

Home of Baha-ullah  
Acca, Syria. Nov 28th 1914

Dear friends!

While the Beloved was walking in the reception room he gave us a peep into his "wishes". "In this Cause I had many wishes" he said "none of which are realized. My first and greatest wish was that I may become confirmed in the ~~Confidence~~ service of the Holy Threshold. All that has been done so far is a drop compared to a limitless ocean. My second wish was to depart from this life before the departure of Baha-ullah. Whenever I read in His Blessed supplications certain suggestions to His departure I felt sad. In one of His communes He says: 'O God! Through Thy Grace prepare for Me a lofty palace in Thy heavens, for My habitation built Thou a divine Abode! O Lord! This earth is very broad and wide indeed, but it has become too narrow for Me. I long the expanse of Thy Kingdom, I yearn after the ~~infinite~~ space of Thy Paradise.' When I read these appealing expressions I prayed to God for an early departure. I thought I could not stand one moment separation from that Light of the world. Life without His Presence and Companionship seemed devoid of all interest. My third wish was to travel from country to country, city to city and town to town, spreading the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom, summoning the people to the Cause of God, calling ~~the mankind~~ people to the dawn of the Sun of Reality singing the songs of Guidance, diffusing the Fragrances of the Holy Spirit, chanting the verses of joy and happiness, awakening the souls from the deep slumber of inadvertence and guiding them into the royal pathway of Righteousness. My fourth wish was to build a broad avenue from the gate of Acca to Bahajee on both sides of which he planted shade trees, so that in the future the Pilgrims may walk under these ~~overhanging~~ trees to the Holy Tomb. I wished also the environs of the Tomb be surrounded with vast gardens and parks, filling the air with the sweet scent of flowers. My fifth wish was to bring about the means comfort and happiness for the believers - so that they may live with the utmost peace and joyful resignation, that no pain or sorrow may come to them, that they obtain the prosperity of this life and the world to come. I hope in the future these means will subject the hearts be enlivened with the Glad-tidings of God.

the spirits be soaring towards the Kingdom of Holiness, the rivers of exultation and beatitude be flowing, the waves of the sea of real union be rising, the banquet of good-fellowship be spread and the friends sit around it, partaking of the material and spiritual foods and drinking the elixir of immortality."

When I entered his divine Presence this afternoon I found several believers drinking tea with him. Looking at my <sup>green</sup> turban and long robe he smiled and said "These robes are very becoming to you. In this Dispensation all the ties of physical relationships are broken and should play no part in passing judgment over one character. Not the one who ~~doth~~ is related to me but the one who doeth the Will of Bahá-lláh is of me and is related to me. That soul who adorns his inner being with the spiritual qualities of the Beloved Perfection is a member of His Holy Family. If the shining sun arises suddenly one morn from the West it is still the sun. The rose is still the rose no matter in what ground is cultivated, it will give the same fragrance. If a person is found in the uttermost part of the earth who is imbued with the character, conduct, spirituality and heavenliness of Bahá-lláh, can we say he does not belong to Him? The believers of God wherever they are must characterize themselves with the real attributes of the Blessed Perfection and do not attach any <sup>imperial</sup> portion to ~~any~~ relationship..... That great Educator of the world has so educated us that after His departure we may all arise in the service of His Cause, wish for ourselves no rest or repose, dedicate our lives to the promotion of His religion, be filled with Him and all our thoughts and ideals be centralized around this one object; What can I do, how can I help in the promotion of this Most Great Glad-Tidings. If we are not going to be conducive to the glory of the Cause, we must not at least be the means of its debasement. If we are not willing to serve at His Holy Threshold we may not at least through our actions contribute towards its disgrace. If we cannot become the means of union we may not create causes of difference and disruption. He has not demanded of us any reward for all His necessities, trials and sufferings; why should we uproot the newly-planted tree of His Holy Cause with the axe of selfishness and bigotry and degeneration? We must think of the progress of His

all else besides this is futile and unproductive. If we follow our own inclination and pursue our own desires in worldly riches we may become like Abboud! All that he amassed availed him nothing. In his lifetime he was feared and respected and whenever he walked in the streets, the people lined up and saluted him; or we may through our own strengths become the prime Minister of Persia - Mirza Aga - See, who sentenced the Bab to death and for many years ruled that country through his wit and experience; or we may become a great religious leader like Sheikh Morteza who was the absolute head of fifty millions Shiites. He is now dead and his name is forgotten. It was better for him to serve this Cause for one moment than to have authority over so many millions of souls. We must always think of our own humility and poverty. We must realize that we are simply nothing, less than nothing. All that we have in this world is through the Bounty and Grace of the King of Kings. We must think and ponder over our origin: What are we? Who are we? It is only through His Grace and Bestowal that we have attained to these spiritual stations. The waves of the sea of His Mercifulness have indeed encircled us. ...."

Concerning insincere flattery the Beloved related the following story:- "A crow was perched on the lofty branch of a tall tree. In its beak it carried a piece of cheese. It so chanced that two jackals passed by under the tree. The first jackal said to the other one: 'Would it not be clever if we could get this piece of cheese out of the beak of ~~the~~ <sup>thy</sup> Crow?' 'Watch me, I am the one to get it.' Then raising its head up towards the tree it said: 'Oh Monsieur crow! Oh Crow Effendi! Oh Mirza crow! Thou art a melodious singer! In comparison to thy voice that of nightingale is very ugly. Thou art a better singing bird than the thrush! Oh! that thou couldst sing for us a song of joy to cheer and uplift our despondent spirits!' The crow was greatly pleased with this flattery and opening its beaks started its 'caw-caw' and the cheese dropped on the ground to the delight of the waiting jackals."

There is an Arabic proverb "Truth is bitter". Concerning this matter he related this story:- "Once a servant went to a rich man and asked for a position. He had many certificates from his former masters regarding his conduct and manners. 'Sir' he said 'These letters show you that my masters have been pleased with my services and with these recommendations I

I have little doubt that you can secure for me a place in your household. But before you engage me I must make you aware of one fault which is imbedded in my character and that is I tell always the truth! The rich <sup>man</sup> who had lost one of his eyes said: 'My friend! This is not a fault but rather a virtue. I am doubly delighted to have in my house at least one servant who never tells a lie but utters the truth.' The servant replied: 'I assure you, that in my course of truth-telling I have had to ~~not~~ overcome much opposition and I have realized to my heavy cost that this is indeed a great fault.' 'No' he answered, 'Truth is the thing we need and we must admire the character of those who are the exponents of truth.' 'Have you not heard the saying that 'Truth is bitter?' 'Goodness! This is an obsolete proverb. Truth is sweeter than honey and more precious than the treasures of the Kings.' 'All right. If you look on the subject from this standpoint I am ready to serve you and I hope you will not get angry if I tell you the truth.' Finally he entered in the service of the rich man and his work was assigned to him. When he entered the room next morning to receive his orders for the day he saluted his master 'Good-morning my one-eyed master.' The rich man grew red and rebuked his new servant severely for being so impudent and was going to kick him out of the room. 'O my master' he cried 'Did I say anything but the truth? Art thou not one-eyed? Did I not tell thee that truth is better?' The rich man was dumbfounded and could not say anything."

In the evening we were all in his presence. He asked Aga Abdos-Prasoul to chant sommunes and prayers in behalf of the present conditions of the world. When the chanting was finished he said: "The nations of the world are shedding each other's blood and here in this blessed room we are praying for them. Mankind are bound together with ~~other~~ and chains. They cannot use freely their limbs and organs. One chain is patriotic love; another chain is racial

tie; another chain is political bias; another chain is national honor. All the neck and feet are bound with these chains and irons. For these reasons nations are engaged in warfare and strife, shedding each other's blood, tearing each other's bodies, pillaging each other's properties, destroying each other's houses, cities and countries. Praise be to God through the Grace and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection we are freed from these chains, we are not at war with anyone we are not quarrelling with any soul, we are kind towards all the people, we beg for all prosperity and success. Our consciences is free, our hearts are composed, our souls are at ease and our minds are tranquil. All these spiritual states are made possible through the Restaurants of Baha-ullah."