

Bahai Nest

97

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 11th 1914

Dear friends!

It is passed midnight and I ^{am} ^{you} writing this letter to you from my nest. The room was locked and when I entered therein tonight I saw all my flowers - roses - have withered. I emptied the vases, filled them with fresh water and Aga Rahmatullah brought to me two large bouquets of roses and carnations from the garden of the Tomb of the Bab. Again they have filled my room with sweet fragrance and I am happy. Oh! how I love ^{the} flowers! Whenever I go I like to surround myself with them. They convey to me the gentle aspirations of the friends and their perfume is a symbol of the spiritual lives of the believers. Of course you too love flowers. I do not claim this as a privilege, for each one of us share in it equally and enjoys their association with the same enthusiasm and fervor. Flowers more than anything else speak to us of suble, lofty emotions

98 of the heart and convey to us the charm and beauty of
friendship. Again I was glad to walk on Mount Carmel
while bathed in the moonlight.

For the last few days the believers in Haifa were not quite
happy because the Beloved of their hearts was away for the
time being, but having heard last night that he ^{would} come
today their faded hope was revived. This morning
we got up early and Aga Hasein Ash-jee had
already prepared tea. Mr Shirazi was also his guest,
so together we walked to the Home of the Master. The
Acting governor was in his Presence, holding a long
interview. When he left the house the Master came
down and asked the believers into his Presence. In
answer to the pleading of Mr Shirazi about his journey
to India he said:- "India must become a mag-
netic center of spirituality so that I may be drawn
to its shore. If the fragrances of God waft incessantly
over the people of India, it will attract me."
Then he left the house and was not in till noon.
Mr and Mrs Holback left for Haifa this morning

Knowing the Master will take the afternoon train?⁹⁹

About 2 pm the Beloved left the house to call on the Commander of the garrison, a few other officials and visit the Pzizaw in order to fulfill his promise to Mrs Holback. He told us to join him at the station. While we were walking toward the station, just outside the gate, we saw a large number of black shrouded women weeping and screaming very loudly. Not knowing the cause of it, and thinking that probably one of their nearest relatives ^{was} dead I inquired into the nature of their lamentation. I was informed that these are the mothers of the sons who are being forced against their will into the military service by the Turkish recruiting officers. They have gathered here to have the last view of their sons and bid them their sad farewells. It was really one of the most heart-breaking sights that could be witnessed anywhere on the face of this earth. How much cruelty is committed in the name of the country to satisfy the insatiable desire of the god of war!

After awhile the Greatest Holy Leaf, Monaswan Khanom, Shaigi and Rauli Effendi arrived and took their seats in the car. After a few minutes the Master appeared from the direction of the Garden of Rizwan, riding on his ~~donkey~~ ^{little ass}, with Khosro walking behind him. He entered the waiting room and immediately a number of Sheiks and officers surrounded and saluted him. Many ^{other} Believers were also in the station to receive the Master's last words of blessings. The Commander was also going to Haifa, therefore the Master invited him most graciously to share his compartment. All along the road they were talking together. The three sons-in-law of the Beloved and a few ^{other} believers and pilgrims were in the station and Isfandeyar had brought the landeau. Bidding farewell to the Commander, ^{Abdul Wahab} he walked toward the landeau and ^{entered} rode away to the house. We had walked just half way when we saw Isfandeyar coming back with the landeau. The Master had sent him

to pick us up. How thoughtful of him! A large number of the Pilgrims had gathered in the rose-garden to welcome the Beloved back. It seemed to me the garden never looked so beautiful. There is a big and wide bed of gentle pink flowers, very similar ^{to} daisies, but they are opened with the dawning of the sun and closed with its setting. ^{This flower} It is called in Persian "Naz", - Coquettish or capricious -.

In the evening most naturally all the Pilgrims and resident friends filled the large reception room and eagerly watched the coming of the Master. As soon as they heard the noise of his footsteps they were on their feet. He welcomed them as he entered the room: "How are you all. I hope every one is feeling well. I have returned from Acca to meet you. Praise be to God that you are under the shade of the Blessed Perfection. His Promises and Favours are perfected for you. You must appreciate the value of these Bestowals..." Then because while he was in Acca he had ordered tombstones to be put on the graves,

of two of the oldest Bahais, Aga Mirza Mahmud and Aga Reza, he spoke a great deal about their services in the Cause during the lifetime of the Blessed Perfection.

As our dear old Elm Akbar, his two sons and family will leave on Monday I may translate herein one of his many interesting conversations. He said this morning:-

"In every person a power is hidden that once it is revealed, the teacher of the Cause through that power will be enabled to speak with the seekers in accord with wisdom and attract him to the spirit of the Movement. This power is developed in man through the inculcation of two qualities which are like unto two wings or two feet. ^{The} One, is sincerity in the religion of God and the other virtue in deeds which proceedeth from him. When a teacher of the Holy Things is unselfish in his motive and virtuous in his actions with the assistance of these two qualities he will wing his way to the highest apogee of perfection or walk till he reaches the goal of his desire.

Whenever an interested person comes in touch ¹⁰³
with such a teacher, or ~~sooner~~ ^{does} he looks at him
than the right kind of talk will flow from the
core of his heart. The hungry will be fed and the
thirsty one will quaff the water of life. Little by
little a teacher of the Cause will become like
a skilled physician who by a simple ^{look} at the patient
or merely holding his pulse, will diagnose his
malady and then prescribe medicine accordingly.
The teacher is always supported by Baha Allah
the must turn our faces toward him and beg
the Confirmation of His Kingdom. Then
and not until then will we be accounted as
His real servants."

In these days the good news of the progress of
the Cause in all parts of the world are the means
of the happiness of the heart of Abdu'l Baha.
Praise be to God that the teachers are leaving
no stone unturned to proclaim the message
of the Kingdom of Abha!

104 Continuity of service is essential to the advancement of the Cause. The stream of happy reports from America, England and Germany confer upon him real rejoicing. Let them not be discouraged because they receive no answer. Their reward is with the Blessed Perfection. Let the news be forwarded most regularly - so that there may be no break in the wonderful system of spiritual correspondence established between the East and the West. Each letter brings with itself the fragrance of Love and unity. Like a lamp it sheds the rays of joy and spiritual interaction. Now, that ^{Abdul Kader} he lives in Haifa he loves to hear the victorious news of the believers of God and those letters that are the carriers of good, cheering news are the white-winged messengers of assurance and certainty. They are the immortal roses of the garden of faithfulness. Let the room of the Beloved be filled with them. Let him inhale their soul-refreshing odor. The hosts of light must become again most active to dispel the forces of darkness.