

Home of Baha Ollah Acca, Syria
November 9th 1914

Dear friends

While the organizations of the world are being torn to pieces with the drawn swords of dissensions and the Moloch of iniquity is devouring thousands of innocent victims who throw themselves into his insatiable jaws as though pulled by a magnetic force — the Prince of Peace is reinforcing and strengthening his army of life to assemble out of this universal wreck the right kind of materials for the construction of the palace of international arbitration. As regards the future security and unlimited progress of the world of humanity he is today as hopeful as ever. His optimism knows no bound and his abiding faith and unchanging confidence is positively contagious. He looks beyond the present, realizes more than any other human being the tremendous, super-national sacrifice the people of every clime are making and perceives the odds at stake. Rightly and properly his sympathy flows towards all and more than anything else wishes them to fraternize and lie at peace with each other. He believes firmly and demonstrates with unequivocal evidences that the Bahai Cause is the solvent for all these ailments, for the simple reason that it is a spiritual movement, an extraordinary religious renaissance, a renewal of the old order of things, a new heaven and a new spirit of wonder and worship. In other word it is the Power of God and the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Unquestionably there are many statesmen who think that politics can bring about this ideal condition but the annals of mankind shows many broken treaties, many inviolable rights wronged, many protocols set at naught as "scraps of paper", many injustices perpetrated when they served to promote the individual or collective interests of the nations concerned. Indeed the world has witnessed such a sorry spectacle of these contraventions that there are very few souls who take any stock in the political pledges of the Western nations. Hence the Bahais, whether in public or private must set a supremely higher example of personal integrity and professional rectitude, thus the children of man may learn slowly a new code of morality, a new system of ethics, a larger conception of life and a greater responsibility, consequently,

Abdul Baha, desiring to assure the Bahai world of his love, sent this morning the following two cablegrams, - so that during these, critical hours they may be refreshed and arise with new vigor in the diffusion of the Fragrances of the Cause of God. In the first cable he says: - "Rest ye confident in the Divine Power. I love you and I am with you." In the second he says: - "A tree without root shall not last. Be ye confident, I supplicate for you the Festivals of the Almighty." These two spiritual messages will no doubt be like salutary water to the parched lips and withered hearts. They will be like two heavenly gifts and two shining pearls of the Kingdom. They are the two white wings of the Dove of the Holy Spirit and will descend upon the troubled and sorely wounded souls to console and to heal. Similar unto the rays of the Sun they will dispel darkness and like unto two brilliant stars they will gleam and sparkle in the clear horizons of the minds of men. In this message the Bahais are assured that they have his love - a love that is unchanging. What greater confirmation do they need? What other boon do they anticipate? Abdul Baha, the Mystery of God, the Center of the Covenant, the Greatest Branch tells you in so many plain words, "I love you": just think of it! Ponder over it a few minutes, nay an hour, or a day or a month, or a year or all your life and see whether you can fathom the mystery of this sweet, indefinable, divine Love! It is beyond human ken, above our measured intelligence and not within the reach of our limited reason. "I am with you": Here is a higher reality, a nobler promise. Abdul Baha is with you, no matter where you are, his all-pervading spirit enfolds you in his invisible arms, his ever-seeing eyes watches over you, he is your guardian and your protector, a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He walks before you and behind you, warding off all dangers, and preserving you from the insinuation of the arch-enemy which is no other than the egoistic self. Do not turn your face from him. Be filled with his love. Walk in his footsteps. Live according to his behests. Let his love take possession of your entire being. Be environed with his power. Put on this girdle of ^{his} Sanctity. Go through the Fire of his Purity. Swim in the sea of his attraction.

and soar in the immensity of his simplicity.

Today the Beloved was busy from morning till evening packing the Holy Tablets and writings of Baha-Allah. There were six large trunks. Therefore you can imagine what strain it was on his physical constitution! He had to pack every sacred thing with his own hand. Mirza Jalal went to Abou Sena and come back in the evening. Tomorrow morning ~~to~~ camels will be brought at the door of the house and the trunks will be sent away to be kept in safety while this revolution and war is raging.

As the rain continued during certain hours of the day no one of us went out. At lunch ^{time} the Beloved joked with me about eating. He sympathized with me because I could not get here as many kinds of dishes as in America. I assured him that I am much better off where I am now and would not like to change my place with any one. Suddenly he said: - "Those who are very stingy and close-handed seldom get sick, because they do not indulge in rich, heavy food. They lay down the same rule in their household." Then turning his face to a person who answered the above qualification he asked: - "Have you ever had such an experience?" We could not help but laugh at this ingenious way of driving home a lesson of generosity.

In the evening he called the friends into his Presence and asked one of them about the news. The daily censored cables were read to him. According to a dispatch the Turkish fleet had bombarded two Foreign warships. As a result of this so-called naval victory the contents of the dispatch evinced pompous confidence and national glorification. Then the Beloved spoke in the following general tone: - "If these governments were endowed with deep insight they could see clearly that already all their ships are ^{sunk} and disappeared from the surface of water. Where will these hot-tempered, stiff-necked, headstrong and vain-glorious nations be at the first dawn of 21st Century? They have all vanished from the face of the earth. Great heaven! What privileges and rights have they arrogated unto themselves, as though they are going to be the lords of the earth for eternity! In one of the verses of the Holy Book they are likened into defeated and vanquished armies - although to all appearances in the height of prosperity. Imagine the ^{pitiable} condition of a defeated army!

Field strewn with dead bodies, broken cannons, soiled garments, emaciated
 and horrified faces, torn, bloody limbs and thousand and one useless, impedi-
 ments - all thrown hither and thither in utter confusion! These nations think
 they are hardening their moral and physical fibres by going to war; how in-
 advertent they are! They are inflicting on themselves such deep wounds which
 will take centuries to heal! Former nations thought that they with their an-
 tique and imperial civilizations were secure in the cradle of prosperity but one
 of those great periodic revolutions swept over them and buried them and
 all their proud monuments under the ground! When a traveller passes through
 one of those old Saharas he sees here a monolith. "What is this?" he inquires.
 "This is the last remain of the once flourishing Greek culture," the guide an-
 swers him. Then he observes dilapidated temples, tall granite pillars,
 miles of aqueducts, half-buried palaces, ivy-covered amphitheatres, excavated
 mausoleums. "What are these?" he asks with incredible amazement. "Oh! these
 are the ^{silent} tales of mighty civilizations." Where is the great Shaddad and
 the powerful Nimrod? Where are the nations of Add and Tharnoud? They
 were indeed very great but they are all gone into the dim past. Likewise
 these present nations who are butchering each other will join the earlier
 ones and the world will get rid of their self-assumed authority and
 infernal jealousies. Oh! that they could reflect awhile over the fate of
 the bygone monarchies! The Roman Empire with all its Emperors,
 legions ^{and} Colonies collapsed for ever! In brief, if these Kings ^{and} rulers,
^{and} emperors and ministers thought for a moment over their own
 fates and how they are destroying the foundations of the happiness of
 their own subjects and those of other governments they would not
 have precipitated this titanic struggle! To their national loss they
 will come to know these truths! They cannot fool the people for ^{ever}
 nor will they be able to string millions of men ^{up} under the jugg-
 lery of death. God has come to the rescue of mankind. The
 wolves cannot go on for ever tearing the lambs. The Divine
 Assayer will try every soul according to his secret intentions.
 The Parliament of man will be established; humanity will be spiritual
 and the Standard of Peace will be hoisted above every home!