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Home of Baha-Ollah, Acca, Syria
November 15th 1914

Dear friends!

Following the declaration of the 'Holy Jihad' the best thing that I can do for you is to translate herein a story told by the Beloved about Alexander the Great:-

There are many militarists of the ancient, conservative school who hold the opinion that Alexander of Macedon was the greatest born leader, an empire-builder, a wonderful general and a great warrior. His conquests of the East are celebrated in songs and songs and his matchless prowess the theme of many a dramatic recital. Caesar, Napoleon, Frederick the Great and other generals have ever tried to imitate his examples and grasp the same indomitable ambition but none of them has ever been as successful as Alexander the Great in the establishment of a world empire. In the East there are many stories extant about the deeds of this singular man, some of them probably without any historical foundation, yet inculcating a deep moral lesson, the spiritual value of which is brought home to every individual.

"After his conquests of Persia, Babylon, Baluchistan, Afghanistan, Sogdiana and other countries he led his victorious legions towards India. The King of one of the rich independent states of India was notified many days beforehand that Alexander is leading his army of invasion to his country and once they did put their feet on his soil there will be much rapine, ravages, massacres and destruction. The King having heard this startling news called his prime Minister into his room and after some private consultation, appointed him as regent during his approaching absence and left the capital without any public notification. Being informed of the direction of Alexander's troops he pushed his fleet-footed horse towards them. Crossing the frontier of his own dominion he travelled 3 or 4 days before he came in sight of Alexander's camps. The sentry challenged him and inquired of him his whereabouts. He told him that he is the special ambassador sent to Alexander by the King of the state which he was going to invade. At last the soldiers gave him permission to pass through the camps. Having reached the royal headquarter, Alexander was

notified of the presence of an Ambassador. When he was allowed to enter the imperial tent he walked straight to where Alexander was sitting and without waiting for his permission he sat beside him. The general was wroth at this lack of civility and showed it in his haughty words and manners. "Do not be angry" the Ambassador calmly said "I am the King of the country towards which you are travelling and for the sacking of the treasures of which you have long dreamed." Alexander was astonished. "What! You are the ruler of that country? This is impossible. Have you not heard ^{the} fame of my army? Did you not think that I will keep you as a ransom? Were you not afraid to come all alone to my camp?" "No" the King replied "I never ^{thought} of these things. I have never injured you to fear your vengeance. We have had no quarrel. We did not know each other nor have we ever met one another. I knew, however, that fellowship and kindly association will be the guiding principle of our first meeting. Because I have never harmed you in any way I have come to you with a confident heart. I have come to find out what you want of me and my people? Why have you caused the shedding of the blood of all these people? For what reason have you ransacked all these cities? Why have you brought these armies from the end of the world to kill and be killed? What is back of this insatiable greed and rapacity?"

"Alexander listened to these words with inward attention but outward amusement. "These are the argument of the weaklings," he said "And no one would listen to them. The backward nations of the world have ever complained because they could not meet on the battlefield their strong antagonists. However, as you have shown in your manner the qualities of courage I will not wage war with you, provided you offer me tributes for 7 years." "This is impossible." "Then the tributes of 6 years." "This is also beyond the resources of my country." "Well, then give me the tributes of 5 years." "My people will be impoverished." "All right then, pay me ^{the} taxes for four years." "My subjects will not give their consent to this arrangement." "Surely you are rich enough to give the national income for 3 years." "I may do this but I will be stigmatized with the brand of cowardice." "Granted that also, Can

you not pay two years' tributes?" "It will be below my imperial dignity".

"Then for one single year." "Certainly, the Conqueror of the world will not condescend to receive one year's tribute from a far off nation."

"By this time, Alexander was greatly pleased with the King and burst out laughing.

"Then what am I going to do do?" he asked. "I will tell you what you should do. your army is very tired and fatigued on account of long marches. Let us be friends and comrades and not ^{as} warring enemies. I invite you and all your army to be my guests for a few months. We will spread the feasts of joy and merry making and consort with each other with perfect intimacy. Our men instead of killing each other will live side by side. Is not this better than the grim battlefield strewn with dead and wounded?"

Alexander readily agreed to this plan and the King bade him farewell to go ahead and make due preparations for the reception of his late enemy but newly-acquired friend. After a few days of march Alexander and his army arrived in the vicinity of the capital of the King. He was still miles away when he saw the King at the head of a vast army coming out to welcome him. As long as his eyes could see, there were countless regiments in serried ranks covering the whole field. At first he got some misgivings that this King under the guise of friendship has induced him to come to his country to wipe away himself and his legions with a wholesale slaughter. Looking around he saw that already he and all his soldiers were surrounded by the army of the King. This thought oppressed him very much and not being able to contain himself any longer, addressing the King he cried out:- Is this not a breach of your promise? Is this not a plain treason? Under the garb of peace you have brought us here to be destroyed by this great force? Did you bring us to your country to spread before us the festival of joy and pleasure or the fete of sword and death? How can you explain the necessity of bringing together this countless army?"

"I assure you, my comrade" the King answered "that our protestations of friendship have been and are still true. We have not deceived you at all. I must also tell you that what you have witnessed is not my entire army. But the truth of the matter is I have brought together these regiments to impress upon your mind that I did not come to your

