

No. 20

The Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

Beginning	March 15 th	1914
Ending	March 28 th	1914

Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria.

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 15th 1914

Dear friends!

For the first time the "Bahai Nest" arose to the height of its possibility and the ~~(Divine)~~ ^{of Love} Nightingale flew toward it to rest therein for half an hour. This made me very happy, for the visit was the realization of my expectation and the fulfillment of my fondest dream. Mirza Hossein Hajji had again invited the believers and the Pilgrims to tea in the reception-room of the Blessed Tomb of the Bab and thus the Beloved graced the meeting with his spiritual Presence. It was probably about 3 pm when I left my nest and walked to Pilgrims' Home. There, to my surprise I found the Master ^{toward the} sitting near the window speaking to the believers. After a few moments he left the Home and asked me to follow him. Once out in the open he walked toward the Nest and on the way he joked with Abbas Goli and myself to the effect that about 1000 piastres (\$40) have been

2 spent ~~over~~ⁱⁿ the repairing of my room and that I had to pay for it. "Do you hear Abbas Goli," he said "Get hold of Murga Ahmad and do not leave him till he pays you the money." By this time we reached the nest; I opened the door and the Divine Nightingale ~~was~~^{went} in. He sat on the sofa ~~over~~^{on} which I sleep, and reclining on the cushion closed his eyes. I sat quietly on a chair waiting his command. After several minutes he opened his eyes and spoke as follows:- "How charmingly quiet is this room and how varied and entrancing is the scene! spread before one's view. Since my childhood I have always longed to possess a room like unto this - built on the undulating and verdant slope of a mountain, simply furnished, clean, airy and away from the reach of man. But this has never been realized. Look at the circling mountains in the distance, beyond the Bay! How their cones are always covered with that intangible, blue haze, soft and dreamy! The spiritual life ^{is symbolized by} ~~(postulates)~~ simplicity, and contemplation combined with usefulness and well-guided activity. When we were living in

Bagdad according to the custom of that country we
 slept on the roof during the summer months. ~~Always~~
^{always} commenced sleeping ~~the old roof~~ ^{earlier than}
~~I went upon the roof by night~~ one month before any one
 else did and stayed one month and half longer at the
 end of ^{the} season. The members of the family ^{always} insisted that
 I ~~must~~ ^{should} come down because it was getting ^{for} cold, but I did
 not listen to them. I loved the perfect quietness, the mystic
 silence, the awe-inspiring, heavenly scene! Long after
 midnight I would get up, communing with God in
 spirit and watching the stars ^{circling} ~~marshalling~~ in their majestic
 spheres. There was such a spirituality in that Eastern
 silence that whenever I think of it I feel myself transpor-
 ted to those divine nights of concentration and con-
 templation! Then leaving the sofa he ^{went} ~~came~~ out on
 the porch and looked toward the ascending tiers of the
 Mountain. Just at ~~that~~ ^{now} time, ~~it is~~ ^{they are} carpeted with gorse,
 a lovely garment of yellow flowers ^{which are} and delicately
 fragrant. "See how beautiful ^{are} these furzes & The fields,
 the plains and the hills are crisscrossed with them!"
 Stepping down ^{from} the porch he walked on the green

pastures toward the house of Agha Abbas Goli. He asked me to go in with him. Here he read several letters from Persia, ^{which he had} taken out of his pocket, and drank a cup of "Loufa". When he finished reading, he said: "I am not saying anything, but every week I receive great news about the progress of the Cause in Persia. Most important personages have embraced the Bahai revelation ~~but~~ but at this crucial time, wisdom requires that their names ~~must~~ be kept secret. The teachers of the Cause of World Peace and World-Religion are not sitting idle. Day and night they are working. The hearts are being illumined with the rays of the Sun of Reality and the souls are awakened through the Breath of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is using these instruments in all parts of the world to create a mighty synthesis of all that which is best in the past religions - thus all mankind may associate with each other with the deepest fellow-feeling and universal consciousness." Leaving the room to join the friends in the meeting he saw the mother of Agha Abbas Goli in the vestibule.

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She is a sweet woman but not yet converted in the Faith.
"Ha! Ha!" the Master laughed, as he looked at her. "What do
these Bahais tell thee? Art thou not afraid of them? Come
rather! you and I will join our forces together and fly
away from them. Then when they ~~will wake up~~ ^{waken} in the
morning and find us not here, what will they do?
Will they not worry themselves? But by that time we
will be far away, very far away. Wilt thou come?" And
he said a few more words and after a moment he
was in the reception room where all the believers were
awaiting his arrival. Aga Sheikh Mohamad Ali ^{Abdul Baha} was ^{chanting}
prayers when he entered and he asked him to continue.
When the chanting was finished he said:- "Aga Sheikh
Mohamad Ali chants the Tablets very sweetly. He
enunciates the words clearly and distinctly. The one
who chants or sings must be moved more than the
listeners by the effect of the ideals and longings ^{back}
of the words. Then the audience will be thrilled
with the new vibrations, the music ^{will be} appreciated
and spiritually and artistic uplift obtained."

6. As his talk was mainly on prayer and fasting, will you permit me ^{to} if I translate parts of it?:-

"These days are the days of Bahai fasting but the Blessed Perfection has commanded us not to keep it in Turkey, so instead ^{of this we} keep the fast of Ramazan. For the present this is in accord with wisdom. As we keep the latter, the former is left aside. . . . My highest longing is to keep this fast, but wisdom must be considered. However in other parts of the world the believers should keep the Bahai fasting. The time will also come for this country. Through this fast great spirituality is obtained and joy and fragrance realized. The sweetest thing in this world is to obey strictly the Commands of God and shun His prohibitions. Through this the attractions of the Love of God will be created in human consciousness. If all the people of the world arise with swords in hands to ^{prevent} ~~prevent~~ ^{one} ~~them~~ from carrying out the commands of God they will be unable to do so. This is of course ^{true of} ~~for~~ those souls who are mindful and aware, but it will have

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no effect upon those who are negligent and heedless,
~~only their heedlessness is increased.~~ ^{except to increase their heedlessness} But those persons
who are cognizant and conscious of Truth, whenever
they obey the laws of God, they obtain joy and fragrance
spiritually and cheerfulness. For example, there is
nothing sweeter in the world of existence than 'Prayer'.
Man must live in a state of prayerfulness. The most
blessed condition is the condition of prayer and supplica-
tion. Prayer is 'conversation with God'. The greatest
attainment or the sweetest state is no other than
'Conversation with God'. It ^{creates} ~~engenders~~ spirituality,
generates mindfulness and celestial feelings, begets the
attractions of the Kingdom and engenders the sus-
ceptibilities of the Higher Intelligence. The highest
attribute given to His Holiness Moses is in the following
verse: 'God carried along a conversation with Moses'.
What is prayer? It is 'conversation with God'. While
man prays he sees himself in the Presence of God.
If he concentrates his attention he will surely at
the time of Prayer realize that he is 'conversing

8 with God. Often in the evenings I do not sleep and the thoughts of the world weigh heavily on my mind. I toss ~~myself~~ uneasily in my bed. Then in the darkness of the night I get up and pray - 'Converse with God.' It is most sweet and uplifting. Prayer and supplication are so effective as to inspire one's heart for the whole day with high ideals and supreme serenity and calmness. One's heart must be sensitive to the music of Prayer. He must feel the effect of Prayer. He must not be like an organ from which streams forth most soft notes ~~but~~ ^{with no} ^{consciousness of} ^{sensation in itself.}"

In the morning the Beloved spoke in detail about certain new developments in the Theosophical Society in India and their theory that there are five Masters living in this day.

"There is always" he said "one seen in the sky during the day. There are not five seers. Christ was single and peerless in his own day; likewise Moses and Baha-o'llah. Every principle must be attested ^{with} ^{by} reason and logic and not based on mere assertion."