

24

Bahai Pilgrims Home
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
January 19th 1913

Dear friends!

Our beloved teacher and brother Ebné Asdag, the brother of Vargha, two Zoroastrian believers from Teheran, Sayad Lia, Mashadi Akher, five women and one child, have received permission to return to their respective countries. The steamer will depart tomorrow morning carrying away these *Brides of the rose - garden of sanctity*. On their way they will stop in many cities, will enter many Bahai Assemblies, and will refresh many old and new hearts with the spoken Words of the Beloved, as well as ^{give} the news concerning this Holy Spot. This morning ^{the Beloved} he received the above six splendid men and filled them with the vibrant spirit of action and a yearning to proclaim more than ever, the Message ~~of the Kingdom~~.

25

"you are a good party" he said. "God willing you shall have ^{good} smooth weather on your journey! May you expend your days in the utmost joy and fragrance! May you carry with yourselves the Divine Glad-tidings of Abla! May you ever live ~~always~~ in the same attitude of invariable satisfaction! When a man is joyous in his heart, I mean when in the very depths of his heart there is gladness, he will be invariably happy under ^{any} all conditions; he will be serene under most adverse circumstances. Whenever you go convey my longing and greeting to all the believers of God. I am always remembering them and implore and entreat at the Sacred Threshold in their behalf, begging for them Celestial aid and succor, so that they may arise in the service of the Cause. May the hearts be simple and pure! May the intentions be sincere ^{and} noble! May the aims be the promulgation of the Word of God! May we ever be ready to sacrifice our lives in this Path! May we ever

26
forget the ego and ^{be} oblivious to self! May we ever
remember one another in our prayers and supp-
lications! Today the Cohorts of the Supreme Concourse
are drawn in battle-array on the plain of the
Kingdom of Abha and are eagerly watching to see
who shall step ^{onto} ~~in~~ this battlefield, so that they
^{may} rush to his aid and reinforce him with new
and fresh forces. For this reason I have ^{surren-}
dered every thought, idea, plan and conception,
and for the last 3 years and half have been
travelling ~~over~~ ^{across} mountains and deserts, countries
and cities, lands and seas, and have been
^{cried} crying out at the top of my voice, and calling
mankind to spiritual illumination and
celestial life. The Bestowals and Favors
of the Blessed Perfection were as manifest
and clear as the rays of the Sun! Two
years after the departure of Baha-ollah I
wrote a Letter which contained the follow-
ing verse: 'O Abha, Attack and break

27

through the serried ranks of the armies of the world.' While I was travelling in the West and entering in churches, Synagogues, Meetings and Conventions, I observed that I was fighting ^{that} ~~alone~~ with all these forces, and the Invisible Cohorts came continually to my assistance."

Afterwards Mr and Mrs Holbaek came to visit the Beloved. He gave them a talk on the narrowness of the Jews, their peculiar religious prejudices, and in order to substantiate ^{his remarks} ~~them~~ he related two stories about the bigoted Jews of Tiberias. "The leaders of religions" he said in conclusion "must be the means of binding the hearts together, establishing good-fellowship between the members of ^{these} human family, creating a desire for universal Peace and emphasizing ^{more} the essential unity of mankind. Man must be like ^{unto} the light so that he may illumine the house ~~in~~ which he enters. Man must be like unto a fruit-bearing tree, giving luscious

28 fruits to every passer-by. Man must be like a fountain, causing every thirsty one to drink from its salubrious water. Man must be like unto the purifying breeze imparting freshness and vigor to every soul. "

In the afternoon we found the Beloved in the garden, walking through the ^{paths that} avenues of the ^{separate the flower beds,} flowers. The sun ^{would} ~~was~~ shining, but now ^{and then} ~~hidden~~ behind the fleecy clouds, ^{The Beloved} He looked well and happy and talked most tenderly with the ^{different} ~~number~~ of Pilgrims who were gathered around him. Abdul Gaseem and Aga Mehdi ^{had come} ~~were~~ here from Acca bringing for the Beloved, mandarinies and oranges from the Rezinan and Ferdous. He ordered Basheer to bring us tea in the rose-garden. Oh, how I wished you were here to share with us our spiritual happiness. But Mr and Mrs Hallack are here and from their sympathetic Western standpoint they will present to you before long a poem

wonderful word-pictures of these immortal scenes!

I have been trying only to fill the gap - but now Mrs Hol-
back with her literary talent, sensitive imagination and
historical knowledge comes to the scene and her book
will no doubt be a priceless, spiritual legacy to
future generations who are not as fortunate as we are
to live during the days in which the sun of Reality is
shining.

In the evening the Beloved gave another
beautiful talk about the two years of Baba Allah's
incarceration in the Barrack of Acea, the foulness of
the air and water, the appearance of Cholera after
the departure of the Blessed Perfection, and two
stories concerning the greatness of the station of
the Manifestation. In the end he said: - "Every
one who appeared in the Presence of Baba Allah
was changed. All the outsiders testified to His
superhuman knowledge, divine Perspicacity,
spiritual Wisdom and Absolute grandeur.
They were attracted to Him and loved Him."