

Rue St Didier 30
Paris, France
Feb 8th 1913

Dear Harriet, To a group of Persians Abdul Baha
said that one
One drop of deed is better
than a sea of words. Thus the Master
spoke to a group of Persians who
came to see Him this afternoon.
We must work, we must strive,
we must try to do something in
the Cause, no matter how small.
In this Bahai movement, all the friends
must work in order to accom-
plish what they ^{claim} ~~state~~. I pray
to God that all of us may
become assisted in service.
The crying need of the Social
body is for laborers and not
theorizers. The Characteristic
phase of the human consciousness
in this enlightened age is

the evolution of the idea of social service in all its branches and the inculcation of this idea as a religious principle - service is worship - labor is devotion - work is prayer. The Bahai Movement is the mighty trumpet which calls together under one banner all the Comrades of Service, who work in diverse spheres for the coming of Divine Humanity on earth. All those who ^{respond} ^{and} must naturally do so with a pure purpose, disinterested ⁱⁿ in persons and pet-policy, but "strong in will to strive, to seek, to find" the secret of beauty in work and service. The silent forces which underlie

~~this movement~~, this divine Cause
are modifying humanity from
moment to moment and
suffering it to ascend higher
and higher till it reaches
to a mysterious triumphant
finale, full of glory and
perfection.

2 - This morning the Beloved
speaking of Doctor ~~Iskhan~~ ^{Mehdi}
Khan of Rasht who was present
said: - ^{His very} ~~My~~ being is a service
to the Cause of God. He has
been visiting the Master for
~~the last~~ several days. ~~Then~~
~~we had tea~~. Mirza Ali Akbar
Rafsanjani, a young man of
probably 28 yrs old but a
speaker of note in the Cause

Chanted some wonderful prayer
 from Baha-o-lah. His voice
^{was} ~~is~~ ~~most~~ musical and his
 chanting ~~very~~ effective and
~~mystical~~. I never had heard
 one chanting communions
 with such sweet and
 soothing voice. He made us
 forget all our troubles and
 worries. He ^{was} ~~is~~ full of fire
 and zeal. I loved him very
 much. These divine mornings
 in the Presence of the Beloved
 are really wonderful. He
 closes his radiant eyes and
 listens to chanting. He is in
 the utmost state of supplication
 toward God. Such days can
 never be duplicated again in
 the history of this life!

3 Then the Beloved ^{entered} ~~went to his~~ ^{him} room and I read to ~~him~~ portions of ^a ~~your~~ letter. Three of ~~your~~ questions ^{were} ~~are~~ answered. 1st question:- What is the real meaning of the 19 days feast, spiritual and material?

Answer: "Nineteen days are according to 19 "Letters of the Living" which is composed of the Bah and 18 ^{disciples} ~~others~~. The ^{spiritual} aim of this Feast is that at every 19 days, the believers of God may gather together; engage in mentioning Him Whom God shall manifest - Baha - ~~W~~ - lah - and be reminded of the Testament and the Covenant. Its

material meaning is ^{that} every person
or number of persons who are
able, may arise to serve the
believers of God and spread
before them spiritual and
material food.

2nd Question. About spiritual com-
munication.

Answer. "It is a spiritual reve-
lation, for the human spirit
reveals the realities of things.

3d Question. Love from God to
God.

Answer. It is the beholding of
the beauty of this perfection in the
reality of His ^{own} Identity. It is from
the entity of God to His Own Entity.
This is the Origin of Love, the source
of Love, the basis of Love, the

quintessence of Love, the ancient Love and the eternal Love, Through ^{of the} one, emanations of this Love, the world of existence has come ^{into} being."

I am sending you five photos with names on them. I will be grateful to you if you could mail them to their destinations.

4 When the hour arrived for the interviews, people ^{were} ~~are~~ taken in the Master's room, sometimes by Mon. Dreyfus, sometimes by Madame Dreyfus, so I cannot really give ~~you~~ any definite ideas of what the Master talks and says. For the present we lose so much. The teachings

of the Master, whether given to an individual or to a ^{more or less} concourse of people have, a general application ~~more or less~~; especially his encouraging advice and exhortations. However, these days we have more French people coming and going. The Master said, if we ^{French} had five enthusiastic Bahais they would have served the Cause in Paris and we hope that God will bring them forth and inspire their hearts.

5 At ~~the~~ ^{noon} hour of twelve he came out and gave a talk on "divine and human music." He again played

on his invisible ^{Harp}, his scales
 higher, his notes full of rich,
 vibrating colors of life; now
 his hands rising as to strike
 a powerful or gentle note according
 to the laws of the divine
 Harmony; again his eyes ^{were} shut,
 his voice falling to a sweet,
 soothing level, he carried
 his audience to the very ^{Summit}
 of the Grandeur of Melody.
 I wish you could hear him
 today. His closing advice was
 not to run after the
 hurdy-gurdy in the street, after
 you have heard the heavenly
 Artist; not to listen to false
 music after you have listened
 to the Charm of Celestial Melody.

"How ignorant are these people,"
 he ended the mighty ~~speech~~ ^{oration}
 with a rush and tumult,
 "that they do not advance
 to such a glorious sun, but
 they are satisfied with a
 dimly-lighted candle! They
 have abandoned the great
 ocean and they run after
 the dark, muddy streams. They
 do not listen to the divine
 enrapturing ^{melody} ~~music~~ of the
 Supreme Concourse, but
 they run wild over a piece
 of cheap and gross music!
 Play on the heavenly lyre. O ye
~~my~~ friends! Sing the melodies
 of the Kingdom, - perchance
 these sleepy ones may become

awakened; these deaf ones be
 endowed ~~with~~ the power
 of hearing; these blind ones
 become seeing and these
 dead ones become quickened.

Shaking hands with all those
 who were present he went
 out of the room, leaving
 behind him an atmosphere
 of holiness, a calm spirit of
 reality. Oh! Methought we were
 listening to the heavenly high-
 tingal, warbling in the
 sweetest tone, the mystic
 music of God. The most
 delicate strains of his voice
 were kissed by the angels and
 were upborn again to the
 high station of Reality. The ears

of men and women of this generation are not yet refined enough to catch ^{the} subtle movements and notes of this Celestial Warbler. For in His Repertoire there are a hundred thousand melodies and harmonies which the present world is incapable to hear.

Inasmuch as many of our Persian brothers were ~~going~~ ^{leaving} for Persia, it was arranged that a photo be taken of all the Persians in the presence of the Beloved near the ^{Eiffel} Tower of ~~Eiffel~~. There were about 20 present and we all started for

the Eiffel Tower, ~~which~~ is only 5 minutes distant. The photograph was taken and I hope it ~~will~~ ^{will} turn out to be all right. ~~we'll send you a copy as soon~~ as I get copies which may take a few days.

7 The Master wanted to walk all alone, so we returned home by another road. ~~Having our bunch, He~~ ~~went to rest.~~ In the afternoon many prominent Persians who were formerly very influential in Persia came to see the Master. While ~~the~~ ^{he} Master was talking to them suddenly the door burst open and in ~~came~~ ^{rushed} a Persian, like a whirlwind; run to the

Master, Kessed his hands, threw himself at his feet and meanwhile talking. He asked the Master's ^{his} permission to read a poem and with low voice, he recited a wonderful eulogy of the Master to the amazement of all those who were ^{present} ~~sitting~~. We were much impressed by ~~the~~ his words. He came at the psychological moment. I have ^{trunk} ~~to take~~ a copy of his poem and may translate it later on.

8 At six o'clock ~~and below~~ Haji Ameen, (oh! how I loved ~~him~~) his two companions, Aga Meer Abdullah, & Mirza Mohamadd Khan, Doctor Mehdi

Khan, who recently arrived from
Egypt; our own dear brother
Mirza Valiollah Khan and
his brother Mirza Agzallah
Khan left for Persia. I was
so sorry to leave them. The
Master send all of us to
the station to bid them
farewell. Mirza Valiollah Khan
send you, Oh! lots of love, to all
the friends.

9. From the station we
returned to the house
of Man. Dreyfus. They have
meetings there every Friday
a public meeting is held
night. The three rooms
were crowded, many ^{European} people
were standing, many ^{and} Persians
were ~~there~~ ^{standing} Man. Dreyfus

was reading, then Mon. Bernard ^{talked} ~~spoke~~ in eloquent French. Then the Beloved spoke on how the appearance of the Divine Manifestations is to bring "Happiness" to the world of humanity, finally giving a detail history of the Life of Baha ~~Allah~~. ^{He brought} ~~It was a long~~ address ^{it to me} ended ^{with a} by moving supplication.

He shook hands with every boy, mingling with the audience and blessing everyone.

Tonight he was very tired. Before speaking he told me he is so fatigued ^{that} he ~~cannot~~ ^{could not} say a word. But his words breathed life and strength. Love to all always

Paris, February 7th, 1913.

Abdul Baha entered the room this morning saying: Good morning, and asking after the health of the little group. As He seated Himself in His usual chair by the window a band of noisy streeturchins held forth just below. A girl in the flat above was practicing on the piano. The result was a fantastic pandemonium. Abdul Baha sat perfectly quiet until the noise ceased, and still looking out of the window, gave the following talk on music.

^{address}
Instructions by Abdul Baha
given in Paris 30 Rue St. Didier February 7. 1913
Translated from Persian notes of Mirza Ahmad Sohab.

Last night ~~a~~ Hindou professor of music came here, bringing his musical instrument called the Vina ~~with him~~ and played for us certain oriental strains, accompanying them with singing. Overhead our neighbour was playing the piano; but as soon as the professor began playing, the piano became silent; and when the Hindou had finished playing we heard again the sound of the piano. — This illustrates a lesson, namely that when we listen to a most beautiful song, we must forget inferior music — when a lover of music has listened to the entrancing notes of a great master, his love of music will no longer be satisfied with the playing of the pupil. If he listens to him it would be a proof of ignorance and show a lack of artistic appreciation — moreover he would not receive any spiritual uplift. Let us suppose that the most accomplished artist of Paris is playing for us in this room, inspiring ~~us~~ the hearts by immortal songs and charming our souls with sweet celestial harmonies. If it is possible then for any one of us to leave this room afterwards and going through the street to stop to listen to the crude notes of a hand organ — If we were to stop to listen to such sounds, it would ~~it~~ indicate that we were unable to appreciate the wonderful melodies of the great master we had just listened to —

To-day there ~~are~~ ^{are} many melodies being heard in the world. From every studio divergent strains are floated in the air, but many of these melodies are become antiquated and covered with the moss of time. For thousands of years these notes have been heard and they have lost their original charm and purity. For the singers have grown old, are decrepit and have lost their voices. The songs of life have been so much changed with time that no longer any one can recognize them. — In short from every direction there

various melodies are being sounded -
 we must have appreciative ears to find out
 which one is the most beautiful and artistic.
 Let us find out the melody, the sweet strains
 of which will be taken up by angels and
 carried to the supreme Concourse - Let us harken
 to a Melody which may stir the world of
 humanity - so that they may dance with joy -
 Let us listen to a strain which gives life to
 man - Then we can obtain universal results -
 Then we shall receive a new spirit - Then we
 shall become illumined -

But if we want to listen to all different kinds
 of music we will have nothing but discord,
 for they are being played by inferior artists -
 If we want to run after such distracting sounds
 we will be lost in a wilderness of deprivation -

Therefore let us investigate a song which is
 superior to all other songs - which develops the
 spirit - and which unfolds the inner potentialities
 of life - Such a song produces harmony and exaltation.

It has been proven that whenever this song
 is raised, the world of humanity is quickened
 with new vibrations and the realm of existence
 receives a new lease of life - The sphere of
 thought is rejuvenated - Sciences are renovated -
 The world of morality is resuscitated - and the
 humankind is ushered into a new era of
 civilisation and refinement - Again and again
 this has been experienced; its results are the
 records of past history - We must not run
 after untried melodies, the results of which are
 uncertain or we may fail in our pursuit -
 Perchance the effects of such music may not be
 praiseworthy; perhaps such melodies may not
 have the sweet qualities which are the characteris-
 tic indications of a true melody - Therefore let
 us search and find out the one glorious song
 which has run throughout all ages, with
 thousands of entrancing accompaniments, the
 effects of which have changed millions of human
 things -

Often has the seed been sown and as a result many harvests have been gathered - Now is it well for us to overlook this good seed and try to sow another seed which has never been tried before? for instead of a harvest we may reap only thorns and thistles - A course of treatment which has been tried a thousand times and has always healed the sick ones: is it wise for us to relinquish it and go for consultation to charlatans? There is no result gained by trying all kinds of medicines when we know of a certainty that this course of treatment is beneficial. When the right medicine is prescribed and we have seen that others have been healed, why should we try ~~new~~ ^{unproven} remedies?

It is evident and manifest that the world of humanity cannot be rejuvenated through weak instrumentalities - Except through the power of God, humankind cannot be imbued as a whole with divine virtues - The surface of the Earth cannot be warmed except by the rays of the sun - There may be lamps, torches or electric lights and there are even the countless stars and the planets but ~~nevertheless~~ notwithstanding all these lights, this globe in its entirety cannot be illuminated.

It is only through the rays of the sun that the various kingdoms of life on this earth are being warmed and lighted - Therefore let us follow the sun so that we may become illumined.

There was a time when this sun appeared from the Eastern horizon: it was a time when the mantle of winter had fallen over the meadows and pastures - The soil was black - As soon as the sun rose ~~from~~ from its dawning place, flooding the regions with light, then the gentle breezes wafted - The clouds of mercy poured down - Winter was ended - Spring appeared. The meadows and prairies became verdant and all the trees were adorned with blossoms - multicoloured roses and hyacinths perfumed the air. The trees attained fruition and the world inhaled the fragrance of the flowers - The surface of the earth was transformed - This world became the mirror of the Kingdom and this lower sphere expressed the virtues of the higher world. These have always been the results whenever the Sun of Reality dawned -

4

Is it fitting that we turn our backs on the Sun and hold to the flickering dim light of a candle? Is it right to forget the boundless sea to run after a little brook? Is it good for us to neglect the luscious fruits of this tree and run wildly in the jungle collecting wild fruit? Is it not shortsightedness on our part to fling away the quick healing remedy and take into our system a poisonous drug? Is it not unwise to renounce the skillful physician and go to a charlatan?

Praise be to God, the Sun of Reality has shown forth, illuminating all the ~~continents~~ ^{earth} with its refulgent rays - warming all the cold bodies and causing vegetation in the earth - The flowers of the Kingdom are springing up in the East and the West, in the North and the South - now consider, how very negligent are the people for they do not turn towards the Sun but they try to illumine themselves with dim lamps - They have forgotten the waves of the most Great Sea and they try to allay their thirst at dried-up streams - They do not listen to the soul-stirring music of the Supreme Concurrence but they run wild with joy over the jarring notes of a hand-organ. Strive day and night - perchance these sleeping ones may be awakened - these blind ones may see - and the dead arise! - Let us listen to the soft tender music which is streaming down from the Kingdom of Abha!
