

Bahai Nest,

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 3d, 1914

Dear friends!

On the shore of the deptless sea of divine revelation I find these flawless pearls of Truth.

"O thou worshipper of Reality!

The majority of mankind are the worshippers of superstitions and are seelmerged in the creeds and dogmas of their fathers and ancestors. They are wholly destitute of the inner, divine Mysteries. Like unto the donkey of the mill their motion is circular. Starting from one point of circumference they revolve around the circle and thus continue their practice over and over again. From morning till evening the poor donkey mill walks, but not one step beyond its spherical rotation, for its motion is circular in character.

In a similar manner mankind in its

journey and travel do not attempt to go beyond the
 circumference of the earth. They revolve continually
 around the circle of the world of nature. Praise be
 to God that thou hast taken a great flight and
 art moving perpendicularly and hast discovered
 a way from the world of matter to the world
 of the Kingdom. Thank thou God that thou didst
 find such a power. Therefore as much as thou
 canst, elevate thy magnanimity and enable
 thy aspiration, so that thou mayst cause the
 flight of the birds of reason, release them from
 the darkness of imitations, extricate them from
 the intricacies of the world of nature and cause
 their attainment to the illimitable immen-
 sity of the Kingdom. Upon thee be Baha El Akbar.

(Sig) Abdul Baha Akbar,

To a believer in England he writes:-

"Day and night strive with thy respected wife,
 so that that city may become enlightened with the
 heavenly illumination, be encircled with spiri-

trality and innumerable souls be guided;— thus they may become the trees of the Divine Paradise and produce the fruits of the merciful Bestowals."

To Mrs Getsinger he reveals:—

"O thou maid-servant of the Kingdom of God! Thy letter was received and I became informed with its contents. Praise be to God that thou art confirmed and assisted. I hope this journey may yield very great results and that thou mayest become the instrument of the promulgation of the Divine Teachings in all the cities of India;— so that thou mayest leave behind in this world an eternal trace. For the darkness of ignorance, religious prejudices, racial prejudices and imaginary prejudices have encircled the world, creating separation amongst mankind and causing dispersion between the children of men. Peradventure, God willing, the Bahais may become the means of changing this darkness into light....."

Directions for the program of the sessions of a Mashrekol-Alzkar Convention:—

"Regarding the Convention of the Mashrekol Azhar
 in Washington unquestionably if "public meetings"
 are organized they will become the means of the pro-
 motion of the Cause of God. In those "public mee-
 tings universal and not particular principles must
 be discussed: those principles which I have ~~expon-~~
 ded in the "public meetings." Only that identical
 program must be followed. It is as follows: The
 Oneness of the world of Humanity; The Investiga-
 tion of Reality; The Essential Unity of the Religions
 of God; The abandonment of Religious, Denomi-
 national, Racial and Patriotic Prejudices; The
 Conformity of Divine Religion with the
 reason and Sciences; The Religion of God must
 become the cause of amity and Love amongst
 mankind, otherwise it is better to forswear it;
 Equality between man and woman; The
 Essential Necessity of the Confirmation of
 the Holy Spirit; The Demonstration of Di-
 vinity and Inspiration; The Power of the

underlying 27

spiritual Influence of Baha - allah; The Unity of
all the existing Faiths; The Dawn of the Sun of
Reality from the Horizon of Persia; Universal Peace,
Universal Language; The Education of the children
of all the religions under an universal standard
of instruction and a common curriculum. Questions
of this nature must be propounded in "public
meetings,"

To the New York believers he says:-

"Supplicate all of you toward the Kingdom of Abila, ^{there} seek
ye and render ye thankfulness unto the Lord, that ye
have become assisted aided by this most great Bestowment.
Mankind is smitten with the sleep of negligence but
you are awake; all are dead but you have attained to
Everlasting Life; are summoning the people to
Divine Kingdom and are the cause of the illumination
of the world of humanity."

To a friend in Oakland, Calif., who inquires about
the faith of the Bahais concerning the Bible, Christ
etc he writes:-

The Glory and the Exaltation of the Station of Christ is as clear as the sun in midday from the Books and Tablets of His Holiness Baha-Allah. Likewise this subject is properly understood through the Epistles of Abdul Baha.

The Object of the Bahai Cause is identical with the Object of the Bible and the Gospel. It is only renewed. The Bahais must be informed ^{as to} with the contents of the Bible and the Gospel.

As regards the station of His Holiness Baha-Allah: He is the Promised One of all the nations and the First Teacher and the First Instructor of the world of humanity.

As to me: I am the servant of Baha-Allah. His Holiness Baha-Allah ~~was~~ like unto the transparent mirror and the Sun of Reality was manifest and evident in Him.

Concerning the faith of the Bahais about the station of His Holiness Christ, they believe ^{that} He is the Word of God.

To a believer in Cleveland, Ohio he says:-

"Open thou the eloquent tongue and deliver fluent utterances and guide the souls;- so that thou may'st be confirmed with the Breath of the Holy Spirit and become the manifestor of the Bestowals of the Kingdom of Alaha."

To another friend in Riverton N. J. he writes:-

"Regarding thy question about ^{the} 'morning' prayer. Both 'mornings' are included in the word 'dawn': the natural 'dawn' and the 'dawn' of the Kingdom. When a soul rises in the morning from sleep, before everything else he must commemorate the name of God;- in order that he may obtain spirituality and illumination. . . ."

Mrs J. Stannard is addressed as follows in a long Tablet:-

"O thou herald of the Kingdom of God! Praise be to God that thou hast become confirmed in spreading the heavenly Teachings in that country. It is assured that this journey will be

exceedingly fruitful. They (the Bahais) must be the spreaders of spiritual principles;— so that the hearts of all mankind may communicate with each other and religious and racial prejudices be wholly abandoned. All the surface of the earth is one native land; the foundation of all the divine religions is one and all humanity are the progeny of one man. A just man is honored no matter to what nation he belongs "

The following¹³ addressed to a very ardent and active Zoroastrian Bahai in India who met Abdul Baha in London will bring this series to a close:—

"O thou kind friend! Those days that we were in London we associated together with the utmost love. They are preserved in my memory and are not forgotten. At that time the Fragrance of the Love of God was breathed in thy heart and thou didst acquire a new life. Thy heart was pure and immaculate, therefore the effulgence of the Sun of Reality shone upon it more

deathly. Thank thou God that thou wert confirmed with such Bestowal, became the manifestor of the most great Guidance, discovered a way to the heavenly World and became a clean, translucent mirror. Day and night strive that that country may become illumined and the nostrils of the seekers be perfumed with the fragrances of the Merciful.

The day was full of many interesting events, chief among them was the departure of Leenat Khanom for America. She is going to travel with Mrs Wise. Leenat Khanom will be the wife of our dear brother Doctor Bagdadi. A long Tablet was dictated by the Master for him in which he says the girl was educated and trained in His Household from her childhood. Another short Tablet was revealed in His own holy hand to the American believers, the contents of which as nearly as I remember is as follows:-

"O ye believers of God! We are sending to America the maid-servant of God Leenat Khanom with Mrs Wise. She is on her way to Chicago. Unquestionably

all the friends of God will exercise the utmost consideration to Leemat Khanom. (Sig) Alidul Baha Abbes. "

I have no doubt that her arrival in America and her stay amongst our brothers and sisters will be an added impetus toward the unity of the East and the West. Brought up in the calm, infinitely delicate atmosphere of the Holy Family, imbued with the spiritual beauty of the divine life of the Beloved, filled with the dreams and silence of the magic East, she will make many hearts happy. The interior life of a spiritually-hearted Eastern woman is a garden of imperishable flowers. It is deep, calm and balanced. Her gentle ideals and thoughts are "of a delicacy of perception so fine and subtle that language itself is too coarse to express the miraculous shadings and discriminations." It is a rose the "fragrant loveliness" of which perfumes all the nostrils. "It is a revelation of indefinable things - of a beauty and strength in repose, of an iridescent mystery which reddens and softens the form and color of all things seen,

33

of a silence that is not cold and empty, but faintly musical and tinted, of a sound beyond all hearing and a vision beyond all sight."

In the morning the Oriental Pilgrims met the Beloved in the garden and he gave a long, interesting talk. In the afternoon I was with the Beloved till late in the evening and then he graciously asked me to ~~stay and~~ have supper and ^{remain all night} sleep. If I want to describe my five or six hours with him I have to write many, many more pages. Two persons called on him who asked many questions about the Bible, the story of Jesus, the answers to all of which I was fortunate to write down. The upshot of all our efforts and striving is to serve the Cause, spread the Message and attract new souls to the Kingdom of Abha. The Bahai Cause has not come for you or me in an individual sense. It is for the whole world. Only in that sense it belongs to us. It is our horrendous duty to avail of every means to promulgate these Teachings between the children of men.