

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin
 Abou Senan, Acca, Syria
 April 16th 1915

Dear friends!

This will be our last day in Abou Senan. For the last week every morning there was a well-founded rumor that the Beloved was going to leave but it was discredited afterwards. This time we stayed much longer than on ^{our} former visits and entered more closely into the spirit of the place. The members of the Holy Family, the believers and the outsiders as well enjoyed the companionship of the Master and were uplifted by his daily talks, conversation and association. His presence spiritualized their atmosphere, tranquilized their hearts and co-ordinated their feelings and sentiments. As he is a steady inmate of the Kingdom of Abha he carries with himself wherever he goes the delicate perfume, color and shade of that rose-garden. He walks amongst the people with the gentleness of love and the sweetness of affection. Having descended from heaven and knowing the principles of heaven he desires to establish upon the earth the reign of heaven. He is able to render this unique service, not by the means of any material power, but through the god-given authority conferred upon him by the Spirit of Truth. As a Divine Educator he has laid down the Ideal Standard of a normative procedure of spiritual educating. Considering the changing conditions of the races, the adaptability of each individual and the constantly developing nature of man he has evolved the art of moral education for the benefit of his fellowmen. That religious education is primarily an art and then a spiritual science few would like to refute. Now just as there are definite laws and fixed norms for all other sciences, such as mathematics, economics, engineering and sociology, there must of necessity be rules and principles for the guidance and growth of the inner, spiritual life of man. Baha Ollah and Abdul Baha have systematized these laws and embodied them in their books and writings. They are the solid basis upon which the University of spiritual educating "will be built for the illumination of mankind."

This morning the Beloved took a walk around the country with the Sheiks and the believers. The locusts have all migrated to other parts of Syria and Palestine but they have left behind a heritage - their eggs - the destruction of which would be a superhuman task, notwithstanding all the precautions of the local authorities. In our walk this morning we saw only a few who are lagging ^{behind} and will no doubt leave this neighborhood in a day or two. The people are glad that they have migrated but are dreading the total destruction which may ^{be} wrought by the larvae. All the way long the Master spoke with Sheik Saleh and Sheik Fareff about the benefic effect of the rays of the sun and the quickening, vitalizing power of its heat. When he reached the door of his residence the farmers showed him the piles of locust eggs which they had gathered during the early morning hours. He looked at them for a minutes, took a number of them in his hand and entered silently the reception room.

About 12 o'clock the Commander of the army of Acca, three of his subordinate officers and 2 Military Doctors arrived in Ahsan Senan to meet the Beloved and he was with them till sunset. They took their lunch and dinner with him and then left ^{for the town} in Isfandeyar's carriage. Mirza Anayetullah invited Mirza Jalal, Doctor Halibollah, Badi Effendi and myself to lunch. He had prepared for us "pilou" and meat. In these days that the price of the rice has arisen ^{very} beyond the luxurious means of the wealthy a plate of "Pilou" is a rare treat. Our brother ^{however} did not buy it from the Market of Acca and Haifa, because he could not get it for any price but he had saved a few pounds before the war broke and transportation came to a standstill.

Before noon the Master dictated two Tablets, one in Arabic and another in Turkish. The first ^{was} for an important functionary in Acca, acknowledging the receipt of his letter and inviting him to come to Ahsan Senan in some future date; the second was to a judge in Tyre, introducing a friend and requesting him to attend to a number of his legal affairs.

Today we had a complete housecleaning. We throw out our beds, our furniture etc giving them the benefit of sun's rays. I had to sweep

Tonight we had a very interesting meeting and most instructive to the Arab
Sheiks who gathered around the spiritual table of the Beloved. When we ^{entered}
the room he was talking about the old civilization of Egypt during the reign of Pharaoh,
their custom of embalming the dead bodies in contradistinction to the custom of Suteh
in India and the religious significance of each. Then he gave a detailed
architectural description of the city of Thebes along the shore of the Nile as
constructed by the rulers of different dynasties. Changing the topic of conver-
sation he said: "When I was in Europe I talked with many thinkers and philo-
sophers. They expressed their strong disapproval of the religious prejudices of the
Eastern races against the Western people. ^{One of them} said: 'We do not know what to
do and how to behave ourselves; - so that the Oriental nations may look upon
us with respect and honor. We have taught them the rules of material
civilization, the manipulation of the forces of nature and the application
of the physical laws of the universe. We have built for them gigantic
steamers in which they travel comfortably over ^{the} oceans; we have constru-
cted for them fast trains and railroads in which they journey from one
country to another; we have illumined their houses with gas and electricity;
we have given them telegraphy, phonography, photography, telephone, ^{and}
less, airships, submarines and thousand other useful inventions
which have simplified their lives and modernized their ideas of social
relationships. Notwithstanding all these services they still hate us and
consider us as 'infidels', 'pagans', and give us most opprobrious epithets
which I would not like to mention it here. Now, will you please tell
us, what ought we to do in order to please them? We are ready to make
any concession, - in order to remove these fanatic prejudices from our
midst and create better and more enduring relations between the
East and the West. When you return to the Orient, please give
this message to our brothers and let them know that we look
forward to the time when all these racial and religious bias
are wiped away and the light of true spirituality shining in every face.

Then he talked about his lecture in the University of Oxford
and reviewed it in the most impassioned Arabic language. Other
subjects were spoken and it was about 10 P.M. when he retired with
the light of God radiating from his countenance.