

Double Crusade – Caveats and God’s Assurances

Paragraph 60 –
caveats

In the conduct of this twofold crusade the valiant warriors struggling in the name and for the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh, must of necessity, encounter stiff resistance, and suffer many a setback.

Their own instincts,

no less than the fury of conservative forces,

the opposition of vested interests,

and the objections of a corrupt and pleasure-seeking generation,

must be reckoned with, resolutely resisted, and completely overcome.

As their defensive measures for the impending struggle are organized and extended,

storms of abuse and ridicule, and campaigns of condemnation and misrepresentation, may be unloosed against them.

Their Faith, they may soon find,

has been assaulted,

their motives misconstrued,

their aims defamed,

their aspirations derided,

their institutions scorned,

their influence belittled,

their authority undermined,

and their Cause, at times, deserted by a few who will either be incapable of appreciating the nature of their ideals,

or unwilling to bear the brunt of the mounting criticisms which such a contest is sure to involve.

“Because of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá” the beloved Master has prophesied, “many a test will be visited upon you. Troubles will befall you, and suffering afflict you.”

<p>Paragraph 61 – God’s Assurances</p>	<p>Let not, however, the invincible army of Bahá’u’lláh, who in the West, and at one of its potential storm centers is to fight, in His name and for His sake, one of its fiercest and most glorious battles,</p>
	<p>be afraid of any criticism that might be directed against it.</p>
	<p>Let it not be deterred by any condemnation with which the tongue of the slanderer may seek to debase its motives.</p>
	<p>Let it not recoil before the threatening advance of the forces of fanaticism,</p>
	<p>of orthodoxy,</p>
	<p>of corruption,</p>
	<p>and of prejudice that may be leagued against it.</p>
	<p>The voice of criticism is a voice that indirectly reinforces the proclamation of its Cause.</p>
	<p>Unpopularity but serves to throw into greater relief the contrast between it and its adversaries,</p>
	<p>while ostracism is itself the magnetic power that must eventually win over to its camp the most vociferous and inveterate amongst its foes.</p>
	<p>Already in the land where the greatest battles of the Faith have been fought, and its most rapacious enemies have lived, the march of events, the slow yet steady infiltration of its ideals, and the fulfillment of its prophecies,</p>
	<p>have resulted not only in disarming and in transforming the character of some of its most redoubtable enemies,</p>
	<p>but also in securing their firm and unreserved allegiance to its Founders.</p>
	<p>So complete a transformation, so startling a reversal of attitude, can only be effected if that chosen vehicle which is designed to carry the Message of Bahá’u’lláh to the hungry, the restless, and unshepherded multitudes is itself thoroughly cleansed from the defilements which it seeks to remove.</p>

Paragraph 62 – God’s Assurances	It is upon you, therefore, my best-beloved friends,
	that I wish to impress not only the urgency and imperative necessity of your holy task,
	but also the limitless possibilities which it possesses of raising to such an exalted level not only the life and activities of your own community,
	but the motives and standards that govern the relationships existing among the people to which you belong.
	Undismayed by the formidable nature of this task,
	you will, I am confident, meet as befits you the challenge of these times,
	so fraught with peril,
	so full of corruption
	and yet so pregnant with the promise of a future so bright that no previous age in the annals of mankind can rival its glory.