THE BICENTENARY PLAY

A Scene for Five Youth (or others young at heart)

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LIGHTS FADE UP

The Youth are CENTER STAGE. They begin to move amongst each other, slowly. Reaching out ever so gently, lovingly. They barely touch a face or shoulder or receive the touch.

Simultaneously each of the youth begins to tip toe through various sections of the audience lovingly making eye contact as they go. Addressing with smiles or a knowing nod of the head, an audience member or small group. Then, in unison, each one raises finger TO mouth softly.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 2: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 3: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 4: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 5: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

The youth pause, glancing lovingly among themselves and making eye contact with the audience.

YOUTH 1: THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE BICENTENARY. BAHA'U'LLAH. THE GLORY OF GOD. BORN 200 YEARS AGO. BORN IN TEHRAN IN 1817. 200 YEARS AGO. THIS IS THE BICENTENARY. THE WORLD CELEBRATES.

YOUTH 2: DESCENDED FROM ZOROASTER AND THE SASANIYAN KINGS. FULFILLING TRADITIONS THAT GOD'S GREAT REDEEMER WOULD BE OF PURE PERSIAN LINEAGE.

YOUTH 3: AND DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM THROUGH HIS THIRD WIFE, KATURAH AS PROMISED EVEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

YOUTH 4: 200 YEARS AGO. BAHA'U'LLAH'S BIRTH UNITED IN HIS OWN PERSON TWO BRANCHES OF THE ARYAN AND SEMETIC RELIGIONS.

YOUTH 5: WE CELEBRATE THE BICENTENARY AND THE WORLD REJOICES!

(PAUSE)

YOUTH: (Together): WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: GOD'S MESSENGER FOR THIS AGE!

YOUTH 2: THE ONE PROMISED BY ALL OF GOD'S GREAT PROPHETS.

YOUTH 3: THE ESTABLISHERS OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS.

YOUTH 4: HE IS THEIR RETURN.

YOUTH 5: AND THE VERY ONE HOPED FOR BY THEIR FOLLOWERS.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 2: FOR THE JEWS - HE IS THE LORD OF HOSTS.

YOUTH 3: CHRST'S SECOND COMING IN THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

YOUTH 4: THE FIFTH BUDDHA, THE GREAT MAITREYA

YOUTH 5: FOR THE ZOROASTRIANS - THE SHAH BAHRAM

YOUTH 1: THE REINCARNATION OF KRISHNA

YOUTH 2: FOR THE MUSLIMS - THE GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT!

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 3: HE IS THE UNIVERSAL MESSIAH COME TO UNITE MANKIND

YOUTH 4: THE LONG AWAITED UNIFIER.

YOUTH 5: THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 2: THE MOST GREAT OCEAN.

YOUTH 3: GOD'S LATEST MESSENGER

YOUTH 4: BUT NOT THE LAST. NO, NOT THE LAST!

YOUTH 5: RELIGION IS PROGRESSIVE. REVELATION IS PROGRESSIVE. PROGRESSIVE REVELATION. GOD EVER MOVING US FORWARD. FROM AGE TO AGE. THROUGH HIS DIVINE EDUCATORS. HIS GREAT MESSENGERS. THE PROPHETS OF GOD.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

YOUTH 2: THE GREAT CONNECTOR.

YOUTH 3: THE UNIVERSAL MESSENGER. THE GREAT UNIFIER. THE ONE FORETOLD DOWN THE CENTURIES AND AGES.

YOUTH 4: THE WORLD IS IN TRAVAIL AND ITS AGITATION INCREASES DAY BY DAY. THE TRUTH SO DIM NOW. THE LIGHT MUST BE REKINDLED. WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO SEE THE CONNECTIONS? WE ARE ALL ONE. THE RELIGIONS ARE ONE. EMANATING FROM THE SAME SOURCE. ONE GOD. ONE RELIGION. MANKIND IS ONE.

YOUTH 5: DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT. FOLLOW YOUR HEART. EVERY LONGING, STRIVING FAITHFUL HEART WILL PERCEIVE. AN EARNEST EFFORT IS REQUIRED. TRUTH MUST BE INVESTIGATED BY EACH AND EVERY SOUL. NOT INHERITED. NOT CONDITIONED ON ANOTHER'S EFFORTS. AND NOT AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 1: INVESTIGATE. ONE WORLDWIDE UNIFIED FAITH. ONE FAITH UNITING EVERY DIVERSE PEOPLE. ONE FAITH BUILDING BRIDGES, SHATTERING BARRIERS AND VAIN ILLUSIONS. NO DIVISIONS. NO DENOMINATIONS. ONE PEOPLE. ONE FAITH. ONE HUMAN FAMILY. THE LEAVES OF ONE TREE. THE FRUITS OF ONE BRANCH.

YOUTH 2: INVESTIGATE. AN OCEAN OF KNOWLEDGE REVEALED. MILLIONS OF VERSES. 100 VOLUMES FROM THE PEN OF GOD'S MESSENGER. ENOUGH FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. UNPRECEDENTED. MIRACULOUS. BEYOND VISIONARY.

YOUTH 3: INVESTIGATE. BAHA'U'LLAH. HE SUFFERED 40 YEARS. IMPRISONMENT, TORTURE, EXILE! 20,000 OF HIS LOVED ONES PUT TO DEATH. HE SUFFERED AS NO MESSENGER HAD BEFORE HIM.

YOUTH 4: STILL, HE POURED OUT AN OCEAN OF LOVE. AN OCEAN OF LIGHT. CONNECTING HEARTS. OUR HEARTS. EACH OF OUR HEARTS. CONNECTED HEARTS.

The youth begin to move again through the audience.

(PAUSE)

The youth stop moving.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH: (Together): THIS IS THE BICENTENARY. THE WORLD CELEBRATES.

(PAUSE)

YOUTH 5: WHO IS BAHA'U'LLAH?

LIGHTS