

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 24th 1914

Dear friends!

Zeenat Khanom is the daughter of Hossein Aga, ^{when asked} the personal attendant of our Beloved. His father's name was Haji Ali Asghar, ^{Khan} one of the ^{prominent} merchants of Tabriz and an old, earnest Bahai. He and his family migrated to Adrianople and were most happy to live near the Blessed Perfection. The old man opened a store and engaged in business. When the question of Baha-ollah's exile to another distant point was ^{rumored} abroad, Haji Ali Asghar ^{went} goes to Him and supplicates and pleads to be included in the company. Having gained the permission he sails out happily announcing that on such ^{happ} a day he ^{will} sell all his goods at auction which he does at a very heavy loss. But he was so joyous because he was going to accompany Baha-ollah that he did not care even if they brought him nothing at all. And so it ^{happens} that Haji Ali Asghar, his wife, his son, Hossein Aga, and his three daughters were included in the Blessed

company of exiles to Acca. When they reached the pestilential town of Acca the authorities lodged them in the military Barrack. Hossein Aga, being by this time ^{and} a young man, ~~he~~ was detailed by the Blessed Perfection to the personal service of Abdul Baha. When the Beloved received guests - as he was wont to do at all time - Hossein Aga was there to serve coffee, or tea and hubble-bubble or cigarettes. After two yrs of close confinement in the Barrack, the authorities gave permission ^{to} that Baha-Allah and his companions are allowed to leave ^{there}, rent houses in the town and live within its limit. At this time there lived in Acca a Bahai by the name of Mohammad Elbrahim Ameer - a Bahi veteran who took active part in the famous events of Heyreez and whose history alone ^{makes} a book. Years ^{before} ~~ago~~ he had left Persia and migrated to Bagdad to look in the face of his Lord and from that time on he never left Baha-Allah. In the household of the Blessed Perfection there lived a nice, lovely girl and when they left the military Barrack, this girl was ^{also} selected as the future wife of Mohammad Elbrahim Amir. Quietly and beautifully they were married and years

rolled on, each year adding its quota of happiness and bliss. ~~From this marriage a girl was born~~
 Out of this wedlock there sprang up a girl and she was
 given the fascinating name of Badi-eh Khanom. Right
 under the protecting wing of the Blessed Perfection she
 grew up. Let us not forget that during all these yrs
 Hossein Aga has been faithfully serving our Beloved
 and never leaving him one day. Unconsciously this girl
 and this boy ^{had} been developping and advancing toward
 one common destiny and now the time has come for
 their stars to meet in the same constellation. Lo!
 Hossein Aga and Badi-eh Khanom are engaged and
 after the lapse of a time they are married. They live
 together most happily, the husband continuing his service
 at the Court of Abdul Baha. In the course of time
 God blesses them with six fine children, 3 boys and
 3 girls. They are all living. The names of the
 boys are Mohamad, Ahmad and Ata and the
 girls' names are Katerneh Khanom, Leenat Khanom,
 and Holour Khanom. The eldest girl, Katerneh
 Khanom is engaged to our dear brother Mirza Ali Akbar

who was with the Master in America and whom you all knew and love very much; the middle girl, Loenat Khanom is on her way to America to be the wife of our faithful brother Doctor Bagladi and the youngest of all, Holour Khanom is attending the college, in Beirut.

It was a lamentable loss to the Cause when two years ago, while the Master was travelling in America, our dear brother, Hossein Aga, fell from the window of his house in Haifa and passed away from this life on the same day. The believers of Acca and Haifa tell me that he possessed a remarkable memory for reciting all the particulars in connection with the history of the Cause, especially those events in which he was an active participant. Were he ~~now~~ living I could learn from him many things which are now obscure and uncertain. While the Blessed Perfection was living the Master took a trip to Beirut and Hossein Aga accompanied him and after his departure, he went to Tiberias and ^{then he later returned to} he was again with the Beloved.

The character of Hossein Aga was irreproachable, he had

a most amiable disposition, he was never seen excited, ~~but was always~~ calm & even tempered, and his temper was never ruffled. His association was soothing and tranquilizing. Composed in manner, calm under all circumstances he impressed every one who came in contact with him, with the sweetness of his spirit and ^{the} simplicity of his life. During his 40 years of service to Abdul Baho - everybody was pleased with him - pilgrims, strangers and the residents of Acca. Every one remembered the suavity and kindness of Hossein Aga. I have heard often the Master dwelling on his name and praising his inimitable virtues and merits. To illustrate the amiability of his character one of the believers related to the following story: Years ago a number of pilgrims arrived in Acca to visit the Beloved. After staying their allotted time they received permission to return to their respective countries. After Bidding the believers farewell, they left Acca for Haifa. Hardly half an hour passed when one of the Pilgrims was seen running back toward the house of the Master

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and enquiring for Hossein Aga. "There he is," he was pointed out. "Oh Hossein Aga!" he said "Mirza _____ sent me back to get from you the 2 dollars that you owe him. In the hurry of our leaving he forgot to ask you." Hossein Aga looked at him a little puzzled and gave him the money without demanding any explanation. Taking the money he hastened back to join his companions. After investigation Mirza _____ finds out that he had asked the money from the wrong person, as it so happened that there lived in Acre another believer by the name of Hossein. He hurried back to Acre to offer his apology to Hossein Aga for the mistake of personalities. "Why did you not tell the messenger that you didn't owe me anything?" "Well!" he answered "I thought you needed the money and I could afford to depart from it with pleasure. There is no difference between you and me."

All day the Beloved received many people and in the evening Mr ^{and} Mrs Wallback called and he spoke to them on the quality of rights and afterwards a large meeting was held in which he related many stories and delivered a spiritual talk.