

Home of Abdul Baha ²⁵
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
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Dear friends!

The restless spirit revolts against the monotonous environment and lifeless surroundings but the angel of mercy exhorts patience and endurance. The mind longs after busy scenes and unremitting labors but the beautiful seraph reminds it of the spiritual reward given to those who suffer and wait. Man yearns for the things of this world but the cherub of the Most High desires his separation from them. The new fledgeling wishes to break the cage which guards it against the storms of tests and hurricanes of trials but the tender mother gives persuasive talks and anxious advice. The soul cries out against the lack of the spirituality of those with whom he consorts and aspires for the association of the high-minded and the noble but the Kind mentor teaches him to look inward and commune with the ideals of the invisible friends. Do not leave the real, in order to chase after an imaginary phantasm. Be thou a loyal soldier and stick behind thy own gun. Fire out thy spiritual and intellectual balls into the camp of the enemy. Aim high thy projectiles so that it may burst through the air by the impelling force of the spirit. Let the missiles shot from thy fire arms set on fire the houses of superstitions and the abodes of prejudices. Be not afraid that thou hast become an automaton machine. This will never be, for the Lord is protecting thee under the shadow of His Spirit and causing the outflowing of pure water from the ^{never-failing} fountains of thy mind and heart. Hast thou not learned enough that the pleasures of this world shall pass away, while the joy of the Kingdom is eternal? the youthful beauty will be followed by white hairs and ^{old} age but the beauty of lordly services and the youthfulness of pristine ideals shall remain for ever the same? Hence, give up thy heart to the adored beloved of faithful reality and clasp in thy arms the virgin bride of celestial attribute. Be happy with what God has been gracious enough to bestow on thee and let thy days be one uninterrupted song of thanksgiving. Worry not over thy future. The One who has taken care of thee in the past, will also take care of thee in the time to come.

This morning the Beloved ~~of~~ the world was walking along the avenues of the verdant garden and with a pruning-shears, ^{was} cutting off the superfluous branches of a number of roses ^{bushes}. He wore his long, flowing cream-white Persian overcoat and he looked ~~very~~ ^{very} majestic as he trimmed the trees and moved slowly from this to the other end ^{of the} garden. Who could doubt for a moment that he is the real ^{spiritual} gardener of the world of humanity who pulls up withered trees and plants in their stead new and young saplings, full of the sure promises of blossoms and fruits.

One of the believers asked: "Although it is assured that the life of this world is transitory and attachment to it is not praise worthy yet in many a sacred Tablet the Blessed Perfection and the Master himself have lamented and lamented the physical deaths of those who have journeyed to the abode of eternal Peace. What is the wisdom of this?"

The Master answered: "The physical body has also a share. When I was in America a number of Christians came to me and asked ~~a~~ most subtle and difficult questions. It was this: 'While the apostles longed with perfect resignation and radiant acquiescence for the station of martyrdom and many of them and thousands of later converts sacrificed their lives with joy and happiness, how is it that his holiness Jesus the Christ, just before his crucifixion prayed to His Father to take away this cup from him, saying: 'The spirit is truly ready, but the flesh is weak?' (St Mark chaps 14. v. 38.) I told them, you may go first to your own ministers and clergy and ask this question from them, for they speak upon ~~as~~ the Easterners as the heathens, unbaptized, unregenerate, and unordained while they consider themselves as the heirs and joint-heirs of the Kingdom of God and well-informed ~~with~~ ^{of} the mysteries of the Holy Spirit; hence they are not willing to accept our interpretation quite readily.' They went away and returned after a few days that the Ministers answers did not agree with each other nor did they satisfy them. I said: The answer to your question is very simple and is given in a few words: The body or the flesh was 'sorrowful and very heavy' (Math chap 26 v. 75) because it loathed to be separated from the companionship of such a divine, celestial Spirit and he returned to clay and dust. This was the result of its weakness, sorrow and heaviness."

Before noon the landau was prepared and he took a ride with Takki Bey and with him called on a number of officials. In the afternoon several Arab and Turkish gentlemen paid him ^{short} visits and he received them in the garden. While he talked with them Khasro served ~~him~~ tea and cigarettes.

Tonight the friends of God gathered in the reception room and listened to the words of their Master. He said in part: "I found the Jews very crestfallen today, because on slight excuses the government has exiled 8 of their prominent leaders. The new rigorous laws of the naturalization wear heavily on them. They are actually accused of plotting secretly to establish a visible Kingdom in Palestine. The orthodox Jews according to the literal interpretation of a number of passages in the Old Testament, of course are holding such a belief but the growing literary and intellectual party, having cast away the enthusiasm born out of ignorance, discredit the whole proposition as nothing else but a dream. They think it is no more than a wild fancy on the part of the Jews to ever harbor the idea of founding the Solomonic Sovereignty in Jerusalem. Firstly, the economic and social status of the Jews in different parts of the world precludes the idea of bringing all of them together. Secondly, the Christians and Mahamadeus who claim equal shares in the sacred spots of the holy land will never permit them to so much ^{as} draw the plan of such a Kingdom. Thirdly, the European Powers who have vital and permanent interests in Syria will do everything to extirpate the growth of such a national feelings amongst the Jews. One of the Turkish officers had asked a Jewish woman in Damascus, what did the Israelites think about the organization of a Kingdom in Palestine and she had answered that this was the cornerstone of their beliefs. This confession has been much made of, although the whole belief has been known to every one from time immemorial. Much importance has been given to it at this special hour because it is serving the peculiar and sinister purposes of those who are in authority. This has been made also the reason for the banishment and imprisonment of their leaders. If the Turkish government is so anxious to preserve her integrity, would it not be better to protect her domains from ^{the aggression of} Russia, England and France and leave these poor Jews and their Messianic dream of a concrete sovereignty to themselves?"