

Bahai' Nest Mount Carmel¹⁹
Haifa, Syria
July 3d 1914

Dear friends!

In the Holy Land there are many stories extant concerning the wonderful life of Christ which are not related in any of the Synoptic Gospels. Two of such stories were related to us by our Beloved Abdul Baha which I would like to share them with you today. He said:-

It is recorded in one of the Tablets of Baha-ollah that at one time His holiness Christ was in the wilderness. It was night and impenetrably dark. It was very cold and he was thinly clad. Then it started to rain very hard. Christ did not know to which direction ^{he should} turn his face in this pitched darkness. He tried to walk but he stumbled at every step. Finally he reached a cave. He wished to enter in, in order to escape the rain, but he heard the roaring of lions and wild animals. He came out and stood alone in the open. The rain became torrential and dashing against the slopes of rocky mountains, formed streams of water ^{which} were ^{formed} carrying everything before them with fury and rage. Now and then flashes of lightning revealed the awful havoc wrought by the storm, and thunder pealed

20
across the sky. While the rain was pouring upon his head
he said: 'Oh God! Thou hast provided nests for the fowls of
the air, ~~carriers~~^{carrs} for the wild beasts, folds for the sheep,
but Oh Lord! Thou hast not given ^{even} a small cottage to the
Son of man so that he might protect himself from
the rain. O Father! Thou beholdest that my bed is
the hard earth, my food is the grass of the field and
my lamps are the stars of the night. After a
few minutes of silence he burst forth in glorious thanksgiving
by saying: - O God! Who is richer than I? Hast thou not
given ~~me~~ the heavenly Gift, the Gift of the guidance of
God? That celestial Bestowal ~~which~~ thou didst not con-
fer upon the Kings, Ministers, nobles, princes, phi-
losophers and rich men, ~~thou~~ ^{thou} hast bestowed ^{it} upon
the son of man. Verily who is richer than ~~me~~? "
"It is said ^{that} at another time his holiness Christ entered
a village. In those days many houses were broken through
and everything carried away by the robbers - ^{hence} the auth-
orities had issued an order ~~that~~ none of the inhabitants
should entertain a stranger in ^{his} ~~their~~ house, fearing that
he might be in alliance with the robbers ~~outside~~.
Christ stopped before the house of a ~~very~~ poor ^{old} woman
and knocked at the door. The old woman opened the door

opened the door and saw that Christ is seeking a shelter. ²⁰
Looking into the face of Christ and beholding his gentleness, hu-
mility and spirituality she did not have the heart to re-
fuse ^{him}, and send him away. Therefore with the utmost respect
she invited him to enter in the house. From his speech and
conduct the old woman intuitively felt that ~~he~~ he is more than
an ordinary mortal. Then she came forward and kissing his
hand, ^{she} said: 'I have ~~one~~ ^{my} son I have no one else in this world.
Up to a little while ago he has been sober, intelligent and
industrious and his income is the sole source of our
maintenance. But now he has become moody, morose and
irritable. Whereas formerly ours was a home of joy and
happiness now it is changed into a home of mourning
and sadness. He works all day but when he comes
home he does not speak and moves restlessly all
night in his bed. To all my pleading questions he turns
away his face and does not answer.' Christ said: 'Send
him to me. I will speak with him.' After sunset the son
returned to the house. His mother went to him and said:
'We have tonight a guest who is noble and spiritual. If thou
hast any trouble, go and tell it to him. I feel sure he can
help thee.' At first he did not want ~~to~~ to go but the
solicitous mother persuaded him to do so. At ~~last~~

22
he consented. Entering the room he found Christ sitting on the floor. Immediately he was up on his feet, welcoming the sullen wayward son. After a few moments of intimate talk he asked the boy: 'Well! my son, tell me what troublest thee? What is the cause of thy worry?' He replied: 'Nothing.' 'Thou art not telling ^{me} the truth. I know thou art laboring under the weight of a great pain, my son. Tell me the cause of thy trouble. I am interested in thy welfare and my heart is full of sympathy for thee. Rest assured that I will not divulge thy secret to any human being. I will keep it to myself and will do my utmost to lighten thy load. Am I not thy kind father and thou art my beloved son?' 'My pain is irremediable,' the boy said, softening somewhat under the loving gaze of Christ. 'I will find a remedy for it.' Christ answered. 'Oh! I knew ^{so} well that no one is able to take away this load from my heart.' 'I am able.' 'But you are powerless. You are also a poor man like unto us. Thou hast no remedy for my malady.' 'I am powerful and I am a physician for all manner of diseases. This is impossible! There is no man living who can claim so much,' he said impressed by the gentle authoritative tone of Christ. 'Come, Come, tell me the secret of thy heart.' 'But I feel ashamed to confess it to you.' 'Did I not

tell thee that thou art my son? And why should there be
anything but perfect intimacy between the son and the father?
'But I feel it is so impolite to speak about these things. Beside
I cannot find proper words to express my inmost feelings and
then I am so afraid I will be misunderstood.' 'No no! Thou
art my real son! I will surely understand thee. Be not afraid.
Be frank.' After a minute of silence he said: 'In the
neighborhood of this village there is the summer palace
of the King. Once I saw his daughter walking in the
meadows. I loved her at first sight. She is the daughter
of a mighty King and I am a poor, miserable thornpicker.
I cannot say more.' And he began to weep. His holiness Christ
consoled him and said: 'Rest thou assured. God willing,
thy hope will be realized.' In brief, ^{after awhile} Christ so arranged
everything that the King consented to give his daughter to
the poor thornpicker boy. For days the royal preparations
went on and the date for marriage was fixed. All the
time the boy was very happy, he thought he is in a fairy
dreamland, he could not believe that these are all real.
When he entered the marriage room and looked into
the face of the beautiful bride and saw all around
the exquisite decorations and furnishings, suddenly ^a thought
sprang up into his mind: 'This man (Christ) has been

the instrument of giving to me this ^{un}dreamed-of felicity, this wonderful bride for whom I was pining away in my solitude in the wilderness, he has made possible for me to enjoy all this luxury and comfort. If he ~~was~~ so powerful to prepare all these things for me, a poor peasant boy, why should he not have done the same for himself? If he could spread such a banquet of rejoicing for me, he could do it for himself a hundred times better. Notwithstanding this ideal power, he is still walking in the wilderness, eating the grass, sleeping on the ground, sitting in the darkness and living altogether a life of poverty. No sooner ^{than} this thought came to his mind than he turned his face to his bride and said: 'Stay just where thou art, I have ~~an~~ ^{an} important business to attend to. I will return as soon as I have finished my work.' This said he ran out of the room and hastened his pace toward the wilderness. After much search he found Christ sitting on a rock. Impetuously he prostrated on the ground and kissed his feet and hands. 'O my Lord! Thou wert not just toward me. Thou hast not treated me fairly.' 'How ^{is} that? Why so? Have I not realized for thee the highest desire of thy heart?' 'Yes, yes, but thou hast desired for me that which thou hast not desired for thyself.'

surely, surely, thou dost possess something by far greater and more important than that which thou hast bestowed upon me. If these things were acceptable and worthy of possession thou wouldst have chosen ^{them} for thyself. Therefore it is self evident that thou hast something more valuable and precious than all these things. Oh! I feel so sad and ashamed, because thou hast granted me those objects which are not worthy of thine even consideration!'

His holiness Christ smiled and said: 'Verily, verily I say unto thee, thou art telling the truth. But hast thou the capability, and worthiness to possess that pearl of great price?' 'Oh! My Lord and my Hope! I will strive and pray to become worthy.' 'Art thou able to leave all these things behind?' 'Yes.' 'Then, verily I declare unto thee, I possess the mysteries of the Kingdom which are the Knowledge of God, the Love of God and the Guidance of God. These are greater than all the worldly possessions. Now, if thou art willing to possess the jewels of the Kingdom, follow me.' He followed Christ till they joined ^{the} other apostles. Then addressing his disciples he introduced ^{to them} his new follower: 'I have had a treasure which was hidden in this village. I have just now unearthed it. Here is my treasure.'