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Bahai Pilgrims Home
Mount Carmel Haifa Syria
January 12th 1914

Dear friends!

X The master passion of every person must be the investigation of reality - a reality which does not change amidst the changing phenomena. One's life and deeds must be guided by the King of reality. The people of reality are those whose hearts become the repositories of eternal principles. The Central reality of the Universe from which flow divine life and spiritual ideals is not subject to mutability. Reality governs cosmic laws. Reality is the basis of human affairs. Reality is the brotherhood of man. Reality is the light of the world. Reality is the downpouring of heavenly revelation. Reality is the foundation upon which all successful undertakings are built. Reality is the Zenith of everlasting Glory. When we are conquered by reality we become the conquerors of the world.

There are two forces that fight constantly to gain control over us, - the forces of Reality and the forces of nature. As long as we are under the influence of the latter we cannot name ourselves the people of Reality. The forces of nature must be entirely defeated and routed and in turn we must let ourselves be defeated by the forces of reality. In reality we find rest and activity, a rest which is uninterrupted, an activity which is ceaseless. The people of Baha are those who are the guardians of the temple of reality; worshippers at the altar of reality and enamoured with the beauty of reality. Possessors of reality possess all. They are established on the thrones of Absolute Assurance. The ~~Circumstances and conditions~~ changes and mutations do not affect them. Wealth and poverty, glory and degradation are the same to them. Such beings are indeed the priests and vestals of Reality. They have attained to a higher realm⁵ are breathing a purer air.

just as iron loses its coldness and blackness when it
 is thrown into the furnace of fire and appropriates
 unto itself the qualities of heat and redness - Likewise
 these people, having come in touch with the Fire of Reality
 they have ~~been~~ lost their lower nature and have acquired
 all the attributes and qualifications of Reality. They
 have fulfilled the injunction of Christ:- You shall know
 the truth and the truth will make you free. Appearances
 do not deceive them. They have rent asunder the
 veils and ^{come face to face with} ~~looked upon~~ the shining image of Reality -
~~face to face~~. Now they are not afraid of shadows and
 superficialities. They have ^{understanding} ~~understood~~ the meaning of
 life. ~~Then~~ they arise to guide others to the same fountain.
 Their hearts having gained that peace that knows no
 shadow of turning, they become the peerless centers
 of a mighty awakening. Their lives and their
 deeds, their precepts and their words will ^{constitute}
 the rays of the Sun of Reality. They are now
 ranked in the army of the angels of humanity.

9.2

Although many of pilgrims went down ^{the} they could not see the Beloved during the day. All morning he was in the house. Our American and English believers have an advantage over the rest of us - being women the doors are always open to them and thus they observe and study a good deal of that life which is the goal of every seeker of Truth. In the afternoon and the ^{evening} we saw only glimpses of the Master as he came out, walked around and called on a number of people.

✕ As you know Mirza Mahmud Foroughi knows numberless Tablets of the Blessed Perfection by heart. One day the Master, as usual, asked him in the meeting to chant something. For more than half an hour he chanted one of the longest Tablets from ^{memory}. When he came to an end the Master said: - "Most wonderful! Mirza Mahmud Foroughi has a marvellous memory. He has memorized even so many Tablets! Every faculty of the faculties ^{is}

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of man which is used in the path of the Blessed Perfection is like the oil which burns in this lamp - illuminating this room; - whether it is the faculty of memory or the power of speech or the art of music^{and} song or the gift of writing or the talent of painting or the endowment of poetry etc, ^{it} will produce infinite results. The subject-matter is most important and vital. Before the consideration of the various ramifications of a given thesis we must look at its subject-matter and see whether it is important, because in nine ^{cases} out of ten the subject-matter is the key to unlock the door of the latent possibilities in man. It is recorded in the Arabian history that Hermod possessed a most miraculous power of memory. One day the Khalif ^{said to} asked him 'how many poems hast thou committed to memory?' He ^{answered} asked 'Do you mean the poems composed during the period of 'Ignorance' or after the appearance of Mohamad?' The Khalif thought that of course poems composed before the appearance of Mohamad

^{1st} more few
are less, so he said: 'Poems of the time of Ignorance'.
Hernad ^{answered} asked: 'The poems composed by men
or women?' Again Khalif thought that verses
written by women must be less numerous, therefore
he answered: 'Poems composed by ^{by} men'. Hernad
then said: 'According to each letter of the alphabet I
have committed to memory one hundred poems ^{composed}
by virgins before the appearance of Mohamad'. The
Khalif expressed ~~the~~ signs of astonishment, because
the sum - total ^{made} ~~makes~~ 2800 poems. In order
to test the mental accuracy of this prodigy he asked
him to come every Friday morning and recite to him
one after ^{another} one, till the evening. The poet accepted
the invitation on the condition ^{the Khalif would} that he ~~may~~
listen to all the poems. Nearly a year rolled by
and every Friday the marvellous poet was at
the Court reciting from memory these poems.
By ^{that} this time he had recited only 700. Then
the Khalif was tired and could not listen to

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him any longer, but he appointed a proxy in his place To such an extraordinary degree the ancients had developed the infinite resources of memory although their subject-matter was not important. ~~Now~~ we must use all our faculties in the path of the Cause. Our utmost hope and desire must be to surrender entirely our wills to the Will of the Blessed Perfection, to become non-existent at the Holy Threshold. All our physical and spiritual faculties must be consecrated to the progress of the Movement. We must lose our egos and find the Self of God. This is the immortality of the soul! This is the delectable liberty! This is the most glorious honor! This is shining station! Whoever is imbued with these attributes he is freed from change and decay. He lives for ever in the realm of light." X

The day was beautiful, the Master was happy. ^{EVERY} Everyone, trying to emulate Him and pattern his life after this perfect Example.