

Home of Baha-ollah 21

Acca, Syria

April 1st. 1914

Dear friends!

According to the reckoning of the Lunar Calendar this was the day of the Declaration of the Bab and the birth of the Beloved Abdul Baha. There is a Holy Tablet by Baha-ollah especially revealed for this day which was chanted today in the Meeting in the Presence of the Master by one of the Acca believers. May I do me the beginning of this letter with its translation? :-

"He is the Holy, the Supreme, the Alpha

Praise be to Thee, O my God! for Thou hast ordained this Day a Feast to the favored ones from amongst Thy servants and the sincere ones from amongst Thy beloved ones. Thou hast designated ^{this Day} by this name (Baha) because of it - through which all things are controlled and the Fragrances of Manifestation diffused betwixt the heavens and the earth. Through it all that which was hidden in Thy Holy Books and Thy revealed writings became

disclosed. Through it Thou hast gladdened the hearts
 the hearts of Thy Ambassadors and Chosen Ones so
 that they may prepare all for Thy Meeting, advancing
 toward the Sea of ^{Thy} Union, present themselves before
 the Seat of Thy Throne and listen to Thy sweet
 Call from Thy invisible dawning place
 and the Orient of Thy Identity.

I glorify Thee and praise Thee O God, My Lord,
 for Thou hast cleared the Paths and perfected the
 Grace and caused to sit upon the Throne of Manifes-
 tation the One who is a sign to Thy Oneness,
 and reflecting Thy Singleness and summoning
 all mankind to His Presence. From amongst
 the people a number turned their faces toward
 Him, attained to His Meeting and drank from
 the Wine of His revelation. I beg of Thee and
 by Thy Dominion which hath triumphed
 over all beings, and by Thy Favor which hath
 encircled all phenomena, to make Thy

beloved ones severed from all else save Thee, so that
 they may turn their faces toward the horizon of Thy
 Generosity. Then confirm them in their effort to serve
 Thee, thus it may appear from them in Thy Country
 that which Thou hast decreed for them, and that
 they may unfurl the Flags of Thy Victory ⁱⁿ all the
 continents of the world. Verily Thou art the
 Powerful, the Mighty, the Omnipotent, the Know-
 ing and the Wise!

I praise Thee, O God! for Thou hast made the prison
 a throne in Thy earth, a heaven in Thy heavens, an
 Orient amongst Thy Orients, a dawning-place, amongst
 Thy Dawning-places, the origin of Thy Bestowals
 and the Spirit to the bodies of the world.

I supplicate Thee to assist Thy righteous ones to
 act in accord with Thy good-pleasure. Then
 sanctify them, O God from that which would
 soil the ^{hem of their} garments in Thy Day. O Lord! many
 things are done in various parts of Thy world
 which are not in accord with Thy good-pleasure.

I observe those who claim Thy Love commit such
 deeds ^{as} which are perpetrated by Thy enemies. O Lord,
 cleanse them with this water through which Thou hast
 purified the holy ones from amongst Thy creatures and
 the faithful ones from amongst Thy dear ones. Purge
 them from all that which might ^{impair} Thy
 Cause in Thy country and veil the inhabitants
 of Thy world. O Lord! I supplicate Thee by Thy
 Name which is ~~omnipotent~~ over all things
 to guard them from following the dictates of self
 and desire and gather them around that which
 Thou hast commanded in Thy Book. Then
 suffer them to become the hands of Thy Cause,
 thus through them Thy verses may be diffused
 in Thy world and the appearance of Thy sanctity
 be spread amongst Thy creatures. Verily Thou
 art powerful to do that which Thou wilt,
 there is no God but Thee, the Omnipotent,
 the Self subsistent.

Very early morning Age Hossein Ash-jee and his ²⁵ three sons prepared for us tea and long before sunrise we were up out of our beds performing our obligatory prayer, chanting Tablets and then while eating our simple breakfast speaking and thinking of the privileges of this holy day and how, while the one light heralded the rise of the glorious sun, the other white light of truth was born into this world.

Soon we were wending our way toward the Home of the Blessed Perfection, walking in and out through the narrowest streets you have ever set your eyes on. Little by little the believers were gathered: the large table was decorated with beautiful bouquets of flowers brought from the gardens of Ryzwan and the Holy Tomb, oranges and candies were tempting ^{arranged} prepared, the outward eyes feasting on them. The Master was heard descending the steps, and every ^{one} body was on his feet. ^{After} when he sat down and tea was served he spoke as follows:

" May this feast be a blessing to all the

the Bohais! This is a day in which the herald of the
~~announced the whole world that~~ King of Kings was born, ~~thus~~ mankind be prepared to
 receive Him " Then he spoke about the history of the
 various rooms, how they were employed, who lived
 in each and how were they happy in those days
 notwithstanding adverse conditions and circumstances.
 "My happiness" he concluded "was perfect in those
 dark days of imprisonment and necessities, I
 was ~~more~~ ^{happier} than ~~than~~ now, because I had no will
 of my own: I was perfectly resigned. The life of this
 world is only ^{a few} days. Whether happy or unhappy,
 freedman or bondsman, healthy or ill, in comfort
 or in poverty - they will pass away. The one who
 is established on the throne and the one sitting on
 the mat - both will ~~come to the end~~ ^{cease to exist here}."

The feast was given by Mirza Ali Akbar. While the
 Master was speaking a number of officials were waiting
 for him in the outer reception room. He joined them
 and started to speak with them on sundry subjects

of interest to these people. After one hour he returned²
to us and in the course of conversation he said, "We
must love all mankind and be kind to them
irrespective of any creed or nationality. In Haifa
there is a charitable institution for the poor Arab people.
In looking over the list of names I saw many citizens
contributing from ten to 30 cents a month, the
most prominent paying 80 cents. But realizing that
such an institution deserves assistance I have
subscribed ^{\$5.00} one pound a month." One of the
^{Bahais} ~~believers~~ said that a similar club is lately orga-
nized in Acre with worthy objects and the Master
promised financial help. Then with his own
hands he divided fruits and candies between the
friends. One by one ^{we} stepped ^{forward} forth and he did put
in the palm of each hand two pieces of candy
and ^{one} orange. The room was filled with his spiri-
tual presence and every one was filled with an
inexpressible joy.

Again, Motosarraf, Gaemmagam, the Command

of the army and other officers called and for two hours he was talking to them in ^{the} Turkish language. Although I was sitting in the other room I could hear his ~~clear~~ voice ringing out clear and strong. The intonations of his voice were like the successive peals of thunder and the flashes of lightnings.

About two o'clock the little black ^{donkey} ~~ass~~ lately brought for the use of the Master was drawn into service. He rode ~~on it~~ and a number of the believers followed it out of the gate into the plain of Acca toward the Holy Tomb. It was another truly Biblical picture. One could easily transfer his thought to the time of Christ when he was likewise riding on a ^{donkey} ~~colt~~ now descending the Mount of Olives with his twelve disciples and anon casting out the money changers from the temple. "And when he came nigh the disciples began to rejoice with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen." Thus while we were following the

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Beloved the matchless scenes of the gospel were reviewed^{mentally} and I praised God - not with a loud voice - for all the wonderful things that I have seen in this Day of days. The Blessed Lord spoke to us as we surrounded him^{on} all sides; Rhosro holding the reins in his hands. Suddenly it came to my mind to find out how many believers were following the Beloved. I counted them. How many were there? I will tell you some other time.

Finally we reached the guest house of Bahaji. The Master alighted from the ^{donkey} ass and for a few minutes walked in the garden. After drinking tea we walked to the Holy Tomb, the surrounding plain and valley were bedecked with red tulips, white, violet and yellow flowers. In the Holy Tomb he chanted for us the Visiting Tablet and gave rose-water to each person. ^{This time} he told us not to follow him but come to the town when he is out of sight. When we arrived ^{in the town} he was in his room resting. Then he went out to call on a number of Sheikhs and on his return a number of people were waiting for him with whom he spoke till late.

Mohamad Ibrahim Mashadi Kattah was our host tonight and we slept in his house. He is a very old Babi and has lived in Acre long before the departure of the Blessed Perfection.