

Home of Baha-Ollah.

Acre. Syria.

November 19th 1914

Dear friends!

I had a lovely breakfast in the house of Mirza Anayetullah this morning and then walked over to the garden of the Beloved. No sooner I arrived than he sent for me and I enjoyed another breakfast in his Presence. Mirza Habibullah Khodabakh had written me a letter from Abou Senan asking the Master whether the time has come for him to leave for Kermanshah to meet his parent and family. I told him about this petition. He said: - "Mirza Habibullah is a sincere servant and very faithful in the Cause. I love him very much. My highest aspiration is to serve the believers of the Merciful. Were it possible for me I would have served the friends individually." As according to the lunar calendar this was^{the} first day of the month of Moharram, it was the anniversary of the birth of His Holiness the Babi. "This afternoon a memorial meeting will be held and we will ascend the Mountain to visit the Holy Tomb with the utmost joy and fragrance. The feast will be given by Abbas Goli, the guardian." Coming out of the house he told me to follow him through the streets. After a few kind and loving words he said: - "Art thou happy with me? In thee I place my utmost trust. Because all my correspondence passes through thy hand and all my letters are read and transcribed and translated by thee, thou art the custodian of my secrets. The news of the Cause is given out to the Bahai world by thee. This is a great sign of the signs of God. Protect it diligently from the attack of the envious and ill-wishers. Because thou art so near to me and art watching my life so closely thy responsibilities and tests are so much the greater and the darts of ill-will and jealousy so much the sharper. Like unto the mountain thou must stand firm and resolute and ever remember the mercies of Thy Lord. Let not the ill-will or hatred of others discourage thee and strive in the quickening of the souls and the turning of their faces toward God. The hour that I have promised thee has come, the moment that I have been expecting so long has arrived. Now is the time that thou mayst go to America and exert in the promotion of the Cause of God and the exaltation of the Word of God and self sacrifice.

in the Path of God." I was simply stunned. I could not say a word. I could not even weep. I did not expect this sudden permission of departure. I was not prepared for it. I tried to exclaim 'My Lord' but something arose in my ^{throat} and I had to gulp my word. He turned and looked into my face. With a twinkle in his merry eyes and a hearty laughter he said: "My! How thy face has turned white! Indeed I did not say that I am going to send thee away today. What a child art thou! I need thee here. Thou must be with me. There is no other person here who can carry on thy work in thy absence nor any soul whom I can trust. If I should send thee now all the works of the Cause ~~in this spot~~ ^{in this spot} with which thou art connected will come to a standstill. I wanted only to tell thee that thou art ready to go to America Thou must do always something and speak in such a manner that the people's attachment to this world may become less. A teacher of the Cause is in need of 3 attributes. 1st severance, sanctity and purity. 2d The mention of the Lord of the worlds must be his constant companion. 3d Knowledge, wisdom, vision and inspiration. Then he can create a new soul and fashion a new heart in the body of man. Then he will be enabled to show others the path of attraction and severance. Man must strive first to educate and train his own self - thus he may obtain unlimited capacity; then start in the education of others. Our central thought must ever be, how to educate ourselves, how to prepare our hearts for the reception of the Holy-Spirit, how to advance a few steps from this material into the spiritual world and how to be illumined with the light of Truth. During the lifetime of Baha-Allah my whole object revolved around the idea of how to become more spiritual, more attracted, more enkindled, how to live in accord with the good-pleasure of the Blessed Perfection, how to become assisted via worthy service, how to attain to an abstracted state of supplication and prayerfulness. I often was in a meeting but I was so self-occupied that I did not hear their conversations I desire for all the souls these means ^{which} would be conducive to their own illumination and enlightenment. Consider how much thou hast progressed since thou didst leave America with me! To this I bear testimony. When man attains to the station

of Divine Spirituality, if he pass by a mountain of gold he will not look at it, if he come by a treasure of jewels, it will be like a heap of stones, he will become a luminous candle, he will seek neither fame nor honor, he will become an embodied light. When a person becomes so detached and spiritual he will surely obtain the infinite Graces of the Almighty."

The believers were gathered in the garden when we returned. The Beloved asked them to enter the room and after chanting a long ^{arabic} Tablet by Baha-Allah concerning the greatness of this day he told them to go to the government House and register their names.

I had my lunch with the Master but he ate only two apples brought to him from the garden.

In the afternoon Khasro brought a carriage and the Beloved took ^{with him} Sheik - or Rais and his son up the Mountain. There was held a large ^{meeting} in the central room. Tea, fruits and candies were served; glorious Tablets were chanted and an illuminating address given by the Master on the subject of Divinity and the necessity of recognizing the Manifestation of God as the channel through whom Divine Graces flow. "In reality" he said "this is a very blessed day. It is the dawn of the rise of the sun of Reality which has illumined the East and the West." After visiting the Holy Tomb we hurried down to pack up our things and start for the station. It was sunset when we entered the station and we had to wait more than one hour for the Damascus train. Sheik - or Rais and his son, Mirza Hadi and Mirza Anayetullah, Bahram of Adasseyah and Khasro and this servant were with the King of Kings. Late as it was Isfandeyar was thoughtful enough to bring the carriage to the station and we were happy to put our feet again on the floor of the Home of Baha-Allah. What joy and happiness to be in the midst of these wonderful experiences the likes of which will never be repeated in the coming ages! Khasro had brought our supper from Haifa and while the Master was talking with his honored guest we sat around his ^{counters} table and partook of his material and spiritual bread. What say you of these glorious hours? Are they not divine!