

Ramleh, Egypt

Oct 3^d 1913Dear friends! 1. Our daily life in Ramleh

Probably you will be interested to know how our lives are spent daily, close to the heart of the Beloved. First let me tell you, the Master's family — in a Bahai sense — is very large, very large indeed. He and his own family live in one house, the secretaries and with as many pilgrims^{as} they can accommodate live in another ~~house~~ and there is, besides these two houses a third which is rented only for the pilgrims. The American and European pilgrims live in New Victoria Hotel as well as prominent Persian nobilities. There is another hotel in Bacos station which is brought under service when there is an overflow of pilgrims. All these houses and hotels are used at this time for the accommodation of the friends who are constantly coming from the four corners of the earth to welcome ^{Abdu'l-Baha} ~~the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords~~. The secretariat ~~house~~ is like the club house and ~~common ground~~

for all the pilgrims. Except the sleeping hours, they spend all their time ~~here~~ ^{with us}. Here in the East everybody gets up ~~very~~ early, so that between the hours of 5 and 6 we are out of our beds with the ~~word~~ ^{greeting of} "Allaho Abba" on our lips, ~~greeting~~ ^{greeting} each other. There are four morning customs that have impressed me deeply and are the significant signs of the religious nature of these people. First: their ~~uniform~~ early rising, ^{and} although in the West it is taught "early to bed, early to rise" it is seldom practised. Second: No sooner they open their eyes, the holy Name of God is on their lips, thanking Him for all His past Graces and future Bestowals. Third: Their quiet solitary prayer and concentration from ~~ten~~ ^{ten} to ~~thirty~~ ^{thirty} minutes according to the religious spirit of the individual. Fourth: As soon as they have finished their individual prayers before taking their breakfast they assemble in the reception room and pray to God, read Communes or sing an anthem. Then they will gather around the table to partake of the material food.

these unconsecrated

After the performance of ~~the above~~ ^{these unconsecrated} rites it is about
 6 or 6:30. and ~~then~~ ^{then} the friends ^{begin} ~~start~~ to arrive
 from ~~the other house and hotel~~ to take their
 breakfast with us. When every body is present
 we all go to the reception room and have a 10 to
 15 minutes prayer ~~meeting~~ and ~~then~~ ^{then} thus refreshed
 with ~~our~~ spiritual food we ~~go~~ ^{enter} to the dining room.
 We sit around a ~~very~~ large table over which
 the Samovar is brewing and Aga Jamal,
 our faithful cook ~~is ready~~ to dispense tea.
 Our Breakfast consists of tea, native bread
 and cheese, nothing else ^{for} Easterners as a rule
 do not give much attention to morning rep^{ast}.
 Everyone drinks from one to three cups of tea,
 helps himself with a piece of bread and cheese
 and ~~in~~ ^{within} a few minutes we are all through.
 Then the pilgrims go ^{out} ~~to the veranda~~ and sit
^{on the veranda} ~~around~~, after Mirza Abdul Gazi comes and
 talks ~~with~~ ^{to} them. Within half an hour ^{some}
 one from the Master's house ~~comes~~ ^{arrives} giving
 the news that the pilgrims are summoned.
 They ~~go~~ ^{go} and return laden with the jewels
 of the Kingdom. Some of ~~the~~ morning

the Beloved pays us a visit. ~~On their return~~ The
 pilgrims are ~~then~~ ^{now} free; some ^{to} go to the city, a few
 sit ^{down} and ^{to} write letters home or copy Tablets
~~on~~ the Master's Western addresses. While another
 group is engaged in conversation, imparting and in
 turn receiving the news of the progress of the Cause
 in their respective countries. My room is quite
 large and whenever there is an influx of pilgrims
 eight persons sleep in it and often till past
 midnight they ~~are~~ talking and singing with
 great joy and harmony. When we first arrived
 I ~~had~~ arranged my writing ~~table~~ ^{desk} near the
 window, ~~after awhile~~ ^{then} I transferred it ~~to~~ ^{to} the
 center of the room and now it is placed
 between two beds. ~~at the end of the room~~
~~facing the entrance~~. Although there are
 constant interruptions, I manage ~~to~~ ^{how} to
 do my work in the morning hours. Our
 lunch is simplicity itself, only one kind
 either Persian soup called "Ab-gousht" or
 fried eggplants etc, with large ^{thin} round native
 bread. When ~~there are~~ ^{we have} many ^{pilgrims} ~~friends~~ they
 are divided into two parties. The first ~~part~~
 for lunch and dinner

~~sits down and eat and when they have finished~~
~~the rest partake of the food.~~ The Secretaries are
 always included in the second party and the
 guests and pilgrims in the first. ~~After we have~~
~~afternoon siestas~~ ^{such as} fruits, grapes, pomegranates, figs, cantelopes, water-
 melons etc. The first two are now at the
 height of their season. After lunch ~~they are~~
~~all again~~ ^{are} scattered, ~~most of them~~ ^{many} taking their
~~usual naps.~~ As there are ~~many~~ flies and mosquitos
 I go also to my bed surrounded by the net
 and there either read or write unmolested
 by the host of the "social" insects. Between 3 and
 4 tea is served and ~~then~~ ^{again} the friends ~~come~~ ^{arrive}.
 We read Tablets and talk about the Cause.
 Then forming different groups ~~they~~ ^{we} ~~scatter~~ ^{go} out
 but always near and around the ^{palace} house in the
 hope that the Master may ^{suddenly} come. Meanwhile
 he may be either dictating Tablets in the ^{neighboring} ~~adjacent~~
 rose-garden or calling on Mirza Abdul Fazl,
 or entertaining some Pashas in his house or
 calling on ~~some~~ ^a learned or simple person. At
 eight o'clock again we are gathered in the dining
 room and eat the one course dinner. ~~the~~

material changing now and then but always on ~~some~~ ^{usually} ~~some~~. After dinner, we are generally free and may make our own choice either going out to take a walk or sit in the house to read or converse with others. Before midnight everybody is invited. Our house is the rendezvous for all the beggars. Everyday several ~~of them~~ call with petitions for "Abbas Effendi". None of them goes away empty-handed. The Master was busy all day and except the pilgrims none ~~of~~ ^{met} ~~saw~~ him. Shaaghi Effendi, his mother, Basheer and ~~a~~ ^a ~~other~~ ~~Persian~~ maid ~~of the household~~ left for Haifa and therefore the Master's house will be quiet for awhile. Doctor and Mrs. Giesinger's departure for India is ~~also~~ for the present postponed and ~~the two~~ ^{they} will leave to morrow for a week's stay in Haifa with the German Bahais who have ~~the permission~~ ^{to} visit the holy Tomb. Mrs. Fraser will be here for a few days longer. She is very happy and is enjoying her personal contact with the holy Family. Her diary of the daily life of the Beloved will be a treasure ~~house~~.