

Bahai' Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

February 19th 1914

Dear friends!

The thought that I am living and sleeping in the 'Home of Truth', where Truth is lived and Truth is taught makes my happiness not only complete but nothing more to be wished for. The Fountain and the primal source of Truth is the Heart of Abdul Baha. From its unknown heights innumerable rivers of Teachings issue forth to fill the ^{standing along the banks of these rivers and are} cups of those who are ~~thirsty~~ for the Water of Truth. While I slept last night under the roof of the Beloved I spent a few wakeful hours thinking of you and praying that a day may come that you may also visit this 'home of Truth', wherein the outer temple of the invisible Reality lives and walks amongst the creatures. I long to share with you every form of happiness that I experience in these blessed days. I do not think it is ever possible

to write down everything because the spiritual feelings and emotions are indescribable. Often forgetting that I am writing these letters to the 'Friends', I express my ideas as though I am corresponding with one individual Friend. And the highest ideal of celestial Unity will not be realized until the time when the 'Friends' lose entirely the sense of their collectivity and separateness and become as one 'Friend' and ^{when} ~~that~~ each soul may see in this 'Plural Friend' the embodiment of his noblest ideals and dreams. Then there will be no place left in our hearts for any stranger or the enemy. Mankind will be our Friend. The individuals will represent to us the various units of this universal Friend-humankind. Let us do our utmost by day and by night to enlarge the circle of this 'friendship', to make it the corner-stone of our daily prayers and to ~~inscribe~~ ^{inscribe} our names on the scroll of this silent, yet ever-increasing band of Friendship, so my true and noble friend' no matter where

thou art, whether in America or Europe, or Asia or Africa or Australia, hail to thee! Thou art my brother! Thou art my sister! Our business in this world is to make it a 'Home of Truth,' a Paradise of Cheerfulness, a garden of joy and an abode of Peace. Individually we can do very little, collectively we are able to do a whole lot. Let the golden bands of human sympathy unite our hearts; let the unseen links of the spiritual susceptibilities bind together our souls. We may never see each other, but let us be strong in hope, faith and charity, and strive to establish the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Each one of us in his own way can help along the good and mighty cause, but let there not be found in the orchestra of our lives a jarring note.

Al! In the long run, if we have patience, we shall see with our own eyes the results of our silent communions and devout prayers. On this, our new resolution, I wish all my friends good luck and success.

Long before the sun was up I was awake and while Esmael Aga was preparing tea I was walking in the garden of the Master, inhaling the sweet, fresh. Aroma which permeated the air. It was a glorious, ^{early} young morning and everything seemed so quiet and lovely.

After an hour I was summoned into the Presence of the Beloved. When I entered the room he was talking with Mirza Hadi with much animation. While walking from one end of the room to another and emphasizing every word he uttered he said: "X" From my childhood ^{have} I spoken about the revelation and delivered the message of the Kingdom. I was, oh! very, very young and yet I taught the Cause and invited the souls to the feast of the Lord. While we were living in Bagdad one of the most noble men of Persia came there. He called on the Blessed Perfection and as he used to come and see us often I became very attached to him. I grew to love him very much, ^{and} as he was not a believer I spoke with him on the Cause. I used to tell him, ^{say to} 'My friend' The aim of this

life is not the acquirement of wealth, honor and
 glory nor the display of the ^{animal} ~~bestial~~ attributes, such as
 eating, sleeping and chasing ^{after} worldly pleasures. Such
 aimless and insipid pursuits do not befit man who
 is endowed with divine effulgence and radiant
 longings. The object of this life is the life of the
 spirit, the manifestation of the fear of God, the
 attainment of the knowledge of God, the acqui-
 sition of the Love of God, and to be obtain^{ing} the
 good-pleasure of the Lord of Mankind. If man
 characterizes himself with these godlike attri-
 butes he will become freed from all the ties of
 this mortal world, the light of God will shine
 in his heart, he will hear the voice of the
 heavenly angels, he will be surrounded by the
 Confirmations of the Holy Spirit, he will become
 an irradiating center of the Perfect names and
 Qualities of the Merciful and a light through
 which the darkness of the world of humanity
 is dispelled. On repeated occasions

I spoke with him on these spiritual subjects.
 After some time he left Bagdad and went to Persia.
 From there we received the news that he has become
 a good believer, and he continued to serve the Cause
 till the end of his life. ... At another
 time there was a learned and well-known man
 in Bagdad whose relatives ^{had} become believers but
 no matter how often they had discussed with him
^{about} this Cause they could not convince him ^{of} its
 validity. Thinking that I might be able to satisfy
 him they invited him one day to our house. They
 brought him at a time when I had just gotten up
 from sleep and was ^{at my toilet} ~~combing my hair~~. One of them
 came to me and said: 'We have brought — to
 you and we beg you to speak with him. We
 have done our best but to no avail.' I said:
 'All right! Bring him and I will converse
 with him.' Then I turned my heart imme-
 diately to the ^{God} Blessed Perfection and prayed
 to Him for Confirmation. Then they brought

him and I started to speak with him. Before the hour was up he accepted the Cause. After that he used to serve the believers with unequalled zeal and enthusiasm. Although he did not have to, because he had servants and cooks—yet he would go himself ⁱⁿ to the Kitchen and cook for the friends many kinds of dishes. "X

A letter from our dear brother Mr Kinny of New York City giving the good news of the unity and spiritual activity of the believers was read to the Beloved. It seems that Doctor J. N. Lutherie Rector of St Marks, Episcopalian Church has ^{the Bahais} offered a large room in his church to hold their meetings on Sunday afternoons. The Master was most pleased with this news. "How happy I feel" he said "when I hear the friends are associating with all the religions and sects in the name of Abha with perfect joy and fragrance. The Bahais are not exclusive. Their meetings are made conspicuous by ^{the} ^{of this quality} ~~the~~ absence."

These are the victories of the Kingdom of Abba." Then he dictated many Tablets and about 11 o'clock left the house for his usual walk. He asked me to accompany him and I did with great joy. On the way he spoke about humility and how great it is its spiritual value. For nearly half an hour he sat on a piece of rock watching the wonderful, green mountain and discoursing on the charm and spirituality of the scene. "Look, look at the signs of the Mercy of thy Lord!" he would rapturously exclaim. Several poor people stood in His Presence and received the favors of his hands. On our return before entering the house he said :- "Praise be to God that in this Cycle we are living under the Shade of the Tree of the Bestowal and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection. We are encircled by the army of His Assistance. Praise be to God that we are the flowers of His garden and the stars of His heaven....."

In the afternoon many Tablets were sealed for the friends in Bombay and England. The Beloved looked well all day and it was about 5 o'clock when some Aralis called and he told me :- "Now! it is enough for today. Gather up all thy papers."

In the evening there was a large meeting and he told us the story of Sultan-es-Shahada as related to him by Prince Lilli-Sultan while he was living in Paris.