

Home of Abdul Baha.
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
April 19th 1915

Dear friends:

To night the Master gave a talk significant of the present ^{moment} transpiring around us. In the beginning he referred us to the following prophetic scriptural utterances:—

"An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land. Now is the end come upon thee and I will send mine anger upon thee and will judge thee according to thy ways and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations. The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within; he that is in the field shall die ~~with~~ the sword; and he that is in the city famine and pestilence shall devour him. But they ^{that} escape of them shall escape and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, everyone for his iniquity. All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water. They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces and baldness upon all their heads. Make a chain for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they ^{seek} a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest and counsel from the ancients. The King shall mourn and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled." Ezekiel chapter 7th.

"The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and ^{will} alarm against the fenced cities and against the high towers. And I bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the

the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dross. Neither shall their silver nor their gold ~~shall~~ be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zephaniah Chapter 1st.

"And I will ^{over}throw the throne of the Kingdoms and I will destroy the strength of the Kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. Haggai. Chapter 2d.

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, said the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left ^{there}. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name and I will hear them; I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." Zechariah Chapter 13th.

"The above verses" the Master continued "are very clear and explicit that we are living in the time of their fulfillment. The globe is encircled with the fire of God's wrath and the nations are ^{being} swallowed by the holocaust of iniquity. The sword of retribution is drawn against every man, yet few souls are made aware and thoughtful. Hardly any man cries out from the depth of his heart: 'O Lord! have mercy upon us! O God! forgive our sins! O God! we are regretful, we repent ^{to} Thee for our shortcomings, we are scattered, gather us under the shade of Thy eternal canopy. We are hopeless and helpless, inspire us with new hope, assist us under all circumstances. O Lord! we have forgotten Thy laws, negated Thy Will, abandoned Thy Path, forsaken Thy religion and surrendered Thy Truth! Leave us not to ourselves, reject not our humble offerings, we are turning our faces toward Thee, we invoke Thee, we long after Thy Graces, we pray to Thee with contrite hearts, O Lord of hosts! O Source of all good! We are dead, quicken us with Thy New Breath! We are weak, reinforce us with Thy New Power. We are poor, enrich us with Thy heavenly Treasury! We are extinct, enkindle us with the Fire of Thy Love. We are dark, illumine us with the splendors of Thy Supreme Revelation.' Needless to say, indeed,

has taken possession of every heart! The nostrils of the inhabitants of Syria
 are not yet perfumed with the fragrances of the Most Great Manifestation.
 So many wonders and signs appeared from the Blessed Perfection during
 His stay in Palestine! His fame reached the uttermost part of the earth, His
 Teachings promulgated in the East and the West, yet few souls have really
 investigated the objects of this Cause; - in order that they become aware
 and inform others. When negligence overtakes a person he will become
 blind to everything else In former cycles local and general
 negligence on the part of the people was quite prevalent but it was
 never so universal as now. Just as in the day of the Manifestations
 many individuals are regenerated who appear with the characteristics
 of faith, assurance, attraction and endowment, becoming unique
 and peerless, - so also others distinguish themselves with the opposite
 qualities of atheism, pride, arrogance and the love of self and in these
 fields carry away the palm of precedence from their contemporaries.
 For this reason they are visited with the dire vengeance of God. Consider
 to what height the negligence of the people has ^{in these days} soared that even the
 mention of the name of God is ~~put under taboo~~ ^{at} This is the worst calamity
 that could befall the children of men! Although in former ages
 people denied the Dawning-places of the Almighty and held
 tenaciously to the imitations and doctrines received from their
 ancestors and forefathers, yet in appearance they prayed and wor-
 shipped and cultivated the religious spirit and devotion, but in this
 century the cardinal principle of the existence of Deity is ridiculed
 and scoffed at, the commemoration of the True One is ^{and} ~~barbarous~~ ^{persecuted}
 and made fun of. It has reached to such a pass that if in any
 meeting or congregation the names of "God," "religious," "Spiri-
 tuality," "Immortality" are mentioned sleep overtakes the
 audience and they will manifest the signs of ennui, tedium
 and listlessness. They do not desire to listen to spiritual discourses,
 and if they are forced into a listening attitude they will
 forget everything immediately and walk again in the same
 beaten tracks of materialism and agnosticism.

In this wonderful cycle such extraordinary signs and miracles appeared from the Blessed Perfection the like of which were not witnessed in former dispensations, From the time of Abraham to the day of his holiness the Báb out the believers of God testified to the grandeur and greatness of the Cause of God but the outsiders looked upon it with the utmost contempt and derision. Thus the enemies accused Mahomed to be no other than a madman. Now they said: 'Verily he has blasphemed God or he is possessed;' anon they cried out: 'Verily he is enchanted.' Concerning the divine utterances they asserted: 'These are nothing else but ^{the} tales of the ancients,' or according to the idioms of the Persian people he was only a clever storyteller, or a destitute conversationalist. The same allegations were attributed to Christ. In brief, not one single soul from amongst other ^{contemporaries} nations bore testimony to the nobility and sublimity of their characters. But in the case of Baha Ollah this case was completely reversed. Both friends and strangers, known and unknown, as well as the philosophers, writers and thinkers of other foreign and far off nations testified in the most elegant and exalted language to the elevation and grandeur of the Blessed Perfection, even the opponents and antagonists unloosed the tongues of eulogy and laudation. The Faith of His Holiness Jesus Christ underwent ten general periodic Persecutions and was under the severe interdiction of the Roman Emperors for 300 yrs before it was recognized as a state religion. His Holiness Baha Ollah became well-known throughout the wide world while He was ^{still} alive on this earth; even the adversaries exclaimed that this Personage was unique in His age and was incomparable in Knowledge and Wisdom, only He was an innovator in religion and morality. When in prison He walked and moved in the sight of mankind as a majestic Sovereign and an authoritative King. In prison He ruled like a spiritual Monarch and established the validity of His Words. From the prison He addressed the Kings and rulers of the world and in His famous Tablets and Epistles He exhorted them to lay the foundation of the palace

He arraigned the Kings for their utter disregard of the rights of their subjects
 and censured them for their cruelty, tyranny and oppression. He condemned
 their barbarous systems of human slaughter and indicted them for their foolish
 pomp and mawkish royalty. While He was in the prison of the Sultan of
 Turkey and the Shah of Persia He wrote them those dynamic epistles which
 are sufficient proofs for all mankind. These great events have no para-
 lel or counterpart in former movements. In no age the Manifestations
 of God wrote such powerful and resounding Letters to the Kings of the
 earth, while they were on the imperial thrones of majesty and supreme
 authority, predicting their fate, confusion, deposition and the disruption
 of their empires. Those who have read the book of the Letters to the
 Kings are well aware of this fact. When Napoleon III was at the height
 of power Baha Ollah wrote him that God will destroy the founda-
 tion of his Kingdom. Likewise, His addresses to Sultan Abdul-
 Aziz, Sultan Abdul Hamid, the Shah of Persia, Nassar-ed-din etc
 are famous for the speedy fulfillment of their prophecies. The contents
 of these letters were translated and published in the Press of the
 civilized world and their ringing spirit moved the hearts of men.
 Notwithstanding all these manifest miracles they are still ^{as} sleep
 upon the bed of negligence, especially the people of Persia. All
 these stupendous events they witnessed with their own eyes, all
 these great incidents transpired in their midst. His Holiness the Baha
 was martyred in Tabriz before thousands of people, many friends sacri-
 ficed their lives, innumerable souls hastened toward the arena
 of self-immolation, persecutions and hardships descended upon
 the believers like hailstorm, still the people are not awakened
 nor are they made mindful. To day I called at the hotel
 Nassar and met a number of Christian gentlemen who boasted of the
 perfection of European civilization and the sagacity of their statesmen
 in being capable to solve the intricacies of every problems through their
 intellectual powers. I told them one of the most difficult
 problems of this age is the solution of the problem of this universal
 to do it in the spirit of justice and mercy.

preserving the rights of the vanquished and not letting the victor run off with spoils. The ^{body of the} whole world is suffering with the chronic diseases of this conflict. Let them come forth and treat it in a permanent way. But all their very best treatments are temporary and palliatives. Let these people take hold of the laws of the Kingdom of God, let them put into practice the principles of Eternal Truth, let them turn their faces toward God, let them bring into force the precepts of divine civilization and success will be assured, everlasting wellbeing secured and the name of humanity founded."

This morning the Beloved while walking in the garden dictated the following cables to Tabriz and Mashad: "Praise be to God we are in good health and safety." "May my life be a ransom to Ali Akbar Gouchani. We are well and safe."

A Tablet was dictated to Miss Martha Root in Alexandria, Egypt, a part of which is as follows:- "Thy letter was received but it was much delayed in the way. Now an opportunity being offered this answer is forwarded. Praise be to God that all of us are in a safe condition and enjoy good health. Up to the present the channel of communication was closed but now through this person this letter is being sent. Despatch then the news of our health and safety to all the friends. Make them every effort, so that they may get come to Haifa I beg from the Divine Bestowals that they may be protected and guarded. And if it is quite impossible to come to Haifa return to America. Convey on my behalf the utmost longing to all the friends and the believers and say to them. I beseech continually at the Threshold of His Highness the Almighty to make you firm in the Covenant and Testament and confer upon you Eternal Life through the Outpourings of the Kingdom"

Our dear Teacher, Mirza Haydar Ali came down this morning from the Pilgrims Home and the Beloved welcomed him with genuine love. "Thanks the Lord" he said "that thou art living with joy and fragrance on the Mountain of God and art spending thy last days with perfect peacefulness and quiet simplicity"