

Bahai Nest.

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Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

March 23^d 1914

Dear friends:

Today ten pilgrims arrived from three widely separated points: six from India, four Zoroastrians Bahman, Shahreyar, Rasheed, ^{from Bombay} Keykhasro; one Mohamaden, Sayad Mostafa from Rangoon; one Hindu, N.R. Vakil from Surat; three from Shiraz, Andeleeb (nightingale) the famous Bahai poet, Mirza Mahmud Assar and Mirza Alyssa Khan; one from Her, Mazandran. The presence of these spiritually-minded people and their intense devotion to the Cause create in one's heart the holiest exaltation and great enthusiasm. They are the visible signs of that invisible spirit of brotherhood which is ushering in a new era of divine humanity and correlating all the inner forces of celestial civilization. They are the heralds of the Kingdom of God, the spiritual guides of the people of the world.

While I was walking in the garden early in the morning
 the Beloved came out of the house followed by Mirza Hadi.
 He said he is going to call on the bridegroom. On his
 return he sent for Mirza Azzizollah Khan from Isfahan
 and spoke with him in detail about the early days
 of Baha-Allah in that town. Two Turkish officers
 were the guests of the Master for lunch. In the
 afternoon a man whose son died lately called
 on the Beloved and he did much to console
 him and cheer him with assuring words. In
 his talk tonight to the assembled pilgrims in the
 reception room of his home he said :- "You are all
 welcomed. A party of the Pilgrims went today to Acca
 to visit the Holy Tomb and another party will go
 tomorrow. In each case ^{have and will} they pray in my behalf.
 When the proper time comes I will also go to Acca
 and spend there my last days. My seat is Acca. Be-
 cause my health ^{is weak} the Doctors advised me
 very much to stay here and ^{as} there were other matters
 to be considered I continued to abide in Haifa, otherwise

I would have not stayed here. ~~Nowhere~~ ⁱⁿ my heart is at ease save ⁱⁿ Acre, because it is the prison town of the ^{Bahá Alláh} ~~Blessed Perfection~~. Here the body is at ease, ^{and} ~~the~~ the heart finds true peace. For nine consecutive years ~~the~~ ^{Bahá Alláh} ~~Blessed Perfection~~ did not put his feet outside of the gate of Acre. He was either imprisoned in the barrack or closely watched and guarded in the house. The day of his departure from the town ~~to~~ the plain of Acre was considered as the most important in the Bahai Cause. A prisoner he was, and according to the strict royal firman of Abdul Aziz, he was to be jailed in a cell all alone, not even one of us was to be allowed to see or talk to him, and to leave the town of Acre was a matter strictly forbidden. In brief he was to be a life prisoner with these deadly restrictions. One day while he was walking in the house in the course of his conversation he said 'It is now nine years that my eyes have not beheld one blade of grass, He loved the green pastures, verdant plains, blossoming trees and flowering spots, especially the

prairie of Acre which was wonderfully green and
 carpeted with wild flowers during the months of spring.
 For this reason he often remarked: 'The city is the
 world of bodies; the country is the world of spirits'.
 Hearing these statements from ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Blond~~ lips of
~~His Holiness~~ Baha-Allah, one day I took with ~~my~~
 self Mouri Bay, Hakki Bay and Mahmoud Effendi
 Toupjee - all the three political prisoners - and
 walked straight out of the gate into plain of Acre.
 The strange part of this stranger proceeding was that
 while the guards were stationed on both sides
 of the gate they did not so much lift one
 finger to prevent us from going out which was
 of course the most natural thing for them to do.
 On and on we walked, revelling in our new-found
 freedom till we reached the present palace of Baha-
 jee. Here they had just laid an orchard wherein they
 had planted new apricot and peach trees. The wind
 blowing through the branches of the trees stirred our
 hearts with a quick and new vibration. It

was a most ideal scene. That day we walked and
 walked around the green country and then returned
 to town. Several days ~~passed over~~ ^{passed} this event and then
 I gave a feast to the officials of the town under the
 Pines near Bahajee. This broke the talisman of
 incarceration and from that time I was allowed
 to go out ~~in plain~~ and walk ~~as~~ ⁱⁿ my own inclination
 led me. There lived in Aca a man by the name
 of Mohamed Pasha Safrat who was most inimical
 to ^{the} Cause. He had built a palace about ³ ~~5 or six~~
 miles outside of the town. For many days I searched
 for a suitable house to rent ^{for the Blessed Prophet} but I could find nothing
 else but the palace of this man. After much delay
 and postponement, through the Confirmation of God
 I succeeded ⁱⁿ to rent this palace from him at
 \$25 ^a year, provided I ~~may~~ be allowed to repair
 entirely the ~~whole~~ mansion with the ^{the first} rent of five
 years. Having repaired and furnished all the ^{rooms}
 I ordered the carpenters to make for me a carriage
 with cover which was done in due time.

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Having prepared everything and attended to every details
^{Beha Allah}
 I went to the ~~Blessed Presence~~ and said: 'A good
 mansion is made ready for you outside of Acca. It
 is wonderfully situated and is very charming. From
 one side the lovely mountains and undulating val-
 leys are seen; from another side there are large
 orange and mandarine orchards, the oranges like
 unto the red lanterns shine and glow through the
 green boughs; from another side verdant gardens
 and prairies full of narcissus and tulips are seen;
 the Mediterranean glistens in the distance; a
 stream of cool water flows ^{from the} ~~in the~~ center; in
 brief it is an ideal place. I supplicate you to
 leave the town and live there.' ^{Beha Allah} ~~The Blessed~~
~~Perfection~~ answered 'I am a prisoner. The prisoner
 is not allowed to go beyond the town of Acca.'
 I repeated again ^{my praises of the place} and begged him to come out. But
 to no avail. Again he refused my request. I did not
 dare to go on ~~with this insisting~~ ^{his}, so I choose
 silence and left the Blessed Presence.

Baha Allah

and the palace is made ready. 'The Blessed Perfection tells him: 'Mofti'! I am a Prisoner!' 'Oh' he answers 'You are not a prisoner! You are free. Everything depends upon your own Will.' Again Baha-Allah objected, but Mofti did not let his hands go and insisted and insisted till the much-expected Promise was given. Coming out of the house he came to me and imparted the glad news. I was so overjoyed that I kissed his lips many times. On the next day when I stood in the Presence of ~~the Blessed Perfection~~ ^{Baha Allah} He smiled and said 'What a tenacious man you had sent to me!' 'I said, now you have given ~~promise~~ ^{your} to Mofti that you will go out. The carriage is ready at the door.'

..... I rode with Him through the streets of Acca and beyond the gate. Then I alighted from the carriage and walked to the palace of ^{re ah} ~~Mazra-ah~~ ^{Baha Allah}. The Blessed Perfection was most pleased with the place. It was about the months of February and March. The ^{whole} country was bedecked with

flowers, the plain of Acrea was dancing with joy and the mountains, the valleys and the gardens were intoxicated with the wine of happiness ^{and were} crying out 'O Rapture! O Bliss!' Those heavenly months and years were spent in the utmost rejoicing till it was found out that the place was too small and not capable to accommodate the growing needs of the Holy Family. Then there was Another palace belonging to Ahboud and his family. This was the palace of Bahajee. Ahboud and his children got sick and went into town. I wanted to rent this palace from him, he wished to present it to me and insisted upon it. Finally I rented it from him at \$150⁰⁰ a year and Baha-Allah and the members of the Holy Family moved into it. From that time ^{on} He lived in Bahajee ^{and Acrea, alternately, this} till the day of departure ^{came} dawned upon us and threw us into the depths of despair and sorrow.

Then he asked Sheik Mohamad Ali to chant the Holy Tablets and the meeting was brought to an end.