

Bahai Rest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria
July 30th 1914

Dear friends!

The room in which the Beloved spends his mornings and evenings; receiving the people and revealing Tablets is right above the room in which I write and work all day. When he walks to and fro, I hear distinctly the gentle measures of his steps; no one else can walk like him, the firm, steady, lively, majestic steps. Once your ear is ^{made} familiar with it you can never mistake it for another. When he speaks or laughs, on the white wings of the soft breezes, his rich, mellifluous voice, now clearly and again faintly reaches the ravished ears. The believers hearing that the Master is going to reveal Tablets on such morning or ^{such} afternoon, come and stay quietly and unnoticed in my room, near the windows. On certain occasions while dictating prayers or supplications he chants in his melodious godlike voice, every word inspired by the Holy Spirit and rising toward the Throne of the Almighty. It is

especially during such hours that the listeners became almost intoxicated with the sense of spiritual joy. Today the Master devoted his morning and afternoon hours to the dictation of Tablets for the Persian believers. Our dear brother Shauqi Effendi was the chosen instrument to whom the Tablets were dictated and a number of the friends including myself were the fortunate ones to sit near the window and listen to the heavenly voice of the Master as the words of Light flowed from his tongue.

In the evening there was a meeting and the Beloved spoke on the etheric element as the Cause of light, heat and electricity and the theories of Western physicists as regards to this unseen fiery, simple force.

Through the spiritual activity of Mr and Mrs Albert Vail the town of Urbana, Illinois, has entered the Bahai list with the formation of a new Assembly and the incoming reports show the decided progress of the Cause. Mr and Mrs A. Vail met the Beloved in Malden and Chicago and from that time on they have identified themselves with this Universal Movement of Brotherhood and through their sincere words and pure, personal

lives they have attracted many hearts to the Teachings of Baha-allah. The other day four Tablets were revealed for the ^{members of the} Assembly, Mr Vail, Prof J. E. Shook, ^{and} ~~and~~ his little daughter, Elizabeth. With the translation of these Tablets I will bring this letter to a close. To the members of the Assembly he writes:-

"O ye members of the radiant assembly! Praise be to God that the lights of the Sun of Reality shone forth from the horizon of Urbana and the Mysteries of the Kingdom became manifest. What a merciful assembly is founded! What a lordly circle is organized! This is no other save the Confirmations of the Kingdom of Abha! for in that city such a meeting is established. This is the first corner-stone of the Divine ~~structure~~ laid in that district. Ere long it will become a most great Edifice; for the Confirmations of God shall descend uninterruptedly.

I hope the revered members of that Circle who are surrounded with the Glances of the Blessed Perfection and are favored with the Eye of Providence will adorn their noble heads with the Crowns of Everlasting Glory and shine with such brilliancy as to illumine that entire Continent.

Consequently, arise ye and live in accord with the Teachings of His Holiness Baha-Allah;— in order that the invisible, divine aids may envelop you.

"The inhabitants of the world are like unto the children. The suckling babes must be nurtured properly so that they may attain to the age of adolescence.

"Darkness has surrounded the regions of the world. They must become illumined with this Light of the Kingdom.

"Appreciate the value and the station of Rev. Albert Vail, for this holy personage has labored for years with patience, serenity and wisdom.

"The Secretary of the assembly deserves in reality the respect of all, for he is well-nigh unto the Lord.

"The maid servant of God Mrs Smith is a revered lady.

"I beg of God that this most great Glad-tiding may reach the ears of innumerable souls.

"In prayer one must turn his face towards the sanctified Reality of His Holiness Baha-O Allah — that Reality which surrounds all the phenomena. During the time of prayer His Holiness Baha-Allah must be singly and alone the center towards whom all the faces are turned.

I hope that you may become more illumined day by day.

Upon ye be Baha - El Abha!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abhas.

To Mr Albert Vail he writes:-

"O thou herald of the Kingdom of God! The foundation of all the Monarchs of the earth, notwithstanding their imperial sovereignty, royal Purple, serried ranks of armies and vast Empires was entirely collapsed in a short while. There remained behind them no name nor trace, no authority nor dominion; no immortality in this terrestrial globe nor did they receive a share of the Eternal Life in the Kingdom of heaven.

"On the other hand, consider, the apostles of Christ! Although outwardly they were fishermen, yet because they renounced this world, opened their eyes to the Divine Universe, forgot entirely their personal selves, dedicated their lives to the Light of the world and became self-sacrificing in the Path of His Holiness Christ - may my life be a ransom to him! - those fishermen ^{today} are shining and gleaming with the light of God from the Horizon of Eternity. All the Kings are their slaves and the highest World is brightened.

with the light of their faces. Every tongue is engaged in their glorification and every heart is rejoiced with their love.

"Reflect thou for a moment that this Sovereignty is the real Sovereignty but the sovereignty of the kings is temporal. It is ^{in addition} fraught with thousands of sorrows, remorse and perplexities and its end are regrets, deprivations and self condemnation.

"Now thank thou God that thou hast placed on thy head that radiant Crown! Although its importance is not now manifest yet ere long it will become evident and as clear as sunlight.

"During their lifetime the apostles were always under the taunt and persecution of the enemies and no one deigned to consider their degrees and stations. Now they were prisoners in the dark jail and anon thrown beneath the contempt and punishment of the adversaries. Finally many of them sacrificed their lives ^{upon the cross} for His ^{Highness} the Almighty. But consider how afterwards they shone forth like unto the stars and illumined the world! This is Life Eternal!

In short, praise thou God, that the Doors of these Bestowals are wide open before thee and such

Everlasting Glory is prepared and made ready.

Therefore strive thou with heart and soul; do not rest; summon the people to the Divine Kingdom and arise with all thy might and main to promulgate the Teachings of His Holiness Baha-allah - May my life be a sacrifice to him -; - so that that Glorious Garden may adorn and crown the head of that rare soul. In the Kingdom of God this Bestowal is foreordained for thee. I hope thou wilt put forth an effort so that this foreordination might step into the world of realization.

Convey to all the believers of God ^{my} the most wonderful Abha greeting. Upon thee be Baha El Abha.
(Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas.

To Prof. Shook he writes: -

"O thou real friend! Praise be to God that thou hast perfumed thy nostrils with the Breeze of the Rose-garden of Abha. Thou didst find the Doors of the Kingdom wide open and with exceeding rejoicing and exhilaration thou didst enter the circle of those who are attracted with the Beauty and Perfection of God. Thou hast become awakened and have

abandoned ancient dogmas and superannuated traditions.
 Thou didst become a worker of Reality and wert released
 from the world of accident. Thou wert informed with
 the Mysteries of the Holy Books and ^{with} a sweet melody art
 engaged in the glorification and praise of the Glorious Lord.
 The Call of His Holiness Baha-Allah - may my life be a ransom
 to Him - so influenced thee that thou hast decided to move
 to another city and whithere upraise the Divine Standard,
 invite the people to the Kingdom of the Blessed Perfection and
 establish the merciful Assembly. This intention is very
 sacred. I hope thou wilt become assisted therein.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha (Sig) Abdul Baha Abbas

The last little Elizabeth Shook :-

"O thou spiritual child, I hope that ^{thou} mayst become
 a daughter of the Kingdom and become conducive
 to the diffusion of the heavenly Light, he considered
 the physical and the spiritual child of thy noble
 father and announce the Teachings of His
 Holiness Baha-Allah in large gatherings
 and most ^{important} meetings.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha
 (Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas