

1. Disease and remedy

...that which hath streamed forth from the Most Exalted Pen is conducive to the glory, the advancement and education of all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. Indeed it is the sovereign remedy for every disease, could they but comprehend and perceive it.

Bahá'u'lláh

2. Metaphors and ways of seeing

- Evolution



- Night into day, and seasons



- Birth



- Perception



- Education



240215 Interfaith presentation – The sovereign remedy for every disease

- Healing



240215 Interfaith presentation – The sovereign remedy for every disease

3. Dis-ease

disease

noun [C/U]

/di'ziz/

a condition of a person, animal, or plant in which its body or structure is harmed because an organ or part is unable to work as it usually does; an illness:

Cambridge Dictionary

sick . sad



4. Transforming our true self

...the primary source of the power for transformation comes from an acceptance of ... the Word of God .. often referred to as "the creative word" precisely because human beings have felt themselves being created anew as they have become more and more exposed to it.

Daniel Jordan, Becoming Your True Self, published in *World Order* 3:1,
pages 43-51, 1968

https://bahai-library.com/jordan_becoming_true_self

5. Transforming society

This spiritual view of evolution is the constant theme of religion. Each revelation refers to the past, looks forward to the future and concentrates upon the immediate need for spiritual regeneration and enlightenment. The Prophet evokes in human hearts a sacrificial love which transcends self-interest and causes the early believers to dedicate themselves entirely to the practice and diffusion of the new message. As it spreads it works like leaven in society, reforming its morals, uplifting its vision and promoting a greater diffusion of love in social action.

David Hofman

https://bahai-library.com/hofman_bw18_introduction

6. Religion?

It is often observed that religion is the problem, or that human nature is prone to conflict. And the conclusion has been that no significant transformation is possible. Those ideas can be evaluated. In this presentation we are looking for examples of desirable change associated with religion.

This interfaith group has studied many examples



Quick refresher (12 out of more than 160)

1. **Merina** – how Jesus transformed our understanding of suffering in a constructive way.

2. **Tracy** – how indigenous spirituality and the Uluru Statement from the Heart

3. **Sunitha** – Changing the climate through compassionate local projects

4. **Ben** – Practical ways to achieve unity

5. **Michael** – Divine love in a human heart

6. **Aashi** – Beauty

7. **Colin** – Breakthroughs in interfaith dialogue

8. **Sunandha** – Mindfulness

9. **Zia** – Constructive Resilience

10. **Herwig** – Local transformation in India

11. **Halim** – how the Qur'an introduced agreements of peace.

12. **Ahmad** – Blueprint for transformation

7. Signs of Transformation

On 30 December 2021 the Universal House of Justice outlined what is possible over the next few years, based on the reality of progress and achievements over the previous years.

We will look at just one paragraph from that message. It can be read **an ideal**, or **a plan**. Or even as **a measurement** of progress.

Is the world at ease? Is our community functioning well? Am I?

1. Prosperity

2. Consultation

3. Order

4. Reason

5. Oneness

6. Realism

7. Effort

8. Freedom

9. Learning

10. Advancing

8. The enkindled souls...

The enkindled souls being raised up through the processes of the Plan are seeking to gain an ever more profound understanding of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings—"the sovereign remedy for every disease"—and to apply them to the needs of their society. They are committed to the prosperity of all, recognizing that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large. They are loyal citizens who eschew partisanship and the contest for worldly power. Instead, they are focused on transcending differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting the use of consultation for making decisions. They emphasize qualities and attitudes—such as trustworthiness, cooperation, and forbearance—that are building blocks of a stable social order. They champion rationality and science as essential for human progress. They advocate tolerance and understanding, and with the inherent oneness of humanity uppermost in their minds, they view

everyone as a potential partner to collaborate with, and they strive to foster fellow feeling even among groups who may traditionally have been hostile to one another. They are conscious of how the forces of materialism are at work around them, and their eyes are wide open to the many injustices that persist in the world, yet they are equally clear sighted about the creative power of unity and humanity's capacity for altruism. They see the power that true religion possesses to transform hearts and overcome distrust, and so, with confidence in what the future holds, they labour to cultivate the conditions in which progress can occur. They share their beliefs liberally with others, remaining respectful of the freedom of conscience of every soul, and they never impose their own standards on anyone. And while they would not pretend to have discovered all the answers, they are clear about what they have learned and what they still need to learn. Their efforts advance to the alternating rhythm of action and reflection; setbacks leave them unfazed. In places where growing numbers are helping to

build communities of this character, the power of the Cause to transform people's social existence, as well as their inner lives, is becoming increasingly visible. Earnest pursuit of the Plan's central aim will, we are sure, cause many, many such communities to emerge.

30 December 2021 message from the Universal House of Justice

9. Signs of transformation

(examples, stories, experiences)

The enkindled souls ...

Prosperity

- They are committed to the prosperity of all, recognizing that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large.

Consultation

- They are loyal citizens who eschew partisanship and the contest for worldly power. Instead, they are focused on transcending differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting the use of consultation for making decisions.

Order

- They emphasize qualities and attitudes—such as trustworthiness, cooperation, and forbearance—that are building blocks of a stable social order.

Reason

- They champion rationality and science as essential for human progress.

Oneness

- They advocate tolerance and understanding, and with the inherent oneness of humanity uppermost in their minds, they view everyone as a potential partner to collaborate with, and they strive to foster fellow feeling even among groups who may traditionally have been hostile to one another.

Realism

- They are conscious of how the forces of materialism are at work around them, and their eyes are wide open to the many injustices that persist in the world, yet they are equally clear sighted about the creative power of unity and humanity's capacity for altruism.

Effort

- They see the power that true religion possesses to transform hearts and overcome distrust, and so, with confidence in what the future holds, they labour to cultivate the conditions in which progress can occur.

Freedom

- They share their beliefs liberally with others, remaining respectful of the freedom of conscience of every soul, and they never impose their own standards on anyone.

Learning

- And while they would not pretend to have discovered all the answers, they are clear about what they have learned and what they still need to learn.

Advancing

- Their efforts advance to the alternating rhythm of action and reflection; setbacks leave them unfazed.



*...that which hath
streamed forth from
the Most Exalted Pen ...
is the sovereign remedy
for every disease, could
they but comprehend
and perceive it.*

Bahá'u'lláh

Presentation by Colin Dibdin

15 February 2024

240215 Interfaith presentation – The sovereign remedy for every disease