

Tiberias, Sea of Galilee
Syria

May 28th 1914

Dear friends!

These are the spiritual days on the shore of the sea of Galilee and the almost hourly association with my Master brings me closer to him step by step. Here I have unrestricted access to him - so as to bask under the sunshine of His Presence for hours and listen to his words of love and ^{deeds of} charity. Like the tree of paradise he has grown tall and mighty, outstretching its green branches to every country and clime and bestowing cool shade to the sore-footed, perspiring way-farers. Thousands rain-bow colored plumed birds have built their nests on its top and every morning they break forth into a song of thanksgiving - a supreme concourse of sweet, symphonic voices; then fluttering their golden wings they soar away towards the height of spiritual contemplation and beatitude. This is indeed a Tree, the blessed Tree planted in the "Paradise" of the world with the hands of God. The "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb" is no other

than the river of revelation, laws and principles ~~which~~^{has} issued from the pens and tongues of Baha-Allah and Abdul Baha. The tree of life is the Center of the Covenant which is bearing many kinds of fruits and yielding his fruits, not every month, but every day and every hour; and the leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations. From his holy lips proceedeth no curse and no execration, but mercy and clemency. The throne of God is established in the city of pure hearts and his servants are serving him, nay rather they are ready to give up their lives for him. Have they not looked into his serene, God-like face? Have they not beheld his spiritual Countenance? Are they not enraptured and enthralled with his smiles? A Bahai is known by his deeds of service to and love for humanity; hence his name is written on ~~their~~^{his} foreheads. For the believers there is no night of distress, no darkness of misery, no gloom of doubt and uncertainty; they do not need the candle of worldly knowledge, speculation and philosophy, the dim, flickering light of dogmas and rituals; nor are they dependent upon the sun of the past movements and dispensations; for

the Lord God is in the midst of their congregation. He
 illumines their hearts and minds with the white light of His
 Absolute Knowledge; He instructs and guides them ^{during}
 all the days of their lives. He will place on their shoulders
 the burden of the spiritual illumination of the world of
 humanity. They shall reign or in other word they shall
serve for ever and ever. They will be the true, humble
 servants of all the people; for the Lamb has chosen
 for himself the Crown of Servitude. Humility and self
 sacrifice. This is the reign that shall last throughout
 centuries and cycles. The fact that shows this latter
 day religion is a religion of pure, spiritual democracy
 and universal fellowship and not one of authority,
 superiority and leadership appears from the following
 verse in the same chapter (22) of Revelation of which
 we were speaking. "And I John saw these things, ^{and}
 heard them, And when I had heard and seen, I fell
 down to worship before the feet of the angel, which
 shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me,
 See thou do ~~it~~ not; for I am thy fellow servant,
 of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep
 the sayings of this book." Thus we observe that

we are all fellow-servants and brethren and in this title we must glorify and be proud, because there are many people nowadays who either publicly or secretly are assuming this big title or that high sounding appellation; but the Bahais who are the people of God and the followers of the Scriptures do not care for any other title save "servant and maid-servant".

Today Mostafa Ramzi Pasha, an old retired general of the Turkish Army and a devoted admirer of the Beloved arrived from Beirut and for the next few days he will be the honored guest of the Master. The general is a striking personality, a scion of nobility and a man of wide influence and popularity. The Blessed one went to the wharf to welcome him and conducted him to the hotel. Both at lunch and dinner, in the morning and afternoon he spoke much with him. Other prominent citizens when they heard about his coming, called on him and hours were spent in pleasant conversation, laughter and story telling. An old sheik called on the Beloved in the course of day. His complaint con-

~~sister~~ of having a large family with no visible means ^{of} support for the present, because he has been thrown out of work. The Master showed him love, told Khassro to bring tea for him and then gave him two English pounds. Then with His Excellency the Pasha he called on Doctor Terrence, the Physician of Scotch Mission Hospital. He stayed with him quite a long time. The doctor brought in some of the results of his ^{and} operations and showed them to the Master and his guest.

Mirza Abdorra-ouf brought several cablegrams from Haifa which were sent from Chicago, Paris, Atlantic city etc congratulating the Beloved on the Anniversary of his birthday. He was pleased and said: "Here in Tiberias I had quite forgotten the fact."

In the morning our Indian pilgrims entered into His presence. He welcomed them and asked after their health. Then he said:- "Today ^{whoso-} ever arises to promote the Word of God, the powers of the world of existence will assist him from all directions. Teaching the Cause is the

Magnet which attracts unto man Divine Confir-
 mations and crown his life with eternal results. The
 outcome of the effort of every man in this world is
 limited and unproductive as regards to its results, even
 if it is the sovereignty of the earth. It is like the
 shimmering mirage which draws the thirsty ^{traveller}
 but has no reality. The only thing that yields
 eternal fruits is the Love of God, the Knowledge of God,
 Faith in God, the perfections of Divinity and the
 diffusion of the Fragrances of God. These heavenly
 Bestowals will impart everlasting benefits, even
 on this earthly plane which is the lowest plane
 of creation. The traces of Kings and queens have passed
 away but the services of the servants of God have
 been handed down from Century to century. The descendants
 of Abbas established their seat of government in
 Bagdad and they ruled the Islamic world for
 500 yrs. Persia and Turkestan, Egypt and Arabia
 and as far as the Confines of Indus bowed to their
 authority. Thirty six Khalifs appeared one after
 another but today their memory is forgotten.
 All their palaces and royal residences are ^{ruined}

and not one trace is left behind; but the signs of the Master of the Martyrs, Imam Hossain are clear and manifest, even in this mortal world.

Although people see these things and observe these events with their physical eyes they are not made aware and mindful. Were it not for the nearness of God, what would have been the result of this physical life? Were it not for the effulgence of the Light of Guidance, where would have been the illumination of the world of matter? Were it not for the Giv of the Love of God, how could the life of man become a flame of sanctity and severance?

A number of ^{the} Zoroastrian believers came over from Adasayeh and he received them graciously. He asked them about their garden and the trees. Then he said: - "you are the trees of my gardens. you must bear much fruits and cast cooling shade over weary travellers in the paths of Truth. The souls of humanity are like unto the trees. Some of them bear sweet fruits and others produce bitter fruits

I hope you are the trees of the Garden of Abha which yields fruits for the satisfying of the nations. You must be most loving and kind toward each other and associate with the Arab tribes who are camping near you. This is very important."

In the evening again the Indian believers met the Beloved. He spoke with them a few words. They presented to him many petitions from the various friends. In conclusion he said:—"I pray at the Threshold of the Blessed Perfection to cause the realization of all your hopes; that you may be rendered successful in this life; that day by day you may become more attracted, more spiritual, more merciful, more severed from ought else save Him; that you may forget every thought and mention and concentrate all your ideas and efforts in the promulgation of the religion of God and the spiritualizing of the human race. I pray that you may become confirmed in this."