

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
February 6th 1915

Dear friends!

"Toward new and brighter lights we shall expand our wings. With even flight we set forth towards a better world." With a new inspiration we shall soar in the bright immensity of truth. With burning tears rolling down on our hot cheeks we will kiss the hands and feet of the adored One. We know no pause in progress and development and pursue the path of continuous unfoldment of inner possibilities. The vivifying breath of the Holy Spirit is our watchful guide and the regis of everlasting Glory is our possession. We are a society of the lovers of humanity and have dedicated ourselves to the service of our fellowmen. We are not discouraged by the contending forces of opposition nor upset by the difficulties which we meet in our chosen course. On the pinions of Love we rise from world to world and the ever fresh and charming modes of life deepen and enrich the stock of our experiences. We are free from the prejudices of mankind and released from the jail of self-tormenting thoughts and actions. We are servants in the Court of Love and welcome all those persons who desire to enter into this world-embracing service. Everything in creation reminds us of the power and influence of Love and draws us unconsciously towards its magnetic Centre. From the foundation of the world all the seers and prophets, poets and romancers have presented to the people the witchery and mystery of Love and still it is the most dominant, all-absorbing topic of the age. It is the depthless sea and the infinite, measureless dome of heaven. In every century a new note has been discovered and in the future cycles many new harmonies will be found and applied to the solution of puzzling problems. The revelation of the secrets of Love is inexhaustible and the flowers of the garden of affection are imperishable. Who is the one who will ^{not} clasp into his warm embrace the Beloved of his heart? and will not strive to win his good-pleasure? How wonderful that all the mornings are brightened with the glad face of Love, all the days are one sweet song of Love, all the hours are the precious links on the golden chain of love, all the thoughts are the ^{strings of the} white pearls of Love, all the ideals are the twinkling stars of Love, all the feelings are the ^{fresh} rosebuds of Love, all the emotions are the gentle ripples on the sea of love, all the yearnings,

are the sacred matens and hymns to be sang by the birds of Love, all the lovely dreams are the enchanted music whispered in the air of Love, all the pure joys are the immortal angels wooed from the Paradise of Love ^{and} all the winsome smiles are the shining, scintillating dewes, adorning the soft green meadows of Love. Thus one of the poets truly sings:

"Far have I clambered in my mind,
But naught so great as love I find;
Deep, searching wit, mount moving might,
Are naught compared to that good sprite.
Life of delight! and soul of bliss!
- Sure source of lasting happiness!"

Consequently, everyone confesses that love is the very salt of the earth. The powers of gravitation, of adhesion, of attraction are no other than the different manifestations of Love. The Bahais, through their love for Baha Ollah, are distinguished from the rest of mankind. It is this all-pervading trait that ~~marks~~ ^{marks} them as a peculiar people. The more they embody in their daily practices the sublime emanations of this quality, the nearer will they become to the threshold of God. Praise be to God that they have a divine leader who is living in the world and who is paving for them the path of Love and duty. With his assistance and blessings they will become confirmed to walk in his footsteps and learn his precepts. This is the highest conceivable privilege for any human being. All other things are of no avail. A heart cannot hold two masters. With undivided attention he will apply himself and his talents and his time to the exaltation of the name of his Master. The serene sky of the mind of a Bahai is never beclouded with prejudices and backslidings nor the illuminated chamber of his heart is ever ^{darkened} by jealousy and envy. He is a blossom-wreath of rich perfume, woven by the Hand of Abdul Baha, whose bloom is never-fading and whose fragrance is not transient. He is the delightful stream, passing by, murmuringly, and watering the grounds - so that therein may grow the heliotrope of faithfulness and the anemones of devotion. He is the sunlight of truth, the orpheus of spiritual music, the aeolus of the breezes of friendship, ^{and} the inspired amphion at whose sound of lyre the stones of the wall of the city of Peace are brought together,

After nearly twenty days another warship appeared in the horizon this morning and stirred the emotions of the anxious inhabitants with apprehension. Having ^{entered} the harbor she unfurled the American flag and at once dispelled all fear. She communicated with land and the Turkish authorities and left our shore at midnight. Afterwards a rumor was set afloat that the captain of the man of war had brought quite a good deal of money for the afflicted Jews in Palestine from their more fortunate brothers in the United States.

In the morning the Beloved ascended the mountain all alone to visit the Holy Tomb of the Babi and on his return, he praised very highly the road engineer who has broadened and paved the road in the most up-to-date manner. They have repaired both the carriage and pedestrian roads and are now in the most excellent condition. All over the town gangs of men are repairing and building the roads. They are now working with great zeal on the reconstruction of the main road going to the summit of the ^{mountain}. Although I have not seen any guns, yet it is being asserted on ^{every} hand that as soon as the road is completed, several will be mounted at various strategic points.

In the evening we listened to another interesting lecture by the Beloved, relating several anecdotes in connection with the building of the Tomb of the Babi. Then he arose from his seat and commenced walking to and fro, inquiring a number of questions from the various believers. With extreme thoughtfulness on his part he wanted to know how is the business of this one, what has the other one prepared for his dinner, whether all his children are feeling well, why he was not wearing his heavier coat because he may catch cold etc etc. About half an hour was spent for these personal, loving inquiries - each friend becoming very happy, for his divine Father was so solicitous about him. Ostad Mahamad Ali, then was asked to chant the praises of the Baha-Allah. We all felt better and inspired to listen to his chanting and we came out into the garden the millions of brilliant stars greeted us with their lambent lights. For a long time I walked amongst the roses, thinking and dreaming and praying. You were not very far away, for the fragrant flowers reminded me of your sweet smile and the fragrance of the morning.