

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 25th 1914

Dear friends!

"Serve thy fellowmen in whichever way thou art able and do not expect any reward from them." This is the belief of the President of ^{the} Jain Students Society in India as related to us by Sayad Mohamad Mostafa. This is a Bahai belief uttered from the lips of a Hindu, worthy of all praise. The Bahais are not bigotted and hail the truth no matter from what source it may appear. They are not restricted by any limitation nor hoodwinked by any false appearances. They are the servants of the Court of Reality and the worshippers of the image of the rose.

This morning the Beloved came out of the house accompanied by Mirza Hadi and took a long walk through the streets of Haifa. On his return he greeted the believers with genuine courtesy ^{to them} and entered the house and was engaged with his correspondence.

About eleven o'clock he came out again and sat in the
 rose-garden. For nearly ^{an hour} he spoke with the friends and
 joked with them by relating to them various laughable
 stories. Then he retired to his room for lunch and we
 ascended the mountain. Although there was no meeting
 in its stead our Indian philosopher called on the
 Master and asked many more questions. He spoke
 to him about the contents of one of his lectures in America
 concerning the four criteria of Knowledge, ^{the} sense,
 intellect, authoritative religious Books, and Inspiration,
 and showed clearly how each criterion, unaided
 by the other three, is defective. Then he discussed on
 the three kinds of compositions, accidental, Essential and
 by the Will of the Pre-existent Lord. When he
 proved conclusively the limitlessness of God, through
 the human limitations; the independence of God by
 our dependence, His Wealth by our poverty, His
 Knowledge by our ignorance, his illumination
 by our darkness and his perfection through
 our imperfection the man was beside himself

76 with joy and ecstasy. Then the idea of pantheism and All-in-all was broached and elucidated, proving that it is the effulgence of the Primal Will reflecting in these phenomena, and not the essence itself. The ^{essence} is sanctified above egress and ingress, ascent or descent. Speaking ^{about} the various denominations and sects which now and then crop up amongst the various religions he said:—

"They appear and disappear. They have no importance whatsoever in the religious world. They are not based upon a permanent foundation. They are built on the shifting sand of time. The essential verities of the divine religions are changeless. How many sects have sprang up and again drowned by the sea of time! They are like unto bubbles which are and yet are not.

"The course of this stupendous creation is not changed through their blind, dogmatic assertions, but they are changed through the force of circumstances or the exigencies of the time This world is like unto an orchard, there must needs be a gardener. The world is a great school; we must have teachers.

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"Every movement today cries for a new spirit of baptism and reformation, Where is the universal Reformer? For the dispelling of these darkneses there must needs be a Light. Now investigate day and night so that you may discover the source of this Light! It is well-known that the powers of philosophy ^{are unable to unite} and politics ^{various} nations and communities. Search, then, for this source of illumination. Wherever you find there are the signs of Fire, turn your face towards it without hesitation. Be thou ^{loose} ~~and loose~~ of reality and give no heed to superficialities. Love thou the Kernel and not the shell. I hope that thou mayst partake of the fruit of existence and that thy life may be crowned with eternal results! Mayst thou ever become enlightened, radiant and spiritual! This is my prayer for thee."

When he left he was very anxious to Kiss the hands of the Beloved but he did not let him do it; instead he Kissed his face and for about half a minutes they were locked in each others arms, the Master

Kissing him a several times. In this manner the
 greatest antagonists are humbled before him ^{through} ~~by~~ their
 own accord. I will bring this letter to a close with the
 translations of the Holy Tablets. Addressing an American
 seeker of Truth he says:-

"If thou desirest to dispel the darkness of the world
 of nature, enkindle thou a candle of Guidance. If thou
 seekest an abundant harvest; sow thou pure seeds.
 If thou yearnest after luscious fruits, plant thou blessed
 trees. That is: Illumine the heart with the Fire
 of the Love of God; live in accord with the Exhortations
 of the Blessed Perfection and read the Hidden Words.
 Strive so that thou mayst practice each one of those
 Teachings. Shouldst thou be assisted with such
 Bestowal, thou shalt be the means of the guidance
 of thy family as well as others. "

"O thou seeker after the Kingdom of God! Thy letter
 was received. It contained praise and commendation
 of Truly I say she is one of the daughters
 of the Kingdom. She has a pure heart and a

radiant spirit. She has the utmost longing to serve the divine Kingdom. Therefore her eyes are illumined and her ears are hearing, I hope that all of you will unite your forces together and raise the melody of the Kingdom of God, and become the means of the appearance of the oneness of the world of humanity "

O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Thy letter like unto the song of the warbler caused joy and happiness. Consequently I read it with the utmost attention. Continue the class of the study of the Book of Iqbal Likewise read other works ^{revealed} by Baha-Allah. This will become the ^{cause} reason of your spiritual progress and you will be ^{more} fully informed with the principles of the Cause of God. Similarly the ^{study of the} book of Mirza Asad Khan will greatly enlarge the sphere of your thoughts and confer upon you a new spirit "