

No 21

- 2 The Arab girl who drowned herself in Euphrates before the eyes of her father By A. B.
- 18 Formation of women's clubs in Constantinople By M. A. Sahrah
- 27 Charitable Societies in Haifa and Acca By A. B.
- 53 The aqueduct bringing water to Acca and how and when it was built By M. A. Sahrah
- 71 The ^{reason for the} reluctance of Abdul Baha to be photographed By A. B.
- 85 The cat, the lion and the woman By M. A. Sahrah

No 21

Diary Mirza Ahmad Shrab

Beginning	March	29 th	1914
Ending	April	12 th	1914

Mount Carmel. Haifa. Syria.

Acre ————— Syria.

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel Haifa Syria

March 29th 1914

Dear friends!

A number of prominent Sheikhs from Damascus ^{They made this trip especially} arrived to-day to meet the Master and ~~inquire~~ ^{ask} from him a number of questions on religion and theology. They have taken especially this trip to speak with the Beloved. For nearly 3 hours they were in his presence, asking an infinite number of questions and receiving answers which satisfied their ~~brain splitting~~ minds. I often wonder at the ~~really~~ marvellous patience of the Master. It seems to me these theologians of Islam spend all their precious time on the discussion of these futile, unproductive questions of metaphysics and ultra-mundane problems. Their brain-^{does} ~~power~~ ^{would} ~~do not~~ work along those lines which ~~will~~ ^{could} accrue benefit to the world of humanity. While the Western people invent the Eastern nations' philosophy!

In the afternoon all the Pilgrims and resident Baksis of Haifa gathered in the garden of the Beloved and a photograph was taken on the steps of the Holy Home while He stood in front. This makes the fourth photograph that the Oriental believers have taken in the Presence of their Lord. How happy they are when they realize that they are thus privileged to be photographed with the Beloved of their hearts! Chiré Akbar, Sheekh Mohamad Ali, N. R. Vakil, Sayad Mostafa, Mirza Ali Akbar Rafsanzay, Mirza Ali Akbar of Russia and other prominent teachers of the Cause were present. ^{After} Once the photographing was ^{taken} over the Master took a ^{drive} ride in a carriage and returned after an hour.

In the afternoon a number of Arabs called on him. In the course of his conversation on spiritual happiness and the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom he said: ~~While~~ I was living in Bagdad one day I was walking beside the river of Euphrates. Being ^{Friday} many people

had come for recreation. Suddenly my attention³ was attracted by a wild-eyed girl who was running fast toward the river pursued by a very large number of men and women. Without one moment's hesitation she threw herself ^{into} the river and walked on and on till water reached her neck. Then she stopped and turned her face toward the distressed and suffering crowd. They ^{feared} ~~were~~ afraid if they followed her one more step she might drown herself. A man from amongst the crowd whose face was a picture of agony and pain and could be no other than her father, cried out toward her: Oh! My darling! O my beloved! Why, why dost thou drown thyself at the prime of thy age? 'My heart is satisfied with this life. It is filled with sorrow. I wish to live no longer,' she answered. The father thinking that he could win her by fair promises said: 'Come, thou back! O apple of my eyes! I will prepare for thee ^{all} ~~the~~ ^{what} thou desirest. I will build for thee a fine house and fill it with rare treasures.' 'I wish none of thy house, tell me something that may gladden my heart' she

4 answered. 'I will buy for thee all the jewelleries that
thou cravest ~~after~~' 'What ^{can} the jewelleries ^{can} do for
me? I long for something to rekindle the fire of my faith.
'I will build thee the most enchanting gardens wherein
thou mayst walk at thy own good pleasures'; 'I am
seeking after the garden of Allah, hast thou a clue to it?
'I will take thee to foreign lands and as far as Europe
and thou wilt see many wonderful sights.' 'Canst
thou not lead me to the wonderland of spirit, where
I may enjoy the heavenly gardens and cities of God?'
'I will get for thee a prince to be thy husband' the
father cried out in desperation, not understanding
her language. 'No! No! No!' the girl answered back.
'My heart is not attracted by any one of thy fair promises.
After a few years they ^{all will} ~~are~~ perished. Now I know that
none of you can supply my need. My heart longs for
that Thing the nature of which is unchangeable, but
you are offering me Things which are not only
^{perishable} ~~changing~~ but ^{would} ~~shall~~ increase my heedlessness.' While
the people looked at each other with astonishment

and tried to interpret her words she got further in ⁵
the river and so she was seen no more. Now it is
clear that ~~was~~ ^{had} they ^{been} able to give her the glad tidings of the
Kingdom she would not have drowned herself. Thus
every soul must strive to impart that joy and happiness
to mankind the nature of which ^{is} permanent.

The other day Bahram, the caretaker of the house of
Baha-Allah in Acca and his wife and daughter ⁵ ⁶ ⁷ ¹ ² ³
Aleppo and Bagdad started for Teheran. His son, Fariborz
is living there and they are going to be with him.

Today 3 Pilgrims received permission to return
to their respective homes: Meyreez, Sheraz and
Bombay. In his farewell talk the Master ^{said} to the
"Praise be to God that you have attained to the
object of your hearts. For many days you visited
the Tomb of the Báb and prayed at the Threshold
of Baha-Allah. With the utmost spirituality and
attraction you associated with me and repeatedly
listened to divine Exhortations and advice.
I hope when you return each one of you

will become a divine banner and a shining lamp,
 that you may breathe into the dead body of the
 world ^a new spirit, become the means of the glorifi-
 cation of the Cause of God, and ^{be} as pure channels
 for the promulgation of the Word of God. May you
 bestow heavenly spirituality upon the souls, and cause
 the appearance of the hidden virtues of attraction and
 severance! May it become manifest and evident in
 your face that you are returning with a new power
 and enthusiasm! May you become the means of
 the ^{awakening} ~~mindfulness~~ and ^{enlightenment} ~~awareness~~ of others! I will
 always remember you and pray for all the
 believers. Convey to them my love and greeting and
^{say to} tell them: 'I have done all that I must do.

Now it is your turn. you must work in
 the Vineyard of the Lord.' " One by one
 he embraced them and kissed them. They
 were weeping hard, especially our Zoroastrian

believer, Rustam Iran. These Persian believers! What can
 I tell you about them. Faith they have like fire; conviction
 they have like the rock of ages!