

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 28th 1914

Dear friends!

Twelve living torches of the Fire of the Love of God - twelve holy Pilgrims dedicated to the Cause of human brotherhood and international Peace, left the Presence of Abdul Baha for the vast domains of Russia, India and Persia - to dispel the darkness of ignorance and prejudice and create the vivifying influences of love and unity. As they sat this morning in the Presence of the Blessed One they were ~~immersed~~^{immersed} in the ocean of heavenly attraction and enrapturement, giving their ears to every word uttered by him and wishing in their hearts of hearts they could stay many days longer. About universal Peace the Master spoke to them, dwelling especially on the horrors of war and bloodshed and enheartening them to do their utmost to extinguish this world-consuming fire which is ravaging the nations and like ^{unto} the wheels of juggernaut ^{passing over} the bodies of the innocent people. "In this century" ^{he said} "the voices of peace must drown the clamors for battle, and the principle of arbitration must gain sway over

the alutment of ^{the} sword. Man must learn war no more,
 neither must he let the brutal and barbaric forces of passion
 and lust control the humane intellectual and moral powers.
 He must help the world forward in its march of progress
 and enlightenment and abandon the path of the wicked ^{and}
 the unrighteous. ~~You~~ must sow the seeds of Peace in the
 plastic minds of the children, teach them the victories
 of Peace, surround them with the lessons of Peace, envelop
 them with the atmosphere of Peace and inspire their
 hearts with the glorious achievements of Peace. Let their
 food be Peace, their vestures be Peace, their contemplation
 be Peace, their highest aspiration be Peace and the impelling
 purpose of their lives be Peace. The followers of the
 Blessed Perfection ~~make~~ the invincible army of Peace
 and ^{are} showing by their deeds and words that they are ^{the} peace-
 makers. Raise ye the tumultuous voices of Peace to the
 Zenith of heaven. Work ^{ye} for the Cause of Peace. Stand
 ye by the Lord of Peace. Draw up in line your
^{armored} panoplied regiments of Peace! Unfurl at the head
 of your indomitable phalanxes, the Flag of Peace! Fill
 the world with the cry of Peace! Let your watchword
 be the sweet anthem of Peace. Be ye the laborers in

the construction of the Palace of Peace. Think of Peace, work for Peace and consecrate your lives to the cause of Peace."

With this ringing message in their ears and with weeping eyes they came out of the room of the Blessed One. "Trusty in the Favor and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection" we heard his voice calling unto the Pilgrims. "Rest ye assured in His Confirmations which have encircled you at this holy hour. You are always with me and are inseparable from me. You are the soldiers of my army. Rush ^{ye} in the battlefield and defeat the powers of the prince of darkness."

After this soul-stirring meeting our two German brothers - Herr Oscar Widermayer and Dr. Ernst Diez whose Persian names are Hassan and Hossein came from their hotel to meet the Beloved. They have been travelling through Persia for nearly two years and everywhere they have been welcomed and entertained by the Bahais. The first speaks Persian quite fluently and the other fairly well. They are now on their way to Vienna and Munich. They expect to write two books; one on the Moorish and Arabesque Architecture of Islam, previous to 500

years and another describing the fascinating experiences of their long journey through Persia. They will embody a good deal about the Cause of God in this second volume. Herrn Nidermayer - Hossein is a very pleasant young man, clean-shaved, ^{alert} quick and most delightful, while Doctor Diez is older, has a short whisker on his chin, and has many anecdotes to relate for the enjoyment of the listeners.

The Beloved received them with a cordial and heartfelt welcome and for more than half an hour he spoke with them about their trip across Persia without the help of a translator. They were most pleased with the results of their journey and were eloquent and warm in praising the wonderful hospitality of the Bahais. "The Bahais" they said "in Persia are very liberal and broad-minded; even their peasants speak about those principles which agitate the minds of European scholars and thinkers; especially they are interested in the matter of universal Peace." The Master said: "The spheres of thought are suffused with the effulgence of divine enlightenment. The advocates of Peace are increasing in number every year."

In America, in France, in Germany, in England the lovers of Peace are found and they are adding day by day to their efficiency and activity." The Beloved then invited them to dine with him tomorrow night.

In the afternoon he called me in. He was lying on a settee near the window: The rays of the sun. The rays of the sun streaming through the window embraced him in their warm, loving arms. A number of letters had just just arrived from America and he placed them in my hand to be translated to him. He was in a most humorous mood and the contents of some of the letters made him laugh very much. As I went on translating one after another he would make now and then some funny remarks, laughable, witty and sparkling.

After this he came out of the house and asked me to walk with him to the hotel Carmel where our two German brothers are living. On the way we came across Dr. Diez and walked back with him to the store of Mirza Anayettullah. Here the Master sat with our friend for more than one hour and ordered tea to be brought from the hotel opposite. The Manager came in and a most lively discussion on religion

was started and brought to a happy conclusion. On our way back home the Master asked Mirza Ali Akbar of Russia to accompany our German brothers tomorrow to Acca - so that they may visit the Holy Tomb of Baha Allah etc. From that time on till past sunset our Western friends were sitting in the garden surrounded with flowers and speaking about the Cause. Just at that time the Blessed One called us into the drawing-room. Although there were several believers present he especially addressed himself to Hassan and Hassenin. "Persia" he said "has unlimited possibilities for the development of its material resources, but there must needs be civilizing influences and untiring efforts. These means will be made available in the not distant future. Persia will become the Paradise of the world, because it is the birthplace of the Manifestation of God. First the inhabitants of a country must be imbued with the spirit of progress; then the country will advance as a matter of course. As long as the people are kept in the rayless prison of coarse habits and are not moved by the generous impulses the country itself is held in a state of semi-barbarism and

stagnation. We hope to see the denizens of Persia become liberal and progressive. First we must find the candle, ^{then} the lantern. We hope through the Divine Bestowals the moral life of the people of Persia may become cleansed from loathsome vices and degrading habits; that they may become the patterns of the spiritual life; that they may embody the ideals of the Merciful One; that their hearts may become the clean caskets for the pure thoughts of celestial paradise; that they may ^{lay} the foundation of divine civilization; become conducive to the promotion of love and good-fellowship; that they may co-operate with all the nations in the establishment of universal peace; that they may master the findings of modern sciences and arts, that they may study ^{and learn} the material knowledges, and teach the supernal knowledges of the Kingdom of God. This is our earnest hope. Towards this goal we are pushing forward. For the attainment of these ideals we have accepted fifty years exile, wandering and imprisonment." He continued to speak along these high themes of divine wisdom and when we came out in the garden the fragrances of the roses reminded us of his spirit-searching words.