

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria

August 30th 1914

Dear friends!

Near the doorway of the Tomb of the Bab the Master stands, a majestic, inspired figure, full of benignity and spiritual peace. In his holy hand he holds a ^{glass} rose-water bottle and as the friends file in the blessed room they hold up the palms of their hands and receive a few drops of the fragrant attar. Uniformly he looks into face of each worshipper, while his own Countenance is wreathed with the delicate garland of a sweet imperceptible smile - symbolizing the eternal joy of the Bahai life. When all the friends have entered the room, then the Beloved enters with the utmost reverence. While all the believers are lined in the upper part of the room he stands near the vestibule. ~~The~~ mantle of perfect silence falls upon the Pilgrims and then the delicious spell is broken by the clear, spiritual voice of the Master. Lo! He is chanting the visiting Tablet. Little by little the music of his heavenly voice gains volume and colors. You listen entranced, captivated; your heart leaps with the inevitable harmony and beautiful rhythm of his chanting.

a thrill of acute, receptive feeling flows from head to foot; your heart has suddenly turned into some most sensitive sense-organ, catching the ethereal vibrations of supernal Glory; you see yourself drawn to the fountain-head of Life from which flows a continual stream of divine blessings; your inner being assumes the form of a white canvas over the surface of which are drawn the ideal pictures of the Kingdom with the brush of the unearthly Artist. The visiting Tablet is in eloquent Arabic revealed by Baha-Allah himself and is most wonderful in its sublimity of thought and the grandeur of expression. This same Visiting Tablet is chanted also at the Tomb of the Blessed Perfection. I have heard the Master chanting it ever so many times that I think you would like to know its contents. Many Bahais have memorized it and no matter where they are living they read it, while their faces are turned Eastward. I might say that some one else better grounded in the English language can give you a far better translation than the one I have done, but in all probability it will answer the present purpose. Then, surely, in the future when there are greater literary facilities a more critical translation may be ^{required}. It is as follows:-

"The Praise which became manifest from Thy Supreme Soul, the Glory which dawned from Thy Countenance, the most Glorious — be upon thee! O Thou Manifestation of the Almighty, the King of Immortality and the Possessor of all that which is upon the earth and in heavens! I testify that through Thee the Sovereignty of God and His Authority, the Grandeur of God and His Almightyness became revealed. Through Thee the Suns of Priority shone forth in the heaven of Pre-ordination and the Beauty of the Invisible appeared from the Horizon of Origin. I testify that through the motion of Thy Pen the Command of "Be" and "It was" was published abroad; the Hidden Mystery of God was unveiled; the unknown potentialities were disclosed and the Manifestations were set. I testify that through Thy Beauty the Beauty of the Adored One was uncovered; through Thy Face the Face of the Desired One beamed; through one Word on thy part the creatures were separated and the sincere ones ascended to the Apex of Loftiness while the polytheists descended to the lowest degress.

"I testify that whosoever recognized Thee, has recognized God and whosoever attained to Thy Meeting has attained to the Meeting of God. Blessed is he who has believed in Thee and Thy Verses; became humble before Thy Majesty, was honored with Thy Visit, obtained Thy good-pleasure, circumambulated around Thee and presented himself before Thy Throne.

"Woe unto him who oppressed Thee, disbelieved in Thee, repudiated Thy Signs, rebelled against Sovereignty, fought against Thine Own Self, assumed haughtiness before Thy Countenance, contented with Thy Proof, run away from Thy Government and Supremacy and was written with the Fingers of Command as one of the polytheists in the Tablets of Holiness.

"O my God! O my Beloved! Send to me from the right Hand of Thy Grace and Providence the Holy Fragrances of Thy Bestowals - and release me from myself and the world and draw me towards the Haven of Thy Nearness and Thy Meeting. Verily Thou art powerful to do that which Thou wilt and very Thou art surrounding all things!

Upon Thee be - O Thou Countenance of God,

the Praise of God and His Mention — the Balm of God and His Light? I testify that the eye of Creation has not witnessed an Oppressed One like unto Thee. During all Thy Days Thou wert in the dark chambers of calamities. Now Thou wert under the chains and irons and anon Thou wert under the swords of the enemies. Notwithstanding all these, Thou didst command the people as Thou wert commanded on the part of the Wise and the Knowing! May my Spirit be a sacrifice to Thy affliction and may my soul be a ransom to Thy trial! I beg of God, of Thee and of those whose faces became illumined through the rays of Thy Face and followed that which they were commanded for the sake of Thy Love — to rend asunder the veils which have intervened between Thyself and Thy creatures and destine for us the good of this world and the world to come. Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Exalted, the Mighty, the Forgiving and the Merciful!

"O God! Glorification and salutation be upon the Tree and Its leaves; Its Branches and Its twigs, Its roots and Its arms — through the continuation of Thy Conely Names and Thy Most High Attributes. Then

Then protect It from the perversity of the antagonists and the hosts of the tyrants. Verily Thou art the Omnipotent and the Omniscient,

"O God! Glorification and salutation be upon Thy servants who have attained and Thy maid servants who have attained. Verily Thou art the Generous, the Possessor of the Most Great Bestowal and verily there is no God beside Thee, the Pardoner and the Clement"

This was a faint translation of the original of the Visiting Tablet. I hesitated to give a translation of this wonderful gem of the Kingdom but because several of the friends have asked me, I desired to comply with their wishes and these being the quiet days of the Master, I took it as an excellent opportunity. Day by day he is feeling much better. Several members of the Holy Family have come up but after paying their visit they go down in the evening. So far as our life here is concerned, one can wish for nothing more peaceful, more serene, more quiet and more undisturbed by outside influences.