

0

Page 19
" 91

English

No 27.

The Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab

Beginning June 30th 1914

Ending July 16th 1914

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
Acca.

- 11 Hallanders and ^{and others} English in the Persian Gulf.
- 19 Christ in the storm. by Abdul Baha
- 20 Christ and the Thornpickers. by Abdul Baha
- 42 The man who lived in his house for many years
and how he left it suddenly. By A. B.
- 56 Sheik Mahamud and Baha Allah. By M. A. Sohrab
- 58 ^{1/2} Abdul Baha and mat-weaving By M. A. Sohrab

Bahai West Mount Carmel
Haifa. Syria

June 30th 1914

Dear friends!

Mr Hans Springer of Stuttgart who is 22 years old and is a globe trotter called on the Beloved this morning. He makes all his travelling on foot and has already covered a distance of 35.000 Km. He is an Esperantist. As he puts on the dresses of the inhabitants of the country through which he travels he was today an Arabian gentleman, but his blue eyes, white skin and brown Van dyke beard heralded from far off his European origin. He spoke German, Italian, and Esperanto but I could not speak with him in any of these languages. Finding that he understands a little French we struck on that. At first glance the Master liked him. I will record herein his conversation with Mr Springer in its natural form of Dialogue.

Abdul Baha. You are welcome! Where dost thou come from?

Hans Springer. I come now from Jerusalem. From Egypt I walked to Gaza and Jaffa. On the way 15 Arab Bedouins

2 surrounded me and carried away all my belongings, even my shoes.

When I reached Jerusalem I was assisted by a member of Germans.

A. B. What is the object of thy world tour?

H. S. First. to spread the knowledge of Esperanto, because I believe it will help to unify mankind. Second. To see the world, to meet men of various nationalities and learn their manners and customs.

A. B. With what means dost thou travel?

H. S. The sale of this postal card containing my picture on one side and the benefits of the knowledge of Esperanto on the other is the sole source of my voyage. My needs are very few in number. I seldom eat meat. I eat only vegetables, bread and nuts.

A. B. Dost thou travel always on the surface of the earth? Would it not be excellent if thou couldst take a trip toward heaven?

H. S. Heaven? I have never heard any one going to heaven. This is impossible.

A. B. (Smiling) Why impossible? Did not Elijah go to heaven? and did not Christ ascend to heaven after his crucifixion and burial.

H. S. (Puzzled) I am neither Elijah nor Christ. I have not the wings to fly with. It seems to me there

must needs be a pair of wings.

A. B. Everything is possible. Christ says: Be ye perfect as your father in heaven is perfect. You can have the pair of wings. One is the Love of God and the other is renunciation from ought else save Him.

H. S. Then you do not mean this phenomenal heaven?

A. B. I mean the heaven from which Christ descended and to which he ascended - the heaven of the Divine Will, the heaven of Spirituality.

H. S. How can one ascend to that heaven? Is it not most difficult?

A. B. It is no more difficult than touring the world on foot. When the spirit of the Teachings of Christ takes possession of the heart and suffers man to become a servant of the world of humanity, then it will be very easy for him to ascend to heaven.

H. S. But in this age the Christians have forgotten the Commandments of Christ.

A. B. What hast thou to do with others? Live thou according to the Teachings of Christ.

H. S. You are right. I will do my best.

A. B. Whom dost thou think was Christ?

H. S. I believe he was a great philosopher.

A. B. Oh no! He was much greater than a philosopher. He was the Word of God, the Spirit of God.

H. S. Uhew! There are many scholars in Europe who do not believe that there was even such a person as Christ. On the other hand there are an increasing host of people whose faith in Christianity is shaken because the Ministers of the Gospel do not live in accord ^{with} the behests of their Master. They have become worldlings, wrapped up in traditions and dogmas. When I was in Jerusalem I observed the Christians have divided the Church of resurrection into so many sections like a Bazaar and they are at all time engaged in acrimonious controversies and factional fights; while they claim Christ brought peace and salvation. Where can one find Peace and how can one be saved? Through their wars they have banished the Prince of Peace from their midst and through their religious hatred for each other they have shut the door of salvation.

A. B. What you say is perfectly true. But we are not looking at the present conditions. Let us look at the glorious Life of Christ and those sanctified souls who came after him. Did they not embody in their deeds the ideals of their words? There has appeared many philosophers in the world but they are all forgotten. But because Christ was the

Spirit and the Word of God, he and his disciples through him⁵ became the fountains of the Water of Life. Now I hope that like unto them thou wilt also be the means of the illumination of the world of humanity and serve God.

H. S. Serve God? There is no one in this world who can serve God because we are not able to see Him. He is above our human ken. In my mind the only way we can serve Him is to serve mankind and try to alleviate the sorrows and sufferings of the people.

A. B. Christ served God and his apostles served God. Their service to humanity was a reflection of their service to God.

H. S. What are you doing?

A. B. I am serving God. I am the servant of God. I give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, the power of speech to the mute and knowledge to the ignorant. I raise the dead, I deliver those who are in darkness and guide them into the realm of Light. I make the poor rich and the weak powerful. I satisfy the hungry ones with the Bread of life and allay the thirst of the thirsty ones with the pure Water of Immortality. This is my work.

H. S. When I was in Stuttgart I attended an Esperanto meeting addressed by Abdul Baha. Does Abbas Effendi know him? He is a wise man and is in great sympathy

6
with the Esperanto language. He has many followers in Stuttgart. His religion is called Bahai.

(The translator informed H. S. that he has been speaking with Abdul Baha, that he is in his presence. Immediately he became more respectful and expressed great joy and happiness.)

H. S. Is it possible that I am in the Presence of Abdul Baha? I have been longing for this occasion.

(A. B. Taking up in his hand the last book of Tablets to correct, became silent. After a few minutes, conversation started ^{again}.)

A. B. Even a bird can fly around the world. It is not a difficult accomplishment. Therefore become thou a royal bird of the Kingdom and like unto the Angel soar toward the heavenly worlds. I can assure thee that thy experiences will be more than marvellous.

H. S. I hope to get a pair of strong wings to accomplish this difficult task.

A. B. I pray that when thou goest to Nazareth, the nativity of Christ, the spirit of God may descend upon thee and the wings of light be granted thee - so that thou mayest soar in the immensity of God's space and behold the wonders of His creation.

H. S. I will also pray for this.

A. B. When dost thou go from here?

H. S. From here I shall leave tomorrow on foot for Nazareth, then Tiberias, Beirut, Damascus, Constantinople, Caucasus and then entering Persia from the North I will get out from the South Persian Gulfs. Then India, Japan, China, Australia, Hawaiian Islands and the United States. While I was in Langibar ^{GoS} I entered a Church and to my horror I saw the pictures of Christ and Mary painted black.

A. B. Yes. Because they are black themselves, they think everybody else including God, Christ etc must be black."

In short, this was the outline of the talk. Meanwhile Khosro brought for him Coffee, tea and cake. Then the Master asked some one to bring him a dish of pistachios which he ⁱⁿ turn shelled, and gave ^{them} the meat to him. The time of parting drawing nigh he placed in the palm of his hand an English pound and wished him much success in his long undertaking. The cake and pistachios were also put in a paper and given to him for his lunch.

In the afternoon two Arabs called on him, staying with him for half an hour. Then he dictated a number of Tablets for the believers in Bakou. It was moonlight when he returned from his walk. "How beautiful is this moonlight night," he told us as he entered the house.