

Tiberias, Sea of Galilee

Syria

June 11th 1914

Dear friends!

From India comes the news of fresh victories, new souls attracted to the Kingdom of Abba and ^{so} I would like to share them with you, — thus connecting the Holy Ganges with the sacred sea of Galilee and the outside world, binding the land of Brahma, Budha, spiritual Avatars, Baghavad Gita and Upanishads, Vedas and Mahabharata, Rishis and Sakuntala with the land of Abraham, and Moses, Isaiah and Daniel, Jesus Christ and the Gospels, patriarchs and ^{the} prophets, Ruth and Esther! These accounts carry with them the spiritual fragrances of the presence of the Beloved and the whispering beauty of Galilee, because they were read to him this afternoon as he sat in the balcony looking over the Lake. His ears have listened to every word quoted in the following pages and so I hope this fact will invest it with a double significance.

His Highness

The Maharajah of Jhalrapatan, Rajputana inviting Mrs Getsinger to his country in order that she may lecture

to his people on the Bahai Revelation writes as follows:-

"Dear Madam: While in England I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the leader of the Bahais Abdul Baha. It will give me much pleasure to have you at my place. But may ask you the exact time when it will be possible for you to pay me a visit. I am asking you this, as it is very probable I may have to leave my capital about the middle of the month of April. yours truly, (Sig) Bharwani Singh."

Mrs Getsinger describing her very visit, to the Kothi palace of the prince as she was invited to dinner immediately after her arrival says:- "I was happy to feel the entire absence of Conventionality. Most Americans are unaccustomed to the conventions - surrounding Kings and Princes, which may or may not be, a very good thing, - I was greatly pleased to find myself like one of the happy group of friends. But I soon discovered the secret of this to be the remarkable personality of His Highness himself. He is a man of perhaps 35 or 38 yrs of age possessing a temperament difficult to describe, in as much as he is at once both very dignified and extremely simple. His face is calm and placid and at the same time very mobile and expressive of a tender sympathy which might well adorn the countenance of a good pure woman."

followed immediately by expressions of such forceful courage^{and} unswerving will as might become the character of an ideal man. His bearing is both majestic and genial, while at all times and on all occasions he is most courteously kind to everybody, even his servants whose loyal obedience to him is something to be remarked, as it is entirely free from the spirit of servility and absolutely characteristic of a spontaneous desire to serve through loving devotion."

Mrs. Getsinger stayed 13 days in Jhalawar as the guest of His Highness the Prince and almost every day he addressed a meeting or spoke for hours to the officers on the Bahai Cause. Before going to deliver a lecture on Messengers from God she writes to the Beloved:- "This invitation came to day after seeing and talking with some of the officers of His Highness. The lecture is to be given in the home of the Minister of State, the uncle of His Highness. O My Lord, I pray that my tongue may be eloquent with Thy wisdom and Thy Truths which I have gained from Thy ^{Holy} lips. With Thee is all power. With me there is nothing save desire to do Thy Will."

On the tenth day of her visit she writes:- "I have been most kindly and hospitably entertained by His Highness

and nearly all of the time has been passed in speaking of the Cause. Thanks be to God I have through His Mercy been able to speak to all about the Glorious revelation,"

On April 11th she writes: - "I thought last night I should leave to day for Bombay but after dinner His Highness said: 'I wish you would stay two days longer as my guests do not wish you to go, no do my people'. . . . Last night I was very much surprised to find a large gathering of people in the House of the Minister - so many that some were standing outside looking in at the windows. I spoke for one hour and a quarter and endeavored to show them how man had received all his knowledge through the Messengers of God and the world has been educated spiritually by them - until in this great century the Supreme Beloved One has come - to unite us all in the bonds of real love and brotherhood. They all seemed greatly pleased and clamored afterwards ^{for} to the printed Teachings of Baha-Allah Those Bahai friends who can write cogently should be devoting themselves to that service for the need of it is very great. What a gigantic work is the work of the Kingdom. And it seems to me now that in reality 'the laborers are very few.' I

talk all day and half the night on the subject of the Cause
 and yet the ground is only just lightly gone over, simply for
 lack of time. The people are all so anxious to know and there is
 so much to tell them, so many aspects to deal with that more
 teachers are necessary I think that the enlightenment
 of India depends only upon the spiritual awakening of
 a few. For example once two or three chief Rulers would
 accept the revelation - the people would follow. The Indians
 are like tender children and their Rulers are their fathers.
 The chief is the head of the state in everything in every depart-
 ment, religious, political and ⁱⁿ judiciary. The English people
 who know all say, that in all India a more just, a more
 noble, a more sincere man could hardly be found than
 His Highness the Maharajah of Jhalawar - that no one
 is more fitted to rule over the people in large numbers than
 he is, on account of his integrity and upright character. He
 treats all people alike, whether they are Mohamadaus ^{or} and
 Hindus of his own caste which is very remarkable in
 comparison with what some other rulers do. He is gra-
 dually working, more than in example than in any
 other way, to remove the prejudices of caste and religious
 differences. In his actions and deeds he is a Bahai

One servant, a Mohammadan came to me and said: 'I have heard you speak so much about Abdul Baha, tell me is He Imam Mehdi or Gaem?' Then I told him the best I could, 'Oh,' he said 'If I could only see him, if he comes to Bombay, let me know and I will go to see him.' I told him you might one day come to Ghalrapatan and he was very pleased. Then he said 'Because you have told me about Him, I want to call my little daughter 'American Begoum', so that we shall always have something in our house, as a remembrance of your visit here. His little daughter is really very clever - a child of three years, I offered her a piece of money, which she would not even touch ^{but} when I gave her a piece of Sugar blessed by the Hand of Abdul Baha she took it at once, and laughed with glee. I thought at first she did not know what money was, but her father soon dispelled the thought by giving her some from his own pocket which she took. I gave the father Rupees - as he said he wanted to call her 'American Begoum', but he refused it until I said, 'I give it to your little daughter in the name of Abdul Baha', then he accepted! I gave two very poor children each five Rupees, so they could buy some books and go to school and six more Rupees to some poor children in the temple.

This is all I could give, for no one else would accept anything. His Highness told me ~~that~~ he has made it a rule that his servants should not accept anything from his guests, and they are very loyal to his orders. Only several of them asked me to write for them a paper, saying I was pleased with their services which I did with great pleasure as it was the least I could do His Highness thinks of paying a visit to America after 2 years and it will be well for the people there to know something about him, his noble character and lofty ideals, his hopes for his people are very progressive and uplifting"

Mrs Getsinger has written an able article about her interesting experiences while staying in Jhalawar as the guest of His Highness the Prince, telling us entertainingly about this Indian Ruler and his Oriental Court. The Beloved has approved it and according to the arrangement it will be forwarded to Mrs Fraser - so that she may publish it in a magazine - thus it may read by an appreciative public. In my tomorrow's letter I will give you an account of her spiritual work in Poona - showing how the spirit of God is working for the spiritual uplift of mankind.

In comparison with other days the Master got up late a very unusual phenomenon in connection with his fixed habit of early rising. Coming out of his room he walked for a while in the hall and then entering the reception room he corrected several Tablets and then speaking only a few words with the Pilgrims ~~he~~ went out and ~~stay~~^{stayed} away till noon. For lunch he ate ^{only} bread and milk and then entered his room to take his nap. At 2.30 pm he came out of the room with a large number of letters in his hand. He sat on the Balcony and called me to go to him. Several letters from Mrs Getsinger, brief extracts of which quoted above were read, also letters from Stuttgart and London. At that time Inofti called in and the Master went out with him, walking erect and majestic. Inofti is also an old man with long white beard, and the Beloved ^{and he} walking ~~with him~~ side by side made a really wonderful picture. In the evening ^{the Master} he went to the Mosque and seeing ^{that} the ^{were} mats old and tattered he gave two or three pounds to the Imam (Minister) to buy new mats and ^{owed him to} keep always clean the House of the Lord. While in the Mosque he spoke informally with men on the Love of God and the excellency of faith.