

Bahai Rest. 65

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 21st 1914

Dear friends!

This is the glorious day of the Feast of Ridwan, the day in which the Manifestation of God-Bahá-Allah proclaimed His Mission of Universal Peace and the brotherhood of man, to a few of His followers in the Garden, outside of Bagdad many years ago. This is the day in which the fountain of the Water of Life gushed forth, the clear, crystalline water of divine Teachings! This is the day in which the Voice of the Lord of mankind was raised hither and thither, the heaven and the earth. This is the day in which the Creator of the world has ignited the Torch of heavenly Guidance! This is the day in which the foundation of the golden palace of the good-will towards all men ^{was} ~~is~~ firmly laid! This is the day in which the rays of the Sun of Reality have flooded all the regions with the effulgence of Love and fellowship! This is the day in which all the

66 heavy-laden and sore-footed travellers are liberated, because
the proclamation of the spiritual freedom was issued
from the Supreme Pen! This is the day in which the
human race has received a mighty downpourings
of the Graces of the Holy-Spirit! This is the day in
which the roses of revelation bloomed forth ^{and}
the violets of spiritual principles spread their
fragrances to all parts of the world. All the pilgrims
are ^{rejoicing} because they are privileged to be on Mount
Carmel ^{on} this day of days, and stand in the Holy
Presence of Abdul Baha. From early morning
the believers were singing the songs of gladness, and
descended the Mountain with happy hearts.
They were divided into many loving groups in the
garden of the Beloved, and conversed ^{together}
on the great blessings of this day. For the last
few days it has often rained and today the clouds
were gathering in the sky and promising occasional
showers. All morning we sat and walked in the
garden with the hope of seeing the Beloved. Then

we heard that our brother Mirza Ali, Akbar of ~~67~~
Russia ^{would} give a tea in the afternoon and the
Master ^{would} be there. After our lunch the carriage
was prepared and it was about two o'clock pm when
the Beloved. came out of the house and rode away
~~in it~~ toward the Tomb of the Bab. Another carriage
appeared right after it ^{with} a number of believers ^{were}
~~in~~, driving ⁱⁿ toward the same direction. They invited
me to join them as they had an empty seat. Thus
our carriage followed that of our Lord's until we
reached the ~~avenue~~ ^{avenue} leading to the Tomb. Here
he asked others to alight from his carriage and ordered
Isfandiyar to drive towards the top to ~~be~~ returned
after one hour. We gathered in the reception room.
Many people were there. The women were also
invited, ^{and} holding a separate meeting in the next
room. The table was covered with large trays
of oranges, cakes, Persian "Baglava", ~~The~~ ^{trays} were
decorated with cut roses and looked most charming.
The wind started its furious howling and suddenly

68 the sky poured down a storm of hail, making the
p. Mountain white, but it passed very quickly
and left the air fresh ~~and young~~, Seldom ^{has} the
Mountain of God looked so luxuriantly green and
fascinating! Verdant esplanades and charming
cascades of green tracts are seen from afar lending
beauty to the scenes and purity to the atmosphere.
After awhile they reported that the Master ^{was} coming.
I ran out and climbed a hill which was
near the Tomb. Far, far away ~~on~~ the blue horizon,
in the road winding in and out through the green
woods, the Beloved's carriage appeared like a
white chariot, emerging out of the clear blue
heights or coming out of a remote, emerald island
in the midst of the ocean. Little by little it ^{came}
nearer and nearer and finally it stopped and
the ~~white Angel of the Lord~~ alighted. With a
radiant face and luminous Countenance he app-
roached me, I bowed down as he passed by and
I will cherish in the secret chamber of my heart

his gracious smile and loving "Mashaba". 69

As he entered the room all the believers arose from their seats: Our poet "Andaleeb" had composed a poem on this feast of Rizwan and Miza Ali Akbar Raza Jany sang it with much feeling and artistic appreciation in the Presence of Our Lord. Then the Tablet to the American believers regarding his own station was read by Sheik Mohamed Ali. Then he spoke about some of the interesting events of the Cause in Adrianople and Aca. The recounting of the stories were brought to his mind by the falling of the hail and rain. Towards the end he said, waving his hand towards the mountain:

"I had a wonderful ^{rude} over the Mountain. It hailed and rained and the wind blew ^{furiously} ~~stormily~~ and I enjoyed ~~them~~ ^{it} so much." After the talk he distributed with his own hand oranges and candies amongst all the Bahais. The meeting being over we resorted to the Holy Tomb. Miss Sanderson and Miss Haagg represented in the spiritual sense the Western Bahais. They were the only ^{western}

70 among all these oriental brothers joined together in the spirit of worship at the Holy Threshold of the One who heralded the coming of a greater than himself.

^{Abdul Baha} While he asked all the believers to go to the front he ^{himself} stood at the doorway in the utmost state of humility and prayerfulness.

As soon as the Master rode away a great downpour of rain started again. The Bay became very rough and the shore as ^{far} as the eyes could see, was a picture of laughing, dancing white waves. I hurried to my own safe nest and from the quiet porch watched the wild, entrancing scene of nature spread before me. It was one of the most gorgeous and grand scenes that I have witnessed.

Right before my eyes a great perpendicular rainbow of prismatic colors arched the sky. The lower end touching the edge of the sea-shore, its many colors blending with the pearly waves, and the upper end was lost in the blue clouds of the sky. It was a most wonderful sight, a daydream of fairy-land. As I stood there watching the lower end little by little vanished and the rest, like a straight line, remained unchangeable for a long time. ^{From} between the heaven and the earth, this gleaming, jewelled sword of many colors stood for a few moments as a renewed sign of divine Covenant between man and God, filling the heart and the mind with spiritual longings for the unattainable.