

Home of Abdul Baha
 Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
 April 21st 1915

Dear friends!

Rizwan! The Feast of Flowers, the days of love and peace, the dawn of the Sun of Reality, the century of Light, the end of the old things, the beginning of the new era, the springtime of spiritual ideals, "the ^{holy city} new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. For more than two hours Abdul Baha walked in the sunlit garden, ~~fragrant~~ ^{filled} with the ~~fragrance~~ of roses, a symbol of the beautiful, an incarnation of idyllic poetry, a visible form of heavenly majesty. Now and then his outward temple became ^{hidden} behind the blossoming flowers and trees, and then appearing out of the fluttering, murmuring leaves. What a lovely Rizwan we had this morning with the Master before our eyes! "Look at these white lilies" he said "How fragrant and pure they are! an emblem of the spotless heart, a token of graceful life, typifying virginity and harmonious existence. To this Rizwan of holiness Baha Ollah summons mankind. Under the dancing ~~shades~~ ^{shadows} of this sylvan wood of fairy beauty must we alide. Praise be to God that we are enjoying the benefits of the material and spiritual Rizwan. We are alone but we are thinking of the Bahais in different parts of the world who are serving and teaching the Cause. May their efforts be crowned with great success and their prayers be accepted at the Threshold of the Almighty. They are present in my heart and memory and I will pray for them this afternoon at the Sacred Tomb of the Bab. We are going to have a very quiet Rizwan holiday but the unseen congregation of the friends are all around us. The mystic influence of the love of Baha Ollah has united the hearts and we are all the members of one family. The message of Rizwan is love, love and still more love, love amongst the believers, love for the strangers, love for the fallen ^{and} broken-hearted ^{love} for mankind. If thou hast a universe of love, hunger for more. Live in the world of love, swim in the ocean of love, soar in the atmosphere of love, walk in the bright realm of love, speak the words of love, practice the deeds of love, adore the Beloved of love, sing the soothing lullaby of love and advance toward the palace of love. We must be all lovers, lovers of God and men. Thus the greeting of this Rizwan is Love, unity and peace."

This morning the Beloved added a short note to the letter of Miss Martha Root with his own handwriting as follows: "If thou comest to Haifa do not bring with thyself not even one written page, not even thy note or account book. Do not bring also books and pamphlets, not even one; because they are abnormally suspicious of all written papers; even should it be nothing more than a small account ^{book}. Go thou first to Port Said, meet Aga Ahmad Yazdi and from there come to Haifa."

In the afternoon the carriage was made ready and in company ^{of} the Master we drove to the Pilgrims' Home where all the friends had gathered for the meeting. When he sat in the large central Hall and welcomed everyone with floral greeting the children sang Bahai poems composed for this occasion and cheered the hearts with their sweet voices. Then for about half an hour he joked and laughed with Haji Mahomed Shoushtari whose faith ⁱⁿ and love for the Master is remarkable for its depth and simplicity. There was also a meeting for ^{the} women held in another room and tea was served to each and all. It was about 4 P.M. when he delivered the following short talk:—"I hope that this feast of Rizwan will be blessed to all the lovers of Baha! It was an hour like unto this and on such a day that ~~the~~ Baha Ollah was bidding farewell to the friends in Bagdad, preparatory to his departure for the garden of Rizwan outside of the town. When he left the house everyone was weeping. The ^{women} in the 'Andrauni' were almost beside themselves with despair, the believers had gathered in the Beyrouni to whose number were added many ^{strangers} and outsiders. From the house he walked to a place called 'Khezer', which is now ruined. Then he rode on a horse for the garden of Hajib Pasha. We also accompanied him. In the Centre of the garden a large tent was pitched wherein the Blessed Perfection alighted and made His abode. This was then the beginning of the memorable days of Rizwan. It was a day full of joy for us, because we were going to travel with the Sun of Reality, and a day full of sorrow for those who were left behind. For 12 days He was in this garden. The Door of Meeting was open to all the inhabitants of Bagdad. The Clergy, the Theologians, the noblemen, the poets, the Pashas, the laity, all those who came were ushered into His Divine Presence and listened to His Words. No one was sent away, not ^{one} ^{soul} was excluded."