

5  
Bahai Nest, Mount Carmel  
Haifa Syria, Oct 11th 1914

Dear friends!

While the Orb of the Covenant is shining upon the world with the utmost brilliancy and the river of explanation and wisdom flows from his lips, the Bahais feel equal to their superhuman task and <sup>the</sup> responsible duties laid upon them by the Blessed Beauty. Through his divine example they are inspired to teach the Cause and uphold the efficacy of the Word of God and wherever they go they see the light of his Countenance in the faces of the believers. Without his continual spiritual presence the world is a body without spirit, a lamp without light, a horizon without sun and a night not followed by day. The waves of the sea of his ideal Knowledge are witnessed by all mankind and the rays of the stars of his patience and kindness illumine all the hearts. Those who have turned their faces <sup>words</sup> to him, begging his divine Confirmations are always assisted with the hosts of invisible angels. He is the tree of life and his words and Teachings are the fruits thereof. In his courts we are all his servants and from him we receive spiritual sustenance. With one voice and one accord the Bahai world acknowledges his supreme station, divine origin and heavenly Knowledge. Without the light of his countenance this world will be indeed dark.

This morning I was called into the presence of the Beloved. For a few minutes he spoke about the difficulty of sending away the mail and receiving letters. But he told me he will ere long find a way for the transmission and the receipt of correspondence. For the present we must withhold sending letters till he has developed his plan. He has sent words to Port Said that all the letters be kept there till further instructions; thus for the present we are cut off from all outside news and do not even receive the newspapers which give an account of the war. We are living in a world of Peace, breathe the air of Peace, hear the words of Peace, listen to the songs of Peace and associate with the Prince of Peace.



This afternoon the wife of Aga Sayad Yahya held a Memorial Service for the death of Basheer. As this was Sunday all the believers ascended the Mountain of God to participate in this Service. After having an interesting talk with Mr. Remy and Mr. Latimer we left the Bahai Nest and walked toward the Holy Tomb. The Master was in the reception room and Badi Bushru'i was chanting the Tablet of the Blessed Perfection revealed especially for such occasions. The Master welcomed our Western brothers and made them sit beside him. Mr. Latimer had a happy smile on his face and the Beloved called him a "laughing-angel". Then he said in English: "Laugh; smile very good". Addressing both of them he said:—"Praise be to God that you had a spiritual time in Germany. Although you did not enjoy your stay in Paris yet you made up for it when you were in Stuttgart. This was a very extensive and happy trip. Paris is the jungle of nature. The world of nature is the prototype of the animal kingdom and the natural instincts of the animals are materialistic. As the world of nature is the embodiment of the animal kingdom and as the instincts of the animals do not go one hair's-breadth beyond that of that nature, therefore Paris is akin to it. The laws of the animal kingdom are the laws of the material world and these laws hold a general sway over the minds of the materialistic France. On the other hand the German people are religious. They attend the Church every Sunday. When I was in Paris one Sunday I went to Notre Dame and found only a few worshippers huddled in one corner of that spacious cathedral which is like unto a sea. The American people are also a Church-going people. Similarly whenever Emperor William addresses the army he calls on God to give victory to the German arms but war and bloodshed have nothing to do with the God of Mercy and Kindness". Here Mr. Remy said the German army was instructed to read one verse every day from the Bible. The Master laughed heartily and



said: "What will the reader do if in his daily perusal he comes across the following verse: 'But I say unto you resist not him that is evil; but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.' . . . . I have read ~~the~~ the letters of the German believers. They write very eloquently. Their style is pure and spiritual. One inhales from those letters the fragrance of love."

Looking at Mr. Remy and Latimer he said: "You are two good friends. In conduct, in manners, in temperament and in sociability you are one." Then turning his sweet countenance to the believers he said: "Consider what the hand of God has accomplished! Where were we and where were these Western brothers of yours! Outwardly there is between us no physical nor material relation but the Divine Confirmations and the Heavenly Power have established this communion between our hearts! Were it not for this Divine Bestowal our gathering in this sacred spot would have been impossible. The Celestial Grace binds the hearts of men and cements together their souls for ever and ever!"

Concerning the death of Basheer he said: =  
 "This calamitous death of Basheer was a sudden, unexpected misfortune. Therein lies a great wisdom. It will appear later on. From the early years of his youth he was brought into the service of our household. When he was a very young boy he had a most happy disposition which followed him up to the last hours of his life. Everyone loved him, both friends and strangers. Once he fell from the high roof of our house in Acre but no harm came to him. No sooner had he struck the ground than he got up and walked away. It is <sup>most</sup> strange how at times fate overtakes man: Truly I say he was a dutiful young man and his passing away from this life was surrounded with happy and auspicious signs. The length and shortness of life is not considered important. Whichever man lives a few years or a hundred years the



purpose of his life is to achieve some definite results. If the tree of his life does not  
 yield those luscious fruits, the purpose of his existence has not been accomplished  
 even if he has lived many, many years. But if he has lived only a few years  
 and the tree of his life has attained to fruition, he has obtained spiritual success.  
 Consequently the duration of life is a conditional matter, subject to the  
 will of God. For example this stone has existed 10,000, or 20,000 or 30,  
 000 years but it has not advanced beyond the mineral Kingdom. It has  
 not yet achieved its final result. Again a merchant goes to his office  
 every day in the year; he plans commercial enterprises, undertakes vast  
 schemes, organizes large companies but at the end of the year he has not  
 gained any profits. On the other hand, another merchant, through one  
 stroke of good luck gains large profits in one day. Now the former  
 merchant, although he worked hard all through the year, did not  
 achieve any success, while the latter, although he worked only  
 one day, yet the outcome of his activity was prosperous. How praise  
 be to God that Bashir obtained the <sup>most</sup> great result from his blessed life.  
 When I visited him the other night I found him in a semi-uncon-  
 scious condition. He opened his eyes, looked into my face and said:  
 "Allaho Aלהa" and I answered him back "Allaho Aלהa". In brief  
 God doeth whatsoever He willeth and commandeth whatsoever  
 He desireth. No one can inquire into the wisdom of His actions.  
 What a happy youth he was! How good-natured he was! What a  
 sweet temper he had! What a simple disposition he displayed!  
 What a lovable character he displayed! What a firm faith he  
 manifested! His manners conveyed courtesy and politeness to every  
 one. He was kind to all. He served all the friends, irrespective of  
 their stations in life. He was never cross. Often I punished him  
 but my punishment never made him sad or unhappy. Once I did



beat him, but he did not become disconsolate because my aim was to educate and train him. Most wonderful! The more I punished him the greater became his love. On the other hand there are some people, that if I should welcome them with a hearty "Marhaba", they become offended. But Basher was just the opposite to this. Whenever I chastized him, he became happy. Firmness and steadfastness becomes manifest under these conditions. For the right kind of correction leads to the improvement of human character. When we were in Bagdad there was a man by the name of Mirza Mustafa, who while the Blessed Beauty was punishing him, was kissing His feet. Herein lies the real test; otherwise it is very easy to love a man when he welcomes you with a broad smile. The sterling ~~quality~~<sup>great</sup> of man bursts forth when he is surrounded with ordeal and trials. For this reason His Holiness Ali addressing the almighty in a verse has said: "If <sup>God</sup> Thou punisheth and correctest me for a thousand years, still day by day my supplication and entreaty will be increased at Thy Threshold."

After this general talk we followed the Beloved to the Holy Tomb and while he chanted the Visiting Tablet in a sweet, spiritual voice we worshipped at the Divine Threshold. How far away from the clink and turmoil of the world! Here indeed is the haven of rest, the Paradise of Truth and the Kingdom of Light. Day and night one is surrounded with the spiritual waves of inner and ideal calmness, one feels at one with all that is highest and noblest in the world of God. Today toward which direction one turns his face, he hears war, destruction and human misery, but in the neighborhood of Abdul Baha one is permeated with the atmosphere of Peace, construction and divine bliss.