

34
Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel Haifa Syria
May 25th 1915.

Dear friends!

Yesterday we received a letter from Beirut containing the rather sad news of the death of Haji Mirza Hassan Khorassani in Cairo, Egypt. As you know he was a very prominent Bahai merchant in that city and many years ago he went to the United States for the purpose of teaching this revelation. The old believers in America and those who have visited the East and passed through Egypt ~~do~~ remember his kindly bearings and generous hospitality. Although during the last few years he had many financial reverses yet in the palmier days of his successful career he served the Cause of God and the believers in many practical ways. When he arrived in Cairo about fifty or sixty years ago he was a poor man but by industry and application he reached to the top of the ladder, was honored amongst his compere and his experienced advice sought on every side. In the strictest sense of the word he was a self-made man, making his fortune by the dint of perseverance and acquiring a fame for honesty and fair business dealings. During the lifetime of Baha Ollah as well as after His Departure he was almost an annual pilgrim to the holy land. In these blessed days there were pilgrims from many countries of the Orient and he spread ^{to} forthem royal banquets and feasts around which they all gathered in the Presence of the Manifestation or His Son, hearkening to their Words of Truth and Wisdom and receiving the blessings of the Holy Spirit. His large, palatial residence surrounded by a beautiful garden has ever been the meeting-ground of all the Bahais - a permanent place for Friday gatherings, for special reunions - a headquarter for the carrying out of many Bahai activities. He loved to entertain the friends and he had a wonderful knack in gathering them together - so that they may speak about the Cause and chant Tablets. When I first arrived in Cairo I alighted in his house and from that time on my love ^{and admiration} for him has ever been growing throughout the many evolutions of my life. When we arrived in Port Said he was there to ^{welcome} ~~go~~ back the Centre

of the Covenant; in Ramleh we associated with him almost every day and attended his Friday meetings and after our landing in Haifa he came and stayed for two or three months. He was a true and noble Bahai and I believe he would have sacrificed his life for the good of the Cause if the occasion^{had} arisen. His love and veneration for the Master was beyond description.

When the news was broken to the Beloved last night he was at first startled and felt grieved. "This is a sad news" he said and became silent. After several minutes he raised his head and continued: - "Poor Haji Mirza Hassan but he is now released from the worries of the world. For him there were no more happy days. With all the financial difficulties that surrounded him he could dream of no peaceful hour. He was a man of magnanimous disposition and generous nature. He was high-minded and honorable, liberal and disinterested and in the blessed Cause he was firm and steadfast. What a good thing is death! With it all ~~the~~ man's sufferings and troubles are brought to an end. It frees the soul from the chains of ~~the~~ water and clay. In its Court all - kings and subjects, the philosophers and the ignorant - are equal. It levels all the barriers of distinctions and titles constructed by the crude hands of men during ^{their} short spans of lives on this globe. Why should men ^{view} death with horror? Why should they shudder and revolt at its appearance? Why do they paint it with a shocking and repugnant sight? Why do they shrink and recoil from its bare mention? However much man is surrounded with griefs and tribulations, when he thinks that there will be a time of freedom, a time of liberty, his heart is eased and his mind tranquilized. For this reason the sanctified souls have even longed for the coming of the angel of death. Like unto the birds imprisoned in the cage they yearn for the opening of the door, - so that they may wing their ways through the immensity of the blue, singing ~~the~~ songs of paradise and rising higher and higher into the glorious regions of light. Now how restful and quiet has become Haji Mirza Hassan! He has hastened to the vicinity of the Lord of Grandeur, ^{and} has taken his abode in the neighborhood of God's Mercy. The people and ^{and} their ^{and} their shifts concerns do not touch him any more. His affairs are in the hands of His Maker.

"Truly I say he was a disinterested man and a distinguished personage. In his lifetime he served the Cause of God and the friends of the Merciful. In Alexandria he gathered together all the believers and gave them good positions in his up-to-date Persian department. - store for many years, he gave work even to the Arab Bahais and kept them in a state of spiritual progress, joy and co-operation. Invariably and without exception the Friday meetings were held in his residence. He was a magnet of attraction and the string of his purse was never tied. During the feast and holidays he gave magnificent banquets and elaborate fêtes, inviting all the friends and sympathizers to help themselves at his bounteous table. His engaging personality diffused gladness, gayety and merriment amongst the company of guests.

"The large and beautiful ^{on Mt Carmel} candelabrum suspended in the reception room of the Tomb of the Bah, and the wonderfully carved table around which dozens of guests can sit are two precious souvenirs from him ~~on Mount~~ Carmel.

"He was a liberal man; ^{he was not stingy} he burned always like a flame, he was not
 extinct; he was ever active and his enthusiasm contagious, he was not
 passive nor cold. With a nobility of mind he worked and took care of
 the friends. What a pity that he died but has he not found eternal
 rest? did he not enter into a divine world which is sanctified beyond
 and above our mundane conditions? Firmly, steadfastly, believingly,
 assuringly he stepped into the changeless Kingdom of Abha. Is not
 this the fruit of our existence? If not this, then what else?"

This morning he walked through the avenues of the garden and step by step led us into the perennial gardens of the spirit, wherein the roses never fade and the lilies do not wither. While promenading through these celestial gardens we listened to the sweet songs of the nightingales and were enraptured by the melodies of the birds of paradise. Assuredly you have had glimpses of these happy regions, you have beheld the luxuriance of their imperishable flowers, you have witnessed the indescribable beauty and remarkable clearness of their surroundings. These are only the godlike experiences of a few minutes which make life worth living and inspire men with courage and faith to rediscover the lost thread in the tangled skein and with ^a cheerfulness continue the

This afternoon the landau was ready and he asked me to accompany him. It was ~~was~~ driven toward the Arabian quarter of Haifa in the East. After a long ride through dirty, narrow roads it stopped in front of a house. Here was a sick man - the son of an old friend of the Beloved - and ~~the~~ ^{Master} was in his room for half an hour, consoling him and his anxious family and prescribing ^{some} kind of medicine. When he came out we were still driven further to a tea-house belonging to a Persian Bahai by the name Haji Farhan. The tea-house is surrounded by a lovely garden - a green oasis in the midst of desert - built on the main road - a resting place for the weary wayfarers. Here we found the seventy government laborers sent out daily to kill the locusts. They had just returned from their arduous work and were taking a rest under the shade of the trees. The Master spoke to them and inquired about their health. Then he ordered Haji Farhan to entertain them with tea in his name. They needed this refreshment and were thankful for his thoughtfulness. From the tea-house he walked to the home of the brothers of Loenal Khanom - the wife of our brother Doctor Bagdadi. He visited their rooms, surveyed their garden and instructed them to plant ^{some} live trees. Then he stopped a few minutes at the house of Mirza Moneer Zain to welcome and bless the new baby girl born on the tenth of the current month. Both his wife and himself are very happy over the arrival of the new guest and he feels already the importance and responsibility of fatherhood. Then he called at the home of another friend and spoke to her about the welfare of her son. Again I found myself with him in the landau, and soon we were back in the home of Truth. The extra exertion and the heat of the day fatigued him very much and he retired to his room for a short rest before the meeting.

When I was in the landau I asked him to give ^{me} a complete suite of his clothes to be carried to America as a priceless heirloom for posterity. He smiled and assented to my request. It will be very wonderful if the various articles of his clothes are kept in a safe deposit for future generations. There are many believers who have the different pieces of his clothes but it will be very fine if we could have them all together and in one place.