

Bahai Nest

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Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

March 21st 1914

Dear friends!

Many cablegrams from ^{the believers in} America, Europe, Persia, India, Russia, Turkey, Arabia etc send their best wishes and Bahai greetings to the Presence of the Beloved. They are the white-winged messengers of good-will and fellowship between the East and the West. They are kindling the hearts of the people in the Love of God and the divine principle of human life. This morning we arose with thankfulness because the sun of a new year was rising from the Eastern horizon. The world was flooded with sunshine and the beautiful flowers filled the air with ^{their} sweet scent. Joining the Pilgrims we descended the mountain about 8 am to greet the Lord of mankind. The reception room was decorated with roses and the Master received all the friends with genuine love and friendship. What an all-glorious day it was! The birds were twittering outside on the branches of ^{the} orange trees and the believers

were supremely happy inside, because the heavenly Nightingale was singing the songs of joy and beatitude. Roses were distributed amongst all the believers. "Our feasts" he said "are very wonderful. They are unique and peerless. During the days of the Blessed Perfection we celebrated this National New year's day with great elaboration and festivity. Everybody was in the utmost joy and happiness, attraction and hopefulness. The New year's day is a day of pleasure and delight. Although in those days we were prisoners, yet according to our ability the room of Baha-Allah was decorated with roses and flowers and there were a variety of candies and bonbons which were distributed amongst the friends with his own Baha-Allah's hands These days are the days of feasting and rejoicing, days of love and good-fellowship, days of receptions and banquets, days of meetings and assemblies. Because these days are vacation ^{days} great conventions and Congresses must be held therein

people do gather together to deliberate on measures of universal import. They must strive to solve such problems which would yield eternal results and consult about such matters which would benefit the world of humanity; - so that at the end of the vacation the members of the community may become richer morally, spiritually and intellectually and better means of livelihood for the poor be provided - thus may they become happier and more comfortable. For example if during such days a Great Consultative Bahai Convention were to be organized its results would be infinite. Each session must be devoted to the consideration of various vital types and humanitarian principles and several sessions be devoted to the discussion of the way and means for spreading the Cause in different parts of the world and declaring the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom to all mankind. The benefits of such a Convention will be universal and all the Bahais will be made very happy and enkindled with the

Fire of greater activity and zeal. The Bahai world
 will be inspired with new vision and will be
 impelled to enter into broader fields of labor. On
 such feast days the rich members of a community
 must spread large feasts for the unfortunate ones
 and contribute toward the maintenance of
 charitable, educational and philanthropic
 foundations - thus the spirit of holiday and
 merry-making may be shared by all, and
 not only by the well to do. On such days the
 wealthy as well as the indigent must become
 mirthful, lively and joyous. "

After relating a short, touching story of how
 he spent a similar Newyear's day with Baha-
 Ollah in a lovely garden near Bagdad and how
 its memory is never effaced ^{from his mind}, he asked Shikh
 Mohamad Ali to chant the Tablet of the
 Feast, especially revealed for an occasion like
 this by the Supreme Manifestation. I had
 never heard it before and if I get an opportunity

I will translate it in the course of time. When the meeting was brought to a close and the Beloved left the room, all the believers started to wish each other a happy Newyear, each embracing the other and kissing the cheeks three times. What love and genuine affection exist between these sturdy men who have never seen each other before! I thought I had hidden myself in the corner of the room ^{watching} this wonderful scene of the manifestation of the spiritual love, but I was found out and driven out of my hiding-place. In a second I was surrounded by all the men - young and old - each clamoring to kiss me first, I fell into it for good. All the avenues to escape were harried and I had to yield to the inevitable. After this happy reunion we ^{were} all seated in the beautiful rose-garden and till noon we were talking together about the privileges of these spiritual days. Mirza Ali Akbar gave a large dinner on the slope of Mount Carmel inviting all the believers. Tables were laden

with delicious meats and fruits. The women folk were entertained with a similar feast in the house of the Beloved. In the afternoon, Persian, Arab, Turk, Zoroastrian and Jewish Pilgrims chanted poems and Tablets and the utmost love and amity ruled the hearts. Many believers came from Acca and joined us in the feast. Mirza Ali Akbar was the center of felicitation wherever he happened to be. In the afternoon a number of young Bahais took the bridegroom under the Pines and we passed an hour of blissful remembrance of those days that Baha-Allah passed under them.

Our Indian philosopher called on the Beloved about the evening and had another long conversation with him on the philosophic and religious questions of Islam. This time he was more attentive and wrote down everything the Master told him. When he returns to India filled with these spiritual teachings he will be an indirect influence in the promotion of the Cause.