

Haifa, Syria Oct 14th 1914

Dear friends!

Amongst other Tablets revealed during the last few days the following is to the believers of Fereydoun, a large town near the city of Esphahan: -

"O God! O God! Verily these intelligent souls are assured in Thy mentioning; are enkindled with the Fire of Thy Love; are attached to Thee, relying on Thee and are supplicating in Thy Presence. They seek naught but Thy good-pleasure; are depending on no one but Thee and are not disturbed by the trials in Thy Path. O Lord! They are Thy Captives and Thy prisoners. They plead the appearance of Thy Graces and anticipate the irradiation of the rays of Thy Bestowal. O Lord! Ordain for them every good in Thy earth and in Thy heaven! Suffer them to behold the Kingdom of Thy Verses! and inspire their hearts with Thy Proofs and Evidences; - so that they may unloose their tongues in Thy Praise amongst Thy servants, be stirred with the Fragrances of Thy Days and their breasts be ~~enkindled~~ ^{captivated} by the promotion of Thy Signs. Verily Thou art the Clement, and Thou art the Possessor of the Most Great Bestowal. There is no God but Thee, the Forgiving, the Merciful!

O ye divine believers! Should you ^{know} to what extent the heart of Abdu'l Baha is roused and animated at this time, undoubtedly you would be moved and stirred like unto the sea and be ^{surging} similar unto the boundless ocean. This century is the century of the Blessed Perfection! This Age is the Age of the Most Great Name! In the unseen world there is infinite motion and urge and like unto the season of springtime from the realities of things the subtleties of Mysteries ^{are} becoming manifest and apparent. Out of the black soil appears luxuriant vegetation and ever green plants and the naked, bare trees are clothed with the new garments, the Breath of the Spirit

is breathed in all the phenomena and the world of creation is endowed with a wonderful impetus. In such a divine Century one must concentrate all his efforts in the service of the Court of the Almighty, - so that from the tree of existence unlimited fruits be produced and gathered; otherwise life itself is less within loss and the end will be deprivation and concealment in both worlds. "

How the days pass blissfully one after another on this radiant Mountain. We are all very joyful in the Presence of the Beloved of our hearts. In this world we long for no other enjoyment and seek after no other station. He is the joy-creator and joy-giver. He taps the spring of each individual life and lo and behold! there gushes forth a fountain of the water of truth and happiness which will continue to flow ^{for ever and ever} if we do not stop it with the dust and sand of our own selfish desires and egoism. Let him draw the plan of your life and your future ^{will be} assured for ever. You will never regret it. He knows better the details of your life than you do yourself. He is the supreme Architect and his anxiety is to build the palace of your existence as beautiful and as perfect as human or angelic mind can conceive. Can you do that without committing any mistake? If you can, I wish you good luck but I doubt your ability. When you want to build a cottage, you consult an architect, don't you? but you are not willing to follow the wise and loving advice of the Celestial architect, because you think your little, puny ideas are good enough to construct the peerless palace of your eternal life. But I believe the Spiritual Architect of our life in this world is Abdul Kalam; he has already laid the basis of many lives, whose foundations are the knowledge of God and the love of humanity; whose doors are the good-pleasure of the Lord; whose walls are ^{the} noble characteristics; whose corridors are spiritual qualities; whose galleries are the virtues of the Kingdom; whose never-fading parks are the heavenly ideals and whose glorious lights are the rays of the Sun of Reality.

This morning carrying in my hand a jar full of water, I passed under the Balcony of the room of the Beloved. Suddenly I heard his musical voice "Marhaba". I looked up and was rejoiced to look into His Countenance. "Where art thou going? Dost thou take ^{cold} a bath every morning? It is good. It will make the body healthy and strong." After a while an old Arab woman selling milk came at the door of the house and the Master started to speak with her while rewalking to and fro on the Balcony. Kindly and most naturally he asked her the price of milk and knowing the Arabs having a weak tendency to dilute it with water continued to discourse with her on honesty and trustworthiness, elucidating his talk with verses from the Koran so revered by all the Mahomadians. "If thou sellest thy milk straight, without mixing it with water, God will bless thyself, thy family and thy business. The best capital and the most profitable business is honesty in all things. Do thou continue to be honest in thy dealings for one month. Thou wilt see in the end that thou art honored and respected by all thy customers and not considering thy spiritual welfare, thy material prosperity will be secured. Then thou wilt better understand the meaning of the holy Verse: 'The well confer upon thee a manifest Victory!'" Thus we realize, that like unto Christ, the Beloved speaks and exhorts all ^{the} people and everywhere. He sows the seeds of wisdom in the grounds of the hearts and they take deep roots. In the background of the life of Abdul Baha, and behind every word uttered by him, there rises before us, his heavenly deeds, his complete renunciation, his dominating spirituality, his dramatic and at times tragic life, his majestic personality, his celestial character and these things more than anything else carry with them authority, weight, obedience and trust.

Today on the Veranda of the Bahai Nest a feast was spread. The wife of Rahmatullah had cooked for us U-murtali and Kabab

and for desert we had Damascus grapes. We all sat on the ground and our American brothers sat à la Persan. Everybody enjoyed the food. We were all nine persons. Haji Mirza Haydar Ali, Hassan Effendi, Mr. Remy, Mr. Latimer, Shauqi Effendi, Doctor Sabihollah Khodabakish, Badi Effendi, Mir Sayad Hassen and myself. We had a very delightful time. In the afternoon, an Italian steamer arrived and our beloved brother Shauqi Effendi departed for Beirut to enter the college. We shall miss him terribly, for he is such an active, spiritual, loving youth and as he was associating with us directly in the service of the Beloved we have all grown to love him. He will have to attend college for three years more and then he graduated. I have no doubt ^{that} with his intelligence and knowledge he will be an active servant in the Cause of God. Already he has shown promising signs of public speaking and we all pray and hope that in time he will be an eloquent and inspirational speaker and worker in the Cause. We all ^{went} with him to the steamer and bade him our Babai farewells. The Master loves him very much and during the present vacation he was with Him almost all the time.

In the afternoon two Arabs called on the Beloved and were with him for ^{time} longer than one hour. When they left we went to the reception-room. He was walking in front of the building and ^{soon} he saw us he called to us to follow him in the Holy Tomb where he chanted aloud the visiting Tablet. Coming out of the Holy of Holies he beckoned us to follow him into the ^{main} room. After inquiring the health of our American brothers he looked into my face with winsome smiles. "I have heard that you have had a feast today. Why did you not invite me? I shall bring a suit against you in the court." After a few seconds of silence he said: - Praise be to God that His Holiness Baha-Ollah has spread before us the heavenly Table upon which one finds every kind of food. There is the food

of Faith and assurance; the sustenance of Divine Virtues; the bread of the Love of God; the meat of the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom of Allah; the provisions of service and good-fellowship; the victuals of severance and detachment; the manna of enkindlement and attraction; the nutriment of sanctity and Holiness; the dish of attraction with the fragrances of God; the sustenance of the Breath of the Holy Spirit; the food of Eternal Life; the nourishment of Teaching the Cause of God and promulgating the Religion of God. In short one finds on this Divine Table all kinds of spiritual food which constitutes the real Supper of the Lord!"

In the evening, at a time when all of us were going to sleep the Beloved walked across from his room to the Pilgrims Home. Mir Sayed Hossein was carrying a lantern before him and he looked so holy and beautiful in the darkness of the night. I saw him from the window of my Drest and then leaving aside my sleep followed him to the Home. There he sat for more than one hour and asked Haji Mirza Hayder Ali in English: "Speak to me". Poor Haji did not know what the Master told him but he said "Yes" in Persian. Then he related a story of childhood and dwelt on the dynastic changes of Persia which were most interesting. The way he remembers the names of persons and the minute details of their lives is nothing short of miracle. He laughed and related several stories and was happy and well. "I came over to pass a pleasant hour with you" he said as he rose from his seat. I returned to my Drest with a contented heart and peaceful mind. I send my Bahai greetings to all the sincere Bahais in the Cause.