



# Investigating Truth

## A PRAYER TO BEGIN WITH

O Divine Providence! This assemblage is composed of Thy friends who are attracted to Thy beauty and are set ablaze by the fire of Thy love. Turn these souls into heavenly angels, resuscitate them through the breath of Thy Holy Spirit, grant them eloquent tongues and resolute hearts, bestow upon them heavenly power and merciful susceptibilities, cause them to become the promulgators of the oneness of mankind and the cause of love and concord in the world of humanity, so that the perilous darkness of ignorant prejudice may vanish through the light of the Sun of Truth, this dreary world may become illumined, this material realm may absorb the rays of the world of spirit, these different colors may merge into one color and the melody of praise may rise to the kingdom of Thy sanctity.

Verily, Thou art the Omnipotent and the Almighty!

—*‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**T**hose who have failed to work toward the truth have missed the purpose of living.

—*Buddha*

**W**hen things are investigated, then true knowledge is achieved; when true knowledge is achieved, then the will becomes sincere; when the will is sincere, then the heart is set right ; when the heart is set right, then the personal life is cultivated; when the personal life is cultivated, then the family life is regulated; when the family life is regulated, then the national life is orderly; and when the national life is orderly, then there is peace in this world.

—*Confucius*

God has given man the eye of investigation by which he may see and recognize truth. He has endowed man with ears that he may hear the message of reality and conferred upon him the gift of reason by which he may discover things for himself. This is his endowment and equipment for the investigation of reality. Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain. Each human creature has individual endowment, power and responsibility in the creative plan of God.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*



**T**he first is the independent investigation of truth; for blind imitation of the past will stunt the mind. But once every soul inquireth into truth, society will be freed from the darkness of continually repeating the past.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**M**oreover, the development of the life of the mind and independent investigation of reality... serve to equip individuals to distinguish truth from falsehood, which is so essential if prejudices, superstitious beliefs, and outworn traditions that impede unity are to be eliminated.

— *The Universal House of Justice*

**W**e must not look for truth in the deeds and actions of nations; we must investigate truth at its divine source.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**B**e free from prejudice, so will you love the Sun of Truth from whatsoever point in the horizon it may arise! You will realize that if the Divine light of truth shone in Jesus Christ it also shone in Moses and in Buddha.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**L**ead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation...

— *Psalm 25:5*

**G**od is the Truth. — *Quran 22:6*

**T**hen you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

— *John 8: 31-32*

**T**ruthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**W**ithout truthfulness, progress and success, in all the worlds of God, are impossible for any soul.

— *‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**B**eautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty.

— *Bahá’u’lláh*

**T**herefore it is imperative that we should renounce our own particular prejudices and superstitions if we earnestly desire to seek the truth. Unless we make a distinction in our minds between dogma, superstition and prejudice on the one hand, and truth on the other, we cannot succeed. When we are in earnest in our search for anything we look for it everywhere. This principle we must carry out in our search for truth.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá*

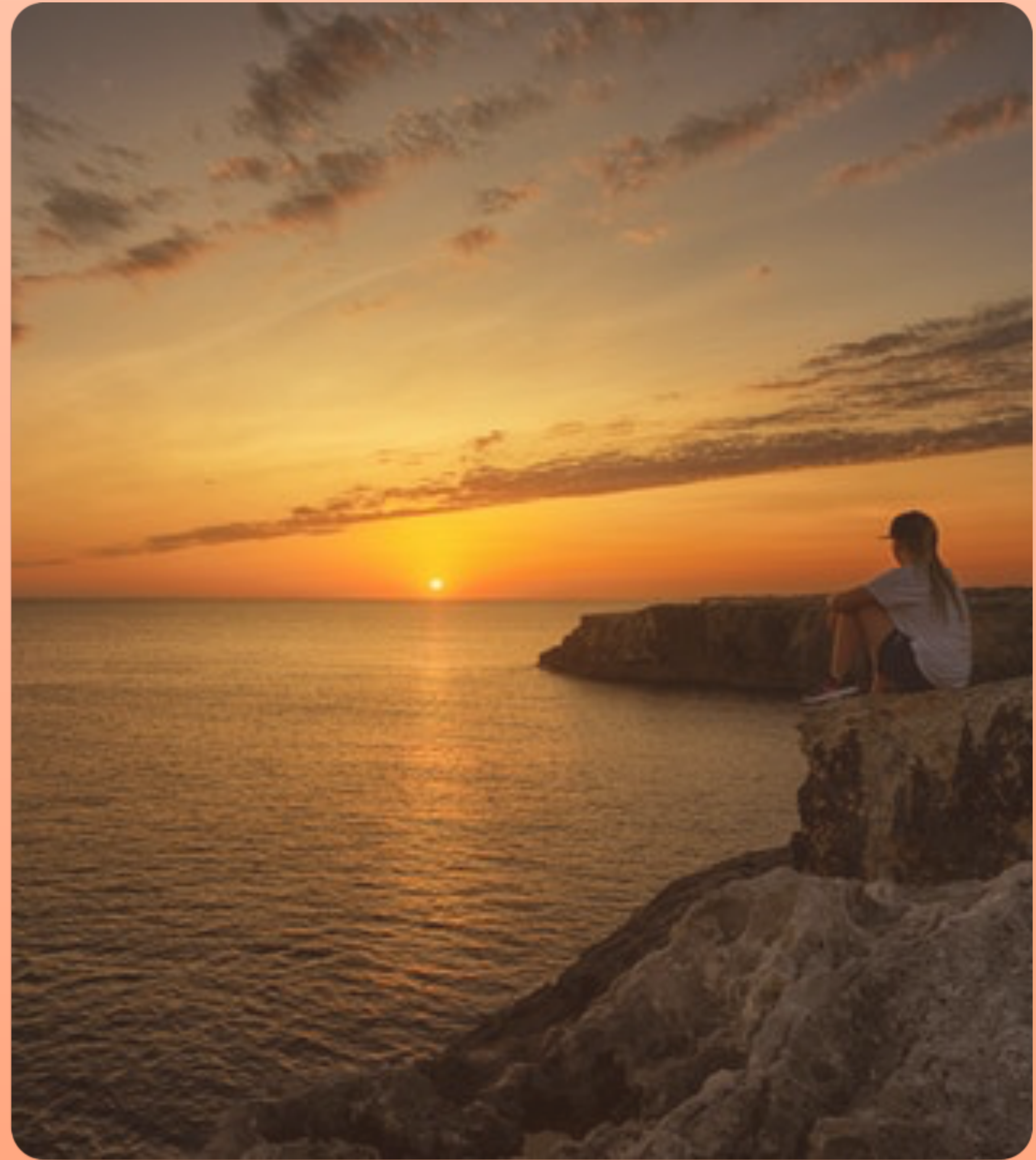
**L**ikewise, when you meet those whose opinions differ from your own, do not turn away your face from them... Do not allow difference of opinion, or diversity of thought to separate you from your fellowmen, or to be the cause of dispute, hatred and strife in your hearts. Rather, search diligently for the truth and make all men your friends.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá*



Spiritual development involves investigating truth for one's self. Continual reflection, based on experience in applying this truth, is critical to the process of spiritual development. For collective investigation of truth and group decision making, consultation, which draws on the strength of the group and fosters unity of purpose and action, is indispensable. Institutions and those in positions of authority would do well to create conditions amenable to the meaningful investigation of truth, while fostering the understanding that human happiness and the establishment of peace, justice and unity are the ultimate goals of this investigation.

—*Bahá'í International Community*



**I**f five people meet together to seek for truth, they must begin by cutting themselves free from all their own special conditions and renouncing all preconceived ideas. In order to find truth we must give up our prejudices, our own small trivial notions; an open receptive mind is essential. If our chalice is full of self, there is no room in it for the water of life. The fact that we imagine ourselves to be right and everybody else wrong is the greatest of all obstacles in the path towards unity, and unity is necessary if we would reach truth, for truth is one.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá*

**W**here there is shouting, there is no true knowledge.

— *Leonardo da Vinci*

**T** rue knowledge is when one knows the limitations of one's knowledge.

— *Confucius*

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Whether concerned with analysing a specific problem, attaining higher degrees of understanding on a given issue, or exploring possible courses of action, consultation may be seen as collective search for truth. Participants in a consultative process see reality from different points of view, and as these views are examined and understood, clarity is achieved. In this conception of the collective investigation of reality, truth is not a compromise between opposing interest groups. Nor does the desire to exercise power over one another animate participants in the consultative process. What they seek, rather, is the power of unified thought and action.

—*The Universal House of Justice*

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**T**he principle of the harmony of science and religion means not only that religious teachings should be studied with the light of reason and evidence as well as of faith and inspiration, but also that everything in this creation, all aspects of human life and knowledge, should be studied in the light of revelation as well as in that of purely rational investigation.

— *The Universal House of Justice*

**L**ove is patient and kind;  
love does not envy or boast; it  
is not arrogant or rude. It does  
not insist on its own way; it is  
not irritable or resentful; it  
does not rejoice at wrongdoing,  
but rejoices with the truth.

— *1 Corinthians 13:4-6*

