

Bahai Nest

105

Mount Carmel Haifa, Syria

April 12th 1914

Dear friends!

The sun is just rising from the eastern horizon like unto a blazing globe of fire flooding the Crest of the Mountain of God with its iridescent rays and heralding the glorious dawn of another day. Those who are sleeping in their beds at the foot of Carmel are beginning to awake and take up the thread of ^{their} daily work. To many the wonders of God's creation and its awe-inspiring scenes have no significance. Like the giant troglodytes they are contented with their dark homes in the holes of the mountains or the caves of the hills. They live a ~~life~~ of subterranean ^{life} and never raise their eyes upwards. Their forefathers winged their ways to the refulgent summit of inspiration, but like groveling worms they are satisfied with the crevices and fissures of the earth. For them the sun is never rising, the world is not renovated, the fresh spring never returns and nature with all

its wonderful colors never reform. They live in the mist of past ages. The surface of the mirrors of their hearts are covered with the dust of generations, nor have they ever tried to polish them. They cling to the past, live only in the present and never worry about the future. The accumulated weight of dogmas and priestly authority have so blinded their ~~heads~~ that they do not even make a small attempt to break these iron bonds that have held them ^{so long} in captivity and slavery so long. They go on from day to day, month to month, year to year, never thinking, never reasoning, never independently investigating. Oh men who are almost drowned in the sea of sleep and negligence! The sun of Truth hath arisen from the horizon of sanctity; why do ye not open your eyes. Through its penetrative rays the earth of human possibilities is carpeted with the unfading amaranths of knowledge and the imperishable asphodels of wisdom. Do not let the clouds of your own imaginations and fancies rise toward the heaven of your consciousness and prevent its illumination. These clouds have

no outward existence; they are made in the factory ¹⁰⁷ of
our own minds. Just as the vapours rise from the earth
toward the sky and hinder the shining of the sun, simi-
larly the clouds of pre-conceived ideas and notions rise
from the mind and check the downpour of the rays
of the sun of Reality. The sun has had neither an
ascent or descent, a rising or a setting, ~~it~~ ^{but} is stationed
in its zenith of glory. The dark, wandering clouds are
~~our~~ our own misguided conceptions and erroneous and
faulty imaginings. Through the divine Teachings
we must dispel these phantastic clouds of ignorance
from the horizon of our intellects and let the sun
of Truth shine unimpededly. The prophets of God
and the divine Messengers have come for no other
purpose save this. The mirrors of our hearts must
be cleansed, old ideas must be discarded, old in-
stitutions must be thrown into the dust-heap, old
cogitations are of no avail, old trees must be ^{uprooted}
thus new trees be transplanted. Those who desire to
conjugate the past tense are left behind; we must

think of the present and our spiritual needs. We must
 reflect over the state of the future progress of humanity
 and how we can further it and bring it one inch
 nearer to the goal. Let us break the golden bars of the
 cage of self-complacent life and soar toward the
 heaven of mighty achievements. Let us come out of
 the caverns and dens of imperfections and engage
 in those things that would benefit mankind and
 the progress of the Cause of God. Praise be to God
 that the Bahais are alive to the importance of these
 facts, are enthused with the fire of world's anthem
 of fraternization, realize more than other commu-
 nities the need of religious and moral culture,
 are imbued with the spirit of brotherly feeling
 and general co-operation, are defining the prin-
 ciples of union and ignoring points of difference,
 have surrendered their human will and chosen the
 Divine Will, are inspired with the holy determina-
 tion of service and are working day and night for
 the promotion of Truth.

109

The laws of the material world are opposed to the laws of the divine world. In the former there is the struggle for existence; injustice, rapacity and defects, while the latter one observes forgiveness, justice, liberality and perfectness. The one is satanic; the other angelic. The infernal terrors are the postulates of the first; divine splendors the rules of the second. The jingling, discordant music of the one jars an aesthetic nature, but the seraphic melodies of the other ravishes away the hearts of men. Therefore the spiritual laws of the divine world must become predominant and gain victory over the material laws of the material world. The divine world is illumined with the rays of the sun of Reality; the material world is beclouded with the dark clouds of prejudices. Only through the power ^{of Faith} ~~we~~ will come out victors. Only through the inculcation of the divine precepts will we become worthy of the heavenly Bestowals. Every person must make a worthy attempt to represent the Cause in all its grandeur and majesty and embody the divine principles of the Kingdom.

10
This morning the steamer arrived from Beirut and brought 7 more Bahai students. The Master received them and welcome them with wonderful, spiritual cordiality. Hardly he had spoken a few words than Reza Bey, a Turkish officer of Beirut was announced and Abdu'l Baha spoke to him the rest of time. He spoke about Saladdin and the Crusaders and the bloodshed of cruel men on both sides. Then he related several stories to show the kindness and humanity of Saladdin. Acca fell into the hands of the Crusaders only for four years and was taken back by the unified attack of the Mahomadan hosts.

Then the Chief Commander called and the Beloved started to speak with him on other subjects and we retired from his Presence.

In the afternoon by the arrangement of the Persian students two of the Professors of Beirut College

called on the Beloved and I was fortunate

to translate his words to them. He spoke ^{mainly on} ~~about~~ ^{the} universal Peace and because the name of the Great Illusion by Norman Angel was mentioned he dwelt on the fallacies of wars and the benefits of arbitration. Then he eulogized America and its ideal institutions of liberty and civilization. "Every state is an independent sovereignty" he said and freedom rules over the hearts of men. Every American considers himself responsible to hold aloft the ideals of humanity and as such they are the guardrails of the rights of man. Their splendid isolation entitles them not to interfere with the ^{internal} affairs of other nations. They are ^{not} imbued with the ruthless law of "land grabbing"! I was most pleased with the results of my trip to America. I found a wonderful spirit of Peace hovering over that vast Continent. The people are inspired with the thoughts of Peace and are working for its final realization. I hope they will be the first nation to unfurl the Standard of Peace. I will ever pray for their success. Today this is the most

great service to the world of humanity."

In the afternoon Mr and Mrs Halback came in and Abdul Baha talked with them for more than ^{one} half hour. They were refreshed by the downpour of his words and the beauty of his advice. Then Sheik Mohamad Ali was called, and in the course of conversation the Beloved said: - "The more the believers of God associate and consort with all the nations of the world the more I shall be pleased with them. This is the clear text of the Book of the Blessed Perfection. The more the Bahais are kind to other communities, the nearer will they be to the Threshold of God."

Today the wife of Aga Inehdi, the gardener of the garden of the Tomb of Baha-ollah passed away into the higher Life. She is leaving behind one son of probably 5 yrs old. Therefore the Master called him into his presence and consoled him on account of his bereavement.

We did not have any meeting tonight so we ascended the mountain towards