

Prayer by 'Abdu'l-Bahá Extolling the Transcendence of God

Provisional Translation by Joshua Hall

He is the All-Glorious, the Resplendent

O Divine Providence, O Thou the Ever-Forgiving! How am I to let loose my tongue in praise of Thee, and therewith extol and worship Thee? To give voice to any word in Thy praise is in itself to fall short, and to write anything is proof of ignorance in this most difficult matter.

The tongue is but an instrument composed of material elements; utterance is but one amongst contingent attributes. With but a material instrument and contingent utterance, how is it that one could describe and laud the Ineffable?

Such as I utter and such as I seek are of the conceptions of the realm of man, and abide within the compass of human domain. How are the fruits of mortal musing to attain unto the heights of divinity? How can the spider of vain imaginings, with the silk spun of idle fancies and limited understanding, weave its web unto the realm of sanctity?

There is nothing to avail, save to confess powerlessness, and there is no excuse, but to acknowledge inability. Thou art the Self-Sufficing, the Transcendent,

هو الأبهى الأبهى

پروردگارا، آمرزگارا، چگونه
زبان به ستایشت گشایم و پرستش و
نیایش نمایم؟ تقریر عینِ تقصیر
است و تحریر دلیلِ نادانی در این
امرِ عسیر. زبان آلتی است مُرکّب
از عناصر؛ صوت و بیان عَرْضی
است از عَوارض. به آلتِ عُنصری
و صوتِ عارضی چگونه توان
نعت و ستایشِ حضرتِ بیچون
گفت؟ آنچه گویم و جویم از
مُدَرَکاتِ عالمِ انسانی است و در
تحتِ احاطهٔ عالمِ بشری. نتایجِ
فکریّه چگونه به معارجِ الهیّه رسد
و عَنکبوتِ او هامِ چگونه به لُعبِ
ظُنون و افهام بر رَفَرَفِ تقدیس تَنَد؟
جز بیانِ عجز چاره ای نه و به غیر
از اعتراف به قُصور بهانه ای
نیست. تو غنی مُتعالی و مقدّس از

sanctified above all conceived by the most
consummate of minds.

ادراكِ عُقُولِ اهلِ كَمال