

Bahai Nest Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

July 22^d 1914

Dear friends!

According to the Lunar calendar this was the 28th of Sha'aban and the day of the Martyrdom of His Holiness the Bab. Hence a Memorial meeting was held on the slope of Mount Carmel, right beneath the wing of the building where his blessed remains are enshrined. Haji Vaki'eddouleh, was an old Afnan, an uncle of the Bab, ^{who} lived to a very ripe old age and spent the last years of his life in Acca and Haifa. His body is also interred in the Bahai Cemetery at the foot of Mount Carmel. An article in his will consists of the fact that as long as the Bahai Cause lasts an annual Memorial Meeting be held on the day of the Martyrdom of the Bab on Mount Carmel and dinner be served to all those Bahais who happen to be present. The expense of this dinner and afternoon tea is defrayed from the income of a piece of land ^{in Persia} set aside for this special purpose. Is not this an excellent bequest? While I am on this particular subject let me mention another interesting fact of this nature. An English Bahai lady who has dedicated her life to the promotion of the Cause and is now travelling and lecturing in the Orient, spreading the Glad-tidings of the

Kingdom has her own annual income from her personal property. She has made a will that as long as she lives in this world the income from her capital may go to her for her own maintenance but after her the income may be expended for the propagation of the Bahai principles in all parts of the world. The capital must ~~not~~ not be touched under any pretext, only the interest be drawn annually. To my knowledge this is the first practical bequest to the Bahai Cause and it shows in a concrete manner the wisdom and far-sightedness of the lady in question. To have a will similar unto this made by a Persian believer does not excite much comment but when an English woman shows her love of the Cause in such a definite way no one can help but admire her unique resolution and real sincerity. As the time rolls on and the Cause ^{and is} invested with the garments of diversified responsibilities assumes more and more importance, the practical well-wishers of the Movement would, no doubt, be pleased to see such examples followed by others and such instances multiplied. We are living in a material world and we know God works here on this plane through instruments. While not forgetting our spiritual birthright and progress we must not neglect the

material welfare of the Cause. The two must go on hand in hand. The neglect of the one is detrimental to the other. ^{Growth} only in one aspect of life is abnormal. The growth of the Bahai life which is the most perfect, wholesome, serene and sane life must be in all directions. A man or a woman must be the symposium of all the spiritual, economic and social teachings of Baha-Allah. If the Cause or the individual connected with the Cause develops only in one direction - the aim is not obtained, the purpose is not accomplished, the fruit is not culled and the whole truth is not revealed.

Well, we had enough of this digression. Today all the resident believers closed their shops and joined the Pilgrims and students on the slope of the Mountain; but according to my already established custom I descended the Mountain and entered the fairy garden of the Beloved. The gentle breeze wafting over the radiant, fresh flowers of many colors made the morning air fragrant, the little birds sang in the rose-bushes, the weather was perfectly heavenly and the sun shone with diamond brilliancy. Oh how quiet and charming every thing appeared! I sat under the beautiful trellis of roses and as I looked up

the red and white and yellow roses spoke in the inarticulate language of love, innocence and constancy. The combined perfume was delicate and tender - infusing the heart and the mind with the unspoken message of the spirit. There was no one in the garden to disturb the peace and mar the beauty of the scene. I sat there motionless, abandoning my feelings and emotions to the full enjoyment of these ravishing, pageant displays of nature, when my reverie was brought to a full stop by hearing the firm steps of the Beloved descending the stairs. Immediately I was up on my feet. He entered the garden and commenced walking through the various paths; now looking at many colored chrysanthemums and again at white and red carnations. He was clothed in his cream ^{Persian} overcoat, flowing to the ground, his white, beautiful locks adorned his straight shoulders and his long white beard bespoke authority and majesty. His eyes were alive with health, interest and the love of flowers. As he walked briskly in the sunshine, his blessed hands were locked behind him - a true symbol of ^{the Unity of} the East and the West. In the full possession of the divine faculties of his mind and the celestial susceptibilities of his heart

he continued his walk for about fifteen minutes. Then he asked for chair and sat in the sunshine. In a few words he referred to the sacredness and solemnity of the day, inquired about this servant's health and as he arose to enter the house he told me he will be up about 3pm.

At twelve a good dinner was served and all the believers were present. The women had come also and they dined in a separate room. About 3pm we spied through the glass, the carriage standing in front of the door and the Master coming out of the house rode away and after a few minutes he was walking amongst us. He sat silent throughout the meeting and Tablets were chanted by Badi Bushru'i. Then we followed him to the tomb and he chanted in a clear, distinct voice the Visiting Tablet. He stood in front of the door and with the utmost kindness gave rose-water to each worshipper as he entered the Holy of Holies. Coming out of the Sacred Room he walked through the gardens and the ground and while we were engaged in talking about the Cause he slipped away. When we heard about his departure we were surprised, the meeting was brought to an end and every one started descending the mountain.

I will bring to a close this letter by translating a Tablet recently revealed to a believer in Vienna :-

"O thou heavenly personage! Thy letter was received, It became the cause of joy - that praise be to God the Divine Candle is ignited in that city, the Light of Guidance shone forth, the Call of the Kingdom was raised and the spiritual assembly was organized. This is the beginning of the dawn. If the meeting is well established and the souls attracted to the Kingdom of Alpha, ere long the Sun of Reality shall cast a strong effulgence upon that city; the melody of the Oneness of the world of humanity shall be raised; the flag of Universal Peace shall wave over all the regions and the Powers of the Kingdom will confirm"

To a believer in Detroit, Michigan he says:-

"O thou real friend! Thank thou God that thou hast heard the Call of the Kingdom, quaffed from the cup of the Wine of the Teaching of the Blessed Perfection, art released from ancient dogmas, attained to Reality, ^{and} opened the eyes and beheld the Light of Guidance! Therefore render thanksgiving unto the ^{Peerless} Lord who hath unlocked such a door and granted such a Gift - so that in ^{this} Great Day thou mayest become one of the chosen and not of the called"