

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 8th 1914.

Dear friends!

"I am not the lover of the house, but I am the lover of the householder" says an Arabic verse. The Bahais are not the worshippers of forms but they are the adorers of Reality. They love the truth, no matter from what source it appears. This morning the Beloved was speaking to a Bahai Haji who has just arrived from Damascus. He is a very old man with a long white beard and stooped shoulders. The Islamic world gives the highest reverence to the black stone in Mecca and no person's pilgrimage is accepted unless he touches that stone and kisses it. Thus the Master in his talk with the Haji dwelt on the formalistic aspect of this custom of generations. "The mass of mankind" he said "are yet breathing the poisonous air of ritualism. They have not elevated their minds to the highest altitude of divine Worship. They are yet incapable

to worship God in Spirit and Truth. Like children they are in need of an outer symbol. Like maimed people they cannot walk without crutches. They visit the House of God but they know nothing about Him. They hear the voice of God but they do not answer. Such people merit to worship the stone and not the Lord of mankind. To admire the vase and not inhale the fragrant bouquet is not the quality of the true worshipper. Now, millions of people have forgotten the bouquet of flowers and have attached their hearts to the empty vase. During the days of Mohamad, people did not recognize him. As he passed through the streets they threw refuse over his head from the roof of the houses, they lamed him by casting large pieces of stones over his feet, they broke his teeth, they chided him as a lunatic and rebuked him as an erratic man, a disturber of peace and a corrupter of morals. But now Kings and rulers, princes and Ulemas pride themselves by being ^{spiritually related} ~~attracted~~ to him, and worship the very ground which ^{was blessed by his feet} ~~is connected~~ to him. While the inner Reality

was present in their midst they ran away from him but when only the outer and exterior was left they gathered ^{around} and hastened toward it. "

After this meeting he called in other pilgrims and he spoke to them about other things, always joy-imparting, always dynamic, always exhilarating, always inspirational. From Elne' Abhar he inquired about many teachers and his two sons chanted the prayers. When they left, again I was fortunate to be alone with him in the room. For one hour he walked to and fro, not speaking a word but he was in deep thought. Then he asked the time from Basheer and finding that it is noon I retired. The two wide-awake sons of Elne' Abhar contribute a great deal to his happiness. They live with their mother and sister in the Holy Family and in the morning and evening they chant Tablets, prayers and Bahai poems for the Beloved. Although very young they are extraordinarily intelligent and "teach" the Cause in a very effective manner.

The Master asks them many questions and they give wonderful answers. In the afternoon the Master dictated many Tablets for the famished Oriental believers and when the evening came there was no meeting. Just the same the believers and Pilgrims gathered in the room, speaking and reading the Words and when the time came in the charming moonlit night we ascended the mountain while singing songs of gladness and joyousness. Again my old and tried friend Mirza Ali Akbar walked beside me, relating the story of his four months of work and teaching out in the field.

The best way is to bring this letter to a close with the life-giving Words of the Master. To the German believers he writes:-

"O ye friends of God and the maid servants of the Merciful! Your letter was received. Its words and significances ^{implied} ~~these~~ ^a the susceptibility of conscience-ness. Praise be to God that the heavenly Benediction hath descended upon that country, the Ensign of

Truth is aspraised, the clouds of superstitions are being scattered and it is the beginning of the dawn of the Divine Morn from the horizon of significances. I turn my face toward the Ideal Heaven and in a supplicating and imploring manner beg from the Lord of Hosts to illumine always the transparent hearts of those friends with the effulgence of the Sun of Reality and the nostrils of the believers be perfumed with the musc-diffusing fragrance! May the hearts be more enlightened day by day and the spirits be more attracted!

Upon ye be Baha - El Ahha!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas. "

To another believer about the importance of the International Panama Exposition in San Francisco he writes:-

"O thou herald of the Kingdom of God! It is the early morn and you, your beloved daughter and Mrs — came to my mind. Immediately I occupied myself

in writing this Epistle. Truly I say, you are the cause of the happiness of the hearts and always thinking to serve the Kingdom of God.

The believers of God must from this date think about the the International Panama Exposition, - so that during the Exposition they may arrange meetings, deliver eloquent speeches and announce the Glad-Tiding of the Kingdom of God; stating in their talks that the Sun of Reality hath dawned from the horizon of Persia and flooded the regions with its glorious lights. Then mentioning those principles which I have declared in meetings and assemblies. For everyone goes there either in the hope of amusement, or recreation or commerce or trade, but you, who are the believers of God enter the exposition with the hope of summoning the people to the divine Kingdom and obtaining the Breath of the Holy Spirit. If from other cities of America some of ^{the} believers ^{of God} come to California to cooperate with you in the diffusion of the Fragrance of God, this is also permitted and acceptable