

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
April 18th 1915

Dear friends'

Before leaving for Haifa this afternoon the friends gathered in the room of the Beloved and Khosro served them tea. He was full of compassion and love, solicitude and anxiety for the progress and advancement of the Cause. Addressing the old believers he said: - "The Blessed Perfection educated us in this most great Prison. If we consider this fact with the sight of justice we will realize that He instructed us with the tears of His eyes. There was no Favor that He did not shower upon us; no Bounty with which He did not encircle us; no Bestowal with which He did not encompass us and no Grace with which He did not environ us. Like unto the birds we soared in the atmosphere of His Knowledge, Wisdom and sagacity and studied in His divine Conservatory the music and harmony of the Kingdom of Akha. All these lessons, instructions and examples were intended to prepare us for these days; - so that through our deeds, words, conducts and behaviours we may water the Blessed Tree. He planted in the garden of the world this Spiritual Tree of the Cause but it is in need of constant watchfulness and irrigation. Although He will water it Himself yet we must not stand aside and let the rare opportunity of service slip out of our hand. We must with the refreshing fountain of celestial severance, the cooling rain of sanctity and holiness and the tears of the eye of the Love of God water this Blessed Tree and cause its growth and development through our Ideals, thoughts, conceptions and perceptions. That Glorious Personage, Baha Ollah underwent all manner of calamities and persecutions. He was always beneath the threatening shadow of the sword. While in Teheran He was thrown into the dark of the prison, in Mazandaran He was bastinadoed, His estate was confiscated, His fortune pillaged and finally with the utmost outward humiliation He was exiled from Persia with His family. When in Bagdad He was enclosed with the severest hardships and misfortunes. One of His trials was the attack of the outside

enemies, another trial was the machinations of Mirza Yahya from the inside. From all directions He was surrounded with the hatred and rancor of the foes. Many a night in Bagdad we entertained no hope that our lives will be spare in the morning. Every day we received sad news. From there we were exiled to Constantinople, then to Adrianople. In this latter city the rebellion of Mirza Yahya reached its height and his envy became virulent and a complete rapture became unavoidable. No tongue can adequately describe the troubles that he caused for the Blessed Beauty. He sent Sayyid Muhammad to Constantinople with a long petition of complaints addressed to the Persian Ambassador. He attributed many false accusations to Baha Allah which precipitated the last and most great exile. The Persian Ambassador gave them fair but lying promises and this incited them to add to the catalogue of their calumnies. When the time of ^{our} exile came around he said: 'The real seditious people are these Yahyais. They must be banished first.' And thus it came around that they were sent to Cyprus before us. You have all witnessed the sufferings of the Blessed Perfection in this Most Great Prison and have observed the magnitude of His woes. If His outward sufferings were innumerable His inward woes were countless. For this reason He often repeated that my sorrows do not come from strangers but from those who call themselves in my name and do not live in accord with My Teaching. In short, He accepted all these trials and ordeals for our education and He showered upon us so many blessings, benedictions and benefactions, that we may adorn ourselves with the mantle of loyalty at His Holy Threshold. O friends! We must do something for the edification of His Cause. We must exert to water this Divine Tree. We must bid farewell to all ideas save the focal idea of service. We must learn and grow and expand and develop. Why should we repress our holiest feelings? Let them bloom. Why should we stand-still, let us go forward. Why should we obstruct the currents of our thoughts? Let them flow on and on from eternity to eternity. Why should we remain idle and inactive? Let us rise and be doing and working and teaching and spreading

At this moment a number of Zoroastrian Bahais who have come of late from Adassayah entered the room and immediately the Beloved changed the spirit of his talk and spoke to them as follows: - "The Blessed Perfection expressed always great love for the Parsee friends. When Manukji came to Bagdad and stood in His spiritual Presence he related many stories concerning the humiliation of the Parsees and how in his travels from India throughout Persia he found them in the lowest degree of dispersion and abasement; how the Persian authorities persecuted and drove them from pillar to post and how these creatures like sparrows were ^{made} captives in the cruel claws of the falcon and how they were maltreated in the cities of Yazd and Kerman. Then His holiness Baha Ollah promised him that the moral and material conditions of his people will undergo an entire transformation, - assured him that ^{the gates of} God's rich treasures will be opened by them and they will rise in the scale of progress and civilization and their shame will be changed into great glory. Afterwards these wonderful Tablets were revealed in the pure classic language of Persia to the Zoroastrians and announced to them that the Sun of the Prosperity of that ancient nation hath already arisen from the horizon of God's Power. The invisible spiritual Graces soon inspired and uplifted them. Day after day they became more honorable and respected. Their disgrace was changed into glory and they were everywhere esteemed and revered. They organized many Societies, laid the foundation of many philanthropic institutions and became famous for their charitable deeds. The leaders of the nation assisted them and protected their rights and interests. The foreign Powers listened to their petition and became the guardians of their privileges. Their Ambassadors in Teheran shielded them against the tyranny of Persian autocrats. But many Zoroastrians thought that all these sudden, unexpected honors were realized through their own attainment and intelligence. They were incapable to comprehend that these splendors which overshadowed them were no other than through the Bestowals of the Almighty. They did not offer thanks at His Court for all these Bounties. For these reasons, the fabric of their welfare was shaken lately so that

Beauty and not through their own endeavors. But we hope the future will bring out better things and suffer this ancient and glorious Nation to attain to the highest apogee of progress. His honor Mollah Bahram is in reality a brilliant Orb. His honor Seyaravush displays most splendid effort. The Zoroastrians of India have made great effort and served the Cause of God in the most unselfish manner. During these warring days the progress of the Cause has been stopped ^{somewhat} in India but God willing these obstacles will be soon removed. The Parsees have demonstrated very praiseworthy exertions in the promotion of Truth and have lived with utmost joy and fragrance I beseech at the Holy Threshold to assist them in hoisting the banner of the oneness of the world of humanity."

After this talk we left the room and soon the carriage was ready and started for Haifa. While we were on our way the Beloved looking toward the sea ~~he~~ said: "We are living and moving in a Cause the likeness of which is like unto this ocean. We must immerse ourselves in ^{the} sea and reach its depth, - so that we may gather the unseen, ^{brilliant} pearls of the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God, otherwise like unto ~~the~~ broken debris and splinters the waves will carry us to the shore of remorsefulness and regret. Thus Christ says: From the East and the West, the North and the South mankind shall enter the Kingdom of God but the Children of the Kingdom will go out, - that is, those who swim only on the surface of this sea will be cast off, but those who submerge ^{themselves} into the depth will become its eternal inmates."

He continued to talk on many other lovely things which I will share with you somewhere else. When we reached Haifa all the believers were most pleased to see the Lord after his long absence. In the evening he gave a long talk on the negligence of the people and their lack of spirituality. We all enjoyed it very much. He asked the friends many questions and they answered him one by one. He wanted to know whether they entertained the guests - the locusts - and whether they spread before them a good feast.