

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

February 13th 1914

Dear friends !

A "memorial service" for our beloved teacher Mirza Abul Fazel was the order of the day. Our beloved sister Mrs Hoagg was the charming hostess or as she sweetly puts it, 'it was a memorial service given ~~by her~~ in the name of all ^{of the} our American brothers and sisters. I can assure them, they had a worthy representative who has already won a place of honor in the hearts of many Persian believers. The memorial ^{meeting} was held in the large room of the Tomb of the Bab in the afternoon. All the believers and the Pilgrims were ^{invited}. The members of the Holy Family and other Bahai women ^{gathered} were also present, having a ^{meeting} in ^{an} another room adjoining ours. Basheer and Mirza Hakeem prepared the tea and Mrs Hoagg and Mrs Wise served it. Our other

sisters from America were also present. It was a meeting of many nationalities gathered together on Mount Carmel to pay their homage to the illustrious memory of a noble worker in the Cause of God. When the Master entered the room every one was on his feet. Without his presence the meeting would not have been ~~complete~~. When every one was served with tea he asked Mirza Mahmond to Chant Tablets. Afterwards he led us peacefully to the Tomb of the Bab. There were many people but such a quietness reigned that one could hear a pin drop. In the midst of the great silence the soft, gentle, mellow voice of the Master was raised - ~~chanting~~ ^{via} now ^{sharp} low, ^{and} ^{now} high tone the Visiting Tablet. One can hardly believe that these divine scenes are real, so wonderful are these days, so undreamed of are the wonders of the day of the Covenant, so holy is each experience, so unique is each

event. What magical beauty, what illusive power,
what sad and yet beautiful depths ^{sublate} ^{from} contain beneath a
tender, tremulous ^{tones} vibrations of his heavenly voice!

There is a subtle charm and an indescribable ineffability in the strains of his melody: intoxicating the listeners with the wine of the Love of God and filling their hearts with strange, sweet longings and giving them a faint glimpse of the utterable, mystic yearnings for the glories of the Kingdom of Abba. Oh! his voice is a magnet attracting to it the hearts of those who are pure! There is an irresistible something ⁱⁿ it, elevating the soul toward his Father and clearing his mind from all the traces of the worldly music.

When the visiting Tablet was ended we ^{returned} again to the reception room and then the Beloved delivered the following address in the life of the one ^{memory} whose ^{to} loved all over the world:—

"Truly I say the departure of Pirjo

but Hazael was an ~~unintentional~~ ^{able} ~~class~~ for the people of Baba, In all the countries of the world, wherever the believers are found, ^{they} are deeply affected by the death of this glorious personage. For all of them loved him most cordially and admired him from the bottom of their hearts and souls. He attracted to himself the spirit of everyone. Truly he was a worthy man! Truly he was a divine man! Strange, passing strange! that there was not a breath of self-desire in this person. Wholly divested from all other thoughts and mentions he had consecrated all his time to the service of the Holy Threshold. He lived in order to dig out of the rich mine of his heart and intellect nuggets of brilliant proofs, conclusive Arguments and glorious expositions of the Ideals of the Kingdom and establish the validity of the Cause of God. Were one to read all his writings and works he does not find 'I-ness' and 'egoism' stalking

between the lines nor does he observe any 99
pedantic expressions or circumlocution - in order
to bear upon the mind of the reader the whole
weight of his learning and scholarship
From the day that he ushered under the shade of the
Blessed Tree he forewent every pleasure and
cut his heart from every worldly station. He asked
for no comfort, he sought no rest, he longed for no
fame and he wished no rectitude or name. He
lived afar off, above the thoughts of conflict and
supremacy which are waging war on the battle-
field of the minds and the hearts of many people.
Until his very last breath he served at the Holy
Threshold!

How learned was he! How wise was he! How well-
informed was he! His understanding was marvellous
and his wisdom beyond comparison. He was
acquainted with the master-thoughts of the authors
of every nation, he was equipped with the
knowledge of the Holy Scriptures of all the

the religions. He knew the contents of Zoroastrian and ^{the} Zoroastrian literature. He had a most comprehensive knowledge of the Bible and the Gospel. He was apprised of their inner meanings. He had mastered the opinions and theories of the philosophers of the past, and the Ideals of the spiritual scholars were known to him. He was deeply versed in the Universal history of mankind. All the learned men and scholars of the Islamic world, especially those who reside in Egypt ^{and} had conversed with Mirza Abdul Haq have testified that he was a genius, a truly wise man. Notwithstanding ~~this~~ his character was never tinged with any vanity or self-conceit.

"In the path of the blessed Perfection he suffered much persecutions, hardships and afflictions. While being pursued by the enemies he was serene and composed. The sword of Damocles often hung over his head. Finally he was thrown into the prison ^{in Sehergan}. In those days Nassir-Eddin Shah

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was borne on the crest of the raging waves of wrath against the Bahais and Nazeih - os - Saltaneh was no less exasperated and indignant. Notwithstanding these two mighty forces of opposition yet he withstood them with the utmost firmness, with infinite steadfastness and in his examination in the presence of the latter dignitary he proved conclusively the validity and truthfulness of this Revelation. With other teachers of the Cause he spent two years in the prison - till the Hand of Might and Majesty saved him from the claws of the wolves. I never heard him mention the details of his ordeals and trials in the Path of Abha. One day we were discussing together certain matters relative to the Cause and one thing brought another and the stirring events of those early days were reviewed. In answer he said: 'The courageous and dauntless stand taken by Sheikh Reza Yazdi' during our imprisonment was so unparalleled and heroic that in comparison with him none of us really served the

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the Cause. What he said restored tranquility and peace of mind to the authorities. When were cross examined we always answered in wisdom and did not explain the Teachings plainly. Nazeer-
os-Saltaneh realizing this could not trust in our statements. Then he sent for Sheik Reza and inquired from him the tenets of this movement. With an eloquent tongue and lucid explanations he went over all the teachings of the Blessed Perfection and then got up from his seat and prayed before him and others to show them the form of our prayer. Then he said: 'I have now told you all our doctrines and beliefs, the sources of which are the writings of Baha-Allah. It is very easy to verify them by reading some of the epistles revealed by Him. What I told you correspond with reality. There is however another Command of Baha-Allah which is explicitly obeyed by all the Bahais and it is they must not at all interfere with the

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political affairs of the country in which ^{they live} they live.

"As none of us dared to speak so plainly and as Sheik Raza spoke without the least veil Nayeh - Saltanah felt confident that ^{we} were harboring no intrigues or revolution against the established order of government. This was all that I heard from Nurza Abul Fazl about the time of his imprisonment. This was also of course in the praise of the courage of one of his fellow-prisoners. He did not say: 'I said so and so, I suffered so and so..'

"In short, the hearts of all the believers of the world were attached to him. He was the brilliant lamp of this Cause, ~~he was~~ the shining light of guidance, ~~he was~~ the sparkling star of knowledge, the luminous orb of understanding and a sea tumultuous with the waves of wisdom....."

After the talk the Master retired to his room in the house of Aga Abbas Goli, the Keeper of the Tomb. He will ~~stay~~ tonight and sleep here. My nest is about twenty feet far from the house and from my window I see ~~the tomb and the house~~ his room.

It was altogether a wonderful meeting. All the American believers were remembered in the Holy Presence of the Beloved and in the Blessed Tomb of the Bab. Let us all pray that we may also so live and serve the Cause as to win the glorious good-pleasure of Abdu'l Baha, the Master of the World.