

Bahai Pilgrims Home  
 Mount Carmel. Haifa Syria  
 January 21st 1914

Dear friends!

Every ~~human~~ station in life presupposes the discharge of certain duties and the display of well-defined deeds and conduct. When we are on a probation we must most scrupulously train our faculties, bring under strict discipline our half-budding articulated potentialities, and school ourselves in the eternal ideals of justice, mercy and purity. It is true that the higher we rise, the more universal will become our moral and intellectual responsibilities, and unless we are endowed with refined susceptibilities it is most difficult to breathe the ethereal atmosphere of the spiritual heights. We concede that God has given unto us a nature which in its elemental stage is so sensitive as to be capable of the highest impressions. But in our blindness we cover the sensitizes

surface of this delicate instrument with the dust and  
 dirt of worldly desires and carnal passions - thus making  
 it irresponsive and insensible to the higher and purer  
 notes of heavenly harmony. Just as a delicate ~~instru-~~  
~~ment~~ ~~is~~ ~~put~~ ~~out~~ ~~of~~ ~~commission~~ on account of a  
 speck of dust, invisible to the mortal eye, likewise  
 our nature is liable to become blunt and dull through  
 negligence and thoughtlessness and <sup>causes</sup> the atrophy of our  
 moral fibres. We must watch the growth of our souls  
 with the utmost diligence. If we <sup>should</sup> transfer a thousandth  
 part of the attention that we lavish <sup>on</sup> the care of  
 our bodies, to the care of our spirits we <sup>would</sup> ~~shall~~  
 arrive safely at our high destination. Our bodies  
 are fed and clothed with material foods and rai-  
 ments. Our spirits are fed and clothed with  
 spiritual virtues and the attributes of the Holy-  
 Spirit. Our nature must ever expand, our sym-  
 pathies must increase, our susceptibilities must  
 augment, our deeds must become selfless and  
 our longings <sup>be</sup> to serve the world of humanity.

All morning the Beloved was walking in the garden followed by the old man - the Persian Consul from Acca. Now and then <sup>as</sup> a number of the Pilgrims passed by the door and he would ask them to come in. The sun was brightly shining, the roses, hyacinths, carnations, violets, anemones etc, were <sup>overloading</sup> rioting in their luxuriant colors and fragrance. Chairs were brought out and the Beloved sat amongst the rose-beds. He was a very beautiful and radiant, diffusing all around the tender fragrance of the spirit. He talked with his guest on the blind religious customs of the people. "It is very strange" he said "that some religionists cherish incredulously the unreasonable and unscientific beliefs of their faith, but they laugh at similar beliefs held by other religionists." Then he gave a few examples from the Mohamadan and Christian religions to illustrate his point. About noon he retired to the house and I was on the eve of departure, when Basheer brought me the word

that the Master wishes me to go in and take <sup>41</sup> lunch  
with him. You can well imagine my joy because  
these privileges are not enjoyed by any one of us in  
these days. The table was round and about one foot  
high. We sat on the floor. Only the Persian  
Consul and myself were in the Presence of the Beloved.  
All through the lunch the Master continued to  
fill our plates with rice, ragout, <sup>etc.</sup> I enjoyed the  
lunch most heartily, especially <sup>the privilege of sitting at</sup> to sit around the  
same table with the King of Kings.

In the afternoon there was a large reception  
in the Holy Tomb of the Bab, given by Mirza  
Jalal and Mirza Hakeem Ahmad Off of Tiflis.  
The Master was also present. Mr. and Mrs. Holback  
were also there. The Pilgrims sat all around  
the large room and when there were no more  
chairs they sat on the floor. The Master  
asked me to sit near Mr and Mrs Holback <sup>who</sup>  
were sitting next to him. His words on the  
suppositional boundaries between the East

and the West were interpreted for their sake. "These lies are imaginary. Human mind has created them. They are the mere concepts of men," he said. Then we followed him to the Holy Tomb. With a sweet, tremulous and at times hardly audible voice, he chanted the visiting Tablet. There were long pauses between each sentence. The sacred <sup>place</sup> ~~room~~ was throbbing with spirituality <sup>vibrations in</sup> and indescribable atmosphere of calmness and ~~rest~~ <sup>peace was there.</sup> Coming out of the room he begged leave of the friends to descend the mountain. Afterwards Mr Holback took a few pictures of our new pilgrims, especially Karbalai Enraw. The latter has asked permission to entertain all the Pilgrims as long as he is in Haifa. He walks amongst the believers as a veritable giant. Compared with his size and ~~bright~~ <sup>that</sup> we look so small! It seems to me <sup>that</sup> his smiles <sup>is</sup> are never ~~sworn off~~ <sup>absent</sup> and his laugh is the most contagious thing you ever saw. You just want to

laugh with him. About sunset I saw the most  
ideal and pastoral picture that I shall never forget.  
Groups of the friends were walking on the slope  
of the mountain. After awhile each group sat on  
a rock and then, as though impelled by a mysterious  
unknown power, they <sup>did</sup> ~~break~~ <sup>broke</sup> into an anthem of  
thanksgiving and praise. Like unto the birds  
of paradise they continued to sing till the gray  
mantle of the night was spread over ~~them~~ <sup>us</sup> and  
the little stars twinkled in <sup>your</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>etherial</sup>  
canopy. The mountain <sup>was</sup> ~~reverberated~~ <sup>with</sup> and echoed  
their heavenly songs. Our souls were <sup>enraptured</sup> ~~ravished~~  
away by the quiet charm and singular beauty  
of this new experience. Last night these people  
did not know each other, tonight they are  
associating together with such intimacy and  
good-fellowship that it is as though they had  
known each other all their lives. Glory be  
unto Him who has created this Unity. Praise be  
unto Him who hath illumined the hearts with the Light  
of His Love!