

Bahai Nest, Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

August 25th 1914

Dear friends!

The following is the translation of the Persian letter written under the above date:-

"During these days the talks and conversations of His Holiness Abdul Baha concern the bloodthirsty war waged on the continent of Europe and its incalculable damages to the world of humanity. Through explicit utterances and suggestive hints he is trying daily and hourly to impress upon the minds of the believers of God that in this world their responsibilities are very grave and their station is most lofty. The measure of their bounden duty to mankind is beyond computation. A Bahai must be a collective center of the attributes of Peace and good-will towards all nations ^{and} in which ever country he happens to live he must serve this illustrious Cause. With manifest deeds and eloquent words he must prove to all the peoples that a Bahai life is the life of Peace, his thoughts are the thoughts of Peace, the sustenance of his spirit

is the food of Peace, his path is the path of Peace, the fruits of the trees of his existence are the fruits of Peace, his Beloved is the Beloved of Peace and his daily effort is an exertion in the Cause of Peace. If the devotees of the Blessed Perfection and the Confirmed Bahais walk in this Highway of the Most Great Guidance with the utmost loyalty they will undoubtedly awaken the people of the world and will free them from this drunkenness of ignorance. For the outcome of the armed-peace of Europe was nothing but this universal barbarism and savagery. Although in the past years the countries of Europe were made large camps for the manoeuvre and drilling of innumerable armies yet they have now changed them into general slaughter-houses for the killing of millions innocent sheep and lambs and their green pastures are crimsoned with the blood of these people. The rank and file or the peaceful citizens of these countries have had never any quarrel with each other. They were the very last persons to precipitate this cataclysmal struggle; nay rather they were united together with the ideal relations of Commerce and economies

and the bonds of spiritual unity and accord had so harmonized them together that they were considered as true brothers and sisters.

Since the declaration of war, the Labor Unions, the Farmer's Societies, the factories' guilds have held large meetings in each one of these countries, have delivered fiery speeches and protested against the government's policy of war and carnage but the tremendous noise of the Halls of national and racial and religious prejudices and the cries and hues of those mean politicians and self-interested statesmen who are strutting abroad under the cloak of patriotism have completely drowned the voices of those who are working for Peace! It is as though all of a sudden the wine of bloodshedding has intoxicated all the sober-minded leaders of Europe and within 24 hours the assemblages of their sane and wise men were turned into insane asylums and the signs of a general insanity spread like wild fire in every home of the nations; the flames getting beyond control. Those who a few days ago were discussing the terms of Peace and better understanding suddenly

changed their tones and their cries of War! War! reached
 the ^{sphere of the} Milky Way. O men! What took possession of your
 brains and made you stark mad! Are you not those
 self-same people who organized international Congresses,
 Inter-Parliamentary Conventions, and ⁱⁿ each session
 delivered logical and well-balanced addresses in
 favor of Peace and the damages incurred by war? Did
 you ^{not} explain in harrowing words the awful scenes
 of the battlefield? Did you not call on humanity
 to extinguish this world-consuming fire? Did you
 mean to deceive men through your fair promises?
 Did you not believe in one word of all that you
 solemnly declared before the concourse of men?
 Were you so hypocritical as to announce lying
 policies? Where are all your protestations of the comity
 of nations? Where can we find the effect of those stirring
 speeches? Where are the results of those Conferences?
 Where are the fruits of the 2000 years of Christian
 training? Where are the lights of the non-resistance
 of that radiant Orb? Are you not ashamed to attribute
 yourselves to Christ? Is he pleased with your present
 actions? Is this your article of Faith? Are you pro-

professing to be Christians? Are you the sheep of that Divine Shepherd? If these are the fruits of your civilization, ^{where} are the fruits of the Divine Civilization founded by Christ? You are calling yourselves to be the followers of Christ. His Holiness the Spirit gave up his life on the Cross for the guidance of humanity but you are destroying the lives of men with Krupp cannons, Maxim guns, smokeless powder, howitzers, dread-noughts, submarines and the fleet of airships, dirigibles and aeroplanes. How can one ever reconcile the Teachings of Christ with your deeds of savagery. Oh! that you did not taint the glorious, white name of Christ with your dirty, black deeds nor attached that godlike name to your so called civilization! Indeed you are the followers of your own greed, rapacity, passion and lust and not Christ. Every day you are seeking to find some way in order to kill thousands of your fellowmen and every hour you are striving to lay waste the foundation of human felicity. You are sharpened-claws and bloody-tongued wolves who are disguised in the garb

of innocent lambs and are tearing to pieces the sheep of God.

The hearts of the Bahais all over the world are sad on account of this great catastrophe and severe affliction and their eyes are weeping because of this unparalleled calamity. They hope and pray that ere long these warring nations may leave behind their animalistic qualities, that they may walk in the Path of Fraternity, hearken to the anthems of Peace, sing the songs of salvation and be illumined with the rays of the Sun of international solidarity. The Bahais are not lying idle and protesting or praying alone; they are working, lo! and behold! everyone is doing his best to disseminate the seeds of Peace in the hearts and turn their attention to the benefits of Peace and arbitration. In brief this is the spirit of the Master's talks to every one who comes to see him. This morning I was called into his divine Presence and heard him speak with a number of Christians. He dictated a few calligraphies for the West and I came out of the room ^{delighted} even with these few minutes.