

20

Moonbeam Bahai Calen
Abou Senan Aca. Syria
April 1st 1915

Dear friends:

This was a cloudy day, the Beloved kept to his room and therefore we did not see him. He sent for the Sheiks and they were fortunate to enter his holy presence and listen to his divine words, ^{while} we were deprived of this spiritual boon. On the other hand no sooner I raised my head from my pillow than my more progressive roommates, the "Parish Doctor" and the "School Teacher" by a number of practical jokes reminded me that this was "April fool's day". I could not retaliate in turn because there was no one else in the community of Abou Senan who would appreciate the playful spirit of an "April fool day," nor is it quite in accord with common sense to crack a "serious joke" across seas and mountains. For "we all know the reaction of written word on life;" and when "the words are written, become terrible enough to affright the devil himself." But I can serve you in a better way, in a more dignified manner. If you are not affected with ennui nor bored with weariness we may, hand in hand roam through the immortal garden of Abdul Baha and from the bush of Eternity pull one big, fresh rose, the fragrance of the petals of which may perfume the nostrils of all these who are far and near. Are you satisfied with this? Will you accompany me and help me with your sweet presence and ready sympathy? yes? Then let us start. There is the rose, imperishable, beautiful and the fragrance of which shall last throughout the years, decades and generations! —

He is God!

"O ye who are advancing toward the Supreme Outlook! In the world of heart and conscience I am occupied with the mention of the blemishes of the Lord of Mercy by day and by night, morn and eve; at sunrise and sunset. I beg confirmation and assistance from the True One that He may characterize and distinguish the friends of that pure ground - the holy land in all the degrees of morality, conduct, words, deeds, conditions and traces; that He may bestow upon them attract-

ecstasy, yearning, Knowledge, assurance, firmness, steadfastness, unity and agreement and suffer them to appear in the assemblage of the world with radiant faces and countenances like unto the rose-garden.

"O ye believers of God! This day is the day of unity and this hour is the hour of Concord in the world of creation" (It is revealed in the Koran): - Verily God loveth those who, as though they were a solid fortress do battle for His Cause in serried lines." Consider ye that in this verse 'serried line' is revealed. This means that they must all join their forces, be linked together and reinforce each other. The Jahad [the holy war] mentioned in this blessed line is not to be carried through the sword, spear, dart and javelin in this most Great Dispensation, - may rather it ~~was~~ ^{shall ever} be conducted with the weapons of sincere intentions, peaceful objects, merciful ethics, praiseworthy actions, god-like characteristics, universal education of the individuals of humanity, the diffusion of spiritual fragrances, the explanation of divine Proofs, the elucidation of incontrovertible, celestial evidences and philanthropic deeds. When the sanctified souls through the Power of the Kingdom arise in service while endued with these heavenly manners, and draw the line of the serried ranks of union, each one of these souls will be equal to a thousand and the waves of this most great Sea will find the force of the regiments of the Army of the Supreme concourse! What a favor is this! that when all the torrents, rivers, streams, rills and drops gather in one place they will form a most Great ocean and the original Unity will become so paramount and all-conquering that the signs, contingencies, subjective conceptions, objective individuality of the phantasmal lines of these souls, like unto the drops, will merge and commingle together, - causing the Sea of Spiritual Unity to wave and surge. I declare by the Blessed Beauty that at such a time and under such circumstances the Glorious Outpourings shall so encircle and the Deep of the almighty shall so swell that the expanse of Khalfan (a district near Shiraz) may become like the unfathomable Main and every drop finding the importance of the measureless sea.

"O ye friends of God! Strive, that ye may attain to this lofty and

and exalted station and cause ye the appearance of such an illustrious nation
in these worlds whose splendors may emanate everlasting from the
dawning-place of ^{the} regions. This is the basic Principle of the Cause of God! This
is the quintessence of the religion of the Lord! This is the fortified, firm
edifice of the Manifestations of the Merciful! This is the cause of the rising
of the Sun of the Universe of God! This is the means of the establish-
ment of the Lord of Mercy upon the physical throne!

"O ye friends of God! Consider that his holiness the Supreme - may the life
of the people of the world be a sacrifice to him - for this glorious aim, He
made his blessed chest the shield for the arrows of persecutions and because
the original intention of the Ancient Beauty - may the spirits of the Supreme
Concourse be a ransom to Him - was this very most great object, his highness
the exalted Lord, in this path, made his sacred breast the target
of thousand bullets by the people of hostility and rancour and while
robed with the garment of the most mighty meekness, he attained
to martyrdom. The earth was crimsoned with the hallowed blood
of thousands holy and merciful souls for the sake of this Highway
and many sacred ladies of the faithful believers of His Highness the
Almighty were suspended on the cross! The Blessed Personality
of the Beauty of Abha - may the spirit of the Kingdom of existence
be a sacrifice to his believers! - bore the load of all the trials and
accepted the most dire ordeals. There was no injury that was not
heaped upon that Pure Body nor was there any calamity that did
not descend upon Him. Many a night while under the chains, He rested
not because of the weight of fetters and many a day through the
brennings of shackles and gynes He reposed not for one moment.
That Incarnate Spirit who was trained on the couch of silk and brocade,
while chained and manacled was made to run bare-footed and bare-
headed, from Neyaveran to Teheran. He was then imprisoned with
the murderers, thieves, rebels and seditions in a dark and narrow
jail under the ground. In every moment they inflicted upon
him a new injury and in every second the realization of martyrdom
was calmly expected. After sometimes they exiled him from

from His native country to foreign land. During the many years of His sojourn in Irak, at every moment an arrow was aimed at His Breast and at every breath a sword descended upon His immaculate Body. He enjoyed no peace or repose for the twinkling of an eye. With the utmost animosities the enemies attacked Him from all sides but singly and alone that blessed Personage withstood every one. After all the sufferings and hardships they again exiled Him from Irak Arabic to Adrianople in Romenia. In that severe banishment and supreme Calamity, the rigorous torments, repeated assaults, strategical calumnies, malice, enmity and hatred of the adherents of Beyan were added to the persecutions of the people of Koran. More than this the pen is unable to give further details. Undoubtedly you have heard these events and are acquainted therewith. During the past 24 yrs, while surrounded with the greatest afflictions and adversities, He spent His sacred life. In brief: The Ancient Beauty ~~is~~^{while living} - May the spirit of existence be a sacrifice to His gentleness - in this mortal world, was either a Prisoner under the chains or threatened at all times beneath the sword; He was either drinking the cup of bitter of misfortune or incarcerated in the most Great Prison. His Pure Temple, because of extreme weakness - the results of successive trials - had become like unto a sighing ~~tree~~ ^{that is lean} and His honorable Body on account of excessive tribulations was reduced into the likeness of a thread (very thin) His Blessed Aim, by carrying this most Great burden and accepting all these catastrophes which like unto a turbulent sea, their waves reached to the height of heaven and bearing the load of chains and fetters and embodying the most mighty meekness - was for the purpose of union, agreement and concord of all the inhabitants of the world, and the appearance of the sign of divine friendship in a practical manner between the nations; - so that the oneness of origin in the realities may become unfolded and crown the end and the light of the verse 'Thou shall see no difference between the creatures of the Lord of Mercy!' shine forth.

"Now O ye believers of God! This is the time of exertion and fermentation. Display ye an effort and demonstrate

a ceaseless application. Just as the Ancient Beauty - may my life be a ransom to the dust of the feet of His believers - was living day and night in the city of sacrifice - may we also strive, offer ourselves at the altar of martyrdom, hearken with the ears of intelligence to celestial advice and exhortations, forego our own limited lives, shut our eyes to the false conceptions and pluralities of the world of humanity and serve whole-heartedly this glorious aim and most great Intenton.

"Oh! that we may not cut this Tree which is planted by the Hand of divine Bestowal through our own superstitions! May we not hid these beaming lights which are shining ^{forth} from the Kingdom of Abha with the dark clouds of our bigotry and dogmatism? May we not construct a dam to impede the waves of the ocean of the Mercy of the Almighty! May we not hinder from diffusion the Holy Fragrances of the Garden of the Beauty of Abha! May we not interrupt the downpour of the rain of Grace in this Day of Union! May we not seek to restrain the effulgence of the Sun of Reality! These are the admonitions of God in His Holy Scriptures, Books and Tablets which reveal His Commands and Bekests to His righteous servants!

I Baha be upon ye, His mercy and His Blessing!.....

(Signed) Abdul Baha Alleluia to the Persian believers

I believe this Tablet must have been revealed ^{to} the Persian believers and probably before there could be found a single Baha'i in America or in Europe. It displays the quickening fire and contagious enthusiasm of those early days of the expansion and progress of the Cause. It discloses the passionate love of Abdul Baha for his heavenly Father and his fervent solicitude to spread the knowledge of Truth in all parts of the world. Its words and thoughts are nevertheless applicable to the present state of the Baha'i Movement and if we are devoted to this revelation we must obey His lofty ideals and raise his flag - thus we may become confirmed with the Holy-Spirit, enter in the arena of service, summon the people to the Kingdom of Truth and call mankind to the standard of Unity.