

Bahai Nest

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Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

February 3d 1914

Dear friends!

The stream of the Pilgrims is flowing from every part of the East toward the blessed Mountain of God - a thousand times more blessed nowadays because on its white pinnacle shines the most precious Gem of the Kingdom of Abha. They come, ^{oh!} they come, from far and near, they come and while coming they bring their priceless treasures, i.e., pure hearts and clean minds, filled with ^{precious} prized jewels of Love and Service, of Wisdom and Understanding, of Concord and of Peace. Never ^{was} there ~~were~~ a more united and harmonious band of Pilgrims, ^{than these Bahais, who} started from the various parts of the world on their holy Pilgrimage ~~than these Bahais~~ Christians and Mohamadaus, Jews, and Zoroastrians, and Hindus impelled by the call of the spirit, leave their homes with ~~the~~ one supreme object in their minds. Unconscious of each other, unknown to each other

day after day they are drawn nearer and nearer to their
 objective point. Why do they undergo the hardships of
^{these} journeys? Why do they accept the vicissitudes of the
 trip? Do they come to visit a fare? Are they interested
 in the old remains of an ancient or submerged
 civilization? Do they travel for the sake of recreation?
 The Bahai pilgrims are not actuated by any of these
 material things. Their aims are higher and their
 motives exalted. They come to visit the true She-
 Kinah - the Visible Majesty of the Divine Spirit, the
 fountain of the Water of Life Eternal, and the Bread
 descended from heaven. How great is their ^{good} fortune and
 how unique is their privilege! For their thirst is
 allayed with this water and their hunger satisfied
 with this bread. Here in the Presence of Abdul
 Baha they find that spiritual rest for which their
 hearts have been craving and are bathed in the
 sea of divine beatitude. Filled with this
 serene spirit while emptied of all the ~~physical~~ ^{physical}
 desires and worldly wishes they go forth again

into the world to fight the good fight of truth and righteousness. Love, the great symphony of the universe will become the dominant note of their actions and sympathy, the deep undertone in the orchestra of life will modulate the measures and sounds of their music. The heavens of their hearts will become illumined by a sudden flash of ethereal songs and the radiant waves of jubilant anthems will environ them with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. As spiritual guides they ^{will} lead back ~~the~~ ^{its} wandering humanity to their original starting-point and as the inextinguishable flames of reality they will entwine the fire of celestial integrity and moral rectitude. There is, of course, a heavenly reward. While there are ^{many} who are called, they are the ones who are chosen.

The result of their work cannot be measured by any human criterion. As they are not working on the earth-plane, as they are not striving for any material success - ~~their~~ ^{their} outward circumstances may not impress the every day man who measures life according to the standard of dollars and cents.

Today six Pilgrims arrived from Salzevar, Kashan, Teheran, Yazd and Ashkabad. The steamer ^{arrived} about sunset and after an hour of delay in the custom House they were at last standing in the Presence of the Beloved. Tears of joy flowed from their eyes and one could not help himself ^{being} but to be moved by this mystic scene of Oriental devotion and love. What were their feelings, their thoughts and their emotions during those few minutes of their first visit to their Lord? For days and days they had journeyed, so that they ^{might} ~~may~~ look in the glorious Countenance of the Master and hear his welcome and greeting "Marhaba! Marhaba! Khosh Amadeed! Khosh Amadeed!"

In the morning a number of outsiders called on him; then my turn came. He dictated two cables to Mrs. Gelsinger and Mrs. Stannard expressing happiness over the receipt of their good news and then dictated a few Tablets. At noon instead of going up to the Pilgrims

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Home we ate our lunch in the house of the Beloved.
The Pilgrims were given permission to day to go to Acca
and visit the Holy Tomb of the Blessed Perfection, but
early in the morning he called a few of them into his
room and said:-

"In my behalf you will go and visit the Blessed Tomb
of His Holiness Baha-o-llah. I have great love for the
believers of Marmagan because, firstly, they are earnest
believers; secondly they are firm and steadfast; thirdly
they are loyal and faithful and fourthly, because
Mollah Mohamad Marmagani sentenced the
Bab to death, God has brought out such wonderful
believers from that town, who are the cause of
my happiness. Likewise the believers of Meelan
are very dear to me, because they are tried
and tested. Similarly, the friends of Meryan
Doab, Maragheb, and Banab are ⁱⁿ reality
most zealous in faith. The believers of Meelan
have ² much suffered.

During the first years of our stay in Bagdad

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Baha-Allah suddenly departed for the mountains of Solymaniyah. At that time we did not know ^{at all} ~~at all~~ His whereabouts, and so it happened that there was no one to teach the Cause or muster the ^{scattered} Babi forces. The fire of search was almost ~~extinguished~~ and the interest of the public waned. There was no one to assuage the fear of the few ~~or~~ attract the hearts of the ~~many~~. The voice of divine authority was hushed and the thunders and lightnings of spiritual revelations did not roll and flash across the heavenly track. Mirza who claimed to be the Viceregent of the Bah Yahya, always fearing from his own shadow, was concealing himself in a thousand hiding-places. Completely disguised, and under the assumed name of Haji Ali, he travelled like a Darvesh between Bagdad and Balsorah. In order to hide his identity from the public he had ^{hang} on a ^{piece of string} ~~strag~~ a few red and yellow Arabian slippers, ^{which he sold} ~~selling~~ them to the people while walking through the streets and Bazaars.

At this juncture two young men from Meelan came to Bagdad. They were enraptured believers and they brought cheer and happiness to our despondent and sorrowing hearts. It was ^{then} now a long time that we had ^{had} heard no news from ~~the~~ ^{Baba Allah} Blessed Perfection. The fire of spirituality and activity was put out of every soul. The hearts were bewildered and the spirits drooped. No amount of ^{effort} ~~excitation~~ whatever could in the least stir [the spirits of a few ^{remaining} fearful Babes] [with ¹ courage or self-sacrifice]. At that time I was very young. These two new believers from ~~Meelan~~ came and knocked at the door. I went and opened it. I observed they ^{were} two young men from Meelan. Their faces were luminous, their eyes radiant. They were shining like unto two suns. I asked them to come in. After awhile they asked about the Cause. I told them ^{that} the Cause ^{was} is extinct, there is ^{was} no Cause. They asked about Mirza Yahya. I told them he ^{was} is concealed and no one ^{knew} knows his whereabouts. They asked about Baba Allah. I told them

26 ^{And} I do not know where ^{was} he is. As soon as they heard these
sad news they looked at each other and began to
weep, and weep. For nearly one hour they sat down
on the floor and wept bitter tears of regret and
disappointment. I tried to console them, but I
could not succeed. My own heart was sad when
^{I realized} ~~observing~~ the ^{chaotic} ~~chaotic~~ conditions of the Cause, and
the absence of any life. Then they arose ~~from their~~
~~seats~~ ^{and} without any remark, left the house,
in utter silence. They did not ~~any~~ leave any address
and I never heard from them afterwards. How
different it ^{is} now! The Banner of the Cause of
Baha-ollah is waving over all the regions.
The Power of the Most Great Name is felt by
all the nations of the world. The Glad-tidings
of the Kingdom are proclaimed to all the
religions of the world. The Potency of the
Holy Spirit is moving the hearts of men ^{and}
the fearless teachers of the Cause are spreading
the Gospel of ^{salvation} ~~salvation~~ both in the East and in the West.