

Home of Baha Ollah
 Acca. Syria
 March 13th 1915

Dear friends!

The Beloved's talk tonight was vivifying, inbreathing the spirit of life, animated with vitality and truth, a fresh stimulation to higher effort, a forceful impulse to deeper activity, pledge of new era, plea for better understanding. Behind, through, above his words, the listener witnessed the rosy dawn of brotherhood, the opaline ~~rose~~ ^{moray} of inter racial peace. It was a lugle call that ~~the~~ animosities will be over, the humanities will be shared in; scenes of advancing and retreating armies fading away, replaced by busy bee-hives of co-operative industries; cockpits of soulless commonwealths filled, a world of socialized democracy with inter dependent rights and privileges born. No despotic commands, no kingly abuses, no imperial prerogatives, but mutual helpfulness, solidarity, reciprocity of kindly intentions. Every individual a King, every soul inspired by the love of his brother. God enthroned in the hearts, Satan banished from the holy sanctuary. Truth on the lips, falsehood chained - thrown into the bottomless hollow of hell. Fetters of slavery broken, the wings, the limbs strengthened, the soul rising, soaring into the star-shine spangled blue vault. A spiritual fiat that helotism is ended, the age of social liberty inaugurated. A river pouring down from the mountain-top of God's revelation, pressing forward, rolling on - watering the parched grounds of man's hearts and minds. Clear indications that God loves amity, mankind must learn the Will of ^{the} All-Wise Providence; send away the fiend, invite the Friend. Not to be self-but a self-reliant, law-abiding, truth-loving soul. To hate sham, cant, hypocrisy; be fond of honesty, frankness and guileless sincerity. Therein lies the path of undeviating progress. Tread on it and walk on, without turning to the right or to the left. The goal is ahead. Soon its shining outlines will become visible, the weary travellers will be cheered, they will rush on and on, while singing and rejoicing. Stepping into that domain of angelic beauty and eternal fellowship, they shall abide therein for aye.

"Woe unto the world because of offenses!" he opened his talk, quoting the Scriptures, "for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." The present Kings, emperors and rulers are directly responsible for these unprecedented calamities of universal war. They are carrying on their backs a heavy burden of crime. The blood of millions of slaughtered men is crying for revenge and the voices of widowed women are raised from the hearths that are turned into ashes. It is now high-time that the soldiers bethink themselves and raise the clarion of protest against their iron-hearted masters. They must go on a general strike and boycott Militarism and all that pertains to it. They must not become disheartened by lockouts on the part of their employers in order to coerce them into compliance. They must declare their position in the most emphatic language and embody their demands in a bill of rights. Addressing their heartless and cruel superiors they must say: 'On what ground are you sending us into the battlefield? For what reason should we carry guns and rifles? Why are you teaching our children the merciless art of human butchery? Why are you extolling with glowing colors the sanguinary arena of savage ferocity? What is the meaning of all all these screeching yells and howls in the name of patriotism? Why should we fire at persons whom we have never known and never expected to see? Are they not our neighbors; in a real, tangible way, our brothers also? Have we not been united together by the ties of commerce, industry, the benignant influences of culture? Are we not fundamentally, creationally one race, one nation, one religion? Did we not have a community of interests, a unity of purpose? Between us there are no differences. We are at peace. We are seeking no ruthless wars. If you, who pretend to be our emperors, our Kings, our leaders - if you have any differences amongst yourselves, if you are at odds with each other and cannot come to an amicable understanding, what have we to do with it? Why should we pay the piper with our blood? Why are you playing with us as pawns on the chess-board of your treacherous ambitions? If you are unable to cool down your nasty temper and agree amongst yourselves as gentlemen, very well then, there is the field! Pitch into it, fight one another, cut each other's throats, taste the dinner of bullets and the drink

of blood. There, in the open, fight it out and free the world from your tyranny, your
 oppression, your bloodthirstiness, your domineering, autocratic wills, were
 it ^{not} for your everlasting quarrels, mankind would have been at peace, we who
 constitute the members of human family are in full accord, we are all brothers,
 united, agreed. You have been and are the original instigators of these animosities,
 these hostilities, these racial and national prejudices; you have sown these
 weeds in the gardens of our hearts; you have injected this poison of discord
 and hatred into our blood; you are the source of all these evils, you are the
 origin of these unspeakable barbarities, you sit in your palaces or in royal
 tents, far away from the scene of horror and the pit of debacle and send
 us to the front with imperial commands: 'Kill, Kill, Kill, Destroy, Fire,
 burn.' If you are so anxious about it, so cold-blooded, so pitiless, so un-
 relenting, Come please, lead us into this shower of lead and iron by
 your presence. But coward and relentless as you all are, you sulk in
 this or that corner and suffer us to kill and be killed in your names.
 Then crowning your heartlessness and cruelty, you sit around and phi-
 losophize that the earth needed fertilizer and what better, cheaper
 and richer manure could we ^{now} get than human blood, human corpses, not
 one thousand or a hundred thousand but by millions; that Europe ^{was}
 overpopulated and a thorough weeding was necessary and urgently de-
 manded; that the ideas of Peace and the principles of arbitration were gaining
 too many adherents and it had to be checked by every illegitimate
 means; that the common people were in a fervent of social unrest, demand-
 ing too many economic and radical reforms which had to be granted
 unless something could be devised to distract their minds and direct
 their thoughts into other channels. What better and more efficient
 factories could we set up ^{than} these huge human slaughter-houses,
 vast abattoirs where our extra population could be sacrificed to the
 Moloch of iniquity? Then the basis of our autocracy will become
 firmer, the foundation of our dynasties stronger, the prestige of
 our thrones doubled, the inviolability of our sacred personages ^{secured}.
 We will be ^{then} declared the protectors of our empires, the guardians
 of our countries and the defenders of our holy faith. Their

blood will water the fields, their dead and mangled bodies fertilize the ground, causing luxuriant vegetation and then for another long period of time our children and grandchildren shall graze, dance and kick in these green meadows and lord over the children of men, trample under their imperial feet the inviolable rights of humanity and call on their 'brave sons' to rush to arms when they again manifest any signs of dissatisfaction.

"Vain as you are, vainer are your thoughts. Let it be known that we are not shedding our blood so copiously in order to uphold your so-called ^{for more} fantastical reasons. We are fighting for Peace, Brotherhood, unity of mankind, we are fighting to break your combinations of powers, to hurl down ^{your} despotic thrones, to regain the authority that you have usurped and assumed as the inherent rights of autocracy, we are fighting to promote the ideals of democracy throughout the expanse of the earth; we are fighting to insure love and brotherliness to generations yet unborn; we are fighting to uproot the burdock of your coarse influence and cleanse our bodies from its tenacious burrs; we are fighting to burn your thousand-nettled thistles of evils, we are fighting for the transformation of this dark world into the world of light; we are fighting for the establishment of the principles of divine civilization in the hearts of men; we are fighting to hold aloft for ever the banner of a universal commonwealth. Lo behold! We are not sleep! We are wide-awake. We have shaken off the lethargy of deep slumber. This time we have arisen at the early dawn and offered our morning prayers at the ^{very} Footstool of Our Maker! Lo! lo! Glorious news! The eastern horizon is emblazoned with the advancing heralds of a new day, the brilliant promises of a new Era! We have seen it, we have seen it with our eyes, we witnessed, we beheld and we are not mistaken. O joy of joy! O heavenly fair! The Sun of Reality hath arisen, pouring down its warm, penetrating, life-giving rays upon the globe, flooding all the regions with its resplendent lights and we are being illumined, we are enlightened. The effulgences of divine teachings have adorned the temples of our beings with the lights of universal Love. The breezes of the delectable paradise have vivified us with the signs of the spiritual springtime of all-inclusive sympathy. The rains of

of the cloud of Providence have poured upon us the glistening drops of world-embracing Truth. The sweet roses of affection, the fragrant flowers of celestial susceptibilities are a bloom in the gardens of our hearts. The radiant stars of conciliation, goodness, fellowship and fraternity are scintillating in the clear heavens of our consciences. The glad songs of the birds of good-will and cordiality have reached and charmed our ears. The waves of the sea of concord and harmony have washed away the shores of our prejudices. We are and we have been always one; we are not strangers but brothers. We shall never permit you again to drive us on to the edge of precipices and then hurl us down to the bottom of ^{the} dark yawning chasm and infernal abyss. We will not allow you to push us into the slaughter-house like some flocks of sheep. We have, we have always had a right to demand, ask explanations, reasons, and know the whys and the wherefores of your scrapes. Only in the past we did not know how to use this power but now, we have learned and are learning more and more. We know^{now} that we are the members of one family, the birds of one garden, the stars of one heaven, the pillars of one edifice, the waves of one sea, the fruits of one tree, the letters of one book, the fish of one river, the drops of one rain and the rays of one Sun. This is indeed the cycle of Love! This is the dispensation of Amity! This is the age of friendliness! This is the century of Light! This is the era of forgiveness! This is the period of universal toleration! This is the time of the unity of religions! This is the day of spiritual good-fellowship! This is the hour of international relation and kindly association with all the children of men!"

This was only ^a part of this wonderful talk of the Master. He spoke longer and illustrated his points with historical facts but I have refrained from translating them for the sake of brevity and conciseness. Throughout his speech, while he sat on the Divan and often closed his eyes, he was calm and serene. But all of a sudden he would gather himself up, sit straight, look into the faces of these who were present and make an emphatic gesture with his hands, ^{unconsciously} showing the intensity of his earnestness and the depth of his emotions.