

Home of Baha Ollah

Acca Syria February 14th 1915

Dear friends!

If you desire to enter in the perennial garden of Abdul Baha we may call a few flowers and arrange a sweet bouquet, the delicious fragrance of which may perfume the nostrils of those friends who are far away.

In October 5. 1914 the following Tablet was revealed for the believers and the maid servants of the Merciful in London:-

"O ye who are firm in the Covenant! Your letter was received and its contents became known. About 15 months ago an epistle was written to Teheran. They have printed and circulated it throughout all Persia. Many people have received copies of the same. Its exact language is as follows: 'O thou servant of the Holy Threshold! Thou hast complained because of lack of commercial opportunities. In this year ordeals and trials, stoppage of trade routes and revolutions have surrounded all the regions; for the Divine Proof was demonstrated to them and they turned their backs to it. Throughout many cities of Europe and America Abdul Baha with a resonant voice proclaimed the Cause of His Holiness Baha Ollah in Meetings and Churches, summoned the people to the Kingdom of Akha, advanced brilliant Arguments and brought forth irrefutable evidences and incontrovertible testimony. Consequently there was left no ground of excuse for any soul; especially when the contents of many addresses were announced to the inhabitants of the world through the pages of the newspapers. Notwithstanding this the people are still in the grasp of the sleep of negligence. They are still holding fast to superficiality and holding aloof from the Reality. They are so immersed in the inordinate passions of self, that even the trumpet of Israfel will not awake them. Undoubtedly this negligence, ingratitude, and the lack of heedfulness will be the means of regret, hardships, war and battle and conducive to destruction and privation. If the people of the world do not turn their faces to the Most Great Name, a most portentous danger is hidden in the

future, But I pray in behalf of the friends and it is my hope that the signs of the Bounty of God may appear and their affairs may become excepted from the rest of mankind. Upon thee Baha O' Allah. Signed Abdul Baha Abbas.

"This epistle was written fifteen months ago, wherein are foretold the sad events of this day. Notwithstanding this I pray with the utmost supplication and invocation at the Threshold of the Almighty to cleanse and purify the horizon of the world of humanity from this dark cloud of war"

To a believer in Montreal, Canada he writes under the same date:—

"O thou believer and assured! Praise be to God that thou firm in faith and art confirmed in the service of the Kingdoms. Thou hast written regarding the advisability of renting a hall in that city wherein the books and Tablets might be collected for reading and study and the souls be guided. If this is possible it will be very seasonable. But the cardinal point is to be attracted with the Fragrances of the Holy Spirit and with the utmost firmness and steadfastness ignite the Fire of the Love of God in the hearts;— so that the reign of volition might be taken out of the hand and involuntarily you may summon the people to the Kingdom of God;— thus the distracted souls may become collected, the confused thoughts disappear and the candle of guidance may illumine the marts of the hearts"

To a friend in Urbana, Ill. he says:

"O thou beloved maid servant of God! Thy letter was received. Thank God that thou didst become assisted in meeting Rev Allard Fair and he became the cause of thy guidance. Thou wert thirsty & he suffered thee to drink the Water of Life; thou wert a ^{seeker} & he caused thee to listen to the Call of the Kingdom. He became the means of thy illumination and spirituality. Thou must be most grateful and thankful to him, for he directed thee to the Centre of Truth. Now with the Power of the Kingdom, heavenly Confirmation and divine blessing, arise!!

in the service of the Kingdom;— so that day by day thou mayst become more illumined, more awakened, more spiritual and more godlike.

Announce my perfect love and salvation to his honor Rev Bait and say to him: Happy art thou! How luminous is thy future! Thou art the minister of the Monastery of the Kingdom and the means of the guidance of respected souls in the world of existence. These pure seeds that thou hast sown will be crowned with many, many harvests and in the future will bring most important results."

In another Tablet to a Persian believer in Teheran he writes:—

"Oh thou who art firm in the Covenant! The letter that thou hast written to his honor Mirza Haydar Ali was persused. It was the sweet musk and imparted a fragrant odor from the rose-garden of the heart and the soul. This was no other than firmness in the Cause of God. From the beginning of the dawn of the Sun of Reality those "five brothers" were attracted to the Beauty of Abha and praise be to God they have ever been firm and steadfast like unto the unshakable mountains. Thou hast spread the epistle of Abdul Baha amongst high and low; perchance, God willing, it may yield infinite results. For about four years Abdul Baha was a wanderer over mountains and deserts and a traveller on land and sea. In as many countries of the West he announced the Glad-tiding to the appearance of the Kingdom of God and demonstrated the Evidence to all the people. In all the great meetings and large churches, in the most explicit language, he proclaimed the Blessed Teachings and made it plain to every one that if these principles are not carried out and put into practice, a most great catastrophe shall overtake the world. For the countries of Europe have become like unto an arsenal, filled with explosive materials. One spark shall set into a conflagration. Notwithstanding all these clear evidences the people are not made mindful. For this reason it is written about them, they are deaf, mute and blind. If they witness all the signs they still do not believe! This is indeed the degree of their attainment in the life of this world. Although others are afflicted with the sleep of negligence yet praise be to God the friends are mindful.

While I was in Paris I explained to a number of respected personages that although Persia was at the time in the throes of revolution, other countries shall also receive a share of the similar events of the Time. Therefore, that was the time that they should have taken hold of the practical means, i.e., to promulgate the religion of God and promote the word of God, - in order that they obtain mighty confirmation. I likewise pointed out to them the means and conditions of acquiring this grace. Should they live in accord with those precepts infinite assistance will be vouchsafed to them. We are still waiting for the fulfillment of those promises. Rest thou assured that if those articles of agreement are made the groundplan upon which all other affairs are based, the ruined Persia will acquire a new life and those "respected personages" will be encircled with invisible Graces. The Cohorts of the Supreme Concourse are stationed in battle array in the Kingdom of Akha and are expecting to assist those blessed souls who will step forth into the arena of self-sacrifice for the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, ^{and} the enkindlement of the Candle of Guidance through faith and assurance - thus the nostrils of the Persians be perfumed with the Odors of Holiness

This morning I was blessed to look into the face of Our Beloved. Because I was sitting near the window ~~to~~ warm myself in the light of the Sun he said playfully: "This will not do. Thou art monopolizing all the sunlight in this room. What are we going to do?" Then after drinking tea and giving us an anecdote about the time of his stay in Bagdad he went out. Before noon Mirza Jalal and Sayad Yahya arrived from Haifa and left for Akh-Senan with Mirza Fazlollah Khan and Haji Sayad Javad. During the day two warships appeared in the horizon, one steamed into the harbor of Haifa and the other stood in the far off, but both of them ^{left} the shore in the evening.

When we are in Acca I see more of the Master, almost any hour ~~during~~ the day. Thus this afternoon and evening I was with him for a long time. Although he did not speak much but the spiritual benediction of his presence is very glorious.