

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria
August 24th 1914

Dear friends!

Doctor E. C. Getsinger left to day for America.

During the day he met the Beloved several times and each time the Master spoke with him in great length: Economy was the subject of his morning's talk with him. "Economy" he said "is the foundation of human prosperity. The spendthrift is always in trouble. Prodigality on the part of any person is an unpardonable sin. The fewer the habits the better for the man. It is a divine virtue to be satisfied with very few things. Contentment is the antidote for the cure of all the social diseases. We must live an independent life and never live on others like a parasite plant. Every person - whether literary or manual - must have a profession and live a clean, manly honest life, an example of purity to be imitated by others. Contentment is the master-key to all successes. If the members of my family starve, I will not ask money from the people. It is more kingly to be satisfied with a crust of stale

bread than to enjoy a good dinner composed of many
 delicious dishes ~~the~~ money of which comes out of the pocket
 of others. Just at this time it is simply impossible
 to get money from any source. yet for the last three
 days I have applied to many people and finally ^{succeeded}
 to borrow a sum for thy travelling expenses. I would not
 have done this for any Persian Bahai nor for anyone
 belonging to my own household. A Bahai ~~must~~ be
 very satisfied. There was a time that I lived on five
 cents a day and I was then much happier than now.
 The Persian Bahais often live in the utmost poverty
 and wants yet they never complain nor ask money from
 anyone. Begging, they consider, below their spiritual station.
 A man who is the treasury of the Kingdom is not poor.
 There have been some rich Bahais in Persia whose
 properties have been entirely confiscated. Being thus
 reduced to utter destitution they went out cheerfully
 to work and in their turn spent all they made for the
 maintenance of the poorer Bahai families. Love,
 yea, love must be demonstrated through deeds. Love
 has never been a "passive noun," a figure of speech but
 it ~~has~~ always been "an active noun", an ideal reality.

The sign of true Faith is the service of the believers of God and service must always manifest itself in loving deeds and actions..... The mind of a contented person is always peaceful and his heart is at rest. He is like a monarch ruling over the whole world. A small business with a steady income is better than the wild, helter-skelter speculations of financier. How happily he helps himself of his frugal meals, how joyfully he takes his walks and how peacefully he sleeps!

In the afternoon just before his departure he said:-
 "I hope and pray that thou shalt reach safely thy native land. I shall always remember thee and expect to receive good news from thee. When thou reachest the United States convey my wonderful Bahai greeting to all the believers of God. Once they continue to live in accord with my advice and exhortations, there will appear in their words a most miraculous power and effect." Then He embraced him in his two heavenly Arms and kissed his face. We all bade farewell to our good Doctor and loaded him with good-wishes for all the friends across the Atlantic.

In the morning a cablegram was sent to Stuttgart, asking the two young Persians to return and giving permission to Mr Remey and Mr Latimer to come with them to the Holyland.

In the afternoon two English warships were sighted in the distance. They came and anchored in the harbor. The population were panic-stricken. They thought the city will be surely bombarded. Hastily all the locomotives were hurried into the interior because they were told they will bombard first the railroad station. The capitains of the warships sent for their Consul and after an hour conversation, they steamed off under the cover of night. The two German Cargo steamers are yet lying in the port. They know that as soon as they leave the harbor they will be taken as prisoners of war.

This was the second day of the Feast of Ramazan and consequently the Beloved was very busy to receive the people. With many Mohamadan Sheiks he spoke on the importance of the present war and its ruinous effect all over the world. "What bloodthirstiness rankles in the breast of man! What demonic ferocity prompts him to kill his own brothers!" he said.

In his talk yesterday morning he said:- "Real feasts were held during the Days of the Blessed Perfection; for then we used to get up ^{early morning} with the utmost joy, exhilaration and happiness, addressing ourselves with transport:- 'This is the day of the Feast. Soon shall we stand before His Holiness Baha-Allah, receive a new Grace and witness a new Confirmation and Bounty.' But after his departure, no joy equal to the joy of those days has been left for us, especially in those days that the world of humanity is enveloped with the burning flame of a Universal Conflagration. During the Feast Days one is reminded more forcibly of the Days of Baha-Allah, more particularly the Days of Ridwan. Consider how different it is now! During the lifetime of the Blessed Perfection on Ridwan days we used to go into His Holy Presence; now during those self-same days we go to visit His radiant Tomb. This year very few of the Mohamadeans kept fast in these parts. In the Divine Religions, fasting is a cardinal law. Fasting is conducive to the mindfulness and heedfulness of man. Its ulterior wisdom is the sanctification of the soul from carnal

and physical appetites. Fasting energizes and sharpens the spiritual consciousness and cleanses the hearts from the worldly desires. They become sensitized and etherialized, conscious of the higher forces and feeling the eternal vibrations of the Spirit. Fasting makes one more observant of the laws of God, and grants unto him severance and attraction. These higher reasons of fasting are now completely forgotten. It has become only a habit, a custom handed down from ancestors and forefathers. In reality they are not fasting; they are keeping up a dead institution. Fasting is like a lamp. What is a lamp for? It is a chimney for the protection of the light. If there is no light in the glass, what use is there for it? Now these people are constantly cleaning the glass and are not thinking of the light. No matter how clean and beautiful is a palace from its outside but its inside dirty and unclean, it will not avail! It is related that a Kurd, dressed in a long, heavy fur-coat was standing out in the street, praying. It was summer and the noon hour of an unbearably hot day. Two men passed by and one said to the other: 'Look, what a wonderfully religious man is this! who is ^{praying} during this hot hour of the day!' The Kurd hearing this commendation was very pleased and right through his prayer turned to them and said: - 'You do not know, I am fasting too.' (According to the Mahomadan law no one must speak while he prays, otherwise he must renew his prayer). Now the prayers and fastings of these people are similar to those performed by the Kurd.