

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 19th 1914

Dear friends!

"He hath made of one, all nations of men."

One of the principles of the religion of Baha-o-llah is the oneness of the world of humanity. He hath ^{this} made the foundation of the Bahai Cause and the sharp weapon with which they are fighting against the disintegrating powers of darkness. ~~The nature of every Bahai is kneaded with the milk of human law.~~ ^{Every Bahai} He lives in the rarified atmosphere of divine brotherhood. Irrespective of race, nation and religion he considers all mankind as the members of his own family. "The world is my home" is the simple motto of all the Bahais. God has deposited the love of his children into their hearts. They are prompted by humanitarian ideas and have completely discarded the veils of prejudices. They have broken the idols of plurality and have ^{entered} the Temple of God's Unity. To serve their fellowmen is their greatest honor and privilege. No word

is loved by them more than the word of "Service".

With the dawn of the sun the Beloved serves the world, relieves the want of the individuals, meets people of all faiths, cheers up the despondent, and sheds the sunlight of happiness all around him. Thus this morning as soon as I arrived and was walking through the flower-beds the Master sent for me and I hurried up the steps with the same longing and yearning of a newly arrived pilgrim. He was walking with firm steps and ^{as} I approached the door he came near and smote on my right cheek. "Is this enough for today?" He asked. Before I was ^{able} going to answer he told Basheer to bring me a cup of tea. Then he started to dictate Tablets to the Persian believers and a very long one to America. For about 3 hours the heaven of revelation was rent asunder and the heavenly Manna was continuously descending. Surely this pure water shall irrigate many lands and allay the thirst of many people. In these days his good health permits him to attend to the vast amount

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of increasing correspondence and quite a number of them
^{questions} are being answered. In the afternoon our Indian Phil-
osopher called on the Beloved and again propounded a
series of questions, philosophical, theistic and theologic,
such as the existence of God, predestination, the relative
station of Christ and Mohamad, the spiritual power
of the Manifestation of God, and the Unity of the
essence of the All-pervading Intelligence. Numerous
quotations were made from the Bible, ~~Quran~~^{and}
traditions to substantiate his remarks, the
man becoming more and more interested, till
at the end of a three hours conversation he expressed
amazement and satisfaction. Just before his departure
the Beloved dictated a wonderful Arabic oration
to Mirza Moncer, the eloquence and fluency of which
astonished our Indian philosopher. ^{Then} he was com-
pletely captivated. He knew the charm and beauty
of the Arabic language and so while the Master
was uttering those words of truth he sat there man-
nelling and lost in a sea of contemplation.

Seldom have I seen the Beloved manifesting such wide range of Knowledge and such infinite versatility of information on the deep subjects of Eastern philosophy and religious lore. It made me most happy to be present and listen to him who holds in his hands the scepter of power and majesty. Surely this Indian scholar had come with other thoughts in his mind, but now after hearing ^{the Master} for 3 hours ~~to~~ ~~the Master~~ he was wholly changed. Speaking about the opinion that God is the Creator of both "Good and evil" he said :- "It is self-evident that God is the source of Confirmation. Were it not for his Confirmation man could accomplish nothing. Help must come from Him. For example the power of a provincial governor must come from the central authority. If he is not vested ^{with} executive powers by the Shah or the King he is unable to accomplish anything. He can treat with fairness and justice his subjects or deal with them in the spirit of a tyrant. But the King has given ^{him} the laws

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whereby to guide himself in all his dealings with the people fairly and equitably and not commit ^{any} injustice."

Speaking about his own station he said:- "Just as you are a servant of God I am also the servant of God. I am the absolute servant of the Almighty without implication or interpretation. I glorify in my servitude. This servitude is my glorious Crown, my Ultimate Hope, my highest aspiration and my holiest station. I have no other titles save this. All other titles are superfluous, empty ideas and spurious presumptions. This Cycle is the cycle of light. There are old terminologies based upon ignorance and superannuated superstitions. The quintessence of our purpose is servitude at the Holy Threshold. Whosoever is the servant of God he is a follower of all the teachings of the Divine prophets; those spiritual teachings which were taught by Mohamad, Christ and other Messengers of God. We must obey and practice these principles. These are the virtues of the world of hu-

humanity. These virtues consist of the Love of God, the Knowledge of God, philanthropic deeds, service.

Forms and rituals may be necessary to some people but the primary foundation of divine religion is the knowledge of the Almighty through scientific and reasonable proofs. Now we have forgotten this essential object and have clung to a set of dogmas and creeds which will not help us at all. These ceremonies are like unto the body and the spiritual Teaching like unto the spirit. Imitation in religion is not allowable, we must find the 'Why' and the 'Wherefore' for ourselves.

The religion of God does not consist of prayers, fasting and genuflections and going to Mosque. God hath said: 'I have created man so that he may know me'

In the evening the believers of God gathered in the reception room and the Beloved received them with evident joy and pleasure. He spoke briefly, only for a few minutes, because the afternoon conversation had exhausted him. Then he asked Ostad Mohamad ali to chant a poem by Baba Allah.