

45
Home of Baha-Allah

Acca Syria

April 4th 1914

Dear friends!

The Bahai Cause is triumphant over the hearts and the hearts are set aglow with the Fire of the Love of God. The Heart of the world is beating strongly in the body of ~~israel~~ mankind and mankind is receiving its spiritual sustenance from the Heart of the world. Acca just at present is the haven of rest and the shore of reality. The Home of Baha-Allah is the focal center of the heavenly Graces; and the Fountain of Everlasting Bounties is at work, watering the arid ground of human capacity. Praise and glorification be unto Him for He hath caused the appearance of the refulgent lights and planted the seeds of wisdom in the soil of the souls. From Acca a clear, pure stream of Teachings is being issued from the golden lips of the Lord of Truth, the Illuminator of conscience. His is power and majesty. Every day his celestial potency in shaping the destiny of the Cause becomes more

46
and more manifest. In Acca he is busy from very early morning till late at night. He does not rest for one moment. The glorification of the Cause is his highest aim, the progress of the movement is his cherished dream, the establishment of the Kingdom is his noblest aspiration, the oneness of the world of humanity is his goal, the spiritualization of the children of men is his ideal hope and the transformation of the earth into the paradise of God is his daily prayer. Slowly his inspirational thoughts are moving the sluggish hearts and the various strata of national societies are deeply stirred by the successive waves of the sea of his wisdom. Although Acca is a small town yet the eyes of all the Bahai world are turned toward it, because the Center of the Spiritual life lives here, walks through its crooked streets, associates with all classes of men and sheds the rays of his Love over all creation. Every day humanity becomes more rich because Abdul Baha is living the life of God on this earth and with words and deeds is making people happier and more joyful.

47

I hurried this morning to the Home of the Beloved and soon afterwards he summoned me into his holy Presence. Mr and Mrs Holbeck were called from their room and the Master welcomed them with a genuine smile. How happy they must feel to find themselves so near the King of Kings and to live in his own house, and partake of his material and spiritual food. How many thousands people all over the world long to touch the hem of his garment, to look into his godlike countenance and yet they are deprived! Happy are those who appreciate the value of these days, after talking with them for half an hour their breakfast was served. "As long as life is in my body I must work" was his parting word. Then Inafti, Motassarraf and other officers were announced and the Master came down to speak with them for more than one hour. As soon as they left he dictated a number of Tablets in Turkish for his friends in Damascus and Jaffa.

Leaving for the moment the Master alone in his

room I called on Mr and Mrs Holback, Mrs Baag joined us also and we had a heart to heart talk on the Cause and Kindred subjects.

In the afternoon he called them again and the theme of discussion was the transportation of the forty Turkish Suffragettes to Acca, and their approaching arrivals. These four hundred women, throwing aside the veils had attacked and stormed the Ministry of War, a number of policemen trying to block their entrance into the building received a sound thrashing. The ostensible cause was the summary dismissal of their husbands from their military services. These women objected to this procedure and not only demanded their ~~reinstatement~~ in their former offices but they demanded the granting of a number of privileges to their own sex in the Turkish empire.

As soon as Mr and Mrs Holback left for the station a young tourist by the name of Mr Hill from Scotland called on the Master. He knew Mr and Mrs Whyte of Edinburgh and especially their

49

son who is a candidate for a seat in the House of Commons. He has been travelling through the Holy land and having heard the name of the Beloved ^{made} up his mind to call on him. The Master spoke to him about general education and the good work done by the American College in Beirut. Then he said:- "I am glad to receive one who is a friend of Mr and Mrs Whyte. They are real christians. They live in accord with the Commands of His Holiness Christ. They are free from any prejudice. I love them very much. They ~~have~~ ^{been} most kind and hospitable to me when I was in Edinburgh and arranged many meetings. When you see them give them my heartfelt greeting and affection. I have not forgotten them and I will remember them always." No sooner ^{had} this young tourist left than the Master started for Bahajee to pray at the Holy Tomb. As I had many things to attend to he did not ask me to follow him. A number of the believers went with him, especially two newly arrived pilgrims from Yezreez, Haji

50 Mirza Ahmad and Sheik Mahamad Houssein. They have been two months ^{or} half on the way. Five years ago 18 Bahais were martyred in their city, their houses destroyed and their property pillaged. One of the two pilgrims is the son of a Bahai whose six brothers were beheaded before their father. The executioners sent him the bleeding heads and he sent them back with the message: "When I offered the lives of my six sons in the path of God I did not expect to receive even their heads." The other ^{pilgrim} ~~one~~ lives ^{yet} in his desolate and decried habitation, but both of them have happy, smiling faces, perfectly resigned to the Will of God.

In the evening the Master called them into His own Presence and inquired from them the condition of the Cause in their province. He spoke about the efficacy of the power of the Word over the hearts of men and promised them further confirmation and reinforcement if they continue to teach the Cause and diffuse the Fragrances.