

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
April 20th 1915

Dear friends!

It is good and sweet to live in the home of Abdul Baha, walk in his ever blooming and fragrant garden, inhale its many fresh and odoriferous flowers and breathe the pure, clean air of Mount Carmel. This is indeed a garden which does not experience the cold and frosty season of winter and all through the year it is one glorious mass of luxuriant foliage, flourishing with blossoms and rioting in rich, variegated colors. Just now the tall, white lilies shed their gentle and delicate perfume, clearing the air and rarifying the atmosphere. The days are perfect sunshine, the moonlit nights are sublime in their mystic beauty and stillness ^{and} the glazings of stars and constellations shine in the firmament with their soft, amber lustre. As I was walking to night in the garden after taking my supper with the Beloved and ^{thinking of him and} gazing toward the beaming orles of heaven alight with beauty, motion and spirit I could not help but sing aloud the following noble lines of the Russian poet:-

"A million torches lighted by Thy hand
Wander unwearied through the blue abyss;
They own Thy power, accomplish Thy Command,
All gay with life, all eloquent with bliss.
What shall we call them? Piles of crystal light,
A glorious company of golden streams -
Lamps of celestial ether burning bright -
Suns lighting systems with their joyous beams?
But Thou to these art as noon to night."

Thus the Master's spiritual station grows on me day by day and his undefinable love taking undisputed possession of my poverty-stricken heart making it rich and opulent with the ^{as} wealth of music, joy and rapture. Every hour he becomes more tender, more graceful, a beautiful, soul-satisfying, ^{conscience} filling Adored One. I am very happy in his service, very proud to be included for the time being as a member of his own family, sharing his home, his meals, his thoughts and his silent sorrows and joys.

This morning the Beloved walked in the garden for a long time and spoke with the believers on their business affairs. Now that we have no pilgrims there are ^{none} with whom he may speak on the Cause and expound the teachings. After this, it is more the record of his life and deeds that interest us and absorb our attention. He has already written and spoken on every theme and explained every principle that would be conducive to the happiness of mankind and the felicity of the race. May God confirm us to practice his behests and live in accord with his advice!

The landeau was made ready and he went down town to the Ottoman Bank and the Telegraph office returning about noon. After his lunch and siesta people began to call on him to inquire about his health and in many cases solicit his help. They continued to come and go till sunset, thus causing him much physical exhaustion and weariness. Therefore when the friends entered his presence tonight he said: "Association with outsiders is like unto a 'knife-edge file'. It wears and cuts away the spirit. One does not hear from them one joy-creating word. From noon till now I have been speaking with many people of various Temperament and peculiar character. Each holds a place in my memory and to each I must give a portion of my life; - so that he may go out with a happier frame of mind. Their mundane conversations and meaningless chatters are like unto the agonies of death; nevertheless I must receive each and all with courtesy and politeness Tonight they have brought to the town the censorious moving-picture of the German war and all the people are going to see it. Those questions which are the cause of the wrath and indignation of the Lord are made the objects of the glorification of mankind. Recent Congresses, through conventions and treaties have limited and defined the art of war; - so that the non-combatants, the defenceless towns, the open, unfortified cities, the innocent citizens^{and peaceful}, the commerce of the nations be not violated, but in this universal war all these rules which were ratified by the governments are set aside and abrogated. It is as though the individual members of the world of humanity are in war with each other. Not the governments as it was customary in olden times but the nations in their totality are fighting each other with unexampled desperation and ferocity. Racial prejudices and commercial rivalries have assumed such a monstrous aspect that the peoples of the world are pitted by their superior force against each other.