

THE SACREDNESS OF THE HEART

"The things He hath reserved for Himself are the cities of men's hearts, that He may cleanse them from all earthly defilements, and enable to draw nigh unto the hallowed Spot which the hands of the infidel can never profane. Open, O people, the city of the human heart with the key of your utterance. Thus have We, according to a pre-ordained measure, prescribed unto you your duty."
(Gleanings, Page: 304)

"The Great Being saith: The Word is the master key for the whole world, inasmuch as through its potency the doors of the hearts of men, which in reality are the doors of heaven, are unlocked."
(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, Page: 173)

"God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of teaching His Cause. Whoever ariseth to discharge this duty, must needs, ere he proclaimeth His Message, adorn himself with the ornament of an upright and praiseworthy character, so that his words may attract the hearts of such as are receptive to his call. Without it, he can never hope to influence his hearers."
(Gleanings, Page: 335)

"The Pen of the Most High hath decreed and imposed upon every one the obligation to teach this Cause. God will, no doubt, inspire whosoever detacheth himself from all else but Him, and will cause the pure waters of wisdom and utterance to gush out and flow copiously from his heart. Verily, thy Lord, the All-Merciful, is powerful to do as He willeth, and ordaineth whatsoever He pleaseth."
(Gleanings, Page: 314)

"Above all, it is essential for the friends to have the confidence that a new receptivity is dawning in the hearts of the Europeans, and to have faith that the seeds they sow will germinate. They must know that the time is coming when the number of their fellow countrymen who accept the Faith will suddenly increase, and they must be ready and eager to welcome these believers ...

"To be most effective, teaching needs more than proclamation. The message needs to be conveyed personally from one soul to another in a spirit of love. Shoghi Effendi talks about the "art" of teaching. To excel in such an art requires courage, effort, constant application, the pain of uncertainty and an enormous willingness to take risks and suffer rebuffs. One needs wisdom and good judgement, and these the ... friends no doubt have in good measure. To them must be added audacity, joy, and confident reliance on the confirmations of the Holy Spirit. Ingenuity is also required, and perseverance. Although it may not be easy to meet people in order to teach them the Faith, let the friends never lose heart. There are ways if one seeks them with sufficient determination. Teaching the Faith comprises not merely offering a marvellous message, but conveying a feeling of enthusiasm and excitement at this message. After all, if we do not show people that we are enthusiastic about the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, how can we expect them to be enthusiastic?"
(From a letter of the Universal House of Justice to a European National Spiritual Assembly, 12 September 1991)