

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 19th 1914

Dear friends!

While the last party of the Bahai students arrived today about twelve Pilgrims including N.R. Vakil of Surat and Sayad Mostafa of Rangoon departed for India and Egypt. The Beloved of our hearts received the students this morning soon after their arrival and only with a few words of love and kindness welcomed them to Mount Carmel and encouraged them in the study of divine sciences and knowledges "Divine Science" he said "spells the well-being of humanity. It exalts the spiritual station of man and reveals to him the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God." Then Mr and Mrs Halback were fortunate enough to stay in his Presence for more than one hour. Sweetly and kindly he conversed with them on many topics, especially about their plans for the summer. For the next few days they

are going to live in the German Hospice on the very top of Mount Carmel and will have a most charming, uninterrupted view of all the surrounding sea and country. Afterwards they will take a short ocean trip to one of the Near East Islands and return again to Haifa after a month.

Then the landau was brought out and the Master rode away in it. As it was Sunday he paid a call to Doctor Coles of the English Hospital. While he was in the drawing room he looked out of the window and ^{saw} ~~saw~~ Mr Shirazi coming out of the Chapel adjoining the dispensary. Mr Shirazi had accompanied Mrs Wallace because she was desirous to show to the church authorities that the Bahais are free from any religious prejudice. The Beloved called Mr Shirazi to come up and act for him as interpreter. To those who were present he ^{spoke} ~~speaks~~ about science and religion, that religion must ever become the cause of unity and love, otherwise irreligion is better; and science at the same time must be

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the means of human progress and enlightenment. If science creates deadly weapons for human slaughter and destruction it is worse than ignorance. Mr Shirazi told me it was a great and mystical coincidence that while the Master was sitting in the parlour in the adjoining Chapel they were singing hymns about the coming of the Son in the Glory of the Father.

About 4 pm Our best Beloved called into his Presence the Pilgrims who were going to depart for India. Tea was served to them by the faithful Basheer. The Master was in a good humor and asked in a playful tone from our brother Vakil: "What wilt thou say to thy father if he asks thee: 'Why didst thou cross the ocean in defiance of our caste laws?' Say to him; I desire to sail over the seven oceans of life. . . ."

After a few moments of silence he delivered the following talk: "Although the religions of God undergo change and transformation yet

the primal objects are immutable. The original ⁵³ aim of the divine religion is the moral instruction of the world of humanity, the perfection, the illumination and the spirituality of the world of humanity. These are some of ~~these~~ ^{the} things ~~which~~ ^{that} are not changed, are not abrogated and ^{re-occur} ~~recur~~ in every religion, no matter how much ^{enveloped, they may be} ~~superimposed~~ by outward dogmas. These are the unuttered aspirations of every religious man. The prevalent notion that the religions ^{of the past have} set aside and abolished each other is a great mistake. Consider how the primal objects of all the great religions are half forgotten and very dimly remembered. The fabric of so-called organized religions is crumbling and tottering into ruin. They are holding fast to a set of dogmatic articles and ceremonial rituals which are as far from pure religion as the heaven is ^{remote} from the earth. Once upon a time ^{This Christianity} religion was like a comely youth, overflowing with vital force. The youth was in the utmost freshness and charm, adorned with infinite virtues and attuned

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glorious services so that again this New Tree of the
same old religion of God may grow and attain to the
stage of fruition.

Aside from these remarks there are many distinctly
new Teachings in the Bahai revelation that cannot be
found in the former dispensations. (Here he mentioned
a number of the Bahai principles and then continued:-)
"All these universal precepts are not found in the books
of other religions, but the moral and spiritual teachings
of past religions are fully embodied in this Cause.
When all the great principles of Baha-Allah are fully
put into practice then their beneficial results will
become apparent. His Holiness Baha-o-Allah has
crowned your heads with such a shining dia-
dem, the scintillating jewels of which will shine
^{upon} all the future cycles and ages. I hope that each
one of you may become the cause of the
vivification of innumerable souls, stren-
gthen the original basis of the divine religions,
quicken the dead bodies with the New Spirit and

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bring out of the tomb of negligence these heedless souls. May
you deliver mankind from the darkness of prejudices and
fanaticism! May you guide them into the realm of
lights! Do ye not consider your own ability. Rely upon
the power of the Confirmation of the Blessed Perfor-
tion. The assistance of Baba-Allah is creative and
dynamic. I expect to hear good news
from you. I hope that the inhabitants of India may
bear testimony when they look into your ^{radiant} faces upon
your return that you have carried back a
heavenly reality, a divine spirituality, and a holy attrac-
tion; that you have returned from the Holy Threshold with
wonderful, precious gifts of the Kingdom! May they testify
that your conduct, your deeds, your behaviours are
reflecting the rays of the Sun of Reality! May you be like
unto those souls who, parched with thirst, have attained to
the source of the fountain of life and having drunk
deeply, fill their jars and return to those who are
waiting behind! May you be like candles ignited with
the Fire of the Love of God! "Then he bade farewell to every
one and embraced all affectionately! Several tablets I
were sent with them for the believers in India! Our
dear brothers left us, but we shall ever remember them!
Farewell, my brother Vakil! Thou hast a strong faith and a
heart filled with the Glory of the Lord! And thou may