

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
February 4th 1915

Dear friends!

For the last few days the weather has been cloudy and rainy but now and then the winds scattering the clouds, the sun shone forth with resplendent beauty and glory. The farmers have been praying for rain, as a thirsty soul prayeth for water, and God hath answered their Call. Now while I am writing you at this late hour, a regular deluge is descending from heaven to satisfy the expectation of the people. The night is very dark and stormy and the wild elements play havoc and creating disorder. A few believers had lingered behind, talking together about the conditions of the world and how spiritual darkness ~~has~~ covered all the regions. However, all of them were convinced beyond peradventure, that the holy Voice which has arisen out of the heart of the East will ere long silence all the discordant voices of war and contention and another and sweeter era will be ushered in. The very presence of Abdul Baha assures them of the realization of such a future happy state of friendly feelings and amicable understanding amongst the nations and religions. We were thus engaged in the discussion of this rather universal expectation when Khosro appeared at the doorway and announced the happy news that the Beloved wants to see me. I wondered why he has sent me at such a late hour and with this thought in my mind I entered his sacred room. "Thou art welcome" he said "Come and sit down. Today a few letters have been ^{received} from America direct. Two of them are for you. Here they are. Read them to me." One was from Mrs Louise Gibbons of New York, another from Miss Louise Sherman of Washington. The latter contained a petition for the Master. It was from Miss Alice May Youse of Baltimore. She had mailed her photograph for him. I gave to him. He looked at it with tenderness. "A good face, a spiritual character, an ever aspiring soul, a steadfast will and a sweet, loving nature!" he said, half to himself, while he was looking at it. I read to him her supplication and then translated her lovely poem "Thy Kingdom Come." It was the clear echo of

Bahai Message of Peace and brotherhood from the West to the East. It was an evidence that amidst all these confusions, the love of mankind is still taught and insisted upon by devoted souls. It was an irrefutable demonstration that thousands others are working, ~~and~~ speaking and writing along these divine ideals. The Master listened to the poem with attention and evident pleasure. When I ended it he said: "This is an excellent poem. I hope she will compose many similar pieces on these high themes. She will be inspired with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. Today a new eter and acclamation must be created in the hearts of the people. The slow moving mankind must be accelerated with a new, quickening ^{energy} so that they may reach their goal quickly and without unnecessary delay. The Bahais must contribute more than their large ^{share} to this universal awakening." After reading to him other letters I was permitted to retire. I found the friends have been waiting for my return and still discussing the ideals of Peace. "A spiritual Gift for you from America!" I declared. "What is it? What is it?" they all asked. Then I read to them the poem "Thy Kingdom Come" and they were all reinforced and strengthened that the Spirit of God is moving in the hearts. May I share with you the contents of the poem which has come to rejoice our hearts, like the pearly dew on ^{the} verdant grass, glistening at the dawn of aurora or similar to the fragrant rose of the garden of truth perfuming the nostrils? yes? Here it is:-

"The end of the world, the old world, "Behold I make all things new,
The Lord of the world, His Banner unfurled, moves onward in stately review;
Let Christian, Jew and Mohammodan, all brothers, in love clasp hand,
Nor clash of arms, mid war's alarms, mar earth, God's sovereign Command,
For look ye all to the glowing East, and hark while the angels sing;
The Sun of God arise there, with healing in his wing,
And shineth e'en to the ends of earth, God's chosen ones, and them
He will gather together, the elect in the New Jerusalem.
Columbia, land of the free and the brave, and home for all nations ^{oppressed},
Where stars and stripes steadily, gallantly wave, adorning her ^{world-mother} breast,
Steadfast the stars and equal the stripes, one God and one Country supreme.

Her banner of brotherhood circles the globe, past sorrow and sin to redeem.
 Other sheep must be brought that are not of this fold, quite as dear to the Master's heart,
 As we gather them in, true life shall begin and discord and danger depart.
 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, surviving war's mad reign and rod,
 Pass into the fold of the shepherd old as creation, our Father God.
 Proclaim a universal Peace.

The King is dead and war must cease,
 Long live the King, the King of Kings.
 A reign of righteousness that brings
 To earth the gl'd millennium
 Of God's almighty Kingdom come."

During the day I had several short glimpses of the Beloved, going out and coming in, paying visits and receiving visitors; but in the evening we were amply rewarded, for he received all the friends with genuine pleasure. During the last few days we had received cablegrams from Shiraz, Tabriz, Rasht and Gazvin inquiring about the health of the Beloved; therefore he dictated the following messages: "Praise be to God all of us are in the utmost health;" "Perfect wellbeing enjoyed by all;" "Praise be to God everyone is vigorous and joyful;" "Thank the Lord we are sound and hearty." Thus these messages, carrying with them the thrilling breezes of the Love of the Merciful will be wired to the above cities and from those centres will be transmitted to other places, refreshing the drooping spirits and illuminating the hopeless hearts. Then he spoke about the wars which are being waged with greatest desperation in all parts of the globe: - "Today the means of awakening and heedfulness are prepared for the people but they are not warned nor do they turn their attention to the horizon of Reality. These sad events are the greatest means of self-consciousness and self-investigation, yet they are drunk with the water of Lethe and have completely forgotten the Teachings of God. The principles and institutes of the Blessed Beauty are published broadcast, East and West, North and South. The proofs of the religion of God are perfected but their eyes are blind."

Today I received a letter from Merziyon, in Seervass in the province of Anatolia. It is written by an Armenian, the President of a Literary Club and shows how this Cause and its teachings are being permeated slowly and in the most unexpected way in different parts of the world. Here the Master took the letter out of his pocket and translated it from Turkish into Persian.

"The addresses and lectures which you have delivered while travelling in America have been perused by us. I am one of those who have studied and investigated the teachings and life of your Excellency. In two months I expect to deliver a lecture about your spiritual life and manners. Should you favor me with a letter from your pen I will greatly appreciate the matter. I may take liberty to say a few words concerning the aims of our Club: Its scope is wide and international. We desire to become useful members of the body politic and serve for the progress and advancement of the people. We have no racial, national and religious prejudices and we welcome all nations with no regard to their personal beliefs. Our Committee of Organization is composed of seven and eight elements. We have a membership of one thousand, four hundred of whom are students and nearly 50 are teachers. The sole aim of this Club is to educate the ^{subject} Ottoman in accord with the standard of reality and guide them to the fountain of truth. During the months of Winter a series of lectures are delivered on social, civic, religious topics which may cultivate the minds of the people and plant the new seeds of modern ideals. These educational lectures are well-attended and the audience often is more than a thousand people. Our Committee has asked me to speak about your life and teachings during the months of March. I will consider myself most fortunate if you supply me with any information and send me a photograph of yourself. I expect to translate some of the Bahai literature in English and French into the Armenian language - so that my people may know more about your lofty ideals. Hoping to be honored with the receipt of your answer I present to your Excellency, the highest consideration of my esteem. Signed Garebit Veen / Khojayan.