

Concepts: Anna's Presentation

THE ETERNAL COVENANT (STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH)

- **Bahá'í Faith**
 - World religion
 - Bahá'u'lláh is the Promised One
 - Purpose of Faith is unity of mankind
 - *In one of His writings, Bahá'u'lláh says*

QUOTE 1 “**That which the Lord hath ordained....**”

- **God**
 - Unknowable
 - Creator of all things
 - Created us out of love

QUOTE 2 “**I loved thy creation, hence I created thee....**”

- **Eternal Covenant**
 - God never leaves us alone
 - Sends us Manifestation
 - Manifest means to reveal
 - Analogy of the mirror
 - <Acknowledge station of other Manifestation>
 - Bahá'u'lláh addresses the current needs of humanity
 - *Bahá'u'lláh speaks about the day in which we live*

QUOTE 3 “**This is the day.....**”

Any questions?

UNIFICATION OF MANKIND

- Aim of the Bahá'í Faith
- Part of same human family
- Garden analogy
- Creating unity no easy task
- **If you choose to join**to build & maintain unity
- How to create unity
 - If a thought of war.....
 - We strive to overcome prejudices of all kinds
- Bahá'u'lláh's Writings teach us how to walk in the ways of unity
- *There is a wonderful passage from 'Abdu'l-Bahá ... He says*

QUOTE 4 “**Bahá'u'lláh has drawn the circle of unity....**”

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH – SUFFERINGS/INFLUENCE

- Innate knowledge
- Chose to care for humanity
- Sufferings/Influence
- Share some detail (Shiyah Chal, exiled 4 times, Akka)
- *Bahá'u'lláh wrote about the Most Great Prison, Akka*

QUOTE 5 “**Remember My days during thy days,**”

- *Bahá'u'lláh choose to suffer because of His love for mankind*

QUOTE 6 “**The Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains....**”

- Despite powerful opposition & persecution Bahá'u'lláh's influence grew
- He revealed Word of God for more than 40 years
- Victory of His Cause certain
- Holiest Spot – Akka
- **Someday I hope you can go on pilgrimage as well ...**

THE BÁB

- Manifestation announced HWGWMM
- “The Gate”
- Called people to purify hearts to recognize HWGWMM
- Thousands accepted
- Persecution/martyrdom
- *To see how penetrating His Words are*

QUOTE 7 “**Is there any Remover.....**”

QUOTE 8 “**Say: God sufficiency all things above all things....**”

- Memorize first prayer, said in times of difficulty
- Remains in Haifa
- W/Bahá'u'lláh remains in Akka
- Twin cities are the spiritual and administrative center

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S COVENANT (‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ)

- Bahá'is have entered into a Covenant w/ Bahá'u'lláh
- Division into sects
- Bahá'u'lláh protected the unity of Faith
- Appointing ‘Abdu'l-Bahá successor, Sole Interpreter, Exemplar
- His life demonstrated how to be a Bahá'í
- By focusing on Him we
 - Learn love, justice, generosity
 - Remain aware of our Covenant w/ Bahá'u'lláh
- ‘Abdu'l-Bahá appointed Shoghi Effendi
- Election of the Universal House of Justice
 - Envisioned by Bahá'u'lláh, described by ‘Abdu'l-Bahá & Shoghi Effendi

LAWS

- Manifestation brings laws
- Some eternal, some change
- Laws are for our protection and happiness
- Obey out of love

QUOTE 9 “the lamps of My loving.....” and
“Observe My commandments...”

- **Prayer**
 - Analogy of food
 - Prayer nourishes our spiritual growth
 - Some prayers are special, some obligatory
 - *One obligatory prayer recited by Bahá'ís everyday*
 - **Invite to a devotional or ask them to host one in their home**

QUOTE 10 “I bear witness.....”

- **Backbiting**
 - destroys unity
 - unfortunately, established practice among humanity
 - ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us to do opposite
 - ten good qualities/one fault example

QUOTE 11: “O Companion of My Throne.....”

- **Prohibits Alcohol and Substance Abuse**
 - Great social ill
 - Causes violence, destroys family life, causes people to act shamefully
 - We were created noble
 - *Here is a beautiful quote from Bahá'u'lláh's Writings about nobility*

QUOTE 12: “O Son of Spirit! I created thee rich....”

- **Educate children**
 - Obligation of parents and society
 - *Here is a short passage from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that explains the importance of moral and spiritual education*

QUOTE 13: “Therefore, the beloved of God.....”

QUOTE 14: “The first duty....”

- Bahá'u'lláh Writings teach us how to do this effectively
- Local children's classes
- **Invite them to assist with classes or invite their children to participate**

BUILDING A NEW WORLD ORDER – BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

- **Inviting to join a religion**
 - Very organized
 - Aim: unification of the entire human race
 - Building a world civilization
 - Three participants in this work

- **Individual**
 - Firm in Covenant
 - Strive to align life w/ Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings and serve humanity
 - Life does not end with death
 - One's relation with God is eternal
 - Matrix analogy
 - To achieve our purpose we must work, serve, and share knowledge w/others

- **Community**
 - Humans not created to live alone
 - Live in communities
 - Must work together to build new civilization
 - Learn to be united

- **Institutions**
 - Institutions represent 3rd participant
 - Bahá'u'lláh brought His own Administrative Order
 - Supreme institution, Universal House of Justice
 - NSA
 - LSA, which you will get to know the soonest
 - No clergy
 - Guide affairs of community
 - Watch over well-being of individual believers
 - Elected in prayerful atmosphere by secret ballot
 - Through them we learn how new order can be estab. in society

- **Share declaration card and invite them to become a Bahá'i**
- End presentation with a prayer

QUOTE 15: “O God! Refresh and gladden....”