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Home of Baha Ollah, Acca
Syria March 6th. 1915

Dear friends,

The sad news of the death of Aga Abdor-Rahim in Acca was brought to Alep Senan this early morning. Although the day was cloudy and rainy and the Beloved did not feel quite well, he decided to attend the funeral and offer his prayer for the soul of this old veteran of the Cause. No sooner that I heard about his intention, I prepared myself and left the Cabin for the reception room of Sheik Saleh. Here I found him discoursing with several Sheiks and a number of volunteers. "Art thou ready?" he demanded as soon as he saw me entering the room and I answered in the affirmative. I sat for a few moments and then went out to see Mrs Getsinger before our departure, because I had not seen her this time. It was only a short visit, for hardly 5 minutes had passed before I was notified that the Master has left. I hurried downstairs and found him not far away from the house, riding on the donkey and accompanied by several believers. He asked Mirza Fayzollah Khan also to be his travelling companion to Acca. Soon we reached the carriage and he asked us to mount. Doctor Halibollah was there and before we rode away he said to him: "I am most pleased with thee. Thou art serving the friends and strangers alike with whole-heartedness and sincerity. If thou knowest how much pleased I am with thee thou wouldst soar with the wings of joy!" While we were hurrying along toward Acca and a heavy rain was pouring down he said: - "I did not feel well this morning nor had I the strength of going through this ride; but when I heard about the death of Aga Abdor Rahim I thought I must come and be present at the burial. Man must ever be ready to sacrifice all his physical and spiritual powers in the path of God." On the way we came across a woman and three of her children wading in the mud and soaking to the skin. The Beloved took pity on them and asked them to ride in the carriage. At last we reached the Bahai cemetery, outside of Acca and here we were greeted by several friends who were expecting his arrival and at the same time supervising the digging of the tomb. He told them to go and bring the body and then directed his steps toward the railroad

station where he rested for an hour. The station is guarded by two patrolmen and these welcomed the Master and prepared their simple bed for him to rest his tired limbs from the jolting of the carriage. He ~~bed~~^{lay} down and asked me to sit on the sofa. "In all my daily works and movements" he said "I rely on the confirmations of the Blessed Perfection. Whenever I feel weak I turn my face to Him and He strengthens me. When travelling in America and Europe, on many occasions I did not have the power of uttering one word. But before entering the meeting I begged Baha Ollah to reinforce me and then walked in and commenced to speak for one or two hours. Whenever there is any work to be done and I see that physically I am not equal to it, I have just to resolve and supplicate Divine Assistance and arise in its performance. It will be done without delay." Then he sprang out of bed. "I cannot remain idle here," he said: "I will go out into the sunshine and walk and talk with the people." The sun by this time was shining and while he was walking in front of the station we saw the ^{coffin} ~~hearse~~ carried on the shoulders of men emerged out of the gate of Acca. It is customary ^{in these parts} that every few steps a man comes forward and relieve the pallbearer and thus there is a constant shifting of to and fro. This is done because it is believed great blessings will be poured upon the head of the one who carries the coffin for ten or 20 or 30 feet. The coffin was preceded by a number of sheiks who chanted aloud the religious prayers and formulas and followed by a large number of men and beggars of all description. When the Beloved saw them coming he walked ahead towards the tomb. He stood silent in a prayerful attitude and the coffin was lowered down in the grave. A prayer was offered and then it was filled with earth. This being done the Beloved turned to the believers and said: - "This afternoon we will all go to Bahajir, there to pray at the Sacred Tomb of the Blessed Beauty in behalf of this departed soul." Then he rode in the carriage and told us he will visit the Commander before going home.

At 3 P.M. we rode again in company of the Beloved, visited the Blessed Tomb and about sunset returned to Acca. In the evening the Commander, The Commissioner of Police and other officers called

on the Master and thus monopolized his time till a very late hour.

This morning Jamal Pasha, the commander in chief of the Turkish army in Syria and the defeated hero of the meteoric campaign in Egypt came to Acca and stayed only for one hour. He arrived from Haifa on a special train and was welcomed by the governor and other officials. A bombastic lecture was delivered by an Arab orator comparing Jamal Pasha with former Turkish Conquerors; many people wondered why he should be hailed as a hero or a conqueror - ~~inasmuch~~ as he has returned from the campaign with failure and defeat. More strange still and showing the entire lack of proportion he is decorated with a gold decoration by the Sultan and the imperial Grade has named him a "Warrior" and thanked him for his fearlessness and intrepidity in crossing the Canal and taking possession of certain towns along the route of the Canal. This animolastic royal Grade was read yesterday from the pulpit in the Mosque but the people listened to its contents in silent protest. Already more details of the Turkish defeat in Egypt are brought into light. Many soldiers have ^{returned} to their homes and are quietly communicating the news of their disaster to their friends. The regiments are disbanded for one month and may be recalled again after the expiration of this date. We hear that the hospitals in Damascus and Jerusalem are overcrowded with wounded soldiers. The women hearing these news are becoming very anxious, waiting for the return of their husbands, brothers and sons. They are making diligent inquiries from the returning soldiers but no one seems to know anything. The government has not yet officially acknowledged the defeat nor has she issued any statement whatsoever. A Beirut Journal by the name "Ettehad Osmanli" had written a few things concerning the real situation and as a result the Editor is arrested and the paper ^{stopped}. Two prominent citizens are hanged in Jaffa because they had sent the news of internal discontent and the feverish excitement of all classes to the French warship, which had anchored far away from the harbor.