

Home of Baha-Ollah 1 #
Acca, Syria December 10th 1914

Dear friends!

We enjoyed a delightful late supper in the Presence of the Beloved. There were two other believers at the table and we thought it would be better if we retired quietly to give him a chance to rest, because he was talking all day^{2nd} meeting various people. We had just come down the steps when Khosro called after us. "Come, Come, friends" the Master said when we stood at the Threshold "let us talk tonight of the old time." He asked me what news I have? I told him I hear that Badi Effendi's school in Akbar Senan has increased in number and that it is no more 'my room' but Bahai school. He laughed and said: "What dost thou want with a room of stone and clay! I have prepared for thee such glorious rooms the walls, the roofs, the floors and the furniture of which are of purest deeds and immortal virtues. Therein thou abidest forever. Badi Effendi is a capable, efficient teacher and loves the children. He is ^{striving} in service and wishes to perfect the work which he undertakes. The perfection of work is man's greatest reward. When he sees his work perfected and this perfection has been the result of incessant labor and application he is the happiest man in the world! Work is the source of human happiness. For example when we were in America how happy we were, because we were working for the Cause! Here we are not working. The inhabitants are dead, they have no motion. What wonderful vigor, energy, force and intelligence do the American women display! They show such sound judgment, such marvellous range of information. In undertakings and actions their men are giants. I love to think of the days we spent in their midst. What series of meetings we attended! To me they seem like dreams. Think of the meetings in Lake Mohawk Conference, Church of the ascension, Philadelphia Baptist, New York Peace Society, meeting in the building of the Daughters of American Revolution, in the public Library, in the Universalist Church in Washington, meetings in the churches and hotels of Chicago, meetings in the Jewish Synagogues, large, public meetings everywhere, and above all think of the farewell heavenly Banquets in Cincinnati, Washington and New York! Nothing in the world can equal them in spirituality and

grandeur. There, we were working, here we are now shut on all sides. We cannot even breathe. Those meetings were the embodiment of the spirit. Did not the men and women and the children raised the songs of the Kingdom of Akha at the Banquet of Washington? The lights of the Sun of Truth beamed forth from the faces! And the Banquet in New York, was it not a manifest miracle to those who understand? When I think of those meetings my soul is uplifted. Praise be to God that Mirza Ahmad has been with me everywhere and has seen all these things with his own eyes. He is a living witness to all these events. When a person goes to America with pure intention, devoid of all the aims and arises in the promotion of the Cause of God he will observe that all the powers of the Earth and Heaven co-operate together to assist him. Before leaving for Canada a number of believers expressed the fear that because Montreal is a Catholic stronghold we will meet strong opposition but we trusted the Power of Baha Allah and went there and found not only a hearty welcome but the meetings in many respect were more wonderful than many other places and all the newspapers wrote every day long articles; the people were attracted to the Cause and the Confirmations of the Kingdom were most manifest. . . . The Americans on a whole ~~are~~ very ~~very~~ magnanimous and hospitable and their prosperity and success in material affairs proverbial. In the domain of spirituality and ethics there is also great awakening. One can speak more intelligently and ~~safely~~ ^{freely} more easily a plain American citizen than hundred supposed learned men of Acca. The ground of Palestine is holy but its inhabitants are mercenary. ^{Around} with the people here! They have no life, no vivacity nor animation; but in America it is all so different; the people are brisk, frolicsome, sprightly, full of liveliness and jocund. When one walks through the streets the strains of music and songs reach to his ears from many houses. They play and sing and are gay and mirthful; the avenues are full of merry fellows, they come and go, talk and laugh. They are all animated with a festival spirit and looked to me like holiday-making children. They have the dash and clan of a happy and great nation and their vim and zest burst forth at every direction.

They love the Beautiful and strive to embody in their lives the precepts of artistic purity and noble holiness. But just strain your ears for a few moments! Do you hear any voice, any music, any sign of life, any traces of happiness and exhilaration, any nocturnal conviviality? No. They are all dead; it looks to me like a graveyard. They lead indeed a most miserable life, they have neither the benefits of this world nor the world to come. They are the captives of their stomachs. Their first thought in the morning is food and their last thought is food. They are worse than slaves! He continued to talk with short intermission of silence for more than two hours, always relating the events of ^{our} tour, now in America and again in Europe till very late in the evening.

In the afternoon he gave me a package of letters to read them and report to him their contents. Then he walked for about fifteen minutes on the balcony facing the sea where the Blessed Perfection used to walk almost every day. Returning to his room he dictated two Tablets for Doctor George J. Auger in Tokyo and the President of the American Syrian College in Beirut.

To Doctor Auger he writes:—"O thou herald of the Kingdom of God, Thy letter dated September 7th 1914 was duly received. Its contents was an indication to thy faith, assurance and firmness in the Covenant and Testament. Its perusal produced the utmost joy and fragrance, that praise be to God that blessed soul has raised the Call of the Kingdom in that Empire and has given the glad-tiding of the Sun of Reality. This teaching in that country is like unto an efficient farmer who scatters pure seeds into fertile ground. Unquestionably the Cloud of the Kingdom of Alpha shall pour down, the heat of the Sun of Truth shall cause their growth, and the Breezes of Providence shall develop them and important results will be produced. Thank thou God that thou hast become the mainfactor of such Restoration and raised this Call of the Kingdom in that country. Rest thou assured that thou shalt become assisted and confirmed! Therefore with the utmost power and assurance and with a heavenly magnanimity arise thou in the proclamation of this Divine

Call;- so that thou may'st quicken the dead souls, bestow sight to the blind eyes, ~~and~~ confer hearing to the deaf ears and instruct the souls in accord with the Divine Teachings. This is my advice to thee. I supplicate before the Divine Glory to confirm thee under all circumstances and suffer thee to become the main-spring of the most important affair. May'st thou become a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Stay thou in Japan;- in order that thou may'st become a spiritual farmer and gather a most blessed crop....."

To the President of the American College, Doctor Bliss he says:-

"O thou my dear respected friend! Thy letter was received. As it evinced love, faithfulness, and loyalty in the established relations between our hearts, like unto the ideal wine, it imparted exhilaration. I hope that this love may continue for ever and ever.

Shangi Effendi and other Persian students are pleased with you and have expressed the utmost satisfaction. They have praised you most highly to ^{all} the Persians who have come from Persia to Haifa and this commendation has reached throughout all that country that the Honorable President is exceedingly kind and is striving with heart and soul in the progress of the ~~Students~~ ^{Students}.

I beg of God that in the service to the world of humanity you may precede all others and in the instruction and education of the students you may become a peerless leader ^{amongst} mankind....."

This afternoon the Beloved spoke about Miss Sanderson. "I ^{saw} her last night clothed in a wonderful white dress. Its snowy brightness and splendor dazzled the eyes. I asked her whether this is the Druse dress she has sewn to take away with her to America? She answered: 'No'. This is another dress. I admired very much its spotless whiteness and purity and then I awoke. This is a good sign. She will become confirmed to render a great service ^{thing} to the Cause of God." just how glorious it is to be dreamed by the Center of the Covenant.