

Bahai Pilgrims Home
 Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
 January 13th 1914

Dear friends!

✕ One day is more beautiful than the other but all the days are beautiful on the Mount of God, the birthplace of the prophets and the cradle of the messengers of God. Its air is from paradise, its sweet flowers are from heaven, its climate is ambrosial and the rays of its sun are joy-intoxicating. Its sky is turquoise-blue, its plains and valleys are verdant, its stars are phenomenally bright, its moon is a center of radiation and its scenery is exhilarating. One becomes filled with the sheer happiness of life and comprehends ^{as he walks across its rocky fields} the secret of peace. The cry of joy! joy! is raised involuntarily from ^{his} your lips as ^{he} you climb the mountain, or look at its variegated, delicate, aromatic flowers. Like unto the fresh brides of June they peep out from behind the veils of their green leaves, showing their gentle faces and winning your smiles and your heart.

These thoughts came to my mind as I was descending the mountain beside one of the old Bahais. He was in turn relating to me one of the most authentic traditions of Mohamad related by Bokhari who is celebrated for his accuracy and wisdom. It is related that on one occasion Mohamad was speaking with his followers and amongst other things he said: - 'At the time of the end God shall manifest himself to all mankind with all the attributes of divinity and majesty, but very few shall advance toward him and the rest shall exclaim in horror 'We take refuge in God! O What a blasphemy!' Then again he will appear in a second time manifesting all the qualities of Servitude and the people will flock around him and believe in Him and praise and laud His uncreated virtues.' X By this time we reached the house of the Servant of God and after half an hour Elme' Asdag was summoned into his Presence. For nearly one hour they were ^{together} and when he came out his face was beaming with joy and contentment.

Then Mr and Mrs Hallback were permitted. They had several questions to ask about Mashrekol Azker and its accessories. He said "When these institutions - College, hospital, hospice, and establishments for the incurables, University for the study of higher sciences and giving post-graduate courses, and other philanthropic ^{edifices} ~~buildings~~ are built - its doors will be open to all the nations and all religions. There will be drawn absolutely no line of demarcation. Its charities will be dispensed irrespective of color and race. Its gates will be flung wide to mankind. Prejudice towards none, love for all. The Central building will be devoted to the purposes of prayer and worship. Thus for the first time religion will become harmonized with science and science will be the handmaid of religion - ^{both} showering their ^{material} and spiritual gifts on all humanity, and ^{in this way} ~~will be lifted~~ ^{will be lifted} save the people out of the quagmires of slothfulness and bigotry." X

Having looked through the guest-book of the ^{morning} hotel where they live, they had found the signature of Mr Thornton Chase who came several years ago to the Holyland to visit the Beloved of the world. This had interested them a great deal considering the memorable visit of the Master to his tomb in Los Angeles.

In the evening all the Bahais gathered in the house and the Master called them to His Presence. He gave a long and illuminating talk, illustrating it with his natural, inimitable gestures. It was mainly addressed to those who are trying to oppose the Cause, float false rumors and fabricate groundless accusations. "The very names of these people will be forgotten while the Cause shall rise and rise to the very apogee of fame and glory. My greatest aspiration is to see myself on the Cross. Oh! How I long, how I long for this Cup and for its ruby contents! The most hateful thing in my eyes is to die in bed. I dislike it. Now I love to see myself on the cross in these last days of my life! that I may become ^{entangled}

like unto a lamp between the heaven and earth! There, there, my friends, I love to see myself. Oh! God willing, God willing! (and as he says these tragic words and laughs as though he is talking about the most pleasant thing in life - yet with a grim and dramatic determination - many eyes are filled with ^{and many are} tears, sobbing uncontrollably) ^{that} ^{divine} day may soon come, that blessed hour may soon arrive! I am the Servant of the Blessed Perfection. In Bagdad I was a child. There and then He announced to me the Word and I believed in Him. As soon as He proclaimed to me the Word I threw myself at His Holy Feet and implored and supplicated Him that He may accept this one drop of my blood as a sacrifice in His Pathway. Sacrifice! How sweet is the word in my taste! There is no greater haunting than this for me! What greater glory can I conceive than to see this neck chained for this sake, these feet fettered for His love, this body mutilated or thrown into the depths of the sea for this Cause.

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If in reality we are His sincere lovers - if in reality I am
His sincere Servant, then I must sacrifice my life, my all
at His Blessed Threshold. The Blessed Perfection has
trained and educated me for more than 50 years
that I may sacrifice my life for Him. Praise be
to God that the Favors and Bounties of Baha - allah
have caused the appearance of such friends ^{as} who are
the spreaders of the Glad - tidings and ready at
every moment to sacrifice their lives. They ^{have} think of
no ~~other~~ idea save self-sacrifice, they ^{have no} dream of ~~no~~
~~other thoughts~~ save self-sacrifice. With heart and
soul they are devoted to the Cause. Like unto the
stars they shine and like unto the sea they ^{wave}.

He spoke about other matters, bringing in humor
and laughter and for the present casting off the
veil of sadness and gloom which was thrown
over us by the effect of his previous words. It was
altogether a wonderful meeting, displaying more ^{than}
ever the height and depth of the Master's character
and exhibiting his divine emotions under the spell of his
own earnestness.