

Women

Hamed Eshraghian

March 9, 2016

In recognition of the International Women's Day and the Women's History Month, following are excerpts from talks given in 1912 by the son of the prophet founder of the Baha'i Faith during his travels in America.

"God has created all mankind, and in the estimation of God there is no distinction as to male and female. The one whose heart is pure is acceptable in His sight, be that one man or woman."

"... history furnishes evidence that during the past centuries there have been great women as well as great men; but in general, owing to lack of educational advantages, women have been restricted and deprived of opportunity to become fully qualified and representative of humankind. When given the opportunity for acquiring education, they have shown equal capacity with men."

"Furthermore, the education of woman is more necessary and important than that of man, for woman is the trainer of the child from its infancy....The mothers are the first educators of mankind; if they be imperfect, alas for the condition and future of the race."

"The mother bears the troubles and anxieties of rearing the child, undergoes the ordeal of its birth and training. Therefore, it is most difficult for mothers to send to the battlefield those upon whom they have lavished such love and care. ...the mothers will not sanction war nor be satisfied with it. So it will come to pass that when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world, when they enter confidently and capably the great arena of laws and politics, war will cease; for woman will be the obstacle and hindrance to it."

"Woman must especially devote her energies and abilities toward the industrial and agricultural sciences, seeking to assist mankind in that which is most needful. By this means she will demonstrate capability and ensure recognition of equality in the social and economic equation."

"The history of religion ... furnishes eloquent examples of woman's capability under conditions of great difficulty and necessity." "After the martyrdom of Christ, to Whom be glory, the disciples were greatly disturbed and disheartened. It was a woman, Mary Magdalene, who confirmed the wavering disciples in their faith, saying, "Was it the body of Christ or the reality of Christ that ye have seen crucified? Surely it was His body. His reality is everlasting and eternal; it hath neither beginning nor ending."

"... the world of humanity possesses two wings: man and woman. If one wing remains incapable and defective, it will restrict the power of the other, and full flight will be impossible. Therefore, the completeness and perfection of the human world are dependent upon the equal development of these two wings." "Until these two members are equal in strength, the oneness of humanity cannot be established, and the happiness and felicity of mankind will not be a reality." "As long as women are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to achieve the greatness which might be theirs."