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Home of Baha Olleh
Acre, Syria May 29, 1915

Dear friends!

The day was spent in Bahajee and I enjoyed a restful, refreshing sleep under the tall overshadowing pine trees "waving with not unmelodious sighs, in dark luxuriance, in the hottest sunshine". It was a difficult thing to keep awake all night but it was a new and never-to-be forgotten experience ^{which} may not become repeated in my life in exactly its present environment and spiritual suggestibility. No doubt sometimes in the near future I will be sent out of this Eden of Peace and heavenly contentment into a world of constant struggle and unceasing activity and then the remembrance and mention of these days and nights will be a source of noble aspirations and creative ideals. Then depending on the Beloved's Confirmations these sacred events will form the groundplan of my activities and hopes. How difficult it will be to leave him and go away from him! One is so accustomed to this calm and peaceful atmosphere that separation from it will act as a great shock. There are some people who have been prisoners in the open, spacious cage of his Love, have breathed day and night the air of his tenderness, have sang the songs of his grandeur, have eaten their food from his table and soared in the immensity of his compassion. Like unto the fish they are habituated to swim in the salubrious water of his Knowledge ~~and~~ ^{and} bear joyfully every hardship and trouble, in order that they may grow and perfect themselves by learning his lessons and applying them to their daily problems. When such persons are sent away from him they ^{will} feel more than many others the exquisite pangs of separation; because from the home of truth they are sent into a world of falsehood, cant and hypocrisy. from the rose-garden of reality they have to wander through the sandy plain of thorns ^{all} and briars of skepticism; from the heaven of Love they are hurled down into the hell of hatred, suspicion, selfishness, condemnation and distrust. There is however only left the dim light of one consolation and that is, - to go out and both by precepts and examples teach the Cause and serve the friends of God. Not that they will be beyond the pale of ^{the} criticism, ^{the} abuse and the denunciation of the friends and foes but they will have a chance to practice that which they have learned,

to give out that which they have taken in, to spread that which they have accumulated and to proclaim those glad-tidings which they have mastered. The secret of growth, comprehensiveness, excellence and unfoldment lies in actual service and in the loving association of spirits with spirits. If a person walks in this undeviating path he will surely reach the goal of true attainment and perfection, otherwise he will, ^{heavily} be satisfied with the mediocre and the commonplace, never rising to the noble heights of ^{universal} thoughts and the lofty altitudes of deeds.

Looking on this subject in the light of the above observation it is a double blessing to be with Abdul Baha in these days, for one gathers strength and moral force by simple association with the Centre of the Covenant, ^{which} will come to his assistance whenever surrounded by the ministers of trials and hardships. He will then bring back to his mind his smiling face, his majestic mien, his heavenly presence, his spiritual words and his solicitous advice and then being energized and moved by these blessed remembrances his faith will be increased, his belief will be reinforced and his assurance electrified. Pondering over this concentrated purpose for the promulgation of the Teachings he will apply himself to its clearer realization, ^{knowing} using the universal scope of this self-renunciation he will consciously try to imitate him, considering the impartiality of his practical charities, he will strive to approach his standard, reflecting on the sweet gentleness and amability of his character he will endeavor to gain the same qualities, ~~and~~ visualizing his simple spirituality and humility he will make an effort to manifest the identical attributes and beholding him in the highest heaven of divine glory he will attempt to ascend the same golden rounds. Thus living, thus dreaming, thus working he will become able to chase away the gloom of separation, to neutralize the effect of remoteness, ~~and~~ to banish the two great spectres of Time and Space, to leave behind the dark station of the "Everlasting No" and step into the radiant world of the "Everlasting Yea."

By the evening all the friends had returned to Acca and Haifa; the Beloved and his holy sister were driven to the former and we walked from Bahajee, and after an hour found ourselves in the home of the Blessed Beauty ready to take up the thread of our lives where we had ^{laid} ~~put~~ them down.