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Dear friends!

We did not meet the Beloved all day. A violent sirocco was blowing and the sky was cloudcast, therefore he kept to his room. When the weather is a little cold and the wind blows, the locusts settle on the ground and hid themselves amongst the bushes and in the fissures of rocks, in preparation of laying their eggs. It is commonly believed by the farmers that a female locust lays ^{clear} eggs ^{clear} times, the number of eggs each time ranging from 60 to one hundred. They dig a hole in the ground and lay their eggs in one bunch, its first shape being like ^{the} of thin rice and of a light-reddish color. Now that they have established themselves in these premises it will be a matter of impossibility to chase them away, for they may be driven from one farm but will descend immediately upon another. ○

This evening the Master descended and took his seat in the reception room of Sheik Saleh. Soon all the believers gathered around him. The preliminary talk turned on the countless legion of locusts paying us visit and the ravages they have wrought and will do and the consequent famine and misery ^{which} will entail upon all the people. Then the question of European ^{war} was touched upon and the repeated news that Italy has joined this or that group of Powers was mentioned. The Beloved said: "According to the political axiom of Western civilization Italy is waiting to see which one of the scales will become heavier - thus she may add her reserve force to it and share in the distribution of the spoils and the settlement of ^{the} ~~the issues of~~ New Map of Europe and to a marked degree - Asia. How thoughtless are the people! They leave God, who is Omnipotent over all things and court the friendship and amity of those who are weaker and more feeble than mosquitoes. They have forsaken their Creator and have fallen on each other's necks with impunity and heartlessness. They must turn their thoughts toward Him, for His power is triumphant over all. According to the latest agency, President Wilson of the United States of America has again tendered his office to act as a peace maker between the warring nations. Doctor Wilson

~~in conjunction with~~ ^{are} Mr Bryan form two most powerful advocates of Peace and international goodwill. They have worked for the cause of Peace and abhor the very name of war. It is my hope that they will be confirmed in the service of the world of humanity and crown their lives with this most glorious dead-end." I was anxious that the Beloved might continue his talk along this line but one of the Shicks asked a question and the current of conversation ^{was} changed into another channel. "The adherents of all the religions in the world" he answered "are expecting the coming of a Promised One and pray for his advent; even the atheists anticipate the appearance of a wise and sage reformer and renewer of old habits and superstitions. Their expectations are ^{not} like the religionists which are wrapped with fantastic notions and impossible conditions and unrealizable rules. The atheists believe in nature and its manifestations. They state that for nature there are two courses. The first is its common, ordinary course, running throughout all the grades of ^{the} social structure and organized animate and inanimate beings, producing stereotyped organisms and definite, agreed ends, decomposing and combining variable forms with resourcefulness and adaptability. The second is its extraordinary and unusual course, producing from time to time human beings who are ultra-natural, super-(mundane) and lo! the over-soul is incarnated, the superman is born. After many generations of ordinary breed, ^{as the} nature being bored with its own sameness and corresponding resemblances, creates an extraordinary Person, to show that its fertility is not at an end and it is capable of exhibiting signs of activity (uncommon) in the field of human experience. Thus a powerful, wise, sagacious, ~~commanding~~ leader is born, to readjust, through his innate force, the disorganized machinery of civic, intellectual and ethical life of the nation. They further state that change is the unchangeable law of nature. Without motion and mutability, one cannot conceive of nature as such. These two laws are the inherent qualities of all phenomena and for this reason the events of a previous cycle will not correspond with those of a succeeding one. From its hidden, unseen fountain, in every century, nature brings forth new sets of forces and fits them into the new exigencies and environments which were brought about by a ^{new} generation with larger demands and greater responsibilities. For example, ages ago a philosopher according to their opinion but an inspired prophet

in accord^{ance} with the doctrines held by the religionists - appeared for the education and instruction of mankind. He instituted certain principles which laid the foundation of a stable and lofty civilization and insured the security and progress of the people. But after the lapse of many ages that Institution became old, letter took the place of spirit, the hearts grew cold and irresponsive, the dynamic life became static and the basis of the edifice ^{was} ~~shook~~ ^{was} ~~and~~ ^{again} ~~rocked~~ ^{by} with the ~~use~~ ^{rise} of superstitions and dogmas. These events in themselves predicate the appearance of another Teacher, the ^{coming} of a second Architect. If the sun shine forth from the ^{Eastern} horizon this morning giving light and heat to all the created beings and then set in the West, is it logical to say that we do not need another sun rising, that this world ^{can} ~~live~~ without the heat and rays of that life-giving luminary? Our affirmation or negation will not change in the least the course of the Sun. The sun will rise in spite of all our demands and acceptance. A skilled mason builds a building and families live in it for a number of years. Does any logic reason soundly in concluding that this building will be permanent? The very word 'construction' presupposes 'destruction'. It is obvious that sometimes in the course of years the edifice will be demolished, another mason ^{will} rise and build in its place, either one after its first architecture or better and more enduring. Consequently, we have understood that even the agnostics believe in the necessity of the appearance of wise and extraordinary teachers whose mission is to lead their fellowmen to higher altitudes of intelligence and wisdom. In principle they agree with the religionists but in the mode of expression and phraseology they differ from each other. Truth is one and universal and every school, although pursuing different methods in its search, aspires to ~~attain~~ ^{always} to the same goal. In teaching the Cause of God, we must ^{always} find out points of agreement with other movements of the age and approach them in the spirit of conciliation. We must not antagonize any soul nor raise those subjects which accentuate differences or opposition. The broad precepts of reality must be taught with no prejudice and presented with no bias. This is the spirit of the age! This is the true Bahai attitude! This is the principle of the religion of God! This is the sea of God's infinite bounty! " O