

Home of Baha Ollah
 Acca Syria
 March 14th 1915

Dear friends!

Thus

"Bravo! you are welcomed!" addressed us the Beloved this morning as we crossed the threshold of his holy room and stood in his blessed presence. "Come, my dear ones. Be seated. you are the friends and servants of the Blessed Beauty and consequently my sons. Whenever I look into your luminous faces I feel rejoiced and my troubled heart is eased." Then turning his smiling face to me he said: "Thou hast found a good companion [meaning Mirza Fazlollah Khan] A friend must needs be of such a noble character, god-like, spiritual, heavenly. When we were in Bagdad there was amongst the believers a young man by the name Janabé Moneeb. He was one of the most spiritual youths that I have known in the Bahai revelation. He possessed a sweet, affable temper and a pure, sterling character. I was greatly attached to him and from the depth of my heart I admired and loved him. His father had died when he was still an infant and his mother had reared him up amidst comfortable surroundings and luxurious environments. Notwithstanding his early training he forebore the cheerless discomfort of exile with happy resignation and joyful submission and served the friends with a sunny face. From Bagdad to Samson he walked on foot in front of the palanquin of Baha-Ollah which was carried on the back of mules. Now and then we urged him to ride at least for a few miles but never did he accept it. On August 5th 1868 A.D. we were exiled from Adrianople to Acca. We travelled in carriages as far as Galiopoli, guarded by a company of Turkish soldiers with their lieutenant Hassan Effendi. After spending a few days in Galiopoli we all embarked on the steamer of the Austrian Lloyd Company for Acca by way of Smyrna and Alexandria. In Smyrna while we were being removed to another steamer of the same Company Janabé Moneeb became severely sick and we were obliged to carry him to shore and leave him in a hospital.

Meanwhile they brought us word that he ^{had} expired. I landed again to arrange the details of his burial but the guards following ^{closely} ~~me~~ did not give me a chance and hurried me back on the pretext that the steamer will soon leave the port. I offered them all I had in order to give me time enough for his interment but they insisted that I should return at once and thus I found myself obliged to leave his body in the hospital. Whenever I think of our last meeting my heart is filled with sadness. It is now a little less than fifty years and ^{still} that youth is living in my memory, as though it was a matter of yesterday. Often do I see him in dreams. While alive he had a very melodious voice and now and then I asked him to sing for me the poems of Baha Ollah. There are some souls whose spiritual constitutions are so ^{other} realized that although they live in this world yet they belong to another realm, they breathe another air, they speak another language and walk on another plane. If one associate and converse with them for one moment, he will never forget them."

This afternoon we were standing in front of the house and a young man of about 35 yrs wanted to see the Beloved. He told us his name was Fauzi. In a minutes the Master sent for him and soon we forgot all about him. I dismissed him from my mind as one of ^{the} many individuals who call on Abdul Baha almost any hour of the day but when he left his Presence and I found my way into the holy room he told me a portion of his past history and I thought it worth while to record it here as another inimitable example of his generous forgiveness and loving disposition.

"A few years ago" he said "when my confinement was renewed by the cruel Abdul Hamid, having ordered that a strict vigilance and surveillance ~~be~~ kept over all my deeds and words this man ^{Fauzi} was detailed to stand in front of our home to spy what was going in, preventing people to call on us, intercepting letters and not permitting any one to leave the house. In fact he obeyed his order most strictly and hedged us in from all sides. We did not complain. Then the conditions of the country changed

and Fouzi disappeared from the scene. I met him today in the street. He dropped down his head and was going to run into a small lane when I called after him. I knew he was thinking, that perhaps, I am carrying some grudge against him on account of his former deeds. When he came near I told him: 'Don't think that I am harboring the least ill-feeling against thee. I have hast been and still art my friend. I love thee very much. We are commanded to forgive the shortcomings of others and never look at the deeds of the people; nay rather we must ^{love} them as the members of our own family and never be angry against any human creature. In these days thou didst act according to the instructions of thy superior officers who deemed us as corruptors of morals and the destroyers of public weal and religion. Thou wert not responsible for what thou didst do then. I am thy father and am ready to serve thee. Come this afternoon to my house. It will give me great joy to welcome thee.' It was in compliance to my wish that he came awhile ago." Another bit of conversation threw more interesting light on the origin of Fouzi. "I was instrumental" he said laughingly "in bringing about the marriage between his father and mother. The father of the girl was going to give her in marriage to a man whom she did not love. The father was obstinate and expected to exercise his parental authority, forcing his daughter into this odious wedlock against her consent. On the other hand the girl loved the father of Fouzi but could not ~~breath~~ breathe this secret of her innocent heart to any soul. At the time I knew all the parties concerned in this matrimonial entanglement. One day I received a message from the girl: 'Save me from my father's determination in ^{wishing me to} marry ~~me~~ to a man whom I do not love. Thou art the only one who can do this.' At first I sent after the man who intended to marry her against her will. I exhorted him in detail 'My friend!' I said 'what is this thing that thou art going to do? Art thou going to marry a girl who does not love thee, who cannot make thee happy, who will be unable to keep a peaceful home? This is indeed against

the great-pleasure of the Lord. Suppose she will become thy wife tomorrow. It will be the beginning and the end of thy happiness. Thy home will not be an emblem of heaven upon earth but a living type of the worst hell of the dark abyss. Day and night both of you will be in actual torment and finally cry for divorce as the last chance of deliverance. Why art thou going to throw away the prospect of a happy life in such a reckless manner? I am sure thou canst find a girl who will love and respect thee, be glad to become thy wife and make a ^{little} cozy home for thee, where thy friends will be welcomed and peace and contentment abide forever. A girl will have not even a shred of respect for thee if thou force her or for that matter somebody else forces her to marry thee against all her instincts, emotions and sentiments. At last he acted on my proposition and when the storm of the father's protest was somewhat subsided the other young man (the father of our Fouzi) and the girl were brought together and the marriage ceremonies were performed to the satisfaction and happiness of all concerned."

In the afternoon the Beloved took a bath. When he came out he asked us to do the same. He said: "How important it is the cleanliness of the body! It is well expressed that cleanliness is godliness, because this body is the spiritual temple of the Almighty. It must be kept clean and pure. Physical and spiritual cleanliness are intimately associated with each other. Just as the heart - the invisible Shekinah - must be a rose garden - fragrant, delicate, so also the body must be kept clean and pure - letting the outward appearance be a key to the inward clearness, transparency and purity. If the body is unclean and untidy, the evil smell emanates from the pores of the skin will disgust others, likewise if the spirit is soiled with degrading habits and unchaste feelings, every one will fly from it and quit its association. The body and the spirit alike must be kept clean and pure, in order to become in the image and likeness of God. Let your watchword be 'Clean bodies, pure