

Home of Baha-Allah ³⁹

Acca, ~~Italy~~ Syria

April 3d. 1914

Dear friends!

It was one of the most delightful privileges of my life to spend last night near the Tomb of the Blessed Perfection. My bed was so placed in the room that the moonbeams were streaming upon my face from the open window. In my heart I was most thankful and on my lips were the praises of the Lord of mankind. For a long time I was lying awake praying for the believers of God. Then with the happy thoughts of peace and love I started my voyage through the dreamland. When I opened my eyes early this morning I saw the sky beclouded and the rain falling. With this weather, I feared, we cannot go out nor Mr. Holback can take any photograph. By the time we were all up the rain stopped and the sky was cleared so that the sun could shine through the fleecy clouds. Looking out of the window, to my surprise and joy I saw in the sky, just a few hundred feet beyond the Holy Tomb, arched with the most gorgeous rainbow - a perfect

4th semi-circle of red, rose, yellow, green, violet of colors.
Lo! there is the Ark of the Covenant of Baha-ollah, embellishing the heaven with glory and majesty, the outer symbol of the Ideal Unity of mankind. How my heart danced with joy at the sight of this divine sign, beckoning us to work for the Cause of unity and brotherhood. The world is distracted with narrow schemes and sects and they need to be reminded of their common origin and true oneness! With the assistance and inspiration of the rainbow of the Covenant we must achieve this work and accomplish this service! Let this rainbow always remind us of our allegiance to the Covenant and faithfulness in the Cause of God.

After partaking of a hearty breakfast we took a stroll in the garden and then decided to walk to the Mansion of Mazra-eh wherein Baha-ollah lived six years prior to his coming to Bahajee. For nearly two hours we walked through ^{the} fields, green and flowery. Then we passed a typical eastern village built on a high hill. All along ^{the way} the farmers with their loaded camels and donkeys wended their path

toward the town. Then we reached many wonderful orange groves and walked through their shady roads. Here and there you see tall arches, moss and ivy-grown extending through the plain, upholding the aqueduct which carries ^{the} fresh water ^{into} Acca. The story of the building of this aqueduct will appear in another letter. To our disappointment we could not find the Mansion, because there were many other places and we were not equipped with adequate information. Anyway we returned without obtaining our wish, but we enjoyed our walk. It was about noon when we arrived at Bahajeh.

To our delightful surprise we found all the Pilgrims from Haifa clustered under the pine trees. About half past three the Master arrived riding on his little ^{donkey} ~~ass~~ ^{with} the pilgrims were in the Holy Tomb the Beloved entered the Blessed spot and stood near the door in quietness and silence. Sheikh Mohamad Ali was chanting the visiting Tablet and when it was finished, as we went out the Master put a few drops of rose water in the palm of each hand. In front of the Holy

Two photographs were taken of the Master and the Pilgrims. At the command of the Beloved we all hastened to catch the train, but after all our hurry Mr and Mrs Holback and a number of the believers ^{did} could not reach in time, so we came back home. The Master arrived very late, after sunset.

While we were in Bahajie, in the morning Hajji Abbas passed away in Acca and the Master attended to his funeral and delivered a short talk on his life. Till noon he received the people and then ^{with} lunched and entertained the few Sheiks. After a little rest he came to the Holy Tomb. While ~~on one~~ ^{today} side one of our old veteran Bahais died, ~~on the other hand~~ a son was born to Mirza Abdorrahman, who is the son of Mirza Mahammad Gali, the brother of Baha-Allah.

When we all gathered in the room the Master sent for Mr and Mrs Holback, who are going to be his guests till to-morrow afternoon. He spoke to them on the many things which he had attended all day long, making him ^{him} fatigued extremely. Mrs Holback read to him a letter dated

March 13th written by Mr William H. Short, the Executive Secretary of the New York Peace Society. As the said Society arranged a reception for the Beloved while in New York and Mr Short met him several times I may quote his letter herein, thus our friends may know how the matter stands:—

"I was very glad indeed this morning to receive your letter of February 18th and to be reminded by it of the pleasant acquaintance of the last year, and the interesting, inspiring visit of Abdul Baha Abbas. We, by the way, have his photograph presented to us with his inscription, framed and hanging on the wall of our office.

His suggestion of a congress of all religions in the interest of international peace is an idea with which I am in full accord. After conference with Rabbi Wise of New York, I made the formal suggestion at the International Peace Congress of 1912 in Geneva. It has not yet led to anything. I should like to see the proposal influentially advocated from any source and could pledge a large amount of support from New York in its favor.

I shall be very glad to convey to Mr Carnegie the

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expression of appreciation contained in your letter on ^{account} of his recent gift made to the churches in the interest of international peace. His desire and expectation are, of course, that it shall be used directly in this interest, but I think it can not help having a strong indirect influence towards the oneness of the Christian churches. I am in touch with the movement which has as its aim a world conference on faith and order and know intimately some of the men who are leaders in the movement. It is one of the signs of a better day but from the larger project suggested by Abdul Baha and referred to above, I should expect even larger results. I am glad that you have found in this movement an enthusiasm that has laid full hold on you and which is commanding your time and service. If I appreciate rightly the spirit of Abdul Baha, and I think that I do, he will not value the less my work because it is rendered under a different flag and my friendships which grow to him from the camp of another but not a rival religion. The oneness of mankind and the universality of religion are the great lessons which our age is learning. 11