ATTRIBUTES

OF GOD

Selected verses from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

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INTRODUCTION

Bahá'u'lláh instructs us to become involved in an in-depth study of the revealed Scriptures and to nurture our spiritual growth through this study.

Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths. *The Kitáb-i-Áqdás*, K 182; *Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 118-119; *Gleanings*, p. 136

Incline your hearts, O people of God, unto the counsels of your true, your incomparable Friend. The Word of God may be likened unto a sapling, whose roots have been implanted in the hearts of men. It is incumbent upon you to foster its growth through the living waters of wisdom, of sanctified and holy words, so that its root may become firmly fixed and its branches may spread out as high as the heavens and beyond.

Gleanings, p. 97

In addition, we are also instructed to recite the verses of Bahá'u'lláh every morning and evening.

Recite ye the verses of God every morn and eventide. Whoso faileth to recite them hath not been faithful to the Covenant of God and His Testament, and whoso turneth away from these holy verses in this Day is of those who throughout eternity have turned away from God. Fear ye God, O My servants, one and all. Pride not yourselves on much reading of the verses or on a multitude of pious acts by night and day; for were a man to read a single verse with joy and radiance it would be better for him than to read with lassitude all the Holy Books of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Read ye the sacred verses in such measure that ye be not overcome by languor and despondency. Lay not upon your souls that which will weary them and weigh them down, but rather what will lighten and uplift them, so that they may soar on the wings of the Divine verses towards the Dawning-place of His manifest signs; this will draw you nearer to God, did ye but comprehend.

The Kitáb-i-Áqdás, pp. 73-74

The Báb revealed a new calendar, naming the months of the year after some of the attributes of God. Bahá'u'lláh confirmed the calendar and revealed many verses elaborating on these names and attributes. The purpose of this volume is to provide verses to study the meaning of the attributes of God using Bahá'u'lláh's revealed words. It began as a personal deepening program focused on developing spiritual attributes of good character, developed into a project to produce verses to be read at the 19-Day Feast, and grew into the present text. Thirty-eight selections are available for each Bahá'í month: one for each morning and evening. The selections are arranged thematically in roughly the following order for each month: God; Manifestations; Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation; Religion; Man; Character (Qualities and Actions).

Bahá'u'lláh also encourages us to teach our children the verses of God and a companion volume of short verses that children can memorize is also provided.

Teach your children the verses revealed from the heaven of majesty and power, so that, in most melodious tones, they may recite the Tablets of the All-Merciful in the alcoves within the Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs. Whoever hath been transported by the rapture born of adoration for My Name, the Most Compassionate, will recite the verses of God in such wise as to captivate the hearts of those yet wrapped in slumber. Well is it with him who hath quaffed the Mystic Wine of everlasting life from the utterance of his merciful Lord in My Name--a Name through which every lofty and majestic mountain hath been reduced to dust. *The Kitáb-i-Áqdás*, K 150

The verses in this volume were selected using the Multiple AuthorRefer System (MARS) computer program which provides access to all of Bahá'u'lláh's writings through keyword searches. The MARS program is available from the U. S. Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

Many of the verses could have been selected for a variety of attributes. When one begins to look for these attributes in the Writings, it is evident that they are used often. In fact, for many of the attributes there are literally hundreds of verses from which to select. The particular selection and placement was somewhat arbitrary and is reflective of personal choice.

It is now incumbent upon them who are endowed with a hearing ear and a seeing eye to ponder these sublime words, in each of which the oceans of inner meaning and explanation are hidden, that haply the words uttered by Him Who is the Lord of Revelation may enable His servants to attain, with the utmost joy and radiance, unto the Supreme Goal and Most Sublime Summit--the dawning-place of this Voice.

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 147

Whoso hath searched the depths of the oceans that lie hid within these exalted words, and fathomed their import, can be said to have discovered a glimmer of the unspeakable glory with which this mighty, this sublime, and most holy Revelation hath been endowed. *Gleanings*, p. 10

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