

The Tomb of Baha'ollah, Bahayee
Acca, Syria Oct 31st 1914

Dear friends!

Abdul Baha made the most wonderful picture as he stood erect in the fragrant rose-garden surrounding the Tomb of Baha-Allah pumping water for the irrigation of the flowers. Ah me! How beautiful and ideal it was! What supreme lesson of devotion and service! What practical example of useful activity! Never will I ever forget those divine moments as I saw the Beloved behind the pump, holding the handle in his firm grip and pushing it now to the left, now to the right, while the crystalline water flowed out constantly from the tube into the reservoir! His face was towards the West, his eyes were closed, his lips were moving and his body was swaying now to the north and again toward the south. In memory of these living moments, in the future, Kings and rulers will come here and draw water to irrigate the garden! For the Master of the world did consider it his heavenly privilege to pump water and refresh the flowers with his own hand around the Shrine of his Father! This is another spiritual precedent established during our present short stay in Bahajee. Morning and evening the Beloved pumped water between 15 and 30 minutes. This morning he pumped for 30 minutes and there were 380 strokes, 19 strokes for each minute. What privilege for others to follow in his footsteps and try to live according to his actions and behests! We all know very well that just as he has been watering for the last 3 days these earthly, perishable flowers, he has been a spiritual irrigator, so during all the days of his life! The flowers of this garden, watered by this water wither and fade away but the hyacinths and anemones growing in the green fields of the hearts and irrigated with the pure water of knowledge are imperishable and never-fading! The fragrance of those flowers ^{is} only for a few days but the perfume of these has filled the world with beauty and appreciation. Through the untiring zeal of this spiritual gardener and irrigator the world is filled with the delicate roses of heavenly virtues and the sweet violets of social purity. Thus Our Beloved has given us another practical lesson, because each Bahai in his own sphere and according to his own ability must contribute to the spiritual beautification of the world.

Long before sunrise I was up and out in the lovely plain of Bahajee, walking alone under the overhanging Pine and praying to the source of Universal Good. The winds sighed and murmured through the branches and prayed in its own unconscious ~~was~~ tongue. How calm and sweet ^{it} was here, while over there there is the noise of cannons and the clashing of swords and the cries of helpless widows and innocent children. Then I walked with Mirza Habibullah towards the sea, sat on the beach a few minutes, gathered lovely, colored shells and when ^{he} reached home found the Beloved talking about one of the most interesting episodes of the Cause. When he came out of his room a short pamphlet written by a ninety years old believer was presented to him for perusal by Mirza Nureddin. It was an epitome of the history of the Cause in Najaf Abad for the last sixty years. It is written at the request of Mrs Ella Cooper of California. The Master read it through and then gave it back to him for translation. Some of the tragic incidents of the steadfastness of the martyrs related therein touched him greatly and then he said:—"In reality these people have sacrificed their lives in the path of Baha. In their martyrdom they rendered the greatest service to the Cause of God. They gave up all their possessions for the sake of the Beloved, their wealth, their honor, their lives were forfeited. They did not accept one moment's rest or composure. Their love for their Lord prompted them to throw their all at His Blessed Feet. May we be also confirmed with such firmness and resolution and be imbued with their self-sacrificing spirit." Then he continued to talk with Aga Sayad Ali about other phases of this wonderful Cause. In the morning he told me to be ready because he was going to dictate a number of Tablets. Taking paper, pen and ink in my hand I went out into the Parlor and stood there smiling. Looking at me he asked: "What is it?" I said "Nothing." "No there must be something. I see thou art smiling!" he said. "I am ready" I answered. "Oh! I knew it. Ready! Goodness! Thou art always ready. I like to know when is it that thou art not ready? But I got very tired

pumping water this morning." Notwithstanding this after half an hour he called me into his room and dictated two very long Tablets for Mrs Mabel Rice Wray and Mrs Louise Bayle, portions of which will be translated. In regard to Mr Howard Ines because his name was mentioned in Mrs Rice Wray's letter the Beloved said:- "Truly I say he is conferred with the special Graces of His Holiness Baha Ollah. Letters received from all the cities in which he has addressed the Bahai meetings praise him. His future progress is unlimited and full of spiritual possibilities. He is very spiritual, very detached from this world and its cares. He has turned his face toward the Kingdom of Alha. He is awakened and ~~open~~ eloquent and from every standpoint worthy of commendation. Day by day he shall grow and develop and attain to a high station in the Kingdom of Reality."

When Khesro arrived from Acca with our dinner he brought the ^{official} cable of Turkish headquarter that the Turkish fleet has attacked the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea, in a place called Gara Danaz, and several Russian steamers were sunk. This news is the beginning of the introduction of Turkey upon the theatre of war, adding her name to the list of the warring nations. At the table the Master said:- "We are under the protection of Baha-Ollah. On the battlefield at this very moment thousands of young men are "eating" bullets and powder but you are here, eating bread and meat. You must thank the Blessed Perfection because He has guarded you from all these dangers."

In the afternoon again he spoke about the articles of Mr Archie Bell and showed the greatness of the Cause and how the wise men and leaders of every nation have given their testimony to the greatness and majesty of the Teachings of Baha Ollah. Then he related a number of historical incidents relative to his trip in America and Europe and advised the believers to hold fast always to the clear and sunlight principles of the Prince of Peace.

In the afternoon more than ten officers and Sheiks, the first with their uniforms, gold epaulettes and swords, the latter with their long white turbans, long robes came to pay him a visit and inquire after his health. For more than two hours they were with him and listened most attentively to all that he had to tell them, whether on physical or spiritual subjects.

In the evening he went out and sat ~~for~~ ^{alone} under the pines while the silvery moon flooded the plain with its white shafts. Oh it was so beautiful and divine. As he entered the house he said: - "How Baha-Ollah loved this quietness and calmness! Often he walked ~~on~~ all alone over this plain, shedding his radiance all around. Silence! Silence! One's heart is filled ^{with} the ~~self~~ elixir of satisfaction." He continued to speak along this strain and we were all charmed with the eloquence and mysticism of his softly-delightful voice. Afterwards he sat at the table and there were twelve of us eating the material and spiritual bread. After supper the Beloved arose and quietly entered ~~this~~ room to rest and pray.

In the Tablet to a believer the Master writes the following: -

"O thou beloved maid-servant of God! Thy letter was received. Thou hast written that Doctor Maria Montessori is expecting to go to America; - so that she may lecture ^{on} and promote her modern system of child's training and education. Every plan is in need of a power for its execution and to day the Penetrating Power in the world of existence is the Confirmation of the Kingdom of Abha. Every plan and system which is assisted by this Power, will be established in the world of humanity and will be realized amongst men. On the other hand the world of humanity will not be transformed into the heavenly Paradise through the promotion of one single principle. Now this matter of the education and training of the children is one of the many modern, urgent principles. Hence every progressive principle which is the cause of the advancement of the world of humanity is like

into a simple element. A single element does not produce a composite life but when the elements are aggregated together then a being is brought into existence. Consequently the Cause of Baha-Ollah and His heavenly Teachings include in them all the elements of virtues and the Principles of perfections; amongst them is the highest efficiency of the educational system; the oneness of the world of humanity; the conformity of Religion with science and reason; the equality of rights between the children of men; the Breaths of the Holy Spirit, the unity between men and women; the sweeping away of prejudices existing amongst the religions; the heavenly morality; the Fragrances of the Merciful, Universal Peace etc, etc. Consequently the Cause of Baha Ollah comprises in it all these Principles. Hence if a person desires to work for the progress of the world of humanity in all the degrees of existence, he must turn his face toward the Kingdom of Allah — thus that Divine Power may assist him in all his undertakings and plans and the penetration of the Word of God may change this nether world into the mirror of the Realm on High. Therefore, strive as much as you are able to breathe in O — the Spirit of God and establish in her heart a lasting and firm foundation of the Teachings of His Holiness Baha-Ollah — so that it may become a transparent mirror, the effulgence of the Sun of Reality may shine therein and her modern educational system be widely practiced. If these conditions are realized, rest thou assured, that the Holy Power of the Supreme Height shall assist and confirm and according to her aspiration that system will be put into practice throughout the civilized world. Convey to her my greeting and say to her on my behalf — 'O thou Dote exalt thy effort and magnify thy aim, — so that thou mayst become the cause of the material and ideal advancements of the world of humanity. This is my advice to thee! Shouldst thou live according to this, ^{immediately} thou shalt find in thyself a new spirit and a wonderful Power."

In the Holy Tomb of Baha-Ollah I prayed for all of you and from this Blessed Land I send you my sincere greetings.