

Pleiades Sylvan Brewer
 Alhammeh
 Lake Tiberias, Syria
 May 4th 1914

Dear friends!

The life of the desert is the life of Peace and spiritual musings. It grants calmness to the troubled spirit and bestows tranquility to the confused mind. It brings forth the essential nobility of the human nature and creates an unutterable yearning to fly towards the unattainable. The long, interminable stretch of Sahara inspires the heart with the idea of infinitude and the immensity of God's mercy. It teaches him open-handedness and hospitality. The green oasis teaches him the lesson of boundless hope and optimistic industry and the gentle invitation of the Sheikh to share his tent and frugal meal the idea of natural kindness. There is a picturesque charm and romantic beauty in the atmosphere of the Sahara, the Arab, his tent, his "Jape' Yargal," his camel and his nomadic life. Its soothing effect is infectious and gives one a firm equilibrium to grapple with difficult problems. It is like a tonic. Its draught is cool and bracing. It steadies the nerves and strengthens the bodies. It fills the heart with the ambrosia of Truth-seeking.

This morning I had another visit ~~visit~~, but considerably shorter from the Beloved. He sat only for a few minutes, inquired about my health and whether I have slept well and then he went in front of the station to talk ^{with} and teach the Arabs, Aga Nasrollah, a Bahai from Haifa who has come here to take the bath and is an engraver of seals, had brought with himself beads etc to sell to the Bedouins, and the Master looking at his wares ^{bought} buys several rosaries and distributes them amongst the women who love such cheap decorations. Then a number of these women ^{went} go to the porter of the station and ask ^{did} him a question. He does not answer them. The Master seeing him ^{away} he turned his head haughtily, ^{went} goes near and in a laughing way ^{gave him} smites two blows with his hands on ^{the} his cheeks and ^{said} tells him: - "Dost thou think thou art better than ~~they~~, because thou art a mere servant in this station. Thou must be polite and kind to women - no matter even if they are ^{the} ignorant Bedouins. They are the maid servants of God and we are the servants of God." Then in order to soothe him he bought a very good ^{string of} beads and presented it to him which made him very happy.

The train brought six guests, two Arabs and four Zoroastrians. The two Arabs from Beirut and

Acas were taken to the guests' tent and immediately the Master joined them and after his welcome he started to speak with them on the philosophy of religion and the four standards of knowledge. One of the two is Mr Baroudi, the associate in a company having received the concession for the improvement of the Tiberias baths. There are four capitalists who have organized this Company. The arrangement is as follows:— To expend £10,000 for the next ten years over new buildings, baths, annexes to the hotel, park, Casino, amusement grounds etc; to pay £1,000 every ^{year} to the government for the next 25 yrs, and £1,500 for ten years more — in all 35 yrs and then the whole establishment with all the improvements will be transferred to the government.

As the tent was quite warm the dinner was served in my green Bouvier. The table was spread on the ground, the guests sat around the table of the Lord and the Mosaic figure of the Beloved spoke to them on some of his experiences in America. Where is America ^{now} and this Arabian desert? There was another man amongst the guests, a big, strong Arab, Abde' Tchavoush by name, He is the inspector of one of the Master's villages in the neighborhood and received a good salary of \$250 a year.

Owing to his lack of attention to his duty the Arab robbers had broken through the houses of the villagers, carrying away some of their belongings. For this reason the Master was calling him in no uncertain terms to his duty, jokingly pulling his ears and smiting ^{him} on his cheeks. The man could not remonstrate but kissed His hands many, many times. It was most interesting to see the Master reproving this giant of an Arab, now seriously, and then breaking into laughter to take away the gathering clouds on his forehead. The guests left with the train at half past two, and the Beloved coming out of the shady arbor accompanied them to the station and stood there till the train pulled out.

According to what I have heard there are three villages that belong to the Master. These are Nogail, Samreh, and Adasseyah. Most of the villagers are Bahai Zoroastrians who have come here from Yazd. The Beloved does not receive anything from the crops or the produce, but he assists and helps ^{people} them in many ways. Every day a number of them come here to visit the Master. They bring us eggs (100), milk, curdle, bread, cucumbers, butter, onions, ^{vegetables} etc. Although all these things are produced on his own land, yet he was telling them today to keep

an account of everything they bring daily, so that he may pay them at the end of our stay. Arab Chiefs bring sheep and goats and chickens and they expect of course to receive presents from the Beloved. A good chicken does not cost more than 15 or 20 cents; a goat ^{can be bought} for a dollar, a sheep for 2 or 3 dollars. Any one who likes to drink lots of fresh milk, eat fresh eggs and ~~eat~~ fresh vegetables he is welcomed to them. He can have them for the mere asking. Khosro is the agile cook and jack of all trades. It seems to me he is ~~always~~ doing some thing useful.

Under the cool shade of his ~~tent~~ the Beloved sat in the afternoon and the Arabs, one by one, came in and took their seats. "These lands" he said "are blessed by the feet of many prophets. ^{this is} They are the holy grounds, but these Arabs have forgotten these blessed traditions. They spend their lives in useless pursuits, in intestine strifes and bloodshed. All the traces of spirituality have left them. They live for rapine and pillage. These evil qualities they must forget and characterize themselves with the attributes of enlightened civilization. They must relinquish their hatred of each other and co-operate together in the true spirit of ^{the word} brotherliness. God will assist them if they become united in humane principles and unselfish aims."

Then he gave the following story about two of the followers of Mah-
 Yarnad: "Once upon a time Salman called on Abouzar. When
 the lunch time came around the host brought two loaves of bread
 and salt. There was nothing else in the house. Salman
 as though talking to himself said: 'I wish there was a little
 cheese! Abouzar feeling ashamed, went out, sold his only
 goat, bought ^{the} cheese and brought it ^{to} at the table. The
 guest helped himself generously and when he was quite
 satisfied he raised his hands towards heaven and prayed:-
 'Blessed are those who are satisfied with very little and are
contented!' Abouzar feeling the superfluity of such a
 prayer told to his friend: 'If thou wert really a satisfied
 and contented fellow I would have now my goat in the
 house'. " X

Abdollah is our Bedouin servant at the Camp. He was
 walking cumberously. The Master chided him: "Thou art walking
 like a Pasha! Hurry up my son. Be quick. Don't drag thy legs
 along like a Sheik - al - Islam! Look at Khosro, how he works
 and learn from him".

At 4 pm he walked to the hot spring and after
 taking his bath returned and slept soundly till
 dinner time. After dinner for a long time he walked in the
 glorious moonlight and then retired to his bed