

Bahai' Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 27th 1914

Dear friends!

This was the day of the anniversary of the Coronation of the Sultan of Turkey and consequently all the public and government buildings are decorated with flags and burnings. Many stores are closed and official calls are payed to the governor to Congratulate him on this auspicious occasion. The Master also with Mirza Mohsen was driven in his carriage to the City Hall at the invitation of the Saemmagarn.

He came out of the house about 9 o'clock and as soon as the believers heard that the Beloved of their hearts ^{was} is walking in the garden they approached him. Sweetly he smiled and welcomed every one with a gentle waving of his hand and ^{the word} "Marhaba." Then he continued his delightful walk, all of us standing ^{at a} in respectful distance from him. "Most beautiful is this rose-garden of Imael Aga. This is the height of its glory! Like the crown of an imperial Monarch it is studded with the ~~the~~ flowering gems of many

and varied hues. Look at that long wall! How the climbing rose-bushes have decorated it with white, red, yellow and pink! Neither in Europe nor in America can one find a rose-garden exactly like unto this! How these tall, white lilacs diffuse their fragrances all around! They are so pure and delicate; the emblems of sanctity and spiritual refinement. This garden is made possible through the work of love. Each flower speaks to me in its inarticulate tongue the message of the love of the gardener - the love that passeth all understanding." Then he entered in the carriage and drove away.

In the afternoon the Beloved called me into his Presence and dictated Tablets for the American believers. Then he sat and ~~grew~~ silent for a few minutes thinking divine thoughts. When he is sitting in this position of contemplation his face is a wonderful study and the beholder himself falls into the same dreamy mood, his mind and heart stirred by strange, unutterable thoughts and feelings. At this juncture Hajji Mirza Haydar Ali entered the room. The Beloved looked up at him with such sweet tenderness and fatherly expression. "Come, come" he said laughing so heartily and with the glow of a consolidated friendship on his face "thou art

my real friend. Whenever I look in thy face, no matter how heavy is the weight of the load of my sorrow and care, it is immediately taken away. Thou art my boon companion and old friend. Come and sit down beside me." Then he began to speak with him about the various matters pertaining to the Cause of God. It is most touching ^{to see} the Master with this old man, grown ^{old} in years and experienced in the path of Truth!

Haji Mullah Ahoor Taleb another old Bahai, resident of the Pilgrims' House gave a tea to all the departing Pilgrims in the rose-garden of the King of Kings. Although many of them had gone to Acca to visit the Holy Tomb of Bala-ollah for the last time, yet they returned in time for the tea.

The Master graced the reception with His divine Presence and gave a short talk, most invigorating to the spirit of those who had the privilege of listening. Turning his face to Aga Seyad Hossein who was going to leave for Alexandrette in an hour he said:- "Are you going to leave today? Praise be to God that there are a number of believers in Alexandrette and ^{they} are associating ^{with each other} with the utmost joy and fragrance. Years ago there was

a Gaernsmagarn in Haifa who was my special friend. He often praised the character of Abbas Goli who lived at the time in Alexandrette. With wonder in his eyes he would often say: 'What has happened to Abbas Goli! How is he transformed! It is as though he has soared to heaven and descended to earth as an angel.' People answered him: - 'He has gone to Acre and has become a Bahai.' 'What a change!' he would say: 'He has become so spiritual! so heavenly, so divine, so polite!'

"Beneath the shade of the Blessed Perfection there must occur in a Bahai life a complete regeneration! If he continues to live in accord with the old standards and habits, then what has he gained by the change of a name! His Holiness Baha-O'llah ^{holly} said that there are two kinds of revivals. The first kind is only in the realm of word. It is not transmitted into action. For example the black stone of Mecca ^{was,} is and will ever remain a black stone, but because it is connected with the name of Mohamad every year thousands of men and women undergo the severe hardships of long journey to see, touch and kiss it, or the water of Jordan is the same as the water of any other river, but simply because it is attributed to Christ the Christians ship it

therefore
to foreign countries for benefic purposes. The real revival,
is the revival of conscience and heart and not the change
of name. For example, a person thrown headlong into the
lowest degree of immorality rises to the glorious height
of sanctity and purity; the bloodthirsty tyrant becomes
a just and upright man; the coward is changed into
a brave soul; the traitor becomes most trustworthy and
the heedless mindful. Whereas formerly he was afflicted
with all the debasing and social sins he becomes
cleansed through the purifying water of the Holy Spirit.
His former life becomes non-existent, his very innermost
being is changed. Angelic, divinely pure, radiantly spiri-
tual, white as the snow on the summit of the mountain,
white as the lily of the field - he stands amongst men
as a flawless pearl of sanctification, as a spotless diamond
of holiness and as a paragon of perfection to all
mankind. Every Bahai, nay rather every individual
soul must attain to this lofty pinnacle of virtue.

I hope when thou returnest to Alexandrette thou
wilt become the means of the happiness, joy and pleasure
of the friends of God and confer upon them the
glad-tidings of the Kingdom. Say unto them: 'Praise

be to God you have witnessed that the glory of all the emperors and kings is ephemeral, but the majesty of the believers of God is undying and everlasting, even in this world their traces are eternal."

Then rising from his seat he walked around the room, stood before the table of refreshment and ate a piece of candy and a few pieces of orange.

Mr Shriazi, our active, energetic Bahai left today for Beirut and Damascus and will go from there to India to start on a wider field of work.

Our two German and Austrian brothers - Hossein and Hassan arrived tonight from Port Said. I did not see them as our dear brother Mirza Jalal welcomed them at the steamer and conducted them to hotel Carmel. I will tell you more about them in another letter. The following is a prayer written with the Beloved's own hand for the Believers of Heiregi:-

"O Thou my Lord the Merciful and my Beloved, the Clement! Verily these intelligent souls are assured in Thy Mention, are stirred with the Fragrances of Holiness, are set aglow with the Fire of Thy Love and are engaged in Thy Praise amongst Thy people. O Lord! assist them with the angels of Thy Sanctity and the Cohorts of Thy Kingdom! Verily Thou art the Merciful! The Compassionate!

(Sig) Abdul Baka Akbar."