

Home of Baha Ollah
 December 26th 1914
 Acca. Syria

Dear friends!

Besieged are we from every direction but our trust is in the Lord of night. He is our guide and helper throughout these dark and faith-trying days. To Him we turn our faces both in the morn and eve and from Him we receive fortitude and strength. Under all circumstances our sole reliance is upon Him, for He is the Shield of our protection. In the abyss of despair ^{will} He cheer us with the Breath of His Holy Spirit. In the well of unhappiness ^{will} He uplift us with the power of His invisible Angels. Engulfed are we in the tempestuous sea of confusion, He will save us with the ark of His Delicance. Surrounded are we with the gales of tests and trials, He will calm them with the grandeur of His Presence.

O Lord! from the depth of our hearts we cry unto Thee to heal the wounds of our hearts and pour upon us the balm of Thy comfort! We are harassed by the upreting passions and furies of men, we long for the Abode of Thy Eternal Peace. We are encompassed with the darknesses of human hate and rancour, let the rays of the sun of Thy mercy pierce through these thick clouds. O God of Truth! Falsehood and hypocrisy have poisoned the spring of rectitude and integrity, purify it with the water of Thy heaven. Teach these men the lessons of brotherhood and instruct them in the principles of spiritual culture. Thou art the Lord of Hosts and Thou art able to do whatsoever Thou wilt. Let the rain of Thy Grace pour upon us, the Breeze of Thy Bestowal waft over us and the music of Thy Kingdom console us. We beseech Thee to hide not Thy shining Countenance from us nor leave us to ourselves. O Lord! We are so weak and impotent but Thou art Lament and Powerful. Grant us the sweet reality of Thy nearness and open our eyes to the wonder-working miracle of Thy Confirmation. We are nothing, Thou art the Origin of all. We supplicate Thee to give us power to bear our troubles and worries and then towards the end come out serene and triumphant. Verily this is not vain, for with Thee, for in Thy Hand is the Key of all things and Thou art the Power of the heavens and the earth.

This afternoon the Beloved called into his holy presence a number of Christian gentlemen to whom he gave a very powerful, informal talk. There were amongst them two ministers of the Gospel who kept complete silence throughout the talk, and now and then nodded their heads in sign of assent. "The deeds which are perpetrated by the present civilized, Christian nations of Europe" he categorically remarks "are opposite to the commandments of Christ. He shuns their association and shudders at the very thought of their foul actions. Nominally speaking the English and the German people belong to the Protestant wing of Christianity while the French and Austrians are Catholics, notwithstanding this religious kinship, they have already crimsoned many battlefields with the blood of each other. Why the display of this wolf-like quality? Why the appearance of these savage and brute forces? It is because they are seeking their own interests, and not the good-pleasure of the Lord of mankind. They are steeped in the ignorance of their own egoism and are not striving to save themselves out of the bog of selfishness and shake their bespattered bodies with soiled mud and dirt. Indeed they are the worshippers of the Devil and not the servants of the Lord. They are glorifying the Satan and not the Creator of mankind. Are they calling themselves Christians and are not ashamed? Do they unabashedly designate themselves as human beings and are not confounded? It would have been more proper if they did not relate themselves to the holy, spiritual name of Christ. Let them announce that they are a satan-worshipping, mammon-adoring people and are quit of any moral or religious obligations. Why are they debasing the ^{fair} name of religion? Why do they defile the virgin purity of divine civilization? Why do they trample under the heels of horses the lofty principles of justice and equity? Why are they corrupting the spiritual laws of God? Christ said: But they sword in the scabbard, They have drawn it. Christ commanded: Pray for those who spitefully treat you; they kill their own enemies. Christ is in the seventh heaven of holiness and love; they are crawling under the seventh strata of the earth of perfidy and animosity. What relation exists between Him and these hordes of cut-throats? None. These are the children of darkness but He is the Lord of the world of Light, the Master of Love and the Lover of Peace.

O thou King! O thou emperor! Who obliged thee to become the cause of the blood-
shed of the millions of the flowers of the youth of thy country? Who incited thee to
this act of murder - not the murder of one soul but the murder of thousands
innocent souls? Was thy treasury empty or wert thou hungry for a baful feast
were there not hundreds of men and women ready to carry out thy slightest
wishes? Was thy majesty on the wane or thy sovereign prestige diminishing?
Didst thou not have as many palaces as the months in the year and
probably more? Were not millions of people living peacefully and happily
under the protective arms of thy government? Were not the markets of
the world filled with the products of thy factories? Didst thou not have
many energetic sons and fair daughters - the fruits of thy life and
conducive to the happiness of thy heart? Notwithstanding all these blessings
who compelled thee to proclaim war and raise the flag of battle? - thus
laying waste the foundation of thy civilization, making the mothers and
fathers son-less, the women widows and the sisters brother-less. Vengeance
unto thee! a thousand woes unto thee! How wilt thou answer the moans
and the lamentations of women before the Throne of the Almighty on
the Judgment Day? Yea, yea, what wilt thou say? Dost thou dare to plead
not guilty before the Supreme Judge who sees the secrets of the heart?
Wilt thou say that: 'I wanted to become a great Conqueror, a famous
general. I desired to leave my deathless name to posterity. I aimed to push
further the frontier of my empire and expand the sphere of my influence.
I wished to protect and enlarge the commerce of my people and be the
sole Mistress of the Seas? Vain are thy thoughts and inglorious thy
ideas. Art thou going to become greater than Caesar, or Alexander the
great, or Napoleon Bonaparte? Was not the first fabled by one of his own
generals, the other died amidst scenes of orgies and debauchery and the third
gave up his life as a dethroned King and helpless man in the Island of St.
Helena? Where are they now? They are under the earth, their very bones
are turned unto ashes. All their wild ambitions and schemes brought to naught.
O thou thoughtless King! O thou negligent emperor! Who art thou and
what art thou that art priding thyself above thy fellow-men?
A few more days will pass and thou shalt also go under the ground.

thou with all thy hopes and fears. There, in that dark passage there will be nothing but concealment and deprivation. It would have been so much better for thee if thou didst become the cause of construction and not destruction, the bringer of joy and not pain, the conferrer of life and not death, the bearer of the message of Peace and not war, the standard-bearer of good-will towards all men and not hate."

Then he spoke about the Balkan wars and its tremendous losses and the Russo-Turkish war many years ago and how the two armies fought and struggled around the height of St Nicolas near Adrianople and how the wounded fallen at the foot of the mountain had dragged themselves with heart-breaking groans to reach the cool stream, there to drink a few drops and lie. A newspaper correspondent at that time passed by the place and saw more than one thousand wounded dead soldiers lying on the bank of the stream. The scene was most terrible.

At this juncture a poor man entered the room. With a wife and children in his hand he was thrown out of work and did not know where to turn his face. The Beloved helped him with a sum of money and asked him to sit down and drink tea. "Trust in the Lord" he consoled him "He will open for thee an unexpected door; These events are temporary. They are like clouds which have risen in the horizon. They will be dispelled. Brood not over thy unhappiness. Thou canst ^{not} gain anything by so doing. Be thou rather happy and face thy difficulties smilingly."

Both in the morning and evening officials and strangers called on him and kept him busy talking with them.

One regiment of soldiers is stationed on Mount Carmel, 300 are living in the French Monastery and 700 in the Russian. Nazareth is the center of a garrison of several thousand, Jerusalem about 40,000 and nearly 20,000 are scattered in various strategical points in the neighborhoods. Thus we are practically encircled and the cordon is tightening more and more every day. From now on everything will be set on motion and we will call on the Power of the Holy Spirit to come to the succor of His own people. There are hundreds of families who cannot secure their daily bread and are facing starvation and poverty. What can we do to help them? My hands and tongue are tied.