

Moonbeam Bahai Calm  
 Abou Seman, Acca, Syria  
 December 6th 1914

Dear friends!

For the present there is not a shadow across our path and the heaven of our happiness is unclouded. Ours is not to reason why. We have in our midst the glorious Abdul Baha and we trust unhesitatingly in his divine judgment and spiritual guidance. It is my firm belief that everything he does is perfect and can never be improved upon. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts and his ways are other than our ways. Imperfection is in us, he is the all-perfect one. We are full of mistakes and errors, but he is entirely free from any such human frailties. The imperfect attributes, characterizing humanity do not find admission to his heavenly Court and the defective qualities, necessarily present in the realm of matter do not touch the Hem of his garment. His human and divine nature is as pure as the nature of a new-born babe and his immanent being is as holy as the holiness of God Himself. He is the clear channel through whom the water of Life flows and his heart the transparent mirror upon which is reflected the ideal pictures of the Kingdom of Abha. He is the spiritual guardian of the world and the true protector of the rights of the wronged and the poor. He is the Celestial Comforter and whosoever turns his heart to him receives a hiding consolation. In this dark world he is the light. In this wilderness of thorns he is the rose. In this gloomy night of death he is the lodestar of assurance. In this narrow, damp prison he is the power of salvation. Amidst these black scenes of death he is the incarnation of Life. In these days that the display of hate and enmity is most pronounced he is the power of Love and Amity. His is the remedy that heals the wounds; raises the fallen, confers health to the sick and cheers the despondent ones. Knock at his door, it will be opened unto you; pray earnestly at his threshold and it will be given <sup>to you</sup>; walk steadfastly in his path and you will be guided; seek him and you shall not be disappointed, trust in him and you will be wisely directed, love him and the whole world will love you, call on his name and he will answer you and lose your life for him and he shall lead you.

This morning The Master could be seen descending briskly the many stairs of the home on the hill. After a few minutes stay in the reception room he made another tour to call on some of the inhabitants and while he was passing by our Cabin I heard him say to Sheikh Saleh :- "I am satiated with this physical life, I yearn after the life of the Kingdom. Here is all worries and troubles, there it is peace and rest." After an hour he returned and we joined him and walked with him to the room. There were several Arabs present from the neighboring villages. They were all eager to listen to the Words of the Beloved and they were rewarded beyond their wildest expectation. The informal meeting lasted from 9 Am to noon and if I attempt even to enumerate all the things the Master told them it will take several pages. Knowing their predilection for stories, especially those stories that touch the peculiarities and manners of some persons whom they have known he paved the way by relating for them several such <sup>funny</sup> stories and put them in good humor. Then he spoke about a polemic conversation he had with an ardent Christian Missionary concerning the validity of the religions of Christ and Mahamad which I hope to share its contents with you in some future date. Passing over this matter he dwelt on the electric illumination of the American cities during the nights and how they have used electricity as a great means for advertisement by displaying their wares by ingenious devices of twinkling, <sup>flashing</sup> electric signs above their shops, in mid-air and on the top of skyscrapers. He asserted that those who have not seen the huge metropolis like New York, Chicago and San Francisco could not even form the faintest idea of what he meant, still they could grasp his meaning by looking up any night toward the marvellous beauty and brilliancy of the star-lit heaven. A few years ago hundreds of people flocked to Haifa from all parts, why? because the shops had decorated the bazaar with 3000 lanterns which became extinct after a few hours and left the town in its former darkness. What was all about this abnormal curiosity? Was it because a few lanterns illuminated the shops? Why did they not look over their heads <sup>and see</sup> the infinite space beset with millions of never-to-be-extinct lanterns! This was and still is the heavenly banquet of lights, the spiritual panorama of illumination and the scene of the most dazzling glory! This refulgent spectacle we can witness every night and delve deep into the depths

of the ocean of their mysteries and bear testimony to the supreme invention and majesty of the Wondrous Creator. The mighty illumination of this revolving dome is peerless and unique, it is eternal and never-ending; but because our eyes are accustomed to it we do not think about it.

Then he spoke in detail about the accumulation of riches in America by individuals and the formation of huge fixed and circulating capitals, the construction of giant factories and the proportionate increase of supply and demand. Notwithstanding a general raising of the standard of living and the multiplication of the comforts of men, he observed that those who possessed wealth were dispossessed of much ideal happiness and simple, unalloyed enjoyment. They were worried, upset, nervous and often on the verge of suicide or insanity. Their wealth had placed into their hands a deadly weapon with which to drive away their faith in God and their love for humanity. They had become mere cold, calculating money-registers. A fluctuation in the financial district filled them with alarm and fear, lest they may lose their colossal fortunes. He did not think that the American millionaire is happy unless he considers his millions as a social trust and acts on the principles of such an unwritten contract. Still he deemed it an unhealthy condition of the Society to see the vast accumulation of untold millions into the hands of a few men who may use great sums to bribe legislators for the accomplishment of their fell designs. Hence in the concentration of wealth many abuses are crept in which some economists believe outweighs its benefits derived by the public at large. Therefore an opinion is slowly growing up that the avarice and the greed of the rich men must be restricted by legislative and executive actions. The upshot of his talk was however <sup>to show</sup> that the rich man being submerged to his neck in a lake of dollars ~~he~~ does not find time to enjoy his possession while the poor man once his few wants satisfied is truly happy and thanks God from the depth of his heart. Happiness, then, is not dependent on material things, nay rather its wings are ~~not~~ smeared by contact with ~~heat~~ and clay. To be happy is better than to be rich and the fountain of real happiness is in the contented heart, the heart that does not crave after the perishable things of matter.

In the afternoon we took a walk ~~over~~ the hills and gathered several nosegays of narcissus. I called them the "Thoughts of the Holy Land" and as such I sent a bouquet to Mrs. <sup>Ellis</sup> Getzinger who arrived from India Dec. 3rd. 1914

When we returned to the reception room we found it again filled with other guests. They were mostly Christians. I heard the name of Andrew Carnegie and immediately I became interested. It seems that he has either given a lecture or published an article in the New York newspaper, calling upon the American people in the name of humanity to rise as one man and exert their influence to extinguish this world-raging fire of war. Are we not men (he has said) Are we so cold-hearted that we are not influenced by pity and sympathy? Are we going to stand aside like the spectators in the arena of a Spanish bull fight to see these millions of people butchering each other and not raise our unanimous voice of protest against this awful crime they are perpetrating? It was in deed most significant to realize in this one thing, the noble principle of the brotherhood of man, that even the rude Arabs of this small village are swayed by the humane ideas uttered in America! Because the Beloved has been in America they wanted him to tell them something about Mr Carnegie. Then he spoke about the man and his ideals, his literary and financial contributions to the cause of international Peace and education, his activity and interest in the construction of the Palace of Peace in Hague, the Pan American <sup>Union</sup> Building in Washington and innumerable charitable institutions. After this the destructive evils of war were enumerated and the lack of the tolerant spirit of true religion deplored. Then monopolies and trusts as organized in America to control the market prices were discussed in full and their shameless methods in contributing to the high cost of living considered. After all, the Master asserted that the monopolistic ways are sinful, unjust, tyrannical. One could recall of no greater injustice committed in defiance of the law and in creating a fictitious price to rob the poor of their earnings and fill the pockets of the octopus millionaires. These trusts are like polyps who with their venomous tentacles try to choke the life out of the communities and every means must be tried to check their growth of their enormous powers ~~and~~ nefarious methods and monstrous systems.