

Home of Bahá'í U. S. A. Acca. Syria

March 10th 1915

Dear friends,

The fountain-head of the happiness of Abdul Baha consists in the promotion of the Principles of Divine Civilization. The source of his pleasure is the spiritualization of the world of humanity. The aim of his life is the unification of nations and languages. The object of his mission is the establishment of better relations and inter-dependence between the East and the West. The motive of his teachings is the inculcation of the law of Divine Love. The prevailing idea of his mind is the unfurling of the Flag of Universal Peace. The cherished purpose of his heart is the ideal brotherhood of religions. The chief concern of his existence is the readjustment of frictions between capital and labor. The goal of his endeavor is the creation of the parliament of man; - so that all the governments may resort thereto for the arbitration of their international disputes. The direction of his career is the construction of the palace of world-wide fraternity. The scope of his cause is the evolution of mankind from the aphelion of animalism to the celestial perihelion of humanism. The drift of his thought is the building of the highway of the Kingdom of God; - in order that all the people may walk therein, hand in hand, as brothers and sisters. The symphony of his music is the attraction of the souls to the Paradise of Abha. The end of his being is the total disappearance of all discord and contention, wars and strifes from among the inhabitants of the globe. The burden of his undertaking is the equalization of the progressive and economic rights between men and women. The message of his utterances is the adoption of a higher and more efficient standard of public and higher education for the thorough training of the children of the rising generations. The dominant note of his words is to strike at the root of the tree of religious, racial and political prejudices. The anticipation of these, his last days, is, to see the triumph of justice over brute force, the victory of democracy over ^{constitutional} despotism, the conquest of liberalism over dogmatism and the success of truth in the destruction of the last

This afternoon the Beloved gave another emphatic talk concerning the duties of the Bahais. He was speaking about the Bahai school which he found and superintended during the life of Baha-O-llah, how he taught these boys every morning, how they made great progress in their lessons and how each one after leaving the school, instead of devoting his talents and energy to the spread of the Cause, followed his own inclination and disappointed the Master in his anticipation. "My sole aim in the education of these boys" he said "amounted to this: I hoped that after their graduation these boys will arise with the utmost severance, attraction and enthusiasm in teaching the Cause of God and diffusing the Fragrances of God's Kingdom. None of them fulfilled my desire or answered my call. Now I hope you will arise in the accomplishment of this greatest of all services. Do ye not seek compromise, look ye not after rest and tranquility. Gird ye up the loins of endeavor and work for the progress of the Cause. If you sleep, sleep with the idea that the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Baha Ollah may be revealed unto you; if you awake in the morning, awake with the thought that you may inspire a pure breath in the Cause of the Blessed Beauty; if you walk, walk with the object that you may advance a few steps in the highway of the King of Kings; if you write a letter or a book, write with the motive of creating a purer state and a more spiritual consciousness in the hearts of the readers; if you deliver a speech let your words be so sincere and your manner so convincing as to attract the listeners to the Kingdom of God and if you undertake some work, think always of the glory and honor of the Holy Cause, first and last. Let the exaltation of the Cause of God be your supreme concern. Like unto the lamps give light to all those who come in touch with you. Similar unto the sea be ye full of motion. Like unto the stars shine and gleam and similar unto the trees of the Orchard produce luscious fruits. Dedicate your lives to the service of the Beloved of Truth and sacrifice all your ambitions in the Path of the Merciful. Every morning

sing a new song and every evening think a new thought. Every
 day shed a new light over the dark minds of humanity and every hour
 cast a new joy in the minds of men. Let the pillars of the earth shake
 with the thunder of your voice and send a new reverberation
 through the columns of mankind. Summon the children of men
 to be enrolled in the Army of the Almighty and infuse a new
 life in the old and decrepit institutions. The gates of heaven are
 open and the angels of inspiration are descending. Unlock the doors
 of your hearts, - so that they may enter and dwell therein. The ocean
 of Spiritual Bestowals is heaving, dive ye in its depth, - so that ye
 may gather the flawless pearls of new ideals. Like unto the flowers
 of the garden be ye full of fragrance, and spread the perfume
 of Truth far and wide. Teach the Cause through your lives
 and actions. Nothing will benefit you save this. Be ye wanderers
 and travellers in the road of the Blessed Perfection. Do not
 stay for a long time in any place. Illumine the dark corners
 of the world like unto ^{flame of a} burning torch. You must so live
 and conduct yourselves that from every breath that you
 take great changes ^{may} be effected and when respired much benefit
 be accrued to others. In short, O ye friends of God, O ye ^{lovers}
 of Baha Ollah! Show ye an effort, demonstrate ye an exertion,
 enter ye upon the arena of sacrifice, think ye of the Cause
 of your Lord, offer your lives and identities at the altar
 of Love; do ye not let the heavenly results of the martyrdom
 of the Bah, and thousands of the friends, the banishment of Baha
 Ollah from country to country and infinite hardships
 and sufferings go to naught. Concentrate all your thoughts and
 ideals around the unique subject of the promotion of the Bahai
 Teachings in every part of the world. Let no obstacle discourage
 you. The cohorts of the Supreme Kingdom are assisting you,
 the Seraphim of the Paradise of Abha are helping you, the
 angels of the Abode of Peace are with you and the cherubim
 of the world of light have encircled you.

In the evening he spoke again on the question of teaching the Cause. matter as you can easily imagine is near to his heart and receives almost every day his most emphatic approval. The mention of the Cause of God (he said) "makes the faith of man firm and strong. Those souls who accept this revelation and then do not engage in teaching and conveying it to others will remain stationary and do not advance. For this reason it is stated: 'Know that by the mention of God the hearts are assured'. It has also been proven that the soul who summons the people to the Kingdom of God advances more rapidly and is more powerfully influenced than the hearers. The real artist is the one who feels every word and meaning of his song, more, infinitely more than his audience. Every soul that is anxious to be drawn nigh unto the Kingdom of Allah and become nearer and nearer, he must unloose his tongue by day and by night in the delivery of the message and never rest still. He must be always in the condition of spiritual consciousness and receptivity and be in touch with the higher forces of the spirit. His very breath produces regeneration and reshape the scattered fragments of a shattered life. He must be attracted to the Beauty of Allah, set aglow with the fire of His Love, & seched from ought else save Him and wholly sub merged in the sea of His grandeur. A teacher like Es-mollah As-dag was very enkindled. His talk effected the heart of men, no matter how cold and indifferent. There were some amongst the believers who were most learned and erudite but because "the Flame of the Spirit" was not burning in their souls they could not teach one person. He had a very attractive, smiling, winsome face. Whenever he began to speak he himself was so stirred by the 'urge of the spirit' that the listeners were moved profoundly and accepted the Truth before he had come to the end of his talk. He served this cause in innumerable ways and taught many souls. Therefore my advice to you is: Become ye ignited with that Flame, be ye enkindled with that Fire; never let the light of your spirit die out, protect it from the gales of the stormy nights, shield it from the raging tempest of the outside world and guard it from the turbulent hurricane of the country season."