

MARTHA-PENSION

FAMILY-HOTEL

97, rue Lauriston

PARIS

PARIS, le March 24 1913

TÉLÉPHONE
651-03

Dear Harriet

One of the most interesting events of ^{our} ~~the~~ Paris sojourn ~~of the Beloved~~ is the arrival of Mirza Jalal, the son-in-law of the Master with Rouha Khanom. Having seen three or four times our beloved brother Mirza Jalal, I was impressed with his dignity, quietness of spirit, deep faith in the Cause and strong assurance. In the Presence of the Master he is always silent, sitting with the utmost politeness. He is thirty four years old ~~and~~ wears European clothes with a black Persian ^{cap} ~~hat~~ on his head. He is rather tall ~~and~~ well-built ~~and~~ has large ^{quiet} ~~big~~ eyes ~~and~~ ~~handsome~~. For ^{thirty} ~~30~~ yrs he has lived in Acca; ~~so you see~~ he was only four ^{byland} years old when ~~he was~~ brought to ~~Acca~~ by his mother, after the martyrdom of his father, "Sutan of the Martyrs" in Esphahan. He remembers Baha Vallah and for the last ^{thirty} ~~30~~ yrs he has ~~been~~ watching

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the Cause grow from step to step. All the
Persians love him ^{notably} ~~very much~~, because he is
~~related~~ ^{related} to the Master but because he is such
a ~~wonderfully~~ faithful believer. To night he
was invited by Sayad Ahmad Bageroff to
dine with us. As the Master was not at the
table I asked him to tell me briefly the
story of the martyrdom of his father ^{the Sultan}
of the Martyrs" and his uncle the "Beloved
2 of the Martyrs." He said in part:— My
father was always most fortunate in
agricultural undertakings. Under his
constant care and attention the soil
yielded rich harvests and ~~his~~ his fame
became widely spread. The Chief
Pontiff of Esphahan at that time was
a great landed proprietor and he
had eight villages which needed
supervision. ~~Therefore~~ he asked my
father to rent these villages for
a definite amount of money.
My father accepted the proposition
and for four years ~~he~~ managed
the affairs most wisely and
prudently. Imam Jorna (or the
Chief pontiff) opened an account

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↑ with my father, ^{drawing} and ~~sending~~ ^{opening} checks almost every day for ~~every~~ ^{everything}. After the end of four yrs ^{looks} when my father made up the ~~account~~ ^{account} he saw that Imam Joma had overdrawn his account to the amount of 45 thousand dollars. The postiff gave, then my father two receipts, one of \$30.000 and the other of \$15.000 to be ~~paid~~ ^{business} later. One day, as though the same old ^{business} relation existed, Imam Joma sends a ~~check~~ ^{check} with his servant. My father looking ~~at the check~~ ^{at the check} told the servant that there ~~was~~ ^{was} not only ~~any~~ ^{no} money left, but Imam Joma had overdrawn his account and in his ^{impatience} ~~anger~~ he tore the ~~check~~ ^{check} to pieces. The servant returned to his chief and reports ~~to him~~ what had happened. Although Imam Joma ~~did~~ not say anything yet he secretly ^{he} ~~looked~~ ^{was} in his heart ~~anger~~ ^{revelation} and

enmity. As my father had two other
 brothers, one Mirza Hassen and the
 other Mirza Ismail, they shared ^{together} every
 thing they ~~possessed~~ ^{possessed} Mirza Ismail not being
 a Bahai, was inimical to his two ~~other~~
 brothers. He thought that by going to the
 Ulemas and declaring his brothers as
 Bahais, they ~~would~~ ^{would} be quickly put out
 of the way and the path will be
 clear ~~for~~ ^{for} him to inherit all
 the property. So he started to go to ~~this~~
 Imam Juma and Aga Najafy accusing
 his brothers as heretics. These two
 in turn went to the governor of the city
 and told him that ~~they~~ ^{there were} two Sayyads
 in this city who ~~are~~ ^{were} Bahais and they
 insisted that they should be summoned
 and called to ~~Account~~ ^{Account}. At that time
 all the Bahai meetings were held in
 my father's house and people came
 and ~~go~~ ^{went} without any secret; ~~they~~
~~almost~~ ^{my father was} everybody knew that he
 was a Bahai. The governor sent for
 the two brothers ~~there~~ ^{went} and they came to him

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without any premonition. When
they arrived he was walking in
the garden of his palace known as
"Tchehel-Sotoun." He ~~had a stick~~ ^{carried a cane}
in his hand and Ago Hajafy was ^{standing}
before him. The governor addressing
my father said that "we have heard
you are Bahais." People say many
things," he answered. "Then if you
are not Bahais, curse the Cause. We
have seen nothing ^{had} from these people."
Then you are Bahais," and raising his
~~stick~~ ^{cane} and coming near to my father
and much beat them ~~with his~~
~~stick~~ for several minutes. Then
he called for his servants and ^{commanded}
them to throw those vile Bahais
into the dungeon. Next day the
Mullehs clamored for their blood and
after four days imprisonment

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they ~~took~~ ^{took} them out and in the public square, before the eyes of many ^{spectators} ~~people~~ they are put to death. ~~I received the~~
In the evening a cable ~~was~~ ^{was} received from the Central government in Tehran that they must not ~~be killed~~ ^{the two Balaich} but it was too late. For two or three days days, their ~~bleeding~~ bodies were exposed to the public view, then they were interred in "Takhte'-Fouldad." During the few days of their imprisonment through the instigation of the Mullas and the government's authorities, the rabble attacked ~~the~~ ^{our} house and pillaged everything. Those furniture ~~that~~ they could not conveniently carry away they destroyed. Their vandalism reached to such a degree that they uprooted the trees and flowers in the garden. At that time I was only six months old and my mother was in that ~~do~~ ^{house} during those trying days. Then all the

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~~belongings~~ and real state of my

father and uncle were divided

~~between~~ ^{by} the Ulama and the governor

~~amongst themselves~~ and of all

that wealth nothing was left but

I was four years ^{old} when the command

of the Blessed Perfection ^{came} that my

mother with my brother and

sister must ~~come to~~ ^{leave for} Acre.

After an eventful journey ^{we} ~~arrived~~

in ~~Acre~~ and lived in the ~~presence~~ ^{vicinity}

of Baha Wlloh ever afterward.

Twelve yrs ago I made a trip to

Esphahan, stayed there for a year

and two months and then ^{returned}

again to Acre. The Bahai library

collected by my father was ^{unique}

in all Persia. ^{one could see} There ~~were~~ many

rare manuscripts. Many ^{of the} original

writings of Baha Wlloh and

they ~~were~~ all went out of our

hands! ^{somehow}

Now, Praise be to God that we are all
 beneath the overshadowing protection
 of the Center of the Covenant,
 and all our happiness and joy
 is ~~in~~ ^{centered} His Good-pleasure.

This was just a brief outline
 of what Mirza Jalal told me tonight.
~~There were many minor details~~
~~that I could go on explaining but~~
~~this letter would have become~~
~~a pamphlet.~~

3 This morning when we
 presented ourselves in the Holy
 Presence of ~~the Lord of mankind~~ ^{Abd al Baki}
 he was well and happy and
 talked a great deal about Ferdousi,
 the great ~~Epic~~ poet of Persia who
 wrote in poetry the ancient ^{history}
 of Persia that country. He quoted many
 lines from ^{that} ~~his~~ book showing
 the matchless beauty of ~~the~~ ^{his} ~~poet~~
 eloquence as well as ^{his} ~~the~~ ^{highlight} of
 imagination.

4 ~~The~~ Miss Fraser and Miss
 Hodgson with bouquets of flowers

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entered the room. He was writing a holy Tablet for America with his own hand and as he raised his noble head and saw them ~~coming~~ ⁱⁿ with smiles on their faces he exclaimed happily: "You are two good sisters. Bahai sisterhood is very precious. It is not like material sisterhood. Material sisterhood is forgotten and often changed into hatred. Material sisters often have not much affection for each other but ~~your~~ ^{their} sisterhood ^{was} eternal, because it ^{was} spiritual, Bahai and divine. The greatness of this sisterhood will become more manifest and clear in the world of God. There ~~may~~ ^{may} be a twin sister in the matrix of the mother but they do not

know each other. However when they
step into this world, after they have
grown, they recognize each other and
~~they~~ realize that they have a father
and mother and how great and
self-sacrificing have been their ^{parent} father
~~and mother~~. ^{they (Miss Fraser and Miss Hodgson)} So when ^{you} ~~you~~ ^{ascend}
into the realm of light, ^{they will} you will
then realize how great ^{was his} ~~is~~ ^{their} ~~is~~
fatherhood for ~~you~~.

Miss Fraser laughing said:— "I hope
we will not have to wait till then."
Abdul Baha answered:— "Here we
comprehend things according to our
environment and adaptation. The
world has not much capacity to
comprehend the truth. Their sisters
may embrace ~~each~~ each other
in the matrix and be entirely
unconscious of the knowledge
of their fathers and ~~mothers~~ ^{mothers}.
But when they are born into
this world there will be
this deep consciousness."

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Madame Marcovitch ~~who is~~ a French authoress ~~and~~ ^{who} has written the life of Gurrat ~~Agid~~ in a dramatic play came to see the Beloved. She is a wonderfully intelligent woman and the Master was most kind to her. As she is going to lecture on the "Religious evolution of Persia" before the Theosophists on the 20th of May and bring in the Cause the Master spoke to her in length about the principles of the Movement and gave her some of the newspapers and magazines.

He left

6. Then ~~the Master~~ departed for Miss Sanderson's house and did not return till late in the evening. All the Persians went to Mr and Mrs Scott's

meeting at 5 o'clock. Mr Cobb was there and gave a fine talk on Abdul Baha's trip throughout America. ~~Then~~ Mon Bernard spoke in French on "Spiritual man" and at the end I spoke a few minutes and the meeting came to a close with a prayer chanted by Muzza Mahmoud.

The other day Sayad Ahmad Bagray went down stair to see the ~~maid~~ ^{maid} ~~waitress~~ and to tell her that the Master wanted to take a bath tonight and the water must be very ~~warm~~ ^{hot}. In order to impress her with the importance of the situation he spoke thus: "Last night I took a bath but the water was cold." "Oh! I ~~am~~ ^{desire} ~~am~~ ^{truly} ~~so sorry~~ ^{monseigneur}," "Please wait till I finish! Now there was every possibility that I might ~~have caught a cold~~ ^{have caught a cold}." "Catch a cold."

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"I would gladly come and nurse
you back to health," rejoined
the ~~impatient~~ ^{shy} maid.

"Please! This is very important! I
have only one wife and four children.
If I ~~have~~ caught cold and the worst
had happened, somehow they could
get along without me."

"Poor things! I am glad that nothing
~~has~~ happened though."

"Tonight ^{our} 'Maitre' wants to get
a bath and the water must be
very ^{hot} warm. You know he has millions
of sons and daughters all over
the world and if he gets the
cold you will be blamed."

"What! he has millions of sons
and daughters! This is extraordinary!"
"That is true though. Now can we

depend upon you?"

For the sake of those ^{millions of} ~~dear~~ children I will do my ^{very} best!"

That night ~~the~~ the water was very warm and the Master was also warm in his praise of the maid.

8 In Persia lived a Bahai athlete, very strong and in teaching the Cause to others he had evolved an argument in the language of Sport. He said:-

"We want a Champion who can enter in the diamond-ring and carry away the palm of victory. He must be the Champion of the world. Mohamud Ali has gone into his dressing room and sitting there boasts of courage and strength. But Abdul Baha is in the diamond ^{ring} of America and Europe wrestling with everybody and coming out victorious everywhere. Is this not the test of his supreme courage and invincible power? Is not this enough to convince anybody?"

This ^{was} a fine argument ^{for a sport of kind} and he has taught many people in this way. Love to all Abdul