

January 9th 1914

Dear friends!

Except in the morning ^{for} and ~~that~~ probably for 15 minutes (I did ^{have} not ^{see} the Beloved.) Mirza Mahmoud having finished the first volume of his work on the journey of the Master to America ^{both} carried it ~~along~~ to offer it to him for perusal. The Manuscript is in his own beautiful handwriting and it covers the period of the Beloved's arrival and departure to and from America. The next volume will be on His European tour. There will be other volumes containing his addresses and the translations of many newspaper articles. The Master took the first ^{bound} ~~bound~~ Mess, read a few pages and praised ^{Mirza Mahmoud} him for his untiring zeal and tireless devotion. Basheer brought us tea and after a few more minutes of conversation we came out of ^{the} ~~his~~ presence. All day it rained by fits and ^{starts} ~~bounds~~ and the

Master did not go out at all. There was a women's meeting
 in the house of Mirza Hadi, and we saw ^{the ladies} ~~them~~ coming
 out when a number of us ^{were} going up the Mount of God. In the
 evening Haji Mirza Haydar Ali related to us a long story of
 how he taught the governor of Goutehaw, how he converted
 a habitual drunkard, ^{an} opium and Hasheesh smoker into
 a most spiritual man who became a great teacher, how ^{he} ~~he~~ ^{def} ~~felt~~
 (in a lively controversy) all the Ulama, ^{and} how they left the
 meeting sullen, brooding revengeful, ~~how~~ in the morning
 the thousands ^{of} infuriated fanatics attacked his house,
 took him by force and carried him on their shoulders,
 the while jeering and beating ^{him} and spitting on his face.
 - "a triumphal march" - he said laughing! before the
 chief Ulama, ^{he further related how} how he was thrown in ^{to} a narrow, dark
 sheep fold, ^{his} his miraculous deliverance and his
 expulsion from town. He kept us interested till the
 very last word. ~~It is~~ Really ^{another} these most marvellous ^{things} ~~stories~~
 how these men, like unto the disciples of Christ, ^{continued} kept on
 travelling and teaching and ^{did} not letting any persecution

~~to~~ damp their courage and determination. We may have the examples of the lives of self-sacrifice and unflinching allegiance to the Cause in other directions, but the supremely dramatic, and at times tragic, lives of these spiritual heroes will remain unique and uncompensable.

Out of the inestimable treasures of the Bahai literature I have found a divine Tablet from the Blessed Pen of Abdul Baha, ~~whose~~ ^{the} ^{of which} ^{desire} contents, I ~~would like~~ to share it with you:—

He is God!

O God! O God! Thou dost behold me how my forehead is laid upon the dust of humility and submission and how my face is covered in the ground of the Threshold of Thy Singleness! O Thou my Lord! the Unconstrained! Thou seest me lowly and contrite, supplicating, entreating and imploring, toward the Kingdom of Thy Light by day and by night, ^{that I may} to encircle ^{Thy} with Eye of Thy Providence and the Glances of the Outlook of Thy Mercifulness.

O Lord! Forgive our sins, pardon our shortcomings and deal with us through Thy Grace and Generosity under all circumstances. O Our Lord! We are sinners, but Thou art the Merciful Forgiver. We are transgressors, but Thou art the Clement Pardoner! Absolve our iniquities, remove our sorrows, destine for us through Thy Bestowal severance from the world, occupation with Thy Mentioning, enkindlement with the Fire of Thy Love, perpetual contemplation of Thy Signs, the Knowledge of Thy Words, meditation over Thy verses, and the ^{attraction} drawing of Thy Lights!

O Lord! O Lord! These are Thy servants; they have turned their faces toward Thy Countenance and they have resolved their joy and happiness ⁱⁿ Thy Favour and Bounty. Strengthen their backs in Thy obedience, Reinforce their loins in Thy adoration, Perfume their hearts with the Fragrances of Thy Holiness, Ordain for them presence in the paradise of Thy meetings, Suffer them to become such servants who peruse the verses

of Unity in the Assemblies held in Thy Name ^{which} attracting
 the rays of singleness from the lamp of Thy Bestowal;
 as those drawn toward Thy Beauty, humbled before Thy
 Glory, ^{who have} ~~abandoning~~ ^{and are} ought else save Thee, relying upon
 Thy Protection and Preservation; ^{as those} rendered meek by
 the sway of Thy Word; made ^{submissive} ~~subject~~ before Thy
 beloved ones; ^{as those} diffusing Thy Fragrances; disclosing
 Thy Mysteries; informing people with Thy Teachings
 and suffering mankind to become rejoiced through
 Thy Glad-tidings. Verily, Thou art powerful over
 that which Thou wilt and Thou feedest whom-
 soever Thou desirest with Thy Hand. The world and
 the Kingdom belongeth to Thee and Thou art the
 Mighty, the Omnipotent and the Beloved!

O ye believers of God! O ye dear friends of Abdul
 Baha! The Goblet of the Covenant is overflowing
 and the ^{outpouring of the} Bestowal of the Luminary of Effulgence
 is manifest and apparent in the regions from
 behind the invisible World, like unto the radiant

Moon. The twilight of the Morn of Guidance is scattered
 and the Grace of the Orb of the Beauty of Alha is ^{continuous} incessant
 and renowned. The fame of the grandeur of the Most
 Great Name hath reached the East and the West, and the
 Call of the Cause of the Blessed Perfection hath encircled
 the North and the South. The Fragrances of sanctity
 are being wafted and the breeze of Life is passing by.
 The Word of God is upheld and the Everlasting Glory is ^{revealed}.
 The lamp of divine Unity is ignited and the Flame
 of Clemency is glowing. From every direction the
 Call of 'Ya Baha El Alha' is raised and in the Orient
 and Occident the Teachings of God have struck wonder
 to the heart of every thinker. The ^P pamphlets and
 periodicals are being published and circulated in
 America, Europe and Africa. A section of the Press
 is engaged in praise and eulogy, and another section
 of the Press is awakening the interest of the nations
 by exclaiming: 'This ^{Movement} Cause is ^{importance} very stupendous and
 most ^{of} paramount! Some people express wonder

and astonishment; others complain bitterly on account of their intense prejudices. One of the nations say: - "After the departure of His Holiness Christ only a limited number of people were his disciples: notwithstanding this his fame became world-conquering and his song reaches to the sphere of ether." But, the Blessed Perfection - may my life be a ransom to His believers - on the eve of His ascension hundreds and thousands were associating together under the shade of the Flag of His Majesty. From this illustration you can draw the conclusion ^{that} ~~what~~ a mighty resurrection will be witnessed in the not distant future. One of the greatest apostles of His Holiness the Spirit was the great Peter; ^{but,} notwithstanding this, before Christ's Crucifixion he became agitated and was harassed and ^{with fear} ~~afraid~~; while thousands of souls, while singing, dancing and clapping their hands, ^{have given} ~~gave up~~ their lives and hastened toward the City of martyrdom, for the sake

and in the path of the Most Great Name - May my ^{identity} be a sacrifice to his friends! -

In short, the affairs of the Cause revolve around ^{just} such a center of self-abnegation. Now it is self-evident ^{that} ~~how~~ the believers of God must clothe themselves ^{in these days} with the attributes of self-sacrifice; consecrate their time to the teaching of the heedless ones; diffuse the sweet aroma ^{of the teachings}; rekindle the white flame, and make apparent the merciful splendor of the Most Gracious.

O ye friends of God! Is it befitting that we ~~may~~ rest for one moment after the departure of the Beauty of the Clement, or seek the organization of committees, or exhale and inhale one breath of comfort, or taste the honey of fleeting pleasure, or ^{lay} our heads on the cushions of repose, or pursue the luxury and affluence of the world of creation! No! I declare by God! This is not the condition of loyalty, nor the state of faithfulness and appreciation!

Therefore, O ye friends! With heart and soul

yearn for the service of the divine Threshold and like unto the righteous ones become ye the guardians of the Court of the Merciful. Servitude at the Holy Threshold means the spread of the Fragrances, the explanation of signs and verses, ~~the~~ Thralldom at ~~the~~ Hall of Unity and attachment to the Palace of mercifulness.

Consider with what severance, attraction and enkindlement the apostles of His Holiness the Spirit - may my life be a ransom to Him - arose in the promulgation of the Word of God after his crucifixion! We hope from the Bestowal of the True One that we may likewise walk in the footsteps of those pure ones and hasten unhesitatingly and rejoicingly toward the Arena of Love and Sacrifice. This is the inexhaustible Outpouring! This is the Grace of His Highness the Forgiving Lord!

In these days the progress of the Divine Principles is impeded in some parts and retarded in other

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and this has become conducive to the sorrow and ^{the} grief of
the Supreme Concourse; because the dwellers of the Kingdom
of Abha are expecting and anticipating to see each one of us
fulfilling the conditions of loyalty and for the sake of the
love of the Most Great Name, ^{suffer} ~~forbear~~ every form of suffering
and persecution. A number of the merciful friends for-
sook their material tranquility and composure and ~~travels~~
from city to city, nay rather village to village in order to
diffuse the fragrances of God. These souls endowed with
such pure spirits, became the objects of the commendation
of the Supreme Concourse. May my life be a reason
~~to them~~ for they became confirmed with this ^{most}
exalted Grace. They ^{spent} their days amidst the
greatest difficulties and hardships and employed their
time in the guidance of the negligent ones.

O ye friends! This is not the time of rest and
tranquility! This is ^{not} the season of silence and
stillness! The nightingale of the rose-garden of uprightness
must display its wonderful melodies and trills.

The sugar-eating parrot of guidance must exhibit its eloquent speech. The light and the heat are the concomitant results of the lamp. The brilliancy of the stars must be everlasting. The existence of the ocean ^{communes} the waves. (The birds must soar toward the apex). The pearls are inseparable with their crests and there must needs be the tender and sweet fragrance to the blossoms of the rose-garden of Knowledge. It is hoped that through the Favor of the Living, Self-Subsistant we may become assisted in a befitting manner.

O ye believers of God! Divine Teachings are conducive to eternal Life, the cause of the illumination of the world of humanity, the means of Peace and Conciliation, Love and Salvation, the basis of Fellowship, Uprightness and Friendship in the world of creation and the instrument of Unity and Accord, solidarity and inter-dependence amongst the individuals of the body politic.

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Consequently you must lay the foundation of this structure in this mortal world - thus you may ^{confer} upon it infinite and abundant life and become the source of the enlightenment of the world of existence. It is incumbent upon you to consort with all the nations and peoples of the world with the utmost love, kindness and show affection, justice, assistance, consideration and courtesy to all the different communities and sects. Become ye a remedy to every pain, a balsam of healing and recovery to every wound, to every weak one become ye a support, and aid and succor every poor. ^{Become ye} To the fearful ones ^{become} ye the impregnable ^{sure} Cove of safety and to the agitated ones an ~~inviolable~~ ^{sure} asylum, In this great ^{cycle} Century it is more acceptable and beloved to close one's eyes to all the limitations; the friends may become the manifestors of the qualities of the Merciful and the Clement and arise in the service of all humanity; may rather

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they must be most kind towards the Animals; for
verily His Mercy hath encompassed all things.....

O ye believers of God! This is the time of self-surrender
and renunciation and the era of servitude and
loyalty. The utmost height of this Servant is the station
of Servitude to His Highness the Almighty. If he
becomes accepted at the Threshold of Servitude, how
glorious will be this most Great Gift, otherwise
he will be deprived of the Mercy of God. Therefore
the utmost hope and aspiration of Abdul Baha is to
open his wings in this space, to run toward this
field, obtain infinite exhilaration from this
Wine, be intoxicated with this Cup and acquire
the hanging of ~~my~~ heart and Spirit. Every other
mention save this unchangeable, beloved Name
(Abdul Baha) will become the cause of perfect
grief and sorrow and the source of the
greatest regret and limitless remorse,
I request from the friends of God that day and night

they may supplicate and implore at the Divine Kingdom so that my servitude might become accepted in the Threshold of Baha-Allah.

O ye believers of God! If you wish the joy, ^{and the composure} happiness, of the spirit and the peace of the conscience of Ahdul Baha, strengthen the bonds of union and harmony amongst yourselves — so that all of you may become the waves of one sea, the drops of one river, the flowers of one garden, the links of one cuirasse, soaring in one atmosphere and breaking forth into one glad song! This is the Cause of my everlasting joy! This is the ^{motion} of the repose of my mind and heart in the Eternal world! Today there is no greater service than union and accord ^{amongst} the believers. This is the imperative Need! This is the happy Consummation! This is the most great attainment ^{and the} manifest Bestowal for those who are sheltered beneath the shade of the Blessed Tree!

Upon ye be greeting and praise
(Sig) Ahdul Baha Ahleas