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| 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 abomination was the teeth: and Jesus looked upon their brightness. |
| Thus is it 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 #144 (page 169) |
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