



PARIS. LE May 23d 1913

BALTIMORE HOTEL

88 BIS. AVENUE KLÉBER

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

BALTIMOTEL - PARIS

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Dear Harriet!

To the Bahai world this ^{day} is ~~a~~ ^{sacred} ^{9/16} doubly ~~feast~~ the Birthday of Abdul Baha and the Declaration of the Bab. The Bahais everywhere are spreading the Banquet of happiness ~~and joy~~ and here in Paris we are in the Presence of the One in whose name and Teachings the whole world is rejoicing. His smiling Countenance is ^{our} a daily Feast. Much light is thrown ^{upon} the divine Character of Abdul Baha when ~~you~~ ^{we} consider that he exhorts us to celebrate this Feast, because, it is the day of the Declaration of the Bab and not because it is his ^{birthday} Anniversary. Of course the Bahais keep both and are joyous, because, ^{two} such important events ~~have~~ transpired

on ~~such~~ a day; therefore it is a blessed day. It is of wide significance and ~~sweeping~~ ^{even} interest ~~even~~ to an outsider to think that ^{two} spiritual leaders of the past and present century have been by Providence born to commence and finish a work foretold by all the prophets of the ~~past~~ and ^{fulfilled} by Baha-Allah. Through the untiring zeal of the Bab, the coming of the Kingdom was heralded throughout the length and breadth of Persia. He was the morning-star of this Glorious Revelation which led ~~all~~ mankind to their heavenly Goal. He prepared the way for the appearance of the Lord and foretold the approaching rise of the sun of Reality. He exhilarated ~~all~~ the hearts with the wine of longing and declared the establishment of the Kingdom of the Father upon earth. Now our Beloved is calling ^{upon} ~~to~~ ^{all} ~~mankind~~ to enter into the Kingdom of Abha, the Doors of which are open before all the faces.



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Our earliest callers this morning were Mrs M. Hallock and Miss Fanny Knobloch. They had come with lovely bouquets of flowers and basket of fruits to greet the Master on his birthday. It was about 7 o'clock. The Beloved greeted them and they took their seats. Then Conversation started naturally about the Bab. We were up very early and as we were drinking tea, they were also offered cups of tea. Later on Mrs Lillianthal and Mrs Beede and many others came, all bringing roses, carnations, pots of blooms etc. By twelve o'clock the reception room was a rose-garden and several baskets of fruits and candies were on the table. The faces of the believers were radiant with joy and each one expressed his or her happiness

to be on such a day in the Presence of the
3 Master. Although the American friends
were not ^{here} present, yet on this day of all
days, he found time to reveal many
Tablets ^{for them} in their names. The calm and
quiet hours in his room with no one
else ^{but me} except ~~Ahmad Sohrab~~ - while he
walks majestically to and fro dictating
Tablets - are such heavenly experiences
which ^{will} ~~are~~ never effaced from the
page of ^{my} memory. How fortunate are
those souls whose names are mentioned
by Our Beloved on a day like unto this!
4 A message of Peace and greeting was
brought to the ^{him} Master from America
indirectly through New York Herald. It
was part of the speech of Mr Bryan,
Secretary of State, given before the Army
and Navy Club on May 14th in which
he gives his conception of the battle ^{ship} of the
future. The Beloved was most pleased
^{not only} with the thought but the consistent
earnestness and splendid enthusiasm
and optimism of Mr Bryan. I will
it herein, because the Master praised ^{quote}



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it and all the friends loved it. It is so much in line with the Bahai principles of Peace and justice. Therefore the Dread-noughts of the future according to Mr Bryan's conception is as follow:— "Its Compass is the heart; its shells carry good will; its missives are projected by the smokeless powder of love; its Captain is the Prince of Peace. I want you to drink with me to the battleship, Friendship. No target will withstand the projectiles which Friendship sends abroad."

5 For the last three or four days I have not been feeling well at all; so when this morning I entered the Presence of the Beloved he inquired about my health. I said: it seems to me that as long as we are enjoying good health, we do not appreciate it enough; what a divine

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Blessing is health! He said: - We know things by their opposites. Knowledge is more appreciated when we observe the stultifying influence of ignorance. Sight and hearing is more thought of when we see the conditions of the blind and the deaf ones. A person living on the border of a flowing river all his life does not know what thirst is. When we were travelling from Bagdad toward Constantinople, one day we thought we go ahead of the family, pitch the tent and prepare everything till Bahollah and the rest of the party arrive. There were twenty three of us, all on horses. When we got away several miles from the main body, the sun rose high in ^{the} heavens, and it shone dazzlingly upon our heads. We became aware that in our hurry to get away quickly we had forgotten to bring with ^{the water-bags} ~~any drinking water~~. We looked around ~~us~~ and there was nothing visible but a wilderness of hot sand and getting hotter every hour. We asked our guide whether there ^{was} any spring in the vicinity and he said, no. We ~~could not have~~ ^{could not have} any



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water before we reach ^{the rest} to the station, which
 is sixteen miles away. 'What ^{could} can we do ^{now}?
 Our lips ^{were} parched with thirst, some
 of us almost to the point of fainting. I ^{urged} told
^{the company} to ~~the rest~~ onward, my friends. Spur
 your horses. We galloped several miles
 and we were nearly succumbing to the
 awful heat when in the far off horizon
 we observed several black tents of the
 nomads. These black tents to my eyes ^{were}
 at the time greater than the palaces of
 the Kings. We hastened toward the tents
 and reached ^{them} literally half-dead. There was
 no ~~human~~ human being visible, so
 I called out ^{loudly} 'Water'. ^{Water, Water} An old
 woman came out of one of tents and
 shook her head, meaning that she
 had no water. Then I asked her:
 'Have you 'Doug'? (sour milk diluted

with water). She answered in the affirmative.
 She took us ^{then} to a tripod made of wood ^{which} over
 which was hanging a black ^{skin} ^{bag} of mutton
~~which was~~ filled with "Dang". She opened
 its aperture and each one of us drank
^{one} a cup. It was as cold as ice. In this
 part of the world, there is a wind, blowing
 at this season, which is as hot as fire.
 It scorches one's face and lips and
 peels the skin; it makes the earth
 so dry that it is impossible to describe
 but when it ^{blows over} passes by a jar of water or
 a skin ^{bag} of Dang, it makes ^{it} ~~them~~ as
 cold as ice. This wind is called sometimes
 'Sam' and at other times 'Eastern'. In
 short, we drank three skinfuls of "Dang"
 and then we ^{stretched} laid down our bodies, some
 under the shade of the tents, others
 right ^{beneath} under the sunshine. We could
 not ^{enter their} go in the tents, because these ^{nomads} people
 live with their cattle. When we
 awoke, we ^{felt} ^{as new men} were very much refreshed
 and continued our journey. Experience
 teaches us many lessons that we
 are not apt to forget.



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7 About eleven o'clock the Master came out of his room and greeted cordially all the friends who had gathered in the reception room. He inquired about the health of every one and they expressed thankfulness unto the Lord because they were permitted to be in the Holy Presence of the Beloved on such a blessed and significant day.

One day ^{in Bagdad} he said "Baha-Allah was walking beside the bank of Euphrates in Bagdad?"

One of the learned men of that city who had never seen Baha-Allah passed and was greatly impressed by his majestic bearing and divine Face. He came to him with great reverence and humility and asked: - "Sir! Which Country do you come from?" "I come from the Country of Baha." The man was puzzled.

In which part of the world is it situated?
 he hesitatingly inquired. 'It is in the Eastern
 direction.' 'What temperature?' the
 man asked. 'Always moderate.' 'What
 kind of a country is it?' he interrogated
 with evident curiosity. 'It is a most
 marvellous country; its inhabitants are
 angels; its spring is ^{for the twelve months of the year} for all the four
 seasons; its trees are always green, its fruits
 luscious; its flowers imperishable and
 of many hues; its roses ever spreading
 sweet fragrances; its meadows are
 perennially luxuriantly verdant; its
 sun has no setting, its stars always
 shining, its moon is ever full; its denizens
 enjoy eternal youth; its gardens are
 always in bloom; its sweet-singing birds
 ever melodiously warbling; its wine
 imparting everlasting exhilaration and
 its bounties and blessings limitless.'
 'Sir,' he gasped with astonishment, 'I
 had never heard of such a country. It is
 not on the ^{old} maps.' 'Well,' Baha-Allah
 answered, 'you may find it on ^{a new} another



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which is being drawn now

map. But how can one reach there?

The guide to that country is One. If you follow him you shall enter the portals of that country' the Blessed Perfection ^{answered} him and passed by.

^{nature of Mr Bryan} When the ~~future~~ battleships of Mr Bryan was read to him he said: - 'The spirit of this age demands the establishment of universal Peace. No power on earth can withstand before it. God has destined that Peace must reign in this age and it will come to pass. Let the advocates of Peace work with greater zeal and courage for the Lord of Hosts is their supporter. In this radiant Century and merciful age, the ears are opened, the hearts are awakened, the eyes are seeing ^{and} the consciences are stirred. The age of strangeness has passed, the century of

friendship has arrived. The dark hours ^{have} disappeared and the luminary of unity hath dawned. Now is the time to be illumined with the rays of the sun of the solidarity of the human race. This is not the hour ^{to} for taking life. This is the hour ^{to} for imparting life; this is the hour of self-sacrifice for the commonweal of humanity. When I was very young, I remember one day, I was sitting with a number of friends. A Kurd who was very inimical to the Persians entered the gathering and started to boast of his courage and valor. Warming with his subject, he vaunted with a great bravado that in this year ^{he} I had killed 13 Persians! Consider to what extent people are thoughtless and unaware of the ideal virtues of the world of humanity!

9 Then ^{Now} ^{on} he spoke about the education of the orphans: If the parents educate their own children, this is done by every one. There is no special virtue in it. But privilege and distinction lie in the direction of educating the children



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of others. When these children grow up, they are ever grateful and thankful to their adopted parents. "A propos ^{For the benefit of a new friend he} of some one who was in the room the Master gave a lucid exposition of the Bahai principles on economics. Then he said:- the real enjoyment of the world of humanity consists in the fact that every individual may think of the well-being of others and sacrifice his own rest for the rest of his fellowman. Then and not until then will he be really happy. I hope that all of you will attain to this station. Then you will be real Bahais. ^{one day} When, ^{the life-time of} Mohamad was living, his son-in-law, Ali, ^{his} wife and ^{his} two sons kept fast. Now, according to the Mohamadan law a person

fasting, must not eat or drink anything
 from sunrise to sunset. In order to
 break their fasts after sunset, Ali' had
 prepared four small loaves of bread.
 They had nothing else. Just before ^{Sunset}
~~several~~ poor people knocked at the door
 and begged for alms. Ali' gave them all
 the ~~four~~ loaves of bread. All the four
 continued to fast next day without ^{eating}
 anything. Meanwhile, four other
 loaves were prepared and they were again
 given away to a number of orphans who
 called ^{about sunset} right in time. The sun rose on
 the third day and they continued to
 fast without ^{eating} anything. They have now
 prepared for the third time four loaves
 of bread and just before eating a few
 strangers passed by the house and the
 loaves were given unto them. When
 Mohamad heard of the self-sacrifice
 of his son-in-law, his daughter and his
 two grand ^{sons} children he sent them special
 food and asked them to eat ~~themselves~~
 themselves.
 Now, therefore must be self-sacrificing
 to such an extent; otherwise if he



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seeks after his own interests, and ~~not~~ he is like unto the animals. Strive that ye may assist the children of man both materially and spiritually, ^{and} be the means of their guidance and illumination.

|| For lunch the Master went to Martha - Pension, our old hotel, ~~which~~ is ~~very near~~. At three o'clock Mon and Madame Richard came and at their request the Beloved told them three stories about Christ which ^{are} ~~cannot~~ ~~be found~~ in the ^{Gospel} Evangel. They were most interesting and instructive. Then with Mon Dreyfus, he went to the flower show. He must have ^{made} a most beautiful picture walking through the ^{lavers} people and flower exhibit. I was not feeling strong enough to go.

He returned at 6 o'clock and after half
 an hour he walked out again with
 Doctor Mohamad Khan to call on ~~some~~
 of the prominent Persians and Turkish
 Pashas. Tonight everybody ^{was} invited to
 Mon and Madame Greyfus, the Beloved
^{also was here} is going for the first time to this
 meeting. ^{Guests} Many people were there
 Persians, ^{Arabs} French, American, English ^{etc}
 all associating with each other in
 the spirit of Bahai' love and fellow-
 ship. The Beloved gave a wonderful
 talk on the life of the Bah as a
 preparation to the coming of Him
 whom God should manifest. It
 was a heavenly feast. The Master
 asked Miss Crum to read from the
 Hidden Words. Then refreshments
 of various kinds were served. The
 Beloved was happy to find himself
 amongst all these loving and
 sincere Bahais

Love to all. Ahmad

From April 1st to April 8th, 1913 Abdul Baha visited Germany and stayed in Stuttgart. He stopped at a hotel overlooking the plaza.

While Abdul Baha was one day looking out of his hotel window he observed a regiment of Saldes passing by in great array and he said:

"They are ready to fight for their fatherland. How barbarous it seems to send men, who do not even know each other, to the battlefield in order to shoot each other down.

"The Bahai Grand Army consists of the invisible angels of the Supreme Cause. Our swords are the words of Right. Our armament is the armament of heaven. We are fighting against the forces of darkness.

"O my soldiers! My beloved soldiers! Forward! Forward! Have no fear of defeat. do not have failing hearts. Our Supreme Commander is Baha-O-Llah. From the heights of Glory He is directing this dramatic engagement. He commands us! Rush forward! Rush forward!

Show the strength of your arms. You shall scatter the forces of ignorance, "your war confers life; their war brings death. Your war is the cause of the illumination of mankind; their war means the breaking and darkness of hearts. Your war means victory upon victory; their ~~fight~~^{war} is defeat upon defeat. Your war is the means of construction; their war is the origin of destruction.

"There are no dangers before you. Push forward! Push forward! Attack the enemy!

"Your efforts shall be crowned with the diadem of eternal Peace and Brotherhood

"His holiness the Christ was fighting even upon the Cross & His triumphant work continued through ages as cycles."