

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
May 2d 1915

Dear friends!

We were the guests of the Beloved, because this was the last day of the season of Rizwan. All over the world the friends are feasting in the verdant country and green gardens, singing songs, chanting sacred verses, speaking out the glad-tidings of the Kingdom and filling their hearts with the exhaustless joy of a new life. We also feasted on the slope of Mount Carmel, in the Presence of the Master and in the companionship of the saints of the Lord and in our prayers remembered those who were absent. This morning the Beloved descended the stairs of the house into the garden greeting us with his smileful Marhaba. Marhaba and ^{then} told us to go to the Pilgrims Home and wait for his arrival. Joyful I ascended the Mountain and found Aga Mahamad Hassaw and others very busy preparing the roast meat and eggplants. I went over to my Bahai Nest and in anticipation of flying back to it I put everything in order. Now that the Holy Family are coming ^{here} I will surely be given leave to return to my old charming mountain Cabin. What sweet days I have spent in it and whether the same spiritual pleasure will be given ^{in the future} me only time will reveal! The supreme object of my life consists in being in the neighborhood of the Adored One and in serving him serve the believers of God. About ten o'clock ~~he~~ arrived with his three sons-in-law and entered the Pilgrims Home. All the friends arose from their seats and in their respectful silence they expressed their love and affection for him. He gave a short talk about the governmental restrictions by which Baha Olla was surrounded in the first two years of his arrival in Acca and the subsequent relaxation of the same rules by the same despotic authorities. Then he retired to another room - thus letting the meeting to descend to a lower tone of intimate and heart-to-heart intercourse which would be impossible when he is present; because so long as the sun of his countenance is shining in the congregation no one would care to receive lights from lesser and smaller satellites. Soon the long table in the central hall was prepared and the Lord was informed that every thing was ready. He came out and asked everyone to be seated.

He did not ~~sit~~ himself but continued to serve, filling the plates with more meat and walking around. The soup of Haji Mirza Haydar Ali had too much fat in it and he took it to the kitchen himself and made it thinner. He looked after his food as a tender mother looks after the diet of her child. Then he placed his hands on my shoulders and stood a long time reclining on my back. "Dost thou like this food?" he asked. While he was walking around the table he delivered the following talk for the benefit of a number of young Bahais:- "All the Bahai Children must learn a trade or manual profession. This must be aside from their literary education. The study of foreign languages, such as English, French, German etc. must be coupled with the study of an art, craft or profession. "Bonjour", "bonsoir", "Comment ça va", "au revoir" are not the sole insignia of an educated person. Do not be satisfied with a superficial smattering of a language. If you learn it, learn it thoroughly, scientifically. Even the Arab porters in the street speak as much and more, but they go ^{hungry} because they have not been taught a trade. Learn to do something in this world, no matter how small it may be. It is better to be a good carpenter, a fine shoemaker, a skilful physician, an accomplished engineer, an excellent gardener, a brilliant artist, a superior teacher, an inspired writer than to be an angel in heaven with nothing to do but to sing hallelujah and play on golden harp. The mothers who have nursed and trained you have a great claim on your productive income and the girls whom you expect to ^{marry} desire to see in you the examples of manly honor and useful activities. Do not waste your energy over that which is not practicable. Let me ^{again} repeat this fundamental rule that every Bahai Child without any exception must be taught ⁱⁿ some kind of trade or craft, - so that if he ^{should} travel around the world ^{he} may not become a burden on the shoulders of other communities and wherever he may go the people may apply for his talent. This will guard him against all future poverty, misery and wants. This is the explicit command of the Blessed Perfection and all mankind must abide by it. I desire for you that which would become conducive to the exaltation of your own station and the increase of your moral and intellectual stamina. Now I have grown old and my hairs have become white and hoary. I advise ye, O youths of Baha! Learn

the arts, study the sciences, acquire ^{the} practical methods of knowledges, trades and professions, learn the most useful crafts of the age; - thus you may be honored amongst men and respected by all the people. Be ye the fruit-bearing trees of the garden of Abba, the shining lamps in the gathering of the friends, the fragrant flowers of the meadows of the world and the efficient members of the body polity. Be ye original, invent your thoughts and deeds. Do not let the sphere of your ideals be contracted. ~~Be not~~ imitators. Seek the radiant path of Divine Glory. Be ye attracted and enkindled. Do not sit idle, trust in God and walk in the spiral road of progress. Be ye full of dynamic motion and let the rhythm of your life be perfect. Be ye the embodiments of animation and the rolling ball of good cheer and stirring joy. In this century of light precede all others in sympathy, in philanthropic actions, in physical and intellectual culture and in association with the rest of mankind. Do not let the pool of your thoughts become stagnant. Open the shutters of your mind and air its secret chambers. Refresh and renew the growing temples of your characters by the breezes of the sunlit ideals. Adorn yourselves with the gems of rare and world-enlightening actions, sing like unto the nightingales, move through the illimitable space like unto the stars, sweep along like unto a mighty river and let not the tributaries of your beings be frozen by the cold blast of the winter of disappointment and helplessness. Pour down like unto the rain, sweep like unto the clouds, laugh like unto the roses. Be inquisitive and learn every good thing. Once you have finished the course of your discipline, strike in the new, untrodden paths of life. Go forward. Learn the law of self-control. Bring under your own dominion the lower appetites of human nature. Practice that which you teach. Unravel those mysteries of the universe which are conducive to the welfare of humanity. Stand firm on your own ground without the borrowed staff of another man. No one will help you if you do not help yourselves and your fellowmen. Work and its reward will come to you. Work and wait for the results. Work and its traces will immortalize your name. Work and when final success comes the world will app

After this talk the Beloved went over to the house of Aga Abbas Goli to have his siesta and the friends forming various groups gave themselves up to the spiritual enjoyment of the moment. Two hours passed in this happy and delightful association and then the scene was shifted to the reception room of Megham. [The tomb of the Bab] Here another meeting was held, full of the glow of the spirit and radiance. Soon the Glorious King appeared amongst us and sat on the throne of celestial Majesty. Haji Mirza Haydar Ali was not there and looking around inquiringly he asked: "Where is Haji? Send some^{one} for him. I love him. With his presence a meeting will become truly spiritual. The individuals of the world of humanity are in different degrees. They are like unto the candlesticks. There is a candlestick whose candle sheds light and illumination; another candlestick is holding a candle but not yet ignited; a third has not a candle and is for a mere show; a fourth has had a candle but now it has burned out and is forever extinct. Similarly there are some enkindled souls whose very presence in a meeting changes its atmosphere, suffering the people to become truly spiritual, turning their faces toward God, others like unto the black smoke, darken the horizon of the minds. Thus in whatever meeting I enter and find Haji Mirza Haydar Ali I obtain joy and fragrance. My counsel to you is: Never let the candle of your heart become extinct. Strive to increase its light. Add to it the oil of wisdom. Illuminate everyone with its rays. A candlestick without the candle! Ah me! a body without life, a sun without light, a pearl without lustre, a sheaf without wheat, a garden without vegetation and a mine without gold."

Then he led the service by chanting aloud the visiting Talikat. This last part of our unwritten program coming to an end six military officers headed by the Commander called on him and they were entertained for one hour. Then Mafati and three Mullahs arrived and the Master through his lofty conversation instructed them. He with his guests rode down in the carriage and we descended the mountain, our memories enriched by the matchless experiences of another never-to-be forgotten day.

The cup of our joy was filled to overflowing when in the evening we sat around the table in the presence of the Lord and partook of his