

Home of Baha-Allah 69

Acca Syria

April 14th 1914

Dear friends!

Mr Shirozi, a young, energetic Persian Bahai of India who made a tour of the principal cities of that country in the interest of the Cause, lecturing before cultured Hindu Societies and attracting many people to the principles of this Movement, arrived to day and found the haven of rest and peace in the presence of the Prince of Peace. A deep love of the Cause, a practical bent of mind and above all a deep-set desire to spread the Cause are his characteristics. The Beloved was in the course of dictating Tablets for the Persian believers when Mr Shirozi and Mr Vakil were announced and ushered in the room. ^{Former} He was dressed in a long, flowing Cashmere shawl coat and looked very picturesque. The Master looking up from a letter which he held in his hand beamed at him a heavenly smile and welcome.

70. I have been looking forward to this meeting "the Master said: "I longed always for thy visit. Praise be to God that this is realized. Do not think that because I am not writing to every one I do not know their material and spiritual conditions. I know. Truly I say, thou art sincere and steadfast in the Cause. The trip that thou didst make through India was for the sake of the Cause of God; Rest thou assured that the reward of that journey will be granted to thee by the Blessed Perfection."

Mr Shirazi and Mr Vakil as well as the contents of a petition expressed the hope that the Master may still visit India and illumine that land with the light of his face. "India must become prepared" he said "A center of magnetic power must be created there in order to attract me. If such a center of attraction come into being, I might come." Then a Tablet was revealed regarding this matter which will be quoted in a future letter.

^{Refer}
A photograph containing the photograph of the Karachi

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Congress with Mrs. Stannard in the center was shown
the Master by Mr. Shirazi. ^{Abdul Baha} ~~He~~ ^{a newspaper} looked through it and
seeing the picture of Buddha he said: - "It is really very
sad ^{to see} how Buddha and Christ are fallen into the hands
of ^{the} bad people of their respective followers. Without the
exact knowledge of their physiognomies every day
they represent them under different forms. One day
^{suffering him to Buddha to} sitting under the Lotus tree and another day ^{placing Jesus} ~~and~~ ^{at}
the cross. At the very utmost the photographs are
for remembrance and not for worship. If we
keep a photograph just for memory's sake no harm
is done but if we offer to it extraordinary homage
it is pure idolatry. It was for this very reason that
~~that~~ I always refused to be photographed. When I went
to Egypt Ahmad Zakki Pasha requested me to take
my photograph but I did not accept. ^{I realized.} But when I
went to London, how impossible it was to ward off
the professional photographers. For the first few days
I succeeded to ~~clude~~ ^{elude} them and hardly went out of the
house. But one day there was a meeting in the

The house of Mrs Cropper and I was invited to attend. In order to escape their cameras I drew my Aba over my head and hastened to the automobile. They had however taken a snapshot and the next day I was surprised to see it in many newspapers. Realizing ^{at last} how impossible it was ^{to prevent them} I asked them to come and take at least a good photograph." X

Then facing Mr N. R. Vakil he said :- "In the future the members of your family will honor ~~in~~ ^{thy} ~~your~~ faith and glorify ~~in~~ thy name. During his own days Peter was calumniated, scorned, scoffed at and humiliated but after ~~their~~ ~~his~~ death many great personages glorified in his name." Then he related two stories to illustrate this point.

After lunch they left for the Holy Tomb to visit that blessed spot and on their return the Master called them again and spoke to them as follows :-

"May God ever assist and confirm you. Whenever you go to visit the Holy Tomb you must implore and supplicate that God may surround you

with his invisible confirmations. Nothing in this ⁷³
world is accomplished without divine Confirmation.
Even ^{the despatch of} small, unimportant matters depend
spiritual assistance. Often a very
weak man is confirmed with divine assistance
and he becomes the first man in the world of
humanity. I hope that you may be always
confirmed and the protective powers of God
may encircle you from all sides; - perchance
God willing you may become the means of the
illumination of your people and suffer them
to partake of this heavenly food. Do ~~not~~ ^{not} neglect
upon your own capability and merit. The
Divine power transforms the ~~mosquito~~ ^{mosquito} into an
eagle, the drop into a sea and the ray into a
sun. Rely all your hope on the Blessed Rector.
Consider how this black soil is decorated with
multi-colored flowers through the / Beslowings
of the sun, the down-pour of the rain and the
blowing of the winds! Although the earth

It was dark, yet through the benedictions of the four elements it was begemmed with such fragrant roses and produced such precious fruits! Therefore in this glorious Cause we must not consider ^{our} ~~our~~ capabilities but rather expect the Grace of God.

This is the foundation

He gave permission for half of the Pilgrims to come to Marra and spend the day in Bahajee.

The rest of the time the Master was busy receiving the strangers of many classes.

In the evening one of the believers told me that today the President of the charitable Society of the Cha'lochi told him that Abbas Effendi came to him and donated ~~£~~ 25 Ottoman Pounds toward the maintenance of their poor. Thus we see with our own eyes he is dispensing charity to all the nations and religions of the world irrespective of their creeds and dogmas. In the evening he was a guest in the ^{house of the} newly elected members of Parliament from ~~Marra~~ ^{Beirut} by the name Abdul Galtah Sadi.