

Port Said, Egypt
Nov 11th 1913

Dear friends!

"How fervently I long to go on Mount Carmel - the garden of the Lord! How inspiring is the matchless panorama spread before one's view! How quiet and spiritual is its very atmosphere! This is the best season of Mount Carmel. Those who have seen the sweeping, heavenly scene spread before their eyes from the Tomb of the Bab cannot forget it throughout all their lives. In the future there will be seven beautiful, terraced gardens from the base of the mountain up to the Holy Tomb. Then the scene will be most ravishing and unexcelled in the whole world. The mountain covered with fragrant flowers, the bright sun ^{shining} upon it with its vital, life-giving rays, the educational and charitable institutions springing up here and there, the spiritual inheritance coming down from an age of the prophets and going back to an era of the Patriarchs and the sacred stories and blessed traditions woven about every spot - will make this place most cherished and beloved by all mankind."

Thus spoke the Master with his eyes shut and in a contemplating mood. I also long to go to Haifa, and I hope yet that somehow the unexpected door will be opened and I will have the great joy of sleeping and resting and walking and working on that holy mountain so often blessed by the feet of the Blessed Perfection and Abdul Baha. But I must exercise my patience and wait the development. Almost any day something may happen that may carry us to Haifa.

When this morning we went into the Sacred Presence of the Master he said "Merja Ahmad, I am feeling well today and have started to work again. I have already read many letters. Whenever I meet the believers of God I feel much better. I am made very happy." Then he gave a long talk to the friends about his address in the Jewish Synagogue of San Francisco and how the noble Rabbi Myer has invited ^{the} a Christian community to hold services in ^{the} Synagogue! Repeatedly and on many occasions the Master has highly praised the noble action and the lack of the prejudice of this "man of God" hoping that he will ever serve the Cause of universal religion and human brotherhood.

A letter from Doctor Clock of New York who has been living in Teheran for some years made the Beloved very happy. She writes:- "You know how much we love the Persian girls and women and look forward to the time when they will be better educated. Last year there were forty schools for girls in Teheran and now there are sixty. All these schools are under government supervision. A young woman Nooro-taj employed by the government visits them and reports great progress in general but says the Tarbiyat school for girls is best of all." Caligrams received from the various parts of the world as regards to the spread of the Cause or the demand of urgent advices were read to him and answers were in turn called.

Mirza Hadi Efnan (the third son-in-law of the Master) and Mirza Hossein (the third brother of Ahmad Yazdi) with two other pilgrims arrived from Haifa this afternoon. Now I have had the pleasure of meeting all the three sons-in-laws of the Beloved. They are all very excellent men. As you no doubt already know Mirza Mohsen and Mirza Hadi are the descendants from the Bab and Mirza Jalal is the son of the King of the Martyrs. With a singing heart and happy face Khosro ran into my room. Having received the Master's telegram he had travelled all night to come as soon as possible. His love^{for} and faithfulness to the Master are his wonderful qualities. I have grown to love him very much on account of his simplicity, and agility. Often in Rambeh he would fill our dishes with what he had cooked for lunch and dinner and we came to know later on that he had left nothing for himself. With the greatest light heartiness he would then take a piece of bread and cheese and eat with evident relish. He was surprised one day when I gently scolded him why he does not keep back something for himself. Oh! I never thought of it!" he said.

In the afternoon the Master having read many letters^{to} was quite tired and wanted to have a drive. The carriage was ready after a few minutes and he descended the stairs and beckoned to Ahmad Yazdi to sit beside him. After his drive he stopped at Ahmad Yazdi's store and sat there for half an hour. Then he sent for Doctor Pettinger and took him with himself to

the house. Here he asked Doctor to speak to him. He related the story of two Irishmen who went to America and their experiences with the New Jersey Mosquitos. The Master laughed and in turn told us a mosquito story written in poetry by a poet of Kashaw. In order to appreciate this line you ^{must} first understand the double meaning of "Tchang-zaw". Its first meaning is "a player on harp"; its second meaning is "one who scratches his body with his fingers". Now here is the line:-

From the early evening till morning I held a high carnival in the empire of my body; The Mosquitos were the ~~trumpeters~~ ^{what was they}, the flees were the dancers and I ~~at~~ "Tchang-zaw". Then I said that last night I could not sleep at all because my bed harbored many guests under its mattress and pillows and wooden frame in the persons of bed-bugs. They ^{swarmed} around me as I soon I put out the light and the consequence was a night of vigils and wakefulness. The Master said: "When we were in Bagdad, Constantinople and Adrianople we were bothered to death by these insects - flees, mosquitos and bed-bugs. Many a night we had to sit up without one wink of sleep. Finally we invented the mosquito netting with only one entrance. Once you are in you tie that entrance with a piece of strong thread and then no insect no matter how small can find its way into it. There is a species of mosquito in Syria which is very small. It does not buzz and is very small, but it bites like a

scorpion. One in Bagdad before we thought of mosquito net Aga Amman came to me and said he has found a powder that if spread over the bed the bugs will become unconscious and die and thus one gets a good sleep. I refused to use it over my bed but Aga Amman did it. When we went in the morning to call him we observed he is laid on his bed as an unconscious person and all over and around him the bugs were in a state of drunkenness. We carried him out of the bed and he came to himself after some exertion on our part."

He started to speak with Doctor in English, telling him that this language is very difficult but that Persian is easy, when somehow the word "Conspicuous" was mentioned, I suppose that word caught his fancy and for a long time he was repeating it over and over again and every time he would ask him whether his pronunciation is correct. How we enjoyed it!

Freemasonry was spoken of and again ^{the master} showed his deep knowledge and startling acumen in giving us the history and the origin of Freemasonry. For what purpose and when it was organized? What were its primary objects and why they have been keeping their doctrines secret?

Then he bids us farewell and goes to his room. We leave him with dancing spirits and go out walking in the moonlight. The weather now is cooler even in Port Said and it is very beautiful to walk along the shore and think of the objects of the spirit.