

Home of Abdul Baha -
 Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
 April 24th 1915

Dear friends!

"Amongst the believers of God" the Master said tonight "there must exist the utmost co-operation, equality and the solidarity of rights. Through their deeds and lives they must demonstrate to the inhabitants of the world what mutual helpfulness and assistance means. The Cause of the Blessed Perfection is a garden of infinite beauty and attraction. From amongst the people He elects us and as His tender plants He planted us with His own Holy hand in this divine garden. The rays of His educative sun shine upon us, the showers of the Clouds of His Generosity poured over us, the breezes of His Providence wafted by us; - so that we may grow and develop and send down our roots deeper and deeper into the heart of the earth. If one of the trees of the garden is not well-rooted in the soil, there will be no doubt that its progress will be stopped and wither away. It will then ^{be} only good for fuel. But if its roots are impelled downward into the rich soil, it will yield luscious fruits. In order to offer praise and thanksgiving at the Threshold of Baha Ollah for His Supreme Grace in choosing us from amongst His creatures and signaling us with His special Bounty - we must strive day and night to become lusty and strong trees in His garden, be firmly and steadfastly rooted in the ground; - so that we may produce ² more and more fruits ¹ in every season. In what way should we become deeply-rooted trees in the garden of Abha? By living in accord with the Teachings of the Ancient Beauty and putting into practice the fundamental principles of the religion of God. His most powerful injunction is love and unity amongst the friends, the realization of unity and agreement in their meetings and the practice of the axiomatic laws of co-operation and reciprocity. Our spiritual and material attachment must be so consolidated and interpenetrated that if it will be found necessary we may sacrifice our lives for each other and for the world. If we fulfill the prerequisite of this standard we have then offered our thanksgiving at the Court of the Almighty, otherwise we have been all this time, Bahais in names and not in reality.

The grandeur of the Cause of God enhances the value of every moment, hence we must cultivate the feeling of appreciation and devote every spare hour to the promotion of the principles of God, the diffusion of the Fragrances of God and the exaltation of the religion of God. Consider! Although I was well advanced in years and although the means of rest and comfort were made available for me to spend my last days on Mount Carmel and enjoy the hard-earned tranquility and peace, yet I overlooked these considerations advanced on all sides and left my narrow prison for the wide world, to proclaim the manifestation of the Lord of Hosts. Why did I do this? I desired to become a sturdy and strong and fruitful tree in the Garden of the Blessed Perfection. In this manner I wished to gain growth and development, produce fruits for the healing of nations, deliver the word of God and unfurl the banner of Reality. Day and night I worked, taught, and rested not. In various tongues and under different expressions and sundry terminologies I presented to the world the same eternal message and voiced forth the same truth. To all the teachers of the Cause I have pointed the way of service and the promulgation of the Words of Truth. Will they avail themselves of this celestial opportunity or let it slip out of their hands?"

This morning he was out and from ten to twelve o'clock he walked, and sat and talked in the garden. For the last few days I have brought to his mind the fact that our American friends are holding a Convention in San Francisco and wished him to remember them in his prayers. He asked me several questions about the Conventions and I told him what I knew about it. Then he said: "I will pray for them. I hope that their deliberations and resolutions be crowned with great success, that spiritual Fragrances be wafted from their meetings to all parts of the world, that heart-uplifting signs may appear from their lectures and discussions and that ^{through them} the Cause of God be promoted more widely. All these depend on the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit and their own exertion. I would have send them a cablegram of greeting but in these days there is little chance of their receiving it. Instead of sending them visible messages we will communicate with them in the code of the spirit. When the channels ^{of correspondence} are opened we will receive the reports of their proceedings and then know the details of their activities. Meanwhile we direct to them our thoughts of love and affection and supplicate that they may be confirmed in all their undertakings."