

Bahai' Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

January 29th 1914

Dear friends!

"Truly I say how unfaithful and unloyal it seems that, after the departure of the Blessed Perfection, one ~~may~~ ^{should} utter, even a word, conveying the least 'meaning' of title, station, position ^{or} superiority. Praise be to God ^{that} He has opened before our faces every door of Bounty and Glory. It avails us less than nothing to put forward any claim. The gates of Celestial Paradises are thrown ajar for our sake and the banquets of rejoicing are prepared by Him. He hath conferred upon us every bounty and has left nothing unsaid ^{or} undone. How childish it is on our part to hold fast to such showy emptinesses. What ^{was} the end of those who spoke presumptuously in the name of the Lord and ^{the} many of ^{who} them claimed to be the Manifestations of God! Bazyazed Bastami, the celebrated Sufi cried out "I do not see in

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my coat, ^{ought else} save God! What did he gain by such a fantastic
claim? What result ^{was the issue} was it accrued to him save eternal
perdition. A host of Sufis and Illuminati ^{did} put for-
ward such ^{like} claims. What did they gained? They worked
themselves up into a condition of trance through severe
disciplines, and then they bursted out into vain and
pompous claims. What was the outcome of such frothy
pretensions! How many people are today ~~are~~ living in
^{different} all parts of the world, who claim to be Gods or parts or
sparks of God. These people have made the claim to
the station of Divinity very cheap! Such idiotic,
baseless claims belong to the shallow-brained and
the fools. While in reality the Glorious Diadem of the
world of humanity in this age is Servitude. Until
the lapse of 1000 yrs all the holy and inspired souls
who come into the light of day are under the ^{shadow} shade
of Baha-Allah. There must ^{be} ~~after~~ ^{other} no thought or
ideal ~~hunking~~ behind the mind nor ~~declare~~
any word or utterance ^{be declared} by the tongue save
Servitude at the threshold of Baha-Allah.

This is the Cause of Everlasting Glory! This is conducive to prosperity and success! This is the means of the exaltation of character! This is the reason of eternal joy! After the martyrdom of His Holiness the Bab there appeared 25 persons who claimed to be the fulfillment of "Him Whom God would manifest." It appeared to them at first a safe mode for the exaggeration of their egos. No matter toward which direction one turned his attention he would come across a man who claimed to be the manifestation of God. For example one of them would say 'last night at 12 pm I was illuminated'. There was a man by the name Sayyad Anna, another person was Mollah Hossein, ^{another} Sayyad Ali Olov, ^{another} a candy-seller in Teheran; ^{another} a young man in Shiraz; ^{another} a Sheik Ismael in Esfahan; ^{another} an Ali Deyyan in Bagdad; ^{Others were} a Mirza Gougha from Kermanshah; a Mirza Ibrahim, baker who lived near our house in Bagdad; a Haji Mirza Mousa; a Mollah Ahmad Naragi; a Haji Mullah Heshem and a Mirza Mahram, Hasheesh smoker of Esfahan etc. All

these men and many others, claimed to be the Manifestations of Him whom God would manifest! But when the Blessed Perfection appeared all of them repented and confessed their false claims. Such is the authority of the Holy Spirit when it becomes manifest with divine Power and irresistible majesty.

"We must arise to serve sincerely at the Holy Threshold and forget all other stations. We must serve. We must work. We must strive. We must spread the Principles of the Cause. With a pure heart, illumined thoughts and merciful deeds we must display indomitable courage and unswerving allegiance in the promotion of the Religion of Absolute Reality. This is divine Sovereignty! All other titles and stations shall not avail."

Today we had the privilege of seeing the Beloved several times. As he came in from one of his calls he turned to me and said: - "See! How Israel again has turned the desert into a blooming garden!"

Is he not a magician? Is he not wonderful? Gladly and painstakingly he works all day, lays ^{the} orange and lemon trees there, plants ^{the} seeds here. When the Beloved left Haifa for Europe and America the present lovely garden did not exist, but now it is a dear spot of calm beauty through the joyful labor of Isaac Ag.

In the evening we had a large meeting. The Beloved was in his best mood of triumph and happiness. He gave a long and glorious talk enumerating seven of the Principles of the Blessed Perfection and explained the manner in which he gave his lectures in the West, because he said the Proofs with which the Oriental teachers are or were spreading the Cause ^{could} not have any weight with an occidental, skeptical, often ^{li}irreligious audience. They ^{desire} to hear rational and logical proofs and not traditional or scriptural ^{proofs}. Therefore he had to raise the standard of teaching to the mark demanded by the people of Europe and America.

and thus enumerate the humanitarian teachings of the Movement, the benefit of which could not be denied even by a materialist. He said that he is beginning to recover from his fatigue, that he is sleeping well and his health has improved greatly. He praised the accommodations afforded by the American Railroad, its fast and Express trains and how the long distances are covered with the highest speed. He contrasted his ^{easy} journey from Boston to California to the rather arduous journey from Bagdad to Samson at the time Baha-Allah was exiled from the former city. It took them sixty stages with Caravan, the roads were often infested with robbers, they could get no forage for the animals and the highways were ^{sometimes} extremely muddy and again passing through narrow defiles and high mountains. It was indeed indescribably difficult, but now it is comparatively easy to travel around the world and serve the Cause.

102 Then he said. -
God has prepared for us all the convenient ways of
voyage so that we may travel far and wide and
spread the Cause. The American civilization has done
much toward the progress and the upbuilding of the
world. God has turned His special glance toward Ame-
rica and has encircled that continent with His
particular favor. Day by day it is progressing. Truly I
say it is worthy of this Blessed Cause. Indeed it
merits to be the herald of this Glad-tiding. There must
needs be many Persian teachers in America who have
mastered well the intricacies of the English language.
If a number of Persian teachers who are endowed with
an eloquent tongues knew ^{the} English language and tra-
velled to those parts they could attract many ^{souls}
to the Cause. For example if Mirza Abdul Fazl
^{had known} English his influence in the West would
have been a hundredfold "

The Persian Pilgrims were most happy to hear
from his own lips the exposition
of those divine Principles which were
given by him in the Churches and meetings
of America and Europe.