

Home of Ahdu'l Baha.
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
May 5th 1915

Dear friends!

This afternoon our two brothers Mirza Badi and Doctor Hahibelli arrived from Aboon Senaw and the Beloved received them in his sleeping room overlooking the flowery garden. Mirza Hadi served us the ruby tea and the Monarch of the spiritual world thus addressed: "I have chosen you for the service of the Cause of God. I desire that in all the realms of life you may adorn your temple with radiant qualities and strive in the promotion of the Word of God. It has been experienced by former generations and understood by the great men of this century that all the strivings and accomplishments of humanity on the physical plane are like the mosaic pictures traced on the surface of water which are effaced immediately afterwards. Consider the enraged and infuriated conditions of the present wild nations of the world who are pursuing the gloomy path of slaughter and destruction. What extraordinary effort! What colossal self-sacrifice! Cheaply are they throwing away their possessions and lives. Already millions of souls have crimsoned the earth with their blood and mountains of corpses have been piled up. Thousands upon thousands of these men have been Commanders, generals and high officers who had spent their whole lives in the study of military science and naval tactics and who in one moment have become the targets of the infernal bullets of death. Truly I say all these efforts are fruitless. The utmost is this: - The names of the military leaders of each one of these nations will be recorded in history as warlords, patriots, defenders of the country's rights, protectors of the laws of civilization, heroes etc. But those souls ^{who} have striven in the promotion of the Word of God, and sacrificed their lives in the Divine Path, their triumphs will be eternal and will not be subject to change and mutation. The victories of these warring governments are temporal and ephemeral, while the victories of the servants of God are everlasting. Whenever a person starts on a journey he must put forth his entire stock of energy in order to reach the goal. He must arise in the fulfillment of all the requirements of the path

and be not discouraged at the sight of dangers and obstacles; otherwise no results will be forthcoming. For example, if a person is occupied in the diffusion of the Fragrances of God and consecrating his time to the Cause of the Blessed Perfection, he must be severed in reality and not in word; he must be attracted, he must be sanctified, he must be heavenly-minded, he must be magnanimous, he must be in constant motion, he must be exhilarated. If he is lacking in any one of these essential qualities, glorious outcomes will not be obtained. How often it has happened that the effect of the services of many years has been entirely nullified by the commitment of a small mistake, intentional or non-intentional. I will pray for you and supplicate and beseech at the Threshold of the Kingdom of Abha to suffer you to become perfect from every standpoint."

This morning the Beloved asked me to follow him to the house of the American Consul, built on the shore of Mediterranean, at the end of the street of the German Colony. He welcomed him into his drawing-room and after a few preliminary remarks and exchanges of courtesies the Master told him: "It has been a long time that I intended to pay you a visit, because I have heard every one praising your qualities of impartiality, fairness and justice." He answered: "I have always practiced that which I have considered my duty." The Beloved said: "This is the sign of the perfect man. He strives and exerts himself to live up in accord with the ^{obligations of his} conscience. This feeling of rectitude must be inculcated in the hearts from the earliest childhood and then the educative influence of such training will grow with the growth of the children. To do good, irrespective of all considerations must become natural to man. Although it is possible to eradicate the roots of evil habits after their incrustation in the character, yet it is better to prevent their formation during the plastic age of adolescence. The Arabic proverb says: 'Education in childhood is as the art of engraving upon the stone. It will not be effaced.' We must at all time fulfill our responsibilities laid upon us by our fellowmen. His holiness Christ says: Give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God what belongs to God. We must discharge our duties towards our fellowmen and never fall short in their observances. All the divine prophets have come for the education of mankind; - so that they may become freed from the defects and vices of nature and be ushered into the world of light. The inhabitants of

of this country not being enlightened with the light of education, are deprived of the benefits of material and spiritual graces. In commerce and trade and industry they have not made any advancement whatever. Their children do not receive any industrial, practical training and thus when they reach the age of maturity they are as parasites." The Consul agreed with the above remarks and told him something about his own life and how he was one of the first German Americans who migrated from Buffalo to Palestine and from that time on settled in Haifa. After drinking coffee we descended into his garden, walked around and bade him farewell. He asked for a time to call on the Beloved and it was settled on after tomorrow 11 a.m.

On the way he spoke about the vicissitudes that beset the path of young men and how they should train themselves in the bitter and hard experiences of life. "When I was in Bagdad I had one plain cotton overcoat which I wore constantly for more than three years," he said. "I had drilled and habituated myself in the severe misfortunes of life. I withstood the physical fatigue of a long journey and the mental anguish of the most perplexing problem."

During the day many people called on him and he received each and all in the reception room with the gentleness of the spirit and the true solicitude of a kind father.

In the evening he had several guests for dinner, such as Zaemmagh Mafti, the military physician and other officers from Acca and Haifa. He spoke to them about some of his spiritual experiences in Europe and America and gave them the Christian Commonwealths containing the Arab Texts of his lectures. They stayed with him till very late and their cups were filled with the wine of his words. Under all circumstances he is the Master of the occasion. People listen to him and are charmed. The power of his utterances uplift them, the magic of his explanations enthrall them and they go away with a sense of deep satisfaction, knowing full well that they have been in the presence of the super-cosmic man, that they have hearkened to the music of the nightingale of Reality and that they have drawn from the fountain of the Water of Life.