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Home of Baha Ollah. Acca, Syria
March 9th 1915

Dear friends!

"The Orient will be ^{en}illuminated through the Bahai Cause. Through the assistance of this ideal force and spiritual power the Oriental people will become inspired to arise in the scale of humane civilization and adapt their ancient forms of life to modern environments." Thus spoke the Beloved while he was walking to and fro in his room and then he turned his face to one of the believers and asked: "What dost thou think? Is it not so?" His whole faith as regard to the future of this country is balanced on the side of its spiritual regeneration and moral awakening. Material progress will become steady and permanent only when this ethical foundation is built on the adamantine rock of celestial precepts. The Eastern nations are in need of the reforming power of the spirit and this they can get from the store house of the Bahai Dispensation. All the other religions whose birthplaces have been in the East are antiquated. They have lost their ancient virility and spirituality because their votaries have dabbled them with superstitions, priestcrafts, witchcraft, necromancy, seances and what not. Only the husk is left behind, the kernel is gone, the spirit flew away, the body remains, the light is extinct the lamp is present, the rose is withered the vase is seen, the tree produced its fruits and is now dried, the host has departed and the empty house is witnessed. Therefore if the inhabitants of the East are anxious to remodel their institutions, renew their laws, diffuse education, protect their countries, preserve their integrity and enter into the family of civilized nations they must take hold of this dynamic Power latent in the Bahai Revelation. If they avail themselves of this unprecedented opportunity they will make extraordinary progress in a short space of time. If they drink of this salubrious fountain they will never thirst. If they eat of this heavenly Manna they will not become hungry. This is the road of salvation prepared for them by Baha Ollah and Abdul Baha. It is a straight pathway which shall lead them to their royal destination. It is not frequented by precipices or wells or traps or ^{an}luscades. The Bahai Cause will unburden them from all the ecclesiastical loads and gives them wings to soar in the atmosphere of liberty.

This morning, afternoon and evening we stood in the Presence of Abdul Baha and every time he refreshed our hearts with the good tidings of the Merciful and gladdened our souls with the evidences and tokens of true happiness. Although he has so many other problems to occupy his mind yet he has time enough to think of our comfort and plan the means of our ease and enjoyment. When I was with him this afternoon he inquired of me with real solicitude and tenderness "How art thou? Thou art young and I know thou art longing for larger fields of activity. Here during these days we have practically nothing to do. No letters are received and no pilgrims arrive. I hope thou art not attacked by ennui and weariness. For the present, ^{our} days and nights succeed each other like the changing waves of the sea. We are debarred from participation in any work. Thou dost not say anything but I know that thou desirest to serve; but thy companionship with me is in itself the greatest ^{service}. I also long to go out and serve the Cause of God. I am tired with the narrow life here. Great as is my love for the spiritual beauty of this land, greater ^{still} is my desire to travel around the world and promote the principles of the Blessed Perfection. My friend! be of good courage. Ere long the doors will be opened and with the permission of the Lord of lords we shall again travel together and serve at the Threshold of the Almighty. God has not created ^{any} rest for His sincere servants. They must work and work till the very end of their lives. Although we are not working now, still we are not idle. On the other hand our standing and waiting is a kind of service in itself. Under all circumstances we are ~~are~~ resigned to the Will of God and have ^{submitted} all our plans into His Wise, guiding Hand." When he finished this talk like a loving father, he patted with his blessed hands on my shoulders, pinched my cheeks with his fingers, smiled into my eyes and sent me away to the garden of Rizwan to have a "good time".

In the evening, when all the believers assembled in his room, some sitting on the floor, others on the chairs, he spoke as follows:—
 "When you, who are the believers of God gather together in a meeting, let all your conversation be about the Cause, ^{review the} proofs that uphold it, ^{bring forth the} evidence that reinforces it and investigate the arguments that demonstrate it.

For example, search after the evidences that convinced the early Christians of the Divine authority and heavenly station of ^{His Holiness} Christ. For one thousand and five hundred years the Jews prayed and expected the coming of their Messiah, yet when He appeared amongst them with His beautiful Countenance and spiritual laws, what causes induced them to refuse Him and what reasons brought about their deprivation? Why did they negate him, notwithstanding the presence of creational proofs, tangible proofs, emotional proofs, inspirational proofs, intellectual proofs, philosophic proofs and scriptural proofs? Why were they not quickened by the Messianic breaths? Why did they not partake of the sanctifying graces of the Holy Spirit? Why did they arise against him and cried, Crucify him, Crucify him? How was it that when His Holiness Mohamed appeared in that great chersonese or Arabian peninsula, a mighty spiritual revolution shook that empire - desert to its centre? With what power did the Prophet of Allah change the character of the primitive savage Arabs, reformed their social customs, unified the heterogeneous, independent nomadic tribes and created in their midst a spiritual democracy? With what Light did he illumine the waste Sahara? What are the proofs and arguments that substantiate his claim? Where are the prophecies in the old and New Testaments concerning his appearance and how can they be logically correlated? What are the objections of the Christian missionaries to the prophetic mission of Mohamed and with what evidences should they be contradicted? Why the eyes of other nations were veiled of the Mahomadic Beauty? Why did they not receive a portion and a share of the inexhaustible Bounties? Why were they deprived of the Celestial Bestowals? Likewise the Mohamadans were anticipating the appearance of Gaem, their absent Imam. Day and night they were weeping and imploring for his manifestation and calling on him to hasten his arrival. With what proofs and evidences did he establish his claim when he appeared amongst men? What were the events of his life? How did he conduct himself under severe trials? What were his manners and behaviours? Why the Islamic world refused his divine

Similarly His Holiness the Báb thought of and wrote about Him whom God shall manifest. He made this fact the central fact of his teachings and repeatedly emphasized it in all his utterances. The acceptance of every good deed he made dependent upon the Will of the Promised One. He rent asunder all the veils and coverings and broke all the idols of superstitions. He did not make His manifestation conditional upon the fulfillment of certain tokens or conditions or signs. The Báb removed all the hindrances and difficulties and prepared the souls for the thrones of the Appearance of the Supreme Epiphany. In every past Dispensation, every prophet wrote many symbolic signs and prophecies concerning the coming of a subsequent divine Teacher. But His Holiness the Báb wrote no such signs and prophecies. He urged all to accept His Spiritual Mission on the day of His Manifestation and exhorted them to be satisfied with the revelation of Verses. He admonished them to anticipate His coming at all times. Still when His Holiness Bábá Olláh, - Him whom God shall manifest - appeared and revealed His Universal Mission in Verses and Tablets, there were many amongst the followers of the Báb who rejected Him and advanced not toward Him, notwithstanding the fact that the Proofs and Evidences corroborating the Manifestation of the Blessed Perfection were as numerous and luminous as the rays of the Sun.

"In brief these are the things to be studied in your meetings, and in the privacy of your homes. These facts will cause the illumination of your hearts and the strengthening of your faith. Pass not your precious hours in the idle discussion of those problems which bear no result. Devote your time to high thinking and ennobling discourse. Let the trees of your lives produce fruits for the sustenance of all the coming ages. Enrich the ~~storehouse~~ ^{treasure} of human thoughts with the contribution of your virgin ideals and rise and rise till you reach step by step to the summit of the mountain of perfection."