

Treasury of the Spirit

Opening Music ~ Elixir

Treasury of the Heart

- ~ Baha'u'llah *from Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ 'Abdul-Baha *from Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ Markarios the Great *from the Book of Mystical Chapters*
- ~ Shelley *from A Defense of Poetry*
- ~ *Sayings of Sri Ramakrishna*
- ~ Liu Tzu-Hui *from: 'A Feast of Lanterns'*
- ~ *Jewish Kesuvim (Writings), Mishlei (Proverbs)*

Music ~ Elixir

Treasury of the Mind

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Music Elixir

Treasury of the Spirit

- ~ 'Abdu'l-Baha, *from the Bahá'í Writing*
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Musical Finale ~ Elixir

OPENING MUSIC
ELIXIR

Treasury of the Heart

God guard me from those thoughts men think in the mind alone.

W. B. Yeats .

O YE PEOPLE THAT HAVE MINDS TO KNOW AND EARS TO HEAR!

The first call of the Beloved is this:

O mystic nightingale! Abide not but in the rose-garden of the spirit. O messenger of the Solomon of love! Seek thou no shelter except the Sheba of the well-beloved, and O immortal phoenix! Dwell not save on the mount of faithfulness. Therein is thy habitation, if on the wings of thy soul thou soarest to the realm of the infinite and seekest to attain thy goal.

Baha'u'llah *The Hidden Words*

Love is the most great Law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe.

We declare that Love is the cause of the existence of all phenomena and the absence of love is the cause of disintegration or non-existence. Love is the conscious bestowal of God, the bond of affiliation in all phenomena.

‘Abdu’l-Baha, from the Bahá’í Writings

What did the Lord mean when he said:
“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God”
Or again when he said:
“Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”
Did he not promise to us in these words
a state of final purification from all wickedness.
And is this not the final setting aside
of our ignoble obsessions
and our ascent to the perfections
of the highest plane of virtues,
which is itself the ultimate purification
and sanctification of our heart
by the means of its communion
with the divine and perfect spirit of God.

Markarios the Great

Man is an instrument over which a series
of external and internal impressions are driven,
like the alternations of an ever-changing Aeolian lyre,
which move it by their motion to ever-changing mel-
ody.

But there is a principal within the human being,
and perhaps within all sentient beings,
which acts otherwise than in a lyre,
and produces not melody alone, but harmony,
by an internal adjustment of the sounds and motions
thus excited to the impressions which excite them.
It is as if the lyre could accommodate its chords
to the motions of that which strikes them,
in a determined proportion of sound;
even as the musician can accommodate
his voice to the sound of the lyre.

Shelley: from 'A Defense of Poetry.'

There are three kinds of love, selfish, mutual,
and unselfish.

The selfish love is the lowest it only looks to-
wards its own happiness,
no matter whether the beloved suffers weal or
woe.

In mutual love the lover not only wants the hap-
piness
of his own or his beloved, but has an eye to-
wards
his own happiness also.

The unselfish love is of the highest kind.
The lover only minds the welfare of the beloved.

Sayings of Sri Ramakrishna.

LISTENING TO THE HARP

Night and the midway moon.
Some hidden lute
Sounds from a silken alcove.
As the wind swells and recedes
The lutany now swells, now falters
. Now commingled with the clouds
It throbs betwixt the earth and moon.
Almost like gentle mockery the echoes fall
As laughter breaks on tears. the hand that sways.

The crowded chords I see not,
but the heart made visible by music far away
Spells me her dreams.
Ah! mourns she not the tryst.
New made and lonely broken,
but the old lost love of long ago.
Her melodies are captive nightingales escaped in song.

One touch of the chords,
and snow-flakes scatter round one,
and the flowing brightness of the sun passes.
Perchance she grieves that few may hear and understand.
The floating dust collects beneath her silver nail-tips.
Lone is she as orphan phoenix calling,
with whose plaint the songs of all birds fail to harmonize.

Liu Tzu-Hui: *from: 'A Feast of Lanterns'*

Doth not wisdom call,
and understanding put forth her voice?
In the top of high places by the way,
where the paths meet, she standeth;
Beside the gates,
at the entry of the city,
at the coming in at the doors,
she crieth aloud:
'Unto you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men.
O ye thoughtless, understand prudence,
and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
Hear, for I will speak excellent things,
and the opening of my lips shall be right things.
For my mouth shall utter truth,
and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are in righteousness,
there is nothing perverse or crooked in them.
They are all plain to him that understandeth,
and right to them that find knowledge.
Receive my instruction, and not silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold.
For wisdom is better than rubies,
and all things desirable are not to be compared unto her.
I wisdom dwell with prudence,
and find out knowledge of devices.
The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;
pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way,
and the froward mouth, do I hate.
Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom;
I am understanding, power is mine.
By me kings reign,
and princes decree justice.
By me princes rule, and nobles,
even all the judges of the earth.
I love them that love me,
and those that seek me earnestly shall find me.

(Kesuvim (Writings), Mishlei (Proverbs))

**MUSIC
ELIXIR**

Treasury of the Mind

We are such stuff as dreams are made of.

Shakespeare

To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born,
and a time to die;
a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill,
and a time to heal;
a time to break down,
and a time to build up;
A time to weep,
and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn,
and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to seek,
and a time to lose;
a time to keep,
and a time to cast away;
A time to rend,
and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence,
and a time to speak;
A time to love,
and a time to hate;
a time for war,
and a time for peace.

Kesuvim (Writings), Koheles (Ecclesiastes)

Video presentation

There is something distinctly odd about a hairless, neotenuous primate that has evolved into a species that can look back over its own shoulder to ponder its origins.

Odder still, the brain cannot only discover how other brains work but also ask questions about itself:

Who am I?

What is the meaning of my existence?

Why do I laugh?

Why do I dream?

Why do I enjoy art, music and poetry?

Does my mind consist entirely of the activity of neurons in my brain?

If so, what scope is there for free will?

It is the peculiar recursive quality of these questions as the brain struggles to understand itself that makes neurology so fascinating.

Vilayanur Ramachandran *Phantoms in the Brain*

I stand at the seashore alone and start to think.
There are rushing waves,
mountains of molecules,
each stupidly minding its own business,
trillions apart yet forming white surf in unison.
Ages on ages before any eyes could see,
year after year thunderously pounding the shore as now.
For whom for what
on a dead planet with no life to entertain.
Never at rest,
tortured by energy;
wasted prodigiously by the Sun,
poured into space,
its might makes the sea roar.
Deep in the sea
all molecules repeat the patterns of one another
til complex new ones are formed.
They make others like themselves
and a new dance starts.
Growing in size and complexity,
living things,
masses of atoms,
DNA,
proteins dancing a pattern ever more intricate.
Out of the cradle onto dry land,
here it is standing,
atoms with consciousness,
matter with curiosity,
stands at the sea,
wonders at wondering,
I, a universe of atoms an atom in the universe.

Richard Feynman

If men . . . either friends or brothers,
 come to an agreement together,
 that one may obtain from the other,
 either goods,
 or a wife,
 or knowledge,
let him who desires goods have them delivered
 to him;
let him who desires a wife receive and wed her;
 let him who desires knowledge be taught the
 holy word,
 during the first part of the day and the last,
 during the first part of the night and the last,
that his mind may be increased in intelligence
 and wax strong in holiness.

The Zend-Avesta, Avesta - Vendidad)

He bringeth wisdom unto whom He will,
and he who is brought wisdom is brought much good;
but none will remember save those endowed with minds.
Whatever expense ye expend,
or vow ye vow,
God knows it;
but the unjust have no helpers.
If ye display your almsgiving,
then well is it;
but if ye hide it and bring it to the poor,
then is it better for you, . . .
God guides whom He will;
and whatever good ye expend it is for yourselves,
and do not expend save craving for God's face.
And what ye expend of good,
it shall be repaid you,
and ye shall not be wronged

The Qur'an, Sura 2 - The Heifer

Do not let the hatred and enmity of your opponents force you to a combat, do not begin a battle even if the enemy so desires unless you have explored every avenue of amity and good-will and have exhausted all the chances of a peaceful settlement.

Ali b. Abi Taalib, Letters from Nahjul Balaagh

**MUSIC
ELIXIR**

Treasury of the Spirit

those who think with their hearts and have an open mind are open to believing in spirituality.

Gorica Malakovic

Therefore if we say that this meeting is heavenly, it is true. Why? Because we have no other desire except for that which comes from God. We have no other object save the commemoration of God.

Some of the people of the earth desire conquest over others: some of them are longing for rest and ease; others desire a high position; some desire to become famous: -- thank God our desire is for spirituality and for union with God.

Now that we are gathered here our wish is to raise the banner of the Unity of God, to spread 47 the Light of God, to make the hearts of the people turn to the Kingdom. Therefore I thank God that He is causing us to do this great work.

I pray for all of you, that you may become celestial warriors, that you may everywhere spread the Unity of God and enlighten the East and West, and that you may give to all hearts the love of God. This is my utmost desire, and I pray to God that your desire may be the same.

'Abdu'l-Baha, from the Bahá'í Writings

Mencius said, 'For a man to give true realization to his heart is for him to understand his own nature, and a man who understands his own nature will know Heaven. By retaining his heart and nurturing his own nature he is serving Heaven. Whether he is going to die young or to live to a ripe old age makes no difference to his steadfastness of purpose. It is through awaiting whatever will befall him with a perfected character that he stands firm on his proper destiny.

**Confucianism. *From the Mencius translated by
D.C. Lau***

There was once a farmer with several sons who could never agree among themselves. He had often told them how foolish they were to be always quarrelling, but they kept on and paid no attention to his advise. One day the father called his sons before him and showed him a bundle of sticks tied tightly together ‘See which one of you can break this bundle in two,’ he commanded. Each son in turn took the bundle in his hands and tried his best to break it. They all tried, but in vain, for the bundle was so strong that not one of them could ever bend it. At last they gave it back to their father saying, ‘We cannot break it.’ Then the father untied the bundle and gave a single stick to each of his sons. ‘Now see what you can do’ he said. Each one broke his stick with the greatest of ease. ‘My sons,’ said the wise father, ‘you, like these sticks, will be strong if you stand together; but once you quarrel and become separated you are destroyed.’

From Thoughts : Education for Peace and One World

The morals of humanity must undergo change. New remedy and solution for human problems must be adopted. Human intellects themselves must change and be subject to the universal reformation. Just as the thoughts and hypotheses of past ages are fruitless today, likewise dogmas and codes of human invention are obsolete and barren of product in religion. Nay, it is true that they are the cause of enmity and conducive to strife in the world of humanity; war and bloodshed proceed from them and the oneness of mankind finds no recognition in their observance. Therefore it is our duty in this radiant century to investigate the essentials of divine religion, seek the realities underlying the oneness of the world of humanity and discover the source of fellowship and agreement which will unite mankind in the heavenly bond of love. This unity is the radiance of eternity, the divine spirituality, the effulgence of God and the bounty of the Kingdom. We must investigate the divine source of these heavenly bestowals and adhere unto them steadfastly.

‘Abdu'l-Baha, from the Bahá'í Writings

MUSICAL FINALE ELIXIR

Please join us for refreshments

Please join us for refreshments after the program