

17
Moonbeam Bahai Calim
Abou Senan, Acca, Syria
March 31st 1915

Dear friends:

We are back in Abou Senan, this time to stay many days and come nearer to the heart of nature. We have been here already so many times, that the place has become quite well-known to us and all the faces are taking a familiar aspect. We spent most of our days in Acca and when we come here, it is like going to the country to rest, think and contemplate. With the Beloved the Holyland is more holy, and its sacred associations more vivid. In his face I behold the light of the Sun of Truth and in his words I hear the music of the spiritual life. In his presence the ignorant becomes wise. In his association the weak becomes courageous. It is good to travel with him and be enkindled with the fire of his love, for wherever he goes he encircles it with the aureole of his divine Spirit.

This morning we were glad to look into his countenance and listen to the explanation of an Arabic verse concerning the subject of Deity. The Arab poet says: "Our explanations are sundry but Thy Countenance is One". When I asked the meaning of the line he said: "The essence of Deity is unknown and will never be properly understood and defined. In every age different names are given to the same essence. At the time of Moses It was variously interpreted as Jehovah, the burning bush and the Interlocutor; in the Messianic Dispensation It was known by the titles of the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost and in the time of Mahamad It was designated as the Lord (Allah), the Friend of God and the Gabriel. Now ^{by} all these various appellations One Object was intended. There were many names of glory but the Glorious One was Unique. Like wise the qualitative significations emanating from the minds of the people of understanding concerning the essence of Divinity have had the same indivisible purpose."

At one P.M. Mirza Azzizollah Khan one of the Persian Bahai Students from the American Beriaut College arrived in Acca by way of Tyre and Sidon and was immediately introduced into the Presence of

the Beloved. This is their Easter holiday and therefore our brother is on his way to Tiberias to spend his vacation. The Master welcomed him with joy and inquired about the health of the other students. Many messages were presented to him from the friends in Beirut and he was delighted to hear that they were all well and happily occupied in the pursuit of Knowledge.

At 230 P.M. the carriage was ready and the Master bidding farewell to our Beirut brother descended from the stairs rode in it, asking us to do the same. When we reached at Bahajee we found the doors of the house and the Holy Tomb shut because Aga Sayad Ali was in Ahsan Sema. Consequently the Beloved entered the outer garden and while standing read the Visiting Tablet, after which he sat on the ground for several minutes praying silently. Then he kissed it, gathered in his blessed hands the fallen petals of roses and came out of the sacred Place.

On the way as we proceeded toward Ahsan Sema he handed me four letters just received from Germany and asked me to translate for him. The first was from Miss Knoblock. She writes from München and amongst other things she says: "I enclose with this 4 petitions and earnestly pray that they may receive illumination and assistance. Especially do I pray in behalf of Herr Dammerhuber who is an earnest seeker after Truth and wishes to become confirmed in the promotion of the Cause of God in München. O Lord! Grant him thy help and assistance so that he may become the means in guiding many souls to the Light of Truth who are living in darkness and skepticism..... Help me O Lord and Beloved, so that I may become better able to serve and do greater work in the Cause of God. I am indeed unworthy of thy great blessings and Bounties and pray that I may become worthy of thy spiritual love which is showered upon me daily..... Comfort the sad, the afflicted and the broken-hearted in the hours of their dark misfortunes and inspire the hearts, so that they may be guided toward the goal of Thy heaven of Peace and abide in thy Love."

Herrn W. Dammerhuber says:-

"By request of my friends and through the kindness of a spiritual sister I am permitted to send the following questions for an explanation by your holiness
1st: Who am I? 2d: Where is God? 3d: For what purpose is God necessary? (if there be one.) Although an atheist I am idealist enough not to force my ideas upon others, but I take the standpoint of Socialist whose earnest effort is to remove differences between man and promulgate brotherhood and true humanity. It is my earnest wish to interest the intellectual members of the Freethinker movement in München in the Bahai Movement. For this therefore I desire to gain most valid proofs and incontrovertible arguments." The three questions interested the Beloved greatly and thought he would answer them at an opportune time.

Another letter from München says:—"Through the great Kindness of His Knolishah ⁱⁿ this city the Call of the Kingdom is raised, to unify us—who have heard so much of the beautiful exalted Teachings—with the friends in Stuttgart."

Thus I read to him these letters while the carriage was speeding along the route and he listened to them attentively till we reached the foot of the mountain. Here there were many believers waiting to welcome him. "I have come this time," he said, "to stay with you several days and enjoy your association. I hope you are feeling well. In Acre the people are disturbed and in the greatest agitation. They do not know what will be their immediate future. Praise be to God that you are living quietly in this peaceful village, far away from the rumors of wars." He sat for a few minutes under the trees and then one went up to bring a donkey—so that he might ride.

In the evening we had a large meeting and the details of the defeat of Turkey in Suez Canal were reiterated with fuller outlines. The Sheiks reported to the Beloved the latest news in Akko, Haifa, and how the locusts have been, widening the area of their devastation. He in turn told them another story connected with this worse of all human plagues which I will translate for you in some future letter. Khassra served all the friends with small cups of coffee and the meeting was brought to an end.