

Home of Baha Ollah
 Acca Syria
 December 28th 1914

Dear friends!

From 3 P.M. to 9 P.M. I was in the Presence of my Beloved. He was the embodiment of Grace and Beauty, the incarnation of Love and Amiability and the charming realization of unsownness and attraction. For the first two hours I was alone and no one came in to break the spell of his conversation. "Come and sit down" he said when I entered the room very happy. "Today we are alone. We can talk and converse together without outside intrusion. Thou art my constant companion and bosom friend. All my secrets are known to thee. With thee I can speak without restraint. I have tested thee and found thee not wanting" I thought to myself. Oh Lord! how deficient I am, how full of faults and shortcomings I am and still Thou deemest wise to tell me these things, to overpower me with these Thy Gifts and to burden me with their heavy weight. Without Thy constant confirmation and divine strength where will I be? a miserable sinner, a poor transgressor at the Court of Thy Majesty. Above all others Thou knowest my errors, failings and weaknesses. Even do I crane Thy sin-covering eye, for shouldst Thou divert it away from me for ~~one~~ ^{second}, all my deficiencies will come into the glaring daylight. How hard it is to live up to the mark of Thy simplest commandments! It is a constant internal struggle, a most difficult up-hill ascent, but if Thy Power is vouchsafed me I will be able to do Thy bidding and behests for the glory of Thy Cause and the honor of Thy Name. Spread before me Thy spiritual table. This is more important than material food. It strengthens the soul and nourishes the spirit. If I eat of Thy bread of life, Thou wilt grant me eternal bliss in the Thy Kingdom, 2 years after that food. O Lord! Confer it upon me and let me have a goodly portion of thereof. Thy Word is the key, let its significance sink deep into the recesses of my heart. Thy utterance is the water of immortality, suffer me to drink from its inexhaustible fountain. Thy explanation is the light of the Sun, illumine my mind with its radiant rays. Thou art my Friend and savior Thee I have no one else in this world. If I have Thee I have everyone.

For the first two hours he spoke on many beautiful topics which I have to keep them treasured in the casket of my heart and feed my soul on their sustaining force. Then one by one others, believers and non-believers found their way into the room and ^{rather} the spirit of the moment ~~rather~~ dictated and directed the tone of conversation. Now he spoke about the poor of Acre: "I have not been able to bring for them coats this season. Many of them have already called ~~and~~ were of course disappointed. The price of wheat is rising and with the ghost of war and commercial blockade hovering over the heads, hard and severe time will ~~be~~ to be faced in two or three ~~months~~."

About Adasiah and Nagail he said: "I never dreamed to buy land around the Lake of Galilee and by the river Jordan, but the Blessed Perfection commanded me to do so, in consideration of their biblical sacredness and the historical associations running back into the oldest antiquity thus connecting in a prophetic manner this new Dispensation with the Judaism and Christianity."

About the probability of bombarding Haifa he said: "Now that they have stationed a regiment of soldiers in the Russian and French monasteries and are thinking to mount guns on the heights the city is on the danger list, especially the German Colony in the vicinity of which is our house. I must think some way to remove at least the holy books etc to some safe quarter. This must be done very quickly and quietly and we may have to return for a few days to Haifa."

While walking to and fro and looking at the walls of the room he said: - "Association of ideas is a deep psychological phenomenon. Nowhere does my heart truly rest save in this room where the Blessed Beauty spent His days and nights for many years. When I sit there alone how vividly the living picture is brought before my mind! In the evenings, after I got to bed I lay awake for hours, thinking rapidly over the miraculous events of this Cause, how we were at first brought to Acre and imprisoned in the Barrack, how the breasts of Baha-Ollah became the target for the arrows of oppression, how He suffered all these ignominies for our sake, how His Celestial Faith shone bright and luminous through untold miseries and trials and how He conquered the hearts of men!"

I think of the contents of the majestic Tablets revealed in this room. Sometimes methinks I hear His very voice, singing, singing, His burning message through every fiber of my heart. I review in my mind the many meetings I had with Him in this room, the many historical scenes ^{peracted and} held here and the innumerable spiritual events transpired! These were the days of my real joy. Their recollections are ~~the~~ source of great consolation to me."

Speaking about the appreciation of the Divine Gifts he said:- "Thought's weather is very cool. It conduces one to sleep. Sleep is one of the greatest Gifts of God. So long as man sleeps regularly at a stated hour he will not appreciate it very much, but if he is kept awake all night or if he is attacked by that dread disease insomnia he will know its full recuperative value. The Gift is not noticed as long as it exists but when it is disappeared its worth will be appreciated. For example, so long as this lamp is burning in this room, irradiating light to all directions, no one is especially moved to make a comment upon it, but if we are suddenly plunged into a great darkness, we will all exclaim, 'What a good and valuable thing a lamp is!' The luminous days, the spiritual days, the merciful days that were spent with the Blessed Beauty were not duly appreciated. Why? Because, we thought we could have them always, but now that they have gone, never to return, we long for one hour of those divine days, and we cannot have them for the whole world. The fish sports itself quite heedlessly in the water, never suspecting that it alone is the preserver of its life, but when it is thrown out of the water, it realizes the truth. While we are sitting in this room, speaking and enjoying our time we do not even think that outside the wind is howling and those who are thinly dressed will feel the pinch of cold. Now this very room is one of the greatest Gifts of the Almighty. If we go out and happen to think over this matter we might comprehend its apposite-ness in a clearer and more direct manner. When the little village Samrah on the lake of Galilee was bought years ago, I went there to supervise the building of a room for our temporary headquarters. We had ^{not} carried with us any tent or for that matter anything and thought to spend the night right in the open under the blue sky. We were still sitting around a camp fire, talking when a threatening black cloud ascended to the heaven

and started a torrential rain. By the time we tried to think where to go, we were soaked with water and as it settled into a rather steady, continuous downpour we thought we must find some place of safety. After much inquiries from each other and our Arab laborers, finally one of them told us that far away from where we were there is a low, narrow arch by placing the rough blocks of stones beside each other, which may partially protect us from the rain and the wind. Now it was pitched darkness, the wind was blowing and the rain was pouring. We agreed to hold each other's hand and let the Arab who knew the place guide us. As I knew there were many deep hollows in the country I cautioned our man against them, when suddenly we heard the cries of one of the laborers who had fallen in the hole and was calling on us to go to his rescue. With much difficulty we brought out of the mud and water and by the time we reached the arch we were drenched and wet through and through. When I lowered my back and entered the narrow arch I felt as though I am in the most spacious gallery. None of us could lie down and sleep on that night. We squatted there till morning, our backs supported by the cold stones. Then we were most glad to welcome the warm rays of the sun under which we dried our clothes. "

By 7 o'clock many people were gathered in the room and because some of them were Arab students of law, theology and ancient astronomy he gave an exhaustive talk on each of these branches of human knowledge; especially abstruse and subtle were some of his interpretations of the Koranic verses, his acute differentiations between the laws of God and the laws of men and how they are interrelated and act upon each other. Then he quoted the opinions of some of the ancient Arabic scholars such as Beizavi and Fakhraddin Razi that they also believed the earth is round and spherical and how during the reign of Caliph Mammun three brothers measured the distance of the earth through certain calculations carried between the North and South stars. It was altogether a very instructive afternoon and evening, the Master displaying his unusual powers and unfolding the gates of his wisdom. His health is simply splendid, he sleeps well, eats regularly and simply and is never tired. He is storing energies for some great work before him after this war.