

The Three Onenesses

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Children growing up in Bahá'í communities around the world learn and sing songs about “the three onenesses”: oneness of God, oneness of humanity, and oneness of religion.

They learn that humanity was called into being by an all-loving Creator, that the human race in all its diversity is a single species, “that all the great religions of the world are divine in origin, that their basic principles are in complete harmony, that their aims and purposes are one and the same, that their teachings are but facets of one truth, that their functions are complementary, that they differ only in the non-essential aspects of their doctrines and that their missions represent successive stages in the spiritual evolution of human society.”

For centuries, the lack of recognition of the oneness of humankind and oneness of religion has led to many tragic events around the world. Today, prejudices of all kinds—including religious fanaticism and hatred—are surging around the globe, infecting the consciousness of millions, and polarizing societies at a time when unity is urgently needed for resolving local, national, and global challenges.

According to the Bahá'í writings, “Universal peace is the destination towards which humanity has been moving throughout the ages under the influence of the Word of God that has been progressively imparted by the Creator to His creation.” However, “The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established.”

Regarding unity, we are told that in its social evolution, humanity stands on the threshold of its maturity and thus world unity is finally possible, but it ultimately cannot be achieved without “unreserved acceptance of the oneness of humankind.”

Therefore, “A global order that unifies the nations with the assent of humanity is the only adequate answer to the destabilizing forces that threaten the world.” And “the reality that humanity is one people must be the starting point for a new order. The vast array of relations among nations—and within them—all need to be re-envisaged in this light.”

“When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace,” we are told by the Bahá'í writings. “A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.” As if they were responding to that call, in 2017, more than thirty thousand women—including thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women—set aside their differences and showed their “unreserved acceptance of the oneness of humankind” by participating in Women’s March for Peace, organized by Women Wage Peace, a grassroots organization.

Is it now time for us to sing songs about “the three onenesses” and work tirelessly for unity and peace?