

Home of Baha Ollah
 Acca Syria
 March 15th 1915

Dear friends!

While the Beloved was looking out of the window this morning he exclaimed in a sorrowful tone:—"They seem to be all alive but are they not dead? They ~~do~~ all see, but are they not blind? They appear to hear but are they not deaf? They look as though they are going to speak but are they not mute? They strike one as being in motion but are they not stagnant? They present the appearance of activity but are they not inert? Alas! these people are interred in the tombs of negligence and therefore do not respond to the quick vibrations of the spirit. They have soiled their white wings with ~~water~~ and clay, ^{and} are unable to soar to the highest apex of Abstraction. They have no thought of the spiritual life nor are they willing to be instructed in the precepts of Truth. Like the animals they walk on the surface of the earth and would not allow their minds to be illumined by the eternal verities of the universe. What they have—though infinitesimally small—pleases and satisfies them. They seek no further and go not beyond the questions of bread and meat. They are not impelled by the urge of the spirit and do not try to discover the path to the Kingdom of God. The time will come when they will regret their real apathy and indifference."

Then two Arab Bahais came to ^{him} and he spoke to them on the traditional sayings of Mohamad and quoted Koranic verses concerning the Day of Baha Ollah and how they were all fulfilled in the coming of the Blessed Perfection. "We do not teach" he said "these truths here because the inhabitants are still very remote from understanding these problems but your questions led me into these unexpected domains of ideal mysteries. God has chosen you from amongst his creatures to be the custodians of the secrets of Knowledge. He has appointed you to be the vivifiers of the world of humanity"

After this he elucidated for them the Bahai ideals concerning the nature and the identity of the Manifestations of God, that the essence of God being absolutely incomprehensible, unknowable, unsearchable, unattainable, unrealizable, we must turn our faces to those chosen, pure channels through whom the Grace, the Grandeur, the Knowledge and the Power of the Almighty are distributed amongst mortals. All that we may conceive of Divinity, no matter how lofty, how exalted, how refined, how universal, it is nothing else but the 'product' of our ideation, the result of our intellection and God is above and beyond the acutest mental reasoning of man. God is infinite and the cognitive faculty of man is finite. How can then the cognition which is finite unravel the mystery of the Identity of God who is Infinite? Man has not been able to understand himself and know the ulterior motives of the laws which constantly modify and change our world. He has not yet explained the unchangeable law of creation which governs the smallest protoplasm and the highest created being - "without haste, but without rest." How does he dare then to assume so much for granted? How can he then ^{claim} to reduce to ascertained principles, the laws of the transcendental world of God which he has never observed or witnessed? Therefore if he worships the 'cognition' of his mind as 'God', he is not worshipping God, he is worshipping the product of his imagination. Then would it not be better to worship himself because he will consider the 'creator' of that thought of God and as such he is greater and more substantial. We will be then ^{be} reduced to self-worship and every one will be a god - a law unto himself - a worse system of polytheism than that of Greece, Rome and India! There will be as many Gods as there are human beings! However these hypotheses are all untenable and unscientific. Man - in order to know God - must turn his face to one centre and that is the Manifestation of the Omnipotent Will, whose heart is like unto pure mirror, wherein shines

the Sun of Reality.

In the evening many of the friends listened to his words. He said: "The inhabitants of the world will not become mindful and aware of the Bounties and Favours of the Glorious Lord; nay rather when these Bestowals pour upon them uninterruptedly, their negligence increases in equal ratio. Perhaps through these tremendous calamities and great catastrophes they may become awakened and intelligent and turn their faces toward their Creator. Lullabies and cradle-songs will not awaken them out of their deep, heavy slumber. They are now rudely shaken with the still grasp of fate and the world-filling trumpet of Destiny. Perhaps this will help a little and may bring them back to the realization of their conditions, folly and aberrations. The Cause of God is the remedy for every disease, the Light which dispels every darkness, the Knowledge that does away with every form of ignorance, the beautiful springtime of Truth that throws back the frosty winter of simulation and falsehood. The Principles of Baha Ollah are the illuminators of the whole world and the standard-bearers of Universal Peace. This is in truth a glory which is not followed by any ignominy, a salvation which is not succeeded by any error and a day which is not ensued by the night. The reformation of the world of humanity is not possible save through this! The ills of the body must be diagnosed by the skilful physician. The Holy Divine Manifestations are the real Physicians of mankind. The wisest statesmen and thinkers are impotent diagnosticians and fall short in making a scientific diagnosis of the symptoms and character of the manifold diseases which have attacked the body of the world of humanity. Their judgments have erred and the outcome of their consultation has been added confusion and consternation. They have shown themselves to be quacks."