

Abdul Baha's home

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 30th 1914

Dear friends!

Lo! there is a change! the garden of Allah is calling unto us, the desert, the strange mystic, sweet desert is bidding us to leave the crooked highways of the city and civilization and roam over its straight path. This morning the Beloved sent me word to be ready to start tomorrow morning for Alhammei, near Lake Tiberias, four hours away from Haifa. I was beside myself with sheer ecstasy! All day I was whistling whenever I found the people are not around. Away even from the half-civilized Haifa into the heart of the desert! That will be indeed edel, soul-inspiring, divine! The very thought of it intoxicated with undreamed of pleasure! I am going with my Beloved into the Garden of Allah! My cup of bliss is surely filled with his holy hand and my soul longs to quaff the nectar of his love! This will be probably the climax of my terrestrial experiences with the Blessed One; for to my mind nothing is more fascinating and significant than to see "him around whom all names revolve" surrounded by Sheikhs and Arab

right in the desert itself. The wife of Mirza Jalal, Rauha Khanom, Mahavvar Khanom, Miss Sanderson and the wife of the Beloved left a few days ago for Alhammeh to prepare the ground for the arrival of the Master, to supervise the pitching up of the tents and to make everything ready for his reception.

The Master was busy all day receiving a few Arabs who ^{came for pecuniary help} have called to ~~relieve~~ their needs, and then he called on the officials of the town to bid them ^a temporary farewell. Several times I saw him during the day, but only for a few minutes, each ^{time} to listen to his orders and then leave him to carry them out.

On the other hand Khosro was very busy packing up the necessary baggage for our expedition into Sahara and attending to procuring the needful items of the trip.

At 7pm, the believers knowing the departure of the Beloved came to see him. He received them in his drawing room and spoke to them as follows:- "I am leaving tomorrow for Tiberias. I am leaving because you have persisted so much, otherwise I would have stayed here, because I have so much to do. While I was travelling in Germany I passed by Baden-Baden and although the friends persisted that I should go and take the baths, but I could not comply

with their wish. In Stuttgart Consul Schwarz invited
 me to Morgenthau which is an excellent resort for taking
 baths for various kinds of ills. I stayed there only for one
 night, visited the large, commodious bath-houses, the
 electric bath for reducing the weight of corpulent and
 fleshy people, and other ingenious devices, but I did not
 take a bath myself. The baths in Morgenthau can
 not be compared with Alhammei hot springs. In the
 former Consul Schwarz has built a very palatial
 hotel, its grounds are shaded with tall, magnificent
 trees and its baths are made of porcelain, clean and
 sanitary, but in the ^{Alhammei} ~~latter~~ no improvement whatsoever
 is made In this Cause we must
 give up all pleasures and recreations for the sake
 of service. There are ^{people} always in this world who deliver
 excellent advices and exhortations, but they do not carry
 them ^{out} in their ^{own} lives. I have taught the believers with
 deeds and not with words. Day and night
 we must think and plan how to become more self-
 sacrificing in the Path of God, how to become more faithful
 and loyal in the religion of God, how to concentrate all
 our attentions around the promotion of the Word of God.

and how to renounce our will and choose the Will of God. Having attained to this spiritual condition the Divine Confirmations will encircle us The only source of the consolation of my heart is this: - Praise be to God, ^{that} since the departure of the Blessed Perfection I have not rested five minutes. I did not sleep one night comfortably, neither did I seek tranquility for one day. I exercised my utmost power at all times to spread the laws of the religion of God and to promote the principles of universal righteousness and salvation I never complained and accepted with the utmost resignation all the ordeals and trials, " Then bestowing his blessings upon all those who were present he retired to his room. Descending the stairs the friends gathered in the garden, read Tablets and sang Bahai songs and then ~~were~~ they scattered with the full expectation that they ^{would} soon see the Master - probably at the end of 2 or 3 weeks.

Immediately I ascended the mountain with Mirza Habib, went into my nest, put my papers etc, into a satchel and hurried down again to spend the night in the Beloved's home, so that I ^{might} be ready to leave with him at 5.30 am for the station.

So it is long after midnight that I am writing this last letter to you from the Home of Abdul Baha. Everyone is sleep and the house is very quiet and I am sleepy also. I wish there was not such a thing as sleep, so we could devote our 24 hours to the service of the Cause without any interruption.

I will conclude this letter with an extract from the communication sent in by one of the firm and spiritual believers in America:- "My youngest brother and wife ^{who} have been 6 yrs in Australia, New Zealand and India arrived in America a month ago and spent 3 days ^{with us} last week. They heard a great deal of the Bahai Teachings..... I asked her ^{my sister} why the Masters, as she called them in India sat in caves and hidden from the world, why did they not come out and uplift humanity?" She said:- "^{you do} I did not know how much they ^{have} had done toward bringing the Kingdom and beside that they had such power ~~that~~ the people couldn't stand it, that it would knock them over." I said: "Why, you have been telling me of all the most terrible conditions in India, and they haven't helped ~~or assisted~~ ^{those} them right around them, beside

there is no one in the world who has such great power as Abdul Baha, and he goes everywhere showing his great Love for all and he assists and teaches them. All the world has testified to his great power, beneficence and love and how millions of people have been uplifted by him. "

The following Tablet is to a believer in Pearl City, Hawaii:-

"O thou daughter of the Kingdom! Thank thou God that the Lights of the Kingdom have shone upon thy heart and thou art led to the Most Great Guidance. Thou art delivered from darkness and hath stepped into the world of lights. Thou art released from the well of nature and hast soared to the apogee of the moon. The inhabitants of that island are asleep and thou art awake, the majority of the people of that town are blind and thou art seeing. Many are dead but thou art alive, Likewise those souls who have ushered in the Kingdom of God with thee. Praise be to God that all of them are illumined. Endeavor as much as thou canst so that thou may'st enter new people in the Kingdom - And that they may become rejoiced and gladdened through the heavenly music - thus the lights of the Merciful One and the Bahai principles may illumine all these Islands! . . .