

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

April 29th 1914

Dear friends!

The first, the ninth and the twelfth days of the Rizwan holiday are to be celebrated with more importance and solemnity, and when in the future the Bahai communities grow large and strong all business ^{must} be suspended, great festivals be arranged and joyous fêtes be planned. For this reason as this was the ninth day of the Feast of Rizwan, early in the morning all the believers gathered in the rose-garden of the Blessed One. Filled with the anticipation of meeting the Beloved they were fully enjoying the ideal pleasures afforded at the moment. After half an hour Mirza Jalal announced, while standing on the steps of the house, that the Master will receive the Believers. Of the Pilgrims only three have been left ^{behind}, everyone has already departed. These three Pilgrims also will leave in ^{since our arrival} a day or two and thus for the first time, the Home will be quiet. I felt tonight very strange as I entered the Home and found not the cheering singing and

chanting of the Pilgrims. The air was very still and the pale crescent moon shone in the heaven, shedding its weak beams upon the calm scene of nature.

Thus you can guess when we entered the Presence of the Lord this morning we were not as numerous as in former occasions. Hence this was a meeting only for the resident believers. As tea was ^{being} served around, the Master started to speak: "This is a blessed day, a happy and joyful day. The beauty, the holiness and the significance of these days ^{of Rizwan} are not known now. This is the time of glad some bliss and ecstasy for the believers of God. Because we have lived ^{in the time} during ~~the~~ days of the ^{Baha Allah} Blessed Perfection and ~~have~~ experienced the great joy of those days, ~~their~~ celebrations ^{by us} are always shaded with a recurring sad recollection, but ~~for~~ those who have not seen Baha Allah with ^{their} physical eyes, ~~these~~ ^{they} days will be celebrated ^{these days} with a genuine hilarity and most thorough preparations. The beauty, the sheer joy, the exhilaration of the golden Rizwan days are now brought back to my memory and in reviewing them I find each day a perfect gem of spiritual rapture. During the nights of those days ^{of Baha Allah} we could ^{hardly} ~~not~~ sleep, because we ^{knew} ~~found~~ in our minds the unparalleled joy of meeting

^{him} Baha-Allah in the morning, standing in ^{his} presence, receiving
^{his} his Graces and listening to ^{his} his Words. This was the ninth day
 that ^{Baha Allah} the Blessed Perfection leaving Bagdad, stayed in the
 garden of Najib Pasha before starting for Constantinople.
 It is impossible to describe with ~~word~~ the beatific vib-
 rations with which we were surrounded in those days.
 Although to all outward appearance ^{Baha Allah} the Blessed Perfection
 was an exile, yet ^{he} he moved with such power and
 manifested ^{great} such majesty! The list of visitors calling
 on him during those 12 days looks rather like the roll
 call of an army. Those who had never seen him while
 he lived in Bagdad ^{visited him} called. All the leaders of the com-
 munity, the officers of the army and of the government
 X paid ^{their} visits; even the governor, Nalieg Pasha came X
 and Baha-Allah did not pay back these rather im-
 portant calls. Were one to reflect for one moment he
 will realize that such great events have never occurred
 in the history of the past dispensations! "

After this meeting he came out in the garden and for
 more than one hour walked in and out of the flower
 beds. "Throughout all the countries that I have travelled
 I have not seen a rose-garden like unto this. This is the

garden of Ismael Aga. His sincere devotion has made possible this flowery Kingdom, this fairy scene of matchless beauty, this dreamland of the Orient! Every blade of grass, every blooming flower, every budding bears testimony of his tireless zeal and industry."

One of those present spoke about the progress of the Cause in Russia. He said:- "As the Cause advances in all parts of the world, the governments will realize that the believers of God are law-abiding citizens and loyal, relying always upon the justice and fair-play with which they are treated by the central administration. Praise be to God that the Fragrances of the Merciful are being wafted throughout all the world." Then he continued to speak to us about other themes, instructing us in other lessons.

One of the radical changes with which we are threatened is the probable departure of our dear brother Mirza Mahmud Largani for India. The Beloved has advised him about this matter and like unto a disciplined soldier he is ready to comply whenever the final order is issued. Our dear brother has rendered most valuable service to the Cause from the moment he joined the party of the Blessed One, travelling with Him throughout America

from America and Europe

Europe and the East. His letters, eloquent with ~~earn~~ warm expressions and graphic descriptions kept the Oriental Bahá'is informed of the mighty events of those wonderful months. They are now re-written, re-constructed and put in ~~the~~ book form, ready for publication. The Master has given him His consent to publish them in India. Thus, one by one the members of the Master's Western tour are entering the active field of labor. Mirza Mahmood is now preparing himself to leave at a moment's notice but I believe it will be yet weeks before he actually departs for his chosen work. Mirza Ali Akbar also will leave ^{soon} for Bakou with his newly acquired wife.

The Consul General of England in Beirut with his wife and two daughters, accompanied by the English Consul in Haifa called on the Beloved before noon. He is a tall, stout and sturdy man, speaking Turkish very fluently. He spoke with the Blessed one on sundry subjects and we were very happy listeners. He gave them a number of newspapers containing long articles on the Cause. He gave a high tribute to the political sagacity, far-sightedness, constructive ability and humane nature of Lord Kitchener. When they came out of the house they walked around the garden and admired the beautiful

roses and daffodils and sweetpeas and carnations and lilacs.

In the afternoon the Beloved called on them and others and it was rather late when he returned.

In the evening our German and Austrian brothers arrived. They had enjoyed their visits to Acre and had seen all the interesting, historical places. As they were going to leave next day for Damascus and Beirut they had returned to Haifa at noon and ascending Mount Carmel, visited the Pilgrims' Home and the Holy Tomb of the Bab, taking photographs both here and Acre.

Beside our guests sitting around the table, Mrs Hoagg, Mirza Ali Akber, Mirza Hadi, Mirza Mohsen and this humble servant were present. The Master spoke to them about the greatness of the Bahai Cause, contrasting its world wide propagation with the religion of Christ during the Apostolic period. The menu was ^{composed of rich and} rich, ^{dishes} the dishes were delicious and everything was thoroughly enjoyed. After dinner we resorted to the reception room and the Master talked a long while, relating two very funny stories of how Muhamadans ^{while} consider the Christians unclean, are eager to receive money from their hands. Then he retired, leaving us to entertain them to the best of our ability.