

40-Words & Eloquent Speech

Good speech and truthfulness are, in loftiness of position and rank, like unto the sun which hath risen from the horizon of the heaven of knowledge.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 12

Verily I say, the tongue is for mentioning what is good, defile it not with unseemly talk. God hath forgiven what is past. Henceforward everyone should utter that which is meet and seemly, and should refrain from slander, abuse and whatever causeth sadness in men.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 219-220

Encourage ye the school children, from their earliest years, to deliver speeches of high quality, so that in their leisure time they will engage in giving cogent and effective talks, expressing themselves with clarity and eloquence.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Selections From the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 134

A kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men. It is the bread of the Spirit, it clotheth the words with meaning, it is the fountain of the light of wisdom and understanding.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 15

Unless he teacheth his own self, the words of his mouth will not influence the heart of the seeker.

Take heed, O people, lest ye be of them that give good counsel to others but forget to follow it themselves.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 277

Human utterance is an essence which aspireth to exert its influence and needeth moderation. As to its influence, this is conditional upon refinement which in turn is dependent upon hearts which are detached and pure. As to its moderation, this hath to be combined with tact and wisdom as prescribed in the Holy Scriptures and Tablets.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 172

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Moderation is indeed highly desirable. Every person who in some degree turneth towards the truth can himself later comprehend most of what he seeketh. However, if at the outset a word is uttered beyond his capacity, he will refuse to hear it and will arise in opposition.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Guidelines for Teaching*, p. 293

Baha'u'llah has proclaimed the adoption of a universal language. A language shall be agreed upon by which unity will be established in the world. Each person will require training in two languages: his native tongue and the universal auxiliary form of speech.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 300

...We have ordained that complete victory should be achieved through speech and utterance, that Our servants throughout the earth may thereby become the recipients of divine good.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Fountain of Wisdom*, 13.9