

Bahai Nest

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Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 24th 1914

Dear friends!

Ten minutes before we started for Haifa I did not know anything about our departure. I thought we ~~would~~ ^{would} stay at least for one week and visit the Holy Threshold of Baha - allah several times. If I had my own way I would have stayed for a longer period, but as I am the unworthy servant of Abdu'l Baha I prefer to be with him, even if it is in the dungeon. Don't you approve of my ^{taste} ~~method~~? I am sure you do. I love and adore him. His love is all-sufficient. One tiny drop of his love is better than the seven oceans of human love. His love is the Fire which burns away all self and selfish consciousness. If I possess his love I possess everything. If his love has not taken hold of my life - though I may be the richest man I am accounted as the poorest. If the still waters of the sea of my existence is not kissed by the gentle falling of the roseleaf of his love, causing ~~some~~

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perceptible ripples - then non-existence is better than existence, death is better than life, and degradation is better than honor. Light as is the roseleaf's Kiss of his love upon the water's lips - that heavenly Kiss trembles, holo-wise, into a circle, the emblem and symbol of immortality. Day and night I dream of his sweet, matchless love - as great as the universe of God, as broad as creation, including all, excluding none, loving all, hating none. What greater treasure do I need in this world? What garden of love is better adorned than his? The love of father and mother may change, the affection of relatives and friends may die out, but the love of Abidul Raha is unchangeable and his affection the light of every heart. Love him and you will have a safe anchor for the dark nights of storm and hurricane. Love him and you will be endowed with spiritual vision. Love him and you will gain perfect control over the rebellious propensities of this life. Love him and you will soar towards the heaven of sanctity and chastity. Love him and you will become

the gleaming star of the horizon of Abba!

Early in the morning I got up out of my bed and after performing my prayers and chanting supplications, we drank our tea and then started for the Home of the Beloved. He was already up and out calling on a poor family. After his return he called me to his room and I read to him a few letters received ^{from} different parts of the world. As he was sitting on the divan lost in a sea of contemplation he dictated two Tablets, one for Mrs Starnard and another to Mrs Geringer. While he was talking with me about the work in India the news was brought in that Mr and Mrs Holback, Mirza Jalal and Mirza Mohsen ^{had} arrived from Haifa and consequently he asked them to enter the room.

After the lunch Mr and Mrs Holback were driven back to Haifa in the Beloved's carriage. They were going to leave to night for the Island of Cyprus to be away for about 6 weeks and to all probability they will join the Master no matter where he ^{may} be at that time.

90 While I was occupied with my writing I heard the footsteps of the Beloved coming down and ^{then he} asked me whether I ^{was} ~~am~~ ready to leave for Haifa. I ~~just~~ gathered my papers and started after him for the train.

Isfandiyar was thoughtful enough to bring the carriage to the station and when the Master alighted from the train in Haifa he was driven directly to the House. Mr Shirazi was the only person who had come to the station to welcome back the Master. The others did not know anything about his sudden coming. All the believers and Pilgrims were delighted when they ^{heard that} ~~did hear~~ the Master ^{was} is back and the night was spent in soulful communion and spiritual joy. I may ~~bring~~ ^{bring} this letter to an end by translating ^{a portion of} the talk of the Beloved given on the night of 22d inst in Acca in the room of Baha-ollah:-
"In reality all my movements are fraught with danger. The Favours and Graces of the Blessed Perfection have been always with me. Were it not for His continual protection I would not have been ^{being}

today. These souls who are enveloped with the 91
Clouds of Divine Providence are even assisted with
X the army of the Kingdom X. During the
years that Baha-a-llah lived in Bagdad and Adrianople
whosoever stood in His Presence and listened to His
Wisdom ~~he~~ was impressed with His marvellous
Power and Knowledge. The Jews, the Christians, the
the Zoroastrians and the Mohamadaus found their
highest aspirations embodied in Him. During those
years that He lived in this Home ^{in Ca} the enemies found
an opportunity to forward false reports to Constantinople
to the ^{effect} ~~fact~~ that Baha-Allah had fled out of Syria.
This report was ^{garbed} ~~garbed~~ with a ^{semblance} ~~semblance~~ of credence and
reliability, because He did not receive any strangers
nor did he leave the house. From the Sublime
Porte Ahmad Bey Tefik and Khorshid Bey, a
Hungarian, the Commander of the garrison, were
commissioned to investigate this matter. One
day they came to me and asked me to arrange
an interview for them with Baha-Allah. I

told them I ~~cannot~~ ^{could} promise them, because it is beyond my jurisdiction. Motosarraf continued his begging and ~~importuning~~ ^{importuning} but Khorsheed Bay explained the truth,

that because they ^{were} ~~are~~ commanded by the authorities in Constantinople, they ~~could not~~ ^{could not} quite well disobey the order.

"We desire" they said "to look only in the face of Baha-ollah and speak with him a few words: That will be quite sufficient." I presented their petition to the ~~Blessed Perfection~~ ^{Baha-ollah} and He appointed an ~~hour~~ ^{place} for their visit. When they entered this very room Baha-ollah was sitting here (With his hand he showed his right side on the divan), Abbaud was sitting near the threshold and the two, one sat where Mirza Farazollah is sitting ~~now~~, and the other in the opposite corner. He commenced then speaking to them words of welcome and gentleness and ordered Harquillah to be brought in. In the beginning they refused to smoke in His Presence but after much insistence on the part of Baha-ollah, in order to obey Him, they first touched their lips ^{to} with

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it. After half an hour they retired from the room,
deeply impressed with the awe-inspiring Presence of
the Blessed ^{Baba Allah} Perfection. A few days after this inter-
view, the Motasarrif ^{said to} me: 'When I was in the
Holy Presence I lost myself totally and could not
utter one word.' Khorsheed Bey also was delighted
with his visit. In this manner did Baba-Al-
lah associated with people and upraised the
Standard of the Cause of God. " X

It is now past midnight. I leave my nest and
go out on the porch. The many millions of light-
giving, spirit-speaking stars are shining in ^{brilliantly} ~~in~~ ~~earthly~~
brightness. To me they represent the future
perfection of the world of humanity and the glorious
consummation of mankind. May each individual
evolve into that lofty station destined for him by the
Creator! Let us all work unceasingly for the
realization of this hope. With this thought in my
mind I enter my nest again and fall into the
loving arms of sweet sleep.