

Bahai Inst. Mount Carmel
Haifa, Syria
August 13th 1914

Dear friends!

These are hot days in Haifa, as hot and as scorching as one would wish it to be. It is almost impossible to walk in the streets during the middle hours of the day. It is simply burning. The sun shines in the heaven with a dazzling and overpowering brilliancy. The mountain, green and flowery in winter and spring is dry, only the fig, the fig and the olive trees are verdant. One day is as hot as another. This eastern heat is however not injurious like the heat in New York or Chicago. If one walks in the sun he perspires a great deal but he does not receive the sun-stroke. Even the Beloved loves to walk in the heat and many a day, right before his lunch he walks ^{very slowly} through the streets of Haifa. While as I said it is very hot in the sun, it is comparatively cool in the shade and no matter what hour of day you happen to be in the Pilgrims Home or in my Inst, a gentle, cooling breeze is

blowing. The nights are fresh and cool. As I am^{not} called ^{upon} to perform any physical exercises I cannot complain very much of heat. On the other hand one who lives in the neighborhood of the Beloved must be most happy and a bringer of joy, no matter what ~~are~~ his outward conditions might be.

When I descended the Mountain this morning and sat in the garden for a few minutes just to enjoy the beauty of flowers - the Master like the shining sun of pure felicity came out of the house and started to walk. He inquired about our health and referred to the distressing news of the battles waged on the Continent of Europe. His spiritual forehead was furrowed with deep lines of thoughts, he was visibly perplexed, because he has realized more than any other human being the foolishness and heedlessness of men. "All the people" he said "are in great trouble. The foundation of humanism is shattered. There are thousands of souls who are thrown out of work and the light of public security is withheld. But all these sad events are founded upon the consummate Wisdom of God. Their results will become manifest

and manifest in the future." He continued to walk walking the colors and hues of the sky and the flowers for about 45 minutes and then returned to his room to attend to his large and voluminous correspondence.

In the afternoon I was again privileged to go into his Presence. Many letters had just been received from America and Shauqi Effendi was reading to him ^{them} contents. The good news of the unity and agreement in many Bahai Centres made him very happy. And he refers to this matter in a recent Tablet:-

"The glad-tiding of the association and good-fellowship of the believers in New York became the cause of extraordinary happiness. Today the unity, the concord and affinity amongst the friends are conducive to the utmost joy of Abdul Baha. Through this the world of humanity will become the world of the angels and the nether sphere will be transformed into the universe of the Kingdom

Referring to the contents of a small newspaper clipping in which was mentioned the name

in Chicago

of a once prominent believer, he said: - "There are many people who enter into this Cause with some preconceived ideas and finding their ideas cannot be engrafted on the Bahai Revelation, they leave it, but the door is always open before their faces. The quality of mercy is not restrained. God is ever forgiving and will accept the sincere repentance of His wayward Children. He will never close the Doors of His Kingdom. Man must also adorn his heart with this unchangeable attribute of Mercy. No matter how low a man has descended, how sinful he has been, how perverse has become his character, yet through the Power of Repentance and the Love of God, is he capable of complete regeneration. The sea of the forgiveness of God is ever ^{in motion} ~~unfathomable~~; the showers of His Pardon are always pouring down; the gale of His Generosity is incessantly blowing. He does not deprive His servants, no matter how disobedient and rebellious. Let them in the hour of prayer turn their face to God and He will cleanse them from all the impurities; He will make them as pure and innocent as the suckling babes.

If God turns us away from His Gate, then whose
 garment should we hold? If He shuts the Door
 of His Mercy to us; then at what door should we
 Knock? If He is not Kind and benevolent to us;
 then to whom should we appeal? If He is un-
 merciful and harsh towards us like ^{certain} ~~so many~~ people; ^{are}
 then where is our hope? No, God's power of forgive-
 ness is not restrained. With this Power He performs
 miracles and changes the metals into pure
 gold. His Love is as wide as the universe, nay, nay,
 it is limitless and boundless — a shoreless, ^{depthless} ~~depthless~~
 sea of spiritual Love. Let the sinners go
 to the shore of this sea and they will be
 washed of all their stains and blemishes,
 no matter how black. The sun of His
 Generosity and compassion is shining over
 all the creatures, let those who are chained
 in the prison of self and ^{desire} passion, break
 their fetters, leave their dark cells and
 come out into ^{the} God is our sunshine
 and bask under the soft warm rays
 of His Clemency. "

This evening the Beloved spoke on the effect of the blood of the Martyrs. He said in part: "Everyone of the believers of God martyred was like unto a pure seed sown in the ground which will yield a thousandfold. Although outwardly the seed sacrifices itself, yet in reality, it is the cause of life..... Through the blood of the martyrs the Blessed Tree has always grown and developed." Then speaking about Eltehajol Molk (the joy of the Kingdom) a prominent believer in Rasht he said: - "This Eltehajol - Molk is of a truth Eltehajol - Aho kha (the joy of the believers) He is a sincere, firm and steadfast man. He is always in the same state. He is not subject to any change and is ever serving the Cause."

He spoke about other subjects, full of wisdom and guidance. The meeting was brought to a close with the chanting of Tablets by Badi Bushru'i and when we came out the waves of a great happiness surged in our hearts and we ascended the holy Mountain, thanking and praising the Lord for all His good gifts to us. These days are so swiftly passing and we do not half appreciate them. Oh! for the peace of the peace that passeth all understanding; for the knowledge that gives us perfect freedom.