

Moonbary Bahai Cabin 48
Ahsan Sanam Acca. Syria
April 10th 1915

Dear friends!

This morning the Beloved visited our Bahai patient, Mashadi Ebrahim Fattah. His sickness is becoming more complicated every day and his family are worried. He has six daughters and two small sons. Two of his daughters are married, one to our brother Mirza Moneer and another to a Bahai in Eshtakabad. The other four are living with their mother. The Master spoke with them in the language of kindness and rejoiced their hearts with the spiritual consolation of their heavenly father who will ever look after them and protect them from the harsh treatment of the time. Mashadi Ebrahim Fattah came to Acca with his brother about forty years ago and has ever been a constant companion and firm believer in Baha Ollah. After the ascension of the Blessed Perfection he immediately followed the Centre of the Covenant without a moment's hesitation and identified himself with the faithful of the Lord. He was well-known amongst the friends and strangers for his rectitude and business integrity and the Master often commissioned him with important transactions which he carried out with precision and thoroughness. When the Beloved returned from his house he passed by the ^{Bahai} school and entered the building. All the boys and girls arose from their seats and welcomed the Lord with happy faces. Looking at them he said: "Whenever I think of this Bahai educational institution founded here for the present, I feel very happy." Encouraging them to go on with their education and study well their lessons he came out and took his seat in the reception ^{room} of Sheikh Sahh. There were many guests and he spoke with them on current events. One of them read to him the contents of the Agency. He said: "Our Agency emanates from the Supreme Concourse. It is no other than the Confirmation of God and the assistance of the Holy Spirit. It destroys the crude instinct of carnage and barbarism and brings about the reign of peace and brotherhood. It announces the end of war and ushers in the new era of conciliation."

The plight of locusts brought in the question of famine and starvation. The Master said: "The staff of life is bread. All other things are comparatively non-essential. Let us pray that the wheat fields may be saved from the ravages of locusts, otherwise all of us have to suffer as the consequence of this terrible visitation. Man must walk in the path of contentment and be satisfied with few things. This will insure his happiness, give him the power of endurance and make him independent of all unnecessary appendages of this mundane life. Resignation to the Will of God is the soul of happiness and the link connecting the most opposite characters. When a soul acquires the quality of resignation the outward conditions of life will not disturb his ^{inner} peace nor the collapse of nations will disturb this equilibrium of his ^{mind}. The heart must become the casket for the shining pearl of the Love of God, the vase for the imperishable rose of the Knowledge of God and the treasury for ^{safe-guarding} the jewels of the mysteries of the religion of God. Thus in the midst of trials and ordeals the real nobility of the soul will appear and the genuine worth of the individual will become manifest. During these days we must show forth the innate attributes of firmness and steadfastness and demonstrate the qualities of courage and valor. Without these necessary qualities it will be quite impossible to bear the heavy burden of these trials. Our minds must become enlightened with the rays of fortitude and our feet strengthened to walk in the road of serenity. Both by example of deeds and words we must encourage the weak hearted and comfort the sorrow-laden. The last two years have been the years of most extraordinary events which have astonished the whole world and the people of every country have gone through fire and sword. Spiritual Light is the only thing that will banish the present gross darkness and our duty is to ~~find~~ ^{join} the Centre of that Light. All other remedies are palliative and not permanent. The Truth is in our midst but we must recognize it and turn our faces toward it; otherwise we are deaf, blind and mute. The tree of ignorance must be uprooted and seeds of Knowledge be scattered in the ground of the hearts of mankind. This is the Way."

In the afternoon he came out followed by Sheik Saleh and several friends. He took a walk around the place and when he reached at an open space he sat on a rock and bade us to be seated also. For a long time he was silent looking at the ^{migration} ~~march~~ of the hosts of locusts. Then apropos of a question he gave an account of the rise of Jazzar Pasha in Acca and how he dealt justly with rigor and severity. This cruel ruler of more than one hundred years ago is well-known all over this land for his barbarous methods of dealing ^{and} punishments to culprits and offenders. After an interesting talk on the character of the said ruler the Beloved returned to the house refreshed with the ^{cool} breeze.

The government has already taken up measures for the destruction of the locusts and their seeds. Today four soldiers came from Acca with orders from the Matassaraf that every man, woman and child must go into the fields from morning to evening chasing away the locusts and no sooner their migration is stopped they must commence to dig up their eggs before they are hatched. I think each person must deliver to the officer in charge more than 15 pounds of eggs. Similar orders are forwarded to all the ^{villages} hamlets and towns. No age is excepted. In this manner they may be able to mitigate somewhat the impending famine but all the mountains and valleys are ⁱⁿ these days teeming with locusts and they are laying their eggs everywhere. The poor people may dig them out of their own grounds but they can do nothing with those laid in the depth of the dabs and on the heights of the hills. Nevertheless we must praise the action of the government and her vigilance in this direction. Whosoever does not deliver the specified amount of eggs he will be fined with one Pound sterling and 3 months imprisonment. The farmers think this is worse than the damages of the locusts because some of them may be unable to gather as ^{many} ~~much~~ eggs as it is demanded by the authorities. In the evening we had a meeting and the Master spoke and asked questions about the above subject.