

Bahai Nest Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1914

Dear friends!

The sun was set behind Mount Carmel. The delicate shades of its after glow - red, pink and orange - had painted the Western horizon of the Eastern sky. The white fleecy clouds were transformed into golden castles hanging betwixt the heaven and earth. It was as though Iris, the beautiful goddess of Rainbow had tented the blue azure and she herself living in one of those lovely mansions of the air and making a magnificent display of iridescent colors and prismatic hues for the delectation of her admirers. The sunrise and sunset on Mount Carmel are especially gorgeous and superb, for one often observes the sea and mountain on fire - a brilliant and resplendent scene of dazzling colors, blended and suffused together in one magnificent whole. On this particular evening there was a lull in the air <sup>and</sup> a calm grandeur unfolded us. There was the softest rustle through the trees and flowers and the sweetest songs on our lips. A few of us were thus enjoying the pure deliciousness of the garden of the Master. The light

Zephyrus moved by gently and our hearts were submerged in the starlit sea of Divine Love. I was weaving garlands of ideals with the fresh, sweet flowers of the spirit and thinking of those far-off friends who are always near when suddenly the Beloved entered the garden, leading in his right hand a sweet little girl of 5 or 6 years all dressed in white. He was talking with her in Turkish and she was answering with much grace and dignity. "This is my guest!" he said, as he pointed to her while standing on the steps of the house. "Come, come, my dear friend! We will go in and have tea and sweets." And the host and the guest disappeared in the deepening dusk of the night. In the half darkness of the night, I heard the clear voice of the Beloved calling to his sister: "Khanom! Khanom! I have brought you a guest. What nice things have you for her. She is the guest of honor."

Was not this an ideal picture of the Master, that even now while the whole world is <sup>in</sup> a great turmoil and his heart and head <sup>are</sup> filled with pity and sympathy for the afflicted he is still the simple, darling, children-loving Father, overflowing with tenderness, benignity, reverence and affection. At this time and hour no other human being would have any thought for the dear children

Only Abdul Baha is perfect in all his ways and his loving-kindness and humanity to the little ones of the world is the highest and noblest examples of his spiritual life!

This morning I was called into his holy Presence and after reading a few letters and dictating a number of Tablets he spoke about the present war and the tremendous issues at stake. There are wild stories of battles fought on land and sea and victories won by the contending parties but they lack veracity and accuracy. Everyday has its crop of incoherent reports which set the tongues awagging. Here the general opinion is that Germany is able to lick any coalition of European Powers against her, that with the Emperor William as the generalissimo of the invincible Army, Germany will meet her foes calmly and shatter their forces with unconquerable resolution. "Germany" someone told me "is well-nigh invulnerable. Her army is thoroughly disciplined and enthusiastic. They will fight desperately and as long as there remains one soldier in the German Empire he will fight against the hated invaders. Germany will offer no quarter to her enemies." Such opinions one

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hears often stated in the market or in the offices.

This evening there was an interesting meeting and the Beloved delivered a short talk as follows:-

"These dreadful events are as warnings on the part of God; so that they may quicken the people and make them mindful. But the majority of mankind are like unto the children who are being rocked in a cradle. The harder they are rocked to be awakened, the deeper they fall into sleep. East and West the affairs of the people are in utter confusion and the markets of the world are afflicted with lethargy. The wheels of international transactions are at a standstill. We shall wait and see what God has decreed to be the outcome of this universal upheaval. As for you, pray meanwhile in behalf of the people - so that the forces of Peace may gain ascendancy over the powers of war. They are now in great distress. From all sides they are surrounded with difficulties and hardships. Perchance, God willing, they may become mindful and aware, be released from negligence, abandon tyranny and oppression, treat each other with justice and fairness and give up the dictates of selfishness and personal interest. Our hope is that they may be freed from the cruelty of passion

and egoism; that these wicked powers may not overmaster them; that they may turn their faces toward God; that the hearts may become illumined; <sup>that</sup> the sphere of the minds be extended; that avarice and covetousness may not remain; that trust in God and self reliance may take possession of their beings; that they may be satisfied with their own rights and that they may not rise in aggression to trample under their feet the rights of others. May all the causes of war and conflict, hardships and sufferings be entirely removed!..... In short pray and supplicate at the Threshold of the Almighty in behalf of the heedless souls; for they know not what they are doing! May they become emancipated from the defects of their own nature! May they be imbued with the qualities of the heavenly Angels! May they give up ferocity and be characterized with the attributes of the Merciful! May they ever live in accord with the good-pleasure of the Lord of mankind! May they become the guardians of the rights of the oppressed and downtrodden! May they be the real servants in the Palace of Universal Brotherhood! "