

3
Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
January 29th 1915

Dear friends!

Early in the morning I was called into the Presence of the Beloved. His head was bare and his face glowed with the ineffable light of the Spirit. He was full with the spiritual dynamo and divine energy and I drank deeply of the crystalline river which was flowing from his celestial mouth. He spoke of the Mysteries of the Kingdom and enunciated the inner revelation of the new birth. He wished every soul to receive a new baptism and be immersed in the sea of the Love of God. He desired that each individual may brush aside the incrustations of the material things and rise above the thoughts of physical environments. He ^{wanted} us to adapt our lives to the new spiritual Kingdom in which we are born and by a process of selection, assimilate those high ideals which are natural to this larger life and thus step by step modify and change our former physical selfishness into that ethereal condition, named, "spiritual selflessness." He assured me that no soul will be able to teach this Cause effectively unless his whole being is thoroughly permeated and interpenetrated with the universal conceptions of Baha Ollah. There may be found a few persons who ~~bind~~ themselves with the fetters of a set of dogmas and small thoughts but the real Bahais are those who are freed and their wings are not singed with the fire of ambition and petty distinction. Such souls will work day and night for the promotion of the Cause of God and the spread of the Word of God without any expectation of reward, praise and the desire for superiority. They are indeed the servants of the Almighty, they are the ones who hold up the torch of Guidance without faltering, who raise aloft the banner of the religion of God without wavering and who unsheathe the sword of eloquence in the demonstration of brilliant proofs and manifest arguments. They are assisted by the angels of confirmation, inspired by the higher forces of the Seen of truth, encircled by the Graces of the Lord of the worlds and electrified by the invisible powers of the Love of the Merciful. At all time they are intoxicated with the Wine of heavenly affection and turn their faces toward God.

After listening to the above talk, the gist of which I outlined for the benefit of both of us, he sent me out with a message for one of the friends and on my return I found him in the garden, sitting on a chair near a rose-bush, covered with fragrant, white flowers. He was watching them with the intensity of a lover and the earnestness of an admirer. What was he thinking? Were not these flowers the symbol of the purity and whiteness of thought? And even if we could not guess his thoughts, are we not sure that they were pure, white and immaculate? After awhile, he arose from his seat and asked Mirza Fazlollah Khan and myself to follow him in his walk. We reached at last the garden of his "Khalvat-Gah" and stepped in silently. He had heard that the gardener who was a Christian was taken by the government for Military Service and this was soon verified when his four little children gathered around him. The Beloved listened to their affecting, childlike story and I have no doubt he will do something for them. The most touching and pathetic part of it is that their mother also passed away from this life a month ago and thus they are actually left without parent.

Mirza Fazlollah Khan

Sitting near the steps of his little cottage in the sunshine he asked about the conditions of a certain mystic and philosophic schools which have been organized in Persia during the last one or two hundred years. He said: they have lost much of their influence and are constantly on the decline. The Beloved said: All their theories and opinions have been useless and without result. They have made a trial of this, still they are not warned. They start in word and end in word. Their whole system ^{of philosophy} is based on speculations and conjectures, most impractical and imaginary. They have sown the seeds of their thoughts into the barabish ground but these seeds becoming rotten did not sprout. They have labored and worked for the growth and development of a tree which ~~has~~ yield no fruit. They have witnessed all these things but are not warned. On the other hand, day by day, the fame of the Word of God spread everywhere, the traces of the Religion of God were promulgated, nations were formed, communities were organized, morality was reformed and characters readjusted."

In the afternoon Mrs Getsinger and two of the daughters of the Beloved arrived from Aluni Senan. I was glad to see and talk with her for half an hour and gave her the letters brought with Doctor. Her days are spent in the holy land with much pleasure and happiness.

In the evening we all gathered in the reception room and the Beloved greeted the friends with joy beaming in his face. He asked Mirza Haseem Haji whether the officers have again called at his store to demand textile goods and then delighted us with the following story: There was once a Jewish merchant in Constantinople who bought many bales of drapery and worsted goods to be shipped to Persia for sale. Each bale was of a different color - red, yellow, green, black etc. while he was travelling from one Caravanserai to another, the Kurdish robbers attacked him, made him a prisoner and carried away all his goods. When they reached in the middle of a desert they alighted from their horses and talked together about the division of the spoil. All the Kurds loved ^{the} red color and thus after much discussion they hit on the idea of measuring the bale of the red drapery with a spear, - so that each person may receive an equal share. After a while they found out that the bale of the red drapery will not be enough to go all around. - so they fell on the poor Jew and started to abuse and beat him. "Why didst thou not get all the bales red?" they furiously asked him. "Oh my brothers," he pleaded with tears "his eyes" "I did not know I will be fortunate to have such customers with cash on the spot, otherwise I would have surely done what you have required."

Then he spoke about detachment and severance and illustrated his point with beautiful stories. Then he said: - "There are some souls who have not any tie, they are completely detached from all else save God. How wonderful is this station! There are also a number of individuals who are detached so far as themselves are concerned but they looking after the welfare and tranquility of others. They prefer the happiness and the rest of others to their own. They do not mind if they are injured but they would feel most keenly if their fellowmen are harmed or maltreated. Their happiness is bound with that of mankind."