

Home of Baha Ollah

Area Syria

March 24th 1915

Dear friends!

When thou art entering daily in the gardens of delight and listen to the melodious songs of the nightingale and associate and consort with the beloved of thy heart, do not forget those who have been left behind. There is a binding right of old friendship, a claim which thou canst not gainsay. Think of them, remember them and send them bouquets of flowers as the outward symbols of thy affection, as the visible tokens of thy regard. Let not the inner union of thy soul with them make thee blind to the necessity of outer manifestation. Be thou not satisfied with mere words of love; demonstrate it through deeds of generosity and self sacrifice. How well it is expressed that "Generosity is a tree planted in paradise"; All the philosophers and divines have agreed upon the fact that "Generosity" is the most excellent attribute and the most perfect quality of the Creator. Therefore the title of "Generous" is primarily given to the Maker of heavens and earth. Were it not through His Generosity He would not have created this world. Let His example influence thee in all thy dealings with thy fellowmen. Do not limit the meaning of "Generosity" to its narrow sense of "liberality in giving away ^{a part of} one's material possession"; but let it be understood as exhibiting the qualities of noble sentiments, spiritual sympathy, honorableness, moral courage, magnanimity of feelings and thoughts and evidences of enduring fellowship. If thou dost not possess the worldly perishable goods, God through His Bounty has bestowed upon thee His heavenly treasures. Share them with the friends and strangers. Be open-minded, open-hearted and if by chance thou comest into a fortune be thou open-handed too. Often one loving thought, the rose of a sincere heart - will cheer a far off friend. Do not hold back the riches of Thy Lord. Be not covetous. When thou givest away something, thou becomest more happy than the one who receives it. As thou art generous, think not of the reward of either thankfulness or gratitude. Give for the sake of Thy Lord and do not expect any return.

Let not the adjective "niggardly" take its hold on thee. It is one of the worst qualities. Fly away from it. Be thou not a miser. Walk in the path trodden by Abdul Baha. There are some people ^{in thy land} who are spiritual misers. Be thou not one of them. They are seen to be hoarding the ideal Graces of the Lord, concealing them, placing them in their chests and under locker and trying to deprive others of the universal outpourings of the Merciful. It is concerning such people that Mahamad says in the Koran: "If ye held the treasures of my Lord's mercy ye would certainly refrain from them through fear of spending them; for man is covetous."

And now may I translate for you one of the wonderful Tablets of Abdul Baha?:-

"O thou Adeeb of the College of Knowledge and the nightingale of the rose-garden of assurance! The Candle is ignited and the lights of the Kingdom of Abha are the witnesses of the Congregation. The Breeze of the Divine Garden is wafting and the zephyr of the meadow of the Merciful attracts the hearts. The shining Effulgence illumines the regions and the sweet breaths perfume the nostril of every longing one. The cohorts of Confirmation are charging in battle-array from the Kingdom of Abha and the angels of sanctification are ascending^{to} and descending from the celestial world of Truth. The showers of Providence are pouring down from the Cloud of Guidance and the Cup of Oneness is constantly overflowing with the waves of Bestowals. The melodies of the birds of thankfulness are capturing the minds and the intellects and the mysteries of the realities of revival and resurrection, embodying the secrets of the Day in which the Trumpet was blown, has become manifest.

"Therefore gladden and rejoice thy heart through this Favor and Grace of the Blessed Perfection and release thyself from every sorrow and grief. Immerse thyself in the unfathomable sea of Happiness and soar and fly toward the soul-refreshing atmosphere of joy and fragrance. Close thy ear to the entrance of every sound and hearken to the ^{Call of thy} angel of the Kingdom of Abha who is crying: 'Hasten ye toward spiritual Success! Shut thy

eyes to the sight of the conditions of the contingent being and turn thy gaze toward the heavenly horizon. Lay thou the foundation of a college in this Rose-garden and become thou the teacher of Love, explaining the realities and significances. Unloose thy tongue in the praise and glorification of the Sun of the universe of creation and grant eternal Life upon dead bodies and lifeless corpses. Draw out a hand from thy bosom and show it as white as snow; throw down a rod of certainty to swallow and devour the serpents of doubts. Strike with thy rod at the sea of superstitious and cross it with the armies of Knowledge. Change the bloody river of irresolution and hesitancy to the Salsabeel of Guidance and cause the appearance of the light of the Grace of His Holiness El Ahha out of the Sinaitic wilderness of existence and pray thou for the appearance of "the flame of fire out of the midst of the bush". Rest thou not for one moment nor seek comfort for the twinkling of an eye. Now is the time to draw out the sharp sword of evidence, now is the opportune hour to be illumined by the radiant splendor. Ignite thou the candle of Guidance and burn the veils of the negligence of the inhabitants of the world. The Beauty of Ahha is assisting from the invincible Kingdom and the undoubted Realm of Truth, and the hosts of His protection and security are reaching uninterruptedly like the tumultuous waves of the Ocean. Although we are weak, feeble and indigent, yet the refuge and asylum is the Threshold of the Living, Omnipotent One and the support and Prop, the Mountain of Victory and the Confirmation of the Peerless Lord.

Upon thee be Baha and upon all those who are firm in the Covenant of God. (Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas"

We met our Beloved several times during the day and each time he spoke to ~~us~~ ^{on} similar topics contained in the first part of this letter and in the translation of his Tablet. I wish you could be here to listen to his words and be infused with his glowing spirit of enthusiasm and zeal.