

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa - Syria

March 2d, 1914

Dear friends!

Nine Pilgrims, amongst them Karbalai Em-
 ran left today for their respective homes, but ^{unmarked} twelve
 have taken their places. It is as though they have timed
 the hour of each other's departure and arrival. It is
 really marvellous how these men and women come
 from distant climes empty-handed, but when they
 leave the holy Presence their hands are filled with
 the jewels of knowledge and their hearts ^{with} the
 treasures of the mysteries of the Kingdom. Since
 our arrival the Pilgrims' Home has been a kalei-
 doscopic scene of many nationalities and the
 birthplace of many spiritual ideals, comforting the
 hearts and creating peaceful vibrations for the
 quickening of ^{the} devotees of different religions. We
 can never estimate with frail human standard
 the good that an institution like unto this is

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doing in this world and the part that it is playing for
the regeneration of dead souls and "dry bones." The
mystical spirit of Christ is in the hearts of all men, suff-
ering them to long for better and higher things of exis-
tence. For these are truly wonderful days, so much similar
to the days when Christ lived and taught amongst men.
The same Spirit is incarnated amongst us, the same
divine characteristics are embodied in the human temple,
the same fountain of spiritual Teaching is gushing
forth, the same nightingale of celestial civilization
is singing, the same Breeze of Bestowals is wafting
from the direction of Abha Paradise, the same
sea of revelation is moving, the signs of the same
heavenly spring are evident, the rays of the same
Sun of Reality are flooding all the regions and the
same stars of the loftiest moral characteristics
are shining. Happy! Oh Happy are these pilgrims
for they come here from distant climes to let
their hearts be stirred by these Zephyrs of the
rose-garden ^{of Reality}. Now they well know that the most

important need of this and the comingage is the promotion of the Bahai Ideals and the promotion of the Bahai Ideals largely depends upon the earnestness and enthusiasm of those souls who come under the standard of Baha-Allah. For this reason they willingly undergo all the hardships of the voyage to come and stand on the bank of this most great ocean, filling their small or ^{according to} big cups of capacities.

When Karbalai Emran with the departing Pilgrims entered the Presence of the Beloved, he offered Him a bouquet of flowers. He said: "How is this perfume! The rose-garden outside has become the mirror of the heart of Esmail Aga. With what solicitude and tender thoughtfulness he takes care of each flower. Just now the garden is in the height of its floral ^{beauty} colorfulness. We hope that a time may come when the gardens of the hearts of the people of the world ^{may be} are like unto the garden of Esmail Aga." Then changing the subject he addressed them as follow: Praise be to God that in this Holy Pilgrimage of yours you tarried in

in this Sacred Spot for sometimes. You prayed ^{on} behalf of
 the believers of God at the Tomb of the Bab and at the
 Divine Threshold of Baha-allah, and by day and by
 night you associated with me. you shall continue to
 be always with me. you live in my heart. Not for
 one moment will you disappear from my mind.
 I supplicate from the Favor and Bounty of the
 Blessed Perfection to suffer each one of you ^{may} to become
 a herald of His Cause;— so that with resonant voices
 you may guide the people, become the source of
 their enlightenment and the instruments of the Glori-
 fication of the Cause of God. Wherever you happen
 to be, rest ye assured that I shall pray for you ^{from} at the
 Kingdom of Abha that God may assist and confirm
 you in the illumination of the world of humanity,
 the spirituality of the souls and the sanctification and
 moral refinement of the people;— in order that they
 may become godlike, divine, unearthly and heavenly.
 The world is very dark, if you do not illumine
 it with the light of unity, then who will do it?

16 Tenderly the Beloved embraced each one of these big men,
kissing their cheeks and tapping ^{while} on their backs with his
divine hands. He would not let them kneel before him
but they were weeping, oh weeping so hard.

The first scene that met my eyes this morning as I
descended the mountain was the Beloved bending ^{over}
a bed of beautiful, pink carnations. Raising his
head he looked into my face. "you are here so early"
he said smiling. "Come, take this Tablet and go ^{and}
translate it now. I forgot to give it to you yester-
day." While he was speaking with an arab just
arrived on the scene, of astronomy and the Pil-
grims were standing in the distant, straining ^{their}
ears to hear his words, I was translating in a room
out of the windows of which I could see him.

After an hour he called me into his own room
and put into my hand a number of petitions to be
prepared for the afternoon. ^{me in the room} Leaving, he went out again
to speak with the Pilgrims. As we have a Pilgrim
from Boshranzech with us, Abdul Baba spoke

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about the life and the character of a remarkable ^{Bahai} woman by the name Raouhanieh who lived in that town. She praised her rich gift of poetry and her eloquent language when discoursing on the Cause. Before her death she hath bequeathed her house and all her belongings to the Cause. "I mentioned her name" the Master said "in a number of my addresses in America on the Equality of the sexes. She was one of those rare women whose efficiency and beauty of character are considered as illustrious examples to be followed by others. 'God has many servants and He is hiding them behind the veil of Glory' is an ^{Arabic saying} epigram. Raouhanieh was one of them. In the future her name will become well-known and her star will shine gloriously."

In the afternoon the Beloved was very happy ^{and} therefore for more than 2 hours, while walking from one end to another (and sometimes sitting on a chair) ^{the Editors of} dictated many Tablets; first to two important newspapers printed in Cairo; Mrs Isabella Brittingham of New York; ^{H.H.} Mr Topsykeyan; ^{H. York} Alshar

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Ali Butt Kashmire, Rangoon, Mrs J. Stennard, Calcutta; Doctor Bahram, Surat; Mrs Lua Getzinger, Bombay; Mrs Lottie B. Smoot, Oakland, Calif; Mr Charles Mason Remy, Washington DC; Mr Tudor Pale, Clifton England; Mrs Cecile de Lagnel, Washington DC, Wmne Vernon Bachus, Cleveland, Ohio and Miss Elizabeth Bowen, Riverton N. J. I was more than happy to see that the floodgates of divine revelation are raised and the windows of the heaven of God's Mercy are opened, so that the thirsty grounds may be watered, causing the growth of vegetation.

About 5 o'clock he said "It is enough for today" and I retired from his Presence to join a company of the friends who were going to the Pier to bid farewell to Karbalai Emren and others.

The names of the Pilgrims who arrived tonight as follows :- Elvne' Abhar, a great teacher in the Cause, living in Tchean and his two bright, clever sons Abdul-Rahim and Abdul Karim,

Haji Baba, Inashadi Hossein Salmani, Astad Sheer
 Mohamad, Aga Mahsen from Ashtabad and a Persian
^{servant}
~~Eunuch~~. There are four women in their party ^{consist-}
 ting of Elné Abhar's wife, his daughter and two others.
 They were received ^{by the Beloved} for a ~~few~~ ^{kept} minutes after our regular
 meeting, for they were held in the custom house
 for about one hour. When we gathered in the
 reception room the Master referring to the departed
 Pilgrims said:—"The believers have gone. May
 Baba-Allah be with them under all circumstances!
 They were strong and faithful. Praise be to God that
 all the Servants of the Blessed Perfection are
 good and noble. They are the quintessence of the
 people of the world. His holiness the Bah say: 'We
 have put mankind in the alambique and after the
 due refining processes, the believers of God are
 the fragrant extract. It is in the quality of
 devotion and self-sacrifice that the Bahais sur-
 pass all the rest of humanity and ^{not} in the quan-
 tity of their numbers. One small fruitful,

tree is better than a hundred fruitless trees of the jungle. ^{unbelievers}
Then he went on describing in great details three stories to illustrate how great a transformation has taken place in the hearts and lives of the believers. "These souls" he said toward the last part of his address "are quickened through the Breath of the Blessed Perfection. For they embodied in their daily acts the qualities of trustworthiness, fidelity, integrity and rectitude. These believers did not only teach the cause through the words of mouth but through ^{shining} diamond-shaped deeds. The Holy, divine Manifestations have appeared into this world to instruct mankind in the school of morality and to readjust their ethical relations. For without Faith and Sanctification the moral fiber of the children of man will not be improved. Just at this time a mad wave of evil habits, immoral acts, shameless customs and most lewd representations is sweeping over some parts of the world. It seems that the very gates of hell are flung

vice and the ghastly fiends of unbridled desires,
 dissolution, sensualism, unchastity and debauchery
 are set loose desecrating the sanctity of the homes and
 polluting the clear stream of morality. The friends
 of God must do their utmost to purify the world from
 the stains of these licentious habits. They must master
 their innate, god-given forces and strike at the very
 root of evil deeds and social scourge. They are
 the champions of a heavenly life, a clean, pure life,
 a wholesome joyous life, a justly-proportioned, artistic
 life according to the ideas of God and not man....
 The foundation of praiseworthy morality
 is Faith. The greater the Faith of man the more
 illumined is his life. Faith is a miracle. It has
 a wonder-working power. Its spiritual influence
 refines the character, suffers man to become
 humble and meek, places in his heart the fear of
 God, prompts him to devote his time to humani-
 tarian deeds, spiritualizes his nature, exalts his
 ideals and ennobles his lamps.

The greater the faith of man, the more numerous will be his philanthropic activities. Faith is like unto the tree, deeds are like unto the fruits. Faith is like unto the lamp, deeds are like unto the light. Faith is like unto a beautiful body, deeds are like unto the spirit. "✠"

I hope that all of us may become confirmed to carry out the significant and suggestive instructions contained in this talk. I wish there was time and opportunity to write you more fully, I have not written even a tenth part of the life and teachings of the Beloved. Even if I attempt to write, describe and translate everything you will not have time to read. A birds eye view often satisfy us. Our purpose is to teach the Cause, spread the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom and serve the believers of God. All the other objects of life are secondary and unimportant. Having seen the light of Truth we are following it to the end of the world.