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Dear friends!

"What is the greatest need of the world of humanity?"

The Blessed one answered:- "Today in the world of humanity the most important matter is the question of universal Peace. The realization of this principle is the crying need of the time. People have become restive and discontented. The political world of every civilized nation has become a vast arena for the exhibition of militarism and the display of martial spirit. The minds of the statesmen and Cabinet Ministers of every government are chiefly occupied with the question of war and the Council Chambers are resounding with the Call to war. Self-interest is at the bottom of every war. Greed, commerce, exploitation, the pushing further of the boundaries of the Kingdom, colonization, the preservation of the treaty rights, the safeguarding of the lives and interests of the citizens are a few ^{of the many} pretexts of going into war. And it has been proven by experience that the results of war are ruinous both to the Conquerors and the Conquered. Countries are laid waste, public property trampled under foot, commerce is paralyzed, fields crimsoned

with ~~the~~ innocent blood and ^{the} progress of the world retarded. How can a person rectify a wrong by committing a greater wrong—shedding the blood of his brothers? The major part of the revenue of every country is expended over military preparations, infernal engines, the filling of arsenals with powder and shots, the construction of repeating guns, the building of fortifications and soldier's barracks and the annual maintenance of army and navy. From the peasants upward every class of society is heavily taxed to feed this insatiable monster of war. The poor people ^{have} are wrested ^{from them} away of all that they make with the sweat of their brows and the labor of their hands.

"In reality war is continuous. The moral effect of the expenditures of these colossal sums of money over military ^{purposes} is just as deteriorating as the actual war and its ^{train of} dreadful carnage and horrors. The ideal and floral forces of the contending parties become barbaric and bestial, the spiritual powers are stunted and the laws of divine civilization are disregarded. Such a financial drain ossifies the veins and muscles of the body politic and congeals the delicate sensibilities of the spirit.

"There is not the least doubt that the nation or the government which puts forward an extraordinary

effort in the promotion of universal Peace, will be encircled with Divine Confirmations and the object of honor and respect amongst all the inhabitants of the earth. Such an action will become conducive to the prosperity and wellbeing of mankind. Concerning this question of Universal Peace, fifty years ago His Holiness Baha - allah wrote to all the Sovereigns and Monarchs of the world, explaining in details the benefits of Peace and the evils of bloodshed. Amongst other things He hath said: Originally mankind was one family, united and compact, later on the members of this happy family were divided and subdivided through ignorance and prejudice. Now the time has come again for their final unification. Universal Peace will bring about this consummation long wished-for.

"Once the Parliament of Man is established and its constituent parts organized the governments of this world having entered into a Covenant of eternal friendship will have no need of keeping large standing armies and navies. A few battalions to preserve internal order, ^{and} an international Police to keep the highways of the seas clear will be all that is necessary. Then these huge sums will be diverted to other more useful channels, pauperism will disappear, Knowledge will increase, the victories of Peace will be sung by poets and bards,

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Knowledge will improve the conditions and mankind will be rocked in the cradle of felicity and bliss. Then, whether a government is Constitutional or Republican, Hereditary Monarchy or Democratic, the Rulers will devote their time to the prosperity of their nations, the legislation of just and sane laws and the fastening of closer and more amicable relations with their neighbors - thus the world of humanity may become a mirror, in which are reflected the virtues and attributes of the Kingdom of God. "

"What is the duty of a newspaper editor?"

The Blessed one said :- " The Editors of the Newspapers are the guardians of the rights of man. They are the Champions of the poor and the protectors of the Wronged ones. They are ^{the} crusaders after righteousness and moral purity. They are the advanced guards of the ~~renaissance~~ ^{renaissance} of education and arts and the pioneers of the higher development and spiritual unfoldment. They are the first and most effective instruments for establishing good relations and real understanding between the most remote nations of the world. Through their sympathetic articles and deep-searching words they must remove the misunderstandings that exist amongst the religions, races and countries. From even so many standpoints they must prove to the satisfaction

of the readers that ^{all} mankind are the children of One God; that
 all humanity are the creatures of God; that His Bestowals have
 enveloped every individual and that ^{all} of them are submerged
 in the ocean of the Mercy of the Almighty. The utmost is this:
 one person is sick, he must be treated; another soul is ignorant,
 he must be instructed; another person is a child, he must
 attain to the age of maturity. The Editors must exert themselves
 in the spiritualization of the moral aspect of the human life.
 They must be the heads of the oneness of the world and
 the teachers of true brotherhood. They ^{must} incite and encourage
 the people in the exercise of love, tolerance, chastity
 and good-fellowship and teach them to shun hatred
 and animosity. They must speak the words of truth,
 breathe the air of Truth, live in the realm of truth, dream
 the dreams of truth, ^{be} clothed ^{with} the robes of truth and soar
 in the atmosphere of truth. They must be the soldiers of
 truth, be married unto the truth, be anxious to learn
 the truth, see everything with the eyes of truth, hold
 fast to the truth; be the mirrors of truth; spread the
 majesty of the King of truth; propound the immortality
 of truth — for truth is the essence of life, truth
 is the image of the eternal, truth is the correct com-

prehension of all things and truth is the Saviour of man-kind."

I was standing in front of my Areeshek as the Master passed by. "What art thou doing? I see thee always busy?" And he came near and slapped me gently on the cheek, gaining the Commander he started the ball of conversation rolling and after half an hour I heard his loud and melodiously sweet voice telling him about the Bahai Principles. This was the first day that the Beloved has commenced to speak with him plainly on the Bahai Revelation. He had paper and pencil in his hand writing down all the ^{that} Master told him. "I believe the Commander said at the end of the long conversation 'every one in the world will become Bahais.' Then the question of the progress of women in the Orient was touched and the Master gave an exhaustive talk on the necessity of their intellectual and scientific training. The education of the eastern girls and their emancipation from the shackles of the cruel customs of the ages is one of the most important problems of the Orient. How long it will take before certain superannuated, paralyzing, restrictive habits are taken away - is somehow uncertain to predict. Some people are sanguine about their early abrogation; others are not so enthusiastic, but everyone is hoping ^{for a change} and if circumstances permit him is quietly working for the realization of this matter. Anticipation is depicted in all the faces.