

Tiberias, Sea of Galilee
Syria

May 31st 1914

Dear friends!

If we can arouse in our minds as most earnest desire to be the promoters of the Glad Tidings of the Kingdom of Abha, we shall not find it necessary to look very far for clear instructions, for if we have insight we will find that this is the time of seed-sowing. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" sings the old Psalmist; meaning ^{that} if we are met with difficulties, trials and stumbling-blocks in the beginning, ^{we} will be rewarded with bliss and felicity in the end. If we could excite in ourselves an intense longing to herald the message of ^{Unit} and Peace, we ^{would} ~~should~~ know that we ^{should} ~~would~~ concentrate all our forces around one common aim and leave behind the smaller problems. If we could realize the responsibilities of being Bahais, we should strive day and night to carry out the Commands of Abdul Baha and would seek the good-pleasure of the Lord of mankind.

It will not be necessary to write so many letters^{and} consume so much time if we can feel spontaneously the urge of the spirit. Baha-Allah hath chosen us from amongst His creatures for some great purpose. We must not be satisfied to be only the lovers of Truth but we must be the spreaders of Truth, the teachers of Truth, the ensigns of Truth, the upholders of Truth and the lovers of Truth. The religion of the Blessed Perfection is the Truth, His laws are the mysteries of Truth; His imperishable character is the Kingdom of Truth; His immortal words are the songs of Truth. Baha-Allah is the King of Truth, the Founder of Truth, the Instructor of Truth and the Guardian of Truth. As His followers we must not fail to make this precious Truth known to all the people of the world; for they are thirsty for the water of Truth, hungry for the bread of Truth, longing for the gifts of Truth and aspiring for the presence of the beloved of Truth. The wreaths of Truth ^{must} bedeck the chambers of their hearts and the garlands of Truth adorn their heads.

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Our two quiet Zoroastrian pilgrims came this morning to see the Beloved and receive his heavenly benediction. They are so gentle and unassuming and have only few words to say, but they are full of love and kindness and would ^{do} make anything to make another soul happy. In the course of his conversation with them the Master said: "It is a mathematical impossibility that a soul may comprehend the purport of the Teachings of Baha-Allah and then arise to oppose them. The student will come to realize that these principles are as remedies for the sick body of the world and as ointment for its wounds and bruises. The darkness covering the face of the earth will not disappear save through this Light. This is the Truth and there is nothing beyond Truth but error." O

Then speaking about the debts of the Bahais who pass away from this life he said: "Whenever a believer dies and leaves behind debt, the friends of God must exert themselves to pay it off. If he has left some property or real estate they may dispose of it in the best

possible manner and meet the indebtedness of the deceased; if not, each person may contribute something toward a general fund and thus silence the creditors. This is the imperative duty of the believers."

At noon the Beloved was invited ^{out} to lunch and when he returned to the hotel he was perspiring heavily. The heat during the hours of the day is almost unbearable. Beside the heat there is the hot wind that burns like the ~~exhalations~~ ^{heat} of a furnace. This dry, extraordinary heat has caused canine madness in the town and nearly 20 persons were bitten by ~~these~~ mad dogs before they ~~could~~ become aware of ~~its~~ ^{the cause} presence. "Hydrophobia" was the cry of the civic authorities. The ~~populace~~ ^{people} were terrified. The ~~afflicted~~ ^{persons who were bitten} ones were ~~apprehended~~ ^{were cared for} by the officials and sent to Constantinople to be cured, while poisoned meat was thrown in the streets, so that the dogs ^{might} ~~may~~ eat ^{it} and die. The dogs ate the meat, but strange to say they ~~ran~~ ^{did} wildly and ~~threw~~ themselves into the Lake and vomitted the meat. Then

they returned to the town as though nothing had happened. The next day all such dogs were shot right in the streets and it ^{was} most agonizing to hear their howls and shrieks as they crawled hither and thither to die. Let it be said to the discredit of oriental cities and towns that generally their streets are infested with innumerable, ugly, emaciated, half-breed dogs, adding to the already existing dirt and foulness.

In the evening the Beloved had a select ^{company} as guests for dinner. There were twelve in ^{number} and a special Table was set apart for them. Amongst them was Gaemmagam, Mofti, the Judge, Ali Mansour Pasha, Mostafa Ramzi Pasha, Sheik Said Tahari and others. Aside from the hotel fare which was quite elaborate Khosro had also cooked Persian Pilaw and chicken. All through the dinner the Master spoke on various subjects interesting to his guests and when they arose from their seats and sat on the hotel Veranda, he talked to them about Oriental history and the origin and rise of the Ottoman Dynasty.

They stayed till eleven o'clock and when they left they knew that they had received a share of the infinite knowledge of 'Moulana'.

The Zoroastrian farmers from Adasayah brought for us several large baskets of apricots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions eggplants and gourds. The Master divided them between the house of Mirza Moneer and the hotel kitchen. This is now the season of apricots, prunes, cucumbers and mulberries. My favorite fruits ^{is the} are apricots and cucumbers. ^{I am very fond of} The Master likes all ~~the~~ four, especially mulberries.

During the afternoon the Syrian Correspondent of the Gil Blas paper in Paris called on the Beloved and had a long talk on the contrast of the Western and Eastern civilization and his tour in the United States and Europe. The man became so intensely interested that he asked permission to call another time and retired well pleased with the results of his interview and the talk of the Master.