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Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 10th 1914

Dear friends!

"The Wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly; and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the 'Glory of the Lord' and the excellency of our God" Isaiah 35. 1.2.

"Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple." Solomon's Song ch 7. 5.

In these poetic words and expressions the Bible extolls the Mount of God. I have been living on its green, beautiful slope for the last 3 months and have realized the fulfillment of these predictions with my own eyes. It is a matter of historical interest in connection with the above verses of Isaiah that Mount Carmel, ^{nowadays} remains green throughout the whole year, a very unusual phenom-

moun in Palestine. Its flowers at this time of the
 year and later throughout the spring are so varied^{and}
 so charming that baffle description. It is indeed rich in
 vegetation, including oaks, wild almonds, pear trees, figs
 and pines. Mount Carmel has been regarded from the
 earliest period as the 'Mount of God' and the miracle of
 Elijah (1 Kings XVIII) has invested it with special sanctity
 for both Jews and Christians. With the dawn of the
 Sun of Reality from the horizon of this Mountain,
 God has made it an object for universal veneration. The
 eyes of mankind have seen in these latter times how
 "the Glory of the Lord" (Baha-ollah) and the "Excellen-
 cy of Our God" became manifest on this Holy Spot.
 We know that Baha-ollah was banished to this
 part of Palestine with a large number of his
 followers, about 72 men, women and children^{and}
 that is why we read in the prophecy "the wilderness
 and the solitary place shall be glad for 'them'".
 Indeed since the arrival of the "Glory of the Lord"
 this whole country has blossomed as a rose.

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After I have numbered within the limit of a few 100
yards as many kinds of wild flowers as 15, showing
in an unmistakable manner the realization of the proph-
etic words "It shall blossom abundantly," Moreover
out of this Mountain has gone forth the law for the
Unity of nations and religions and it is concerning ^{this}
place that the prophet foresees "And many people
shall go and say: Come ye and let us go up to the moun-
tain of the Lord and He will teach us of His ways,
and we will go in His paths." Is it not true even
in a literal sense that Pilgrims from all parts
of the world - Persia, Turkey, Arabia, India,
Russia, Egypt, Europe and America - are ^{coming}
to Mount Carmel to learn the way of the Lord
and walk in His path? How wonderful it is that
we see with our own eyes the fulfilment of these
mysteries of the Kingdom of God! Thus it is plain
to discern that the ground of this mountain is
hallowed not only by the feet of the old prophets
but by the Manifestation of God himself and

the center of this Covenant, Abdul Baha. Our privilege is great and our rejoicing must be great correspondingly. For we are living in the Day of the Lord, in the Cycle of Lights, each day of which is equal to a thousand years. It is impossible to realize the grandeur and spiritual significance of these peerless days! God is establishing in the hearts of men His Kingdom of Peace and good-will. Blessed are those who have taken part in this glorious work. They are the sons and joint heirs of the Kingdom of God. If we thank Him a 100 thousand times every moment we have not expressed in an adequate manner our appreciation. All that we can do is to labor with heart and soul to hasten the final triumph of His Kingdom and to usher in the dawn of the Brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The world is dark and is in need of this light; it is dead, it requires this Spirit; it is deaf, blind and mute, it longs for the senses of hearing, seeing and the power of speech. It calls to the followers of Baha! Let them pitch in and work.

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This was a lovely day, full of beauty and innocent laughter, calm and sweet. The Master now walking in the garden, now calling on the strangers and now speaking with the friends of God, A day of happiness and satisfying quietness, like a smooth river, rolling along green pastures or like unto a restful summer afternoon, when the gentle, cooling breezes are not ^{hushed} but wafting through the branches of the trees - ^{effect of the} then whole atmosphere telling one into languid repose and ineffable ease. When I stood in his presence this morning he looked well and happy. The photograph of Mulla Ali Akbar (a wonderful Bahai teacher who has now passed into the other world - an old man with long beard) with chain around his neck and shackles on his feet stood on the library table. In his walking he stopped before it and gazed at it tenderly. Then he took it in his hands and kissed it many times and said:- "Look at him. Although he is fettered he has sat on the chair like a king in his audience chamber, commanding, assured

and confident. The glory of all the kings shall pass away but the sovereignty of this man will last throughout all centuries and cycles. How fearless and courageous he is sitting! This is through the Bestowal of the Blessed Perfection. The believers of Persia have so sacrificed their lives in the path of Alaha! This chain is greater than the crowns of the the emperors of the earth. This Mulla Ali Akber endured imprisonment several times in his life. Before his acceptance of this revelation he was a great Inshamadan Mullah and he gave up everything for the sake of the Cause. Whenever the government, instigated by the clerical order, started to arrest the Bahais and he would hear about it, he took his coat and went straight to the jail, telling ^{him} to the prison authorities that he has come to share the fate of his brothers. He is the father-in-law of Ebné Akbar, who is now visiting us and whose two sons are the Cause of the happiness of my heart."

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To a young believer who lives in Haifa he said:- "Ma-sha-allah! Thou hast grown very much. Tell me, hast thou grown only in body or also in mind? Art thou one of those who seem to have a great body but a small mind? There are some people who grow only on the physical plane, like cows and donkeys but there are others who grow in the strength of body and the grace of mind. I hope thou art one of the latter."

To another one he said:- "Were it not for the favors of the Blessed Perfection no one would have given us any importance. There are some people who become proud and haughty and forget this fact. In their utter blindness they consider themselves to be somebody; then they fall from their high pedestal and great is the noise thereof. Meekness and humility are the hallmarks of faith. As soon a believer feels himself the least bit superior to others, the beginning of his spiritual decline ^{has} commenced, all, unaware to himself. There are no offices in this Cause. I do not and ^{have} not 'appointed' any one to perform any ^{special}

services but I encourage everyone to engage in the services of the Kingdom. The foundation of this Cause is pure, spiritual democracy and not a theocracy. The difference between me and others is this: I confess and acknowledge my own inability, weakness and humility and know that all these outward confirmations are the Favors of the Blessed Perfection but there are some people who think and little by little come to believe that all these spiritual successes are through and by them."

In the afternoon he dictated about ten Tablets for the American believers. Then he talked ^{about} the life of the Blessed Perfection in Bagdad and related a story in connection with it. In the evening he spoke briefly on the principle of the oneness of the world of humanity, showing clearly that there are no strangers; all are the children of one Father; there are no enemies, all are friends; there are ^{no} Satans, all are angels. The mission of the Baha'is is to inculcate this lesson in the ^{hearts} of all the children.