

# I call on Thee O Thou Who slayest the Lovers, O God of Grace to the wicked!

From the Long Healing Prayer revealed by Baha'u'llah

## • Context

- This 10 minute presentation is not about Baha'u'llah's teachings on social justice, but about trying to gain an insight into God's way of applying justice and mercy for individuals.
- The Long Healing Prayer takes about 25 minutes to recite or sing.
- It begins with 39 verses calling upon God by His names such as "O Lord of Bounty, O Most Compassionate, O Most Merciful One."
- It finishes with a prayer beseeching God's protection, healing and guidance.
- Connecting the first and last sections are these interesting words [quoted above]
- The prayer is no doubt helpful for physical healing. I have found it to be most effective for spiritual healing.
- It has been put to music most beautifully by Nancy Ward, and you can find it on YouTube.

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## • Questions

- We call upon God in prayer. The messengers of God teach that He is perfectly good, loving and just.
- I interpret “the Lovers” to be the lovers of God and of humanity. And yet the verse says that God slays (which means kills) the Lovers. Why? That seems unjust.
- I interpret “the wicked” to be those who disobey God and do bad things to humanity. And yet God is Gracious to them. Why? That seems unjust.

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## • Reflections

- If we love God we want to seek, follow and reflect some of His qualities. This means sacrificing our lower, selfish, animal passions. God helps us by trials and tests. He only slays our lower nature. This is Grace.
- If we do not love God, then we especially need grace. We might not know it as grace. Sometimes we hit rock bottom in our life before we turn to God and start to love humanity.
- We are all a mixture of good and bad, higher and lower natures, God's lovers and wicked. Therefore the beginning and the end of the passage is relevant to every person.
- When we call upon God, the descriptions "O Thou Who slayest the lovers" and "O God of Grace to the wicked" have the same meaning.