SIDE BY SIDE STUDY FORMAT

The Fire Tablet

لوح قد احترق المخلصون

AUTHOR	TRANSLATOR	PARAGRAPHS	SOURCE
Bahá'u'lláh	Shoghi Effendi	50	Arabic

Revealed in late 1871 during a period of severe hardship in ʻAkká, this Tablet takes the form of an anguished dialogue between Bahá'u'lláh and God. Questions about the sufferings of the faithful are answered with divine assurances, building to a crescendo of triumph over tribulation.

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﴿ بِسْمِ اللهِ الأَقْدَمِ الأَعْظَمِ ﴾	﴿ In the Name of God, the Most Ancient, the Most Great ﴾
قَدْ احْتَرَقَ المُخْلِصُوْنَ مِنْ نَارِ الفِرَاقِ	Indeed the hearts of the sincere are consumed in the fire of separation:
أَيْنَ تَشَعْشُعُ أَنْوَارِ لِقَائِكَ يَا مَحْبُوْبَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the gleaming of the light of Thy Countenance, O Beloved of the worlds?
قَدْ تُرِكَ المُقَرَّبُوْنَ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الهِجْرَانِ	Those who are near unto Thee have been abandoned in the darkness of desolation:
أَيْنَ إِشْرَاقُ صُبْحِ وِصَالِكَ يَا مَقْصُوْدَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the shining of the morn of Thy reunion, O Desire of the worlds?
قَدْ تَبَلْبَلَ أَجْسَادُ الأَصْفِيَاءِ عَلَى أَرْضِ البُعْدِ أَيْنَ	The bodies of Thy chosen ones lie quivering on distant sands:
بَحْرُ قُرْبِكَ يَا جَذَّابَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the ocean of Thy presence, O Enchanter of the worlds?
قَدْ ارْتَفَعَتْ أَيَادِي الرَّجَاءِ إِلَى سَمَاءِ الفَضْلِ وَالعَطَاءِ	Longing hands are uplifted to the heaven of Thy grace and generosity:
أَيْنَ أَمْطَارُ كَرَمِكَ يَا مُجِيْبَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the rains of Thy bestowal, O Answerer of the worlds?
قَدْ قَامَ المُشْرِكُونَ بِالإِعْتِسَافِ فِي كُلِّ الأَطْرَافِ	The infidels have arisen in tyranny on every hand:
أَيْنَ تَسْخِيْرُ قَلَمِ تَقْدِيْرِكَ يَا مُسَخِّرَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the compelling power of Thine ordaining pen, O Conqueror of the worlds?
قَدْ ارْتَفَعَ نِبَاحُ الكِلَابِ مِنْ كُلِّ الجِهَاتِ	The barking of dogs is loud on every side:
أَيْنَ غَضَنْفَرُ غِيَاضِ سَطْوَتِكَ يَا قَهَّارَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the lion of the forest of Thy might, O Chastiser of the worlds?

7 قَدْ أَخَذَتِ البُرُوْدَةُ كُلَّ البَرِيَّةِ	Coldness hath gripped all mankind:
أَيْنَ حَرَارَةُ مَحَبَّتِكَ يَا نَارَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the warmth of Thy love, O Fire of the worlds?
8 قَدْ بَلَغَتِ البَلِيَّةُ إِلَى الغَايَةِ	Calamity hath reached its height:
أَيْنَ ظُهُوْرَاتُ فَرَجِكَ يَا فَرَجَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the signs of Thy succor, O Salvation of the worlds?
9 قَدْ أَحَاطَتِ الظُّلْمَةُ أَكْثَرَ الخَلِيْقَةِ	Darkness hath enveloped most of the peoples:
أَيْنَ أَنْوَارُ ضَيائِكَ يَا ضِيَاءَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the brightness of Thy splendor, O Radiance of the worlds?
10 قَدْ طَالَتِ الأَعْنَاقُ بِالنِّفَاقِ	The necks of men are stretched out in malice:
أَيْنَ أَسْيَافُ إِنْتِقَامِكَ يَا مُهْلِكَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the swords of Thy vengeance, O Destroyer of the worlds?
11 قَدْ بَلَغَتِ الذِّلَّةُ إِلَى النِّهَايَةِ	Abasement hath reached its lowest depth:
أَيْنَ آيَاتُ عِزَّتِكَ يَا عِزَّ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the emblems of Thy glory, O Glory of the worlds?
12 قَدْ أَخَذَتِ الأَحْزَانُ مَطْلَعَ إِسْمِكَ الرَّحْمَنِ	Sorrows have afflicted the Revealer of Thy Name, the All-Merciful:
أَيْنَ سُرُوْرُ مَظْهَرِ ظُهُوْرِكَ يَا فَرَحَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the joy of the Dayspring of Thy Revelation, O Delight of the worlds?
13 قَدْ أَخَذَ الهَمُّ كُلَّ الأُمَمِ	Anguish hath befallen all the peoples of the earth:
أَيْنَ أَعْلَامُ ابْتِهَاجِكَ يَا بَهْجَةَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the ensigns of Thy gladness, O Joy of the worlds?
14 تَرَى مَشْرِقَ الآيَاتِ فِي سُبُحَاتِ الإِشْارَاتِ	Thou seest the Dawning Place of Thy signs veiled by evil suggestions:

أَيْنَ إِصْبَعُ قُدْرَتِكَ يَا إِقْتِدَارَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the fingers of Thy might, O Power of the worlds?
15 قَدْ أَخَذَتْ رَعْدَةُ الضَّمَاءِ مَنْ فِي الإِنْشَاءِ	Sore thirst hath overcome all men:
أَيْنَ فُرَاتُ عِنَايَتِكَ يَا رَحْمَةَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where is the river of Thy bounty, O Mercy of the worlds?
16 قَدْ أَخَذَ الحِرْصُ مَنْ فِي الإِبْدَاعِ	Greed hath made captive all mankind:
أَيْنَ مَطَالِعُ الإِنْقِطَاعِ يَا مَوْلَى العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the embodiments of detachment, O Lord of the worlds?
17 تَرَى المَظْلُومَ فَرِيْدًا فِي الغُرْبَةِ	Thou seest this Wronged One lonely in exile:
أَيْنَ جُنْدُ سَمَاءِ أَمْرِكَ يَا سُلْطَانَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the hosts of the heaven of Thy Command, O Sovereign of the worlds?
18 قَدْ تُرِكْتُ وَحْدَةً فِي دِيَارِ الغُرْبَةِ	I have been forsaken in a foreign land:
أَيْنَ مَشَارِقُ وَفَائِكَ يَا وَفَاءَ العَالَمِيْنَ ۞	Where are the emblems of Thy faithfulness, O Trust of the worlds?
19 قَدْ أَخَذَتْ سَكَرَاتُ المَوْتِ كُلَّ الآفَاقِ	The agonies of death have laid hold on all men:
أَيْنَ رَشَحَاتُ بَحْرِ حَيَوَانِكَ يَا حَيَاةَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the surging of Thine ocean of eternal life, O Life of the worlds?
20 قَدْ أَحَاطَتْ وَسَاوِسُ الشَّيْطَانِ مَنْ فِي الإِمْكَانِ	The whisperings of Satan have been breathed to every creature:
أَيْنَ شِهَابُ نَارِكَ يَا نُوْرَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the meteor of Thy fire, O Light of the worlds?

21 قَدْ تَغَيَّرَ أَكْثَرُ الوَرَى مِنْ سُكْرِ الهَوَى	The drunkenness of passion hath perverted most of mankind:
أَيْنَ مَطَالِعُ التَّقْوَى يَا مَقْصُودَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the daysprings of purity, O Desire of the worlds?
22 تَرَى المَظْلُومَ فِي حِجَابِ الظَّلَامِ بَيْنَ أَهْلِ الشَّامِ	Thou seest this Wronged One veiled in tyranny among the Syrians:
أَيْنَ إِشْرَاقُ أَنْوَارِ صَبَاحِكَ يَا مِصْبَاحَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the radiance of Thy dawning light, O Light of the worlds?
23 تَرَانِي مَمْنُوْعًا عَنِ البَيَانِ	Thou seest Me forbidden to speak forth:
مِنْ أَيْنَ تَظْهَرُ نَغَمَاتِكَ يَا وَرْقَاءَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Then from where will spring Thy melodies, O Nightingale of the worlds?
24 قَدْ غَشَّتِ الظُّنُونُ وَالأَوْهَامُ أَكْثَرَ الأَنَامِ	Most of the people are enwrapped in fancy and idle imaginings:
أَيْنَ مَطَالِعُ إِيْقَانِكَ يَا سَكِيْنَةَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the exponents of Thy certitude, O Assurance of the worlds?
25 قَدْ غُرِقَ البَهَاءُ فِي بَحْرِ البَلَاءِ	Bahá is drowning in a sea of tribulation:
أَيْنَ فُلْكُ نَجَاتِكَ يَا مُنْجِي العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the Ark of Thy salvation, O Savior of the worlds?
26 تَرَى مَطْلَعَ آيَاتِكَ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الإِمْكَانِ	Thou seest the Dayspring of Thine utterance in the darkness of creation:
أَيْنَ شَمْسُ أُفُقِ عِنَايَتِكَ يَا نَوَّارَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the sun of the heaven of Thy grace, O Lightgiver of the worlds?
27 قَدْ خَبَتْ مَصَابِيْحُ الصِّدْقِ وَالصَّفَاءِ وَالغِيْرَةِ وَالوَفَاءِ أَيْنَ	The lamps of truth and purity, of loyalty and honor, have been put out:
شُئُوْنَاتُ غِيْرَتِكَ يَا مُحَرِّكَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the signs of Thine avenging wrath, O Mover of the worlds?
28 هَلْ تَرَى مَنْ يَنْصُرُ نَفْسَكَ أَوْ يَتَفَكَّرُ فِيْمَا وَرَدَ عَلَيْهَا فِي حُبِّكَ	Canst Thou see any who have championed Thy Self, or who ponder on what hath befallen Him in the pathway of Thy love?

إِذًا تَوَقَّفَ القَلَمُ يَا مَحْبُوْبَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Now doth My pen halt, O Beloved of the worlds.
29 قَدْ كُسِرَتْ أَغْصَانُ سِدْرَةِ المُنْتَهَى مِنْ هُبُوْبِ أَرْيَاحِ القَضَاءِ	The branches of the Divine Lote-Tree lie broken by the onrushing gales of destiny:
أَيْنَ رَايَاتُ نُصْرَتِكَ يَا مَنْصُوْرَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the banners of Thy succor, O Champion of the worlds?
30 قَدْ بَقَى الوَجْهُ فِي غُبَارِ الإِفْتِرَاءِ	This Face is hidden in the dust of slander:
أَيْنَ أَرْيَاحُ رَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَحْمَنَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the breezes of Thy compassion, O Mercy of the worlds?
31 قَدْ تَكَدَّرَ ذَيْلُ التَّقْدِيْسِ مِنْ أُوْلِي التَّدْلِيْسِ	The robe of sanctity is sullied by the people of deceit:
أَيْنَ طِرَازُ تَنْزِيْهِكَ يَا مُزَيِّنَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the vesture of Thy holiness, O Adorner of the worlds?
32 قَدْ رَكَدَ بَحْرُ العِنَايَةِ بِمَا اكْتَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي البَرِيَّةِ	The sea of grace is stilled for what the hands of men have wrought:
أَيْنَ أَمْوَاجُ فَضْلِكَ يَا مُرَادَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the waves of Thy bounty, O Desire of the worlds?
33 قَدْ غُلِقَ بَابُ اللِّقَاءِ مِنْ ظُلْمِ الأَعْدَاءِ	The door leading to the Divine Presence is locked through the tyranny of Thy foes:
أَيْنَ مِفْتَاحُ جُوْدِكَ يَا فَتَّاحَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the key of Thy bestowal, O Unlocker of the worlds?
34 قَدْ اصْفَرَّتِ الأَوْرَاقُ مِنْ سُمُوْمِ أَرْيَاحِ النِّفَاقِ	The leaves are yellowed by the poisoning winds of sedition:
أَيْنَ جُوْدُ سَحَابِ جُوْدِكَ يَا جَوَادَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where is the downpour of the clouds of Thy bounty, O Giver of the worlds?
35 قَدْ تَغَبَّرُ الأَكْوَانُ مِنْ غُبَارِ العِصْيَانِ	The universe is darkened with the dust of sin:

أَيْنَ نَفَحَاتُ غُفْرَانِكَ يَا غَفَّارَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Where are the breezes of Thy forgiveness, O Forgiver of the worlds?
36 قَدْ بَقَى الغُلَامُ فِي أَرْضٍ جَدْبَاءَ أَيْنَ غَيْثُ سَمَاءِ فَضْلِكَ يَا غِيَاثَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	This Youth is lonely in a desolate land: Where is the rain of Thy heavenly grace, O Bestower of the worlds?
37 أَنْ يَا قَلَمَ الأَعْلَى قَدْ سَمِعْنَا نِدَائَكَ الأَحْلَى مِنْ جَبَرُوْتِ البَقَاءِ ۞ أَنِ اسْتَمِعْ مَا يَنْطِقُ بِهِ لِسَانُ الكِبْرِيَاءِ يَا مَظْلُومَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	O Supreme Pen, We have heard Thy most sweet call in the eternal realm: Give Thou ear unto what the Tongue of Grandeur uttereth, O Wronged One of the worlds!
38 لَوْلَا البُرُوْدَةُ كَيْفَ تَظْهَرُ حَرَارَةُ بَيَانِكَ يَا مُبَيِّنَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Were it not for the cold, how would the heat of Thy words prevail, O Expounder of the worlds?
39 وَلَوْلَا البَلِيَّةُ كَيْفَ أَشْرَقَتْ شَمْسُ اصْطِبَارِكَ يَا شُعَاعَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Were it not for calamity, how would the sun of Thy patience shine, O Light of the worlds?
40 لَا تَجْزَعْ مِنَ الأَشْرَارِ قَدْ خُلِقْتَ لِلْإِصْطِبَارِ يَا صَبْرَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	Lament not because of the wicked. Thou wert created to bear and endure, O Patience of the worlds.
41 مَا أَحْلَى إِشْرَاقَكَ مَنْ أُفُقِ المِيْثَاقِ بَيْنَ أَهْلِ النِّفَاقِ وَاشْتِيَاقَكَ بِاللهِ يَا عِشْقَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	How sweet was Thy dawning on the horizon of the Covenant among the stirrers of sedition, and Thy yearning after God, O Love of the worlds.
42 بِكَ ارْتَفَعَ عَلَمُ الإِسْتِقْلَالِ عَلَى أَعْلَى الجِبَالِ وَتَمَوَّجَ بَحْرُ الإِفْضَالِ يَا وَلَهَ العَالَمِينَ ۞	By Thee the banner of independence was planted on the highest peaks, and the sea of bounty surged, O Rapture of the worlds.

43 بِوَحْدَتِكَ أَشْرَقَتْ شَمْسُ التَّوْحِيْدِ وَبِغُرْبَتِكَ زُيِّنَ وَطَنُ التَّجْرِيْدِ

أَنِ اصْطَبِرْ يَا غَرِيْبَ العَالَمِينَ ۞

By Thine aloneness the Sun of Oneness shone, and by Thy banishment the land of Unity was adorned.

Be patient, O Thou Exile of the worlds.

44 قَدْ جَعَلْنَا الذِّلَّةَ قَمِيْصَ العِزَّةِ وَالبَلِيَّةَ طِرَازَ هَيْكَلِكَ يَا فَخْرَ العَالَمِينَ ۞

We have made abasement the garment of glory, and affliction the adornment of Thy temple, O Pride of the worlds.

45 تَرَى القُلُوبَ مُلِئَتْ مِنَ البَغْضَاءِ وَلَكَ الإِغْضَاءُ يَا سَتَّارَ العَالَمِينَ ۞

Thou seest the hearts are filled with hate, and to overlook is Thine, O Thou Concealer of the sins of the worlds.

46 إِذَا رَأَيْتَ سَيْفًا أَنْ اقْبِلْ

إِذَا طَارَ سَهْمٌ أَنِ اسْتَقْبِلْ

يَا فِدَاءَ العَالَمِينَ ۞

When the swords flash, go forward!

When the shafts fly, press onward!

O Thou Sacrifice of the worlds.

47 أَتَنُوْحُ أَوْ أَنُوْحُ

بَلْ أَصِيْحُ مِنْ قِلَّةِ نَاصِرِيْكَ يَا مَنْ بِكَ ارْتَفَعَ نَوْحُ العَالَمِينَ ۞

Dost Thou wail, or shall I wail?

Rather shall I weep at the fewness of Thy champions, O Thou Who hast caused the wailing of the worlds.

48 قَدْ سَمِعْتُ نِدَائَكَ يَا مَحْبُوْبَ الأَبْهَى ۞

إِذًا أَنَارَ وَجْهُ البَهَاءِ مِنْ حَرَارَةِ البَلَاءِ وَأَنْوَارِ كَلِمَتِكَ النُّوْرَاءِ وَقَامَ بِالوَفَاءِ فِي مَشْهَدِ الفِدَاءِ نَاظِرًا رِضَائَكَ يَا مُقَدِّرَ العَالَمِينَ ۞

Verily, I have heard Thy Call, O All-Glorious Beloved;

and now is the face of Bahá flaming with the heat of tribulation and with the fire of Thy shining word, and He hath risen up in faithfulness at the place of sacrifice, looking toward Thy pleasure, O Ordainer of the worlds.

49 أَنْ يَا عَلِيُّ قَبْلَ أَكْبَرَ أَنِ اشْكُرِ اللّٰهَ بِهَذَا اللَّوْحِ الَّذِي تَجِدُ مِنْهُ رَائِحَةَ مَظْلُوْمِيَّتِي وَمَا أَنَا فِيْهِ فِي سَبِيْلِ اللّٰهِ مَعْبُوْدِ العَالَمِينَ ۝

O ʻAlí-Akbar, thank thy Lord for this Tablet whence thou canst breathe the fragrance of My meekness, and know what hath beset Us in the path of God, the Adored of all the worlds.

50 لَوْ يَقْرَؤُهُ العِبَادُ طُرًّا وَيَتَفَكَّرُوْنَ فِيْهِ لَيُضْرِمُ فِي كُلِّ عِرْقٍ مِنْ عُرُوْقِهِمْ نَارًا يَشْتَعِلُ مِنْهَا العَالَمِينَ ۝

Should all the servants read and ponder this, there shall be kindled in their veins a fire that shall set aflame the worlds.

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