

Tiberias, Sea of Galilee
Syria

May 19th 1914

Dear friends!

Do you feel the glow of the heavenly Love? Are your cheeks burning with the consuming fire of divine affection? Is your heart the censor upon which you have sacrificed your will, your self and all your desires? Are you a pure instrument for the inbreathings of the inspirations of the Holy Spirit? Are you a candle burning with the fire of the spiritual zeal? Are you a center for the drawing of the forces of human sympathy? Are you quite willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of the Beloved? Are you prepared to walk in the sacred path of the Blessed One? Are you completely severed from aught else save Him? Will you risk everything in life to gain His good-pleasure? Is the sense of your hearing delicate enough to hear His melodious voice? Is the power of your sight penetrative enough to pierce through the thousands veils and behold the Beautiful Countenance of the Adored One? Are you an ascending star in the horizon of celestial art? Are your ~~ideals~~

the reflections of the ideals of the Kingdom? Have you
 heard the whispering messages of the spirit moving upon
 the face of the waters? Do you know that there is going to
 be a sail on the shoreless ocean of eternity where the
 songs of the voyagers will swell into rich harmonies,
 wafting over the waves, ~~free~~ from all bondage of words?
 Are you thrilled with the joy of an awakened soul? Are
 you ~~one~~ of the enlisted soldiers of the heroic host of
 the interminable path? Hath the Lord pressed the signet
 of acceptance upon the clean tablet of your life? Is
 your head crowned with the imperishable rose
 wreath of the Loved One? Have you ever taken refuge
 under the outspread wings of the bird of paradise?
 "Is there no joy in the deep of your heart?" Are you not
 intoxicated with the goblet of the ecstasy of pain
 and sorrow? Is not your being a mainspring of
 light, - the world-filling light, the eye-kissing light,
 the heart-sweetening light? Have you broken the cage
 of self and egotism so that the ^{nightingale} ~~king~~ of the spirit may
 fly toward the station of sanctification? Are you
 aware of the infinite Graces of the Lord of Hosts and
 the continual Favor of the Heavenly Father?

I have addressed the above questions more to myself than to any one of the readers, because I felt a peculiar mood to interrogate myself and then I thought you may like to share them with me.

Last night a large number of German tourists arrived and they left this morning. A night before last we had quite a number of English Ministers. They had heard about this Cause and for curiosity's sake they were interested to see Abdul Baka, but they were afraid to come near. These tourists seldom stay more than a night or two, because Tiberias as a city holds very few things to interest their restless spirit after novelty. They come and go and save an emotional or sentimental recalling of the days of Christ there is no perceptible change in the mode of their thinking or investigation.

This morning the Beloved went down stairs and for nearly one hour he was walking in front of the hotel, watching the crowds of the Jews who were selling cucumbers by heaps for a matter of 20 cents. There were at least 300 cucumbers, fresh, of good size. Then a Jewish Rabbi, noted for his learning called on him and he invited him to come up and sit

on the veranda. After a few preliminary questions about his own health and that of his relatives, the Beloved asked him point-blank:- "How long are you Jews going to wait for the coming of ^{the} Messiah? Day and night you are praying in your Synagogues to hasten his coming. Is he deaf that he does not hear your invocations? Do ye imagine that his hands are tied? He came two thousand yrs ago but you were then sound sleep and are yet afflicted with the same disease. Why do ye not open your eyes?"

Rabbi: "The Christians claim that Jesus was the son of God. Now if he was really so, would we have crucified him?"

Abdul Baha. The title of sonship is first claimed by the Israelites. There are many references in the old Testament ^{as to them being} ~~that they are~~ the sons of God. In the Psalms the title of ^{the} son is given to David. Nay rather if you read Exodus Chapter 16. v. 16. Chapter 32. v. 1. 23. Chap. 7. v. 1. You will realize that the appellation of "God" is given to person and things. In the book of Job you read also that "there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord." Now

you who claim to be the sons of God and the firstborn of
 Israel rose first in rebellion against ^{God,} Moses and Aaron.
 For we read in Numbers chapter 14: 2: 'And all the children
 of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and
 the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we
 had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died
 in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the Lord brought
 us unto this land, chapter 11. v. ~~4~~ 5. And the
 children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give
 us flesh to eat. We remember the fish, which we did eat
 in Egypt; the cucumbers and the melons, and the leeks, and
 the onions and the garlic: ' And when ^{and Aaron} Moses tried to
 remonstrate with you: 'But' All the congregation hade stoned
 them with stones.' Moreover you put to pieces Isaiah
 the prophet, and ^{beheaded} John the son of Zachariah. All these
 facts go for to show that you must not consider it
 an impossible thing for the Jews to crucify the Son of God.
 Then with warmth and eloquence he presented to him the
 irrefutable proofs concerning the validity of Christ, in the
 Synagogues of America and how divine education
 is essential for the progress of any nation. The Rabbi
 was dumbfounded and could not say a word to

contradict the arguments of the Master. After this long talk he received Meer Abdul Qader, a very good young man, the son of a Pasha in Damascus. Then about eleven o'clock he went down again and gathered ^{around} with a few children. He caressed them and gave money to each. Then the Editor of an Arabic Newspaper from Beirut was presented to him. He had a long, interesting talk with him on education, progress of civilization and trinity. When he ended his talk, the Editor whispered to his friend. "Today I met the greatest philosopher and thinker of the East." For lunch we were invited by Said Sheik Tahari, one of the most distinguished citizens of Fieberias. Long before the Master reached his house he rushed out to welcome him: - "Master! Master! Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a servant of thine. Today my humble house takes precedence over all the palaces of the kings, because of thy Presence. Master! My joy and happiness know no bound, for thou wilt bless my home." Then kissing his hand, and falling behind to let the Beloved enter he said: - "My Lord! This is thine own house. Do with it whatsoever thou wilt."