

THE SOUL OF MANKIND

PREREQUISITES FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF RACIAL PREJUDICE

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE “UNKNOWABLE ESSENCE”

“The door of the knowledge of the Ancient Being, hath ever been and will continue forever to be closed in the face of men...”

(Bahá'í World Faith, p.21)

THE MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD: THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD TO HIS MANIFESTATIONS

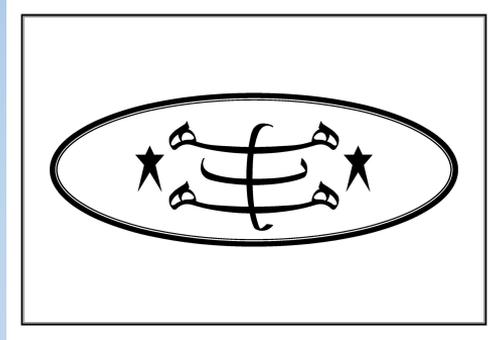
“He hath manifested unto men the Day Stars of His divine guidance, the Symbols of His divine unity, and hath ordained the knowledge of These sanctified Being to be identical with the knowledge of His own Self.”

(Bahá'í World Faith, p.21)

“God hath sent forth the Prophets for the purpose of quickening the soul of man into higher and divine recognitions...”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p.310)

THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE INTERMEDIARY



“So we can say there must be a Mediator between God and Man, and this is none other than the Holy Spirit, which brings the created earth into relation with the Unthinkable One, the Divine Reality.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Paris Talks, Part I: 17. The Holy Spirit, the Intermediary Power)

THE SPIRIT OF FAITH: THE POWER TO IMPACT THE SOUL

“This spirit proceeds from the breath of the Holy Spirit, and through a power born of God it becomes the cause of everlasting life. It is that power which makes the earthly soul heavenly and the imperfect man perfect.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions/Part 3: On the Powers and Conditions of the Manifestations of God: 36. The Five Kinds of Spirit)

SPIRIT

The greatest power in the realm and range of human existence is spirit-the divine breath which animates and pervades all things. It is manifested throughout creation in different degrees or kingdoms.

(‘Abdul-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 58)

The human spirit which distinguishes man from the animal is the rational soul. And these two names-the human spirit (ruh-i-insani) and the rational soul (nafs-i-natiqib)-designate one thing... But the human spirit, unless assisted by the spirit of faith, does not become acquainted with the divine secrets and heavenly realities. It is like a mirror which, although clear, polished and brilliant, is still in need of light... But the mind is the power of the human spirit. Spirit is the lamp; mind is the light which shines from the lamp. Spirit is the tree, and the mind is the fruit. Mind is the perfection of the spirit and is its essential quality, as the sun’s rays are the essential necessity of the sun.

(‘Abdul-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, pp. 208-209)

AWARENESS OF THE SOUL

“The soul is not something nebulous, or something that a person may not find out about until his death. On the contrary, between what Bahá’u’lláh and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá explain for man, the soul can become as apparent to the inner eye as the hands are to the outer eye and as functional to the inner mind as the body to the mind.”

(Henry A. Weil, *Closer than Your Life-Vein*)

THE HUMAN/RATIONAL SOUL

Man—the true man—is soul, not body; though physically man belongs to the animal kingdom, yet his soul lifts him above the rest of creation. “

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks/Part I: 28. Discourse at “I” Alliance Spiritualiste*)

KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOUL

“The soul of man does not originate from the world of matter; it is an emanation from the spiritual worlds of God...Because the soul is a spiritual and not a material entity, it does not enter the body or leave it. The soul is exalted above entry or exit, ascent or descent. It is independent of any earthly agency.”

“...Our knowledge of the soul is derived from the Manifestations of God Who, through Their words, have conveyed some of its significance.”

(Letter from Mr. Adib Taherzadeh to the Bahá'ís of Ireland regarding the spiritualization of the Bahá'í Community)



THE POWERS OF THE SOUL

THE OUTWARD AND INWARD POWERS OF MAN

MEANS OF PERCEPTION

The outward powers are five: the power of sight, of hearing, of taste, of smell, and of touch.

SPIRITUAL POWERS (POWERS OF THE SOUL)

The inward powers are also five: the common faculty and the powers of imagination, thought, comprehension, and memory.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions/Part 4: On the Origin, Powers and Conditions of Man, 56. The Outward and Inward Powers of Man)

THE COMMON FACULTY

“The intermediary between these five outward powers and the inward powers is a common faculty, a sense which mediates between them and which conveys to the inward powers whatever the outward powers have perceived.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions/Part4: On the Origin, Powers and Conditions of Man: 56. The Outward and Inward Powers of Man)

BODY, MIND, SOUL

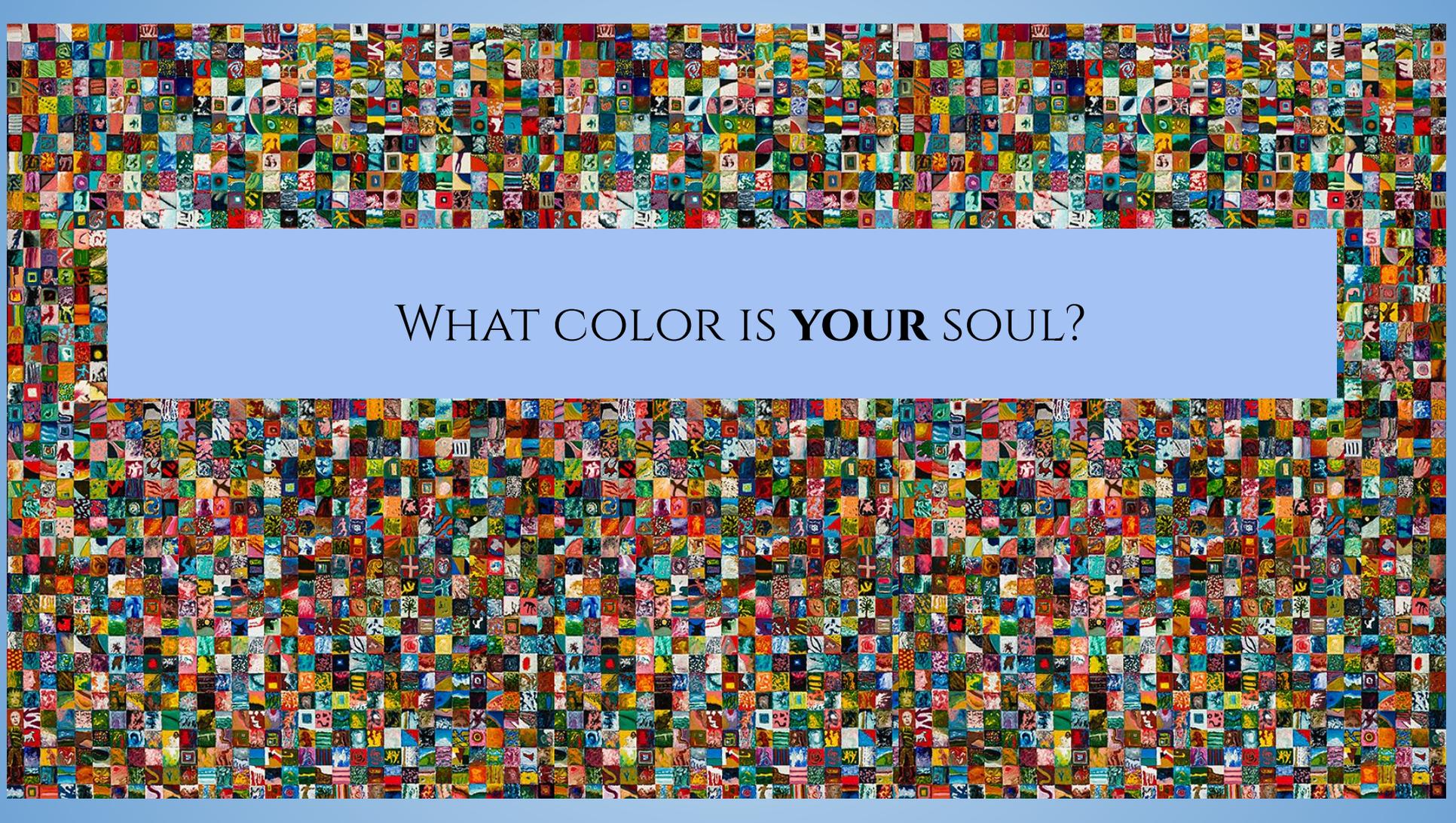
“What Baha’is do believe though, is that we have three aspects of our humanness, so to speak, a body, a mind and an immortal identity--soul or spirit. We believe the mind forms a link between the soul and the body, and the two interact on each other.”

(Shoghi Effendi, *Arohanui*, p.89: *Letters From Shoghi Effendi to New Zealand*)

ELIMINATING RACIAL PREJUDICE TRANSFORMING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOUL INTO ACTION

“Racism is a profound deviation from the standard of true morality. It deprives a portion of humanity of the opportunity to cultivate and express the full range of their capability and to live a meaningful and flourishing life, while blighting the progress of the rest of humankind. It cannot be rooted out by contest and conflict. It must be supplanted by the establishment of just relationships among individuals, communities, and institutions of society that will uplift all and will not designate anyone as “other”. The change required is not merely social and economic, but above all moral and spiritual. “

Universal House of Justice Message
22 July 2020



WHAT COLOR IS **YOUR** SOUL?