

Bahai Nest

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Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

March 28th 1914

Dear friends!

Nobody will object I am sure if I open this letter with the translation of four lovely little Tablets written with the Master's own blessed hand. The first two are for the Zoroastrian believers in Bombay:-

He is God!

O God! Suffer these wanderers around thy abode to become Thy passionate lovers, freed from ^{the} Known and ^{the} unknown. Verily Thou art the Powerful and the Mighty.

(Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas!

He is God!

O Thou Kind Almighty! Bestow Thou a refuge and protection to this homeless and shelterless servant of Thine, Rostam Iran - under Thy Shade and confer upon him joy and fragrance!

(Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas

The other two are revealed to the Ashtabad believers:-

He is God!

O Lord! Clothe this Thy servant with the Garment of the Most Great Bestowal and protect him from every evil! Verily Thou art the Clement and the Merciful!

(Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas.

He is God!

O God! O God! Verily I place my head on the earth and beg of Thee, O Thou Lord of lords to submerge these believers of Thine in the river of the Water of Life! Verily Thou art the Kings of Kings!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas!

In the afternoon the Master entertained many strangers who listened to his words with rapt attention and were uplifted into the heaven of joy. With spiritual vision he explained the difficulties of everyone and illumined the hearts of all.

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The believers were gathered in the reception room at 8 pm and the Master, after welcoming them addressed them as follows:-

"In the material world perfect composure and tranquility are not destined for man. Somehow somewhere he is attacked by ^{the} depressing condition of the time. He may be either physically or morally sick, he may have sorrow or grief or he may be enveloped with invisible enemies. In short if you search throughout the East and the West ^{whether he is entirely happy or not} and inquire from each individual soul, you will find that every person possesses ^{has either} a kind of grief or he is ill, or his thought is confused or he has had some financial reverses or he is ^{defeated} in some ^{of the} struggles of life. History does not bear one record free from any or all of the human frailties. The law of Change works mighty transformation in all the kingdoms of life. When we were exiled to Acca I was at the prime of my age. I ~~was then~~

I saw then many people who were in the height of youth, power and virility. Now all of them are stricken with old age, their forces are disintegrated, their backs are bent, their faces wrinkled and their strength gone. Many of these whom I have known are dead and their voices are heard no more. Their stars are set, their breezes hushed and their flowers withered. A life which is subject to such rise and fall and is guided by such beginning and ending is of no importance at all. The health and sickness of such a life is of the least consequence.

"Therefore, whenever I inquire about your health I mean your spiritual health. That is fraught with importance. To the same degree that the material life has no importance, the spiritual life is of supreme moment. When the heart is purified, the spirit gladdened with the Good - News of the Kingdom ^{and} the realm of morality ~~will~~ become the delectable paradise."

and prominent lights

Speaking about the martyrs of the Cause he said :-
"The biographies of such blessed souls must be written in detail - thus the children of the next generation may try to imitate the virtues of their fathers. When these holy souls pass away from this life, in the supplications and Epistles that I write in their behalfs, I touch~~ed~~ briefly the history of their lives and the services they ^{have} rendered to the Cause. For example the other day I dictated a long Epistle for the friends of the Washington Assembly concerning the life of Abul Fazel. All the writings of Abul Fazel are extremely useful; they are the shining rays which have streamed down from a glowing, radiant lamp. What pleases me most is that he never eulogizes his own works and seldom refers to them to show his erudition and learning"

Then he spoke about several persons who, not having the advantages of education, yet they have written wonderful books on the Cause.

"This is also one of the most distinctive signs of the the Bahai cycle that a person who has never entered the doors of a school, who has ^{not} studied grammar and syntax sit down and writes such scholarly works. For example a man like Mirza Mohammed Afshar who has written such a significant book. To those who are first, there is no greater proof than this! This is purely through the gift of the Lord! Because their hearts are so attached to the Cause, ^{that} very attachment becomes an unerring teacher. Their words have life The writings of those souls who have entered beneath the shade of the Tree of the True One, are severed and attracted and have turned their faces toward God and their convictions are deep-felt - such writings although outwardly simple and devoid of any ^{flowery} flamboyant rhetoric yet they are dynamies. The hearts of the believers of God

are inspired. They must just concentrate their ⁶⁷
attention around Baha-Allah and He will teach
them"

Abdul Baha

X One of the pilgrims begged him for a number of
Tablets for his home-folk. He answered:- "Now
the old believers should be satisfied with what they
have. They must be contented with my prayers
and supplications at the Threshold of the Almighty.
Now is the time that each person may practice
the contents of his or her Tablets. I have ^{written}
so many ^{that} that are countless. Some years ago
there lived in New York a good believer by
the name, Mrs Cole. She ascended to the
Kingdom of Abha ~~long~~ before I went to America.
Sometimes after my arrival, a woman brought
to me a big bundle containing all my Epistles ^{written}
to Mrs Cole. She said: Mrs Cole has ^{requested}
these precious, spiritual letters to me. She
considered these to be her greatest ^{possessions} ~~fortune~~.
I have now thought to bring them to you. As

I am not a Bahai. I would not like to keep them without your permission.' Then I told her; 'Because this was her last wish, I am sure you are the proper ^{person} to take care of these epistles.' There were even so many epistles! In those days I dictated a large number of Epistles almost every day but now my health does not permit. But Mrs Cole was in reality very sincere, very faithful. She was the very essence of loyalty. She assisted the believers very much and served them without ostentation. When she ^{visited Aca} ~~came~~ here she wanted very much to give me a large sum of money to be expended in the furtherance of the Cause. I did not accept. Then she begged me to accept a bed. As she insisted I could not refuse. The bed was then sent to my room. Before that time I used to sleep on the floor. ^{The bed} This is yet in my room, the one ^{one} over which I sleep now."

In the morning the Beloved sent for me and dictated

many Tablets for the American believers till noon. Then I was dismissed. A few quotations from these Tablets will bring to days' letter to a close :-

"Verily I received your eloquent letter, the composition of which was wonderful. It was an evidence to your firmness in the Covenant and your attraction to the Beloved of the regions. It demonstrated your ^{great} sorrow and intense grief over the death of the glorious personage Abul Fazel. My sorrow and grief are greater than yours on account of his separation; but he left behind this nether world and soared toward the Supreme Apex. He ~~was~~ released from the environments of the earth and ascended to the center of the Kingdom. He ^{is} established upon the throne of everlasting glory and entered in the meeting of Transfiguration, ^{while} submerged in the sea of lights."

To the members of another assembly he says :-

"O ye friends of Ab dul Baha and the daughters of the Kingdom !

your letter informing me that a Memorial Meeting was held in behalf of his holiness Abul Fazel was received. Praise be to God that you appreciate the value of that noble personage and you are imploring at the Kingdom of Abha with the utmost supplication and entreaty to exalt his station. In reality that reverend soul was fully established in the Divine Religion and under the protection of His Holiness Baha-Allah he attained to a very lofty summit. He was a brilliant lamp and a shining star! His station was unknown in his lifetime; the luminosity of that star of guidance is destined for the future centuries.

"The news of your unity and harmony imparted the utmost joy and happiness. I hope that day by day you may increase your love, your self-sacrifice, your firmness in the Covenant and Testament of God;—so that every one of you may become a brilliant proof and an inco-

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irrefutable evidence to the validity of the Cause of
Baha-allah. "

To the members of another assembly he writes:—

"O ye believers and the maid servants of the
merciful! Verily I read your letter of condolence
concerning the departure of Abul Fazel to the
apogee of the Kingdom. I beg of God to suffer ye
to become always aware of the mention of God,
thus you may beg the exaltation of spiritual
degrees for every believing soul who returned
to his Lord with a contented, undisturbed
spirit, especially the calamitous event, the
death of that refulgent reality. I supplicate
the Almighty to bestow patience upon
every afflicted heart. "

To a believer in California he writes:—

"O thou my daughter of the Kingdom! Thy letter
was received. Praise be to God that ⁱⁿ that State
the banner of Ya Baha El Abha is upraised
and the maid servant of God Mrs Goodall,
the maid servant of God Mrs Cooper and
thyself are confirmed with the heavenly

assistance. Today whosoever arises to summon the people to the Kingdom of God the armies of heaven will make him victorious. Praise be to God that thou art confirmed in the service of the Cause. It is assured that assistance and triumph shall reach thee "

To Mr Howard Ives of New York City he says:—

"O thou my respected son! The letter that thou hast written with the utmost devotion and love became the means of perfect joy. Truly I say thou art striving day and night so that thou mayst win the good-pleasure of the Lord! It is assured that this blessed intention will have most great effect. The good aim is like unto the burning candle; its lights will be spread to all parts. Now praise be to God thou art displaying the utmost effort to ignite a candle of guidance in that continent, to plant a tree with the utmost freshness and delicacy in the garden of the world of humanity, to call mankind to the Kingdom of God, to awaken those who are sleep, to heal those who are afflicted with the spiritual disease, to widen the sphere of thoughts, to illumine the world of morality, to cause the advancement of the minds and intellects, to bring back under

the fold of ^{the} real shepherd all the wandering sheep
and to guide the exiled birds to the rose-garden
of Reality! Rest thou assured that the Eternal
Outpouring shall descend ^{upon thee} and the Confirmations
of His Holiness Baha-allah shall encircle thee,
Convey to all the believers the wonderful Abha
greeting! Upon thee be Baha El Abha!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abhas.