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Bahai Pilgrims Home

Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

January 27th 1914

Dear friends!

The words of the Beloved are the delicate narcissus and the fragrant daffodils. I would like therefore to present to you this morning two bouquets comprising these two lovely flowers - thus you may perfume your minds and hearts with their agreeable aroma. The first heavenly bouquet is sent to Mr. Howard C. Ives of New York City:-

He is God!

O thou my heavenly son!

Thy letter was received. It was a rose-garden from which the sweet Fragrances of the Love of God were inhaled. It indicated that you have held a meeting with the utmost joy and fragrance. Your aim is the diffusion of the light of Guidance, the resurrection of the dead hearts, the promotion of the oneness of the world of humanity and the elucidation of

truth. Unquestionably you will become confirmed therein and assisted by the invisible Powers.

I have prayed in thy behalf — so that thou may'st become the Minister of the Temple of the Kingdom and the herald of the Lord of Hosts; that thou may'st build a Monastery in heaven and lay the foundation of a Convent in the Universe of the Placeless; in all the affairs thou may'st become inspired by the Breaths of the Holy Spirit and that thou may'st become so illumined that the eyes of all the Ministers be dazzled by thy brilliancy and all of them may long to attain to thy station. Thou art always in my memory. I will never forget the days of our meeting. Endeavor as much as thou canst so that thou may'st master the Principles of Baha-Ollah, promulgate them all over that continent, create love and unity between the believers, guiding the people, awakening the heedless ones and resurrecting the dead.

Upon thee be Baha El Abha!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

The second bouquet is forwarded to a believer in California:-

He is God!

O thou my beloved son of the Kingdom!

Thy letter was received. Its contents was conducive to the realization of the susceptibilities of the Kingdom and the means of happiness, for it indicated thy advancement toward the Kingdom of God. Praise be to God that thou art progressing and becoming more illumined day by day, art released from the thoughts of this ephemeral world and art thinking to receive a goodly portion and a share from the Bestowals of the Alpha Kingdom. This resolution or intention is the Magnet for attracting Divine Confirmations and inviting the Breaths of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore I hope that thou may'st make extraordinary and universal progress in the Cause of Baha-Allah, become ignited like unto a candle and shed radiance on all that region. Do thou not look upon thine own capacity, nay rather

behold the Bounties of the Kingdom of Alaba, For His Great Bestowal changes the weak plant into a blessed tree, the limited drop into the limitless ocean, the seed into a harvest and one individual the representative of an assembly. For thee I desire an exalted station, — so that thou may'st become the star of the everlasting horizon and day by day be drawn nearer unto God

This is the birthday of His Imperial Majesty, Emperor William of Germany and therefore the German Colony is celebrating it with much demonstration. German flags and bunting are afloat from every house-top and in front of every door. This morning the Master sent me to pay a visit on his behalf on Mr and Mrs Holback. When I arrived at the hotel I observed the people there have a feast. There were a number of young girls who were singing German songs, and the German Consul in full uniform was there. The ceremony was very pretty and the children sang very nicely. On my return

I found out that the believers ^{had} been in ^{the Master's} Presence ⁸⁵
for about half an hour and ^{had} delivered for their benefit
an informal talk on the spirituality of the life of the
people of the Kingdom. They were all most happy but
regretful ^{that} why have I ^{had} not been there to write down for
them his life-imparting words. At 11 o'clock Mr
and Mrs Holback came to see him. As he was paying
a call on the German Consul to congratulate him on
the birthday of the Emperor, they waited a few moments
till he returned. Mrs Holback told him about an old
German who lives with almost ^{his} blind wife near the
Carmelite Monastery. He ^{was} ~~has been~~ for 3 yrs in Teheran
in the service of ^{the} German Minister. As he was thinly
clothed she desired the Master ^{to} send to him an overcoat.
"All right" he was up on his feet immediately and
entered the house, coming back with an overcoat.
"This will warm him for the time." Then he
spoke about a Roman Catholic priest ^{in Area} who ^{has} ~~is~~ opposing
the Cause and calumniating those who stand for it.
"But the other day I heard you have contributed

a sum to ^{the} Roman Catholic Institution here." she declared. "Well, We are commanded by Baha-ullah to assist all the communities without the exclusion of any one. We do not consider their deeds and actions but we never lose sight of the fact that mankind are the children of God and their wants must be relieved without the distinction of race or religion." Then he spoke about Mulla Aliou Taleh and how he was robbed a few yrs ago and beaten into unconsciousness when he was living in his own cottage on the Mountain, very remote from any habitation. "After that incident I told him to leave his cottage and live in the Pilgrined Home which he has done since that time." Then the near approach of the organization of a world Conference of the Christian sects in one of the capitals of Europe or in America was presented to him. He said:—"The Conference of the religions of the world will yield a ^{more} permanent results. The organizers must think of this."

Before Mrs Halbach entered the room one of our Pilgrims
begged her to intercede ^{for them} before the Master so that they ^{might} ~~may~~
also ^{go} come in and see ^{the Master} him while she was there. She
did fulfill her promise and the Beloved told her to
go and bring them. When they came in the old men
were weeping ~~the~~ tears of joy and gratitude. Pointing
to our newly arrived pilgrim from Kerman he said:
"The believers in Kerman have suffered much and
many of them were martyred. The inhabitants of
that Province are very intelligent and quiet-witted
and its soil ^{is} most productive. The greatest enemy
of this Cause Haji Karim Khan lived in that
city but now his tree is uprooted. At one time
about 3 million Persians were his followers in
Persia as well as in India, but now, except the
name, nothing has been left behind to tell the
tale." Then pointing to our Turkish believers from
the province of Azerbayejan he said: "These are ^{not}
like the Turks in these parts. They are very pure
and simple hearted, sincere and devoted."

"Consider the influence of the Word of God that although men of totally different temperament, religious, cultures and ideas live in the Pilgrims Home, never do we hear even a faint whisper of ill-feeling against each other. They are welded together by the alchemy of Truth. If you take ten bars of iron and tie them together no matter how closely, they will not become one, but when a metallurgist comes on the scene, he takes the ten bars, melts them in the furnace and casts them in one mould. Only through this fiery process ^{will} their atoms will flow and commingle with each other, becoming united and inseparable! This is the work that Baha-o-llah has done and is doing. He has not tied together the iron bars — the religions of the world — with the rope of indulgent tolerance or ordinary amenities of human Necessity, which ^{are} liable to break at any time — but with the fire of the love of God He has melted them first and then, casting them into

one mould of spiritual brotherhood He has rendered the most marvellous service to the world of humanity. Baha-Allah is this divine Metallurgist and those who have the deep insight and look around the world, witness daily the working of this Principle of fusion." "This is indeed the manifestation of the Spirit of Christ" said Mrs Holback as she arose to bid good-bye to the Beloved of the world.

In the evening a number of the friends were privileged to sit in His Presence. I will translate his loving talk in another letter. Enough to say that we were sailing on the sea of his sterling kindness, and finally anchored safely in the haven of Peace and assurance.

At last my "nest" is ready and I will "fly" toward it tomorrow. In fact it has been ready for several days but my wings were not strong enough and I have been putting off the "flight" every day. ^{spirit.} Tomorrow, yes, I shall flutter my wings, if God will.