

The Greatness of the Cause

INTRODUCTION: *Approaching the threshold...*

It is impossible for anyone to fully know the greatness of the Cause of God, or the significance of the Day in which we are living. Who are we, that “generation of the half-light,”¹ citizens to a society nearly asleep to the presence of a new Revelation, to fully perceive, at this early stage of its development, the greatness of the Cause? Yet, to endeavor to grasp it, however limited our ability might be, is imperative. To know its magnificence, its greatness, its incomparable glory, imposes on the believer a responsibility to act upon it as a sure reality. Bahá’u’lláh wrote that “No one hath apprehended the root of this Cause.”² Consequently, He instructs us in the only *sure* way to comprehend its greatness — which is through the Revelation itself: “It is incumbent upon everyone, in this day,” He writes, “to perceive with the eye of God, and to hearken with His ear. Whoso beholdeth Me with an eye besides Mine own will never be able to know Me.”³ Let us, then, pursue with eagerness and explore with wonder, what Bahá’u’lláh Himself has revealed about the greatness of His Cause in this glorious “Day of God”.

(Crepuscular Rays Over Southern Germany)



“This is the Day, O my Lord, whose brightness Thou hast exalted above the brightness of the sun and the splendors thereof.”

— Bahá’u’lláh

OBJECTIVE: *A look to the horizon...*

Facilitator

Review the following objective with the participants:

The objective of this study is to acquire some understanding of the greatness of the Cause in this glorious “Day of God”.

THE STUDY PROCESS: *Attaining the water of life...*

Facilitator

Review the following study process with the participants. Then study the numbered quotations that follow, one at a time as described below.

¹ *The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 168

² *The Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 77

³ *ibid*

1. **READING: *A drink from the cup of guidance...***

A. Read the quotation out loud in its entirety.

2. **CONFIRMING MEANING: *A spray from the fountain of light...***

To better understand certain words used in the quotation, take turns with the following:

A. Each participant **choose a word** from the quotation and **state it** for the whole group to hear. (Like a fun game – pick a word!) Then...

B. Read out loud the sentence that contains the **word** you selected, **while substituting for that word**, its given phrase, definition, or synonym from the boxes below the quotation.

C. Repeat A and B above until everyone is satisfied with their understanding of the words.

D. Read the quotation out loud again in its entirety.

3. **FINDING VALUE: *Gem-like discoveries...***

In the tradition of the “talking circle” ask the participants to take turns sharing, one at a time, in a round, **WHAT WAS PERSONALLY MOST MEANINGFUL FROM THE QUOTATION AND WHY.** (Remember show and tell?) Remind the participants that *whatever* is shared should be considered as a valid perspective, and that in this *exploratory study* there are no right or wrong perceptions and no lesser or greater understandings. All are therefore asked to avoid comments, corrections, or judgments on the perceived insights of others. This is not a time for questions and answers, it is an exercise for the purpose of bonding hearts by sharing and receiving personal heartfelt perspectives without discussion.

QUOTATIONS: *Within the meadows of Thy nearness...*

1. *This is the Day of God Himself; fear ye God and be not of them that have disbelieved in Him. Cast the idle tales behind your backs and behold My Revelation through Mine eyes. Unto this have ye been exhorted in heavenly Books and Scriptures, in the Scrolls and Tablets.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Fountain of Wisdom*, pp. 219-20 ¶17.42)

behold: look at or investigate
Day: specified time, age, or period
exhorted: advised and encouraged
eyes: perception, opinion, or estimation
fear ye: have reverential awe and respect for ☞

the majesty of
idle: worthless and useless
Revelation: Communication of God and His Will to man
tales: discourses, narratives, or stories

2. *Great indeed is this Day! The allusions made to it in all the sacred Scriptures as the Day of God attest its greatness. The soul of every Prophet of God, of every Divine Messenger, hath thirsted for this wondrous Day. All the divers kindreds of the earth have, likewise, yearned to attain it.*

(*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 11)

allusions: figurative or indirect implications or suggestions
attest: establish, affirm, and prove
Day: specified time, age, or period
divers: distinct and markedly different
great: markedly superior in character and quality

greatness: marked superiority in character and quality
kindreds: groups of related people
thirsted: with insistence and impatience, longed or yearned
yearned: with eagerness, restlessness, and painfulness, strongly desired

3. *In the Book of Isaiah it is written: “Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty.” No man that meditateth upon this verse can fail to recognize the greatness of this Cause, or doubt the exalted character of this Day — the Day of God Himself. This same verse is followed by these words: “And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that Day.” This is the Day which the Pen of the Most High hath glorified in all the holy Scriptures. There is no verse in them that doth not declare the glory of His holy Name, and no Book that doth not testify unto the loftiness of this most exalted theme.*

(Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh, p. 13)

Cause: zealously advocated and upheld System of belief [the Bahá’í Faith]
Day: specified time, age, or period
dust: figuratively — wisdom of the heart
exalted: highly praised, elevated, and glorified
fear: reverential awe and respect for the majesty
glorified: made glorious through honor and praise
glory: distinguishing honor and admiration
greatness: marked superiority in character and quality

loftiness: impressively high status
majesty: supreme authority and glory
meditateth: deeply and continually contemplates or reflects
Pen: refers to the instrumentation of the Manifestations
the rock: figuratively — firm faith
testify: serve as evidence or proof
theme: topic or subject

4. *This is the Day whereon human ears have been privileged to hear what He Who conversed with God [Moses] heard upon Sinai, what He Who is the Friend of God [Muhammad] heard when lifted up towards Him, what He Who is the Spirit of God [Jesus] heard as He ascended unto Him, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.*

(Bahá’u’lláh, quoted by Shoghi Effendi in The Advent of Divine Justice, p. 79)

ascended: rose upward
Day: specified time, age, or period
ears: figuratively — attention and awareness

hear: be informed of or told; attend or be present to
privileged: granted the right

5. *This is the Day that God hath ordained to be a blessing unto the righteous, a retribution for the wicked, a bounty for the faithful and a fury of His wrath for the faithless and the froward. Verily He hath been made manifest, invested by God with invincible sovereignty. He hath revealed that wherewith naught on the earth or in the heavens can compare.*

(Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p. 92 ¶8.5)

blessing: special benefits of happiness and welfare
bounty: generously bestowed gift or favor
compare: be found similar or equal
Day: specified time, age, or period
faithless: ones not believing in God; ones disloyal to the Covenant
froward: habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition
fury: violent rage
invested: furnished or endowed
invincible: incapable of being overthrown or conquered
manifest: known, evident, or obvious
ordained: established by command or order
retribution: dispensing of deserved punishment

righteous: morally right, fair, and just behaving
sovereignty: supreme and independent authority and rule; “...by sovereignty is meant that sovereignty which in every dispensation resideth within, and is exercised by, the person of the Manifestation, the Day-star of Truth. That sovereignty is the spiritual ascendancy which He exerciseth to the fullest degree over all that is in heaven and on earth, and which in due time revealeth itself to the world in proportion to its capacity and spiritual receptiveness...”
(Bahá’u’lláh, The Kitáb-i-Íqán, p. 107)
wicked: morally very harmful and evil
wrath: indignant punishment

6. *This is the Day of God, the Day on which naught shall be mentioned save His own Self, the omnipotent Protector of all worlds. This is the Cause that hath made all your superstitions and idols to tremble.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, p. 80)

Cause: zealously advocated and upheld System of belief [the Bahá'í Faith]
Day: specified time, age, or period
idols: [beliefs in] false gods
omnipotent: infinitely powerful and influential

superstitions: false beliefs resulting from ignorance
tremble: be affected with doubt and fear
worlds: domains of existence; states of being or reality

7. *Say, this is the Day when the Speaker on Sinai hath mounted the throne of Revelation and the people have stood before the Lord of the worlds. This is the Day wherein the earth hath told out her tidings and hath laid bare her treasures; when the oceans have brought forth their pearls and the divine Lote-Tree its fruit; when the Sun hath shed its radiance and the Moons have diffused their lights, and the Heavens have revealed their stars, and the Hour its signs, and the Resurrection its dreadful majesty; when the pens have unloosed their outpourings and the spirits have laid bare their mysteries.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Fountain of Wisdom*, p. 96 ¶8.13)

Day: specified time, age, or period
diffused: dispersed or distributed widely in every direction
dreadful: oppressive fear and awe producing
earth: figuratively — wisdom of the heart; "...by the term 'earth' is meant the earth of understanding and knowledge..." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 48) "Know thou, that upon whatever hearts the bountiful showers of mercy, raining from the 'heaven' of divine Revelation, have fallen, the earth of those hearts hath verily been changed into the earth of divine knowledge and wisdom." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 46)
heaven: "By 'heaven' is meant the heaven of divine Revelation..." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 44)
Hour: "...one of the signs that must needs herald the coming of the last Hour, the Day of Resurrection." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 44)
lights: emanating spiritual knowledge and goodness
Lote-Tree: symbolizes the Manifestation of God, Bahá'u'lláh
majesty: supreme authority and glory
mysteries: religious truths that can only be known by Revelation, and yet, not fully understood
oceans: "...the oceans of inner meaning and explanation..." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 147); "Well is it with him that hath given ear unto its Voice, and quaffed from the oceans of Divine utterance that lie ☞

concealed in each of these words." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 141)
pearls: "...the pearls of Divine knowledge and wisdom that lie concealed within the ocean of its words." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, p. 85)
radiance: emanating spiritual energy, light, and love
Resurrection: "...by 'resurrection' is meant His own rise to proclaim the Cause of God. He bade the erring and wayward arise and speed out of the sepulchers of their bodies, arrayed them with the beautiful robe of faith, and quickened them with the breath of a new and wondrous life." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, pp. 116-17)
Revelation: communicating God's will to man
signs: indications of its presence or existence
Sinai: the Holy Mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God
Speaker: God's communication to Moses
stood: been found in a particular state or situation
Sun, Moon, and Stars: "Thus, it hath become evident that the terms 'sun,' 'moon,' and 'stars' primarily signify the Prophets of God, the saints, and their companions, those Luminaries, the light of Whose knowledge hath shed illumination upon the worlds of the visible and the invisible." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 36); "...wherein is the seat of the sun of knowledge, of the moon of wisdom, and of the stars of understanding and utterance." (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 66)
tidings: message
treasures: things of great value or worth

8. *This is the Day, O my Lord, whose brightness Thou hast exalted above the brightness of the sun and the splendors thereof. I testify that the light it sheddeth proceedeth out of the glory of the light of Thy countenance, and is begotten by the radiance of the morn of Thy Revelation. This is the Day whereon the hopeless have been clothed with the raiment of confidence, and the sick attired with the robe of healing, and the poor drawn nigh unto the ocean of Thy riches.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Prayers and Meditations*, p. 273)

attired: adorned or clothed
begotten: produced or created
brightness: figuratively — spiritual knowledge and goodness
clothed: invested or endowed
confidence: faith and belief that God will ordain what is right and good
countenance: bearing, expression, or demeanor
Day: specified time, age, or period
exalted: highly praised, elevated, and glorified
healing: restoration to original purity and integrity; “*Remembrance of Me is a healing medicine to the souls and a light to the hearts of men.*” (Bahá'u'lláh, *Prayers and Meditations*, p. 228)
hopeless: ones having no expectation of good
light: emanating spiritual knowledge and goodness

morn: time of the beginning
poor: “...*he that loveth Me not is indeed of the poor and needy.*” (Bahá'u'lláh, *Fountain of Wisdom*, p. 144-45 ¶10.15)
radiance: emanating spiritual energy, light, and love
raiment: clothing or garment
Revelation: Communication to man
riches: “*By 'riches' therefore is meant independence of all else but God, and by 'poverty' the lack of things that are of God.*” (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*, p. 132)
robe: “...*robe of divine bestowal...*” (Bahá'u'lláh, *The Tabernacle of Unity*, p. 73, ¶5.6)
sick: spiritually or morally weakened, corrupted, unsound, or unfit
splendors: brilliance, magnificence, and glory

9. “*Say to them that are of a fearful heart: be strong, fear not, behold your God.*” *This blessed verse is a proof of the greatness of the Revelation, and of the greatness of the Cause, inasmuch as the blast of the trumpet must needs spread confusion throughout the world, and fear and trembling amongst all men. Well is it with him who hath been illumined with the light of trust and detachment. The tribulations of that Day will not hinder or alarm him. Thus hath the Tongue of Utterance spoken, as bidden by Him Who is the All-Merciful. He, verily, is the Strong, the All-Powerful, the All-Subduing, the Almighty. 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.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, *The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 147)

alarm: cause sudden apprehension or fear from a perception of eminent danger [to]
behold: with attention, look upon and observe
Cause: Bahá'í Faith
confusion: a condition of being disturbed, confounded, and a failure to discern
detachment: indifference to worldly concerns
endowed: furnished, gifted, or provided
greatness: marked superiority in character and quality
haply: perhaps; it may be that
hinder: hold back
illumined: given spiritual knowledge and insight
incumbent: imposed as a duty
light: emanating spiritual knowledge and goodness

must needs: of necessity or requirement
ponder: deeply and carefully think about
radiance: lively and beaming happiness or satisfaction
sublime: awe inspiring because of supreme spiritual, intellectual, or moral worth
summit: highest point attainable
Tongue of Utterance: the Manifestation of God, Bahá'u'lláh
trembling: the affects of doubt and fear
tribulation: instance of great misery, distress, and suffering
trumpet: “*Verily We have sounded the Trumpet which is none other than My Pen of Glory...*” (Bahá'u'lláh, *Fountain of Wisdom*, p. 52 ¶6.12)
trust: absolute and assured reliance on God

10. *These days are God's days, a moment of which ages and centuries can never rival. An atom, in these days, is as the sun, a drop as the ocean. One single breath exhaled in the love of God and for His service is written down by the Pen of Glory as a princely deed. Were the virtues of this Day to be recounted, all would be thunderstruck, except those whom thy Lord hath exempted.*

(Bahá'u'lláh, quoted by Shoghi Effendi in *The Advent of Divine Justice*, p. 79)

Day: specified time, age, or period
exempted: set apart and excluded
princely: noble or royal
recounted: told in detail

rival: equal or excel
thunderstruck: struck with sudden astonishment and fear
virtues: goodness, excellence, and value

11. *Should the greatness of this Day be revealed in its fullness, every man would forsake a myriad lives in his longing to partake, though it be for one moment, of its great glory—how much more this world and its corruptible treasures!*

(*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 197)

corruptible: ability to cause a loss of moral purity
Day: specified time, age, or period
forsake: turn away from completely and leave behind
glory: distinguishing honor and admiration
greatness: markedly superior character and quality

myriad: great number of; ten thousand
partake: take or receive a portion
treasures: things perceived as being of great value or worth
world: material existence

12. *This is a matchless Day. Matchless must, likewise, be the tongue that celebrateth the praise of the Desire of all nations, and matchless the deed that aspireth to be acceptable in His sight. The whole human race hath longed for this Day, that perchance it may fulfil that which well beseemeth its station, and is worthy of its destiny. Blessed is the man whom the affairs of the world have failed to deter from recognizing Him Who is the Lord of all things.*

(*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 39)

acceptable: worthy of being received with favor or approval
affairs: personal, professional, or public matters and concerns
aspireth: seeks to attain or accomplish
beseemeth: seems proper for
blessed: highly favored with spiritual happiness and bliss

Day: specified time, age, or period
destiny: foreordained future condition
deter: turn aside, discourage, or prevent
matchless: unequalled; incomparable
recognizing: formally acknowledging and accepting
world: material existence

APPLICATION: *Showing forth divine light...*

Facilitator

Read through #1 together and proceed as stated. Then take time for the participants to write out their individual plans for action in #2. (these are not shared) When everyone has finished, move on to the closing reading.

1. IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES: *Visions of radiant lights...*

Bahá'u'lláh wrote: *“It is incumbent upon every man of insight and understanding to strive to translate that which hath been written into reality and action....”* Imagine how the Bahá'í Teachings in this study class could be translated into reality and action. Take turns sharing the possibilities. Begin your statements with: *“One could....”* Suggest as many ideas as you want.

2. DECIDING ACTION: *Mirroring forth a beam of light...*

From your experience in this study class on *The Greatness of the Cause*, describe what **you** are inspired to put into reality and action. ***I will make conscious efforts to...*** _____

My next step will be... _____

CLOSING MEDITATION: *A heart song...*

A prayer from the Pen of Bahá'u'lláh.

Magnified be Thy name, O my God, for that Thou hast manifested the Day which is the King of Days, the Day which Thou didst announce unto Thy chosen Ones and Thy Prophets in Thy most excellent Tablets, the Day whereon Thou didst shed the splendor of the glory of all Thy names upon all created things. Great is his blessedness whosoever hath set himself towards Thee, and entered Thy presence, and caught the accents of Thy voice.

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by the name of Him round Whom circleth in adoration the kingdom of Thy names, that Thou wilt graciously assist them that are dear to Thee to glorify Thy word among Thy servants, and to shed abroad Thy praise amidst Thy creatures, so that the ecstasies of Thy revelation may fill the souls of all the dwellers of Thine earth.

Since Thou hast guided them, O my Lord, unto the living waters of Thy grace, grant, by Thy bounty, that they may not be kept back from Thee; and since Thou hast summoned them to the habitation of Thy throne, drive them not out from Thy presence, through Thy loving-kindness. Send down upon them what shall wholly detach them from aught else except Thee, and make them able to soar in the atmosphere of Thy nearness, in such wise that neither the ascendancy of the oppressor nor the suggestions of them that have disbelieved in Thy most august and most mighty Self shall be capable of keeping them back from Thee.

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Prayers and Meditations*, pp. 117-18)

This study guide and many others are available as free downloads at www.bahaiessentials.com