

Today is the day for steadfastness and constancy. Blessed are they that stand firm and immovable as the rock and brave the storm and stress of this tempestuous hour. They, verily, shall be the recipients of God's grace; they, verily, shall receive His divine assistance, and shall be truly victorious. They shall shine amidst mankind with a radiance which the dwellers of the Pavilion of Glory laud and magnify.

-- 'Abdu'l-Bahá

EMERGING ESSENCE

Your own beauty shall be laid bare
Your face is shining there
Come, fellow soul, trust me
Share your heart and thoughts wilfully

We all belong to the half-light
Are crippled from this plight
Our hearts scarred with darkness
Sorrow over crescent baseness

Leaning on God's laws, one outgrows
Flaws from childhood sorrows
And fills the hollowness
With elation for His Greatness

We face ruptures of the half-light
Peace sometimes lost from sight
Yet grace springs from the inside
As from God we no longer hide

Stand by His Words with constancy
Trust and pray constantly
That He raise you, valiant
Devoted to His Covenant

We are children of the half-light
Challenged with flight or fight
In the pending duel
Of divine good over evil

Behold how your beauty outpours
From below unbarred doors
Your virtues which now shine
Evince the station which is thine

There were once children of the half-light
Who rose strong and stood aright,
Danced or died for His Glory –
They endured God's great calamity.

Lorraine Hétu Manifold
Haifa, Aug 94

This judgment of God ... is both a retributory calamity and an act of holy and supreme discipline. It is at once a visitation from God and a cleansing process for all mankind... God, the Vigilant, the Just, the Loving, the All-Wise Ordainer, [will not] be willing to abandon His children to their fate, and refuse them that culminating and blissful stage in their long, their slow and painful evolution throughout the ages, which is at once their inalienable right and their true destiny.

-- Shoghi Effendi