

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel Haifa, Syria

February 17th 1914

Dear friends!

"I declare unto you the tidings of great joy" ^{was said by} told ^{me} ^{one} of three pilgrims ^{who} arrived this evening. Two are from Mashad and one from Bokhara. "The Bahai Cause is making marvellous advances all over Persia, especially in the Province of Khorassan. Lately we have been fortunate to have in our midst three wonderful teachers who are devoting all their time and energy to the promotion of the Word of God and they have attracted the hearts of innumerable persons to the Kingdom of Light. The inhabitants of our country have been so long like a flock of sheep without the protecting staff of the shepherd. The ravens swooped having left their lairs in the mountains ^{rough} toward the plain and finding the unprotected conditions of these innocent creatures tore them to pieces. Their nights of agony and despair were

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inky dark, and their cries and lamentations piercing
and heart-harrowing. Wolves in sheep's clothing strutting
abroad and the people deceived by appearances turned
to them for protection only to be attacked and torn
to pieces. Distracted, dismayed, surrounded by the
foreboding powers of destruction they did not know
what to do. Indeed they were walking in the valley
of the shadow of death, and the darkness of hopeles-
ness enveloped them, with its ominous wings.
From the depth of their hearts welled up a torrent of
prayers and entreaties toward the throne of their
Deliverer, but there came back no answers. They
thought the hands of the Lord ^{were} are tied and His
ears deaf. These were fearful nights and days,
the days as black as nights, nay, nay blacker.
The air was filled with sorrow and pain. Oh!
Is there no one to take us out of this land of
darkness and death? Are we fore-doomed to
spend our lives in this impenetrable gloom
with not even a gleam of light? O Thou God

of nations, dost thou never come to our succor? Hast
 thou no pity on us? Is the fire of Thy wrath so
 all-consuming? Hast Thou so completely turned
 Thy face from us? Oh! those long, long weary ^{night} ~~Thy~~,
 the souls afflicted with spiritual palsy, lying
 immovable on their miserable cots, the eyes open,
 staring and roving aimlessly through the ^{dense} sheer
 blackness, ^{while} the blacker thoughts of death and
 annihilation hovering like black ~~exp~~ over
 the heads, waiting for their victims, and the
 despairing hearts ^{here} pumping wearily at their ~~task~~,
 Our thoughts and feelings had become so strangely fami-
 liar with these scenes of misery and illness that
 for a long time we have had ^{to} given up the hope
 that there shall ever be ^{for us} a morn and ^{that} the darkness
 of our valley ^{would} ^{ever} be dispelled by the rising of
 a glorious sun. But lo! lo! From the afar off the
 sweet, heavenly music is reaching to our expectant
 ears and coming nearer and nearer and nearer;
 the long night of hopelessness is vanishing and the

luminous heralds of the Day of Hope are running to¹⁹
and fro through the land, cheering the drooping spirits
and promising the end of all these miseries. The
angels of the glory of the Lord with their spiritual
trumpets are reviving the dead. The Sun of Reality
is rising, the forces of darkness are put to flight,
the wolves are changed into sheep, the satans into
angels, the gloom into light. The principles of the
Bahai Cause are imparting new hope and new
stimuli to the people, the powers of transgressing
and iniquities are defeated. Again the people
are reminded that their Lord is the Heaven and
the Earth. He hears the prayers of His servants and
He sees the oppressions of the tyrants. He has come
to their succor in their hour of need and has
delivered them from the claws of wolves. The
Bahais are now the Cohorts of Salvation, their
Lord is their Shield and the Confirmation
of the Holy Spirit their Armor. Day and
night they are engaged in awakening the people

20 of Persia. What is rest and comfort in comparison with the fulfillment of this Divine Mission! I have heard much about the services of our believers in America. Will you tell me how ~~are~~ ^{fare} they? What are they doing? How do they teach the Cause? Do they appreciate the wonders of this Faith? Are they ready to sacrifice their lives for it? Are ^{there} new souls who accept this Glad-tiding? Are they loving and kind to their neighbors and hospitable toward the strangers in their midst? Are their faces luminous with the light of the Love of Bahá-
alláh and their hearts the caskets containing the jewels of the Kingdom? Will you send to them my Baháí greeting? I often think of them and wish so much I could attend one of their meetings. Their very name is an inspiration to us. We all know how good they are, how beloved they are in the estimation of Abdul Baha, how unselfish is their aim and how zealous they are in the promotion of the Cause of God."

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Many of the Pilgrims ask me similar questions and desire to hear the news of the activities of our brothers and sisters not only in America but in European Centers.

In the morning we descended the mountain but were not blessed with a meeting of the Beloved. A Mohamadan Mullah returning from Medina called on the Beloved and had a long, spiritual talk with him. He was from Golpayegan, the town in which Mirza Abul Fazl was born. It turned out later on that he was a relative of his and therefore we were delighted to see him. In the afternoon a number of Turkish officials called on the Master. He spoke with them on the evils of war and its baneful influence on the morals of the nation. The article which was published in the Islamic Review was read to them aloud by himself. Many others called on him and listened to the words of his wisdom and knowledge.

In the evening the newly arrived Pilgrims obtained the supreme joy of his Presence

He spoke to them as follow: - "When the Blessed Perfection and His family were exiled from Persia, all along our way from Teheran to Bagdad we did not find ^a any believers, only a handful of despondent friends were in Bagdad. All the people firmly believed that with the exile of Baha-ollah ^{was} the fire of this Cause ^{was} will become extinct. Were they not wrong in their reckonings? How many houses ~~they~~ pillaged! How many people were exiled! How many were thrown into prison! How many thousands were killed! and yet they did not succeed in their fiendish work of extermination! For this Cause is constantly reinforced by the Cohort of the Supreme Concurrence and no army, no matter how invulnerable, can defeat the phalanxes of the Kingdom! About 30 yrs ago no one had heard the name of the Baha'i Cause in Ashkabad but now the dome of the first Mashrutal Azkar, like a radiant jewel, glitters under the rays of the sun!.....

Praise be to God that it has become evident ³²⁵ ~~known~~ ²³ to all
that the Babis are free from any intrigues and sedi-
tions. They confer life and not death!.....
The people of Persia looked on the Babis as the
enemies of their religion, possessions and life, and
consequently they considered one of their holiest duties
^{the} to exterminate ^{not} this sect. Well do I remember, when
still a child and in Teheran, one day I entered the
mosque and saw a fanatical Mullah haranguing the
crowd: 'O people! If you love God, Kill the Babis;
if you desire to win the good-pleasure of Mahomd, Kill
the Babis; if you long to enjoy the blessedness of
Paradise, Kill the Babis; if you wish the descent
of the blessing of the Almighty upon you, Kill the
Babis, and if you want to protect your hearths
and possessions, your wives and families, Kill
the Babis! So ingrained was the enmity of the
Mahamadans against this warped Community....
On the other Baha-Allah compelled the Babis to
non-resistance and taught them day and

night, to adorn themselves with the qualities of holiness
 and sanctity, and commanded them to be meek
 and holy. He said 'It is better for you to be killed
 than to kill'. He exhorted them to be faithful, be
 kind toward all the nations, deal with sincerity
 with all the people, characterize themselves with
 mercy, benevolence, clemency and charity and
 exert ^{themselves} at all times to serve the world of hum-
 anity. Overlooking the outward differences they
 must gaze toward the horizon of the Central
 Unity of mankind. Humanity is one tree; the
 people are the branches, the leaves and the
 blossoms Praise be to God that it has
 become established, to all the nations and all
 the peoples, that the Bahais are the essence of
 sanctity, the advocates of universal Peace,
 the upholders of the unity of the religions and
 the standard-bearers of the sacredness of human
 life; that they are upright and righteous, patient
 and forbearing, long-suffering and humble.

They are as guides to the misguided, "the beam-lights to the wanderers," dressing to every wound and as the honey of love to the poison of hatred. If the people curse them, they ask God to bless their enemies. They have no other aim, no other intention save service to the world of humanity.

Praise be to God that the believers in Yagd demonstrated great firmness and steadfastness, and while they were persecuted on all sides they raised the cry of 'Ya Bala El Ahha!' Many people ^{expected} ~~would~~ be shaken if they ^{would} retire from the field of activity, but God upraised other workers to take ^{up} their places. Others became proud and haughty because they had received so many ^{favours} from Bala-Allah, or that they were favoured by him during his life time. But in this Cause there is no relationship save the relationships of service and self-sacrifice. The will of God exalts one through Pure Mercy and not because the recipient has been worthy. I consider myself weaker than a mosquito but the confirmations of the Blessed Perfections are descending uninterruptedly. But some heedless souls forgetting this point, consider they are somebody and filled with deceit and ego become dictatorial and overbearing. Such people deprive themselves not only of the Pleasures of God but little by little the friends lose their confidence and trust in them. Today the field of the service in the Cause is open to all. Everyone has a chance to try his mettle. I am encouraging all to arise and serve the Cause, I went out myself and called mankind to the Kingdom of Ahha. Let every one do the same and God shall assist him.