

Babai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 26th 1914

Dear friends!

When our Beloved was in New York City he attended a Meeting in the Bowery Mission on April 19th 1912. Last year the believers got together and held another meeting on the same date commemorating this rather historic event. The Bowery Mission is an Institution devoted to the interests of the poor people and is trying to assist them not only physically but morally and intellectually. Last year the Master sent them a message from Germany. This year he sends them his message from the foot of Mount Carmel. He says:—

"O ye my beloved companions! The people of the world are divided into two classes. One class are the rich (capitalists) The rich make a display of the showy and gaudy tinsels of this material world and attach their hearts and souls to the wealth of

This mound of earth, which wealth like unto a ^{II} vanishing shadow disappears at every moment. The other class are the poor. (laborers) They are free from the tarnished possessions and stained decorations of this earthly life. Hence they must attach themselves to the ^{world} of the Kingdom and connect their hearts with the heavenly Universe. This is the Eternal Gift! This is the everlasting Opulence! The treasure of this earthly sphere will in the end cause perplexity and vexation; whereas the treasure of the Kingdom is increased day by day, is conducive to the tranquility of the heart and the soul, confers never-ending Life and cause its possessor to shine and gleam like unto a star from the horizon of the Realm of Night. Thus it is revealed in the Holy Book:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the naked: for they shall be clothed.

Blessed are the hungry: for they shall satisfy their hunger at the Table of Divine Sustenance.

Thus it has become evident that we who are poor, although we are deprived of the earthly food yet we

have taken a portion from the Table of God's inexhaustible supply. Although in the estimation of the people we are lowly, yet in the eye of God we are dear. Although we are hungry, yet we have partaken of the heavenly bread. Although we are naked, yet we are honored with the Garment of the Most Eminent Bestowal! A tree destitute of leaves and blossoms will become green and verdant through the grace of the Spring. A piece of earth freed from all other plants will be transformed into emerald meadows and charming flowers. Although we might have difficulties and afflictions in this ephemeral world yet composure and bliss are destined for us in the realm of Night. Although the terrestrial lamp is extinguished in our home and nest, ^{yet} we enjoy the illumination of the heavenly Lamp. Although we are bereft of the mundane pleasures and comforts yet we have received a goodly share from the ideal of delights and super-mundane enjoyments.

All the prophets of God and the Holy, Divine Manifestations did not attach their hearts to the

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comfort, composure and riches of this impermanent world.
Even His Holiness Christ crowned His head with the
Diadem of Poverty and attached his heart to the treasure
of the Kingdom. From this it is made manifest that
poverty is not the cause of the degradation of man, neither
wealth does insure the honor and felicity of the world
of humanity. Were such the case, unquestionably all
the prophets of God would have been rich and Christ
would have been the first multi-millionaire in the
human world: while in reality, his bed consisted of a
few spans of earth in the wilderness; his lamps were
the stars of heaven and his food was no other than the
grass of the field. Hence it is clear that indigence is not the
means of humiliation. Undoubtedly that Divine
Being ^{has obtained in every way} could by every possible manner prepare the
means of comfort and ease for himself; but in order
to make his advices effective upon the others and ^{to} console
the hearts of the poor, he clad himself in the garb of
Poverty, crowned his head with the Diadem of Poverty
and outwardly he was homeless and shelterless.

Takeenie His Holiness Baha-Allah spent many days in the utmost poverty. During the term of his imprisonment in Tehran his daily ration was ²⁰⁰⁰one bread only. According to the opinion of some people it is impossible to imagine greater poverty than this! Often he passed his time amidst the greatest want and need; while He was easily able to gather around himself the means of livelihood, affluence ^{and} luxury.

The accumulated wealth of the present day nations of the world, in comparison to that which is hidden in the earth is only a drop compared to the illimitable sea. How many rich gold and silver mines are concealed within the bowels of this earth and how many precious gems are buried under the ground! Consider how rich is this weak earth, and all to no purpose!

Therefore as long as you are able, yearn for the treasure of the Kingdom, seek ye the wealth of the celestial world, search after the everlasting Bestowal, abide and live in the heavenly Palace and partake ye a share ^{and} a portion from the Divine, Spiritual Food. Thank ye God.

that ye are the object of the compassion of the Lord of the
mankind, for His Holiness Christ says: Blessed are the poor

I hope also that your daily bread may be provided and in
the Most Eminent Bestowment you may become the partners
and associates of Abdul Baha. I beg of God that the means
of prosperity and success be prepared for you from all
directions

(Signed) Abdul Baha Qubeh.

Having already written something on the question of
Bahai Consultation. I would like to quote herein the
text of a Tablet revealed today to one of the Western
Assemblies - thus showing his latest utterance on
this most important subject. He says:—

"The letter that thou hast written to his honor Mirza
Ahmad Sohrab was perused, The Board of Consultation
is radiant and spiritual and is most acceptable. It
is the cause of Confirmation from the part of the Clement
Lord. Consequently I pray that this Board of Con-
sultation may be continued and remain firm
and steadfast. It is assured that such a

Board of Consultation will have most great effect."

About the conditions of a teacher he writes:—

"Concerning the teachers of the Cause. They must live in accord with the Instruction of His Holiness Christ, so that in whichever city they may enter, on the eve of their departure they may shake even the dust of that city off their shoes. They must live in the utmost state of severance, attraction and independence, but if some one through pure love and with the utmost insistence assists them, ^{and if} they accept such voluntary contribution, they have not committed any wrong. Notwithstanding this, it is better for them to live with infinite sanctification and holiness: Unless they are in great want...."

The most interesting event of the day was the visit of a dozen of American tourists to the Beloved. They had sent word that having heard and read about the movement they will consider it a most great privilege if the Master was kind enough to receive them, so the time was arranged for the evening

The meeting was very much like one of the ⁸⁷ gatherings in America, When they arrived, the Beloved welcomed them with open arms and gracious manners. One of them asked about the teachings and the history of the Cause and this gave the Beloved the opportunity to speak for more than one hour stating the principles one by one and emphasizing them with such force and power that the listeners were greatly impressed. Toward the end of his speech he said: "I hope the day is coming when all ^{the} nations gather together in the spirit of fellowship and embrace each other with perfect amity, that they may live together like a flock of doves." "This will be a heavenly state!" one of them exclaimed. "Yes" the Master said "We must establish heaven on the face of the earth." "If we live here such a life of ^{brotherly love} brotherliness it will be heaven" another one said. Then the Beloved discussed in detail the questions of international Peace and Universal language and pointed out the benefits which will be

accrued to the world of humanity through the adoption of both. When they left the house the Master retired to his room very exhausted but in good health.

This morning the Beloved while walking to and fro in his own room dictated a number of Tablets to the believers in Persia and England giving them instructions regarding the various matters in the Cause. ^{Abdul Baha} ~~Then~~ While he was dictating, an Arab was announced and after a few minutes another one came in. In a psychological way the ^{Abdul Baha} ~~Master~~ realized that these two grown up children of nature were ^{not friendly} ~~at~~ cross with each other and as a subtle mechanic of human nature he started immediately to establish conciliation between them. One of them sat ^{then} inwardly growling at his enemies. At first the Beloved ^{Abdul Baha} spoke to them in such a manner ^{as} to make them laugh. They ^{did} not wanted to laugh, neither did they wanted to look at each other, but they could not help but to do both. Thus the ice was broken. Then with his deep insight into the disposition of these men he said:—

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"Are not men really childish! The life of man is but a few
days; ^{then} death overtakes him. Is it not foolish to attach one's
heart to ^{worldly} its love and hate? Why should we let envy and
hatred separate us! The strange part of it is, that they have no
outward existence. Happiness is the King of our hearts. Let
us not part from it. If the candle of happiness is ignited
in the chamber of the heart all the foreboding gloom of evil
suggestions will be dispelled. My home is the home of
happiness. My home is the home of unity. My home is the
home of Peace. My home is the home of joy and delight.
My home is the home of laughter and exultation. Whoso
ever enters through the portals of this home must go out
with a gladsome heart. This is the home of Light, whosoever
enters therein must become illumined. This is the home
of Knowledge, the one who enters it must receive know-
ledge. This is the home of Love, those who come in
must learn the lessons of love, thus they may know
how to love each other. Whenever I see the people
exercise love and good-fellowship amongst themselves
my heart is exceedingly rejoiced.

"God willing you will always love each other. Praise be to God that you are brothers in faith, you are the citizens of one country, the inhabitants of one town, the members of your family have known each other for years. Then why this feud? Why this ill-feeling? Why this mutual hatred?" Then he related to them story after story making them now laugh and now serious. Finally when he observed the time had come, he got up from his seat and asked them to kiss each other and be true friends ever afterward. "Is it not much better to be friends than enemies?" ~~The~~ ^{he} Master told them. Then he went into another room and brought candy and two ^{silk} handkerchiefs for each one. "By this token you are plighted together for ever". With what patience, perseverance and loving-kindness he made these two enemies friends! "We are the slaves of Abbas Effendi. We will do thy holy bidding. It seems God directed our steps to your home this morning," they said. While 2 hours ago they could not look in each other's face, now they left the house laughing, holding each other's hands as a sign of their amiable relations.