

## The Súrah of the Arabs (Súrat al-A`ráb)

Revealed by Bahá'u'lláh

Provisional Translation by Joshua Hall

*This is the Súrah of the Arabs which has been revealed by One Who is the Revealer, the Ancient of Days*

He is the Sanctified, the Transcendent, the Exalted, the Most Effulgent

These are the verses of God which have been sent down from the heaven of wondrous glory, and which God has made to be a proof and testament from Him unto the worlds. Within it are mentioned the servants of God who recognized God in His own Self, who were not shut out as by a veil on account of the outcry of the idolators, who entered the shelter of His loving providence and reposed in the precincts of His mercy which surpasses all contingent things – this, indeed, is a great bounty.

These are they upon whom the heavenly concourse pronounce their blessings, as well as the angels that have drawn nigh. These are they who fell on their faces in prostration before God, the Exalted, the Sublime, when the Everlasting Sun once again shed Its effulgence upon them from the Most High Horizon.

O Beloved of God from amongst the Arabs! Give ear unto the call of God proceeding from this Tree upraised in truth, all of Whose leaves speak forth in all things: “I am God; none other god is there beside Him, the Sanctified, the Almighty, the Munificent”.

O people, hasten unto the Sidrah<sup>1</sup> of God and take

هذه سورة الاعراب قد نزلت من لدن منزل  
قديم

هو المقدّس المتعالى العلىّ الابهى

تلك آيات الله قد نزلت بالحقّ من سماء عزّ  
بديع و جعلها الله حجّة من عنده و برهاناً من  
لدنه على العالمين و فيها يذكر عباد الله  
الذينهم عرفوا الله بنفسه و ما اجتجهم عوى  
المشركين و دخلوا فى ظلّ عنايته و سكنوا  
فى جوار رحمته التى سبقت الممكنات و انّ  
هذا لفضل عظيم.

اولئك هم الذين يصلّون عليهم اهل ملا  
الاعلى ثمّ ملئكة المقرّبين. اولئك الذين اذا  
استشرق عليهم شمس البقاء عن افق العلى  
مرّة اخرى خرّوا بوجوههم سجّداً لله العلىّ  
العظيم.

ان يا احباء الله من الاعراب اسمعوا نداء الله  
من هذا الشجرة التى ارتفعت بالحقّ و تنطق  
كلّ ورقة من اوراقها فى كلّ شىء بانّى انا  
الله لا اله الا هو المقدّس العزيز الكريم.  
ان يا قوم ان اسرعوا الى سدره الله ثمّ  
استظلّوا فى ظلّها تالله الحقّ لو تفحص فى

<sup>1</sup> Lote Tree. Among the connotations of this word are the Burning Bush and the Lote Tree of the seventh heaven beyond which lies God's throne. In the Bahá'í writings it refers to the Manifestation of God.

shelter beneath Its shade. By the One True God!  
Were you to search all the climes of the earth and  
the expanse of the heavens, never would you find  
an abode of safety save beneath the shade of this  
Tree which overshadows the worlds. From amidst  
Its leaves the sweet-scented breeze of the Lord is  
wafted, giving life to every moldering bone. Turn  
unto It and partake of Its fruits, that your hearts  
may be purified thereby of the suggestions of  
every wretched deceiver.

Render praise, then, unto God for having  
preserved you from the wastes of self and  
passion, for having delivered you from the depths  
of prejudiced delusion and blindness on a Day  
when God came with the kingdom of His Cause  
and made His sovereignty manifest before all in  
heaven and on earth. Thank Him for having  
enabled you to recognize Him Who is His Self,  
for having revealed His beauty to you, for having  
spoken with you openly, and for His having  
numbered you among His servants who are  
endowed with understanding.

Stand firm in the Cause, insofar as Satan has  
come forth with his armies, and bids you at every  
moment to deny God, Who created you by a word  
from Him and Who made you among them who  
have attained. Praise God for having chosen you  
for His own Self, such that after the Sun of  
Eternity had set in Its own country, It dawned  
forth from the horizon of `Iraq, your land. This is  
of His grace unto you, which nothing, whether in  
the heavens or on earth, can surpass. The Face of  
God was amongst you with refulgent radiance,  
unconcealed and divested of every veil. He  
recited to you the verses of your Lord for months  
and years. The Ancient Beauty used to walk  
amidst you with God's majesty and presence, and  
revealed to you at each moment a fresh  
effulgence. Thus was the favor of God and His  
mercy complete unto you, that you might be  
among those in gratitude.

It is befitting that you pride yourselves over all  
the peoples of the earth, for none have been  
graced with such as you have attained, if you be

اقطار السّموات و الارض لن تجدنّ مقرّ  
الامن الا في ظلّ هذه الشجرة التي ارتفعت  
على العالمين و تهبّ من خلالها نسمة الله  
التي بها يحيى كلّ عظم رميم. توجّهوا اليها  
و كلوا من اثمارها ليطهر بها قلوبكم من  
اشارات كلّ مكار اثم.

ان اشكروا الله بما عصمكم عن تيه النفس  
و الهوى و انقذكم من غمرات الوهم و  
العمى في يوم الذي فيه اتى الله بملكوت  
امره و اظهر سلطانه على من في السّموات  
و الارضيين. و عرفكم نفسه و اظهر عليكم  
جماله و كلم معكم ظاهراً مشهوداً و جعلكم  
من عباده العارفين.

ان استقيموا على الامر لانّ الشيطان قد  
ظهر بجنوده و يأمركم في كلّ حين بان  
تكفروا بالله الذي خلقكم بامر من عنده و  
جعلكم من الفائزين. ان احمدوا الله بما  
اختصكم لنفسه بحيث لما غابت شمس القدم  
عن وطنها اشرقت عن افق العراق ارضكم  
و ان هذا من فضله عليكم و لن يعادله شئ  
عما خلق بين السّموات و الارضيين و كان  
وجه الله بينكم مشرقاً مضيئاً من غير ستر و  
حجاب و يتلو عليكم من آيات ربكم في كلّ  
شهور و سنين و كان يمشى بينكم جمال  
القدم بوقار الله و سكينته و يتحلّى عليكم في  
كلّ حين بتجلّى آخر و بذلك تمّت نعمة الله  
و رحمته عليكم لتكوننّ من الشاكرين.

فينبغي لكم بان تفتخروا على قبائل الارض  
كلها لانّ دونكم ما فازوا بما فرتم ان انتم  
من العارفين. اذاً ينبغي لكم بان تخلّقوا

among them possessed of understanding. You are thus to characterize yourselves with the attributes of God, that the perfumes of holiness may be diffused over all creation from your hearts, and that the signs of your Lord, the All-Merciful, the Compassionate, may be revealed from you.

Insofar as He has chosen you from amongst His creatures, strive that there be manifest from you such as has not been evinced by those beside you, that your eminence may be apparent in itself amongst the worlds. Be as the stars amidst the concourse of the earth, that you may guide those servants who have veiled themselves from recognizing God and Him Who is the Revealer of His Cause, and who are among the heedless.

Be marked by trustworthiness toward yourselves and all people, then with regard to their wealth and possessions, for such a virtue was beloved of God before the creation of Adam from water and clay. Were you not to be trustworthy and faithful on earth, neither could you be at peace with yourselves nor the people with you. Thus does God counsel you with the tongue of the Revealer of His Cause; indeed, a reminder is this to you and all creation.

Purify your hearts of envy and hatred, and your souls from iniquity and profligacy. Observe, then, such as you are bidden by God. Indeed, that which God commands His servants is better for them than the treasures of the heavens and earth. Beware lest you dispute with anyone regarding such as is created in this world; leave it unto the people thereof, that your souls may be at rest and you be wholly devoted to your Lord, the Exalted, the Sublime. The kingdom of wealth is in the hand of your Lord, the All-Merciful; He enriches whom He wills at His own behest, and He is, in truth, the Omnipotent, the Almighty, the Munificent.

Know, then, that God has entrusted the earth unto the kings, and has made them the manifestations of His might amidst all creation, if they enter under the shadow of the Sidrah of the Cause. Beyond this, authority is in His grasp; He does as

باخلاق الله لتهب من شطر قلوبكم روائح القدس على الممكنات و يظهر منكم آثار ربكم الرحمن الرحيم. و انه لما اصطفاكم عن بين بريته فاجهدوا بان يظهر منكم ما لاظهر من دونكم ليبرهن اختصاصكم بنفسه بين العالمين. كونوا كالنجوم بين ملا الارض ليهتدى بكم عباد الذينهم احتجوا عن عرفان الله و مظهر امره و كانوا من الغافلين.

كونوا امناء على انفسكم و انفس الناس ثم فى اموالهم و انها لصفة التى احبها الله من قبل ان يخلق الادم من الماء و الطين. و انتم ان لا تكونوا امناء فى الارض لن تظمنوا من انفسكم و لا الناس منكم كذلك ينصحكم الله بلسان مظهر امره و انه لذكرى لكم و للخلايق اجمعين.

طهروا صدوركم عن الحسد و البغضاء ثم نفوسكم عن البغى و الفحشاء ثم اعملوا بما امركم الله و انه ما امر العباد الا بما هو خير لهم عن خزائن السموات و الارضين. اياكم ان لا تجادلوا لما خلق فى الدنيا مع احد دعوها لاهلها لتستريح انفسكم و تكونن خالصا لوجه ربكم العلى العظيم. و ان ملكوت الغنا بيد ربكم الرحمن يغنى من يشاء بامر من عنده و انه لهو المقتر العزيز الكريم.

ثم اعلموا بان الله اودع الارض بيد الملوك و جعلهم ظهورات قدرته بين الخلايق اجمعين ان يدخلن فى ظل سدرة الامر و من دون ذلك الامر بيده يفعل ما يشاء و يحكم

He wills and decrees as He pleases. Nothing has He desired for Himself. He has left the world and its vanities to the people thereof, and has sanctified His loved ones from turning unto it; for He desires naught for them save such as shall endure so long as He Himself, the Exalted, the Sublime, shall endure. All that He has desired of the world are the hearts of His beloved ones, to sanctify them from all else beside Him and uplift them to the abode of safety, wherein nothing is beheld save the splendors of His countenance, wherein only praise of Me, the Almighty, the Wondrous, is heard.

Open, O people, the cities of men's hearts with the sword of the tongue in the name of your Lord, the All-Powerful, the Almighty, the Beneficent. Thus has the tongue of the All-Merciful commanded you formerly and presently; observe, then, such as you have been bidden, and do not transgress the precepts of God, your Lord and the Lord of the worlds. Beware lest you dispute regarding the Cause of God with anyone, for We have abrogated the law of the sword and have ordained that service be rendered by wisdom and exposition, as a token of Our grace to all creation.

Be kindled, O people, in the heat of God's love, that the souls of mankind may be set aflame! This is true service to the Cause, if you be among them possessed of understanding. From everlasting has He been sanctified of the world and all that is created within and upon it. If He were to so desire, He could conquer the earth and all who dwell upon it, by virtue of His name, the Omnipotent, the Almighty, the Powerful.

Adorn yourselves, O people, with the color of God; forsake, then, the hue of those who join partners with Him. God directs you unto righteousness and virtue. Be mindful in the religion of God, and do not commit iniquity and acts of profligacy. Be among those from whose faces the light of your Lord, the Unconstrained, is beheld, and from whom the sign of God and His bearing are manifest. Thus has it been ordained for you, the people of Bahá, in these days of

ما يريد. انه لم يزل ما اراد لنفسه شيئاً اودع الدنيا و زخرفها لاهلها و قدس اوليائه عن التوجه اليها لانه ما اراد لهم الا ما هو ليبقى بدوام نفسه العلى العظيم. و ما اراد من الدنيا هو قلوب احبائه ليقدمهم عن كل ما سواه و يعرجهم الى مقر الامن مقام الذى لن يشهد فيه بوارق الوجه و لن يذكر الا ذكرى العزيز البديع.

ان افتحوا يا قوم مدائن القلوب بسيف اللسان باسم ربكم المقتدر العزيز المنان و كذلك امركم لسان الرحمن من قبل و حينئذ ان اعملوا بما امرتم و لا تجاوزوا عن حدود الله ربكم و رب العالمين. اياكم ان لا تجادلوا فى امر الله مع احد لانا ارفعنا حكم السيف و قدرنا النصر بالحكمة و البيان فضلاً من لدنا على الخلائق اجمعين.

ان اشتعلوا يا قوم بحرارة حب الله لتشتعل منكم افئدة الناس و ان هذا حق النصر لو انتم من العارفين. انه لم يزل كان مقدساً عن الدنيا و ما خلق فيها و عليها و لو اراد ليسخر الارض و من عليها باسمه المقتدر العزيز القدير.

ان اصبغوا يا قوم بصبغ الله ثم اجتنبوا عن صبغ المشركين ان الله يأمركم بالبر و التقوى ان اتقوا فى دين الله و لا ترتكبوا البغى و الفحشاء كونوا من الذين يشهد من وجوههم انوار ربكم المختار و يظهر منهم اثر الله و وقاره كذلك ينبغى لكم اهل البهاء فى هذه الايام الشديد.

ان يا اعرابى اسمعوا ندائى ثم امشوا على

travail.

O My Arabs, give hear unto My call and walk in My path. Remember, then, the days of My presence and then My exile, My solitude, and My imprisonment, that you may be remembered by God in His kingdom of sublime glory. Cast aside the cup of annihilation proffered by those who follow self and desire, then take up the chalice that is life everlasting proffered by the fingers of Bahá, in the name of your Lord, the Exalted, the Most High, in this latter day. By this are souls so enriched as to be independent of the worlds.

O Pen of the Ancient of Days! Call to remembrance the Arabs whom God has chosen for His own Self, and whom He has enabled to gaze toward the direction of His mercy, whom He has severed from the idolators, that they may rejoice within themselves and be steadfast in the Cause, whereby the heaven of opposition has been cleft and every lofty summit scattered to dust.

Say: O people! We warned you upon Our departing `Iraq that Sámiri<sup>2</sup> would appear, the Calf cry aloud, and the birds of the night take flight after the setting of the Sun. Beware lest you forget the words of God; abide in peerless sanctity.

By God, My Arabs! If you were to look upon Me, you would not recognize Me, for My hair has whitened by reason of successive tribulations, and the Alif of the Cause has appeared in the form of Dál<sup>3</sup> by virtue of unrelenting trials; moreover, this rosy-red and luminous visage has grown wan and pale.

My Arabs! Be not forgetful of My mention, nor of My hardships, My sorrows, and My suffering. By My life! Mine eye weeps and My heart laments over Myself amongst these idolators. By God! The Beauty of the divine will has suffered

اثرى ثم اذكروا ايام لقائى و وصالى ثم هجرتى و غربتى و سجنى ليذكركم الله فى ملكوت عز كريم. دعوا كأس الفناء من الذينهم اتبعوا النفس و الهوى ثم خذوا كأس البقاء من انامل البهاء باسم ربكم العلى الاعلى فى هذه الكرة الاخرى و ان بها تستغنى النفوس عن العالمين.

ان يا قلم القدم ذكر عبادنا الاعراب الذين اختصهم الله بنفسك و جعلهم ناظراً الى شطر رحمتك و انقطعهم عن المشركين ليفرحوا فى انفسهم و يستقيموا على امر الذى انفطرت منه سماء الاعراض و اندكت كل جبل شامخ رفيع.

قل يا قوم انا اخبرناكم حين الخروج عن العراق بان السامرى يظهر و العجل ينادى و تتحرك طيور الليل بعد غيبة الشمس اياكم ان لا تنسوا كلمات الله كونوا فى عصمة منيع.

تالله يا اعرابى لو تنظرونى لن تعرفونى و قد ابيض مسك السود من تتابع البلايا و ظهرت الف الامر على هيئة الدال من توالى القضايا ثم اصفر هذا الوجه المحمر المنير.

يا اعرابى لا تنسوا ذكرى و بلائى و لا كربتى و ابتلائى فوعمرى ان عيني يمطر و قلبى ينوح على نفسى بين هؤلاء المشركين. تالله ان جمال المشية قد تغير من ظلم الاعداء و هيكل الارادة قد استقر على الرماد و القدر شق ثياب الصبر و القضاء منع عن الامضاء بما ورد من جنود

<sup>2</sup> He who, according to the Qur'anic story of Moses, induced the Israelites into the worship of the Golden Calf.

<sup>3</sup> The letter Alif is an erect line, while the letter Dál appears to be a bent over Alif.

alteration by reason of the oppression of foes, the Temple of the divine behest lies prostrate on the ashes, Destiny has torn asunder the robe of forbearance, and Decree is bereft of realization for such as the armies of the wicked-doers have committed against God, the Exalted, the Most High, in His latter dispensation. Thus has the matter come to pass, if you be among those with a hearing ear.

Is there any soul who shall arise to assist the Beauty of God by the tongue, who shall guard the Temple of His Cause from the swords of the People of the Bayán, and be among them whom the veils of names have not shut out from attaining unto Him Who is the Supreme Emanation, the Remembrance of God and the Wellspring of wisdom? Is there any who might have compassion on this Wronged One, who shall arise to render Him victorious, and be severed from all the worlds?

My Arabs! He who is unable to speak in My presence has endeavored to slay Me<sup>4</sup>, after We had created him, reared him, instructed him, and protected him for months and years. By God! If one of the tales of the Everlasting Joseph of were to be related unto you, and such as had befallen Him from the wolves of hatred, you would be severed from your own souls, look out unto the wilderness and lament until the spirit left your bodies. Yet the Pen forbears to speak, so as to guard your souls, O concourse of the faithful.

O My Arabs! Weep over My loneliness, My solitude, My imprisonment, and the hardship I have sustained; be not among the heedless. Those whom God has made to be a manifest warning on the earth have arisen in opposition, such that the Pen of the worlds cannot describe.

O My Arabs! Listen to My counsel, and do not draw near to those from whom the odors of hypocrisy defuse. Shun their ilk and abide in stainless purity.

الاشقياء على الله العلى الاعلى فى ظهوره  
الاخرى و كذلك قضى الامر ان انتم من  
السامعين.

هل من ناصر ينصر جمال الله باللسان و  
يحفظ هيكل امره من سيوف اهل البيان و  
يكون من الذين ما منعهم حجابات الاسماء  
عن الورود فى طمطمم الاعظم هذا الذكر  
الحكيم. و هل ذى رحم يرحم على هذا  
المظلوم و يستقيم على نصره و ينقطع عن  
العالمين.

ان يا اعرابى ان الذى لن يقدر ان يتكلم فى  
محضرى قد قام على قتلى بعد الذى خلقناه  
و ربينا و علمناه و حفظناه فى شهور و  
سنين. تالله لو اقصد لكم من قصص يوسف و  
البقاء و ما ورد عليه من ذئاب البغضاء  
لنتقطعن عن انفسكم و ارواحكم و تتوجهن  
الى البيداء و تتوحنن الى ان تفارق الروح  
من اجسادكم و لكن امسكنا القلم عن البيان  
حفظاً لانفسكم يا معشر المخلصين.

يا اعرابى نوحوا لوحدي و غربتى و سجنى  
و بلائى و لا تكونن من الغافلين. ان الذين  
جعل الله ظاهرهم عبرة فى الارض قد قاموا  
على الاعراض على شأن عجز عن ذكره  
قلم العالمين.

يا اعرابى اسمعوا قولى و لا تقربوا الذين  
تهب منهم روائح النفاق تجتبوا عن مثل  
هؤلاء و كونوا فى عصمة منيع. كذلك  
امركم جمال الرحمن حين الذى احاطته  
الاحزان من جنود الشيطان ان انتم من

<sup>4</sup> Bahá'u'lláh's brother Mírzá Yáhyá. Alluded references are common in Arabic style.

Thus has the Beauty of the All-Merciful commanded you at this moment while He is hemmed in with sorrows by reason of the legions of Satan, if you be among them possessed of understanding.

The radiance which has dawned from the everlasting realm rest upon you, O People of Bahá, so long as the Lord, the Omnipotent, the Exalted, the Sublime, shall endure.

العارفين.  
و الضياء الذى اشرق عن ناحية البقاء  
عليكم يا اهل البهاء بدوام الملك المقدر  
العلی العظيم.