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Ramlah, Egypt
Oct 21th 1913

Dear friends!

As the question of Consultation in the Bahai movement is of supreme importance I like to translate herein three Tablets which are revealed by the Beloved about 15 or 16 yrs ago for the Persian believers. They were at that time published and distributed amongst the friends. I translate only a few extracts which can to a more or less degree be applied to our Western conditions.

The first Tablet is opened with a prayer: -
He is God!

O Lord! Thou art the Confirmer of every assembly which is organized for the purpose of promoting the Word of Thy Mercifulness and the Supporter of every society which is united in the service of the Threshold of Thy Singleness! I beg of Thee lay Thy hidden Face in Thy invisible worlds of Akha to encompass these with the Glances of the Eye of Thy Compassion, strengthen them by Thy Supreme Power and reinforce their backs by Thy penetrative Force which is permeating throughout all things. Verily Thou art the Listener of all our prayers and verily Thou art Powerful to do that which Thou wilt! Today the ^(or assembly) meeting of Consultation has great importance and intensive necessity. The members must so conduct themselves both in discussion and consultation so that the causes of ill-feeling and difference may not creep in. This aim is obtained if the following suggestions are followed: - After the opening of the Board each member may with the utmost freedom

express his opinion and present facts and if another member opposes it he must not at all feel sad or agitated; for unless discussion is carried on freely concerning all the questions the right decision will not become known. The light of reality appears resplendent through the amicable conflict of thoughts. At the end of the discussion if a unanimous vote is cast the aim is attained, but if God forbid, there still exists a difference of opinions they may settle it by the vote of majority. Whenever the plans or arrangements of the board of consultation are disliked or criticized by the believers or a few from amongst them, the members must not rebuke or quarrel with anyone. They must keep silence and write to this servant.

The second Tablet deals with the six duties of the members of the board of Consultation:-
 "The first duty of the members of the board of Consultation is the sincerity of intention, the illumination of reality, severance from aught else save God, attraction with the fragrances of God, sweetness and humility amongst the believers, patience and forbearance under the tests and servitude at the exalted threshold of God. When they are qualified and characterized with these attributes the victory of the Invisible Kingdom of Abha shall surround them.

The second duty is the affirmation of the Unity of the Invisible Beauty of Abha, the confirmation of the perfect, supreme appearance of His Holiness, the first Point (the Bah) and

and the declaration of the absolute, pure real, outward and inward, identical and essential servitude of Abdul Baha without the least expression save this. This is my highest station! This is my ultimate condition! This is my abode in Paradise! This is the light of my face, This is the consolation of my heart! This is the balm of my breast! This is the delight of my eye! This is

Whosoever believes other than this, verily he has opposed Abdul Baha!

The third duty is the promotion of divine Principles and the encouragement of spiritual laws amongst the believers such as prayers, communions, fasting and other divine commandments.

Fourthly: The protection and preservation of all the believers under all circumstances and conditions and the amelioration of the public affairs such as the education of the children, the instruction of morality, the advancement of useful sciences, from all parts, the foundation of the schools and colleges for both boys and girls, the guardianship of the poor, incapacitated, the forward children, the orphans and the old people and holding fast to those means which would increase arts, Commerce, profession and the progress of the general well-being.

Fifthly: General prohibition from taking part in any movement which would breed disorder and corruption. and serenity and composure under all circumstances.

and showing love and friendship toward all mankind.

Sixthly: Leniency toward the people of negligence and heedlessness

The third Tablet is as follow:—

"In all the affairs whether universal or particular consultation must be observed, so that that which is suitable may become apparent. Consultation is the cause of insight into the affairs and reflection upon unknown subjects. The lights of reality are apparent on the faces of the people of consultation; the fountain of life will flow in the meadow of the law of truth, the lights of everlasting glory will shine and the trees of existence will be adorned with wonderful fruits. But the members of the board of consultation must deal with each other with infinite love, fellowship and sincerity. The principle of consultation is the ^{one of the} greatest principles of God."

These are a few portions of the Tablets the contents of which may serve as guiding stars for all the assemblies and inspire them with greater zeal and enthusiasm to teach the message of the Kingdom.

Another Tablet which is addressed also to one of the oldest Bahais many years ago may find a place here:—
"O thou who art attracted by the fragrances which are diffused from the garden of the Bestowal of God! Proclaim! Verily God has opened the doors of prosperity with the hand

of Might and Power and the herald of Happiness is crying out: Hasten ye toward success, O ye essences of spirits. Be ye rejoiced on account of the appearance of this Manifest Day, Praiseworthy Light and lofty station on the part of your Lord, the Clement. I declare by God that the shining light in the Blessed Tree of Sindri has sent forth its flames, raised its tongue, spread its luminosity and scattered its rays and its heat has enveloped the East of the earth and the west thereof.

As to thee, O thou who art stirred into cheerfulness through this Bestowal and art a harbinger for the appearance of this glorious Mercy, dilate thy breast, rejoice thy heart because God has assisted thee to diffuse these Programmes through which the regions are performed. Verily, I declare by the Glory of Thy Lord that the hosts of the cohorts of the Kingdom of Abha are saluting thee from the Supreme horizon and address thee: Blessed art thou O Thou herald of the name of God! Glad-tiding be upon thee! O thou who art attracted to God! Happiness be unto thee, O thou speaker of the mention of God! Rejoicing be unto thee, O thou who art assisted by the Holy Spirit from the highest heavens! Reinforce thy back! Strengthen thy knees! Illuminate thy eyes, purify thy heart, dilate thy breast for God hath confirmed thee with this unparalleled Grace - which shall shine and gleam like unto the brilliant star

and world-illuminating sun upon the vast regions, the dawning-places of existence and the seats of power."

This morning I was called into the Holy Presence. He put into my hand numerous Tablets to translate and after having two cups of tea which was served by Muzja Jalal I returned. The Beloved was surrounded by letters from all parts of the globe and he sat there, his eyes closed, immersed in a sea of reflection. What was he thinking? No one could ever dream; no one can ever guess the working evolutions of his mighty brain. Single and alone he has faced the whole world and as the Master Man of the age he must solve all the problems of our age, social and ethical. No one who has studied in the least the marvellous story of the Bahai Cause can doubt the spiritual ability of the Beloved in adjusting not only the difficult and superhuman work of the salvation of the Eastern people but in establishing social righteousness and economic justice in the complicated life of the West. He has solved this wondrous problem to a large extent and his daily life and teachings are doing the rest. The fact that the progressive movements of the world have been largely influenced and helped by these divine Teachings no fair man can deny but this is clearer than the sun in noonday and all the thinkers and philosophers have testified. We are all watching the birth and growth of this new world movement which is being born on the

sea of existence and impelling upward the latent forces of progress and brotherliness.

Today more pilgrims arrived from Cairo and the Master has telegraphed to many others to come but many of them will not stay more than a few hours. They are the generals in the field of action and must receive their orders before the departure of the Commander in Chief.

In the afternoon he came to see Muzga Abdul Gazi who was welcoming a distinguished Arab. The Beloved talked with them a great deal on the mystic life of religion and its influence on external life. The Arab Caller was much delighted with the talk and left the Presence charmed with the words of truth.

I would like to bring this letter to a close by the following quotation from a wonderful Tablet revealed by the Beloved:-

"Now you must engage in the service of the Cause of God with the utmost firmness, steadfastness and resolution and expend day and night in the promotion of the religion of God. Do not unloose your tongues save for conveying the Message. Do ye not behold save the Kingdom of Abha. Wish for no other companion save the True One. Do ye not desire other associates save turning ~~the~~ faces toward the Supreme horizon. Do ye not search for any other delicacy save the heavenly food and do ye not shape any other sweetness except the love of the Beauty of Abha.

Praise be to God that the standard of victory is unfurled over that region and the fane of the Covenant has reached the ear of every wise and intelligent person. Spiritual means are prepared. The Merciful Table is spread and the Banquet and the Feast of the Lord is inexhaustible. Now is the time of attraction and ecstasy; so that that region may become wholly illumined and that worthless dust be changed into fragrant musc.

I declare by the Blessed Perfection - may my life be a sacrifice to his believers - that if the believers arise to act according to the good-pleasure of the Blessed Perfection, the lights will be revealed, the mysteries discovered, the veils rent asunder, the darkness dispelled, the verses of unity chanted, and the melodies of the spiritual music of the Glorious Lord ~~chanted~~ sung. Show ye an effort! Work unceasingly. Labor diligently; - so that the everlasting Bounty be realized, Eternal life be destined and the nostrils be perfumed with the holy Fragrance."
