

Ramleh, Egypt

Nov 25th 1913

Dear friends!

"What is it we call great? What lifts and thrills  
The soul of him who tells it o'er and o'er?  
Is it not something that <sup>the</sup> brave heart began  
Wherein success had seemed unlikeliest."

It is this feeling of admiration and awe that controls every fiber of one's being when he comes in touch with those souls who have accepted ridicule and prison joyfully in the Path of Baha-ollah. It is very nice to read about these soul-stirring events in your home but it is different, oh me! so different when you stand actually beside the man who lived 2 yrs in the darkest prison; bare-footed and bare-headed was carried on a saddle-less horse from one city to another, has received the deadly bullets in his breast and has taken cheerfully the jeers of the enemies and yet has come out of these severe trials like a Hercules of Spiritual Force! Such a man is Mirza Mahmud Forougi. They tell me and I well believe it that he is the greatest orator of the Bahai Cause in the East. He has literally a tongue of fire - a thing much

needed to propagate the Cause. He is fearless and  
 unafraid. He utters his convictions with such divine  
 force and impetuosity that the worst enemies are  
 disarmed, defeated, routed. He has carried many open  
 discussions with the Mohamaden clergy and you can  
 well-imagine how they were worsted and mortified at  
 their own ignorance. In many places he had challenged  
 them to form a meeting and he would talk with  
 them about the Cause and establish its validity to  
 their own satisfaction from the Koran and traditions  
 but having learned the sad endings of others they <sup>would</sup>  
 not dare to accept. Such men are the foundations  
 of this Movement. We in the West, often deplore that  
 the tests are very great, that such and such a  
 person could not stand them, that we are  
surrounded by the howling winds of tests. I muse  
 and wonder how those tests would stand the  
 critical analysis of comparison with the tests of  
 the Oriental believers! Here is a man who tells me  
 he suffered the most awful tortures for the Cause  
 but he tells them to me with laughter and joy,  
 with many blessings heaped upon the <sup>heads of the</sup> executioners!  
 He has endured these persecutions for a cause

and at a time "wherein success had seemed unlikelyest" and that is why we now love him, admire his courage and shall try to repeat his story "o'er and o'er." It is really a subject uncompassable, unsearchable, inscrutable! I try to comprehend its vast significance and visualize its lofty meaning but I seem so weak and powerless! As long as this Cause has such embeddings of sacrifice in the world one has no fear of its future. Such souls are the fulcrums of the ideal progress of the movement! They are the rare jewels of the Kingdom of Abba, the salt of the earth and the valorous standard-bearers of reality! Now we are enjoying the benefits of their labors. They have really done the mighty work, the work of laying the foundation - not with mortars and bricks but with their blood, their lives. Their stations in the estimation of God are very great. They are the chosen ones. They have won the victory off the field. All that we can do and that so poorly is to walk in their footsteps and be satisfied to receive the rays of their faith, assurance, firmness and steadfastness. I consciously feel myself so small in the presence of these men! I want to run

away and hide my face with shame because I have done nothing when compared with the brilliant records of their noble and epic lives. When this morning I went to the hotel the first thing the Master asked me was about our new pilgrim Mirza Mahmud Forougi. "Love him very much. Do everything in thy power to make him comfortable. We will have three more pilgrims to night and with the rest you go to the station to welcome them. One of them is Elme' Asdaq, another is an Afraw<sup>and</sup> and the third is an Israelitish Bahai. They are all good and real Bahais." Then he sent me away and after awhile he sent for the pilgrims and kept them for a long time. They gave him encouraging news about the advancement of the Cause and the entrance of new people into the Kingdom and how there is a general breaking down of all ritualisms and dogmatic sects and that there is a new alinement of the moral forces for the spiritual regeneration of dead religions and ecclesiasticism. Ho! Men are being awakened, the hidden forces of purification are set loose, the angels of the New Era are illuminating the minds,

the torch-bearers of a revitalized and simplified religion adaptable to all men and <sup>all</sup> conditions are running to and fro through the dark earth! In turn the Master also gave them a bird's eye view of the portentous upheaval which is now going on in the religious life of the West, especially America, how men and women are restless, seeking after God, trying to grasp the inner realities of life, the calmness of the spirit and the actual realization of Deity. Here in fact was a clearing-house of the world's longings for a higher life and how the two hemispheres are converging towards one ultimate Ideal. These two divergent poles of human thoughts are being met amicably in the Presence of Abdul Baha. He is holding high the lamp of Guidance beckoning all men to gather around it and to be enlightened by it. The more one stays in the vicinity of the Beloved the clearer becomes his mental apprehension that he is the Solvent for all the problems of the world. He knows better than any living person the spiritual needs of humanity - East and West - and he is daily supplying ~~the~~ needs by words and deeds.

At half-past seven all of us were at the station and joyfully welcomed our new pilgrims. Elvin Adag is an old man - white beard - shorter than the Masters. He is one of the "Hands of the Cause of God" and lives in Teheran. When we reached the Hotel Orient with what wonderful charm and cohesion he spoke about the Cause! He is also a famous teacher who has much suffered. His father was one of the followers of the Babi. In his talk he said "We must entirely annihilate our will and let the will of Our Beloved take possession of our hearts. He is the supreme Ruler of our destiny. He is the Knowing while we know nothing. How gladly we must sacrifice our lives in his path. Personally I have no other wish, long for no other object. I have come a long way to see him. I have no questions to ask. I want just to look into his heavenly Countenance. This is my food! This is my sustenance." How sweet is the deep humility of these men! How spiritual is their lives! They love the Master Oh so much! They kneel before him and adore him <sup>see in him</sup> and the light and the Truth and the way which shall usher in the Day of Universal Peace.