

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
May 6th 1915

Dear friends!

From the garden of Truth the following message was calld to Persia this morning:- "It is a long time that we have received no news from you. How is the general condition of all friends? We are all well." Then turning his face toward us he said:- "I am tired with the inactivity of these days. Our precious time has become unprofitable and valueless. The Persian poet says: 'The tree of my life has brought forth neither branches nor leaves, no blossoms and no fruits. I wonder for what purpose the Old Farmer planted me in His Garden.' How ^{will} I welcome the hour when the locked doors will be widely opened and the means of travelling and teaching the Cause of God will become available! I would like to travel from country to country, city to city, village to village and hamlet to hamlet and announce the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom. If we could journey through those states that we have not been before, it would yield spiritual results. When a soul is engaged in the mentioning of the True One and demonstrating the existence of eternal verities, he will attain to an astonishing degree of spirituality and attraction but on the other hand if he is pre-occupied with the material things he will become cold, spiritless and apathetic. When in Europe and in America we had no other concern save the glorification of God and the propagation of the Principles of the Blessed Perfection. For this reason we lived in an atmosphere of joy and fragrance. The constant presentation and reiteration of ~~the~~ worldly talk wears away the sharp edge of the spiritual susceptibilities. The Teaching of the Cause is like the wafting of the vernal breeze through the trees, it vivifies them but the discussion of material things is as the autumnal gale the blowing of which causes the trees to dry and the leaves to fall on the ground. That great overmastering joy which overwhelmed all the outward difficulties and overrode all the visible obstacles of the journey is now lacking. How I love to be a wanderer and a traveller over mountains and deserts! How ^{much} one gains spirituality, illumination and attraction! Now what ^{are} we doing? We are sitting in this lovely garden, eating, drinking and sleeping. Oh! I feel so very strongly that we must get out

Then turning to Doctor Habibollah he asked him laughingly: "Canst thou ^{not devise} a means of escape? Would it not be wonderful if we could make our way ^{forth} in an aeroplane or a Zeppelin?"

In the afternoon we took a long walk through the country and heard about the wholesale plunder of the Carmelite monastery by the Turkish officers. When we told this news to the Master he said: "These monks have lived for a long time a most luxurious and comfortable life. They had not experienced the sad alternations and revolutions of the world. Their Master, his holiness Christ did not have a mat to sit on but they have constructed these palaces to live in. He was reviled and scoffed at by all the Jews, these priests were honored and respected by the people. Let them taste a little from the bitter cup of poison drunk by their Lord. Nevertheless their present troubles are nothing in comparison to the persecutions heaped upon Christ."

From noon till sunset a long stream of callers were received by the Beloved and when in the evening we entered his holy Presence he was too fatigued to speak with us and consequently asked one of the friends to chant the Communes. In bidding us farewell he said: "One of the most necessary and at the same time difficult things in this Cause is amicable association with the outsiders. Only through the constant widening of the circle of one's acquaintances and friends the Truth will be made known and the principles proclaimed. Save this there will be found no other way. Those who have received this message must give it to others. How do they expect to teach and become strong in their faith if they do not come in contact with men? In their hands they are holding the glass of the Water of Life; is not the world thirsty? Of the supper of the Lord they have had their full share, is not mankind hungry? In the chambers of their hearts they have set aglow the light of Guidance, are not men in error? In the garden of their Minds they have planted the trees of the Knowledge of God, will they not produce fruits? In the blue heaven of their consciences they have studded luminous stars of inspiration, will they not direct the wandering steps of the weary travellers in the sandy desert of heedlessness?"