

No 30.

The Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab

Beginning August 21st 1914

Ending September 8th 1914

Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

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Bahai' Nest. Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

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Dear friends?

Oh how these divine days like unto the white, gleaming rays of the morning light are passing away! Strung on the silken cord of the spirit each year is a rosary, each month is a pearl, each day is a prayer, each hour is a blessing, each minute a glorious summation of all the past yearnings and each second a vision of the upward progress of the infinite possibilities inherent in the nature of man! Borne on the swift wings of the bird of inspiration we are impelled to rise higher and higher toward the bright summit of the ideals of beauty, truth and justice and from that radiant height study and contemplate the words of His Majestic Hands. How glad are we that we are living in this day of the Lord! He is imparting to us the knowledge of His Kingdom, the sweetness of His Peace which passeth all understanding and the calmness and assurance of His Ultimate Purpose! He is educating us in the college of His Wisdom - so that we might be able to adapt

ourselves easily to the larger and wider environment
 of His mighty work. He is instructing us in His own in-
 imitable way, developping the Centre of our mental and
 spiritual activities and building our characters from
 the very foundation up to the highest tower of human
 perfection. For in the University of God, education
 does not mean reflex actions, automatism, impression
 and mechanical adjustment. In the highest sense,
 education presupposes consciousness. In this school
 we must develop our spiritual consciousness. A human
 being devoid of this quality lives continually in the
 world of senses. The senses direct his step to animalism,
 worldliness and materialism; while the spiritual conscio-
 ness guides him to the fountain of those eternal
 principles which are conducive to the social and
 ideal progress of mankind. A man endowed with
 spiritual consciousness considers the whole world his
 own kith and kin, becomes merciful, patient, lenient,
 and long-suffering. A truly spiritual man is he who
 develops this heavenly quality in the innermost
 recesses of his heart. He will break the doors of the
 cage of self and soar toward the blue sphere

of celestial brotherhood. Ah! his fellow men may set aside ^{all} the laws of God, may perpetrate the most heinous crimes against humanity, may go into war and shed the blood of millions of men, may demolish the basis of civilization built by their ancestors - yet, because he has been trained in the Divine College, and his spiritual consciousness has become keen and far-seeing - he does not lose his faith and his hope that a day is coming when "of the increase of his (God's) government and Peace there shall be no end..." For the spiritually awakened man believes that God in this latter day must fulfill all his promises. For in one place He hath said: - "The indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies." Further He says "their slain shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance Seek ye the book of the Lord and read: no one of these shall fail: for my mouth it hath commanded ... "(Isaiah chapter 34)

But after this universal catastrophe the nations ^{will} come to their senses; they will shake off the deep slumber of sins and transgressions, they will repent their own

folly and ferocity; they will turn ^{their} faces unto the Lord God Almighty; they will obey the laws of Baha-Allah, the "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace"; they will shout and rejoice and say to each other; "Come ye, and let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths;" they will forget their former enmity and racial and religious prejudices; "they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks;" they will lay in their hearts the foundations of eternal Peace; they will sing the anthems of Fraternity; "nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more;" they will co-operate with each other in the upbuilding of Civilization and consider the harm of one the harm of all; - for then, He - the Lord - shall judge among the nations. They they will know that "righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." With joy in their hearts they will leap over the mountains ^{like unto the hart} and skip upon the hills like unto the roe. Then they will hearken unto the voice of the Lord; "Let not a man glory in this that he love his country,

let him rather glory in this that he loves his kind." And again: "Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold your God will come he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb sing. . . . And a highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Even now while the world is going through the birth-throes of that higher life of Peace and good-fellowship, burning the "old self" on a huge pyre of conflagration, a Bahai loves these negligent brothers of his and prays for their deliverance from this charnel-house of demoniacal illusions. Well he might cry out with that inspired thinker and writer of the 19th century: "With others eyes, too, could I now look upon my fellowman, with an infinite Love,

an infinite pity. Poor, wandering, wayward man! Art thou not tried, and beaten with stripes, even as I am? Ever, whether thou bear the royal mantle or the beggar's gabardine, art thou not so weary, so heavy-laden; and thy Bed of Rest is but a Grave. O my brother, my brother, why cannot I shelter thee in my bosom, and wipe away all tears from thy eyes!— Truly, the din of many-voiced Life, which, in this solitude, with the mind's organ, I could hear, was no longer a maddening discord, but a melting one: like inarticulate cries and sobbings of a dumb creature, which in the ear of Heaven are prayers. The poor Earth, with her poor joys, was now my needy mother, not my cruel Stepdame; Man, with his so mad Wants and so mean Endeavors, had become the dearer to me, and even for his sufferings and his sins, I now first named him Brother."

All day I was working in my room and now and then I could hear the voice of the Beloved speaking with strangers and friends. When I gathered my papers to ascend the mountain and was walking in the garden I saw him coming in with another man. With a movement of his hand he answered my salutation and said: "I am well, I am feeling very well." I saw the lovely smile playing on his face as he entered the house.