

1915

1/26-2/5, 1915 - Edward G. Getzinger (Hilbert Thompson
papers, box 3-4 *)

12/24-28 Azizullah Bahadur (Robb B6) **

1/26-2/5 Dr. Edward C. Getzinger (Robb B7) ***

1/26-2/5 Dr. Edward C. Getzinger (Robb B7) ***

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They are distributed by the Central Committee of the Washington Assembly.

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"Holding to the letter of the law is many times an indication of a desire for leadership. One who assumes to be the enforcer of the law shows an intellectual understanding of the Cause, but that spiritual guidance in them is not yet established."

"The alphabet of things is for Children, that they may in time use their reasoning powers. 'Following the spirit' is a guidance by and through the heart, the prompter of the spirit. The Pharisees were extremely orthodox, holding strictly to the law. They were the cause of the condemnation and ultimate crucifixion of Jesus."

"Several times Tablets have been written to some Friends regarding a small detail in the work of the Cause, which they might attend to, such as reporting about Ezellies, Hakazeen, etc., and now we hear that such Tablets are used as a proof of their authority over the Friends in those regions. Although the books and writings of Abdul Fazl Breased in many countries as text books, never did he even give a sign that he was an authority on any subject, consequently the gifts of GOD ever increased upon him, since he bore all honors in humility, until he attained the Supreme Nearness."

"The ones in real authority are known by their humility and self sacrifice and show no attitude of superiority over the Friends."

"Some time ago a Tablet was written stating that none are appointed to any authority to do anything but to serve the Cause as true servants of the Friends, and for this no Tablet is necessary; such service when true and unselfish, requires no announcement, nor following, nor written document."

"Let the servant be known by his deeds, by his life!"

"To be approved of GOD alone should be one's aim."

"When GOD calls a soul to a high station, it is because that soul has a capacity for that station as a Gift of GOD, and because that soul has supplicated to be taken into His Service. No envies, jealousies, calumnies, slanders, plots, nor schemes, will ever move GOD to remove a soul from its intended place, for by the Grace of GOD, such actions on the part of the people are the test of the servant, testing his strength, forbearance, endurance, and sincerity under adversity. At the time those who show forth envies, jealousies, etc. toward the servants, are depriving themselves of their own stations, and not another of his, for they prove by their own acts that they are not only unworthy of being called to any station awaiting them, but also prove that they cannot withstand the very first test,--that of

of ABDUL BAHA continued:

rejoicing over the success of their neighbor, at which GOD rejoices. Only by such a sincere joy can the Gift of GOD descend unto a pure heart."

"Envy closes the door of Bounty, and jealousy prevents one from ever attaining the Kingdom of Abha."

"No! by GOD! No one can deprive another of his rightful station, that can only be lost by one's unwillingness or failure to do the Will of GOD, or by seeking to use the Cause of GOD for one's own gratification or ambition."

"No one save a severed soul or a sincere heart finds response from GOD. By assisting in the success of another servant in the Cause does one in reality lay the foundation for one's own success and aspirations."

"Ambitions are an abomination before the Lord."

"How regrettable! Some even use the affairs of the Cause and its activities as a means of revenge on account of some personal spite, or fancied injury, interfering with the work of another, or seeking its failure. Such only destroy their own success, did they know the truth."

(ECG): In regard to the meetings and colored gatherings, and specific Tablets referring thereto,

ABDUL BAHA said: "ABDUL BAHA is the interpreter of the aim, intents, and purposes of the Words of the Blessed Perfection, and is the interpreter of His Own Written Words, and NONE can say that this or that is the intention conveyed therein, save ABDUL BAHA. The SPIRIT of UNITY exists in the Divine Words, and one who interprets them in such wise as to create division and discord is indeed one who errs."

"Were not the Revelation of Baha'o'llah one adaptable to the ENTIRE WORLD and ITS DIVERSE NATIONS, it could not be a unique and UNIVERSAL REVELATION, but its ELASTICITY adapts itself to ALL conditions, and its Spirit is one that MOULDS ITSELF INTO EVERY VEHICLE AND NEED FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE DIVINE PLAN OF UNITY."

"But when some follow merely the hard and fixed letter of the law, they deprive it (The Revelation) of ITS ELASTIC QUALITY---THE SPIRIT---and endeavor to convert it into a hard instrument of inflexible qualities."

At another time ABDUL BAHA said:

"In this day every one must be tested, as the time of the Chosen Ones to prove their worth is indeed very short. The Day of Attainment is drawing to a close for them. The first fruits must be ripened in spirit, mellowed in Love, and consumed by their self-sacrifice and severance. None other are acceptable as first fruits, and all that fail to attain to the standard through the tests, are relegated to the many who are called."

"The more one is severed from the world, from desire, from human affairs, and conditions, the MORE IMPERVIOUS DOES ONE BECOME TO THE TESTS OF GOD. Tests are means by which a soul is measured as to its fitness, and proven out by its own acts. GOD knows its fitness beforehand, and also its unpreparedness, but man, WITH AN EGO, would not believe himself unfit unless proof were given him. Consequently his susceptibility to evil is proven to him when he falls into the tests, and the tests are continued until the soul realizes its own unfitness, then remorse and regret tend to root out the weakness."

"The same test comes again in greater degree, until it is shown that a former weakness has become a strength, and the power to overcome evil has been established."

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"Blessed are they who are the means of making unity among the Friends, and pity on those who in the right or wrong are the cause of discord. For instance - when one is in the right in a case in dispute, and his minority prevents him from establishing that rightful matter, instead of agitating the subject, if he will humbly submit to sacrifice his position for the sake of unity and peace, GOD will accept that sacrifice and ere long the rightful matter will be established without any further dispute, by the Divine Assistance; whereas, without such sacrifice and submissiveness great harm might ensue."

"The Friends must be prepared to efface themselves at all times. Seeking the approval of men is many times the cause of imperilling the approval of GOD."

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"The worst enemies of the Cause are in the Cause, and mention the Name of GOD: We need not fear the enemies on the outside for such can be easily dealt with. ~~in this day, for the sake of the Cause~~ But the enemies who call themselves Friends, and who persistently violate every fundamental law of Love and Unity, are difficult to be dealt with in this Day, for the Mercy of GOD is still great. But ere long this Merciful door will be closed and such enemies will be attacked with madness."

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"It has been a long time since letters have been received from the Friends. Everything is first read by the censor, and all Tablets likewise submitted to him, and as my mail alone would keep him very busy, we make no effort to trouble him. Tell Ahmad Yazdi not to send any more mail to me under any circumstances."

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"Indeed, I contemplate no journey, for who would look after the poor should I leave here to travel to America and elsewhere."

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"If you knew what great things would happen to the Cause after my departure, you would pray every day and night for my release and demise."

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Extract from a letter written to Frau Consul Schwarz by Mirza A. S. Bahadur.

On the 23rd. of December (1915) Mr. Shonki, Nab-bani his grandson and I, left here and after thirty hours of continuous journey we were honored in the Holy Presence. I kissed His feet, but in doing so I had the feeling that I was doing so in behalf of all the dear German brethren.

I offered to Him the letters I had received with my mail for Him, with the translations. He read them through and was most delighted. Then, turning to a great Bahai teacher who has lately come from home to visit Him, said: Take these, and read them and see how pure and sincere they are. That friend asked if he could copy the translations. He granted permission to him.

Then the Master went on praising them saying: There are many on the battle-fields performing their duties loyally to their Government, to their country and also their duty to GOD. Even on the battlefield they are inviting and leading their fellow-men to the Kingdom of GOD. Really their characters are admirable.

I spoke about my father, Consul Schwarz, that he had sent for some spiritual literature to study and teach his co-officers. He said: Yes, I know, he is very active, steadfast and sincere and aided by divine confirmations.

I was in the Holy Presence for four days. Some letters came from America. I translated and presented them to Him. After having read them He turned to me and said: The letters which come from the German friends give me the greatest joy because the stifling air of violation of the Covenant of GOD has not permeated into that country. They are pure and unstained. I have often said that their progress will be great and rapid after this war is over.

Then I asked for a few Tablets of which one might be common for all. He accepted. At noon being called to take tea with Him, I was going to have the Tablets when unfortunately some intruder came and occupied the time till sunset; when we were obliged to bid farewell to Him and come and join our lessons. On my departure He said: Write answers to the letters of the dear German friends and tell them that I am well. Although material communication is cut off and no proper and sufficient correspondence, yet they are always in My heart. I am almost always thinking of them and asking for the Blessings of the Blessed Beauty upon them all. They are the chosen people of GOD. So do not be sorry over the present troubles. They are like the waves of the stormy ocean. The waves shall soon cease to rise and again calmness shall be noticed. Trust in GOD and feel comfortable.

Rob-B 7
Utterances of Abul Kaha in answer to questions asked by Dr. Edward C. Getsinger during a few brief meetings at Haifa, Syria, January 26 to February 5, 1915, and recorded by Dr. Getsinger at the time.

(Printed in Star of the West, pages 43, 44 and 45) (June 24, 1915).

NO OBSTACLE should be placed before any soul which might prevent it from finding the truth. Baha'Ullah revealed His directions, teachings and laws, so that souls might know GOD, and not that any utterance might become an obstacle in their way.

Holding to the letter of the law is many times an indication of a desire for leadership. One who assumes to be the enforcer of the law shows an intellectual understanding of the Cause, but that spiritual guidance in them is not yet established.

The alphabet is for children, that they may in time use their reasoning powers. "Following the spirit" is a guidance by and through the heart, the prompter of the spirit. The Pharisees were extremely orthodox, holding strictly to the law. They were the cause of the condemnation and ultimate crucifixion of Jesus.

Several times Tablets have been written to some friends regarding a small detail in the work of the Cause, which they might attend to, such as reporting about Exelies, nakaseen, et al., and now we hear that such Tablets are used as a proof of their authority over the friends in those regions. Although the books and writings of Abul Faki are used in many countries as text books, never did he even give a sign that he was an authority on any subject, consequently the gifts of GOD ever increased upon him, since he bore all honors in humility, until he attained to the supreme nearness.

The ones in real authority are known by their humility and self-sacrifice and show no attitude of superiority over the friends.

Some time ago a Tablet was written stating that none are appointed to any authority to do anything but to serve the Cause as true servants of the friends — and for this no Tablet is necessary; such service, when true and unselfish, requires no announcement, nor following, nor written document.

Let the servant be known by his deeds, by his life!
To be approved by GOD alone should be one's aim.

When GOD calls a soul to a high station, it is because that soul has capacity for that station as a gift of GOD, and because that soul has supplicated to be taken into His service. No envies, jealousies, calumnies, slanders, plots or schemes, will ever move GOD to remove a soul from its intended place, for by the Grace of GOD, such actions on the part of the people are the test of the servant, testing his strength, forbearance, endurance and sincerity under adversity. At the same time those who show forth envies, jealousies, etc. toward a servant, are depriving themselves of their own stations, and not another of his, for they prove by their own acts that they are not only unworthy of being called to any station awaiting them, but also prove that they cannot withstand the very first test — that of rejoicing over the success of their neighbor, at which GOD rejoices. Only by such a sincere joy can the gift of GOD descend unto a pure heart.

Envy closes the door of Bounty, and jealousy prevents one from ever attaining to the Kingdom of ANHA.

Not Before GOD No one can deprive another of his rightful station, that can only be lost by one's unwillingness or failure to do the WILL of GOD, or by seeking to use the Cause of GOD for one's own gratification or ambition.

No one save a severed soul or a sincere heart finds response from GOD. By assisting in the success of another servant in the Cause does one in reality lay the foundation for one's own success and aspirations.

Ambitions are an abomination before the Lord.

How regrettable! Some even use the affairs of the Cause and its activities as a means of revenge on account of some personal spite, or fancied injury, interfering with the work of another, or seeking its failure. Such only destroy their own success, did they know the truth.

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Abdul Baha is the interpreter of the aims, intents, and purposes of the Words of the Blessed Perfection (Baha'Ullah) and is the interpreter of his own written Words, and none can say that this or that is the intention conveyed therein, save Abdul Baha. The spirit of unity exists in the Divine Words, and one who interprets them in such wise as to create a division and discord is indeed one who errs.

Were not the Revelation of Baha'Ullah some degree adaptable to the entire world and its diverse nations, it could not be a unique and universal Revelation, but its elasticity adapts itself to ALL conditions, and its spirit is one that moulds itself into every vehicle and need for the accomplishment of the divine plan of unity. But when some follow merely the hard and fixed letter of the law, they deprive it (the Revelation) of its elastic quality — the spirit — and endeavor to convert it into a hard instrument of inflexible qualities.

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In this day every one must be tested, as the time of the "chosen ones" to prove their worth is indeed very short. The day of attainment is drawing to a close for them. The "first fruits" must be ripened in spirit, mellowed in love, and consumed by their self-sacrifice and severance. None other are acceptable as first fruits, and all who fail to attain to the standard through the tests, are relegated to the "many who are called".

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