

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa, Syria Oct 21st 1914

Dear friends!

In some of the Tablets which are being revealed almost daily on Mount Carmel, one finds apposite descriptions of the internal conditions in Syria and sound reflections on the glutteny of murder and outrage that is filling the Continent of Europe, putting a black spot on Christian Civilization.

To Mirza Ali Akbar of Russia he writes:—

"O thou servant of the holy Threshold! Thou canst not realize what agitation and turmoil is produced in these parts! All the people are in a state of consternation and confusion and the inhabitants of the cities are roaming homeless and shelterless over the mountains and in the villages! They are actuated with the fear that suddenly the warships of Foreign Powers may appear on the horizon and bombard all the coast-wise cities and towns, destroying them and laying waste their foundations. At least thou didst release thyself from these conditions and art not harassed by this disorder and disturbance; still there must be much turmoil in those parts also, but assuredly they have not assumed such violent proportions. ^{Because} on the shores of the Caspian Sea no other nation save Russia is allowed to keep her ^{destructive} warships but on the Mediterranean shores all the governments are keeping ready their fleets of fire-eating cruisers and all the people fear that time that they will be attacked unaware. Notwithstanding these matters we are at ease, for praise be to God, we are under the shade of the Protection of the Blessed Beauty and with the utmost confidence and assurance are engaged day and night in the guardianship of the Holy Threshold, are occupied with the mention of God and associate with each other with perfect love and amity."

To a believer in Cairo he writes:—

"O thou servant of the sacred Threshold! During these days the affairs of every soul are in utter confusion and distraction. These are indeed the tests of God; for it is revealed in the Koran: 'Do the people believe they are left alone as soon as they say 'We believe' and are not tested?'

During the days of comfort, every soul might well express joy and fragrance but man must show forth peace and tranquillity at the time of distress and be patient and thankful. In another place in the Koran it is also stated: "We will try you with fear, starvation, - the pillage of your possessions and fruits, even the forfeiture of your lives." After this verse, he says: - "Give the glad-tiding of deliverance to the patient ones." The days of leisure have passed and these days of distress will also pass. There must needs be patience, forbearance and trust. Egypt at least is quiet but there canst not realize what commotion does exist in these parts! Both rich and poor are perplexed and distracted and dispersed over mountains and ^{hills} in villages! Even the name of 'commerce' is forgotten and the majority of the traders have shut their shops and the army of unemployed is being constantly increased. Every one is afflicted and distressed and every day startling news are circulated and untoward events come to pass. How reflect, amidst what confusion and uproar is Abdul Baha situated! Still these days which are more bitter than poison shall pass away. To Mrs Stannard he writes: -

"O thou beloved maid-servant of His Holiness BabBa-o-llah! Thy letter was received. Its contents indicated that thou art sad and unhappy because the conflagration of war is ablaze in Europe, stirring the public opinion of all the inhabitants of the world and centering their attention upon matters relating to war. ^{Because of} ~~Be~~ chronicle the news and episodes of war has become the chief concern of man, thou thinkest that the addresses and articles thou hast prepared to be delivered before large meetings and ^{published in} important magazines, will be abandoned and neglected. Be thou not depressed! This very war will be the means of the promotion of those articles in the future. Praise be to God that thou hast no other aim and purpose save the Divine good-pleasure. Thou hast fulfilled entirely the requirements of service and God shall cause the appearance of its results. The efficient farmer sows the seeds and leaves the growth to God. Therefore, be thou happy. Undoubtedly the Cloud of Mercy shall pour down and through the Confirmations of God these seeds shall sprout.

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Let not thy resolution be shaken by any hinderance and be not defeated through any ordeal. Be thou a horsewoman of the arena of service and endure every trial in the path of His Highness the Merciful. Rest thou confident that I am pleased with thee and thou shalt be confirmed and assisted in all things.

"Shouldst thou write a series of articles concerning the evils of war and the benefits of Universal Peace, the basis of Divine Edifice and the infinite Outpourings, the ears have found the capability to listen. On account of this war the hearts are afflicted with a tremendous agitation, Europe has become like unto the slaughtering-house for the sheep. From whatever direction one looks, army after army are being ^{unwounded} butchered, killed; the cities are overthrown and the inhabitants are in a despondent mood and broken-hearted"

Another Tablet revealed for a suburban town in Esphahan, by the name Najaf-Ahad will bring to an end today's letter. It does not touch on the current, mundane subjects but it is full of the Bahai spirit and the command of equipping teachers and sending them out to spread the Message of the Kingdom:-

"O ye ancient friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful Lord! Upon ye Baha-Ollah and His light and the Bestowals of the Day of His Manifestation, and upon ye be His inexhaustible Grace and from you is required the most noble effort! From the beginning of the dawn of the brilliant Morn Najaf-Ahad became luminous and radiant and up to the present time the Holy Fragrances have been wafting from that region continually. The friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful in that town are favored at the Threshold. The ancients are the worthies and verily they are the favored ones. Although Abdu'l Baha has not written you - because he has had no time and no opportunity presented itself - yet with heart and soul he is pleased with the believers of Najaf-Ahad and beg for them boundless Grace from the Forgiving Lord!

"O ye dwellers in the sanctuary of the Covenant and worshippers at the altar of the Merciful One! The Blessed Perfection - may my life be a ransom to His believers - encircled Najaf-Ahad with the Glories

of His Providence and the names of those believers in the Forgiving Lord were even mentioned in His Holy Presence. Many sanctified souls appeared from that region who hastened towards the sacrificial Altar of Love and while clapping and dancing offered their lives rejoicingly and unfurled the Flag of the most great martyrdom in the Supreme Concourse. Praise be to God that the rest of them are also self-sacrificing. With what brilliant diadem have they adorned their heads! With the utmost supplication and humility Abdu'l Baha beseeches and entreats at the Threshold of the Kingdom of Abha; - so that the nostrils of those friends may become perfumed and the fragrance of the musk of the Divine Mysteries be diffused. Today all of them must arise in the service of the Blessed Threshold of the Beauty of Abha with firm feet, attracted hearts and exhilarated spirits. Hence become ye salubrious waters to the thirsty ones; the candles of guidance to the wanderers; the sweet song of the early morn to the sleepers; the soul-stirring music to the withered ones; the Breeze of Providence to faded ones and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit from on High to the dead ones. This is indeed the most Eminent Bounty of His Holiness Baha - Allah. Today the most great affair is teaching the Cause of God. The Teachers are favored at the Threshold of the Almighty, are worthy of the utmost love and the affection of the hearts of the believers of God. Strive as much as you can - so that new teachers may appear who should be engaged in the promotion of the Religion of God, live in accord with the Faith of the Love of God and in the assemblage of mankind be adorned with infinite, celestial virtues.

"O God! O God! these souls are assured in Thy Mention; are contented with that which Thou hast ordained for them and are satisfied in the Court of Thy Holiness. Strengthen them with the reinforced armies from the Supreme Concourse and the serried ranks from the Kingdom of Abha. Make their tongues eloquent instruments in Thy Mention and like unto sharp swords in the teaching of Thy Cause; - so that they may conquer the cities of the hearts and the spirits through Thy Holy Fragrance. Verily Thou art the Mighty, the Powerful and the Self-Subsistent Lord and Verily Thou art the Bestower and the Generous."

Both in the morning and afternoon the Beloved dictated many Tablets, then received two important officials and when they left we prayed in the Holy Tomb in His Presence. The day was spent very quietly and sweetly.