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Home of Baha Ollah
Acca Syria
March 27th 1915

Dear friends!

Only a few of the believers met the Beloved this morning. They were called into his Presence and came down with smiling faces. I was ^{however} notified that he will leave for Acca this afternoon. Nowadays he does not even tell me to be "ready". I hear through Khosro or Isfandeyar or some one else that he is going to leave at such an hour and I make myself ready. I have become part of the baggage. It does not seem necessary to him to repeat the same word every time he desires to go somewhere. Have I not yet learned that I must be "ready" at all ^{times} and under all circumstances? I have often felt that all along I have been so useless, an encumbrance and a source of trouble and inconvenience to the Beloved. I am not doing anything for him. Others, yes, they are serving him, spreading his teachings, upholding his Cause, heralding his glorious name and proclaiming his love for humanity. But what am I doing? Nothing. Oh! I feel so ashamed when I think of my own incapacity, of my own utter unworthiness and ignorance! I ask of myself: 'Who art thou to stand day and night in the Presence of the Lord?' The inner mentor answers: 'Nothing.' 'What art thou doing for him?' 'Nothing.' 'Art thou serving him?' 'Not according to the longing of my heart.' For example, take Khosro. He is indeed serving the Beloved. Everyone of us puts a burden on His shoulder but faithful Khosro alleviates the load. He is always on hand. He works day and night. When the Master wants something to be done in the line of practical service, he tells it to Khosro and He is sure that it will be done perfectly. He is not a boy of many words but a young man of innumerable deeds. He is loved by the Beloved. I do not think He will be comfortable anywhere without having Khosro with him. He missed him so much in America and Europe. He may dispense with the services of others but ^{services} Khosro ^{are} necessary. No journey of the Beloved will be quite perfect without him, being the most essential member of the party.

I was sitting in the Bahai Cabin and talking with a number of believers when I heard the voice of the Beloved bidding farewell to the rest of the friends. I jumped from my chair and was out with my satchel following him. It was 2.30 P.M. He did not allow any of the faithful accompany us and so we descended the mountain quite alone. Only Mirza Jalal, Haji Bayadjan and Mirza Fazlollah Khan were with him. These ^{three} sat in the last row of the carriage, the Beloved in the middle and Khosro, Isfandiyar and myself in the front. While we were driving at a rapid speed toward Bahajee the Master said: - "All these lands are sacred. Many of the old prophets lived or spent a part of their lives or visited these places. Moreover the Blessed perfection tarried the last years of His Divine Life in these parts. Several villages are hallowed by His Presence and the plain of Acca sings His praises. Now tell me, Mirza Ahmad, [and while laughing he smote with his hand on the back of my neck] what hast thou done to be so richly rewarded with all these heavenly blessings. Thou must have done something. Let me see: like the old adepts thou hast not prayed all ^{the} nights for many a year, thou hast not spent a portion of thy life in the caves and caverns similar unto ^{the} anchorites and Indian mendicants, going ^{through} severe religious disciplines, like some yogis thou didst not fast forty days one one almond a day, like some Darveeshes thou didst not castigate thy body in order to be drawn nigh unto the Eternal throne. Thou hast done none of these things and still thou hast attained to the Most Great Bestowal and the most exalted station, while those who are practicing these rigorous disciplines are remote from the shore of the Sea of Truth. Tell me, Mirza Ahmad, what hast thou done? [and he smote me again twice on my back and laughed, then ^{he} got up from his seat and with his two blessed hands ^{took} my two ears and pulled them up] Wilt thou not tell me? I know. I know. [and he tingled with the tip of his fingers my ears] Art thou not happy that Baha Ollah has placed on thy head such a crown? Keep its jewels clean and pure - thus may they shine throughout centuries and cycles."

When we reached Bahajee he walked for a few minutes in the garden and then seeing a warship approaching the harbor of Haifa he said: - "These cruel wars entail untold sufferings on the poor and the needy. Instead of sending vast armies into the battlefield to slaughter and be slaughtered in turn, would it not be better if the Emperors of Germany, Russia and Japan, the Kings of England, Servia, Belgium, Montenegro and the President of the French Republic came together and settled their disputes through wrestling, duel and fencing? Then the blood of millions of innocent people will not be shed. If they state that the albatross of the sword is a test for the strength of a nation and that final right belongs to that people who has been most mighty, then the mode suggested for the arbitration of differences between the leaders belongs ^{also} to that category. As the monarchs of the earth have always constituted themselves as the august representatives of the nations over which they ruled, why then not act as such when it comes to the point of asserting and maintaining their ancestral rights? Why throw the dreadful responsibilities of murder and pillage on the shoulders of their subjects? Why thousands of young men be torn to pieces by shells for the whims and rascalities of a few? But in this case the Sovereigns may think twice before taking such a hazardous step, fearing to be put hors de combat by the iron strength of the present occupant of German imperial throne If these leaders of humanity listened to God, they would have known that He has destined for them peace and reconciliation, eternal Life and Everlasting Glory. Their love and affection for each other ought to have been so great and binding, that if for example, the German Emperor met the Emperor of Russia, he may have felt genuine joy and pleasure and the Germans be willing to sacrifice their lives for the French. To such an exalted station God has called these nations but to what an abyss of brutality and degradation have they sunk. Praise be to Baha Ollah that we are at peace with all; the Bahais are at war with no nation. We are seeking

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the good-pleasure of the Lord. We wish happiness and prosperity for all of them. What heavenly Bestowal God has ordained for His creatures and how have they deprived themselves therefrom!"

Then we entered the holy Tomb, sat silently for more than half an hour read the visiting Tablet quietly and then coming out rode for Acca.

In the evening all the friends gathered in the Presence of the Beloved. One of the believers told him that the warship has not left the harbor of Haifa and beside is, she is throwing her powerful searchlight on Mount Carmel examining every building and edifice. This has created a panic in Acca, the people thinking that the ^{two} towns will be assuredly bombarded. The Master said:- "Rest ye assured. Whatever happens we are under the protection of Baha-Ollah. We have Him as our guardian and Shield. In the time of Trials and vicissitudes He will not forget us. He will come to our succor and encircle us with His Love. Of all the created beings man is the most fearful but through education he becomes valorous. Real courage is bestowed upon man through the Light of Faith. In this manner the heart attains to perfect confidence and quaffs from the elixir of assurance. Then if he be surrounded by a hundred thousand calamities, he will not be agitated."

The price of wheat is trebled and today a large delegation of women called on the governor, crying aloud: "We want bread. We are hungry. Is the government going to starve us." Petroleum is almost finished and half of the people sit in darkness during the evenings. One cannot find any matches in the Bazaar. Sugar, coffee and rice fetch fabulous prices. The warship continued in her investigation through her searchlight and was in the harbor till past midnight. News ^{reached} us that they have dropped down several boats, sounding the depth of every part of the bay. The town was in great excitement and the streets were filled with scared old men and women, trying to escape but still waiting for a ^{definite} final