

Mount Carmel Haifa Syria
February 7th 1914

Dear friends!

This was the day of the Anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Mohamad, the Arabian prophet and as a result a general holiday was declared. Many stores were closed and people resorted in groups to the Mosque to pray. View and then the guns of the military barracks boomed their salutes.

It may not be out of place if I quote a few sayings of the Arabian prophet on "learning and knowledge" which will show more than any dissertation on the subject his commandments to the faithful to ever equip themselves with the findings of knowledge and the deductions of science. He says:—
"He dieth not who giveth life to learning."
"Whoso honoreth the learned honoreth me."
"Learn to know thyself, O Ali."
"Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave."

"Philosophy is the stray camel of the faithful (Muslim); take hold of it wherever you come across it."

"The calamity of knowledge is forgetfulness, and to lose knowledge is this, to speak of it to the unworthy."

"Who are the learned? Those who practice what they know."

"One learned man is harder on the devil than a thousand ignorant worshippers."

"To seek knowledge is a divine Commandment for every Muslim."

"That person who shall pursue the path of knowledge, God will direct him to the path of Paradise."

"He who knoweth his own self knoweth God."

"Acquire knowledge. It enableth its possessor to distinguish right from wrong, it lighteth the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert, our society in solitude, our companion when friendless, it guideth us to happiness, it sustaineth us in misery; it is an ornament amongst friends, and an armour against enemies."

"The knowledge from which no benefit is derived is ⁴⁷ ~~life~~ ^{life}
a treasure, from which no charity is bestowed in the
way of the Lord."

"Wish not for death any one of you - neither the
doer of good works, for peradventure, he may increase
them by an increase of life; nor the offender, for per-
haps he may obtain the forgiveness of God by repentance.
Wish not nor supplicate for death before its time
cometh, for verily, when you die, hope is out and
the ambition for reward, and verily, the increase
of a believer's life increaseth his good works."

We were most fortunate this morning to meet the
Master for a few minutes in the garden of his home.
He came out and sat in the sun, His face expressed
thought and contemplation, his beautiful, white locks
^{had} ~~were~~ fallen ^{down} behind his back, and his white beard
and commanding brow ^{intensified} his patriarchal
authority and gentleness. Mr and Mrs Halback came
in bringing with them ~~the~~ the Christian Common-
wealth of Jan 28th containing an interesting article

from ~~her~~ pen on the life and teachings of the Beloved on Mount Carmel. Then she read quotations from a letter just received from her daughter in England in which she expressed her love for the Cause. "Thy daughter" the Master said "shall make extraordinary progress." At this juncture two Arabian friends entered the garden and as there was a stiff breeze blowing ^{from the garden} ~~to~~ took them to the reception room, and we were left to our own devices.

Haji Khorassani, who has been in Haifa since our arrival, gave a tea in the afternoon in the large room adjoining the Holy Tomb of the Bab. All the pilgrims and believers were present as well as some of our American sisters. Our dear brother Foroughi and his son spoke and ^{in turn} chanted ~~in turn~~ Tablets. Every one thought the Master ^{would} come up, but they were doomed to disappointment. Haji Khorassani ^{will} leave tomorrow evening for Cairo, with two other pilgrims, Mirza Ahmad of the city of Beersheva and Mirza Rajab Ali, a physician from

Salazar. The former, my namesake^{is}, a tall young⁴⁹
man ^{with} ~~who~~ has a clear, musical voice and who during
his 19 days stay in the Pilgrims' Home filled our hearts
~~with~~ the joy of his songs and the sweet chanting of
the Divine Tablets. He is a wonderful Bahai to whom I
have become very attached. When he leaves tomorrow
I shall miss him. His brother Shiek Mohamad Ali
is a famous teacher and writer in the Cause now
living in ⁽¹⁾ Ashkabad.

Our American sisters Mrs Van Lilienthal, Mrs Beede,
Mrs Wise, Mrs Sprague and Miss Hiscock ^{are} ~~have been~~
back from Damascus and Tiberias and again ~~are~~
are submerged in the sea of the spiritual presence
of Abdul Baha. Our dear sister Mrs Hoagg lives with
one of the Holy daughters of the Beloved. She is
learning Persian and in turn teaching English to the
members of the Holy Family. She enjoys her Eastern
life most thoroughly and I advise the believers in
America to waylay her when she returns to Uncle Sam
so that she may relate to them her charming ^{experiences}.

50 More of the Pilgrims are given permission to return to their respective homes within the next 3-4 days, Amongst them Foroughi, his son and Mullah Inshad - their servant. It is probably more than 3 months that they ~~have~~ been living close to the heart of the Beloved. All of us, especially myself, who ^{had} ~~did not have~~ the privilege of seeing him ^{Foroughi} ~~for~~ - have grown to love him, and ^{we} always listened with interest and profit to his discourses and chanting of Tablets. New Pilgrims are on their several ways and soon they ^{will} ~~shall~~ arrive. Aga Mahomet Hassan tells me that from now on the Pilgrims will not stay longer than 9 days. Nine days pass too quickly in the vicinity of the Beloved, but from a spiritual standpoint each day is a year. The believers of God come and go, but to an observer, ~~before they leave~~, a great psychological change has taken place in their hearts. They are born again and baptized with the Water of the Knowledge of God, the Fire of

the Love of God and the Spirit of divine Revelation. ⁵⁷ The
Promise ^{thus} theirs of Age has placed in their hands the torch
of the oneness of the human race, and deposited in
their hearts the flame of the brotherhood of man and
the Fatherhood of God. Now they go forth with serene
confidence into every dark corner of the Eastern
world, carrying with themselves light and wisdom.
Now they have a mission to perform, their lives are
not idle dreams but the confirmation of a New Dedication
bath descended upon them. They are the swift
angels of the Lord, With their white wings of wis-
piration they will soar over many countries
and leave behind many blessings. They blow
through the trumpet and the dead will arise out
of their tombs of negligence. They are the heralds
ushering in the golden era of Peace. They are the
harbingers of the coming of the divine Springtime, the
messengers of the age of Inequality, the fore-runners of the
time of social justice and equity and the standard-
bearers of the army of God.

In the evening the Beloved summoned all the
believers in to His Presence, and delivered a spiritual
talk which shall be translated elsewhere.