

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin
 Abou Senan, Acca, Syria
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Dear friends!

Sheik Fareff, the chief spiritual head of the Druises, a tall man with white rosy cheeks and long white beard and strong constitution called on the Beloved today and in the morning, afternoon and evening the Master spoke for nearly 7 hours. In the course of his talks several marvellous characteristics of his luminous mind became most manifest and apparent. Firstly his almost superhuman knowledge of the Islamic history, the minutest detail of the division of the Mohamads religion into numberless sects and denominations, the names of their founders, the time of their appearance, their beliefs and differences, their wars and reverses. Secondly the way he animated and energized these historical dates with his own dynamic personality and drawing from them lessons of the most practical value for the present. Thirdly, his matchless and captivating manner of analytical description, the flow of his poetic language the height and depth of his god-given eloquence and the frequent use of Arabic metaphors and idioms which are relished by the listeners. Fourthly the great number of fresh anecdotes, humorous, merry and laughter creating with which he illustrated his Kaleidoscopic talks. A person endowed with a spiritual eye, seeing the manifestation of such infinite powers from the Master today could not doubt for one moment that he is sitting and standing before the Sea of Heavenly Knowledge and is witnessing ^{one} of the most great miracles of this age. Truly as we listened to his words and heard the music of his laughter we were translated into the heaven of pure joy and forgot all sorrow and misery. It was as though he has opened before our wondering eyes the book of creation, each page of which contained many beautiful meanings. If I want to translate everything he said, it ~~will~~ ^{must} become a volume. Mere cold words do not give an adequate idea of his spiritual powers and the range of his faculties. Like unto the sun he shines upon everything and bestows light and life to all the phenomena, even the blind ones of the earth feel the warmth and

Of the innumerable stories related today by the Master I will relate only three of them and leave the rest for the future. The first is about Azrael and his conversation with God:-

Azrael, the angel of death, is well-known in the Mohamadan world for his heartlessness in the face of misery and sorrow. Without any remorse or compunction he takes away the lives of men, women and children once they have filled the short span of life allotted to them by God. At one time God asked all His angels of blessings and threats to gather in His audience chamber. He inquired about the work of each till He reached to Azrael. Looking into his stern, pitiless face He asked him:- 'During all thy experience in taking away the lives of mankind, was there ever a time that thy heart was touched with pity for the woes of my creatures?' 'Yes, my Sire,' Azrael answered. 'When and how?' the Lord asked him. 'Once,' he said 'a large steamer was sailing over the smooth sea. The gale filled the sails and it was making great progress towards its destination when all of a sudden Thou didst command the tempest to arise from the deep and lashed the waves with Thy trident. The sea heaved and swelled and the steamer was tossed up and down like unto a cork. Then Thou didst order the waves to arise with ~~great~~ ^{blind} fury, beating against its sides and soon shattering it into a thousand pieces. Thou didst not lend Thine ears to the prayers and entreaties of the hopeless men and women who were calling to Thee in their hour of supreme agony and unto Thy permission I took the spirits of every one and assigned them to their places in the other world. When I returned and looked over the scene of havoc I saw a woman holding her babe in her breast, clinging to a plank and battling against the waves which were surging all around her head. While I was watching this heart-breaking scene Thou didst bid me to ^{loose the} hold of the woman from her babe and the plank. As I did so she raised her sorrowful and agonizing face towards heaven while one big wave rolled over her and covered her for ever from my sight. Immediately, the sea was calmed and the plank bearing the child on it was carried away by the waves. This was the only time that I felt in my heart the sting of pity and now what I like to know - what did become of that child? I do not remember of having ever taken his life."

After a few moments of hesitation God answered His angel: - 'When the plank disappeared from thy view I stilled the storm and ordered the waves to bear the child on their white playful foams to the shore. Then I commanded the sun to shine upon it softly, the breezes to waft over it gently, the gazelle to take care of it tenderly and all the elements to join their beneficent forces to rear and train it till it grew and developed into manhood. Now do you know the famous hunter, Nimrod who has arisen in rebellion against me?' 'Yes, my Sir!' Azrael answered. 'Well,' the Lord replied 'This Nimrod is the same child, ^{that} I saved from the storm, ~~announced~~ and the heavenly Conclave came to an end.

The second story is about "Neutrality" of God in the present European war:-

I read in a newspaper the other day a story concerning the present conflict raging between the European Powers which I may repeat here for the benefit of those who are present. The German people were praying to God that He ^{should} give them victory over their enemies, asking Him to expose their stratagems, foil their tactics and unveil their purposes to them. The French nation were entreating the almighty to defeat the forces of their foes, to grant them triumph, to destroy their farms and bring to nought their plots and machinations. The inhabitants of Great Britain were raising their voices to the throne of the Omnipotent, pleading ^{with} Him to crush the schemes of the barbarian and pagan adversary, to break down his strength and demolish the fabric of his rude and heartless militarism. The Russians gathering in their cathedrals and churches besought the Lord to give them the sceptre of conquest and check the progress of the relentless antagonist. The Belgians implored the King of Kings to overthrow the fortune of the destroyers of their homes and hearths. When the Divine Tribunal was inaugurated, they all came to plead their cause and enlist the favor of the Supreme Judge on their own side, after listening to their arguments they were astonished and silenced when the heavenly Judge arose from His imperial seat and proclaimed His "Neutrality." ○

The third story is about smoking:-

Another subject which was discussed was 'smoking' and 'drinking' because the Druses as a rule are addicted to neither of these two evil habits. Mohamadan history contains many references to these subjects and the Master pointed out that there were in the past ages many Temperance Societies and as a result of their activities teetotalers became very numerous. There were many men and women who abstained totally from all intoxicating drinks and especially from smoking tobacco. The object of these Temperance Societies became well-established during the reign of Sultan Salim. The King espousing this cause encouraged all his courtiers and the members of his royal family to follow him in this matter. One of his ministers who was the instructor of his son became a missionary teetotaler and no one would have dared to smoke in his presence. As it generally happens in such cases the dislike of the father for smoking was compensated by an equal attachment of the son to this custom. Not daring to smoke before the public and fearing the displeasure of his ~~father~~ ^{father}, he would go every night into his private room, lock the door and smoke to his heart's content. One night he was late, and as he entered the room, latched the door behind himself and sat smoking, forgetting to turn in the key. While he was in the height of 'smoking', suddenly the door was opened and to his surprise the teacher walked in and a column of smoke escaped into the open air. When he was face to face with his pupil he began to upbraid and censure him for thus wantonly disobeying the Command of his noble father, intimating that if he came to know about this, he would surely punish him severely. To the amazement of the teacher the pupil did not show any sign of agitation but in calm and dignified manner asked him to be seated and he would present his case to his impartial judgment. 'When our holy prophet' the pupil said 'declared his divine mission to the world all the animate creatures and inanimate objects prostrated before him, obeyed his command and offered to ~~show~~ ^{show} their allegiance, save this accursed and execrable tobacco. It arose in rebellion against its rightful Lord. It is ~~only~~ for this all-sufficient reason that I am subjecting it to smoke as a just punishment for its diabolical disobedience.' The teacher listening this religious explanation exclaimed with evident eagerness, 'If it is so, then let me smoke it too, - so that I may also gain the reward of paradise!'