

Moonbeam Bahar Cabin
 Alham Senan Acca Syria
 April 13th 1915

Dear friends!

With two of the friends I took a walk around the country this morning and was struck with the tremendous migration of the locusts as never before. Millions were on the ground, on the trees and in the rice and wheat fields and millions were on the wing above our heads, flying with the rapidity of lightning toward the North. If all the locusts of the past days had made their homes here, Alham Senan and all the people therein would have sunk beneath them. They do not come like unto the waves of the sea but the sea itself would shrink into a small pool in comparison with the successive oceans of locusts pouring upon the people of Syria. My untrained mind and pen cannot describe it in an adequate manner. In order to understand its portentous significance one must come and look at the scene with his own eyes - thus on the sensitive plate of his consciousness a clear picture of this "new calamity" may be engraved, never to be effaced. As we walked or ran through the fields hundreds of thousands of locusts arose before us and flew away. I was often surrounded by them to the extent that my two companions could see only my shadowy outline. I took a photograph while they were flying above my head but I doubt whether it will turn out to be good. The old farmers with their women and children were out and the deafening sound of their tin pans and petroleum tin cans, and harsh voices trying to ~~chase~~ ^{drive them} away the locusts, filled the valley. They are now goaded into unremitting labor by their new taskmasters who walk after them with their loaded guns. The Matosarra of Acca has appointed Sheik Salman the chairman of the ^{village} committee to receive every day the amount of eggs gathered by the peasants. The ^{ploughed} ground of the olive orchards stretching at the foot of the mountain has been ^{covered} with locusts during the past days and it is there that they have deposited their eggs side by side and toward that point all the farmers will direct their steps with eagerness and promptitude.

Today I saw the Beloved only from afar. He was walking on the balcony, enjoying the fresh air and ~~the~~ sunshine. He sent twice for Sheik Saleh and his sons and kept them in his presence for a long time. But in the evening we had a nice meeting and he gave two talks, the first in Persian, the second in Arabic. The first ~~one~~ was provoked because Mirza Azizollah Khan told him about the Baha students in the American college of Beirut and how their deeds and conduct have glorified the Cause in the estimation of outsiders. He said: "Generally the people are not impressed by the words of the Divine Manifestation but if they hear ^{also} His actions they will humble themselves immediately. If the believers of God live and act ^{in accord} with the advice and exhortations of the Blessed Beauty, the Kings and rulers will be humbled before them. For example, what a vast difference exists between a person who speaks about generosity and the one who dispenses it! How far are the following two individuals from each other: one merely talking about justice and equity, the other embodying these principles in his life? How irreconcilable are the lines of two men, the first discussing an Illumination, the second being himself Illumined! If we become the incarnate expressions of the educating Ideals of Baha Ollah, our words will become effective even upon the hard stone. He forebore all these trials and hardships; so that we may become confirmed in deeds and not in words. The sun dawned every morning from the Eastern horizon in order that the people may be engaged in their various works and not in speech-making. In a similar manner the Sun of Reality hath shone forth from the horizon of Immortality to assist mankind in the accomplishment of deeds and not in the formulation of words. It is written: 'Come thou to us with deeds if thou art of the sincere ones'. It is not written: 'Come thou to us with words if thou art of the sincere ones'. There are many people who are nimble of speech and talk glibly when it comes to the consideration of self-sacrifice but are all unwilling to assist their brothers in the time of need. Others fulfill the requirements of the verse: to abandon wealth, honor, fame, name, rest and life in the path of Love ~~is~~ the first essential condition. While he is surrounded with comfort and tranquility a person may with all sincerity and ^{devotion} ~~dedication~~ long for opportunities of practical, social services and self-sacrifice but the opportunities are made available he may shirk the responsibilities and cast away the most precious load of self-development and self-expression. Thus there is a great disparity between the dreamer, the theorist and the practical humanitarian who is ready at all times to sacrifice his means for the salvation of his fellow men. For this reason action is the most potent factor in the progress of civilization. The Baha's must lessen words and increase deeds. This will crown their heads with the Diadem of proud achievement and verifiable accomplishments."