Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues. Without truthfulness, progress and success in all the worlds of God, are impossible for any soul. When this holy attribute is established in man, all the divine qualities will also become acquired. — ''Abdu'l-Bahá

A cry of anguish

Leaps from swollen sorrow

Merely to leave behind

SECURITY IN HONESTY

Injustice it exclaims
Explanations it invokes
Explore why must congruent pain
Intrude again and again
To flood your heart with loneliness

A loud pronounced silence Resonant and salient

You are torn with lassitude Shattered with wounded weariness As your trust in recurrently bruised By them whose deeds dissolve their words Into bubbles of bogus substance

Continuous counterfeit claims
Transpierce the depths of once innocence
And contribute to one's consternation
Before an instinctive construction
Of your projecting fortress from deceit

O God! Whereto must we turn to trust And feel the warmth of tender truthfulness Wherefore must our inner knowledge be confined To certainty of upcoming outbreaks Of neverending storms of dishonesty

O our Master! The Compassionate One! Cause masquerades to shrivel up and be shunned Summon trustworthiness to be unseated and shine For our hearts can no longer last, rebellious, Dragging on, in ignorance, of our true essence.

> Lorraine Hétu Manifold Haifa, August 1994