

Splendours (Ishráqát)
Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, Pages: 99-134

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*O thou who hast set thy face towards the splendours of My Countenance!
Vague fancies have encompassed the dwellers of the earth
and debarred them from turning towards the Horizon of Certitude,
and its brightness, and its manifestations and its lights.
Vain imaginings have withheld them from Him Who is the Self-Subsisting.
They speak as prompted by their own caprices,
and understand not.*

The Horizon of Certitude	...And its Brightness	...And its Manifestations	...And its Lights
Among them are those who have said: 'Have the verses been sent down?' Say 'Yea, by Him Who is the Lord of the heavens!'	'Is the Resurrection come?' 'Nay, more; He Who is the Self-Subsisting hath appeared with the Kingdom of His signs.'	Verily, the Crier hath cried out, when the promised time came, and they that have recognized the splendours of Sinai have swooned away in the wilderness of hesitation, before the awful majesty of thy Lord, the Lord of creation.	They who reject the truth have said: 'When were the heavens cleft asunder?' Say: 'While ye lay in the graves of waywardness and error.'
'Hath the Hour come?' 'Nay, more; it hath passed, by Him Who is the Revealer of clear tokens!'	'Seest thou men laid low?' 'Yea, by my Lord, the Most High, the Most Glorious!'	The trumpet asketh: 'Hath the Bugle been sounded?'	Among the faithless is he who rubbeth his eyes, and looketh to the right and to the left. Say: 'Blinded art thou. No refuge hast thou to flee to.'
Verily, the Inevitable is come, and He, the True One, hath appeared with proof and testimony.	'Have the tree-stumps been uprooted?' 'Yea, more; the mountains have been scattered in dust; by Him the Lord of attributes!'	Say: 'Yea, by the King of Revelation! when He mounted the throne of His Name, the All-Merciful.'	And among them is he who saith: 'Have men been gathered together?' Say: 'Yea, by My Lord! whilst thou didst lie in the cradle'

			of idle fancies.'
The Plain is disclosed, and mankind is sore vexed and fearful.	They say: 'Where is Paradise, and where is Hell?' Say: 'The one is reunion with Me; the other thine own self, O thou who dost associate a partner with God and doubttest.'	Darkness hath been chased away by the dawning light of the mercy of thy Lord, the Source of all light.	And among them is he who saith: 'Hath the Book been sent down through the power of the true Faith?' Say: 'The true Faith itself is astounded. Fear ye, O ye men of understanding heart!'
Earthquakes have broken loose, and the tribes have lamented, for fear of God, the Lord of Strength, the All-Compelling.'	They say: 'We see not the Balance.' Say: 'Surely, by my Lord, the God of Mercy! None can see it except such as are endued with insight.'	The breeze of the All-Merciful hath wafted,	And among them is he who saith: 'Have I been assembled with others, blind?' Say: 'Yea, by Him that rideth upon the clouds!' Paradise is decked with mystic roses, and hell hath been made to blaze with the fire of the impious.
Say: 'The stunning trumpet-blast hath been loudly raised, and the Day is God's, the One, the Unconstrained.'	They say: 'Have the stars fallen?' Say: 'Yea, when He Who is the Self-Subsisting dwelt in the Land of Mystery. Take heed, ye who are endued with discernment!'	And the souls have been quickenened in the tombs of their bodies.	Say: 'The light hath shone forth from the horizon of Revelation, and the whole earth hath been illumined at the coming of Him Who is the Lord of the Day of the Covenant!'
And they say: 'Hath the Catastrophe come to pass?' Say: 'Yea, by the Lord of Lords!'	All the signs appeared when We drew forth the Hand of Power from the bosom of majesty and might.	Thus hath the decree been fulfilled by God, the Mighty, the Beneficent.	The doubters have perished, whilst he that turned, guided by the light of assurance, unto the Dayspring of Certitude hath prospered.

*Blessed art thou, who hast fixed thy gaze upon Me,
for this Tablet which hath been sent down for thee - a Tablet which causeth the souls of men to soar.*

Commit it to memory, and recite it.

By My life! It is a door to the mercy of thy Lord.

Well is it with him that reciteth it at eventide and at dawn.

We, verily, heard thy praise of this Cause,

through which the mountain of knowledge was crushed, and men's feet have slipped.

My glory be upon thee and upon whomsoever hath turned unto the Almighty, the All-Bounteous.

The Tablet is ended, but the theme is unexhausted. Be patient, for thy Lord is patient.