

Becoming a Source of Social Good

“And the honor and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world’s multitudes should become a source of social good. Is any larger bounty conceivable than this, that an individual, looking within himself, should find that by the confirming grace of God he has become the cause of peace and well-being, of happiness and advantage to his fellow men? No, by the one true God, there is no greater bliss, no more complete delight.”

The Secret of Divine Civilization Pgs. 2-3

Considerations:

God has given us eyes, that we may look about us at the world, and lay hold of whatsoever will further civilization and the arts of living. He has given us ears, that we may hear and profit by the wisdom of scholars and philosophers and arise to promote and practice it. Senses and faculties have been bestowed upon us, to be devoted to the service of the general good; so that we, distinguished above all other forms of life for perceptiveness and reason, should labor at all times and along all lines, whether the occasion be great or small, ordinary or extraordinary, until all mankind are safely gathered into the impregnable stronghold of knowledge. We should continually be establishing new bases for human happiness and creating and promoting new instrumentalities toward this end. How excellent, how honorable is man if he arises to fulfil his responsibilities; how wretched and contemptible, if he shuts his eyes to the welfare of society and wastes his precious life in pursuing his own selfish interests and personal advantages. Supreme happiness is man’s, and he beholds the signs of God in the world and in the human soul, if he urges on the steed of high endeavor in the arena of civilization and justice...

The Secret of Divine Civilization Pgs. 3-4

The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct.

**Baha’u’llah cited in The Advent of Divine Justice
Pgs. 24-25**

Say, O brethren! Let deeds, not words be your adorning.

**Baha’u’llah- The Hidden Words
Persian #5**

Again, is there any deed in the world that would be nobler than service to the common good? Is there any greater blessing conceivable for a man, than that he should become the cause of the education, the development, the prosperity and honor of his fellow- creatures? No, by the Lord God! The highest righteousness of all is for blessed souls to take hold of the hands of the helpless to arise and energetically devote themselves to the service of the masses, forgetting their own worldly advantage and working only to serve the general good.

The Secret of divine Civilization p. 103

Being a Source of Social Good –The Example

Abdu'l Baha:

**He (Abdu'l Baha) is.....the stainless Mirror of His light, the perfect Exemplar of His teachings, the unerring Interpreter of His Word, the embodiment of every Baha'i ideal, the incarnation of every Baha'i virtue....
The World Order of Baha'u'llah p. 134**

...if we are ever in any doubt as to how we should conduct ourselves as Baha'is we should think of Abdu'l-Baha and study His life and ask ourselves what would He have done, for He is our perfect example in every way. And you know how tender He was, and how His affection and kindness shone like sunlight on everyone.

On behalf of Shoghi Effendi- The Compilation of Compilations Vol.1 p. 405

What an effect there lies in divine guidance! It endoweth the blind with sight, granteth strength to the impotent, maketh the darkened ones illuminated,....confereth youth to the aged; nay, rather it breathed life into the dead! If thou seeketh after a work which is brighter and more attractive, sweeter and more delightful than all the affairs...Forget thou entirely the ease, tranquility, composure and living of this transitory world and occupy thyself with the well-being and service of the human world and conduct thyself in accord with the advices and exhortations of God.

Tablets of Abdu'l Baha V.3 p. 657

The Physician: spiritual requisites and determinants

O thou my spiritual companion!

According to what is heard you have received the permission of medication and the certificate of graduation (diploma) from the College of Medicine. Now experience is necessary in order to attain skill and proficiency. The greatest of all these is the confirmation and the strength of His Majesty, the One (God), through the favor of the Blessed Perfection. I am hopeful that will also be thine.

For the physician the first qualifications are: Good intentions, trustworthiness, tenderness, sympathy for the sick, truthfulness, integrity, and the fear of the Lord.

With life and heart strive thou to be both a spiritual and physical physician. Thus mayest thou be Ameen and Fareed (Trustworthy and Unique).

Tablets of Abdu'l Baha V.2 p. 420

The Preparation for service—divine guidance and considerations

Man must strip himself of all these imperfections, must sacrifice these tendencies which are peculiar to the outer and material world of existence. On the other hand, man must acquire heavenly qualities and attain divine attributes..... He must seek the bounty of the eternal, become the manifestor of the love of God, the light of guidance, the tree of life and the depository of the bounties of God. That is to say, man must sacrifice the qualities and attributes of the world of nature for the qualities and attributes of the world of God.

Abdu'l Baha -The Promulgation of Universal Peace p. 451-452

Thou has asked, very humbly, for certain things and all were worthy to be coveted. Especially the rescue from self-love. This is a strange trait and the means of the destruction of many important souls in the world. If man be imbued with all good qualities but be selfish, all the other virtues will fade or pass away and eventually he will grow worse.

Compilation Baha'i Scriptures pgs. 477-478

Array yourselves in the perfection of divine virtues.

Abdu'l Baha-The Promulgation of Universal Peace p. 7

Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues. Without truthfulness progress and success, in all the worlds of God, are impossible for any soul. When this holy attribute is established in man, all the divine qualities will also be acquired.

Abdu'l Baha cited in The Advent of Divine Justice p. 26

O Lord, my God! Give me Thy grace to serve Thy loved ones, strengthen me in my servitude to Thee, illumine my brow with the light of adoration in Thy court of holiness, and of prayer to Thy kingdom of grandeur. Help me to be selfless at the heavenly entrance of Thy gate, and aid me to be detached from all things within Thy holy precincts. Lord! Give me to drink from the chalice of selflessness; with its robe clothe me, and in its ocean immerse me. Make me as dust in the pathway of Thy loved ones, and grant that I may offer up my soul for the earth ennobled by the footsteps of Thy chosen ones in Thy path, O Lord of Glory in the Highest

Baha'i Prayers- USA 2002 Ed. p. 333

Becoming a source of Social good: Spiritual requisites and determinants to consider

Drawing on the power of divine assistance

Truthfulness and trustworthiness

Selflessness

Humility

That senses and faculties have been bestowed upon us to be devoted to the service of the general good

And the honor and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good.

Happy the soul that shall forget his own good, and like the chosen ones of God, vie with his fellows in service to the good of all...

Abdu'l Baha – The Secret of Divine Civilization p.116

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