

Bahai Nest

Innocent Carmel, Haifa, Syria

February 20th 1914

Dear friends!

As the Beloved entered the large reception room in his home, filled with Oriental Pilgrims from many countries, and looked into their eager, worshipful faces he exclaimed with real enthusiasm:— "Most wonderful! most wonderful! How luminous are these faces! How glorious are these countenances! They are like unto the suns from which the rays of the Love of Baha-Allah are diffused to all directions!"

After speaking a minute or two about the improvement of his health and how his tired and over-taxed nerves needed a complete rest he continued:— "If a person is confirmed in the accomplishment of the services of the Kingdom, his worldly conditions are of secondary importance. So far this supreme desire of mine

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has not been realized. The greatest Bestowment that is possible for a soul to attain ^{in this world} is this: - that he may spend his life, his forces, his possession, his body, his heart and his spirit in the Path of the service of the Blessed Perfection and then toward the last days of his life he may drink the cup of martyrdom. This is indeed the most blessed state, the loftest pinnacle of perfection! Is there a greater and more harrowing regret in this world than to spend one's physical energies in the awful road of lust, sinful passions, inordinate desires and the frivolities of the age! No! I declare by God. Oh! how pitiful to watch the last flicker of a hope dying out of such a life! Because when the last curtain falls on such a dissipated life he finds to his utter remorse his nerves racked, his resources drained, his fortune wrecked, his hopes ^{unfulfilled} ~~vanished~~, his opportunities lost, his visions ^{unaccomplished} ~~vanished~~, his energies wasted and the light of his spirit extinguished! What were the results of these deeds? What

What were the sum-total of these thoughts? What was the outcome of this sowing of wild oats? Where is the man with his youthful ambitions? In what heap of mud and water ^{did} he throw the brilliant gems of his ideals? What has he done with his god-given intelligence? He has indeed lived a fruitless life, surrounding himself with the suggestions of passions and the gratification of selfish appetites. His life is brought to a tragic close enveloped with regrets, remorse! Verily this is the most evident loss!

But on the other hand how glorious is the life ^{of a person} when toward the last days of his earthly existence he is ^{able} ^{with great satisfaction} enabled to contemplate that praise be to God, ~~that~~ through the assistance and Favor of the Almighty, he has been fortunate, ^{and given} to spend his belongings, ^{his} life, ^{his} spirit, ^{his} body and all his faculties in the Path of the Love of God, accepting all manner of persecutions, revilings and afflictions with

the serenity of consciousness and standing firm
in the Cause till the very last breath. Indeed
the most enduring and imperishable work was
performed by the disciples of Christ. Were they not
faithful to him till the very last hour of their
lives? After his crucifixion they sought no rest for
even one moment and they longed for no tranqui-
lity and composure. Their days and nights were
spent in the promotion of the Cause of God. With
no thought for their own personal comfort they sum-
moned the people to the Kingdom of God and
girded up the loins of endeavor in the upbuilding
of the souls. Homeless and shelterless they travelled
over mountains and deserts, now spending a few
days in this city and then a few months in
that town. Alone and unaided they invited
mankind to the banquet of the Lord and raised
their voices to the height of heaven. Everywhere
they were persecuted, reviled, laughed to scorn
and derided, but these things did not

lessened their faith and determination. They left
 behind their homes, ~~and~~ their kith and kin and
 went away, and the rest of their lives ^{was} spent
 in spreading the glad-tidings of the Kingdom.
 At last they were martyred in the Path of His Holiness
 Christ - may my life be a ransom to Him.
 Oh! All through their lives they did not forget Him
 for one moment! They did not cast into the corner
 of oblivion His heavenly Teachings. They ^{rem-}
 embered His advices and exhortations and strove
 day and night to carry the light of the Gospel
 to the most distant and unknown parts of
 the world..... " Then he spoke about
 two Bahai martyrs in Persia and contrasting
 the thousands of martyrs in this revelation with
 the limited number of the apostles of Christ.
 The disciples of Christ "he said" were only eleven.
 And at the hour of crucifixion 'all the
 disciples forsook him, and fled' and Peter
 who was the Chief of the disciples 'followed him

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afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.' According to the Gospel he denied his Master three times. Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou wast also with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out of the porch, another maid saw him and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, 'I do not know the man'. And after awhile came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and swear, saying, 'I know not the man.' From this graphic description of the Gospel one comprehends the degree of the faith of the disciples, ~~while~~ ^{and} during the lifetime of the ~~the Blessed~~ ^{Parallels} Perfection thousands of men and women and children cried out under the sword of the executioner 'ya Baha El Abha'. However the apostles became

firm and steadfast after the crucifixion of Jesus the
 Christ. The cause of their firmness was Mary Magdalen
 who gathered them and addressed them with eloquence
 and fervor; 'Why are ye agitated? Why are troubled?
 What is the cause of your retirement? Jesus al-
 ways foretold about his death ^{saying} that a day is ^{would} coming
 when I ^{he would} shall quaff from that cup. Now noth-
 ing has happened to throw you into such ^a conster-
 nation. Only this earthly, elemental body of
 Jesus' is taken away from our midst but the
 Spirit of Christ is the Sun of Reality which
 is ever shining upon all the inhabitants
 of the world. This is not subject to change
 or destruction. Why are ^{ye} disturbed? His Holiness
 Christ ascended to the same heaven from which
 he came down. 'And no man hath ascended to
 heaven, but He that came down from heaven,
 even the son of man which is in heaven.'

Why are ye so perturbed? What is the cause of
 your discontent? This is not the day of retreat

This is not the time ^{for} of your seclusion! Be up!
 Arise! This is the day of service! This is the day of
 teaching the Cause of God! This is the day of the
 declaration of the Gospel! This is the day of guiding
 the souls to the Kingdom! This is the day of sacrifice!
 This is the day of work! This is the day of faithfulness!
 The Lord hath commanded you, 'Go ye into all
 the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'
 Christ is with you wheresoever you go and he will
 assist you under all circumstances. In such
 manner Mary Magdalene filled the hearts of the
 dispirited disciples with new hope and fiery
 earnestness. " X

All morning the Beloved was busy receiving out-
 siders. At midday he went to the Mosque. In the
 afternoon I had the privilege of standing in his Presence.
 There was an Arab in the room with his little girl. She
 was sitting beside the Master. After awhile he went out
 and brought for her a beautiful embroidered Persian
 shawl, placing it gracefully on her little shoulders.
 The father lives in Acca and spoke about the girls' school
 having an attendance of more than 150. Acca has also
 a girls' school. Is not this a wonderful sign of the
 time? In the evening I had many interesting con-
 versations with the Pilgrims and oh I so wish I had
 space enough to tell you something about their beau-
 tiful ideals and wonderful lives.