

Ramleh, Egypt
Oct 26th 1913

Dear friends!

I slept last night in the hotel. I was very glad to be again with the Master even if it is for one night. At midnight I awoke and went out on my porch. How scintillating were the stars! How clear was the sky! How sweet to the ear the laughter and dance of the sea! How quiet everything seemed! The Universe with all its organic creations was at that moment instead of a huge, ruthless mechanical machine - a sacred, awe-inspiring temple of the Almighty! The Lord of Silence had outstretched its imperial wings over all phenomena. The soul was exhilarated by the divine Presence of the Spirit; the mind was renewed through the mystic beauty of the scene and the heart was transported into the Elysian gardens of Paradise. What wonderful witchery and mysterious charm there lie hidden in the silent bosom of an oriental night! One ^{becomes} so absorbed in the contemplation of all these majestic forces surrounding his more majestic spirit that one does not only forget himself but the whole world. Who am I? What have I to do here? Whether am I bound? The Bahai cause explains these eternal questions both from a moral and philosophical standpoint. At last we have a logical interpretation of these Sphinx-problems and the hearts of those who have obtained these answers are at complete rest. In every object they see life, joy and ultimate welfare. They are indeed the elect of God and his faithful servants.

It was twilight when I got out of my bed and dressed was behind the table to write a few letters when I heard the footsteps of the Master coming toward my room. I jumped out of my seat and opened the door. He looked in and ^{then} me to prepare tea.

Having drunk his tea he spoke on the hatefulness of envy. "There are some people who make this short span of life miserable to themselves and others because they harbor 'Envy' in their hearts. Envy is the most despicable quality in man. Some people are so filled with it that they cannot see if their friends receive greater privileges and higher promotions in life. Like poison it kills all their nobler sentiments. Envy lowers the station of man and makes him a supreme egoist and self-centered. If man extricates himself from the claws of this ignoble monster he has defeated the powers of Satan. Then he will attain to tranquility and peace of mind. Man must become evanescent and self-denying. Then all the difficulties and hardships of the world will not even touch him. He will become like unto a sea that although on its surface ~~there is~~ the tempest 'raging' and the mountainous waves rising in its depth there is complete calmness. No one can ever imagine even faintly how we were surrounded ~~from~~ all sides by tests and trials in the nascent stage of the Cause. When we were called from Persia outwardly the means of happiness were completely lacking, we did not have even our underneath, notwithstanding this whenever I think of those days my heart is filled with exultation. On our way from Icheran to Bagdad we could not afford to buy

tea for Baha-ollah, so Aga Amman prepared a sort of hot drink with _____ and served it to Him in an old brass cup. Sometimes there was an extra cup, then he would give it one day to me another day to my mother and so it went all around."

A fleet of French warships has just arrived in the harbor of Alexandria. The Egyptian government, the French population and a number of Foreign societies have prepared an elaborate program of entertainments to feast the officers and bluejackets. Mrs Stannard referred to this matter. The Master rising from his seat and looking out of his window toward the blue sea said:— "I desire that you may see the divine ships. These ships are the blessed souls who are traversing ^{on} the sea of divine Mercy; their propellers are the powers of spiritual love and their captains are the Inspirations of the Holy Spirit. No ship is ever wrecked on this sea. Its waves are life-giving. Each one of the friends of God is like unto an ark of salvation. Each ark saves many souls from ^{the} storms of troubles. The signs and traces of these souls are never-ending and eternal. The future centuries and cycles are like the sea on the surface of which these arks glide blissfully toward their spiritual destination."

Then Mrs Libanthal and Mrs Berde had an interview in the course of which the Beloved spoke about the heavenly accord and communication that exist between the Baha'is of all races and countries. When they departed he commenced to dictate Tablets for the believers of Persia, many of them being in Araku he dictated in his

wonderful voice of chanting. His eyes were closed and he was chanting in a supplicating and entreating tone at the throne of ^{the} Almighty. I thought he was directly conversing with the Lord of Mankind. What a contrast between now as he sweetly and clearly chanted these prayers in a room in Egypt with no audience except the writer and those tremendous moments when he raised his mighty voice in his churches of America and Europe in vast congregations! I could hardly believe myself at the magic transformation, so real and yet so mystical! How wonderfully he prays! All the fibres of human heart responds to his sensitive pleadings! Many of the Tablets were about the education of the children revealed to the authorities of the ^{Bahai} school in Hamadan. Then about noon he came out and I followed him toward the sea. For more than half an hour he sat on the shore watching the sea submerged in the Great Deep of reflection. On our return Khasro brought the lunch and for the first time in many months I had again the joy of eating with him the frugal repast. At four o'clock he took the tramway for Alexandria and I was with him. When he descended from the car, he brought apples and for one hour walked on the sidewalk near the sea. Returning he went up to his room and dictated some stirring calls to the Bahais to rise and teach the Cause of God and deliver eloquent speeches in meetings and assemblages. Mirza Jalal returned from Port Said and for tonight I am returning again to our house. One of our friends was sitting silent. The Master asked her to speak. "I would rather pray quietly in Thy Presence," she said. "May thou ever be in a prayerful attitude. In the world of existence there is nothing more important than prayer. Prayer confers special beauty to the heart."