

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin 36  
Above Senan, Acca Syria  
December 15th 1914

Dear friends!!

The great souls do not divulge their unhappinesses and weariness to the world but while suffering inwardly they shed the rays of joy on all those who come in touch with them. Their innate nature has an expansive quality, covering vast area of human feelings and interests. Their sympathetic attitude makes them the most sensitive organs to receive the vibrations of the illoof mankind, resulting in the successive emanations of joy waves through the ideal realms of the hearts and the minds. The internal realm of these divine persons is serene and poised and their unique experiences the noblest records in the history of our progressive race. The presence of such a man amongst a backward and ignorant nation causes it to ascend to the highest station of knowledge, for through trials, tribles and sufferings he has climbed to the summit of the mountain of vision. He is like unto a light which is suddenly ignited in a gloomy night, causing the darkness to disappear or like a fountain which unexpectedly gushes forth amidst a dreary wilderness, adorning it with luxuriant grass and sweet-smelling flowers, or like unto nightingale which breaks into charming songs of thanksgiving and glorification around whom are gathered concourse of eager, listening music lovers. This man has come to give happiness to the people, to diffuse the fragrance of optimism, exalt the nobleness of truth, uphold the majesty of holiness and inculcate the lessons of loving-kindness. He does not magnify the shortcomings of others but observe their winsome qualities. To every heart he brings solacement and comfort and wipes away the tears of the unfortunate. He heals the lacerations of the spirits and cures the sicknesses of the broken-hearted. From him flows the river of pure, uncontaminated joy and those who drink a deep draught will never become atheist. In turn they will become the nucleus of similar activities and like unto the birds of paradise open their wings to give shade and protection to other weary voyagers in the quest of the holy Grail. Their complete trust will lie in the Power which had inspired them with the reality of the Kingdom

The misfortunes and miseries of the world affect men into two different ways. A man fallen into prison may come out of the jail at the end of his term, cheerless, sullen, crabbed, morose, moody and a passionate misanthrope, all his faith lost in the goodness and beauty of human nature. Out of the rough rock of his experiences ~~birth~~ had not been with the sharp chisel of patience the graceful statue of the love for his fellows; instead he had ever kept before his eyes the for bidding picture of hate and revenge. Another man going through the same sad <sup>may sadden</sup> experiences comes out a radiant torch of happiness, a dynamo of spirituality, a teacher and a reformer, a beaming light of consecration and a fruitful tree of cosmopolitan ideals. Instead of filling his heart with animosity he fills the heart of his kind with love. Instead of sitting down and brooding over the past and present evils, he girds up the loins of endeavor and co-operates with others to lighten the burden of human sorrow. Instead of looking over with remorse and regret he shouts with gladness and delight. Instead of withdrawing into the obscurity of negation he will step forth into the light of affirmation. Being firmly established in the rectitude of his conscience, he will encourage others with the love of truth. By all means he will be a supporter and guide to those who are weak, a peace-bringer and not a stirrer-up of strife and sedition. He will not let his pure heart be touched with the deadly poison of racial and social jealousy but rise into the empyrean heaven of human solidarity and celestial brotherhood. He will not sell his spiritual birthright for a mess of pottage but Moses-like lead the wandering humanity into the land of Promise. The world has very few of these men and women. Daily their number must be increased - so that they may be able to fight against the hosts of pessimism and depression. Who cares in this makeshift world to listen to tales of my life! If I can forget these tales and let my soul become a spring, bursting out the cold water of noble, constructive ideals they may give <sup>me</sup> a passing heed; if I cannot do this, if I am a complaining, grumpy old imbecile, for God's sake, let some one shut up my mouth. Let my life be a sea of joy, a mountain of bliss, a meadow of exhilaration, a starry heaven of royal thoughts, a never failing fountain of felicity and good-will, an imperishable race of disinterested deeds and self-sacrificing aims. This I hope to be the plan of my life.

When the divine idea of love takes possession of the heart, he becomes entirely another person, because he looks upon the world with another eye and speaks to them with another tongue. A new heaven and a new earth are opened before his vision, his consciousness so expanded so as to include the whole world and all its inhabitants. His love of family, country, race and <sup>national</sup> religion will become subservient to the love of humanity. This is the love of Abdul Baha. With this touchstone the truth is distinguished from falsehood, the light from darkness, the rose from the thorn and the mirage from the water. Abdul Baha's life is the visible embodiment of this love, his daily deeds and actions the exemplification of this love, his utterances and teachings the index to this love, his manners and conduct the reference to this love, his character and personality the guide post to this love and his epic history and shining personality the concrete expression of this love. Let each one of us partake a gladly portion of this love and immerse in the sea of this love. He lives amongst us as an incarnation of the true majesty of the Lord, a logical and historical personification of the growth and progress of the Bahai Cause. If thou dost desire to know how far the religion of Baha-Ollah has advanced, to what extent the Kingdom of Baha is established in the hearts of humanity look at him, listen to his wisdom and study the rich and dramatic experiences of his life. It is a suggestive and fruitful observation that the life of Abdul Baha covers the same years as the history of the Bahai Cause. By the side of his Father he has worked year in and year out for the gradual unfolding of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God and in the golden box of his memory he has preserved the rich and the most valuable records of this movement. Standing on the lofty peak of spiritual understanding he looks down on one side of the mountain and sees the details of the past history of this movement, the red anemones representing the blood of the army of the martyrs, and diverting his attention to the other side he sees clearly - as no other person is so gifted to see - the future progress of the Cause, its universal advancement, its heavenly influence and its creative force moulding a new civilization, internationalizing all the boundaries, establishing the Kingdom of God upon earth, causing to fraternize all the contending parties and filling the world with new ideas, new arts, new literature and new truths.

This morning the Master came down into the reception room of Sheikh <sup>9</sup> Saleh and soon Mahamadan Mullahs and Christian priests and plain Arabes came in to greet him on his arrival. For the enlightenment of those who were present he spoke on the progress of astronomical science from the time of Ptolemy and Alexandria school, the different Observatories constructed in various ages, the work of Pope Gregory in fixing and accepting the yearly calendar based on solar system the Zodiacal signs in heaven and finally the modern astronomy as developed and perfected by Copernicus, Kepler, Newton, Herschel and Flammarion. Those who listened to his talk, probably had never heard such theories about the world they live in and its tremendous greatness and mechanical perfection but every one exclaimed his wonder with the words 'By the splendor of Allah! Allah is great! Glory be to His Name!' ~~He told us of~~ <sup>There was</sup> an Eastern philosopher who had advanced seventy proofs regarding the transience and impermanency of this <sup>natural</sup> creation but one night on turning his eyes heavenward and looking at the myriads of constellations and stars he said:—"O thou creation world! O thou heavenly Universe! I have long pondered and written 70 arguments to establish thy <sup>and illusory</sup> temporal character but thou art indeed very, very ancient, infinite." X

About 11 o'clock he called at the houses of different believers and inquired about their well-being. In the afternoon more people called on him and he spoke concerning the war now raging in almost all parts of the world and predicted that before the month of the spring the issue will become clear. Meanwhile with Mirza Jalal and Badi Effendi we took a stroll through the mountains. The echo of the voice is brought back so wonderfully that we were almost startled. The voice <sup>re-echoed</sup> resounded through the hills and dales, that we began to shout "Ya Baha - Allah! O Abdul Baha! Confirm us in Your service and overflow our hearts with your love" and the echo was brought back distinctly.

There was another <sup>man</sup> meeting in the meeting. A poor farmer entered the hall. Some one tried to pull him out. "Let him come in" the Master interposed "he is my friend. I love him! The poor ones of the earth are my real friends" Then he sent Mirza Jalal to bring his bag and gave to "his friend" a finger ring to adorn his finger with. Then he spoke on his love for the poor and with what amount of kindness and consideration we ought to treat them.