



How do we become true practitioners of
PEACE?



World peace is not only possible but inevitable. It is the next stage in the evolution of this planet... Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behavior, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth.

—The Universal House of Justice

Our world has entered the dark heart of an age of fundamental change beyond anything in all of its tumultuous history. Its peoples, of whatever race, nation, or religion, are being challenged to subordinate all lesser loyalties and limiting identities to their oneness as citizens of a single planetary homeland. In Bahá'u'lláh's words: "the well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

—The Universal House of Justice





While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.

—St. Francis of Assisi

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

—The Bible: Matthew 5:9

I shall ask you a question: Did God create us for love or for enmity? Did He create us for peace or discord? Surely He has created us for love; therefore, we should live in accordance with His will. Do not listen to anything that is prejudiced, for self-interest prompts men to be prejudiced.

—'Abdu'l-Baha



Everyone talks about peace, but no one educates for peace. People educate for competition and this is the beginning of any war. When we educate to cooperate and be in solidarity with one another, that day we will be educating for peace.

—Maria Montessori

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

—Albert Einstein

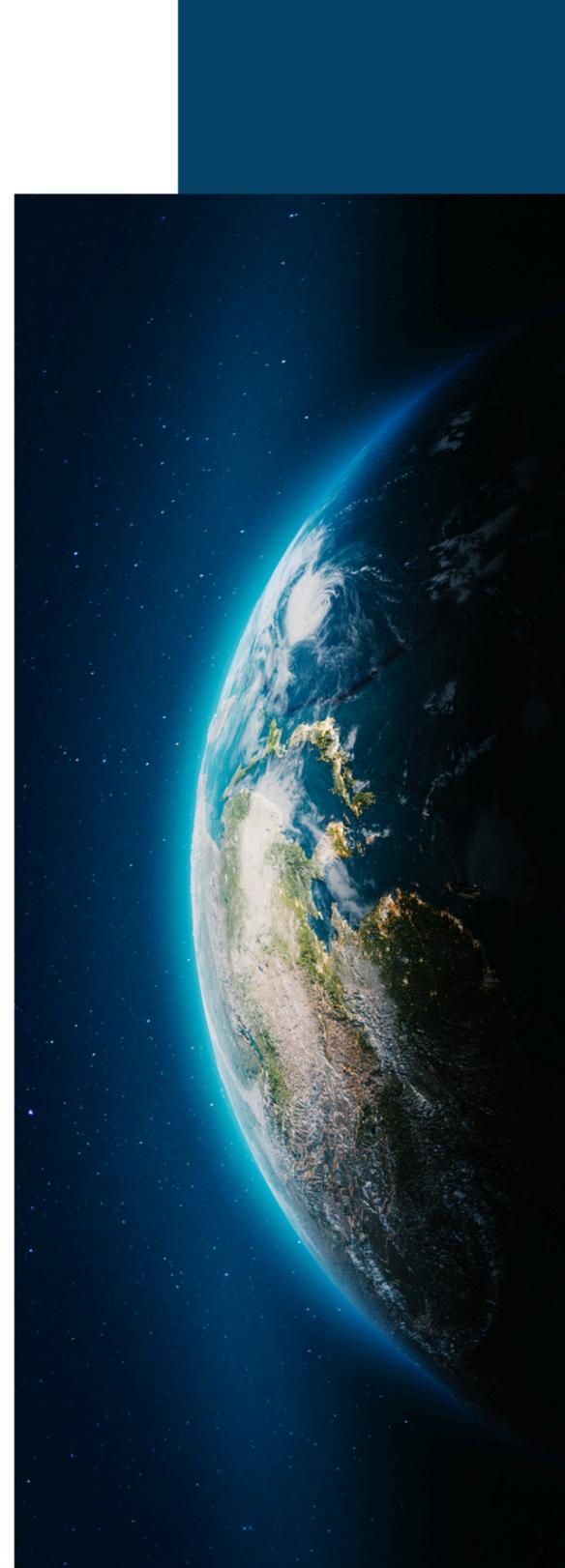
...it should be evident that a response to the condition of the world that focuses only on treating the symptoms of disunity, but does not address its fundamental causes, would be inadequate.

Resolving deep-rooted differences in society requires the patience to bring about profound social change through the application of moral and spiritual principles. It calls for sustained and sacrificial exertion.

—The Universal House of Justice

Heartfelt concern must prompt sustained effort to build communities that offer hope in place of despair, unity in place of conflict.

—The Universal House of Justice



Prejudices of any kind are the destroyers of human happiness and welfare. Until they are dispelled, the advancement of the world of humanity is not possible...

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

If the oneness of the human world were established, all the differences which separate mankind would be eradicated. Strife and warfare would cease, and the world of humanity would find repose.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

Racism, one of the most baneful and persistent evils, is a major barrier to peace. Its practice perpetrates too outrageous a violation of the dignity of human beings to be countenanced under any pretext. Racism retards the unfoldment of the boundless potentialities of its victims, corrupts its perpetrators, and blights human progress. Recognition of the oneness of mankind, implemented by appropriate legal measures, must be universally upheld if this problem is to be overcome.

—The Universal House of Justice

The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.

—Abraham Lincoln



Today the benefits of universal peace are recognized amongst the people, and likewise the harmful effects of war are clear and manifest to all. But in this matter, knowledge alone is far from sufficient: A power of implementation is needed to establish it throughout the world.

“It is our firm belief”, He continued, “that the power of implementation in this great endeavour is the penetrating influence of the Word of God and the confirmations of the Holy Spirit.”

*—The Universal House of Justice
(words in quotation marks: 'Abdu'l-Bahá)*

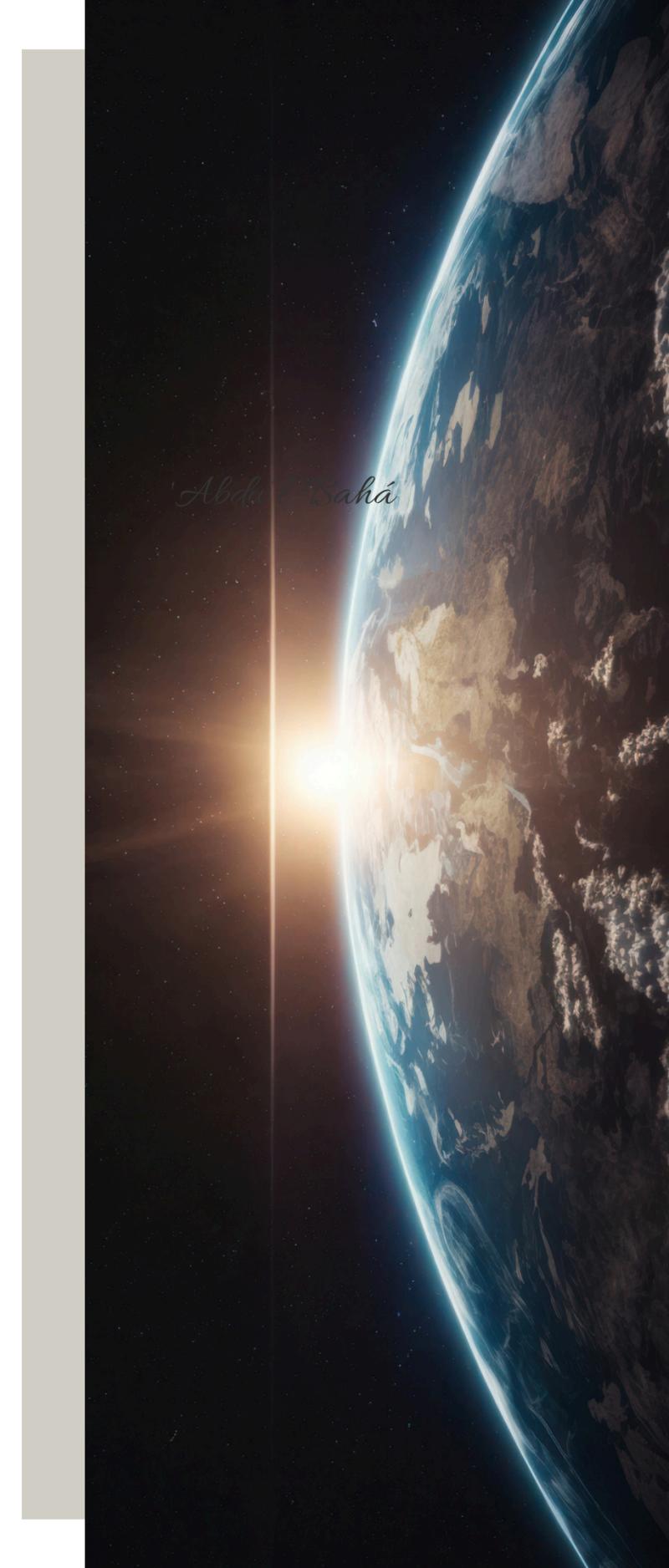
I want to make you understand that material progress and spiritual progress are two very different things, and that only if material progress goes hand in hand with spirituality can any real progress come about, and the Most Great Peace reign in the world.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Abdu'l-Bahá





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.

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ