

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 30th 1914

Dear friends!

Eight Sheikhs - learned men of the Moslem religion - were entertained by the Master all day. They were invited to lunch and thus were debarred from his ~~body~~ Presence! Many of these Sheikhs are interesting personalities. They are extremely picturesque with their long, flowing robes and turbans and black or white beards. The deference and respect they show toward the Beloved is nothing short of miraculous. With what concentrated attention they listen to him when he starts to speak! Today as I peeped in from behind the door of the reception room I saw him surrounded by these old Sheikhs with their ^{long} beards and turbans. It was a wonderful sight. He was speaking to them with command and authority on the Word of God, taking the first chapter of St John as his text. In the beginning

8 was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word
was God. 'I heard him repeating this golden text, Then
a flood of spiritual interpretation flowed from ^{his} lips,
sweeping away from before ^{them} every thorn of objection
and every thistle of denial. These Sheiks sat there
motionless, enraptured with the sweet music of
his words and enthralled with the celestial
beauty of his discourse! Was it not wonderful and
worthwhile significant, that the Master was speaking to
these old Sheiks of the Mohamadan religion from
the Gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrating to them
the inspirational character of the book!

Today ten more Pilgrims received permission
to leave and they left about 6pm on a steamer
leaving for Port Said. When they stood in his presence
he spoke to them as follows: - "Praise be to God that
the Favours of the Blessed Perfection have encircled
you and brought you to this Holy Spot. The Protection
and Providence of the Almighty hath chosen you
from amongst mankind for the sake of this

Love and Service. Live ye always in the utmost state of joy and fragrance. God has destined for you the highest station in the Kingdom of Abba. You must glorify Him under all circumstances, because you have attained to this exalted station. Announce to all the friends in various cities my longing greeting and salutation. Although they are outwardly away, in reality they are all with me. Those souls who live in accord with the good-pleasure of the Lord are with me."

This was a cold day, the rain was descending and the wind was blowing. Consequently almost all the Pilgrims stayed at the Home and came down about the evening to attend the meeting. When all of us gathered in the reception room the Master ^{commenced to speak.} He dwelt chiefly on the ~~line of~~ ^{subject} of Conversation he had carried on with the sheiks. "From 8 am to 6 pm" he said "I have ^{was} been speaking to them. They asked many questions peculiar to their sects and denominations and I had to answer them in details. There are times that one is obliged to speak, otherwise the ^{opponents}

go away and spread around the rumor that we have been unable to solve their problems. They propose indeed, the most fantastic questions. For example there are two sects in the Mohamadan world; one holds that the Words of the Koran are 'Uncreated and Eternal'; ~~the other one~~ ^{the other one} believes these words are 'Created and finite'. ^{Between} Around these two contradictory schools of thoughts many battles are waged and many books ^{upon this subject} are written. Now the answer must be given in such a manner as to establish a conciliation between these two schools holding such extreme views, and at the same time ^{the reality must be} expressing ~~the reality~~ ^{the fact}. How difficult it is! By quoting to them several verses of the Koran I established ^{the fact} that there are three kinds of Words; 'Finite Words', 'Creatural Words' and 'Spiritual Words'. The Conversations of men, being the result of the combination of sounds and vowels, are temporary, having no permanent effect in shaping the destiny of mankind or reforming the morals of the people.

These are 'Finite Words.' The 'Creational Words' are the
laws of ~~the~~ prophets which are likewise changed from
Dispensation to Dispensation according to the exigency
of the time. These 'Spiritual Words' are the ethical
and moral Teachings of the Manifestations of God.
They are unchangeable and unalterable. The spirit
behind these words is the spirit of God and therefore
eternal. Therefore when one school states that the
words of God are 'uncreated and eternal' they are
right, because they mean the 'spiritual Words' and
when the other school asserts that the words of God
are 'created and finite' they mean the 'finite words'
and the 'Creational words', because their character
changes from time to time.

Then he made a comparison between the intelligence
of the American and European nations and those
living in these parts. "The Western people" he said "think
differently, argue differently, and reach at the truth
from a different standpoint. They are always looking
for results. It seems that the very convolutions

¹² and cells of their brains direct their powers in these channels of arts, industries and inventions which alleviate the sufferings of mankind and bring about better conditions."

Then he spoke about the eternality of the sovereignty of God and how this Creation is ancient and without end. just as the rays of the sun are co-eternal with the sun, likewise the attributes of Divinity and creation are and have ever been - co-existent with God.

At the end of his talk he said he might go tomorrow to Aca to stay for a few days, because there are a number of things that call his immediate attention. I was made very happy to hear this news. Perhaps he will take me with himself. I have not been in Aca since our last stay and I long again to visit that holy city and drink from the fountain of its inspiration; live again in the Home of the Blessed Perfection and inhale the fragrance of its atmosphere.