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The Tomb of Baha-Allah Bahajee
Syria October 29th 1914

Dear friends!

Oh what a wonderful sunlight day! What a mystic moonlight night! What joy and sheer happiness abroad! What beauty and glory in the air! What boundless pleasure and rapturous charm in the exhilarating atmosphere. We are all melted in a sea of rejoicing and gladness and wish everyone of you were here to share in our supreme felicity! Our joy is heavenly and spiritual and is therefore transferable by the same ideal medium. You may be away thousands of miles ~~away~~ and yet be with us here in spirit and see Abdul Baha with the eyes of spirit and commune with him with the tongue of spirit.

This morning the Master arose very early and went to the Mohamadan Mosque because this was a national holiday, the Feast of Sacrifice. They had arranged a festal program and every body was cordially invited to attend. This Feast is in commemoration of Abraham desiring to sacrifice his son Isaac. Hence every good Mohamadan sacrifices a sheep, an ox, a camel, a goat every person according to his financial ability. All the people go to Mosque and pray and give alms to the poor. After the Mosque's religious ceremony the Master spoke on the spiritual significance of sacrifice and all the Sheiks were deeply impressed and delighted. Then riding in the carriage he came directly to Bahajee and sent it back so that we might follow him. It was about 10 am that the carriage arrived and with joy in our hearts we ~~left~~ sprang into the ~~carriage~~ it and started on our way.

Bahajee is a moderate big Chateau of two stories high and garden. In the four corners of the central building there are what we might call small houses comprising of a few rooms and a little gardens with outside doors. The northwestern wing is the holy Tomb of Baha Ollah and the house of Aga Sayed Ali Afshar the guardian of the Sacred Shrine. The south western wing contains a lovely, clean establishment and it has been prepared for the temporary abode of the Prince of Peace and his servants. It is airy and open on two sides. The door of the house is opened into

into a large corridor and long hall with high ceiling. The room of the Master
 is on the right hand and boasts of five full glass windows and is so full of light
 and sunshine. Abdul Gasem had brought a large bouquet of flowers
 from the garden of Rezwana which adorned already the table, diffusing
 a gentle fragrance all around. We brought with us two Persian
 rugs but the Beloved liked only the mats and did not allow
 us to spread them in his room. Next to his room is ours with but
 two windows. As I step out of the house there lies before me a very
 large olive grove, stretched as far as the shore of the blue Mediterranean
 sea; ~~the~~ Mount Carmel, clothed in a gauze of gray mist is seen in
 the south; right near the Tomb of Baba-Allah are the 19 huge
 overshadowing Pines but unfortunately one of them is being cut ^{so},
 at the present there are ^{only} 18 trees; Tall, noble, evergreen and a cool
 place for pic-nic parties. All around us is the lovely, bright
 plain of Acca that in a month or two will vie with emerald and
 amethyst, a verdant carpet redolent with life, growth, colors and
 wild flowers, like unto the beautiful plumage of the royal
 and proud peacock. When we arrived the Master had already
 taken possession of his room and welcomed us into our new
 holy abode. He came out two or three times and looked at the
 scene while exclaiming: "How charming is the scenery! How attr-
 active is this sacred panorama! How quiet! How peaceful! I hope that
 the weather will agree with me here. We have come to take shelter
 under the protective wing of the Holy Threshold. The Tomb of the
 Bab built on the slope of Mount Carmel has a peculiar charm of
 its own - a fascination and grandeur well-nigh indescribable.
 But the beauty of the environs of the Shrine of the Blessed
 Perfection is the beauty of the plain and the sea. For a time
 we shall tarry here and refresh our hearts from the Graces of
 his Holiness Baba-Allah by our daily visits." Then he told us
 to go out and perform ablution preparatory to our first visit
 to the Holy Threshold. "Before entering the Sacred Shrine every-
 one should perform ablution and be clean and pure in

body, soul, mind and even his outward apparel. His heart must be purified from all worldly feelings and his consciousness be cleansed from all unholy suggestions. This was indeed a wonderful example set before us as regards the worship in the Sacred Temple and we all followed it with great joy. After the chanting of the Morning Tablet we came out and the Master was walking in the hall. His attention was drawn to a number of soldiers who passed by at that time and he said:—"In these days the people of the world are in the bondage of a thousand trials and sufferings but they bear all these things without a murmur of enduring protest. On the other hand when the Cause of God appears, at first they reject it and ^{when} they will accept it they expect to walk on a bed of thornless roses and be not tested. But the path of the Kingdom is a narrow path and beset with many trials. Just think of the lives of these soldiers whose mothers have reared them with love and solicitude. They are worse than penal prisoners and have to work very hard all day. The other day the Secretary of the

Consul called on me and spoke in a plaintive tone:—"I have paid the government one hundred pounds to free my son from all military burdens, still they have taken him and enrolled him among the recruits. My son has been brought up in the school and has never had any drillings. Now he is afflicted with all the rigid and exacting disciplines of the soldiers' life and it seems to me there is no way to his freedom. My son with his company were made to run from Bagdath to Acre with only one stop of one hour. They had to run many hours in the heat of the sun. As a result of this extraordinary exertion he is fallen sick and I have now come to you to intercede for him before the commander, perhaps they will give him a lighter work which may be more in accord with his previous training."

Riding on a very little donkey one of the Torustan Bahais by the name Fir Andaz (sharp shooter) came to see the Master. Looking at both of them he laughed to his heart's content. Then he said:—"Is this well - bit of an animal your donkey? your name ^{is} Fir Andaz?"

to my mind a story of my childhood. At the time of our arrival in Bagdad I was a small lad, taking an active part in all the diversions and plays ^{incident} to that period of life. I remember one day, accompanied by a number of grown-up people we called on the Persian Consul who was ^{considered} an amateur sport and hunter. He cherished in his heart a great hate for Baha-Allah and whenever His Name was mentioned his eyes became red with rage and wanted to pop out of their sockets. Nevertheless he showed us outward courtesy and hospitality and did not ^{at} his hate become manifest. He had given his rifle to the police and while ^{we} were there they brought it in. Proudly he took it in his hand and began to examine it. Looking at me with a malicious ^{smile} in his face he asked me: 'Are you Fir Andaz? (Sharp shooter)' 'Yes' I answered. 'Can you shoot a bird while flying in the air?' 'Assuredly' I said 'This is very easy; ~~however~~ I can ^{also} shoot a man while walking on the earth! And I looked at him significantly. He thought this was a warning and therefore was sorely afraid and stopped his outward persecution of the Blessed Perfection." X

Our lunch was brought from Acre by ^{the} Khedive and it was, one P.M. when we sat around the table of ^{the} Lord and partook in his presence of His material bounty. We were very hungry and consequently we enjoyed our food. Because the bread was not quite good he gave a very interesting talk about the importance of this 'stuff of life' which I will translate later on.

In the after-noon four officers of the army called on him and he received them most graciously. Later on he gave another long talk on the general principles of the Cause and related a few stories to illustrate his points. A cablegram was sent to Mrs Goodall care Mr Weltheim in New York as follows: "Invite speakers men and women having power delivering speeches. Divine Confirmations assured." This is referred to the Bahai Convention which they expect to hold in San-Francisco during the Panama Exposition. There is no doubt that on this heavenly Promise they will greatly succeed.