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Ramleh, Egypt
Oct 15. 1913

Dear friends!

And yet wonders never cease! The Master is back! Our hearts are palpitating with the thrills of joy. Again he is in our midst. We could not bear to be away from him, even for the distance of half an hour. He is the light of our hearts, the joy of our souls, the radiance of our lives and the rainbow of our horizons. If he leaves us, in his separation we droop and know not what ~~to~~ do with ourselves. Now praise be to God! he did not stay away a long time. I was thinking that if he stays several days I will ask permission to go and refresh my spirit through his kind and heavenly presence.

Early this morning before anybody was awake the Master knocked at ^{the door of} Mirza Asadullah Khan's room and surprises him by declaring that he is going to leave in five minutes and he should hurry and pack up the baggage before the train leaves. Well! he had to get busy, for the Beloved, having given him this command was on his way toward the station. All the trainmen and conductors were up on their feet as soon as they saw him coming from far off, taking respectful attitude and forgetting their chatter of idle talks. Having a bouquet of flowers ^{in his hands} he distributed it amongst them, inquired about the health of each and ^{made} them feel easy and at home in his presence. They were trying to precede each other in serving him, although nobody had told them to do so. The divine dignity of his attitude, the majestic bearing of his walk, the innate freshness of his manner and the contagious smile of his lips mark him as separate and

and distinct from the rest of mankind. I tell you it was indeed a joyful moment when Inerza Inoner entered the house with the glad-tiding of the return of the Beloved on his lips. The face of every one was immediately wreathed with smile of happiness. For the moment we forgot all about our departure from our present abode but we had to come back to earth and attend to our packing. It is arranged for the present that we may move in the other house which belonged to the pilgrims but now it is empty, pending further decision on the part of the Beloved. There is some semi-serious talk about his going to Haifa to pass this winter there. A few of the old believers think the conditions in Turkey are not stable and his return to Haifa may give the authorities another chance to renew his prisons. Thus they urge upon him not to go to Haifa. However by the 24th inst we will know which direction the wind is blowing. The Master irrespective of any personal advice or consideration will no doubt act as the spirit leads him and directs him. He has the benefit of the Cause at heart and wherever he goes and whatever he does is based upon divine wisdom the purport and motif of which is not clear to us. We have observed in the past and know this to be an irrefutable fact.

In short, we made all due preparation and at 2 o'clock into our house which is quite new, just around the corner. In our courtyard there are many palm trees, bearing long clusters of dates and having been ripened they are red and ready to be cut off for market. Our present landlady is a Greek girl on her father's side and

Italian on her mother's side. She has born in Alexandria, has never been in Europe, is a fairly good painter and speaks fluently Greek, Italian, French, English and Arabic. Generally speaking, you find a larger number of linguists in Egypt than in many parts of the world, because here is the meeting-place of the East and the West and the confluence of widely-scattered streams of races and nationalities.

At 3 o'clock Mrs Stannard came to our new house to see how we are situated. After staying awhile she expressed the desire to see the Master and together we went out. When we arrived he was just awakened and was standing near the table making a glass of lemonade for himself. He welcomed Mrs Stannard and started to prepare another glass for. "I did not find any difference between the weather of Acha Kiri and here, therefore I preferred to return" he said, "Besides, ^{this} there were nobody there and the manager was anxious to shut the door of his hotel and go away, for this was at the very end of the season." Then he sat down and started to write a Tablet with his own blessed hand. Mrs Stannard told him that he is going to engage her cabin for the 2nd of November for India. Without raising his head and continuing his writing he said: - "Thou seest that although I am not feeling quite well I work from morning till evening and have not a moment of rest. Thou must likewise, walk in my footsteps and forget everything save Baha-Allah. That nothing in this world may prevent thee from

from the service of the Cause and that in this trip thou mayst ignite such a fire that it may not become extinguished." While he was giving her further instructions word was brought in that Constantin Tentunji, Correspondent of "Al Akhram" desires to meet the Beloved and receive an interview for his daily Journal published in Cairo. He was conducted in the reception room and after a few minutes the Master entered and greeted the gentleman with a wealth of oriental courtesy. He spoke first about Bata-O. Akab's imprisonment in the penal prison town of Acca and how the first few years the conditions were well nigh unbearable. "We were thrown into the barracks with no permission to have intercourse with the outside world!" The Correspondent could not believe in such a cruel treatment. "Do you mean the barracks?" he exclaimed incredulously. "The barracks where the criminals are are imprisoned? Do you mean that? How is that? What was your crime?" he asked indignant against the tyrants. "Oh! Our crime was the proclamation of religious liberty, to worship God according to our own hearts, to spread universal Peace, to educate public opinion for moral and civic uplift of the nations, the equality of the sexes, universal education so that no ignorant boy and girl remain in the country, the development of spiritual susceptibilities, rectitude, uprightness, honor and righteousness. These were a few of our crimes." "And did they put you in prison for these things?" he asked. "Yes. They were very bitter against us. They desired to do

away with us but in a nice way. The climate and the weather of Acca were abominable and in sending us to this living tomb they had in mind the idea that in 3 months we will be exterminated by the Common enemy, but God intervened and frustrated their plans. While we were in the barracks an important meeting of the Pashas (here he named their names one after another which opened the eyes of the Correspondent) was held in Turkey. They all agreed upon the fact that soon there will be left no trace from us, that the young plant of the Bahai Cause will be completely uprooted and its fragrant flowers soon withered. But today each one of those Pashas is afflicted with military or civil punishments, they are all scattered to the winds but the Bahai Cause has become triumphant and with the greatest freedom I am now living in Egypt. The events of the time have clearly shown us whose Cause was the spirit of the age." Then the Correspondent asked about the war which has been waged by the Balkan Allies against Turkey. "War" he said emphatically "is the work of Satan, the devilish instrument of hell. Nations in various ages have resorted to different excuses to slaughter their fellowmen and crown their heads with the bloody crown of so-called victory which we may call it defeat. In the past religious wars were repeatedly waged on the ground that this is Mohammedan, that is Christian, this Hindu, that is a Jew etc. This was a pretext appealed to the religious emotions of mankind. Another excuse has been and is that of country or patriotism, this is France, that is German, here is England and

that is India. Let my country advance at the expense of another, Let me do something to grab a piece of somebody's else land. Let the commerce of my people develop while the other is ruined. The wars are brought about by kings, politicians and diplomats. The poor people of all countries are united together by an invisible band of brotherhood. They have nothing to fight for, they have not seen each other. But these leaders of the nations live in their palaces, are surrounded with luxuries, they walk for recreation in fairy gardens, they give royal entertainment. They breathe the purest air in their summer palaces. And if they are a little wearied of life they prefer the rhythm of the motions of the waltz in the ballroom rather than the stern realities of the battlefield. The dreamy music of the drawing room is more enjoyed by them than the stirring march of battle where human lives are used as pawns and the field crimsoned with blood. If they mean what they say, let them go to war, let them leave the indolent life of Council chambers and chancelleries and come out in the open to face each other in this brute struggle they set up from behind the closed doors. If they have any grievances against each other, why should they marshal huge armies against each other who are entirely innocent, let them settle their disputes in the best manner their consciences dictate to them. Another excuse for war is that of race. This is black, that is yellow, you are white, he is red and they they fall on each other's lives instead of each

at their neck. What utter stupidity! What sheer
 ignorance! These are all flimsy excuses and they stand
 neither the test of reason or religion. They are pure
 fictions of disordered minds and interested
 parties. While, in reality we all seek to worship
 the one Supreme God who is the Father of us
 all. He is the Shepherd and we are his flock.
 The whole world is one house and mankind
 are the members of one family. In the estimation
 of God there are not many races but one
 race and that is humanity. Therefore, the
 motives for all these wars are superficial
 and baseless. Countries are devastated, villages
 are razed to the ground, thousands of men,
 women and children are killed for the sake
 of these shadowy imaginations. When I was
 in America they asked me whether Turkey will
 be able to ward off the defeat inflicted on her
 by the Balkan Allies. I answered she cannot
 do it, because she is one and they are four.
 The odds were too much against her. In
 a way she was surprised and attacked on
 four sides, defeat was certain in the face
 of the combined consolidation of the four
 States, but I said ^{also that} as soon as the Allies
 achieve their aim they will disagree on the
 division of spoils and the erstwhile friends
 and brothers drew sword to shed each other's
 blood and as you see now all these predictions
 came to pass. Your daily paper "Al Ahram"
 is a progressive journal and one of the best
 dailies in Egypt. God has sent His prophets and
 messengers to wipe away these prejudices
 from amongst mankind. Pray He assist

your paper to carry on this work, that it may become a wonderful instrument for the propagation of knowledge and peace, that it may vanquish the regions of darkness and teach that all the people are the sheep of God, that they must love each other. The differences which exist in the physiognomy of men, although substantial and extraneous do not lead to war, then why should the differences based entirely upon human imagination cause bloodshed and carnage? Is this worthy of the station of man? The sheep, the doves, although they may belong to different countries and have various colors do not fight. If you gather them all in one pasture or at the top of one tree they will associate with each other with perfect intimacy and love. Then are we less than these domestic animals? Why should we ever create any imaginary differences between ourselves? Why should we build walls of iron and steel with such airy materials as evil thoughts, malice, race hatred? Religion is the cause of fellowship, not strangeness, the motif of ideal communion and not separation, the basis of complete union and not ill-feeling, the foundation of the solidarity of human race and not backbiting. I hope you will work day and night to make people understand these divine principles.

The Correspondent left the Beloved, his face transfigured with a new light. With Mrs. Stan. and we left the holy Presence, dedicating again our lives to this Divine Cause.