

Pleiades Sylvan Bower

Alhammech

Lake Tiberias, Syria

May 10th 1914

Dear friends!

To a person who excused himself for being poor the Blessed One said:- "Praise be to God that thou art wealthy through the treasury of the Kingdom. True wealth is the wealth of the Kingdom of God. The heart of man must be rich. Often it has happened that a person is poor but is wealthy; on the other hand a soul may possess one hundred million but he is poor. Every treasury, in this world, is subject to exhaustion, save the treasury of the Kingdom which is inexhaustible. I hope that thou mayst become rich through the treasury of the Kingdom. His Holiness Christ and all the prophets were poor. Thou hast a tent or an Areeshek, but Christ did not possess even so much. The work of the rich does consist in increasing their wealth, but thy work consists in becoming more enkindled with the Fire of the Love of God. This is opulence! This is munificence! This is independence! This is service! I hope that thou mayst live in accord with the good-pleasure of the Lord. Today the poverty

power of the Cause of Baha-Allah has penetrated the globe. Whenever thou dost embody in thy life all the Teachings of the Blessed Perfection, thou wilt be a perfect human being. The Principles of the religion of Baha-Allah are the Collective Reality, the Power of divine attraction, the illumination of the world of humanity and the Breath of the Holy Spirit. Were one to live in accord with these teachings, no one can predict the loftiness of his station. It is beyond the computation of human imagination."

Concerning the ~~telepathy~~^{telepathic} transference of thought without the medium of speech he said:-

"This is self-evident and is in no need of proof. For example the hand corresponds with another hand. No sooner thou ^{hast} takest hold of the hand of thy beloved than a world of feelings and emotions are conveyed to each other. The face speaks with face, the eyes with eyes, the hearts with hearts, and the spirits with spirits. Just at this time this light speaks with thine eye; the sun converses with the earth. It addresses it saying: 'I am most kind toward thee. I am pouring my rays upon thee. I am training thee. I am causing in thee the growth of flowers and hyacinths.' In turn the earth says to the sun: 'I am in need of thy favors.'

Were it not for thy beneficent rays my surface would not have been adorned with the roses and carnations. Pour then thy bestowals uninterruptedly upon me! Consequently there is a continual correspondence without the medium of speech."

"Why ^{did} God created the world and man?"

The Blessed One answered:- "God hath made all the phenomena for the sake of man and created man for Himself. We consider that the sun is shining, the clouds are pouring down rain, the winds blow, the trees produce fruits and the earth yields its produce and crops, - so that man may continue to live and reproduce his own kind. All these elements in the lower kingdoms are co-operating together to serve the world of humanity. But the Almighty fashioned man in his own image and likeness for the of His Love, for drawing the lights of divine virtues, for the manifestation of the celestial power, for the appearance of the efficacy of the Holy Spirit and for the projection of the ideals names and qualities of Divinity. He has ordained the subordination of all the contingent beings to man, but He hath Chosen man for His own service. The phenomena of the world are like unto the tree and man

is similar unto the fruit thereof. The tree is planted, reared and watered for the sake of its fruit. If the gardener did not have the fruit as his ultimate object he would not have planted the tree. It is very strange that notwithstanding these clear demonstrations there are ever so many men who are negligent of God, although they know that He has created all these lower creatures to serve and remind them. People are entirely engrossed with material pursuits and they have become entirely inadvertent of their own Creator. This is a source of much regret. I beg of God that He may guide them and show them His Path. May He illumine the world of humanity, grant hearing to the ears, seeing to the eyes and understanding to the hearts."

"What can we do to make you happy?"

The Beloved of the world said:- "The first Cause of my happiness is to see your faces radiant with the light of reality and your hearts cleansed and purified with the Water of Knowledge. There are two kinds of happinesses. Animal happiness and human happiness. Animal happiness is satisfied with the sight of green meadows, verdant woods, pure air and salubrious water. Such natural sights excite imagination, stir the emotions and man becomes a dancing, laughing care-free creature. But the unfoldment of human

happiness depends upon the exercise of the hidden functions of intellect. It is through the Love of God, the Knowledge of God, the spiritual susceptibilities, ^{and} the attractions of the heart, I wish this happiness for you. This happiness is eternal, but the animal joy passes away with a glimpse of an eye. Today the joy of the majority of mankind is animalistic. Pray that our Happiness be divine in origin and not parasitical; our progress be ideal and not wholly material; the sphere of our intellect be vast, our cognate faculties be marvellous, our severance be perfect, ^{and} our sanctity and holiness be heavenly. These are the perfections of the human world. All else save these are defects."

"What is vanity?"

The Master said:- "Vanity is a form of egotism, an ^{excessive} desire for notice or approval of one's personal appearance or deeds. It is self-conceit and self-hypnotization. The first person that was vain and pleased with himself was the Satan. Vanity is ^{one} of the characteristics of Satan. An intelligent man is never vain nor does he inflate himself with the idea of personal superiority. Nay rather he is ever humble and meek. By considering

himself inferior to others, his own spiritual station is unconsciously promoted."

"Who is the best man?"

The Master answered:- "The best man is that person who cheers and gladdens the broken-hearted ones and the worst man is that soul who causes suffering and pain to one's heart. Consequently strive as much as you are able to rejoice the hearts and uplift the spirits."

"What is your belief in Christ?"

The Beloved said:- "Consider with what Knowledge His Holiness Baha - allah hath favoured the Bahais, that if they are given the whole world they will not deny Christ. They love Christ better than their own lives. For example if they bring me under the sword of the executioner and threaten me that unless I deny my belief they will behead me I will sacrifice my life in His Holy Path with the utmost joy and happiness."

Last night it rained and we had to fly away from under our green Arbor and take refuge under the black tent of the Arabs. On one side we had the camels and the calves, on the other side the horses and donkeys. The rain was pouring down copiously. I was lying

down on my little rug and the rain was dripping through the tent. This night with its peculiar surroundings in the Sahara of the Holy Land was a complete contrast with the most comfortable and elegant hotels of America and Europe in which we spent many nights. But to say the truth I was very happy. My heart was at ease. Only I laughed when I thought of this wide contrast between the customs of the East and the West.

Early morning the Beloved was up and out. He took his breakfast with the Commander and while they were engaged in animated conversation they took a long walk. At ten o'clock Mirza Jolal arrived from Haifa and brought me a few letters, the contents of which gave me much pleasure. At noon and in the evening the Master had as guests at lunch and dinner 3 other Turkish officials and thus he entertained them with soul uplifting conversations for hours. After dinner we walked around the camp in the moon light and the ripples of his laughter were carried away on the sea of the Zephyr, delighting our ears and hearts. The Lord of mankind is well and happy. What else do we want?