

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

February 12th 1914

Dear friends!

Of late it has been observed in certain quarters that there is an unconscious tendency to dogmatize the Bahai teachings, trying to ascribe limits to this limitless Cause, endeavouring to measure this ocean of Truth, which is ^{unfathomable} ~~depthless~~, exerting vainly to enumerate the countless ^{of this heaven} stars of Spiritual Grace and Mercy and daring to survey with the cribbed instruments of their human minds the wide expanse of the Kingdom of Abha, and assign to it various boundaries. What a short-sightedness is this! The Bahai Cause is Universal and not local. It is all-inclusive and not exclusive. The very word "exclusively" savours of dogmatic spirit, narrowness of mind, limitation of the ~~outlook~~ ^{outlook} which are wholly odious and unpleasant to a Bahai. The spirit of the word of God cannot be monopolized. If we can monopolize the

the fresh air that we breathe then we may be able to form a trust of the Spirit of the word of God. Deep down in the core of the heart of every Bahai, there must be a reverent Universality and a great love for everything noble and true in the past religions of the world. What right have we to discard them? The good in every religion is always good, and will never become less than good, because other revelations have appeared with more suitable laws applicable to the time and the country in which they lived. God has not placed into ~~many~~ hands or thy hands, the Keys of His Mighty Cause. Most graphically the Lord describes the foolhardy presumptions of such egotistic spiritual geographers, in the following sublime words in the book of Job :-

"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man: for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of

of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who⁸⁵
hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who
hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the
foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner
stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together,
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days;
and caused the dayspring to know his place;
Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast
thou walked in the search of the depth. Hast thou
perceived the breadth of the earth? "This is the

~~In the~~ Bahai Cause religious prejudices must be
entirely abandoned. Let us be always on the alert
lest we may become little by little involved with
a "Bahai prejudice". I do not say that such a thing
is possible or will ever come to pass but it is better
to be on our guard lest we may become "proud" of
our own "humility". A Bahai is always thirsty for
the water of Reality and hungry for the bread
of life. If he drinks the seven seas of the

world his lips are yet dry. The Holy Scriptures of all
 the religions are his universal Bible. Through the
 lights of the Teachings of Baha-Allah and the expla-
 nations of the Center of the Covenant he diligently
 studies and reads other scriptures. In the Bahai
 meetings the sacred Books of all the nations are
perused according to the customs of the country
 and the spirit of the occasion. All the prophets
 of the past ages are the members of one vast spiritual
 brotherhood. From the standpoint of this celestial
 intimacy there is not the slightest distinction between
 them and therefore a Bahai loves all ^{of them} dispassionately
 and exerts ^{himself} to humbly walk in their footsteps and
 characterize himself with their several, sublime
 Teachings. A Bahai opens the windows of his
 heart, letting the rays stream down through them,
 no matter from what horizon. He associates with
 all mankind with joy and fragrance and scatters
 to the four winds the ashes of exclusion and
 mental and spiritual restraints.

When we descended the mountain this morning
stood in the Presence of our Beloved in the garden
while he was walking to and fro with firm feet
he spoke as follows:- "The Bible and the Holy Books
of other religions must always be studied and ~~to be~~
read in the Bahai meetings. Their study will
widen the circle of one's information and acquaint
him with the wonderful prophecies fulfilled today.
A Bahai publication must never ^{contain} publish anything
which may cause provocations or injure the feeling
of any one or displease any soul. It must ^{contain} publish
such matters that ^{as} would be conducive to the
happier, hopefulness, advancement, guidance and
illumination of the readers. Its field must be
universal, its sympathy must be universal, its
ideals must be universal. Its contents must est-
ablish ^{fellowship} between the hearts of all the religiousists and
^{must} ~~not publish~~ ^{voice} anything which might ~~harm~~
wound the feelings of others. The reading and
study of ^{the} Holy Books are essential, so that

man may become informed with the glad-tidings. We must follow the Will and the Command of the Blessed Perfection, and not the promptings of our own hearts. We must consort with all mankind with love and amity. If we possess a word of Truth, we will deliver it to the people; if they accept the aim is attained, if they reject we leave them ^{to themselves} and pray for them. We have to do this, however, most kindly, without the least sign of ill-feeling and opposition. We will not engage in dispute and altercations. We must affiliate with all the religions and sects; speak to them from their own standpoint and show to them in practice that we love their books, we read their scriptures, and we honor and respect the founders of their religions. A Bahai teacher must keep these facts always before his mind, lest in the course of his lecture he may make a dogmatic assertion which may arouse the combative, prejudicial spirit of the listeners."

In connection with the above remarks he wrote

the following with his own blessed hand to one of
our Western teachers:- "Through whichever country to
goest, speak thou with moderation. Call the people
to the Oneness of the world of humanity, the dawn
of the Sun of Reality from the horizon of Persia and
the Servitude of Abdul Baha and then explain
the ^{Central} ~~Central~~ ship of the Covenant and no more."

Before noon the Pilgrims met him ^{Abdul Baha} two or three
times, therefore they were most happy. The Master
showered upon them many blessings. A word to them
from him is more than sufficient.

In the afternoon the mother of the former President
of ^{the} German bank in Haifa, with two girls - one English
and another German, who are travelling through
the Holy Land, called on the Beloved. Mirza Mahsen
and Mirza Hadi received them in the reception
^{room} and they were served with tea. After awhile
the Master came in bidding them a hearty welcome.
After a few preliminary remarks he said:- "The
^{air} ^{here} ^{at} weather of Mount Carmel is fragrant and its

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earth is sweet. Its panorama of sea and land is very
unique; its sun is all-glorious; its moon is all-beautiful
and its stars are all-sparkling. This is the Holy Land;
the land which gave birth to all the prophets; ^{such as} Ibra-
him, Isaac, Joseph, David, Solomon, Moses, ~~Isaiah~~,
Ezekiel, and last of all Christ. Elijah lived
on Mount Carmel. You must love this land
very much, because all these holy happenings
have transpired here. Syria is a most wonderful
country. It is a world in miniature. All the
trees of the hot climate such as date-palms,
oranges, mandarines etc as well as the trees of the
cold climate such as walnuts, pines etc are
found in Syria. Tiberias is famous for its
hot weather, while Mount Lebanon is a cool
summer resort. Moreover the lights
of the Sun of Divinity have shone forth
from this dayspring and the splendors of
the orb of reality were diffused from this
horizon."

Then he spoke about Stuttgart and its beautiful geographic situation, and the physical strength of its men and the sturdy qualities of their characters. They left the Master most pleased with their interview and expressing a desire to see the Holy Family they were taken in by Murza Hadi.

Later on the Angel of Mount Carmel and Mr and Mrs Holback came in. ^{Mrs Mrs Holback} They had come to listen to the continuation of his delightful and instructive story. ^{Murza Hadi's} The Master asked them to sit down for a few minutes. Then he said:- "Some of the materialists have ^{always} endeavored to refute the wholesome influence exerted by the power of religion over the members of a community. In order to prove their statements they have clung to a very fallacious and untenable theory, called 'the law of correspondence.' By the 'law of correspondence' they mean this in a nutshell: 'On one hand the student reads the Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, the verses of the Koran, the gentle exhortations of Buddha, the pure ideas of Zoroaster and the

moral teachings of Confucius and he finds them lofty, stimulating and inspiring, and on the other hand he finds ^{that} the lives and actions of millions of people who call themselves followers of these great world-prophets do not 'correspond' with those exalted advices, and, as their Teachings have not greatly refined the character of men, therefore ^{the Teachers were} they are false and impostors. The average, intelligent Westerner of today is not a Christian; he is a secular churchman. Parrot-like he may repeat the Teachings as laid down by Christ in the Gospel, but he will not be ready to live ^{up to} ~~by~~ these Commandments. Christ says: "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." But now Christian Europe ^{and} is armed to the teeth ready to ^{cut} ~~smite~~ each other's throats at the slightest provocation. Again Christ repeats the old law: 'Thou shalt not kill, and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of Judgment.' How does this law 'correspond' with the

murderous butchery of Mahomedans and Chris-
tians in this ^{late} ~~last~~ war between Turkey and the
Balkan allies who ^{in turn} fell upon each other as soon as
they put their so-called common enemy hors de
combat? Again Christ says: 'Blessed are the peace-
makers; for they shall be called the children of God.'
How does this agree with the intrigues of politicians,
the machinations of the diplomats behind ^{the} closed
doors of their chancelleries and the constant incitement
of jingo press with their Pseudo-patriotism, and the
Continent of Europe becoming one vast, dangerous
arsenal for the combustion of which ^{only} one spark
is necessary and then ^{to catastrophe} there will be a world-
consuming conflagration? If Christ was the son of
God, and performed so many miracles even as
to quickening the dead, why ^{is it that} after 2000 yrs ^{do} his
followers do not even practice these simple
Teachings of his? These are only a few of
the arguments put forward by the materialists
and agnostics. Basing, therefore, their evidence

upon the non-correspondence of the actions of the followers of these prophets with the sayings of the prophets themselves they go to the point of denying that there was anything divine and spiritual in the lives of the founders of these religions. The mistake committed by these agnostics is nevertheless plain. It is this: It is unjust and unfair to the wonderful Nazarene to ever ^{compare} ~~correspond~~ the deeds and actions of these Christians with the celestial Teachings of Christ. They must ^{compare} his Teachings with His own life, and the lives of those who truly walked in his footsteps, and they will find that one is the embodiment of ^{the} another."

In the evening we had a large meeting in which the Beloved spoke on 'how to be a Bahai'. It was a most helpful talk. He related a story of the life of Baha-Allah and toward the end he said: - "I know ye a Bahai by his deeds and not his words."