



Only future generations can comprehend the value and the significance attached to this Divine Masterpiece [The Universal House of Justice], which the hand of the Master-builder of the world has designed for the unification and the triumph of the world-wide Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

-- Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*

Invitation to the Fortress of Abhá

O thou, heart of Bahá
Smile upon the earth
Filter His guidance down
Make happiness glow.
Low is the world's mirth
Before the seat you crown

O thou, buttress of the world
How be it I met thee
Resplendent upon thy throne –
The Chambers of Kamál –
Humbly breathing with me
With the dignity you own

O thou, fashioner of God's peace
Amongst you is the Power
Of the One Who resides so near,
The One I felt deep inside
Who harkened to my prayer
Which only then resounded clear

O thou, sanctified House of Justice
Thrice you showered me with bounty:
With the blessed gift to serve mankind,
This gentle reception in grace,
And mine hearth on soil so holy.
Pray that I may all my duties mind

O thou, now Centre of the Covenant
My eyes bowed to thee in reverence
When I sat reposed within thy shadow.
Yet tears were far from my humble soul
As I smiled and gazed on thy essence
And the glorious path thou wilt follow

O thou, Carmel's splendour
When I withdrew from thee
I understood life's only purpose:
Reverence.
Humility.
And service.

Lorraine Héту Manifold
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