

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

July 4th 1914

Dear friends!

India is the home of religions and sects, each like a circle, in the circumference of which people move, live and have their beings. Social intercourse is barred and ^{mutual} association is discouraged. The mass of the inhabitants are ~~stagnant~~ ^{stagnant} in their ideas and the vast plain of human thoughts are unexplored. Although political and reform problems are discussed amongst the educated class, yet the results are not commensurate with ^{the} agitation. What is needed most in that country is the warm sunlight of universal truth and spiritual brotherhood, the ^{all-}inclusive, all-embracing truth, not an abstract but a concrete, conceivable, practical truth; the truth that will make men free, free from the fetters of castes, free from ~~the~~ human and religious prejudices, free from the self-imposed seclusion and free from intolerance, bigotry and fruitless, barren philosophies and metaphysics of bygone centuries. The civilization of India has been in the past static; now it must become dynamic. The Bahai influence is the Power to perform this magical transformation. Our dear friends Mrs Stannard and Mr and Mrs Getzinger

are²⁷
spending great effort to inculcate this broad, universal truth
in the lives of the Indian people. This is done through Press
and platform. Hence in this letter I desire to include an article
written by Mrs Stanward and published in the Indian
Messenger of March 29th, 1914. The Article is entitled
"The Bahai Movement—A Call of Unity." She says:—

"Whenever we hear that a new religion has actually been
born and established on the earth, we mean that certain
vitally real historical facts and dramatic events have been enacted
in the world of men; that thoughts and ideas, long dormant or
partially realized in a given time and place, take on suddenly
vivid life, and tend to ^{present} present themselves with the force and
enthusiasm of a discovery. We shall expect to find "storm centers"
of emotion and attraction tending to sweep away old landmarks of
habits and customs and ^{to} group themselves with faith and vision
round a central figure. One who has communicated to en-
quiring minds a new presentation of forgotten or misunderstood
verities.

Whether the vortex of influence felt, be apprehended more
intellectually than spiritually, or more emotionally than
rationally, are matters of small moment to the indi-
vidual or collectively to the majority. The thing of ^{prime} prime
importance is that the new vision engendered should

rouse renewed activity on all planes of thought and attract ^{draw} round their focalized truth-centre a whirl of attraction ^{such as} much in the practical way, particles of a nebula will rapturously eddy round their own magnetic centre.

The rising again of a "sun of truth" on earth inevitably produces at least One supreme Revelator and that means the re-starting of another evolutionary motive force, different in degree, though not in essence from former manifestations of energy. It comes with purposeful intensity making for an undeviating purpose and end to be achieved. With an innate wise power of its own, this influence, makes itself known and felt through many channels of greater and lesser volume, while manifesting the unmistakable qualities of Godship in varied ^{forms} intensity and ^{of} varied scope. Nations, like individuals, show higher or lower capacities to register response to "electrical stimuli" in the guise of "teachings," "spiritual impressions" or "social ideals," just in so far as the rays of light from the central force impinge a reflecting field of power and purity. We shall see interesting studies in human psychology, astounding manifestations of a subtler order of nerve sensibility, while the searchlight of God plays about the arena of the world, lighting and flushing into luminosity the hidden darkneses or obscurity of thought.

Distance, time and place appear annihilated in the heart, leaving in the one touched an intense and bewildering sense of now. The now of eternity flashes into the human cognition with a suddenness that bares the soul to its innermost recesses, leaving the cognizer with a completely altered view of life and a new alignment of understanding regarding himself. Such are the effects born in ~~the~~ myriad souls whose destiny calls them to receive the "new" impressions, and feel the whirl of a higher attraction. How this affects the general whole may be gauged when we observe that, no matter how many material mountains and seas may divide the units from one another, the play of purpose from the central Light will manifest modes of life and adopt active measures to realize those modes on identically similar line; and that, though under apparently distinctly dissimilar conditions, these illumined perceptions will endeavor to construct the same ideals, ~~the~~ work out basically the same theories and make for similar goals. Out of the external diversities will ultimately evolve a unique and harmonious result. This must happen, for the great objective aimed at by the Original Director of Light has been first ~~imagined and~~ thought out and ~~imagined~~. To Him, as onlooker, the facts working out must resemble a pattern of intricate design developing unswervingly to a desired end. A harmony

of artistic design, stamped with indelible colours, the whole being a scheme of joy to the lordly Designer, participates in His work. Moving under high attention we are no longer in the realm of illusionary forces, for nothing that required as material to obtain a given and permanent result can be illusionary. Such particles of soul dust, of ephemeral or impure nature are dispelled as mists before the rising sun, or like the rubbish that goes when the process of polishing is begun on a precious stone. The realities of being will alone remain, undying gems in cosmic consciousness. Such, mystically apprehended, are the signs and verities being enacted in our day and observable all over the world.

A new cycle has dawned and with it a new religious attitude, a re-examination of spiritual truths and soul values. Philosophy holds close contact with Science, and Science is proving religion. How? by demonstrating on all vital points the inherent Unity of Life and (however unwillingly acknowledged) the fundamental principle of sympathy as its chosen mode of expression. If you do not believe me, then listen to what one of your own seers writes: "The principle of Unity which man has in his soul is ever active establishing relations far and wide through literature, art, science, society, statecraft and religion. Our great Revelers

are they who make manifest the true meaning of the soul
 by giving up self for the love of mankind. They face calumny
 and persecution, deprivations and death ^{in the service of Love}.
^{was a "sun of truth"}
 Our century ~~has~~ once more risen, above the mortal horizon
 to illumine, with its undying glow, the world of humanity. This
 is no other than the "Supreme Teacher". Indeed the blaze of
 spiritual glory has ignited more than one piece mirror of
 reflection in the times. In the case of the Persian ^{Revelator,} ~~Imam~~
 his flame was so strong that it burnt with divine fire through
 prison bars and stony fortresses and flooded the world of huma-
 nity with light and peace. Sufferings, horrible and persistent,
 became the lot of those who kept the central lamp oil-fed
 with faith, as soldier after soldier in God's army sprang
 undaunted to the ranks and filled the gaps the dying comrades
 left. Devotion to the Cosmic Will, when once the sympathetic
 basis of Unity has been conceived in the heart, becomes the
 Infinite strength and cannot know defeat. Ask your
 own heroes (social and religious pioneers) whether the
 divine urge could ever be silenced by calumny and persecutions.
 If their sincerity made them live out their ideas, then surely
 were obloquy and opposition experienced; and such experiences
 were the guarantees God gives humanity of the ~~value~~ ^{value} of
 their vision and work. Strange seeming paradox —

"No cross, no crown." Unless the little self can be reduced to unpretentious proportions no cause 'can be won.'

For forty years, Abdul Baha, son of the Persian Prophet was confined to inhabit an infinitesimal spot in an insignificant part of the Turkish dominion - like a giant light condemned to burn through a heavily shrouded globe, and only 4 years ago did he emerge to breathe God's air and view the world in freedom. Thousands in various Western parts of the world awaited his coming with intense expectation - thousands knew that for the first time they should behold one whose teachings were the bread of life, the sun of their individual Kingdoms. In 1911 London saw and greeted him whose life had been a complete realization of strength in quiescence, of world influence from a stationary center. Such is the power of Cosmic Unity that when a leading Unifier, utters a word, or concentrates on a thought, energy and movement of a potent order are set up and the law responds in full totality.

The great Bahai movement towards unity stands for the realization of this beautiful cosmic sympathy and, impossible as a universal religion may seem to the world now, yet in time all believers in the one Divine Life must unite to carry out principles that make for a

rhythmic harmony of races and religions, and now that the momentum has been set going ^{and} it will not cease, but rather gain in velocity with every new soul who joins its work-compelling influence. The time will surely come when all the friends of righteousness will have been caught into the joy-vortex of a free humanity, and the music of a godly - Godward Singing shall have no place or heart uninfluenced or ^{un} touched.

Towards a centralizing of religious basic principles, and towards material brotherhoods and peace has God called us with no uncertain note, if we read aright the inspired Persian teachings, and these have also been contemporaneously ~~seen~~ uttered by your leaders of India, and particularly do your Brahma groups and the Deva Raya Society stand as eloquent testimonies

This is the time to join ^{forces} for God. This is the day when the Divine Call summons all willing helpers; when hearts and brains must unite to realize the great life work; when agreements must be entered upon to sink minor differences, and the united wills of the servants of Light add their individual quota to the Service of God."

Today nothing happened worth recording, only the cool breeze wafted through the trees, the birds warbled, the mind dwelt on the recollection of eternal verities and the heart was full with joy and peace.