

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin

Abou Senan, Acca Syria

April 11th 1915

Dear friends!

"Tell me Mirza Ahmad, how long is it ^{since} ~~that~~ we ~~have~~ left America asked my Beloved as he sat in the large guest room of Sheik Saleh, surrounded by the friends of God. It was a holy moment and I felt the thrill of joy as he directed his merciful glances toward me and as the glowing picture of the last farewell meeting in New York came to my memory. I answered: "We left the United States on December 5th 1912." "Ah me!" he sighed "How spiritual and glorious were those divine days spent amongst the believers of God in the Western world! Will we ^{ever} behold their faces again? Will we ever enjoy their ideal companionship and sit with them around the same table? Will it ever be our lot to hold with them another spiritual converse? In those days we were ^{engaged} in the service of the Cause of God, spent our time with joy and fragrance, diffused the sweet smell of the Word of God and unfurled the Ensign of the Religion of God. Would it not have been better and more fruitful if we had continued our journey from Egypt to India, Japan and China? but the Wise Creator had ordained it otherwise and we must submit to His decree without murmur. In these days our life is unproductive and without results. Although we are free, yet we are like prisoners, in as far as we cannot speak and act without constraint. There are no pilgrims with whom we may speak, we receive no letters which may be answered, we find no way through which we may travel into the outside world. Unemployed and workless we spend our days and nights in this small hamlet far away from the active scenes and busy fields of real service. I feel most grieved and sad because the channels of service for the Cause are so completely blocked from all directions. My joy consists in the service of the believers of God, in travelling in the Path of the Kingdom of Akha, in the promotion of the lordly teachings, in associating with the lovers of Truth and in propagating the Word of God. All these benefits are for the present

unattainable and therefore we are deprived of all these thrilling experiences which would have been ours were it not for these hindrances! We are now like unto ~~the~~ useless instruments." He became silent and I found myself speaking: "The very presence of the Master is like unto the Sun which gives light to all the other smaller orbs. The Bahai world will be lifeless without him. It is hoped that after this war the means will be brought about and he will travel again to strengthen the ^{wasting} hearts and rejoice the souls." He said: "In those days the banquet of joy and happiness was spread at all hours. Normal spiritual joy has a healing effect over the body and I can ^{conceive} of no greater joy than teaching the Cause of God. When an individual forgets himself entirely, is sincerely self-sacrificing, loses himself in the sea of the Love of the Blessed Perfection, fulfills the requirements of servitude and has won the good-pleasure of the Lord of Hosts - his joy will be unending and his happiness a flowing stream of crystalline water. A Bahai who serves others is like unto a candle which burns and sheds light upon all those who have circled round it. The highest attainable station of the candle is to burn and brighten the dark room and the loftiest pinnacle of our progress and perfection is to be confirmed in the service of the Holy Threshold. This is indeed the most exalted position. But what do I mean by servitude of the Holy Threshold? I mean this: With radiant faces, with detached hearts, with cheerful spirits, with sanctified souls, with illumined minds, with unyielding determination we may arise and teach the Cause of Baha Ollah. It is well to bear in mind ⁱⁿ all our waking hours that He did not educate us for the corporeal joy, material comfort and the physical conditions of this mortal world. He accepted all the persecutions and hardships and chose us for the illumination of the world of humanity, for the moral and religious education of the races, for the spiritual awakening of the people." He had reached this point when several Arab guests entered the room and the talk was brought to an end. For them he spoke on the position of women in ancient ^{and modern} times and the history of Zenobia, the Queen of Palmyra was vividly described.