

Persian text 1¹

نیویورک

دختر عزیز مس جولیت تامسن علیها التَّحِیة و التَّنَاء

ایدختر عزیز نامہات رسید از مضمون معلوم گردید کہ رابیندرانات تآگور از هندوستان بامریکا خواهد شتافت این شخص در هندوستان بامآة الله مسس استنارد نہایت رعایت را مجری داشت و از قرار مسموع از مروّجین صلح و سلام است و مہربان بعموم ناس و حال بامریکا خواهد آمد و در جمیع ولایات سیر و سیاحت خواهد کرد لهذا در جمیع شہرها احبّای الہی از او پذیرائی بکنند و نہایت احترام و رعایت را مجری دارند تا ملاحظہ شود کہ احبّای الہی چہ قدر مہربان و قدر دانند در ورود بہ نیویورک بسیار احترام مجری دارید و بیان تعالیم الہی از برای او بنمائید احبّا و اماء رحمٰن باید کہ خیرخواہ و مہربان بجمیع باشند

جمیع احبّا و اماء رحمٰن را تحیت و ثنا برسان از خبر اتّحاد و اتّفاق احبّای نیویورک نہایت سرور حاصل است و علیک التَّحِیة و التَّنَاء

English translation 1

Perplexity AI translation

He is God

New York

Dear Miss Juliet Thompson, upon her be greetings and praise

O dear daughter, your letter was received, and from its contents it became clear that Rabindranath Tagore from India will be traveling to America. This person in India, together with Miss Stannard, showed the utmost respect and, as has been heard, is one of the promoters of peace and kindness to all people. Now he will come to America and will travel and tour all the states. Therefore, in all cities, the friends of God should welcome him and show him the utmost respect and courtesy, so that it may be observed how kind and appreciative the friends of God are. Upon his arrival in New York, show him great respect and present to him the teachings of God. The friends and maidservants of the Merciful must be welcoming and kind to all.

Convey greetings and praise to all the friends and maidservants of the

¹ Online at https://bahai-library.com/uhi_tablets_abdul-baha_tagore

Merciful. The news of the unity and harmony of the friends in New York has brought the utmost joy.

Upon you be greetings and praise.

Adib Masumian translation

He is God.

New York

To my dear daughter, Miss Juliet Thompson, upon her be salutations and praise.

O my dear daughter! Thy letter hath arrived. From the contents thereof, it hath become known that Rabindranath Tagore will quickly travel from India to America. In India, this person showed the utmost consideration to Mrs. [Jean] Stannard, and from what I have heard, he is a promoter of peace who treateth all people with kindness. Now he is coming to America and will travel throughout all its states. In every city, therefore, the loved ones of God should give him a warm welcome, exhibiting the profoundest respect and regard, so he may observe how kind and appreciative are the loved ones of God.² Upon his arrival in New York, show him great deference and explain to him the divine teachings.³ The servants and handmaids of the Most Merciful must be the well-wishers of everyone and treat them with kindness.

² In an obituary for Anna Kunz (1889–1973) it is written that she and her husband, Dr Jakob Kunz, “entertained Rabindranath Tagore and other philosophers and scientists” at their home in New York. (*The Bahá’í World, 1973–1976*, vol. 16, p. 521)

³ In the American periodical *Bahá’í News*, no. 48, p. 4, it is mentioned that “the recipient of this Tablet [Juliet Thompson] was enabled to meet Tagore during his recent brief sojourn in New York, and to present to him the blessed Tablet revealed in his honor.” (That note is also preceded by an earlier translation of this Tablet.) Since this report was published in the February 1931 issue of *Bahá’í News* and the word “recently” is used, this likely refers to Tagore’s fifth and final trip to the United States in October–December 1930. It could not have been his first trip (1912–13), as Jean Stannard’s stay in India from December 1913 until November 1914 (mentioned in this Tablet) had not yet taken place, and it was presumably not his second trip (1916–17, mentioned in the prefatory note to this translation) or his third trip (1920–21), since those would have probably been too far in the past to call them “recent”. It also could not have been his fourth trip (1929) because it was cut short due to an untoward incident in Vancouver, his port of entry, and ultimately involved a stay of just three weeks in Los Angeles before leaving America for Japan.

Convey thou my greetings and approbation to all the believers, men and women alike. The news of unity and concord among the Bahá'ís of New York hath brought about the utmost gladness.

Upon thee be salutations and praise.

Persian text 2

کلکته

امّة الله مسس استنارد عليها بهاء الله الابهي

هو الله

ای منادی بملکوت الله فی الحقیقه در این سفر نهایت خدمت را بملکوت الهی مجری داشتی از راحت و خوشی و سرور خویش گذشتی و در نهایت انقطاع حرکت بآنصفحات نمودی فی الحقیقه جان و مال و راحت و صحت خود را فدای حضرت بهاءالله نمودی و یقین است که در مقابل این جانفشانی تأییدات الهی پیاپی میرسد مطمئن باش

بمستر رابین دراناث تاگور از قبل من نهایت محبت و مهربانی ابلاغ دار و بگو که من از تأسیسات علمیّه تو مسرورم که این شاگردها را تعلیم علوم ادبیّه و فلسفه مینمائی ولی امیدم چنان است که فنون آسمانی ترویج نمائی و علوم روح الهی نشر کنی و مؤید بقوتی گردی که تفوق بر جمیع فلاسفه اشراق یابی و علیک البهاء الابهي

عبدالبهاء عباس⁴

English translation 2

Perplexity AI translation

Calcutta

The maidservant of God, Miss Stannard—upon her be the glory of God, the Most Glorious

He is God

O herald in the Kingdom of God! Truly, in this journey you rendered

⁴ An earlier translation of this Tablet appears in Ahmad Sohrab's diary entry for 23 June 1914, suggesting it may have been written on or around that date.

the utmost service to the divine Kingdom. You gave up comfort, happiness, and joy, and with complete detachment, you moved forward with sacrifice. In truth, you offered your life, wealth, comfort, and health for the sake of Bahá'u'lláh, and be assured that in return for this self-sacrifice, divine confirmations will continually reach you—be confident.

Convey, on my behalf, utmost love and kindness to Rabindranath Tagore, and say that I am pleased with your scholarly endeavours, that you are instructing these students in literary sciences and philosophy. Yet my hope is that you will also promote heavenly arts and spread the sciences of the spirit of God, and that you will be strengthened with such power that you will surpass all the philosophers of the East. Upon you be the glory of the Most Glorious.

Adib Masumian translation

To the handmaid of God, Mrs. [Jean] Stannard, upon her be the Glory of God, the All-Glorious

He is God

O summoner to the Kingdom of God! On this journey, thou hast truly rendered the utmost service to the celestial Kingdom. Thou didst renounce thy comfort, joy, and happiness, and depart for that region with consummate detachment. Thou hast indeed given up thy life, thine ease, and thy health for Bahá'u'lláh, and it is certain that, in the light of this sacrifice, divine confirmations will continuously reach thee. Rest thou assured.

Convey my sentiments of deepest love and kindness to Mr. Rabindranath Tagore, and say to him, "I am delighted by the foundations of knowledge thou hast laid, insofar as thou art teaching literature and philosophy to these students,"⁵ but my hope is such that thou mayest promote heavenly

⁵ Presumably at Patha Bhavana, an institution of primary and secondary education in Shantiniketan (a neighborhood in Bolpur, located in the Indian state of West Bengal) that later developed into what is today Visva-Bharati University. In an article by Martha Root titled "The Bahá'í Faith and Eastern Scholars", she describes her visit to that school in 1937 as follows:

The next journey was to Shantiniketan (it means the "Home of Quiet", "The Home of Peace") to visit Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore on December 14, 1937. Mr. Isfandiar Bakhtiari of Karachi, an Iránian by birth, was with me. The poet said, "I met 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Chicago, in 1912. He was staying in an hotel; He was talking to His

arts and propagate sciences of the divine spirit, becoming aided with a power that shall grant thee ascendancy over all the Illuminationist philosophers.”

Upon thee be the Glory of the All-Glorious.⁶

followers who gathered around Him and I, too, spoke with Him. He very kindly asked me if possible, to come and see Him in His own place in Haifa. I always thought I would try to go, but it wasn't to be like that. The years went by and one day I read in the newspapers that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had passed.”

Dr. Tagore spoke of 'Abdu'l-Bahá with deep appreciation; he also said that the Bahá'í Faith is a great ideal to establish and that they in Shantiniketan welcome all the great spiritual aims, that he hopes a Chair of the Bahá'í Religion can be arranged in their international university. Dr. Tagore's center is not only one of the very important cultural institutions of the Hindus in India, but it is also an all-Asia center of great potency. He spoke with Mr. Bakhtiari of his pleasurable trip to Irán and asked particularly about the progress of the Bahá'í Cause in the land of its birth; he praised the tolerance and fineness of the Iranian Bahá'ís. The poet said, too, that they have some very good books about the Bahá'í Teachings in the university library. The visit with Dr. Tagore was a most happy one. (*The Bahá'í World*, vol. 7, pp. 687–88)

As far as I am aware, no such “Chair of the Bahá'í Religion” was ever established in that school. (Adib Masumian, adibmasumian.com/translations/ab05794)

⁶ adibmasumian.com/translations/ab11891)