

Bahai Nest

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Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 16th 1914

Dear friends!

The unexpected happened. Like nineteen hundred years ago the Master sat around the ~~same~~ table with his disciples in the Bahai Pilgrims' ~~home~~ on Mount Carmel. The hosts were Mirza Ahmad and Sheikh Mohamad Hossein, both of them from Meizez. There were more than one hundred guests, all men, old and young. Since our arrival from Egypt we have had no feast exactly of this nature. Several times the believers attempted to give mid-day lunch, but it was not accepted. The food consisted of Pilau, roast meat, sour milk etc. In the Center of the Hall a long table was set around which there sat 29 believers. It was a rainy day and the weather looked most gloomy, hence no one expected the Master ^{would} come. I was in my own Nest reading and talking with Mirza Ali Akbar of Russia. Now and then we looked

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out of the window to see whether there ^{was} any sign of the Master's coming. From behind my table I could see the wonderful court of the King of Kings, ^{and} watching ^{when} whether there ^{might} be a carriage waiting for him. Suddenly some one from the Pilgrim's Home shouted to us that the Master had already come and ^{was} in the house of Abbas Goli. We hurried across and no sooner ^{had} we entered the Home than the Beloved also entered with his 'Ala' drawn over his head ^{to protect him from} on account of the rain. He sat at the head of the table and asked other believers to join him. He praised the cook, Inriza Habbibollah for his service and then said :- "This is an ideal day for giving a feast on Mount Carmel. While our table is adorned with the material food, God is descending from His heaven the spiritual sustenance in the form of rain. The farmers ^{are} praying for it, the poor people were longing for it. Each drop of rain falling from heaven, in their eyes, is like ^{unto} a lovely white pearl, inestimable in its beauty and charm."

He did not speak more than this but the great Hall ^{& I}
was filled with the light and wonders of his baptismal
spirit and every one was filled with the spiritual blessing
of his presence. Having finished his food he got up from
his seat and ~~so~~ ^{went} ~~did~~ everybody else. Another group of the
believers, amongst ^{which} ~~whom~~ was myself, sat around the
table while the Beloved retired to his room in the house
of Abbas Goli to rest. When I came out I heard some
one calling to me. Looking toward my Nest I saw to
my surprise the Master ~~is~~ standing on the porch. I was
so extremely happy that I did not know how I did run
but I was there as quickly as my feet ^{could} ~~did~~ carry me.
I opened the door and the spiritual Nightingale entered
therein. Strange to relate when I got up in the morning
I thought I ^{would} ~~would~~ dust and clean my room and fill
my vases with ^{fresh} roses, stocks, carnations etc which
I did with much pleasure. Of course at the time
I did not realize that the Master was coming, but I think
I felt it sub-consciously. On the long stems of the
roses I had placed a few small photographs.

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of the German believers just received. The Master looking
at them smiled and said: - "What a lovely place for one
to be always perched on the high stems of the lovely roses"
Then looking around the room he rapturously exclaimed:
"How charmingly sweet and quiet is this little room! I
told them to prepare a room fit for a Dervish, but this
is the palace of a King!" I said: - "As long as thou
art here the latter ^{statement} is true, but the former is also true
when thou art absent." He sat near the window and
took out of his capacious pocket a large number of
letters from America to be read and answered. He would
open them himself, examine the paper and the writing
and then hand it on to me to be read to him. Some of
those who were honored with Tablets are as follows: -
Mr Roy C. Wilhelm, Mrs Mountfort Mills of New-
York City, Mrs Hinckle Smith of Philadelphia, Mrs Mae
Ammisung of San Francisco, Mrs Louise White and
Mrs Isabel Fraser of Chicago, ^{Mr and} Mrs Read of Montclair;
Mrs K. Bail Page of Cleveland, Philadelphia Bahai
Assembly, and Spokane Bahai Assembly. As then

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Holy Words descended from the heaven of divine revelation
the names of these dear friends were conjured up in memory
and how they are remembered by the Beloved of our hearts
on this afternoon, high on the Mountain of God! Are they
also thinking of the Beloved? Are they occupied in his
service? Are they spreading the Teachings of the Blessed
Perfection? Are they fired with sacred enthusiasm? Are
they united as a regiment of soldiers ^{to destroy} ~~in carrying away~~ all the
obstacles? Are their hearts the treasure-houses of the jewels
of the mysteries of the Kingdom? Are they working for the
cause of universal Peace? Are they the shining lamps of
the assemblages of the world of humanity? Are they the stars
of the heaven of righteousness and sanctity?

When he finished dictating Tablets, he laid himself
down on the canopy to sleep for a few minutes. I covered
him with my overcoats and came out of the room very
quietly. I sat on the porch, looking at the wonderful,
ravishing panorama of nature before my eyes. In half
an hour ^{in a moment} he was up and he desired to have a cup of
rose-water and sugar. The doctors have advised

24 him not to drink tea. Then leaving the Nest he walked toward the room where ^{all} the believers had gathered and were waiting for him. ^{As} soon ^{as} they heard ^{him} about his coming ^{than} they were up on ^{their} feet. He sat on a chair and bade them ^{all} to be seated. The hosts of the afternoon were Mr and Mrs Holback. They had requested the Master to give this tea.

The dishes were filled with oranges and cakes and were distributed by Mr Vakil, Mr Shirazi, Badi Boshrouh and myself. Although Mrs Holback had gone to Acre with Mrs Hoag, Miss Sanderson, ^{Mrs} ~~Miss~~ ^{and others} ~~Pink~~ etc yet she arrived right in ^{just} time before the Master started to speak. It was a philosophical and spiritual exposition of Trinity, the opinions of ^{the} Sufists about Divinity, the doctrine of pantheism and the belief of the Baha'is on this important subject. ^{Mr and} Mrs Holback were the only Westerners present. I had seldom seen so many Baha'is gathered

on Mount Carmel. They were actually more than ^{one} ~~one~~ ^{hundred}. After the talk we went to the Holy Tomb of the Báb to chant the Visiting Tablet. Then the Beloved walked to the Pilgrims' House and from there rode in the carriage driven by Isfandiyar. It was a most happy ^{time}. There were two ~~gifts~~ ^{gifts} given by the representative Baha'is of the East and the West and then they ~~disappeared~~