurl the
standard of peace. I will ever pray for their success. Today this is the most great service to
world of humanity. (Compilation, War and Peace, p. 188.)

AS TO the American people, this noble nation, intelligent, meditative; it is quite
disinterested, for its territory is insular and geographically separated from the other nations.
Here we find a oneness of interest, a oneness of policy. These are indeed United States.
Therefore, the United States is possessed of the capacity and capability of holding aloft
the banner of international peace. May this nation, this noble people, be the cause of unifying
humanity! May this noble people spread broadcast the heavenly civilization and illumination!
May it be the cause of the diffusion of the love of God! May it proclaim the solidarity of
mankind! May it be the cause of the guidance of the human race! Therefore, I request you to
give this all important question your most serious consideration and efforts. (STAR OF THE
WEST, Vol. 5, p. 200.)

I HAVE come to America to speak a message of peace and good-will to you. You are a
noble nation with just government. I beg of God that this just and fair land may assist in
working for peace of the world. Let the people of this young and noble nation assist in the
great movement for the peace and unity of the world. Let the people light a lamp that will
illumine the whole universe. Let us put love in the hearts of all the children of men. Let all
mankind labor for this, that the favor of God may descend upon the Orient and Occident...

The time has come for us all to work for international peace. No catastrophe can be
greater than war, and in preparation for it man is taxed beyond the limit of endurance. ... The
time has come for the establishment of a fair arbitral court of justice for the settlement of all
international disputes, and the nations must make use of such a court, and obey its just

AMERICA is the home of the ideals of peace. Its people are peace-loving and its
democratic leaders are the sowers of the seeds of peace. I hope that a chain of similar
meetings will be organized throughout the States wherein eloquent speakers will expose the
iniquities of war and tell of the beauty of peace so that the world may resound with their call
to peace. This is indeed most important.

On the other hand, the legislators, farsighted peace advocates, the practical statesmen
of America must from now on frame a code of laws and regulations to be used as foundation
for the future Universal Parliament of Man The initial step is most difficult and arduous and
only a free, disinterested, large-minded, humanity-loving nation like the Americans can perform such signal services. The American people have had sound judicial training and the fundamental principles of their political institutions are based on equality of opportunity for all mankind. Their national and statement system of government has been always, a good and beneficial example for the framers of the constitution of the international court of arbitration. In short, America must be the principal factor in establishing lasting peace among the nations of the world. The spreading of peace ideals must be carried on unceasingly – thus the ground may be made ready and the hearts prepared. The promotion of the principles of peace and war will ultimately lead to an astonishing awakening on the part of the people. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 13, p. 293.)

IN THE ORIENT I heard that there are many peace-loving people in America. Therefore, I left my native land to associate here with those who are standard-bearers of international peace. Having traveled from coast to coast, I find America a continent vast and progressive; the government just; the nation noble. I attended many gatherings where international peace was discussed, and am extremely happy to witness the results of these meetings, for one of the great teachings of Bahá’u’lláh relates to international peace. He founded and taught this principle fifty years ago in the Orient. He proclaimed universal peace among the nations; he summoned the people to establish universal peace among the various religions; he organized peace among many races, communities and sects. At that time he wrote epistles to all the rulers and kings of the world and summoned them to cooperate with him in spreading these principles, saying that humanity would not attain composure and rest save through universal peace. And he practiced the principle in Persia and elsewhere, souls who followed the exhortations of Bahá’u’lláh, living together in the utmost love and fellowship, with no religious prejudice, no patriotic prejudice, no sectarian prejudice, - they live in unity and agreement, Muhammadan, Roman Catholic, Jew, Buddhist, followers of Zoroaster, and all others.

“Now America has arisen to spread the teachings of peace for the illumination of mankind and for bestowing happiness and prosperity on all the children of men. These are the principles of divine civilization. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 6, p. 81.)

NOW INASMUCH as the standard of International Peace must be hoisted, I hope that it may be hoisted upon this continent, for the American continent is more deserving, has greater capacity therefor, and is not like other countries. ... If America takes the first step toward this direction, it is certain to be ascribed to altruism. It will be said by humanity, “There was no other purpose than altruism and service to mankind.” Therefore, it is my hope that you may be the cause, and that you may hoist this banner, for this banner will be hoisted. Raise it aloft, for you are deserving above all other nations. In the other countries there are many who are waiting for this summons, anxiously anticipating this call from some nation bidding all to the Most Great Peace, for the people are distressed because of the excessive and irreparable damage of war. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 5, p. 131.)
PRAISED BE TO GOD, all the people who have accepted the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh are peace lovers and are ready to sacrifice their lives and forfeit their fortunes for it. Now let this standard be hoisted in the West and many shall respond to the call. Just as America has become renowned because of her discoveries, inventions and skill, famous for the equity of her government and colossal undertakings, may she also become noted for the Most Great Peace. Let this be her undertaking and let it spread from her to other countries. And I pray for you all that you may render this service to world of humanity. (STAR OF THE WEST, Vol. 5, p. 131.)

O GOD! Let this American democracy become glorious in spiritual degrees even as it has aspired to material degrees, and render this just government victorious.

Confirm this revered nation to upraise the standard of the oneness of humanity, to promulgate the Most Great Peace, to become thereby most glorious and praiseworthy among all the nations of the world.

O GOD! This American nation is worthy of Thy favors and is deserving of Thy mercy. Make it precious and near to Thee through Thy bounty and bestowal. (Wisdom Talks in Chicago, p. 4.)

LIKE UNTO a spirit, this ideal (Universal Peace) must run and circulate through the veins and arteries of the body of the world. ... There is no doubt that this wonderful democracy will be able to realize it and the banner of international agreement will be unfurled here to spread onward and outward among all the nations of the world. (Pro. of U. P., p. 121.)