

Bahai West. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria Oct 16th 1914

Dear friends!

"May God ^{give} thee strength to do all these works!" the Beloved told me as he handed me a number of Tablets to be translated in the course of day. He was good and kind, the embodiment of gentleness and gracefulness. Never can one realize duly how loving is Abdul Baha unless he watches his daily acts and listens to his heavenly words. If the whole ^{world} receive abundant share from the sea of his Love, still it is untouched. The ocean of his divine Mercy never sets, the waves of his goodness are never calmed and the wealth of his nature is never exhausted. His sweet nature is a mine of spiritual ideals; his heart a rose-garden of celestial susceptibilities and his mind a heaven of beaming stars. Whosoever takes shelter under his ever-shading tree he is protected from the blowing of contrary gales and his continual spiritual progress is assured. Those souls who have turned their faces toward him find to their extreme delight that he is a kind father, a solicitous Shepherd, a tender joy-bringer and a sympathizing Companion. With his love one can stand the opposition and rebuffs of the world and laugh in the very teeth of trials and afflictions. Devoid of his affection one is like a fruitless tree and a withered, colorless flower. Strengthened by his support one can move the mountain and achieve the impossible. He is the staff of all the Bahais and the rock of their salvation. Like unto the gentle breeze he wafts over mountains and deserts, causing the appearance of ^{the} fragrant helios of truth and odoriferous hyacinths of Knowledge. He overlooks the shortcomings of others and forgives freely the injuries committed against him. The birds of this garden of his reality ever warble and the rivers of his mercy are always flowing. In the book of his life one finds all kinds of lessons, for it is a compendium of the highest ideals of the age. Therefore, let us love him and serve him and consecrate our lives to his holy Cause.

After dictating two cables to New York and London and a number of Tablets for the
 'ersion believers he rode on his donkey and went down. He returned in the
 afternoon, because ^{he} had several guests - the government officials. He received
 them in the reception room of the building of the Holy Tomb and entertained
 them till about one hour before sunset. When they left in his ^{own} carriage,
 we made our way to the reception room and the Master welcomed us and
 made us be seated in front of the building. He asked Mirza Mohsen to bring
 him the tray of fruits - pears, apples and grapes and divided with his
 own hands amongst those who were present. Then he said smilingly,
 'These are the fruits of paradise, because they are being distributed amongst
 you in front of the Holy Tomb of the Báb.' Then turning his divine
 face to Mr Penney he asked:- "Are there many believers in the Island
 of Hawaii?" He was answered that there are a number of souls
 who are firm Bábais and the rest are interested in the Teachings.
 On account of the climatic condition of the Island the Master
 said: "These people become firm once they accept the Cause.
 Attracted teachers must go amongst these people - so that through
 his spiritual contact they might be converted and become
 souls in the utmost enlightenment." He sat there for a
 few minutes longer and the weather getting a little ^{too} cold
 he arose and entered the house.

Today we had another shower, giving freshness to the air
 and bringing to our nostrils the delicate smell of hay. From
 now on there will be occasional showers till the latter
 part of November when they will be changed into regular
 torrents;- thus causing the growth of myriads of sweet
 scented wild-flowers, carpeting the ground with
 their multi-colored petals and perfuming the atmosphere.

The little stories now and then related by the Master have a charm and originality of their own, showing the power of his minute observation and logical reasoning. For this reason I would like to quote ^{herein} an interesting talk by him interspersed with stories which I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I am translating it. One morning the Master was sitting in front of the house, wherein he lives nowadays on Mount Carmel. The weather was very pure, the sun shining and a gentle breeze was blowing. Around the house there are many pigeons and they coo most of the time. Having heard their sweet cooing the Beloved said: - "Did you hear the cooing of the doves? Just now some one fired a gun and they all became silent. How sweetly they coo! How lovely it is to see them enjoying their unrestricted freedom! Is it not cruel to kill these sweet little birds? How much better to see them tamed through the gentleness of man! In many countries of the West, laws are enacted to restrict the cruelty of man toward animals and in some states they ~~are~~ ^{are} hunted only at certain seasons. When I was in America I went through several large zoological gardens, some of which covered many acres. In these gardens hunting is strictly prohibited. There are other large ^{National} Parks in Western America which I have not seen, where I have been told, gazelle and deer roam at will and man is not allowed to interfere with their freedom. In these places the animals become so tame that they associate with man. How ideal this is; how perfect, how good!

"When we were in Bagdad, one day a company of small birds took refuge in a tree, because they were chased by a hawk. Some one took a gun and fired at the hawk. It fell dead to the ground. The birds became very happy and flew away, circling in the air and singing songs of joy.

"Another day we went from Bagdad to Salmani Pak (a village several miles from Bagdad.) On the way I saw a large bush of thistle under which numerous sparrows had gathered and over which perched a

hawk. The poor sparrows having seen the hawk, had sought shelter under the clump of thistle and the hawk had followed them. However, fate was against it, for one of the thorns had pierced its breast, causing its death. The sparrows unaware of this fact continued to remain there until they died of starvation. "Another day the Blessed Beauty desired to go to Salmaie Pak. This ^{message} was like a country-place and its weather being Baba Ollak liked to go there. A fine white donkey was brought upon which he rode while several of us followed him on foot. When we reached there we asked the keeper of the ^{nothing} Mohamadan shrine, whether he had anything for us to eat. He had, but told us there was a little hamlet six miles away, where we could lay eggs. At this moment, the Blessed Beauty heard our voices and came out of the room. He said: 'I will cook for you tonight a nice dish.' When the time arrived he said to us: 'Bring some dates and butter and I will cook for you a Kurdish dish. Put the butter in the pan, let it be boiled, then shell the dates and put them in. Then stir it with a spoon until they are well mixed.' We followed his instructions and the dish turned out to be very delicious. Up to the present time the taste of that dish is in my mouth.

"There was a man by the name of Haji Mohamad Faki Shirozi who had joined our company. He was a great hunter. He was such a crack shot that while his horse was galloping, he could shoot birds on the wing. Riding on his horse, with his gun, he followed us. The Blessed Beauty knowing his love for hunting told him: 'Don't kill those innocent birds.' But the man paid no attention. Without exaggeration he fired on that day five or six hundred shots but without killing one bird. On our return trip we saw a crane. It was very large. This bird rises very slowly from the ground but once in the air it flies very rapidly. When Haji Mohamad Faki saw this crane, he became elated because he thought he could show off his skill here.

The bird had just risen from the ground when he fired the first shot and missed. He fired ~~the~~ times more with no better success. By this time the bird was high up in the air and he thought now he would surely bring it to the ground and again fired two shots but missed. Because Baha-Allah told him not to shoot and he wanted to break his word, he did not succeed and not a single bullet found its mark.

"When we were in Salmami Pak, an Indian Prince, Eghaled-Daulet, accompanied by one servant, came there. There were between 30 and 40 souls with Baha-Allah. This Indian prince was very rich. Once the English government desired to borrow money from him. He asked if they wanted English or Persian pounds. Because the Persian pounds brought a better rate of exchange, they preferred them. In his palace there was a store-room where he hoarded his money. Without exaggeration, gold coins of many nationalities were piled high in different corners. When the time came to transfer the desired sum, a large scale was brought and the money weighed out like wheat. Now this man who was so rich, had ordered his servant to bring one small pan and cook only for himself. When the dish was put before the Prince nothing left for the servant to eat. The believers at that time had prepared a roast lamb. I called the servant of the Prince and asked: 'Have you had your dinner?' He replied: 'No'. Then I asked: 'What art thou going to do?' He answered: 'I do not know.' I invited him then to come and eat with us. After partaking our food he told me that the Prince had made a written agreement with all his servants that they should receive only their ^{pay} that they were not to eat in his house and whenever they broke anything they had to replace it."

In such a manner did the Beloved entertain us.