SIDE BY SIDE STUDY FORMAT

Kitáb-i-'Ahd: The Book of the Covenant

کتاب عهدی

AUTHOR	TRANSLATOR	PARAGRAPHS	SOURCE
Bahá'u'lláh	Shoghi Effendi	16	Persian

The Book of the Covenant — Bahá'u'lláh's Will and Testament, written entirely in His own hand and unsealed on the ninth day after His ascension. It designates 'Abdu'l-Bahá as His successor and establishes what Shoghi Effendi called the mightiest Covenant in all religious history.

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1

اگر افق اعلی از زخرف دنیا خالی است و لکن در خزائن توکّل و تفویض از برای ورّاث میراث مرغوب لا عدل له گذاشتیم ۞

Although the Realm of Glory hath none of the vanities of the world, yet within the treasury of trust and resignation We have bequeathed to Our heirs an excellent and priceless heritage

2

گنج نگذاشتیم و بر رنج نیفزودیم ۞

Earthly treasures We have not bequeathed, nor have We added such cares as they entail.

ایم الله در ثروت خوف مستور و خطر مکنون ۞

By God! In earthly riches fear is hidden and peril is concealed.

انظروا ثمّ اذکروا مَا أَنْزَلَهُ الرّحمن فی الفرقان ۞

Consider ye and call to mind that which the All-Merciful hath revealed in the Qur'án:

وَيْلٌ لِكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُمَزَةٍ الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالاً وَ عَدَّدَهُ ۞ ثروت عالم را وفائی نه ۞

'Woe betide every slanderer and defamer, him that layeth up riches and counteth them.' Fleeting are the riches of the world;

آنچه را فنا اخذ نماید و تغییر پذیرد لایق اعتنا نبوده و نیست مگر علی قدر معلوم ۞

all that perisheth and changeth is not, and hath never been, worthy of attention, except to a recognized measure

3

مقصود این مظلوم از حمل شدائد و بلایا و انزال آیات و اظهار بیّنات اخماد نار ضغینه و بغضا بوده که شاید آفاق افئده اهل عالم بنور اتّفاق منوّر گردد و بآسایش حقیقی فائز ۞

The aim of this Wronged One in sustaining woes and tribulations, in revealing the Holy Verses and in demonstrating proofs hath been naught but to quench the flame of hate and enmity, that the horizon of the hearts of men may be illumined with the light of concord and attain real peace and tranquillity.

و از افق لوح الهی نیّر این بیان لائح و مشرق باید کل بآن ناظر باشند ۞

From the dawning-place of the divine Tablet the day-star of this utterance shineth resplendent, and it behoveth everyone to fix his gaze upon it:

ای اهل عالم شما را وصیّت مینمایم بآنچه سبب ارتفاع مقامات شمااست ۞

We exhort you, O peoples of the world, to observe that which will elevate your station.

بتقوی اللّٰه تمسّک نمائید و بذیل معروف تشبّث کنید ۞	Hold fast to the fear of God and firmly adhere to what is right.
براستی میگویم لسان از برای ذکر خیر است او را بگفتار زشت میالائید ۞	Verily I say, the tongue is for mentioning what is good, defile it not with unseemly talk.
عَفَا اللّٰهُ عَمَّا سَلَف ۞	God hath forgiven what is past.
از بعد باید کل بما ینبغی تکلّم نمایند ۞ از لعن و طعن و ما یتکدّر به الإنسان اجتناب نمایند ۞	Henceforward everyone should utter that which is meet and seemly, and should refrain from slander, abuse and whatever causeth sadness in men.
مقام انسان بزرگ است ۞	Lofty is the station of man!
چندی قبل اینکلمه علیا از مخزن قلم ابهی ظاهر ۞	Not long ago this exalted Word streamed forth from the treasury of Our Pen of Glory:
امروز روزیست بزرگ و مبارک آنچه در انسان مستور بوده امروز ظاهر شده و میشود ۞	Great and blessed is this Day - the Day in which all that lay latent in man hath been and will be made manifest.
مقام انسان بزرگست اگر بحقّ و راستی تمسّک نماید و بر امر ثابت و راسخ باشد ۞	Lofty is the station of man, were he to hold fast to righteousness and truth and to remain firm and steadfast in the Cause.
انسان حقیقی بمثابه آسمان لدی الرّحمن مشهود	In the eyes of the All-Merciful a true man appeareth even as a firmament;
شمس و قمر سمع و بصر و انجم او اخلاق منیره مضیئه ۞	its sun and moon are his sight and hearing, and his shining and resplendent character its stars.
مقامش اعلی المقام و آثارش مربّی امکان	His is the loftiest station, and his influence educateth the world of being.

هر مقبلی الیوم عرف قمیص را یافت و بقلب طاهر بافق اعلی توجّه نمود او از اهل بها در صحیفه حمراء مذکور ۞	Every receptive soul who hath in this Day inhaled the fragrance of His garment and hath, with a pure heart, set his face towards the all-glorious Horizon is reckoned among the people of Bahá in the Crimson Book.

خذ قدح عنايتی باسمی ثمّ اشرب منه بذكري العزيز البديع ۞	Grasp ye, in My Name, the chalice of My loving-kindness, drink then your fill in My glorious and wondrous remembrance.
5 ای اهل عالم مذهب الهی از برای محبّت و اتّحاد است او را سبب عداوت و اختلاف منمائید ۞ نزد صاحبان بصر و اهل منظر اکبر آنچه سبب حفظ و علّت راحت و آسایش عباد است از قلم اعلی نازل شده و لکن جهّال ارض چون مربّای نفس و هوسند از حکمتهای بالغه حکیم حقیقی غافلند و بظنون و اوهام ناطق و عامل ۞	5 O ye that dwell on earth! The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension. In the eyes of men of insight and the beholders of the Most Sublime Vision, whatsoever are the effective means for safeguarding and promoting the happiness and welfare of the children of men have already been revealed by the Pen of Glory. But the foolish ones of the earth, being nurtured in evil passions and desires, have remained heedless of the consummate wisdom of Him Who is, in truth, the All-Wise, while their words and deeds are prompted by idle fancies and vain imaginings.
6 یا اولیاء الله و امنائه ملوک مظاهر قدرت و مطالع عزّت و ثروت حقّند در باره ایشان دعا کنید ۞ حکومت ارض بآن نفوس عنایت شد و قلوب را از برای خود مقرّر داشت	6 O ye the loved ones and the trustees of God! Kings are the manifestations of the power, and the daysprings of the might and riches, of God. Pray ye on their behalf. He hath invested them with the rulership of the earth and hath singled out the hearts of men as His Own domain.
7 نزاع و جدال را نهی فرمود نهیا عظیما فی الکتاب ۞ هذا أمر الله فی هذا الظّهور الأعظم	7 Conflict and contention are categorically forbidden in His Book. This is a decree of God in this Most Great Revelation.

و عصمه من حكم المحو و زيّنه بطراز الإثبات

إنّه هو العليم الحكيم ۞

It is divinely preserved from annulment and is invested by Him with the splendour of His confirmation.

Verily He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.

8

مظاهر حكم و مطالع امر كه بطراز عدل و انصاف مزيّنند بر كل اعانت آن نفوس لازم ۞

طوبى للأمراء و العلماء فى البهآء

أولئک أمنائى بين عبادي و مشارق أحكامي بين خلقى ۞

عليهم بهائى و رحمتي و فضلي الّذي احاط الوجود ۞

در كتاب اقدس در اين مقام نازلشده آنچه كه از آفاق كلماتش انوار بخشش الهى لامع و ساطع و مشرق است ۞

It is incumbent upon everyone to aid those daysprings of authority and sources of command who are adorned with the ornament of equity and justice.

Blessed are the rulers and the learned among the people of Bahá.

They are My trustees among My servants and the manifestations of My commandments amidst My people.

Upon them rest My glory, My blessings and My grace which have pervaded the world of being.

In this connection the utterances revealed in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas are such that from the horizon of their words the light of divine grace shineth luminous and resplendent

9

يا أغصانى

در وجود قوّت عظيمه و قدرت كامله مكنون

و مستور باو و جهت اتّحاد او ناظر باشيد نه باختلافات ظاهره از او ۞

O ye My Branches!

A mighty force, a consummate power lieth concealed in the world of being.

Fix your gaze upon it and upon its unifying influence, and not upon the differences which appear from it.

10

وصيّت الله آنكه

بايد اغصان و افنان و منتسبين طرّا بغصن اعظم ناظر باشند ۞

The Will of the divine Testator is this:

It is incumbent upon the Aghṣán, the Afnán and My Kindred to turn, one and all, their faces towards the Most Mighty Branch.

أُنْظُرُوا مَا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِی کِتَابِي الأَقْدَس ۞

إذا غيض بحر الوصال و قضي كتاب المبدأ فی المآل توجّهوا إلی من أراده الله الّذی انشعب من هذا الأصل القديم ۞ مقصود از اين آيه مباركه غصن أعظم بوده ۞

Consider that which We have revealed in Our Most Holy Book:

'When the ocean of My presence hath ebbed and the Book of My Revelation is ended, turn your faces toward Him Whom God hath purposed, Who hath branched from this Ancient Root.' The object of this sacred verse is none other except the Most Mighty Branch ['Abdu'l-Bahá].

11

كذلک أظهرنا الأمر فضلا من عندنا و أنا الفضّال الكريم

قد قدّر الله مقام الغصن الأكبر بعد مقامه

إنّه هو الأمر الحكيم ۞

قد اصطفينا الأكبر بعد الأعظم أمرا من لدن عليم خبير ۞

Thus have We graciously revealed unto you our potent Will, and I am verily the Gracious, the All-Powerful.

Verily God hath ordained the station of the Greater Branch [Muḥammad-'Alí] to be beneath that of the Most Great Branch ['Abdu'l-Bahá].

He is in truth the Ordainer, the All-Wise.

We have chosen 'the Greater' after 'the Most Great', as decreed by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed.

12

محبّت أغصان بر كل لازم و لكن ما قدّر الله لهم حقّا فی أموال النّاس ۞

It is enjoined upon everyone to manifest love towards the Aghṣán, but God hath not granted them any right to the property of others.

13

يا أغصانی و أفنانی

و ذوی قرابتی نوصيكم بتقوی الله و بمعروف و بما ينبغی و بما يرتفع به مقاماتكم ۞

براستی میگويم تقوی سردار اعظم است از برای نصرت امر الهی ۞ و جنوديكه لايق اين سردار است اخلاق و اعمال طيّبه طاهره مرضيّه بوده و هست ۞

O ye My Aghṣán, My Afnán and My Kindred!

We exhort you to fear God, to perform praiseworthy deeds and to do that which is meet and seemly and serveth to exalt your station.

Verily I say, fear of God is the greatest commander that can render the Cause of God victorious, and the hosts which best befit this commander have ever been and are an upright character and pure and goodly deeds.

14

بگو ای عباد اسباب نظم را سبب پریشانی منمائید ۞ و علّت اتّحاد را علّت اختلاف مسازید ۞

Say: O servants! Let not the means of order be made the cause of confusion and the instrument of union an occasion for discord.

امید آنکه اهل بهاء بکلمه مبارکه قل کلّ من عند الله ناظر باشند ۞

We fain would hope that the people of Bahá may be guided by the blessed words:

و اینکلمه علیا بمثابه آبست از برای اطفاء نار ضغینه و بغضا که در قلوب و صدور مکنون و مخزون است ۞

‘Say: all things are of God.’ This exalted utterance is like unto water for quenching the fire of hate and enmity which smouldereth within the hearts and breasts of men.

احزاب مختلفه از این کلمه واحده بنور اتّحاد حقیقی فائز میشوند ۞

By this single utterance contending peoples and kindreds will attain the light of true unity.

إنّه یقول الحقّ و یهدی السّبیل

Verily He speaketh the truth and leadeth the way.

و هو المقتدر العزیز الجمیل

He is the All-Powerful, the Exalted, the Gracious.

15

احترام و ملاحظه اغصان بر کلّ لازم لأعزاز امر و ارتفاع کلمه ۞

It is incumbent upon everyone to show courtesy to, and have regard for the Aghṣán, that thereby the Cause of God may be glorified and His Word exalted.

و این حکم از قبل و بعد در کتب الهی مذکور و مسطور ۞

This injunction hath time and again been mentioned and recorded in the Holy Writ.

طوبی لمن فاز بما أمر به من لدن آمر قدیم ۞

Well is it with him who is enabled to achieve that which the Ordainer, the Ancient of Days hath prescribed for him.

و همچنین احترام حرم و آل الله و أفنان و منتسبین

Ye are bidden moreover to respect the members of the Holy Household, the Afnán and the kindred.

و نوصیکم بخدمة الأمم و اصلاح العالم

We further admonish you to serve all nations and to strive for the betterment of the world.

از ملکوت بیان مقصود عالمیان نازلشد آنچه که سبب حیات عالم و نجات امم است ۞

That which is conducive to the regeneration of the world and the salvation of the peoples and kindreds of the earth hath been sent down from the heaven of the utterance of Him Who is the Desire of the world.

نصایح قلم اعلی را بگوش حقیقی اصغا نمائید ۞

Give ye a hearing ear to the counsels of the Pen of Glory.

إنّها خير لكم عمّا على الأرض يشهد بذلک كتابي العزيز البديع

Better is this for you than all that is on the earth. Unto this beareth witness My glorious and wondrous Book.

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