

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin
 Abou Senan, Acca, Syria
 March 1st 1915

Dear friends!

I am glad to be back in Abou Senan and with the Beloved of my heart. I was up very early this morning and had a long walk over the Mount of God. After drinking a cup of tea and saying farewell to the Angel, Mirza Fagholi Khan and myself left the Pilgrim's Home. I had already attended last night to the work the Beloved sent me for and therefore there was nothing ^{could} keep me in the town. Nevertheless we had to wait for the carriage till 11 A.M. before the driver could gather enough passengers. However we started safely and without any incident worth relating we reached Acca at 1.30 P.M. The sea was quite rough and all ^{along} the way our carriage waded through the white waves of the beach. In the store of one of the Bahais we had our lunch and then hired two little donkeys to start for Abou Senan. On the way we were caught in a shower and all our clothes were soaked but we did not mind it at all. We saw first the carriage of Isfandiyar, bringing back the Commandant and officers and a little further the Master's German guests were returning. They stopped their vehicle and Doctor Finkelstein told me they had the best time of their lives and will never forget the experiences of the past two days. When we reached at last our destination I found the Cabin ringing with the voices of the friends. In half an hour our brother Mirza Jalal brought ~~the~~ the word that the Beloved has called us into his divine Presence and our hearts were ^{made} joyous as we were ushered into his own room, luminous with the Light of his Countenance. He had hardly welcomed us when he solicitously inquired about the health of Haji Mirza Haydar Ali and gave him a full report of his condition. He decided then to send ^{again} Doctor Haliberg to Haifa, so that he may make another diagnosis of his malady and treat it accordingly.

I told him I saw his German guests returning very happily. He laughed very heartily and said: "The meetings last night and today were very mixed and yet the most unmixable, We had these German ladies

and gentlemen, then the Commander and his officers and several Druises chiefs and Mohamadan Sheiks. As you know, it is not customary in these parts to have mixed meetings of both sexes. The Oriental people marvel at the Westerners who pay such extraordinary respect to women nor do they comprehend the spirit in which this respect is rendered. Some of them are so low in their ideals that they look ^{down} upon the women as inferior beings. For this reason I had to speak with them about this matter before the German friends arrived, - in order that they ^{may} be considerate toward the ladies at the table.

The question of petroleum and its scarcity was broached. The price of this necessary article has soared up and in a month or two it will be impossible to get any because the channels of importation are closed. He said: - "The lamp of the heart must be enkindled. This material lamp will become extinguished at any moment but if the divine lamp is set aglow in the dark chamber of the heart it can not be followed by any extinction." He spoke then about hydrophobia and its symptoms and its contagious quality. This was because a mad dog has been found ^{and shot} lately in the vicinity. We stayed for more than an hour and he instructed and cheered us with his teachings and examples. Again in the evening he came down in the reception room of Sheikh Saleh and his talk consisted of a number of stories, related chiefly because they inculcated a moral lesson. The Master on this occasion was vivacious and mirthful and his narratives were didactic.

I owe the account of following dialogue between the Master and Doctor Finkelstein at the table last night in the presence of the Military, Mohamadan, Druises and German guests to the kindness of our brother Doctor Haliollah who fulfilled the office of an interpreter: -

Abdul Baha. You are most welcomed! Are you all well? I hope the journey from Haifa to Aboon Senan has not fatigued you.

Doctor Finkelstein: We are most glad and pleased to find ourselves ^{around} the table of Abbas Effendi. This is ^{no doubt} the realization of the hope of many people. I have always longed to be present in such a cosmopolitan meeting.

A.B. These unique meetings are brought together through the pure Mercy and Absolute Will of the Lord of mankind. The gulf separating you and us - East and West - has been impassable all through

the past ages nor has there been any outward relation to bring us together. During these days in which humanity are afflicted - to hold a meeting of this character, wherein true love and sympathy are displayed by each toward another, and that in a village so far away - this is no other than through the power of God.

D.F. In all Europe a meeting like this cannot be witnessed, ^{even} if those who are present are the members of one family. Here one feels the power of impersonal love. There are many things that we must learn from the Eastern people, especially the laws of politeness, civility, humanity and spirituality. Instead of this we can teach them the mechanical and industrial sciences.

A.B. Well said. The relation between the Orient and ^{the} Occident must become stronger and more firmly established; otherwise the Tree of existence will not bear its destined fruit.

D.F. Before the declaration of this war the Germans ~~were~~ too much self-occupied and for this reason they were not sending many scientific and investigating tourists to the countries of the East, - so that they may gain fresh and new information for the development of better and enduring relations between the nations of the world. But we hope after the completion of this war many more Germans will come to the East and especially study and learn the precepts of your religion.

A.B. Yes. After this war, the minds and reasons will discover a ^{more} spacious realm in which to soar and the invincible army of Peace-lovers and peace makers will be greatly increased.

D.F. It is most strange that all the combatants expatiate on the evils of war and yet the number of pacifists are numerically very small.

A.B. The full establishment of any movement depends upon an appointed time. Until that definite hour comes around it will not be founded. The other day I received a letter from Philadelphia [it was from Miss Jessie Revell, mailed directly] stating the progress of the Bahai Cause and the interest manifested on the part of people in these Teachings. The more these principles are promoted the nearer ^{we} get to the appointed Time, bringing us nearer to the era of

the fulfillment of the Prophecies of the prophets and the age of the realization of the promises made by His Holiness ~~the~~ Isaiah.

D.F. This universal war will no doubt pave the way for the realization of universal Peace.

A.B. This war is the greatest means to show the nations the folly of armed peace and the benefits of world-wide brotherhood. When I was travelling in Europe and America, in all the meetings and churches, I cried at the top of my voice: O people! Europe has become like unto an arsenal and one spark shall set it into a world-wide conflagration the livid flames of which will reach to the height ^{of} heaven! O ye nations! Strive ye, so that mankind may be saved from this portentous danger, you have tested every political policy, now come ye and test for a time the value of Divine Policy. If no beneficial results are accrued, you may easily return to your first destructive policy. Has ever mankind experienced any harm by the exercise of the power of Love? What disadvantage will come to humanity if they treat each other as those who are present in this meeting, manifesting ^{and} Love, joy and spirituality?

D.F. Indeed this very meeting is a complete miniature of that wonderful, world-wide movement and universal Cause of Abbas Effendi which shall unite mankind in the bond of real brotherhood. We hope to receive great blessings from your teachings.

A.B. Bravo! Bravo! [In English]. This is the foreshadowing of that spiritual unification which, God willing, will soon be established upon the earth. The Germans have shown us much love. I am most pleased with the growth of the spiritual Cause in Germany. The future of that country is very bright. The word Allemand [Alle-man] means our family.

D.F. I hope that the ideal relations may cement together Persia and Germany. At a time when our ^{barbarian} Ancestors were roaming over the wild countries of the north, living in the woods and clothing ^{themselves} ~~themselves~~ with the skins of the animals, Persia had attained to a high degree of civilization. Even Europe emerged out of the darkness of the middle ages and bigotry during the last two or three centuries.

opening the road for extraordinary progress by the inhabitants on the continent. I hope that Germany may give to Persia material civilization and receive in turn the graces of divine civilization.

A. B. Both the Germans and the Persians are the branches of the same Aryan tree. A number of anthropologists assert that the Germans and other European nations constituted the original Aryan tribes who inhabited along the shores of Ganges river. As they multiplied and increased they migrated toward the plateau of Persia, and later on extended their migratory spirit to the mountain ranges of Caucasia and little by little poured their wandering hosts in Europe. Therefore the German nation ^{as well as the Persians} is an offshoot of those mighty branches of the early Aryan tree. For this reason the philologists have shown the identical similarity between many words common in these languages, such as Father, mother, brother, daughter, etc.

H. What you have just stated is true. All of us belong to the same tree, and as the students apply themselves ^{more} to the study of comparative philology and ancient languages they will find many more common words. This was the most wonderful meeting that we have ever attended and I am sure we will never forget it throughout our lives.

A. B. I am likewise pleased with your companionship and I hope that forgetfulness may not overtake it and that it may become possible for all of us to have many more such meetings."

Now that we are in Abou Seran we may stay for a few days and refresh ourselves with the friendship of the believers of God. Wherever the people of Truth live there is paradise and beauty, there is joy and love, peace and contentment. They are like unto the flowers of the garden, the stars of heaven and the birds of meadow. They breathe into the dead bodies a new life, grant him new zeal and enthusiasm, stir him up with a new ambition, create in him a new heart, inspire him with new ideals of humanity and urge him to walk for ever in the path of holiness and sanctity. Blessed are those who avail themselves of the friendship of the pure minded and the association with the friends of God.