

Bahai Nest Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria October 20th 1914

Dear friends!

Now and then the clash and clangor of war-crazed Europe reaches our ears. For a moment the curtain is dropped and we are horrified to look upon a scene of human carnage and bloodshed - a huge altar built by the ethic and culture of barbarism upon which human souls are sacrificed by thousands to propitiate the insatiable god of war. They are led to the Altar as dumb beasts by cold-blooded priests whose code of morality is the methods of the uncivilized hordes of the Middle Ages. Each party accuses the other as the aggressor, as one who has brought this incalculable calamity upon the world of humanity, a monster, a demon that must be crushed at all cost beyond hope of future revival. The causes of this war as presented by the political leaders of different contending nations are diametrically opposed to each other and irreconcilable. One of the English newspapers pictures the Continent as "a Europe thirsting for peace" while they calculate their probable forces to drag along this war for years. The atmosphere of Europe is beclouded with the thick mists and fog of lies, devilish falsehoods and the darkest misrepresentations. Each government, while fighting for her own selfish interest, declares as solemnly as she can, that she is engaged in this war to protect the Peace of the world and uphold the public law of Europe. In sound phrases and sophisticated philosophy we are told: "There can be no drawn wars when the freedom of the world is at stake; no compromise when the issue between the civilized right and conscienceless might has once been raised; no counting of profit and loss when the highest possessions of humanity are in peril and no truce in this final struggle against the forces of medieval barbarism." Another statesman says: - "The war is conducted on our Christian faith against a rude and barbarous Paganism." Imagine one Christian nation calling another Christian nation as barbarous Pagan! You may go on through the list and you will find these accusations and counter-accusations, commonly expressed by men of responsible positions whose mental powers are leased for the present on account of this great war, waged with such relentlessness and blindness. The hidden passions of humanity have appeared on the surface with such ugly and terrifying forms that no pen can describe them. "See first

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ourselves not merely in one of the little periodical wars to which our Empire is liable; we find ourselves in the midst of the greatest conflagration of war that history has any record at all" (Lord Rosebery).

This morning Mirza Jalel arrived from Abou Senan and went directly to the room of the Beloved. After an hour he came out and ordered the donkey he made ready; for he wanted to go down. We stayed up till 11 o'clock because we had so much writing and translating. Then we descended the Mountain. At first we called on Mirza Mohsen to inquire about his health because he has not been feeling well for the last few days. From here we entered the rose garden of the Master and found out he has been driven away in his landeau to call on the governor of Haifa who has just returned from Beirut. While we were thus peacefully engaged in our talks Mirza Jalel came out of the house and handed me a package of newspapers sent from London by Mirza Latfollah Hakim. Immediately ~~the~~ our conversation took another current and the photographs and the scenes of war attracted our attention. We were thus absorbed when the landeau stopped at the gate and the Master entered the gate with a smile of satisfaction and peace on his serene face. "What are these papers?" he quickly asked. "They are ~~just~~ received from London." "What do they say? Is there any prospect of peace?" I answered: "There is an article concerning the informal inquiry of the United States for further peace overtures but the conditions are so non-committal that one is not encouraged with any prospect of settlement. Germany according to this published dispatch has offered certain proposals. One of them is; 'Germany will not stop fighting so long as England declares that this must be a war to a finish.' Again: 'If this is to be a war to a finish, as England declares daily, then Germany will fight on; if the Allies are determined to crush and dismember her, then she will fight to the last man.' Again: - 'If the world at large hopes for disarmament, then the crushing of Germans is the poorest way to accomplish it, a ^{crushed} Germany will repeat the era after the Napoleonic wars and arm every man, child, cat and dog in the Empire for the day of revenge.' There are many other such defiant articles in this paper." The Master became contemplative and for a moment was silent. Then he said: - "These utterances are based upon hopelessness and blind fury. They are not weighed in the balance of judgment and understanding. They are not conducive to any possible rapprochement."

or mutual understanding. Like ^{unto cross} children they are throwing stones at each other. Now it is high time that they should think about Peace and not revenge, life and not death, civilization and not savagery, construction and not destruction. Their protestations for peace must be genuine. It is said that once a Mohamadan, a Christian and a Jew were rowing in a boat. Suddenly a tempest arose and the boat was tossed on the crest of the waves and their life was in danger. The Mohamadan began to pray: 'O God! Drown ~~this~~ ^{this} infidel of a Christian, the Christian supplicated the Almighty: 'O Father! send to the bottom of the deep this polytheistic Muslim.' They observed the Jew is not offering any prayer and therefore asked him: 'Why dost thou not pray for relief?' He said: 'yes, I am praying, I am asking the Lord to answer the prayer of both of you.' Now this is the stern attitude of the combatants in Europe; each government claiming that his Cause is just and righteous, is calling on God to help and assist their army. But we pray day and night that Peace and reconciliation might be established between them, that they may abandon this slaughtering of their fellowmen and devote the rest of their lives to the progress of the world and laying for ^{the} eternal the corner-stone of a lasting and eternal Peace."

Then he went into the house and called us in. A number of believers ^{were} there and asked them be seated. In these complicated times his mind sees the minutest things and this indeed ^{is} the most wonderful ^{miracle} about the life of the Beloved. A believer had a thin overcoat on him and as soon as he saw that he asked him to have a heavy overcoat, because he might get cold. To Ismail Aga he said: "The Consul of Persia has requested me to ask you to send him some seedling, bulbs and flower-seeds. Do not forget to send him these things as soon as you are able." To another believer who had just come from Adassiah he said: "about your affair I must go to Acca and have a talk with the governor and see what can be done in restraining the wild Bedouins from rapine and pillage." Then he asked me again about the news. I said: 'One of the great Powers ~~has~~ declared that she is fighting to preserve the Peace of the world, praying that the Almighty God may give the people His blessing. He laughed very heartily and gave a very pregnant talk which will be good to translate after the war.'

Rising from his seat, he bade good bye to the believers and rode on the donkey and on his way stopped and payed a visit to Murga Mahsen. After half an hour we were ascending the mountain. Said he: Apparently there are three chief Causes that led England into this war. 1st the continuance of the British rule of the wide sea. Germany for the last few years has threatening to wrest away this command from her and this would have been the death knell to the disintegration of the British Empire, so laboriously built up. 2d Germany of late has been encroaching commercially on England, competing with her in all lines and was trying to outstrip her in commercial enterprise and alertness. 3d The extension of English political influence in Europe. England desired to show actually that strictly speaking she is a European and not an insular nation as has often been asserted. On the other hand, Germany was prompted by two main causes which may claim many subsidiary causes. 1st The consolidation of all the German speaking people under one system of political organization with Prussia at the head, in other words she was obsessed by the Pan Germanic propaganda. 2d To increase her national commerce by extending the boundaries of Germanic influence. In order to attain fully to these two far-reaching plans she adopted every means, built a magnificent Navy and trained millions of men for the defense of these interests.

When we reached home he asked me to join with him and read the news which I did for more than one hour. He listened to all the fluctuating fortunes of war and the sheer acts of barbarism committed by the armies. "It will take hundreds of years to repair all these colossal losses and ruins." he said at last.

When I came out I looked toward Acca and most strange to say I saw the two searchlights lighted and right in the sky between these two lights, above acca, a brilliant star was shining, forming a perfect triangle. It was indeed a symbol of three divine Personalities connected with this Movement; the Bab, Baha, Allah and in this day - Abdul Baha. With the beaming light of this star in my heart I went to bed, thinking of his mercy and Bounty.