

Pleiades Sylvan Bower

Alhammeh

Lake Tiberias, Syria

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Dear friends, ^{shady}

My Bower has no door - a symbol of welcome to all those who care to enter therein. My heart is full of love for everyone. Why should I not love all? I wish for no other blessing in this world save the nearness of Abdul Baha and that the Gracious Lord has vouchsafed me on land and sea, in Europe and America, in Egypt and Syria, in civilization and now in the heart of Sahara. What higher station does any soul aspire to? Under all circumstances and conditions I have seen him the Lord of the hearts of men, every one paying homage and reverence to him and none turning away from him disappointed. Lord of the hearts indeed and more than that! As I awoke this morning my heart was full of thanksgiving, I heard the sweet warbling of the birds hopping on the verdant branches of the roof of my Areesheh, I listened to the soft murmur of the little limpid rivulet laughingly passing by. Looking up at the heaven I saw it ~~is~~ declaring the majesty of the Lord. ^{I declared} viewing my surroundings, they were beautiful, but in strange contrast with

the Western countries! Ah me! I exultingly cried out: What a glorious life is this? What a fascinating existence is this? Am I dreaming or am I seeing these things with my ^{own} physical eyes? I had never heard before ^{even} the name of this place; I had never expected to see it and yet Abdul Baha has made it possible. While these thoughts were roving in my mind they brought me the word that the Master ^{was} coming to ^{my} Acreeshah to take his tea. After a minute the Incarnation of divine Love graced the humble quarter of his ~~humble~~, unworthy servant. ~~He~~ was all smile and happiness. I was on my feet to welcome him. He smote gently on my face and sat down on the persian rug spread on the ground, "How cool is thy Acreeshah" he said. "Is this not better than the palace of the kings? Because here inward happiness and contentment rule, divine beatitude and the ideals of the Kingdom exist! This is a green, flowery oasis in the heart of the desert. Baha-Allah has given to it the name of the "Home of the Saints". All the companions of our trips in different parts of the world have departed and only ~~me~~ and ^{and I} you are left! What dost thou say to this? And now where are we? In the Arabian Sahara, away from civilization and the haunts of men. For the present we are here, awaiting the command of God as regards to our future plans. Indeed

God has brought us to this poetic spot and in its appointed time He will surely guide us into other promised lands.....
 Praise be to God that the power of the divine Cause became manifest as the sun in its meridian course. It has established an ideal communication between the world of the Kingdom and the material world. Today the Cause of God has assumed a most eminent importance in the estimation of the outsiders. These ten officials with whom I spoke for hours were the members of the local government of a nearly town and very influential in certain quarters. They had come here to take baths. I went into particular pain to explain to them the ideals of our Movement in an indirect manner. They had heard many things which were not true, and I wanted to dispel these wrong notions - thus they may realize that even in the realm of philosophy and scientific attainments the followers of this Cause ^{are} not deficient. The European and American tour has brought forth most extraordinary and unforeseen results and has advanced and promoted the position of the Cause in the eyes of the public in the most astonishing manner. Consider how great has become the Cause that the Governor ^{General} of Salonika, the Governor-General of Syria, the Governor

General of Damascus, the English Consul General in Beirut and a host of other great men were so excited with an interest as to come to Haifa and call on me to find out the truth without any intermediary. Reflect what a great tumult the Cause of God has thrown in the pillars of the earth - that hardly ^{had} we have arrived here yesterday than all these men were attracted and listened to all that I have said with much attention."

I mentioned to him that I have brought with ^{me} myself the Gospel of Buddha by Dr Paul Carus and have been reading the first few chapters. He told me to bring the book and read to him. I translated for him the first chapter entitled "Rejoice". He listened but did not make any comment.

Leaving my green bower he invited to his tent three of the Arabs and the Turks and quoted for them many Arabic poems to the evident enjoyment of all. At ten o'clock the train arrived from Haifa and brought a few more friends to be added to our already increasing host. There is one daily train from Haifa which stops only 3 minutes at Alhammech and then proceeds for Damascus. Another train leaving Damascus in the early morning reaches our camping ground about 2.30 pm and then after 3 minutes continues its journey for Haifa.

In the afternoon the Beloved coming out of the tent sat in the shadow of the station building. The Araks got around him and he entertained them with the stories and talks that he alone can give. They were charmed with his conversation and sat with him as long as they could.

A tent is pitched near the hot fountain and the Master took his bath for the first time. When he came out of the tent he looked most wonderful in his white robes and white turban.

The believers arriving this morning have rented small bungalows near the hot spring and are glad to be here with the Master.

When the Beloved was ready to return after his bath a spirited ^{horse} charger was brought for him and he rode on the ~~docile~~ animal as a royal King.

The evening was spent quietly in the bosom of the desert. The Beloved took his dinner with the members of the Holy Family and retired rather early.

It is arranged that as long as the Master ^{remains} here ^{we hope} no letter or newspapers be forwarded to him - thus if this plan is executed to the end we will be deprived of the world's news and ^{cut off} ^{knowing} from all that is transpiring in the Cause.