

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

February 14th 1914

Dear friends.

Right below the terraced-garden in front of the Tomb of the Bab, on the slope of Mount Carmel one's eyes are feasted daily on a wonderful picture of blossoming almond trees. Some of the trees are just one glorious mass of white or pink blossoms. With the trees that surround the tomb and in adjoining ground there are about one hundred. Their blossoms are the symbols of the purity and innocence of the lives of those divine martyrs who sacrificed everything - so that today ^{we may} live peacefully and enjoy the fruits of their heroic deeds.

When this morning the Master came out of his room he walked toward the garden and for ^{several} minutes he looked down over the matchless ^{scene} of the blossoms. Then standing in front of the door of the Tomb without entering inside he

offered a silent prayer. From here he walked toward ^{the} Pilgrims Home. Entering the reception room he took a seat near the window. Then he began to speak:- "The view from the Pilgrims Home is very attractive, especially that it faces the Blessed Tomb of Baha-Allah. In the future the distance between Acre and Haifa will be built up and the two cities will join and clasp hands, becoming the two terminal sections of one mighty metropolis. As I look now over the scene I see it so clearly that it will become one of the first emporiums of the world. This great semi-circular arm of the Mediterranean will be transformed into the finest harbor wherein the ships of all the nations will seek ^{shelter and} refuge. The great vessels of all the peoples will come to this port, ^{bringing} on their decks thousands and thousands of men and women from every part of the globe. The mountain and the plain will be dotted with most modern buildings and palaces. Industries will be established and institutions of various

philanthropic nature will be found. The flowers of
 the civilization and culture of all the nations will be
 brought here to blend their fragrances together and blaze ^{the}
 way for the brotherhood of man. Wonderful gardens,
 orchards, groves and Parks will be laid on all sides.
 During ^{at} the night the great City will be lighted by electricity.
 The ^{entire} ~~whole~~ of harbor from Acca to Haifa will be one
 path of illumination. Powerful searchlights will be
 placed on both sides of Mount Carmel to guide the on-
 coming steamers. Mount Carmel itself, from ~~top~~ ^{top} to bottom
 will be submerged in a sea of lights. A person standing on
 the summit of Mount Carmel and the passengers on the
 steamers coming toward it, will look upon the most
 sublime and majestic spectacle of the whole world.
 "From every part of the Mountain the symphony of 'Ya Bala-
 El-Abba' will be raised and before the daybreaks the
 soul-entrancing ^{accompanied} music ~~day~~ melodious voices will
 be uplifted toward the Throne of the Almighty.
 Indeed God's ways are mysterious and unsearchable.
 What outward relation exists between Shing and

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Teteran, Bagdad and Constantinople, Adrianople and
Acre and Haifa! God worked patiently step by step through
these various cities according to His own definite, eternal
plan - so that the prophecies and predictions as fore-
told by the prophets ^{might} ~~may become~~ fulfilled. This golden
thread of promise concerning the Messianic Millennium is
running through the Bible, and it was so destined that God
in its own good time ^{would} ~~will~~ cause its appearance. Not even
a single word will be left meaningless or unfulfilled."

Then he spoke about the return of the Jews to their
promised Holyland and that it is being fulfilled all
the time. He descended the mountain in a carriage
and after a few minutes we followed after him.

Mr and Mrs Holback and Miss Hiscock were
there and the Master spoke with them for a
few minutes and then ^{went} ~~into~~ the ~~Androm~~ ^{Androm}. About
11.30 am he came out and took a walk all
alone.

In the evening we had a meeting and all the
believers found their way into the Presence

of the Ruler of the hearts. In the first ^{part} of his talk he dwelt on the great significance of the Mashregol Azkar built in Russia and then he spoke on "Thankfulness". He said:- "A thankful person is thankful under all circumstances. A complaining soul complains even if he lives in Paradise If we are not thankful, then who can be thankful. Are we not encircled with the mercies of God? Are we not enveloped by the Bestowals of the Blessed Perfection? Has he not lighted up a luminous lamp in our home? Consider how each one of us ^{is} ~~was~~ surrounded by His Favors! How much divine graces descended upon us! How often our hearts responded to His call! If we are not pleased then who is there to be pleased? Different groups of mankind, for the sake of a piece of earth which they designate as their "beloved country", and in order to protect the body politics which they call a nation, are ready to sacrifice their lives so that ^{no} one may encroach on their rights.

"Now that we have been trained under the

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shade of the Tree of the education of Bala-Allah, ^{what} will be the measure of our service and how are we going to render to Him due thanksgiving? Verbal thanksgiving is fruitless. Thanksgiving is rendered in two effective ways. Firstly, ^{it is} through the realization of spiritual susceptibilities, which illumine the Courts of the hearts with the bright stars of happiness, and are rejoiced by the glad-tidings of the Merciful, and are exhilarated with the Name of the True One.

Secondly. It is through deeds, i.e., to live in accord with the good-pleasure of the Lord, adorn his being with his heavenly attributes and try to alleviate the sufferings and miseries of humankind. If he does not do these things, but praises God and offers Him a hundred thousand thanksgivings every second, there will be not ^{but} the slightest results. ^{It will be like} Words without significance, ^{and} body without spirit and a place without light. Consequently we must be very happy, very glad, very pleased, very contented and very joyful, because we are submerged in the ocean of the Bostan of Bala-Allah.

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"A thoughtful man enjoys the gifts and ^{the} blessings of God. For example: there is a time when we realize the great blessings of the Almighty in the powers of sight, or hearing, ^{the} heart or ^{the} intellect, and then we are filled with thanksgiving for these wondrous heavenly bestowals! But if we use them indifferently, there is ^{then} no difference ~~there~~ between man and animal. Just think what a divine Bestowals are the world-quickeners, the Breezes of the early morn, the flowers of the field and everything that is young and bright, radiant and hopeful! Let us be ever mindful of these starry visions. They will help us in our upward journey. They are not dreams to be dissolved away by the wand of destiny or ground into powder by the wheels of fate. They are the adamantine rocks upon which the foundation of our lives are laid. The more we are mindful of the Boonies of the Blessed Perfection and aware of the Favors of the Supreme Manifestation, the greater will be the capacity of our enjoyment and the loftier the station of our blessedness."