

No. 16.

Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

Beginning January 16th 1914

Ending January 30th 1914

Mount Carmel. Haifa Syria

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Bahai Pilgrims Home
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
January 16th 1914

Dear friends!

Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of the Lord. Therefor I adorn the beginning of this letter with the spiritual words descended from the bloom of Revelation for the members of the Bahai Assembly of New York.

He is God!

O ye sons and daughters of the Kingdom!

Your letter of felicitation (Nov 26th 1913) was received. Its contents was the proof of your firmness, an evidence that you have turned your faces toward the Kingdom of Allah, ^{are} holding fast to the Covenant, and that your hearts are attracted by the Orb of regions.

Today all the nations of the world are submerged in the darkness of ignorance and

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the superstitious, religious, ^{and} racial, patriotic and political prejudices, but the lights of the oneness of the world of humanity are shining and irradiating from your faces, and the Fire of the Love of God is ignited and set aglow in your hearts.

Praise be to God that you have no other aim save the Unity of mankind, entertain no other hope except the guidance of all the people and harbor no other wish save the good-pleasure of the Lord. I hope that you may become so illumined as to enlighten all the regions, ^{that} each one of you may become a bright candle, the sign of the Love of God, the herald of the Kingdom of God, the means of communication between the hearts of all humanity, ^{in the} and be confirmed for bringing about ^{of} the confederation of all the religions; so that this dark world may become luminous,

the foundation of warfare and battle be utterly ³destroyed, the standard of universal Peace be upraised in the Center of the world, and the Feast of Love be spread amongst the children of man.

With the utmost humility and meekness I supplicate and implore in your behalf toward the Kingdom of Abha and beg confirmation for you, so that the city of New York may become the Center of the Most Great Guidance and the lights may be scattered to all parts of the world from the hearts of the believers.

Upon ye be Baha El Abha!

(Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas!

It is truly a divine experience to get up every day with no other thought than to descend the mountain and stand in the Presence of Abdul Baha. From him permeates love and kindness and toward him fly all those who are heavy-laden and miserable. This morning he was walking in the garden and a heavy-set Turkish gentleman came

standing in his Presence. The Master sent for Muz-
galal and ^{who} he brought a fine coat to be presented
to his Turkish guest. ^{The Master} He made him wear it and
asked him to walk a few steps to see whether it
^{was} becoming to him. Then they sat near the orange
grove, talking together, and the silvery laughter of
the Beloved carried on the gentle breeze made
us very happy. For the last few days the
Master has been giving away ever so many coats
and Albas to both friends and strangers. After
awhile, others arrived and he took them to the
reception room, ^{where they remained} till noon. Then ^{the Beloved} he went to
the Mohamaden mosque. A memorial was
held in behalf of those who were killed in the
late war, and a fund was raised for the main-
tenance of the widows and the orphans. The
Mosque was beautifully decorated and poems were
chanted. The ceremony lasted for two hours
during which time the Master was present. Every
one looked up to him with reverence and

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deep respect. In the afternoon there was a tea in Mirza Mahsen's house for women, and the Master honored their meeting by his Presence. After the meeting Mr and Mrs Halback had a most delightful hour with Haji Mirza Heydar Ali - the angel of the Holyland. At first he told them several prophecies from the sacred scriptures of the Torah and the Gospels concerning this day. Then they asked him to relate something about his own life and how he became a Bahai. He was reluctant to do this, because those who have really attained to the spiritual goal dislike (self ^{glorification} revelation). Mrs Halback, however overcame his hesitation by saying "When a number of sore-footed pilgrims arrive at an inn from various directions, it is most profitable to listen to their stories and experiences. Not only the listeners will learn a great many lessons but the pilgrims themselves will know exactly how far they have progressed and when will they reach the summit

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of the mountain of eternal quest." Then he started to speak, Mrs Holback writing down his words. There is no need for me to write here what our sister can write in a ^{style as} hundred times better ^{style}. After an hour we came out of the house delighted to possess for the present ^a part of the early history of this wonderful friend of God.

As we walked toward the Master's house we saw the city of Acca steeped in the receding golden rays of the setting sun and the further range of the mountains was surrounded with a halo of the glorious rosy lights. Our hearts responded joyfully to this matchless scene of beauty as we ^{separated} departed at the door with the words of "Allahu Akbar."

The Western brothers and sisters are always remembered and their sweet Bahai love and kindness a source of eternal satisfaction and never failing joy. Their spiritual success and triumph in the Cause of God are ours.