

Bahai Rest Mount Carmel

Haifa Syria

July 16th 1914

Dear friends!

Although I did not see the Master in the morning yet was I compensated in the afternoon. Several letters from India imparted to him much pleasure. He dictated nearly 20 Tablets, all interesting and wonderful and extracts of which will appear in future letters. Mirza Mahsen was present and he has lived in China he related to the Beloved great many of their national customs and curious habits. The Master said: "This wonderful Cause has not properly introduced into China. It is very necessary that it should be done. This Cause is sorely in need of teachers in all parts of the world - such teachers who may not offend any soul but win the people to the Kingdom of Eternal Reality. China is in need of many good, Bahai Teachers - in order to unshackle their minds from the rusty chains of ancestral traditions."

In regards to himself the Beloved said: "On this account I am very happy that after the departure of the Blessed Perfection, I became the target of the arrows of oppression and the javelins of persecution. This thought is the only source of my consolation."

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About the Bahai' students he said :- "These students are refined. They have become conducive to the glory of the Cause. May God protect them. They will progress greatly in their studies and master many branches of sciences." He spoke about many other things, especially Telli'-sultan the ex-governor of Esphahan who he met in Switzerland and Paris. Then he came out of the house and took a long walk all alone.

At noon all the students were the guests of the Great ^{Italy} Leaf. The various dishes were cooked in the kitchen of the Beloved's ^{house} and taken up in a large basket.

Amongst the many letters received and read to the Master, was one from D. Sepaul Chetty, the Editor of "The New Reformer," Madras, India. Its contents was so beautiful that I would like to share it with you :-

"The loving Tablet your Holiness has condescended to reveal to me has reached me on due course. The very sight of the Tablet from such an exalted spiritual personage as your Excellency dispelled all the gloom that encircled my mind and made me a happy, blessed and regenerated being. It is also a source of immense spiritual pleasure to me that your Holiness, one of the greatest of men that ever trod this earth has been pleased to recognize the humble services,

I, a poor servant of man, have rendered. I therefore fall at thy blessed feet and offer my thanks to your Holiness from the very bottom of my heart. I am determined that this Excellent Tablet shall be preserved as a great heir-loom in my family.

"I promise I shall in all obedience follow the excellent advice your Holiness has been pleased to give me and other Editors regarding the due discharge of our duties as Editors of Magazines and Newspapers. I assure you that I entertain the greatest respect and belief in the high ideals and deeds of your Holiness which are for the establishment of the basis of a Universal Religion and real Brotherhood in this world where men are now at war with each other. I therefore most humbly beg to say that I am quite willing to do all that I can in propagating the Teachings of the Cause you have so much at heart for the good of humanity. I am sure that as time passes the Truth will be understood and every man in the world will enlist himself on your side. With deep love in El Ahba, I remain my beloved Guru, your ever loving and most obedient servant D. Gopaul Chetty."

A letter from Mrs Stannard opens with this sudden outburst of enthusiasm:- "Oh indeed I feel he (Abdul Baha) is bound to come to India; great, great things will happen next

winter I shall soon be able to go down to Calcutta ¹⁰⁹ new
and resume activities and I shall hope to feel fit and strong^d
for much that is to come. I enclose you a letter I have received²
from the Secretary of the coming Universal Congress of Religions
and it will give you some ideas to put before the Master. I trust
that perhaps one or two men Persian Bahais will come as
Delegates to Calcutta I have written to the Secretary of
the Congress that a typewritten official letter must be sent
Abdul Baha making the request for his presence and also
in any case an address which Lua or I can read in
the Congress. Perhaps it should be read in Persian as well,
for many in Bengal know Persian. Anyhow since this
Congress is to be held in four cities it struck me that I had
better do Lahore and Calcutta and Mrs Getsinger Bombay
and Madras and some Persians who know English could
go to that city with her. The Congress is Theistic^{and}
the European and American Delegates will be mostly
Unitarians. They accept the Bahai position of successive
manifestations in the world but they do not deify them
as Roman Catholics and other Christian denominations
do Christ. These Congresses in objects and aims are
practically like Bahai ones and I feel that Abdul Baha
will make a great movement for the people of India

if he comes. He will help this vast land to come into Unity and Brotherhood and many writers will rise up to put into the different languages his teachings of the Cause. All is going on well in preparation and I have now come in communication with the immense Ary Samaj movement of this country. They go on the theory that the Vedas of India are the oldest known revelations to the human race and that revealers come forward at various times to re-reveal the central principles. They do the socialistic work here. I think I can do something with them, because they hold to nearly all our basic truths. The Editor of the Vedic Magazine, Prof. Rama Deva, B. A. seems very enthusiastic over my articles. I have written a series of articles and he is going to publish them serially in his Magazine. He writes me in his last letter: 'I was delighted to get your very kind letter and splendid article. I have sent the article to the Press. Kindly send the 2nd installment at your earliest convenience so that there may be no break in succession. If we believe in Divine Dispensation we must also believe that the first spark of Philosophy must have been derived from Heaven, Since nothing that comes from God can be imperfect or incomplete all later inspirations can be but

the re-statements and progressive interpretations of the primordial revelation. There has been but one true Religion which has been revealed and re-revealed through the ages. In the sphere of religion and morality there is nothing new under the sun. That primordial revelation is the Veda The necessity of primordial revelation being well granted the Veda is the sole claimant to that position. Moreover its lofty teachings cannot be explained in the light of any other theory. If the Veda is not divine revelation, how is it that it - the oldest book in the Library of the world contains truths which according to Max Muller 'sound decidedly nineteenth century life.' This is the stand the Ary Samaj takes as regard Eternal Revelation and it is very easy for a Bahai teacher to explain to them the nature of successive Messages from the One Source, adaptable to the intelligence and comprehension of the people of different centuries. I have established in my recent articles the importance of the Manifestations and their roles in the world of men. I am now busy with a long one for a Madras Magazine to have Portraits as well. I have now two men coming to me to discuss the Bahai position. There is also a well to do Hindu gentleman free-thinker who has become most enthused and gave me a donation of 10 Rupees.

to buy some Bahai books to give away! Another old gentleman is a Moslem Munshee. He is going to write to Abdul Baha. He is a good Persian and Arabic scholar and teaches those languages to big people. He is like a Bahai. He wants to go to Burma to take some schoolboys home - so that will be a good opportunity for him to meet Moslem Bahais like Sayad Mostafa. If he becomes confirmed really he will be able to do great work I think, since he is an educated man but he is elderly and in some ways reminds me of Mirza Abul Fazl. I can do all that is needed in Northern India, provided some Bahai men turn up in Calcutta later. I think Mirza Mahmood would be very useful. Can you send me some pictures of the Master? Gopaul Chetty wants one and so do others." [If any^{one} of the believers in America or Europe can send her a number of the Beloved's photographs, both in single and in group it will be a great service to the Cause she is devoting all her time to its propagation. Let them mail to her address directly as follows: Mrs J. Stannard C/o Henry King & Co, Calcutta India.)

I will bring this day to a close with the reproduction of the letter of Hon. Chandra Sarker, M. A. the General Secretary, International Congress of Liberal Religions, Indian Section to Mrs Stannard:—

"I received your two cards..... I hoped to be able to see you¹¹³
at Darjeeling, therefore I did not write to you so long. But
unfortunately circumstances did not permit me to go Darjeeling.
I am very sorry that I could not see you, as I was very
anxious to do. The International Congress of Religious Unity
will hold its first session at Madras on December 24th
and the last session in India on January 28th 1915
in Calcutta. We are making the necessary arrangements.
We hope Delegates from Europe, America, China, Japan
will attend the Congress. We are very anxious that
the Bahai Movement should be adequately repre-
sented in the forthcoming International gathering,
for no religion can have more warm interest in such
a gathering of Peace and good will on earth as the
Bahai Movement. We have been given to understand
that the Venerable Abdul Baha is likely to be
in India at the time. I am anxious to be sure of his
presence. Will you please communicate with him
on our behalf and request that he may favor us with
his company in the Congress. You will also write to
other leading representatives of the Bahai religion in
Persia and other countries to attend the Congress.
As I do not know the names and addresses of these
persons I cannot individually write to them. We must
have at least one good paper about Bahai Cause, ^{the} besides
the address the address of Abdul Baha. Will you

Kindly undertake to write it yourself and read it before the Congresses in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Lahore. May I know when you return to Calcutta? If you have no objection, we shall enroll you as one of the members of the General Committee of the International Congress of Religious Unity. Please help us with your counsel and co-operation."