

Home of Baha-Ollah

Acca. Syria

January 5th 1915

Dear friends!

This evening before going out to call on Matosarref and others the Beloved dictated a short Tablet for the believers in Germany which from a larger and ~~more~~ universal standpoint it may be taken to be addressed to all the friends scattered in different parts of the world, for they are the spiritual members of a divine Society. He says and his saying is truth:—

'O ye believers of God and the maid servants of the Merciful! All your epistles were duly received. From its contents it became evident that praise be to God you are all firm in the Love of God, are attracted with the Holy Fragrances and are enkindled with the Fire of Divine Affection.

"During these days that the fire of war is ignited in the East and in the West these friends are engaged in the mentioning of God, the awakening of the souls and the purification of the hearts. You are striving to lay the foundation of union and accord between the nations and are displaying an effort to harmonize the people of the Orient and the Occident,— so that the oneness of the world of humanity may shine like unto a light in the ^{camp}light of the assemblage of mankind. Praise be to God that in this dark night you are radiant and in these days that the cloud of war has enshrouded all the countries you are sparkling like unto the brilliant morning stars. This is no other but one of the miracles of the Heavenly Teachings and one of the patent signs of the Spiritual Power of His Holiness Baha-Ollah. Therefore, thank ye God that ye are confirmed with such a Bestowal.

"Praise be to God that we are all in perfect health and in the utmost security, especially Abdu'l Baha. We hope that you are also in good health and in safety. May you be guarded through the Protection of God and be in the utmost joy and fragrance through the Divine Glad-tidings.

"Although your trials and hardships are innumerable yet through

the Tower of the Love of God man becomes cool and peaceful in the fire; in the darkness he becomes illumined; amidst contraction and restriction expansion and enlargement is attained and while surrounded with pain and sorrow, comfort and joy is realized.

"I send the most wonderful Abha greeting to each and all of you."

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abha.

Thus in these brief sketches he outlines the program of the activities of the Bahas wherever they are. Closing their eyes to the present prejudices and inimical environments they must work for the strengthening of the foundation of the Oneness of the world of humanity. Ours is the clear vision of the final triumph of this divine principles in the twentieth century. Scoffers and unbelievers are no doubt many, especially in these days that the fire of human lunacy is raging in all parts of the globe. Temporarily, while the air is thickened with the dust of international conflict, the eyes are blinded to the truths shining like the rays of the Sun in midday. They look upon their own neighbors with suspicious and mistrust. Their so-called teaching of patriotism leads them into a charnel-house where they are attacked by the black scorpions of hate and the venomous tarantulae of antipathy. The teachers of the different religions and the statesmen of various governments have truly punished the innocent people like Tantalus who was placed in a lake whose waters reached to his chin but receded whenever he attempted to allay his thirst, ^{and} while over ^{his} head hung fruit, which disappeared when he sought it. Thus while the people of this century are swimming in the sea of the Love of God they are prevented by the narrow ^{doctrines} of their sectarian preachers to ~~drink~~ a drop and while they are all sitting around the table of Celestial brotherhood they do not dare to help themselves with one small mouthful. Praise be to God that in the Bahai revelation, a new vision is vouchsafed to mankind, a new interpretation of the same eternal truth is granted and a new outlook of life is given us by the Almighty. We are not led by blind leaders who are overheated by the passion of their own bigoted ideas nor are we influenced by patriotic bias - so that we may condemn one nation and exalt another and thus create discord and strife.

This morning the Beloved went down and right in front of the door he sat in the sunshine. Soon others joined him and a discussion on the general uplift of morality was started. He soon took them ^{through} the mazes of the complex life of the Western nations and how owing to many palpable causes which he enumerated them, the moral tone is lowered and decency and chastity losing the upperhand. He wished them to practice the simple life which is no other than the life of the spirit. If they desired to enjoy a long life they should cultivate a pure physical, intellectual and moral life, they must shun all social and deteriorating vices which dethrone their manhood, debases their character, extinguishes their light and bring about their degradation. How many thousands of young men who have ~~fallen~~ ^{fallen} a prey to the excesses of a physical nature and indulged in the satisfaction of their carnal appetites - have not lamented their mistakes and wished they had never listened to the voice of the tempter! Often for the pleasure of a ^{fleeting} moment they have poisoned the pure fountains of their lives and have lost the reputation which they had acquired after much perseverance. Their ignorance or godlessness has brought them to the yawning chasm of destruction and their moral blunders caused them to be reeking in both some diseases and chronic rottenness.

Probably the young men who formed the major part of the Master's impromptu audience needed this kind of blunt, direct speech, for they looked into each other's faces with shame and confusion and one of them ran impulsively toward him and kissed the hem of his garment.

When they left us he started to walk in the sun for more than one hour and all the time I was following him and trying hard to walk in his footsteps.

In the afternoon there was a large meeting in the Mosque where all the people of the town were present and Abdul Aziz Tchanoush delivered a warlike speech on Jihad and against the enemies of Islam who are trying to destroy "our homes, pillage our properties and disgrace our women". He exhorted them to show their faith through the wielding of their swords against the infidels who are swarming at their door and attacking them from all sides! "O God! Destroy our enemies and give us victory over the unbelievers." was the rather curious ending of the lecture.