

Rue St Didier 30
Paris, France

Jan 29th 1913

In speaking to an Oriental Bahai

Dear Harriet!

Abdul Baha said that

~~It~~ ^{It} is now only a few days that we are in Paris. It is the beginning of the promotion of the Cause of God. Paris is very dark; but we are hopeful that through the Bestowels of the Most Great Luminary that ^{the centre of this} in ~~such~~ pitched darkness, the Divine Lamp may be ignited. His Power alone transforms the dark earth into luminous substance, suffering the hard rock to yield flowers and hyacinths. Thus ~~our Beloved addressed one of~~ the Oriental friends. He ^{was} now sowing the seeds and it may take sometimes before they germinate in the soil.

This morning when I went into the presence of the Master and was offered a cup of tea he said to me: Paris is very cold. Can you do something to make it warmer?

I knew of course that he meant spiritual heat; because the apparent indifference of the Parisians to spiritual matters was well-known. Then he said: ^{He} ~~He~~ was happy in London, ^{although} ~~while~~ ^{he} was not feeling well. Here my health is very good but I am very unhappy, because I observe that people are thinking of everything else except God. Paris is like unto a beehive; the people are the bees. They are busy, honey-making but their honey

Consists of the pursuits of pleasure
and gratification of desires.

Afterwards he dictated some
Tablets for the Persian believers,
giving them the good news of his
approaching visit to Stuttgart
and also giving them permission ^{then}
to come to Paris. About 10 o'clock
people began to come. I saw a woman
who was as though in deep sorrow.
Her eyes were wandering hither
and thither aimlessly. Silently
she sat in a corner of ^{the} room,
avoiding any communication.
The Master entering the reception
room saw her, and beckoned
her to himself. As soon as he
told her "welcome," she began to
weep. "Don't cry" O my Beloved
Abdul Baha

said in English. Then through ^{me}
~~the Interpreter~~; Be free from
every tie. Do not attach thy heart
to anything. Open thy wings and
soar toward the infinite space
of God. A bird whose wings are
tied cannot fly. Now let thy
wings be unloosed from these
rusty fetters. Release thyself from
every attachment ^{to} of this ephemeral
world. All these things are
phantasmal appearances, passing
soldier-like before our eyes.
They are all unreal. Strengthen
thy wings ~~to~~ so that thou
mayst soar above these
~~conditions~~ and ever changing
^{conditions} ~~modes~~ and reach to the
world of Absolute Reality. There

~~then~~ thou shalt obtain a happiness
 which belongs to the Kingdom
 of Abha; a happiness which is
 eternal just as the Kingdom of
 God is eternal. Be radiant! Be
 joyful! Be serene! Be free! Be
 free! Be free from sorrows! A
 person whose heart is attached
 to this world cannot progress.
 The Love of God makes man
 free. It is like unto the sword.
 It cuts all the chains. The Love
 of God is the remedy for every
 disease; the salve for every
 wound and freedom from
 every prison. I hope that thou
 wilt attain to those ideal worlds.
 Read the Tablets of Baha id-
 Allah. Study the Hidden Words.

Then thou wilt become spiri-
 tual, illumined, godlike, divine.
 The glorious Sun of the
 Love of God ^{shall} arise from the
 horizon of Thy heart; thy eyes
 shall perceive the Light; thy
 ears shall hear the still small
 voice and at last thou shalt
 behold the Glory of the Lord
 3 May I give you the ^{substance} ~~trans~~
~~lation~~ of another interview? Is
 not this first one wonderful? Is
 it not a constructive prescrip-
 tion for every one of us? How
 he ministers unto all creation?
 Here a man enters: "you are
 very welcome" the divine voice
 is being heard. ^{He} I hopes ^{the man is} ~~you are~~
 happy. ^{He tells him that as he} ~~As~~ I look into ~~thy~~ ^{his} face

^{he} feels a keen sense of joy, for in
^{his} ~~the~~ forehead ^{he} observes the signs
 of faith and assurance and in
^{his} ~~the~~ eyes ^{he} sees the traces of
 intelligence and understanding.
~~At that time~~ ^{English} ~~an~~ ~~man~~, an English girl,
^{who is} a good Bahai, an earnest soul
 entered the room, ^{and found} ~~finding~~ her
 friend in the Presence of the
 Master. She ~~sits~~ on a chair
 at the Beloved's bidding. ~~Then~~
^{then} ~~he~~ facing both of them ^{he said} ~~and saying~~:
 "You ^{are} like unto the tender
 plants. I ^{has} ~~have~~ planted ^{them} ~~you~~
 with ^{his} ~~my~~ own hands and ^{he} ~~I~~ am
 watering ^{them} ~~you~~. It is ^{his} ~~my~~ hope
 that ^{they} ~~you~~ will grow. Day unto
 day may ^{they} ~~you~~ become more
 verdant and graceful. May

^{they}
~~you~~ put forth leaves and blossoms
 and with the utmost ^{of} freshness
 and beauty may ^{they} you give shade
 to those who are weary and
 travel-stained, - so that under
^{their}
~~your~~ outstretched branches ^{people} ~~they~~
^{find} ~~may~~ rest, find peace, compose
 and the serenity of ^{the} spirit! May
^{the travellers} ~~they~~ be released from this ^{of} travel?
 burdened world through ^{their} ~~your~~
 sympathy. This ^{was} ~~is~~ ^{his} ~~my~~ hope
 for ^{the} ~~you~~. It ^{was} ~~is~~ ^{his} ~~my~~ greatest
 yearning to see ^{them} ~~you~~ adorned
 with many branches, so that
^{they}
~~you~~ may cast much shade!
 Unless the tree puts forth ^{shady} branches
 producing leaves, blossoms and
 fruits no one will be attracted
~~toward~~ it. Therefore ^{his} ~~my~~ advice

to ~~you~~^{them} is to strive day and night
 so that the trees of ~~your~~^{their}
~~life~~ may be verdant and yield
 fruits at all time.

Thus the hours roll on in this divine
 atmosphere. Thus one hears the
 finest music of the heavenly
 World played on and on to ravish
 the hearts of man and to draw
 him nigh unto the Throne of
 God, there to join his voice with
 the Celestial Choir! Then the Divine
 Musician with his lyre comes out.
 He plays another strain full of
 sympathy and charm. Now he
 plays a tragic note, anon his voice
 swells into rich diapason, sweeping
 the feelings and emotions of the
 audience upward and downward.

Hearken! and from the visible voice
and the invisible lyre so high a
note arose, vibrating through the
pure air, pouring out the fulness
of life in rich modulating tones!

~~He~~ ^{He} has come to Paris, striking the
first note, but ~~we~~ ^{he} finds Paris is
very cold. ~~I~~ ^{He} was anticipating that
in this trip ~~I~~ ^{he} shall behold in this
^{city} the luminous torch of the Love
of God. Now having arrived ~~I~~ ^{he} finds
that the inhabitants of ~~this city~~
are steeped deeper in the darkness
of materialism. Every mention is
on their lips except the mention
of God. They entertain every thought
except the thought of the Kingdom
of God. Every call is being heard
in Paris except the ^{Call} ~~thought~~ of

of the world of Light. As ^{he} I pondered
over this condition of the Parisians,
^{he} I found that like unto the worms
they are crawling in the dark
strata of the earth. Day unto day
they ^{were} ~~are~~ going deeper and deeper, never
desiring to extricate themselves from
the gloom of these narrow labyrinths
of the earth. Therefore it ^{was} ~~is~~ ^{his} ~~my~~
hope that ^{the friends} ~~you~~ who ^{were} ~~are~~ living
^{in Paris} ~~here~~ may show an effort, and
~~may~~ make a movement that
perchance ^{its} ~~the~~ inhabitants of
~~Paris~~ may obtain a new tongue;
may receive a new exhilaration;
may take a goodly portion and
a share from the heavenly
illumination.

After shaking hands with every-
body

he went out with Mons. Dreyfus.
 Returning home he ~~had~~ ^{had his lunch} and ~~had~~
~~his rest~~. At half past three Mon.
 Dreyfus came ^{back}. In the course of
 conversation he asked the Master
 whether he would like to go up ~~to~~
 the ^{Eiffel} ~~tower~~ of ~~Eiffel~~ to see Paris.
^{"He said, he could}
~~I can~~ see Paris without ascending
 the tower of Eiffel ~~the Master~~
~~said~~. "From that height, you
 may breathe over Paris a
 new life" Mon. Dreyfus said.
^{He was}
~~I am~~ doing that, every day from
 here," the Beloved replied.

~~Then~~ He told us the story of
 the life of Buddha. Afterwards
 he called on Rasheed Pasha who
 was once the Governor General
 of Syria and created much

at that time

troubles for the Master. ~~First in~~
~~the early afternoon Rasheed Pasha~~
~~called on the Master.~~ As Governor
 General of Syria under the
 regime of Abdul Hamid, he
 was ^{an absolute despot} ~~most~~ ^{the} powerful. All
^{Syrians} ~~the people~~ dreaded his power.
 With ^{just a} ~~one~~ cable to the Sultan
 that such and such a person
~~was~~ ^{is} the enemy of the State
 he could destroy ^{anyone at a moment} ~~him~~ without
^{notice} ~~delay~~. Then Our Beloved told
 us in details his dealings with
^{this} man. He ^{wished} ~~wanted~~ to get three
 thousand pounds from some
 Western Bahai's to liberate
 the Master from prison. It
 was a long story and ~~how~~
 the Beloved at last said

"This is impossible. If all the rulers of the world gather together they will be unable to send me out of this prison before its appointed day and if all the kings combine their forces together they cannot keep me in this prison once that day arrives."

In the afternoon Madame D'Astre came and the Master spoke with her on the apathy and indifference of the Parisians to spiritual truths. ^{He told her that} When a person ^{was} a light sleeper, one single touch ^{would} ~~would~~ awake him, if he slept heavily, then one must ^{awake him} ~~stroke~~ ^{by} shaking him.

Another person may sleep so soundly
 that ~~as~~ he may need a big stick ~~and~~
 as to ~~arouse~~ ~~him~~ him. But if the big
 stick does not ~~bring~~ ~~produce~~ the desired
 effect, we may ^{have to} bring into service
 the noise of a cannon and if ~~even~~
 this will not ~~also~~ awake
^{the sleeper} ~~him~~ we will then ^{have to use} ~~get~~ ~~a~~
 dynamite. In short, the sleepy
 ones must become mindful.

I ^{to} give ^{her} you the glad tidings that
 this indifference ^{on the part of Persians} will be
 changed into ^{and lasting} a deep interest and
 in the very center of Persia
 the Standard of Baha-ollah
 shall be upraised.

I ^{we were} ~~am~~ glad to hear the good
 news from various ^{cities} ~~sources~~
 that the American friends

are arising with great earnestness
 to work for the Cause and to
 spread the message of the Kingdom.
 These ^{new} ~~messages~~ delight the
 hearts of Our Beloved. May
 each one of the believers become
 a lighted candle! The Master
 is ^{awaiting} ~~listening~~ all the time to
 receive the news of the glorious
^{accomplished by} services of the friends! The
 more they serve the Cause
 of Peace and reconciliation,
 the more they put forth
 action and whole-hearted
 endeavor, the greater will be
 their spiritual reward.
 I am ^{also} ~~always~~ praying that God
 may assist me to perform
 one ^{little} ~~little~~ service in this ^{divine} ~~divine~~ ^{universe}
 Love to all
 (Aunt)