

The Diary Letter of Sept. 13, 1914

is merely a short paragraph.

Then from Sept. 14th to October 9th,

1914 the letters are missing.

No 31

The Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab

Beginning September 9th 1914

Ending September 13th 1914

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria.

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria
September 9th 1914

Dear friends!

This being the ninth day of the month and considering the tremendous confusion of the civilized nations of the Western Christendom, the translation of the following significant communication from Abdul Baha will have a direct bearing on the turmoils and and complication incident to the present huge world war. It is addressed to a Congress whose objects are humanitarian and universal in their application. He says:-

"O ye members of the noble Congress of the world of humanity!

The idealism of your aims, the sublimity of your objects, the utility of your plans and the practicality of your regulations principles ^{should receive} ~~must ever unto themselves~~ ^{the gratitude} the thanks of all mankind. They must be grateful to and pleased with you, for you are resolved to display such efforts and demonstrate such workable conceptions, the application of which will insure the welfare of the human commonwealth. For the composure and wellbeing of the world of creation ^{depends} upon the refinement of the modes and manners through which flow the general morality and ethics of the

children of men. The most effective means for the elevation of the standard of ethics is, to possess a nature, imbued with the highest manifestations of morality, a character impelled by the most self-sacrificing determination and a sphere of thought mathematically infinite. Then the world of humanity must be invited to rise to this dazzling and sublime attainment. Consider that the force of the following primary and cardinal thought is played upon each individual unit of mankind: To attract profit to and repulse loss from himself. He is thinking how to secure rest and pleasure for himself. He is the victim of Individualism with all its fair but deceiving arguments. He strives and plots, — so that in riches, in comfort, in power, in honor and in personal magnetism — may become distinguished ^{from} and superior to all the rest of his fellow-men. This is the hankering of each individual unit of the body politics. Every one will concede that ~~such~~ life is despicable, contemptible, low-minded and sordid. Now when man makes a little progress and the level of his outlook is raised to a higher altitude he begins to think of all the members of his family: How to attract profit to and repulse loss from his family. In this stage he identifies the success and prosperity of all the members

of his family with his own advancement and aspirations. In the course of his life, the boundaries of the dominion of his mind recede further and further, his outlook becomes broader and broader, his vision ~~sees~~ rises higher and higher, his sympathy goes deeper and deeper and suddenly with the swiftiness of lightening the thought is borne upon him that he must serve the sons of his nation, the children of his country or in other word: How to attract profit to and repulse loss from his country. Although this endowment or conception contributes to the welfare and prosperity of himself, his family and all the sons of his people and country, yet its disadvantage in damaging and ~~harming~~ ^{vital} the interests of other nations concerned cannot be ~~contradicted~~, for he works with all his main and force; - so that he may bring to his own nation as much profits of the world of humanity as possible, to let his own family enjoying the highest luxuries afforded by the land and centralize the general wellbeing of mankind in his own domineering self. His overmastering passion and impelling idea will be that the more foreign countries and neighboring nations are lowered in the scale of civilization, his own nation and country will advance in power, wealth, influence and

prestige. Then they will become enabled to rise superior to all the rest of mankind and acquire universal triumph.

The Divine Man, the Heavenly Personage is released from these chains. The latitude of ^{his} consciousness and the longitude of his thought are immeasurable and infinite. The sphere of his mentality is so unlimited that he shall conceive the profit gained by all mankind as the foundation of the prosperity of each individual going into organization of mankind and the loss of all the nations and governments as identical with the loss of his own people and country, may rather ~~the~~ loss to his own family, and above all a loss to himself. Therefore, as far as it lies in his power, he will endeavor to attract profit and advancement for all humanity and repulse ^{the blow of} the impending loss which may fall upon all the nations. He will consecrate himself to the ultimate grandeur, illumination and eternal felicity of ^{all} the races. He will not look upon them with the eye of distinction; because he believes the world of humanity ~~but~~ to constitute ^{but} one family. He will consider all the nations as ^{the} various members of that household, may rather he will behold the socialized body of mankind as one individual person and each nation

but a limb or ^{an} organ entering into the composition of this person. When the consciousness of man attains to this loftiest height and most exalted summit he will be enabled to elevate the standard of international morality and will become conducive to the glory of mankind.

However, the present state of affairs is diametrically opposed to the picture drawn above. For each one of the nations of the world is thinking of her own progress and of the retrogression of others; nay rather they are ^{constantly} perfecting ways and means, - so that they may draw profit unto themselves and heap loss upon others. They name this evolutionary process, "the struggle for existence". They further state, this is the unchangeable, fundamental law of human nature. Nevertheless this is a mistake, nay rather, there is no greater mistake than this. Most wonderful! The sense of "co-operation and reciprocity for existence" according to environment is fully developed amongst some of the insects and it has been witnessed that at the time of danger they precede each other in the work of assistance or rescue.

While I was yet a little child, one day I was sitting on the side of a stream. As I watched the scene I saw an army of little nymphs (young locusts, before

the growth of their wings) trying to cross the stream to eat their daily sustenance. As they were met with this seeming impassable obstacle, suddenly a number of those nymphs rushed to the front and taking precedence of each other, they throw themselves over the water - and with the assistance of each other they constructed a marvellous bridge from this to the other side of the stream. Then with the ordered discipline of the regiments of soldiers, the other locusts crossed the stream over the bodies of their confederates, and landed safely on the other side. But the nymphs which built the bridge with their bodies were perished in the waters.

Now consider carefully that this is the law of 'co-operation for existence' and not 'struggle for life'. While the insects are manifesting such self-sacrificing instincts; what greater self-sacrifice and worthier deeds must appear from man, because he is the highest and noblest of all creatures.

More especially, that the Divine Teachings and the ^{heavenly} religious direct man to adorn his being with these attributes. In the estimation of God all these principles such as 'the most favored nations',

Frontier lines, family prerogatives⁽²⁾ and personal im-
 munities⁽¹⁾ are detested and disliked. All the divine
 prophets were sent and all the heavenly books were revealed to
 inculcate these spiritual virtues and verities. The influence
 of all the Celestial Teachings has been concentrated around
 the fact of the removal of the thoughts of the Personal
 privileges and interested patronage: thus the ethics of
 the world of humanity be refined, the equality of rights
 and the solidarity of interests be established amongst
 the children of men. Then each member of the body
 politics will be ready to sacrifice his life for the others.
 This is the foundation of God! This is the heavenly Faith,
 To lay the basis of such a lasting, permanent structure,
 there must needs be an Omnipotent, universal Power.
 Every other power is incompetent save the Power of the
 Holy Spirit. For the Breath of the Holy Spirit will
 regenerate man so completely as to change his^{entire}
 moral system; he will obtain the second birth
 and will be baptized with the Fire of the Love of
 God, which is love for all mankind - the Water
 of Eternal Life and the Breeze of the Holy
 Spirit

The ancient philosophers who exerted the utmost effort in creating a rehabilitation of morality and strove with heart and soul to bring about a renaissance in the realm of ethics — the utmost they could do was to beautify their own characters and not the characters of the people ⁱⁿ general. If you refer to history this will become evident and clear. But the Power of the Holy Spirit will impart this beautification of general morality, ^{will} illumine the world of humanity, ^{will} grant ideal sublimity and ^{will} train all mankind.

Therefore, the well-wishers of the world of humanity must strive — so that through this magnetic power they may attract the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit. I hope that ^{the members of} that respected Congress — the philanthropic Congress of the world of humanity — like unto the mirror may draw unto themselves the rays of the Sun of Reality and become the means of the education of the moral lives of all mankind. I send my highest respect and consideration to the members of that August Conference. (Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Similar program was followed today as other days and the Beloved is feeling well and healthy.