Title: Conversations
Subtitle: THE CAMPHOR FOUNTAIN
Second Subtitle: THE CAMPHOR FOUNTAIN
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It seems to me that God has caused me to inhale the sweet scent of holi
and to be refreshed with a crystalline wine cup, tempered at the camphor
'Abdu'l-Baha describes a human experience of God in His book Memorials
1971, p.97). It is very difficult to put this experience of God into words
prose-poem.-Ron Price, Pioneering Over Four Epochs, Decmeber 26th 20

He says the just shall quaff of this cup*
and at the age of 61 I have done some
drinking, a taste, a drop, a fountain.

In India the camphor flame symbolizes
an entire ritual, a culmination of worship;
with its strong light and fragrance,
it is waved to close, to climax, the ritual,
to close life itself; it is the last waving.

Look within thee and thou wilt find Me
standing within thee:
mighty, powerful and self-subsistent.

The camphor flame symbolizes this oneness:
the indwelling-God, closeness, closer than life's vein,
a mystic unity in that abode in the Centre of Realities
where I take leave of self, enter the ocean of union,
drink the peerless wine, tempered in that camphor flame:
bright and pure, a delicate draught, oh so sweet,
beside the Crimson Pillar in the snowwhite path,
the gate that opens on the placeless.

God's power is in that flame, symbolically,
it is said, the light of that flame is a potent
condensed symbol of all that stands for light,
for Baha. Tempered, the wine is made
to the right strength: not too heavy, not too light,
just right, balanced with light, as I have tried
to balance this life, taking leave of this dark
and narrow world and joining light to light
in this my new heavenly homeland that
no man has seen, this gathering-place of splendors
and its rain of blessings and its tempering camphors:

both here and in that Undiscovered Country.

Ron Price
22 September 1995
(revised 26/12/05)
* Quran 76:9