

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel.

Haifa, Syria

July 25th 1914

Dear friends!

"Come, sit down. . . Thou art my friend! Thou art my companion." Thus the Beloved addressed me as I entered the room and took a seat after his permission. Then he commenced dictating Tablet after Tablet till noon. Again I was ushered into his presence at 3 pm and many Tablets were revealed till six o'clock. In the evening Saemmagam and other officers called and stayed till almost midnight.

As this was principally a "Tablet day" ^{with you} I will share the contents of some of these gems of the Kingdom.

Through one of the pilgrims he writes to the believers in Merv, Russia:—

"O thou pilgrim of the Holy of holies of the Supreme Concurrence! Although in appearance thou hast left this Blessed Spot yet in reality thou art ever present in spirit; for thou art the bird of this rose-garden and the nightingale of this meadow and plain. Convey greeting and salutation on my behalf to the believers of Merv and say:—'Although

ye are the inhabitants of Turkestan yet ye are the dwellers at this Threshold. Outwardly ye are far away but in reality ye are ever present. The heart and the conscience of this yearning one is continually engaged in the remembrance of those attracted ones to the Orb of the regions. With the utmost supplication I upraise the hand of invocation toward the Court of the Living, Self-Subsistent Lord, begging for those beloved friends the Protection and Providence of His Highness the Merciful, the Clement;—so that under the Shade of "Sadratul-Muntaha" with the utmost joy, peace, love and amity you may become intoxicated with the Wine of the Paradise of Abha. Put ye forth extraordinary exertion ^{by} day and by night, so that ye may conduct yourselves in accord with the Divine Teachings; grant salubrious water to the thirsty ones and be the balm of heart and the healing of the spirit to the sick ones in both worlds.

Day and night the faithful friends are sacrificing themselves at the Threshold of Baha-Allah, are occupied with service, have no other desire save the rising of the Light of the Orb of regions and are in the utmost firmness and steadfastness in the Covenant

and Testament, "

To the Bahai Children of Portland, ^{Oregon,} he writes:—

"O ye children of the Kingdom! Your letters were received. Their contents became the cause of infinite joy; that praise be to God through the respected maid servant of God Mrs Latimer you are studying the Teachings of His Holiness Baha-ollah and are memorizing the Hidden Word. Be ye very grateful to this revered Maid servant, ^{because} she is the means of the progress of your minds and the expansion of your thoughts. Truly I say she is breathing in you the spirit of Eternal Life and that is the Teachings of Baha-ollah. The flowers that you have sent were most fragrant. "

The contents of a Tablet revealed to the Bahai young men of Eshtabad is very striking and its translation may benefit the youths of other countries:—

"O ye spiritual youths! Many a youth inhabiting this mound of earth is only thinking of this material plane and is engulfed in the passions of ^{the} animal world. His inordinate desire is after water and grass and his professional ambitions is to possess jewels and pearls, nay rather he is chasing after the lowest tinsel

and gaudy croqueri~~es~~es, but they are all ended in grief and remorse, / It is related that Sahakhtaken (one of the renowned ancient Kings of Persia) lived in the utmost grandeur and splendor. His Palace was like unto the delectable Paradise and his wives similar unto the angelic Houri~~s~~s. His table was provided with royal largesse and his life was similar unto a stream of milk and honey. His treasures were full and his riches unlimited. He was in the utmost joy and happiness. All of a sudden he was attacked with the maledy of ~~consumption~~ and was burning away like unto a candle and with ~~jeremiads~~ of disappointment he was singing the most mournful tunes. When he became hopeless of this life, three days before his death, he commanded all his chamberlains, wearing golden girdles to form a long line and ordered all the ~~the~~ ladies-in-waiting present themselves before him. His treasures, and all his precious jewels were ~~set~~ ^{set} on display before his eyes and his accumulated wealth was arrayed in dazzling fashion. Then he invited his Ministers, Courtiers, and statesmen to be present in the Throne Room on a certain hour and asked his immense army to be engaged in the manoeuvres of victory and triumph in the military

Square in front of the Palace. While sitting on his throne he looked regretfully now on this scene, now on another and again on all this matchless array of grandeur and magnificence and wept most bitterly, crying aloud: 'Oh! Why must I be deprived of this imperial sovereignty and royal prerogatives? Why should I not enjoy this life and bid farewell to all these things? How can I leave you behind, and empty-handed hasten from this world to another world?' He wept and wept till he drew his last breath. Now consider with what regrets he passed away from this life! Therefore it became evident that the end of the people of wealth is disappointment after disappointment: except those rich persons who expend their money in charitable affairs and dispense their wealth in philanthropic channels. Such blessed souls like unto the brilliant stars will shine from the horizon of Everlasting Glory.

Consequently O ye noble youths! Praise be to God that for the completion of the *Mashrekol Asfar* (in *Eshkabad*) ye have contributed beyond your ability; ye have no other object save the Good-pleasure of the Almighty; ye are successful in

both world and are well-known in the assemblage of mankind. I am hopeful from the Bestowals of the Blessed Perfection that the invisible Confirmations may become visible and the Prosperity of this world and the world to come be unveiled"

To two of the chiefs ^{of the} tribes of Persia who have accepted the Bahai Cause he writes:—

"O ye two respected souls! At this moment Abdul Baha is remembering those two pure spirits and while advancing toward the Kingdom of Abha he begs the fulfillment of the longing of your hearts and souls! Today the table of the Divine Bounties is spread in the meadow of the Love of the Almighty. This Banquet is well-provided, because it is adorned with all kinds of toothsome viands and delicious foods. Praise be to God that ^{those friends} ~~you~~ were invited to this Table - so that they may take a most prominent position in this spiritual entertainment, and sweeten their tongues with these delicate edibles. In a short while all the other tables will be rolled up, but this divine Table is spread forever and ever. The utmost is: It will be renewed;— so that the Wonderful Manifestation, the New Effulgence and the appearance of the Sun of Reality may become evident and clear"