

Tiberias, Sea of Galilee,
 Syria

May 27th 1914

Dear friends!

Today two beautiful believers from India - one a student at Oxford College by the name Hashmatullah; another Abbas Ali Khashmere, a teacher in the government's school of Rangoon arrived from Haifa to visit the Beloved of the world. The latter has written a letter to a dear friend of his - which I happened to read and was so struck with its wonderful spirit that I would like to share with you the first part of it. He says:- "My dearly beloved brother, My hand trembles like the oar of a little barge on a depthless ocean, yes, a great ocean of Spiritual happiness and real joy is astir in me and its waves reach every part of my body. The extreme desire of my soul is fulfilled today. The Dear Face of Him, who was, is and shall be the Kaaba of my soul is now shining before my eyes. The Beautiful Rays of this Sun of my life are penetrating to the very core of my mind and are illuminating every corner and nook of my soul. Yes, here before me is the furnace of the Love of God where

every resigned will is moulded and shaped into a mountain of determination to stand the heaviest tempests of worldly trials and tempests. I have given myself up to Abdul Baha, my life and death is for Him and my will is resigned to His Will. He is the Master of my soul, spirit and body here and in all the worlds that may come. I love Him. His love is life to me. I worship Him. His worship is a lamp of guidance to me... you were the first, my dearest brother, to introduce me to His Holy Presence and it is now for you to pray for me that I may be worthy of keeping this sacred love in me. My mind is full of gratitude for you. I prayed for you at the Holy Threshold of the Supreme Bah and will pray when next I go to the Holiest Spot, for an infallible station for you in His Kingdom...."

This morning a Persian gentleman who was passing through Siberia came to see the Beloved and he spoke to him on the liberty of conscience and spiritual sympathy. "This century is the century of Truth" he said. "we must relinquish all the rituals and forms which have accumulated for the past ages around the Immortal Image of Truth, completely hiding it from our ^{view}."

We must love mankind. We must serve the people. We must
 not harm the creatures of God. We must scatter the hosts
 of darkness. We must visualize the Universal harmony of
 religions. We must realize the divine possibilities of
 human nature. We must uplift the human race. We
 must uphold the ideas of justice and equity. We must
 set aglow the hearts with the Fire of Love. So far the
 religions have held tenaciously to certain forms and dog-
 mas and becoming the worshippers of the ideas of
 Self and Ego. The originators of these ideas have been
 and are still self-seeking, self-glorifying people.
 Beware of such people who come to you in sheep's clothing;
 outwardly they are as harmless as the gentle lambs, but
 inwardly they are as venomous as the deadly cobras.
 Do not listen to their Teachings. Know of a certainty
 that mankind are the Children of God and He has
 not created any intrinsic distinctions between them.
 Once in Bagdad a European woman was passing through
 the streets. She happened to see a poor man sitting
 in dirt, surrounded with filth and clad in rags. She
 pitied him and took out of her hand bag a piece of
 gold, and placed it in the palm of his hand. The

man hurried to the stream and started to wash the money. The European woman who was no less a personage than the wife of the English consul was astonished and asked him why did he do this for? "Oh" the man answered quite calmly "Because the money coming out of your hand is unclean." The lady was amused. "Is this hand which is washed with soap several times during the day, unclean and your hands, black with dirt, soot and filth, clean?" she half-inquired and went on his way. The minds of men must become purified from these foolish ideas. This is the time of Love! This is the time of good-fellowship! This is the time of conciliation! This is the time of service! This is the time of affinity! This is the time of Purity! This is the time of Illumination! This is the time of Brotherhood! Any thought or plan which do not agree with these sterling principles must be discarded. Any idea or suggestion which would help the people to realize God and see their path of journey toward him is divine."

When our pilgrims, ^{from India} stood in His Presence in the afternoon it was the supreme moment of their lives. Because Hashmatullah had come from London and

Paris the Master inquired about the health of many individual believers and he gave a report of the progress of the Cause in those countries. Abbas Ali spoke about India and the splendid work accomplished by our brother and sisters. When Mrs Stannard's name was mentioned he said: "Today whosoever arises to teach the Cause of God, divine Confirmations will come to his aid. Consider how Mrs Stannard has become assisted and divinely guided in all her work in the Cause. She has attracted many souls to the Kingdom of Abha! In whichever meeting or Congress she has entered her words have become effective upon the hearts. Now she has sown the seeds and ere long God shall cause them to grow and develop."

Other interesting subjects were discussed, such as the Divinity of Christ and Biblical interpretations. The Master inquired about the health of Prof. Cheyne and whether he has finished his book on the Bahai Revelation. He praised his spiritual and intellectual faculties and how they are at all affected by his old age. "His wife is a queen amongst women, a bright jewel in the crown of humanity" he said.

Our brother Abbas Ali brought with him the translation of an article in a Parsi paper giving the report of Doctor Getsinger's lecture before the Parsi Writers' Association ^{in Bombay}. It says in part:-

"Doctor Getsinger said: The seven great religions of the world are contained in the Bahai Movement which teaches benevolence to the entire human race, It does not teach the superiority or inferiority of one religion, race or color over another. The main principles as set forth seems to be that all men should be treated equally and ~~death~~ ^{with} according to love and justice. That such religion furnishes the proper basis for removing strife, misunderstanding and selfishness that is now so prevalent in the world. As long as the followers of one religion condemn those of another faith, there can be no union between them.... The Parsees have maintained this aloofness because they were troubled by the followers of other Faiths and thus they associated very little with others. By accepting the Bahai revelation they will find a solution to all their problems, social, political, economic and religious.... Mrs Getsinger chanted in a clear, sweet voice a Persian poem in praise of Baha-Allah and Persian Manajats which the audience was delighted to hear. all were moved when Mrs Getsinger sang in such a spiritual manner Manajats in the mother tongue of the Parsees."