**See Only That Which is Worthy of Praise**

One must see in every human being only that which is worthy of praise. When this is done, one can be a friend

to the whole human race. If, however, we look at people from the standpoint of their faults, then being a friend

to them is a formidable task.

It happened one day in the time of Christ -- may the life of the world be a sacrifice unto Him -- that He passed

by the dead body of a dog, a carcass reeking, hideous, the limbs rotting away. One of those present said:

'How foul its stench!' And another said: 'How sickening! How loathsome!' To be brief, each one of them

had something to add to the list.

But then Christ Himself spoke, and He told them: 'Look at that dog's teeth! How gleaming white!'

The Messiah's sin-covering gaze did not for a moment dwell upon the repulsiveness of that carrion. The one element of that dead dog's carcass, which was not an abomination, was the teeth: and Jesus looked upon

their brightness.

Thus it is incumbent upon us, when we direct our gaze toward other people, to see where they excel,

not where they fail.

~ Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 169

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