

57
Bahai Pilgrims' Home
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

January 7th 1914

Dear friends!

"Let the fool prate for luck. The fortunate
Is he whose earnest purpose never swerves,
Whose slightest action or inaction serves
The One Great Aim."

There are many stumbling-blocks in our path but they
will ^{be} removed through steadfastness. There are dizzy and
unscalable heights in our way but they will be levelled
to the ground through firmness. We must stand by
the Cause, adhere to its principles, cling to its teachings,
stick to its laws, hold fast to its anchor and then
we shall weather the worst storm. Out of our strict
adherence there shall appear the purest white light of
Assurance. From our fidelity there will spring up
dauntless courage, spiritual discernment, clear ^{vision},
inspirational motive and self-reliance. Through
concentration and application we shall gain

the catholicity of thought, the sublimity of ideal, force
 of character and strength of will. Each one of us must
 contribute something to show the earnestness of our
 purpose and thus further the objectivity of the
 One Great Aim - which is no other than the oneness
 of the world of humanity, ^{Our object must be} the intellectual and spiri-
 tual illumination of the children of the race,
 the realization of International Peace, the develop-
 ment of genuine unity and friendship between
 different religions, the radical effacement of all
 prejudices, [&] complete co-operation and mutual
 assistance ^{amongst} amongst all the people and devoting
 one's time to the ~~salvation of the derelicts of~~
~~we must work to raise the woe of humanity~~ ^{nothing}
 society. Nothing must dishearten us. We are
 too weak to do all these things, but we must
 do our share and not fall behind. Just as
 we are thinking about these subjects and are
 doing our best toward their realization there
 are people all over the world who are doing

exactly the same thing. They do not let anything discourage
 them, but they forge ahead without looking to the right
 or to the left. The greatest and most imperative duty
 of all the Bahais in these latter days of the life of Abdul
 Baha is the proclamation of the Glad-tidings of the
 Kingdom of Abha and the attraction of the hearts with
 the Breath of the Holy Spirit. The Oriental believers
 know neither rest nor sleep, they know their duty, they
 feel its responsibility and they go forth to spread
 the Fire throughout all the East. Every day new
 souls enter in the Cause of God and ^{thus} ~~gird~~ ^{up} ~~the~~
 loins of endeavor to bring others. The spreading
 of the Movement is a mirror in which we behold
 our own spiritual growth. 'Hast thou been able
 to convince another of the validity of thy religion?'
 is the final test put to every Bahai. Every person
 we teach is an argument in our favor, an
 incontestible answer to the ^{above} question. Then
 we will go through our examination with perfect
 confidence.

In the morning while I was busy reading an article in an American newspaper concerning the society organized in Cleveland to 'make happiness epidemic' the Beloved came out of his room and walked in the garden a few minutes. I went out of the room and joined him. When I told him ^{of} concerning the organization of such ^a Society in America he laughed heartily and said: - "It is very good. The world needs more happiness and illumination. The star of happiness is in every heart; we must remove the clouds so that it may twinkle radiantly. Happiness is an internal ^{when it is} condition. Once ~~well~~ ^{well} established ~~it causes the ascension~~ ^{it will ascend to} of man ^{to} the supreme heights of bliss. A truly happy man will ^{not} be subject to the shifting eventualities of time. Life unto an eternal King he will sit upon the throne of fixed realities. He will be impervious to outward, changing circumstances and through his deeds and actions impart happiness to others. A Beloved ^{must} be happy for the Blessings of God ^{are} bestowed upon him."

Then he gave a few ^{pipe} seeds of apple, to Ismael Aga to plant ^{He had kept them} them. ~~They were kept by him from~~ large apples eaten in ^{brought him from} America. Afterwards he received our four newly arrived pilgrims from Persia, inquired about the ^{condition} of the friends in each city, mentioning many ^{believers} by ^{names}. They had of course excellent reports to present him of a deepening sense of religious experience on the part of the people and the spiritual fruitfulness of the Tree of the Cause. "Those regions" he told them "are stirred to their depths, the cruder and outer symbols and dogmas of religion are wearing off and the finer and inner realities are coming to the front. Undismayed ^{by} of ecclesiastical authorities the people are investigating the revealed spiritual truths and letting the light of celestial consciousness shine in unearthly brightness. The Bahais are kind to all the communities and loving to all the religions of the world. The Blessed Perfection has freed us from the fetters of narrowness and bigotry."

Martin

Then the ^{man} went out to call on the French Consul. When he returned he called ~~at the store~~ ^{at} of Mirza Anvarollah's ^{store} and bought a few Persian Abas to give away as presents to a few persons whom he called "although rich yet they are poor". There was also a meeting of the ^{women} in the house attended by the American ladies. ^{men} are ^{not} allowed to show themselves at such meetings.

In the evening Haji Ali, a clever conversationalist kept us interested while relating in the most natural manner many stories about Baha-Allah, short, beautiful, concise and instructive. Now he told us about the 4 months prison of the Blessed Perfection with its concomitant hardships in Teheran, again about the incarceration in the Barrack of Aca, the sacrifice of the Purest branch. Then how for many nights, chains were put around the feet of the Beloved, how Baha-Allah travelled to Karbala, how he gave definite prophecies concerning the future culture and progress of Aca and Haifa, how he ^{assured} the Bahais that they will never be drowned and a host of other charming personal stories. The last and not the least he told us the story of a Bahai who was for many days ^{beaten} 3 times a day in the heart of the winter. First on the sole of his feet, then the palm of his hands then ^{on} his head. Afterward, while blood flowing from the pores of his body he was thrown in a reservoir of frozen water and let him flounder, then while beating him with whips. When he was taken out he danced and recited poems and cried in a loud, happy voice: "You are not harming me at all. See I am laughing, I am happy. You cannot hurt my spirit. I live above these tortures. They do not touch me. Do with my body whatever you will." X