



PARIS, LE *May 3d* 19 *13*

BALTIMORE HOTEL

88 BIS, AVENUE KLÉBER

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

BALTIMOTEL - PARIS

Dear Harriet!

As the word is given out that the Master is resting after his arduous trip and illness we have had no morning meeting yet and if I am not mistaken we may not have any regular ^{gathering} meetings before the ^{his} departure of the Beloved. This ^{Today} morning the Master ^{he} sent many cables to Oriental Assemblies giving them the news of his arrival in Paris. Many friends called and brought flowers, others sending messages of inquiries and welcome. The hours of morning were spent in private interviews and reading letters ~~written~~ from the Orient. I translated many Tablets for Our American ^{brothers} and sisters, which were revealed in Vienna and other places.

A few Persians hearing about the arrival of the Beloved came to the hotel to welcome him back to Paris. They were received with gracious manner and heartfelt cordiality. In speaking to them he said: "The spirit of patriotism has never been the means of progress in Asia. The love of country has never united the Eastern people, but the spirit of religion has ever given them marvellous advancement and progress. It is the same in this day. They must get hold of a new power of religion through which they may develop their latent possibilities."

3 Yesterday the Beloved invited Mrs Lihou and Mrs Beede to take lunch with him today at one o'clock and they rejoicingly accepted. In one of the private ^{guest} rooms of the hotel a table was decorated with flowers and it was about half-past one when the Master followed by the rest of us went down. Doctor Mahomed Khan was also present. There were many delicious courses, cooked of course à la Française.



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He said:-

Consider how marvellous is the power of Baha Allah that ~~he~~ has brought ~~us~~ together around this table and has encircled us with his majestic glories!

The Master said as we all sat and began to eat, Then he spoke about the life of Christ, his ordeals and sufferings and how today the people are lauding and worshipping him. Mrs Lillian ⁴ said that she had read in one of the American newspapers, that Abdul Baha ^{was} the ^{only} Oriental teacher who ^{visited} ~~has~~ come to the United States ^{without} who did not only accept a cent but spent large sums for the alleviation of the poor and the needy. The Master said: Praise be to God that we became assisted to follow the Command of Christ, for he said,

to his disciples, when you leave ~~any~~ city
 clear off your shoes even from its dust;
 meaning, ~~that~~ you have received the
 teachings freely, give them freely.

6 About his American addresses he said:-
 The contents of the speeches delivered
 before the churches and societies in
 America cannot be denied by any soul.
 For this reason everyone was attracted
 5 was attracted to the Cause. Then he
 spoke about the sensitiveness of the plants
 and how they have a degree of "feeling"
 according to their environments. There
 are various degrees of sensitiveness in all
 the ~~kingdoms~~ Kingdoms of creation. Often,
 one word may reform a man, while
 on the other hand, all the processes of
 criminal laws may fail to readjust
 the moral life of another. One man
 may be highly sensitized and responds
 quickly to all advice and exhortations
 but another may need sharper measures.
 6 This was illustrated in the case of a
 prime Minister of Persia who having
 a wonderfully intelligent and keen



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man in his service rebuked him one day for some slight thing which he had done unwittingly. This man left the presence of the Prime Minister and for a long time was sick through the effect of that one rebuke. Later on, another Prime Minister was appointed. The police reported to him of the notorious deeds of a rough criminal who was ~~life~~ making life miserable to the inhabitants of one of the sections of the city. "Bring him to me. I know how to punish him."

When they brought the criminal — in order to walk in the footsteps of his predecessor — he started to advise him, to threaten him and to show him with gentle words the evils of criminal actions. Hoping that this moral lesson will be sufficient, he ~~let~~ ^{let}

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him go free. After a few days, they brought
him the news that this man has
committed worse crimes! ~~than ever~~. He
was perplexed. He did not know what to
do; because in this case ~~his~~ moral
~~lesson~~ ^{persuasion} proved a failure. He went ~~to~~
to the ~~former~~ ^{ex} prime Minister and ~~explained~~
~~him~~ the situation. "Ask the police
to bring him here. I know how to punish
him." the former Minister said. As
soon as the ~~man~~ ^{criminal} was brought ^{before him}, he ordered
the Garroshes ^{to} bring the Bastonades,
his feet were raised ^{up} in the air and with
fresh sticks just felled from the
trees, he was severely beaten. He
was ~~taken~~ afterwards ~~to~~ the prison
and for sometimes rigorously handled.
When the term of his prison ~~life~~
came to an end and was given freedom,
he never dared to commit ^{another} ~~any~~ crime.
"You must reach that man through
the sole of his feet and not ^{by} moral
persuasion" one day remarked
the retired Prime Minister to his
successor.

~~The~~ ^{He} Beloved talked very much
along these lines. He was ^{very} full of ^{gentle} humor.



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I do not, however, like to deprive Mrs Beede of the privilege of writing all the news to the friends. I hope she will write to you everything the Beloved said. All that I can do is to give a synopsis of the events and if the other parties are interested they can give the charming details which are always most interesting. After ~~the~~ lunch the ~~Master~~^{he} retired to his room for his rest and our American friends stayed over to ~~have~~^{for} tea.

7 At five o'clock a number of the friends dropped in to meet the Master. They were all happy to have heard so many wonderful events transpiring during the ^{few} one month of the absence of the Beloved. He said:— On this ^{journey} many souls were set aglow with

the Fire of the Love of God and they
 became exceedingly attracted to the
 Cause. I hope that you may also become
 the means of Transplanting the indiff-
 erence and shallowness of Paris.
 While staying in those cities we came
 in contact with many sects and many
 religions, each one holding fast to his own
 dogmas and superstitions. Each one ~~is~~ ^{un}inves-
 tigating the reality according to his own thought
 and each person was happy to cling to his
 notions no matter how much how phan-
 tastical! We spoke with many such
 people. We presented to them irrefutable
 proofs and evidences as regards to certain
 divine principles. We asked of the
 Theosophists: 'How long is it that you
 believe in this system of thought?
 What has been the results of the activities
 of your society?' They answered:-
 'We have our beliefs, our secret doctrines,
 our theories. We come together every
 week and speak about these things
 and initiate the inquirers.' The
 spiritualists answered:- 'We have



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materialization, seances, we communicate with the spirits and we bring into closer relationship the visible with the invisible! In short we found the majority of these people follow blindly what others teach them and they are submerged in the sea of blind dogmas. We told them: In the world of existence there is a center for every great undertaking, you must investigate that Center and once you have got hold of it, it will make you independent of all else save God. For example, the ^{planets} ~~lights~~ have a center. Through that center the whole world is illumined. Now the stars have also lights but it is borrowed. There are many light-giving bodies but they can only illumine a small ~~tract of the space but~~ ^{place}. The sun shines upon all earth and its light ^{enlightens the} is unlimited.

Consequently, there are many affairs in this world which are beneficial to the human society but are not universal in their results. These different interests need a common center around which they may revolve. The great universal Center in this age is the Love of God and the Knowledge of God. Now, you must throw away all your own thoughts and turn your attention to this Center. Then all your ^{conflicting} ideas shall be reconciled and perfect assurance will be obtained. The lights of this lamp ~~or those stars~~ are not sufficient for you but the lights of the sun shall make you independent. The wires which conduct the electric energy, the globes which confer lustre to the lights will some day be broken but the brilliancy of the sun is eternal its beams are everlasting, its heat is never-ending. Then he raised his hands, full of longing and desire for action, for great service in the Cause. His voice was full,



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throbbing with life-vibrations:— Flame
 forth! Flame forth! Be a torch! Be a
 torch! Be not silent! Be not silent!
 Shine! Shine! Unless each one of
 you become a burning torch, the cause
 will not be spread, the teachings will
 not be promulgated, the influence of the
 words will not be felt, the souls will
 not be attracted, the hearts will not
 be moved. Unless you get wings, you
 cannot fly; ~~you cannot~~ ^{and} soar heavenward.
 Hold the torches of the Love of God in
 your hands! Let your wings grow!
 I expect these things from you and I beg
 and entreat that in Paris you may
 become the brilliant lamps of
 the divine guidance!
 10 ~~At the~~ ^{At the} ~~Bahá Conference~~ ^{hour ago} I took an ^{slow} automobile
 ride through the streets and Boulevards

of the city. I looked hard into the faces
 of the people but could not find the least
 sign of spirituality. They were all submerged
 in the sea of nature. There was not one
 luminous countenance to be seen. All
 were engulfed in the ocean of materialism.
 I observed most of them ^{are} as busy as ants
 and bees, trying to bring together the
 means of their comfort and livelihood.
 These people have studied many years
 to prepare themselves for their various
 vocations but the bees and ants
 are ready to occupy themselves
 with their duties as soon as they
 are born. An architect must study
 several years before he can practice
 but the bee without any study is
 a perfect architect. Therefore this
 highest summit of economic
 independence and happiness that
 man strives to attain has already
 been scaled without any caution
 on the part of ^{the} bee and ^{the} ant.
 Just think of the perfect
 architectural plan of the bee



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which builds its hexagonal combs with such precision and exactitude that one is astonished! Its food is the extract of the flowers and its independence is so complete that it does not require any assistance from others but it assists others by giving them a quantity of sweet honey. But man must study hard, many years and then labor, ~~right~~ night and day in order to be able to build a house, prepare a table which may not be as perfect architecturally as honey-comb, ~~and as luxurious as honey~~ thus man desires to become as low in his ambition as the bees and ants! The bee ever hops from one bush to another, thought and carefree, making the

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the fragrance of the variegated flowers
and never thinking of tomorrow. If such
is the highest state of human happiness
and virtue, then the bees and the
ants are the happiest and most
virtuous! Therefore the happiness of
man and the eternal prosperity of
the people lie in the knowledge
of God, the Love of God the
virtue of the world of humanity
and the ideal perfection. If man
obtains these virtues, he is superior
to the animals; otherwise he is
inferior to them. When I was
in Aca one day I went into a
garden and I sat ^{on the veranda} ~~in front of a room~~.
My attention was attracted by a
spider which was building its
^{nest} ~~nest~~. I watched it and was so amazed
at ~~the~~ ^{its} dexterity that the spider
was going on making perfect
triangles and ~~many~~ ^{such} geometrical
~~forms~~ ^{designs}, all equal to each other, and
many wonderful paralleling lines etc.



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These lines were so perfect geometrically that
 it would no doubt have taken two days
 for an architect, with all its instruments
 to ~~make~~^{do} the same amount of work.
 Then I thought to myself: 'How civilized
 and cultured is this spider! Let all
 the geometricians come and learn
 from it! Civilization is ^{unquestionably} beneficial!
 Perfection in every line is praiseworthy,
 whether material or spiritual. But the
 natural civilization must not
 prevent us from the Grace of the
 spiritual civilization! We must
 not let ourselves be so drowned
 in the sea of materialism as there
 may not remain any chance ^{for} our
 salvation & be deprived of all the
 blessings and favors of the Kingdom.
 God has deposited in Man a

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holly power which is the discoverer of the
reality of phenomena, which transcends
the regulations of Nature and which
rules over the powers of the physical
world. Through that power man is
distinguished from the animal. Is it
not regretful that man loses his
great opportunity ^{if not employing} to use this power properly and
like unto the worms may go deeper and
deeper below the earth! I hope that you may
become the means of the quickening of these
people, that they may be drawn into the
Kingdom; their susceptibilities become
spiritual; the world of morality become
illuminated, the perfections of humanity
be revealed and the divine attributes
become manifest. I will pray for you.

Such were the wonderful words of
the Beloved on this day!

I enclose three photos taken in
Budapest. They are precious bits of
remembrance from that city. The
photo of his bed is very good I think.
Bahai love to all the friends.
I wish I could be in New York during the
Convention days, only if the Master
was there!

Ahmad