

MEDITATIONS ON

*Family Life*

LIL'ELEVATE



Thou most glorious Lord!

Make this little maidservant of Thine blessed and happy;  
cause her to be cherished at the threshold of Thy oneness,  
and let her drink deep from the cup of Thy love  
so that she may be filled with rapture and ecstasy a  
nd diffuse sweet-scented fragrance.

Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful,  
and Thou art the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*A* family is a nation in miniature.

Simply enlarge the circle of the household, and you have the nation.

Enlarge the circle of nations, and you have all humanity.

The conditions surrounding the family surround the nation.

The happenings in the family are the happenings in the life of the nation.

If love and agreement are manifest in a single family,  
that family will advance, become illumined and spiritual.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*N*ote ye how easily,  
where unity existeth in a given family,  
the affairs of that family are conducted;  
what progress the members of that family make,  
how they prosper in the world.

Their concerns are in order,  
they enjoy comfort and tranquility,  
they are secure, their position is assured.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*W*hen you love a member of your family or a compatriot,  
let it be with a ray of the Infinite Love!  
Let it be in God, and for God!  
Wherever you find the attributes of God love that person,  
whether he be of your family or of another...

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*Y*our children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with  
His might that His arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as he loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Khalil Gibran

*T*he education and training of children  
is among the most meritorious acts of humankind  
and draweth down the grace and favour of the All-Merciful,  
for education is the indispensable foundation  
of all human excellence  
and alloweth man to work his way to the heights of abiding glory.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*A*mong the greatest of all services that can possibly be rendered by man to Almighty God is the education and training of children, young plants of the Abhá Paradise, so that these children, fostered by grace in the way of salvation, growing like pearls of divine bounty in the shell of education, will one day bejewel the crown of abiding glory. It is, however, very difficult to undertake this service, even harder to succeed in it. I hope that thou wilt acquit thyself well in this most important of tasks, and successfully carry the day, and become an ensign of God's abounding grace; that these children, reared one and all in the holy Teachings, will develop natures like unto the sweet airs that blow across the gardens of the All-Glorious, and will waft their fragrance around the world.

'Abdu'l-Bahá





Lord, my God!

This is a child that hath sprung from the loins of one of Thy servants  
to whom Thou hast granted a distinguished station  
in the Tablets of Thine irrevocable decree in the Books of Thy behest.

I beseech Thee by Thy name, whereby everyone is enabled  
to attain the object of his desire, to grant that this child  
may become a more mature soul amongst Thy servants;  
cause him to shine forth through the power of Thy name,  
enable him to utter Thy praise,  
to set his face towards Thee and to draw nigh unto Thee.

Verily it is Thou Who hast, from everlasting,  
been powerful to do as Thou willest and Who wilt, to eternity,  
remain potent to do as Thou pleasest.

There is none other God but Thee, the Exalted,  
the August, the Subduer, the Mighty, the All-Compelling.

Bahá'u'lláh

*A*ccording to the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh the family, being a human unit, must be educated according to the rules of sanctity.

All the virtues must be taught the family.

The integrity of the family bond must be constantly considered, and the rights of the individual members must not be transgressed.

The rights of the son, the father, the mother—none of them must be transgressed, none of them must be arbitrary.

Just as the son has certain obligations to his father, the father, likewise, has certain obligations to his son.

The mother, the sister and other members of the household have certain prerogatives.

All these rights and prerogatives must be conserved, yet the unity of the family must be sustained.

The injury of one shall be considered the injury of all; the comfort of each, the comfort of all; the honor of one, the honor of all.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*E*very child is potentially the light of the world—  
and at the same time its darkness;  
wherefore must the question of education  
be accounted as of primary importance.

From his infancy, the child must be nursed at the breast of God's love,  
and nurtured in the embrace of His knowledge, that he may radiate light,  
grow in spirituality, be filled with wisdom and learning,  
and take on the characteristics of the angelic host.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

 my God! O my God!

Thou seest these children who are the twigs of the tree of life,  
the birds of the meads of salvation, the pearls of the ocean of Thy grace,  
the roses of the garden of Thy guidance.

O God, our Lord!

We sing Thy praise, bear witness to Thy sanctity  
and implore fervently the heaven of Thy mercy to make us lights of guidance,  
stars shining above the horizons of eternal glory amongst mankind,  
and to teach us a knowledge which proceedeth from Thee.

Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá!

'Abdu'l-Bahá

1. Under 'Children', in *Bahá'í Prayers: A Selection of Prayers Revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, compiled by the United States Bahá'í Publishing Trust. ↵
2. *The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Talks Delivered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His Visit to the United States and Canada in 1912* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982), p. 157. ↵
3. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1982), no. 221, p.279. ↵
4. *Paris Talks: Addresses Given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1911* (London: Bahá'í Publishing, 1972), p. 38. ↵
5. Khalil Gibran, *The Prophet* (Knopf, 1923) ↵
6. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1982), no. 103, p.129. ↵
7. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1982), no. 106, pp.133-134. ↵
8. Under 'Children', in *Bahá'í Prayers: A Selection of Prayers Revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, compiled by the United States Bahá'í Publishing Trust. ↵
9. *The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Talks Delivered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His Visit to the United States and Canada in 1912* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982), p. 168. ↵
10. *Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá* (Haifa: Bahá'í World Centre, 1982), no. 103, p.130-131. ↵
11. Under 'Children', in *Bahá'í Prayers: A Selection of Prayers Revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, compiled by the United States Bahá'í Publishing Trust. ↵

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