

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel  
Haifa, Syria October 18th 1914

Dear friends

Wonderous is the majesty and splendor of Abdul Baha. Like unto a little child I go to him and open my soul in the sunshine of his love. I love him because he is such a precious Beloved. His mere Presence sets my soul on flame; his singing smile gives me such an exquisite joy. He is so wonderful that I can never fully know him, but I can continue serving him with perfect trust. I dream of him and think of him by day and by night. Whenever I feel sad I turn my face toward him and immediately I am immersed in a sea of rejoicing. He is the sun; my eyes are dazzled when I try to look into its disc; he is the heaven, how can I ever dare to soar high in the infinitude of its immensity; he is the nightingale, how can a little broken-winged sparrow play in its company; he is the King of Kings, how can a poor servant appear in his Court; he is the depths of the sea, how can a drop of water be compared to it and he is the Beloved of all hearts, how can this insignificant lover find favor in his sight! In the word of the poet: -

"Thou art a mountain stately and serene,  
Rising majestically o'er each earthly thing  
And I a lake that round thy feet do cling,  
Kissing thy garments hem, unknown, unseen.  
I tremble when the tempests darkly screen  
Thy face from mine. I smile when sunbeams fling  
Their bright arms round thee. When the blue heaven leans  
Upon thy breast, I thrill with bliss, O King!  
Thou canst not stoop. — we are too far apart  
I may not climb to reach thy mighty heart  
Low at thy feet I am content to lie."

This morning the Beloved called me while he was

walking. He asked for the book of Tablets which were revealed during the last few days, - so that he might correct them. After the correction he gave it to Badi Effendi to copy them. For another half hour I was in his presence, listening to his instructions and exhortations. In the afternoon the Persian Consul with his wife and daughters as well as number of other officials called on the Master and they were with him for three hours. When the Beloved heard they are coming today he sent Abbas Gali to Bazaar to buy fruits and candy. They were served with several kinds of fruits, sweets, tea, coffee etc. They were enchanted with the matchless scene all around them and before their eyes and they carried away a most vivid picture of the simple and inspiring, unique panorama. Seldom had they seen such grand view in their lives. When the guests left he called us to him and ask us at first to help ourselves with the fruits on the tables in front of the main room of the Tomb. Then we followed him to the Shrine and heard him chant the Visiting Tablet with such power and penetration that we all felt very uplifted. Seldom have I heard him chant with such rich, high, symphonic voice. It was the great hall, reverberated with it and gave back its ringing, resonant echo. When he came out of the holy Shrine he led us into reception and gave the following talk: -

"These people who called on us today were in a state of fright. They are expecting daily the bombardment of Haifa by the Foreign warships. No sooner they saw a little, moving speck in the horizon of the sea than they looked through their glasses anxiously scanning <sup>to see</sup> whether these are the expected cruisers. Their hearts are in a state of anxiety. They are terror-stricken

They have no peace of mind. This is one of the signs of the absence of Faith. It is stated in the Koran: 'They imagine every cry raised is an enemy unto them.' For example when a thief enters a house, the least noise causes his flight. He trembles and quakes. But the hearts of the people of Faith are assured. If they are surrounded by a thousand enemies they stand firm on their ground. The greatest Divine Bounty is a confident heart. When the heart is confident all the trials of the world will be as child's plays. Should they throw him into the prison, should they cast him into a black well, should they heap upon him all manners of afflictions, still his heart is content, peaceful and assured."

He asked from one of the believers who had just come from Ahlan Senan about the health of the friends and their children. He was told they are all well and the children are put into the matine school, so that they may not run about in the country and get sick. The Master said: "The children must receive divine and material education at the same time and be protected from temptations and vices. How wonderful will it be if the teachers were faithful, attracted, assured, educated and refined Bahais, well grounded in the science of pedagogy and familiar with child psychology; - thus they may train the children unto the fragrances of God. In scheme of human life the teacher and his system of teaching plays the most important rôle, carrying with it the heaviest responsibilities and most subtle influence. A teacher is like unto a gardener. Just as a gardener sows the seeds and watches carefully over their sprouting, looks after their growth and progression - so also a teacher must watch over the education of the children and inculcate in their young lives the highest ideals of truth and justice etc."

Coming out of the room he asked me to follow him and then he said to bring to him Mr Penney and Mr Latimer after half an hour.

When we entered into his room he welcomed our American brothers with golden <sup>creations of</sup> smiles on his face. "You are welcome! You are welcome! Perhaps how are you? Are you well? Are you happy?" With these warm words of greetings he filled their goblets of joy, laughed joyously, bade them be seated and then gave them in the most natural and at the same time inspirational manner the following heavenly talk. All the time <sup>during which</sup> ~~that~~ he was speaking his eyes were closed, as though he was receiving his <sup>sublimely</sup> spiritual words from the higher source of Life and Reality:— "Truly I say I am well satisfied with both you, for you have consecrated your lives to the Cause of God; you have no other aim save calling the people to the Kingdom of God. your hearts are empty, they are not preoccupied, nor <sup>engaged</sup> with other immaterial affairs. Praise be to God that your minds are sanctified and holy. I am sure you will be confirmed and assisted in all things. There are many heralds in this world. Here is a herald who summons the people to the love and defence of their country, calling at the top of his voice 'O my country, O my beloved country.' There is a herald who blows in the bugle of New Nationalism. Here is another herald who calls the people to politics — in order that he may wield great <sup>power</sup> of State. There is another person who is a herald to literature and science. Here you find a soul who is the herald of the commercial interests and its expansion and there's still another herald who sounds the trumpet of war and Militarism. But praise be to God that you are the heralds of the Kingdom of God. All these contending voices which are raised in the world today will ere long be silenced and hushed but the call of the Kingdom of God will gain volume and impetus day by day.

The popularity of these worldly heralds may last for a year or two, but the fame of the souls who are the heralds of the Kingdom is eternal, for they are sounding the Trumpet of Celestial, Universal Peace. Their voices will ring throughout the future centuries and be immortal and age-defying. Thank ye God that ye are the heralds of the Kingdom of Alba, the heralds of the Covenant of the Almighty. All other voices will be repressed but this harmonious song of the Kingdom of Peace and truth is eternal and everlasting. Now I desire to send you back to the United States. I supplicate and beseech at the Threshold of the Kingdom of Alba that you may go forth into the world with a heavenly power, with radiant hearts, with celestial souls, <sup>and</sup> with breaths imbued with the Breath of the Holy Spirit! May you be confirmed and assisted and may you raise such a melody and sing such a song as to stir and move the hearts of the American people! I anticipate to receive glad-news from you."

With this wonderful message in our ears we left the holy Presence of our Lord and walked quietly on Mount Carmel, breathing the fresh, breezy air and inspired by the star-lit night. What majesty and witchery holds the silence of the eastern sky! Its magical beauty and mysterious grandeur is never worn out. It unfolds before the wondering eyes always new meanings of spiritual life and simplicity. It deepens the consciousness of moral responsibilities and heightens the sublime ideals of human mind. For hours one looks up toward heaven, holding silent communion with the starry hosts and then enraptured through their eloquence he ~~comes~~ <sup>traces</sup> back his step to his room with broader vision and clearer understanding.