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Mount Carmel. Bahai Rest

Haifa, Syria

Sept 6th 1914

Dear friends!

Spiritually we are all hungry for the bread of life which are being sent down from the heaven of the Divine Will of the Pre-existent One. Humanity in its constant struggle for constructive progress had closed their eyes to those elements which have ever contributed to the rebuilding of nations. Like unto the common red-legged locusts they could not perceive objects at a greater distance than a few inches; they were satisfied to see only the things in their immediate environments. Zoölogy teaches us the interesting phenomenon that the red-legged locust is endowed with two systems of visualization. It tells us that it has ^{"compound} eyes" and "simple eyes." Notwithstanding these two kinds of eyes, it can ^{not} distinguish things more than a few feet. How this creature represents a certain class of mankind, who although have eyes, cannot see ^{anything} beyond their narrow circle. Just as the locust would deny the existence of any thing beyond the range of its vision, so these men go on blindly through their lives and

negate all spirituality because they cannot see it. They are the "two-legged human locusts." They would not listen to any argument, are perfectly satisfied with their few days of idle lives. Although the sides of the head of the locust contain a mosaic of single eyes, called "facets" beneath which are the necessary structures for sight, yet it does not avail itself of the wonderful gift the Creator has equipped it. In all probability it is entirely unconscious of its existence and never tries to use for a long range sight. In a similar way, God has given to man many ideal eyes; each one of which has the power to penetrate through the dark riddle of the universe, but man in his ignorance does not use them—may rather he may go so far as to deny their very beings. This is the exact state of those materialists who are perfectly contented with their physical eyes and flatly contradict the necessity and the presence of other eyes. It is therefore the duty of the Bahai teachers to convince those who are inclined to listen that we have many invisible eyes and the power of seeing in each must be fully trained—so that we may see from all around the wonder of God's creation. Why these men ~~in~~ Europe are making piles of corpses of the living, moving, creature,

industrious human beings? Because like the locust in the grass they see only a few inches and those few inches are their frontiers named egoism, self-interest, ~~patriotism~~ and the collective force of their prejudices. They do not see anything ~~else~~ these threatened frontiers and they rush forward to protect and guard them intact to be entrusted intact to the future generations. I wish to God these boundaries were ^{entirely} ~~were~~ wiped away from the face of the earth! And this is impossible till the beautiful mosaic of our spiritual eyes are opened and began to look upon humanity as the children of One God. Who can give the power of sight to these seemingly blind eyes? Abdu'l Baha, He is the Master-Occulist of this age. He knows how to heal the optic nerves, how to remove the near-sightedness, how to arrange the function of the iris so that the ^{proper} amount ^{of light} may enter in the eye and regulate the workings of the lens and the retina. With his wonderful knowledge of this most delicate organ there shall appear no astigmatism and the old persons will not ~~have~~ to wear spectacles. They will be given such keen, ^{observing} penetrative eyes that they will be enabled to see ^{without} much difficulty the reality of every object no matter

how far. They will not, then, look with an eye of the stranger upon their fellow men; they will not have splintered glasses in their eyes. On the retina of their eyes will fall the most sublime pictures of divine humanity; even like unto the old Argus they will have a hundred nay rather a thousand extremely watchful, sharp-sighted eyes and in the whole sweep of creation nothing will miss their benevolent, merciful and humane vision. For this reason Prof. Jordan of Stanford University has well described the psychology of this war and has come perilously near to the right solution. He has "~~seen~~" the light with his God-given "spiritual eye." He says:—"War is war, and crime is crime. The end is terrible for those who are beaten, and in the long run for those who are ^{victorious}, too. What can be done? Let us remember that the real war is between Humanity on the one hand and Privilege on the other. The only hope left is that evil forces will be sated and exhausted in this war and our human impulses will triumph. Treaties are of no avail. There is no mechanism that can be depended on; the only power is the moral and spiritual education of the people—the moral and spiritual education of the individual man in the collective ideals and experiences of the people. Those

have been growing for a long time, and have received a terrible shock by the unprecedented calamity which has fallen upon the Western world. War has retarded their development, but they can never be killed. They will revive when the nations of Europe have become exhausted by the passions and ravages of war. Then the peoples of Europe will return to those ideals which are common to all, true to all and good to all.

The talk of the Beloved to day was about the stations of the prophets of God. He prefaced it, however with these remarks:- "Mount Carmel is enveloped with the white mantle of spirituality. Its atmosphere is permeated with an indescribable peace and tranquility. During these matchless moonlight nights one's heart becomes tender and the mind restless and meditative, pensive and musing. It is as though the trees, the rocks, the sea, the grass, the stars hold communion with man and whisper into his ears the secrets of nature. It was mainly owing to this reason that the ancient prophets of God lived in the grottoes and caves of this mountain - so that they may spend their time in quiet contemplation. The divine Holy Prophets have two stations. The first is the station of 'Abstraction'. This is the station

wherein they commune with God, receive the Graces of the Holy Spirit and become intimate with the Fragrances of Holiness. The second station is the station of "Plurality". In this station they occupy themselves with the education of mankind. They have, as a result, to bear the enmity, persecution and calumny of the people. On account of their pride, haughtiness and conceit they oppose and assail these divine Temples of Truth; notwithstanding this they bring forward proofs and arguments, instruct them through the heavenly advice and exhortations and little by little cause them to ascend to the lofty height of beatific Purity. This work is most exacting and difficult, yet they do not murmur. But the world of "Abstraction" in which they quaff the Chalice of immortality is very pleasant and spiritual. It is a super-individual experience, commonly shared by all the elect of God. It is the light of the spirit and the spirit of the world. Its sweet delicacy is enjoyed by every class. For this reason whenever the ^{old} Prophets desired to commune with God and enter the realm of "Abstraction" came to this Holy ~~Station~~ ^{Place}, and prayed for the day and the night - thus strengthening in this manner the basis of their Inspiration.