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Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel.
Haifa. Syria
July 9th 1914

Dear friends!

Before leaving Acca this afternoon, the Beloved came down and called all the friends in the reception room. He did not want ~~ed~~ them to go to the station but he would bid them farewell here. He told them how he longed to stay all the time in Acca, because it is the center, that his heart does not find complete rest and composure save in Acca, that his spirit is always in Acca no matter where he goes. Then he continued: "The quintessence of the matter is that under the protection of the Blessed Perfection we have spent our days in this Most Great Prison. We listened to His heavenly Teachings, we witnessed His wondrous Works, we beheld His divine Majesty and became the recipients of His inexhaustible Favors. It was also through His Holy Power that we were reinforced to bear all the sufferings and persecutions in His Path, otherwise we could not stand their weight for one day. Human powers unaided by the divine Spirit cannot sustain trials and ordeals. I regret most exceedingly that up to this time I have been unable to render ~~and~~ worthy service to the Cause of God and the believers of the Merciful. I confess my own shortcomings; Although

from a general standpoint no man can render adequate service at the Divine Threshold. Today the influence of the Cause of God is felt in all parts of the world and there are thousands and tens of thousands believers who refer their affairs to me for adjustment. ^{consider} Now how difficult it is to attend to all these and give personal advice to each. Therefore I beg of the believers of God, especially those who have been the Companions of the Blessed Perfection in this most great Prison not to look upon the shortcomings but look upon every man from the standpoint of divine Mercy and Grace. Were it possible for me I would have willingly and proudly become a servant to each one of the friends Baha-Allah has assured us that this Cause will transcend every difficulty and will rise above every persecution but this condition will not be realized except through the self-sacrifice and infinite wisdom of believers of God. Because this is the Divine Cause, people in all parts of the world are erecting walls of obstruction to hinder its onward march. These obstructions are not two or ten or fifty, they are numerous.... Here he spoke most feelingly about the latest outbreak of fanaticism in Persia against the Bahais in Teheran, Yazd and Kermanshah and how in each ^{said} city the Ulemas have excited the mob to kill the believers and

plunder their properties and how they have ascended the ⁶³
pulpits and denounced all the Bahais ~~and~~ infidels and
polytheists. Then he continued: "In short my aim is this: The
Blessed Cause is surrounded by threatening dangers on all sides.
During His lifetime He educated us, trained us and encircled
us with all His Bounties and Favors - so that we may protect
according to our ability this light of the manifest Cause which
^{has been} lit up by the Hand of the Almighty in this dark world.
We must strive to keep pure the sacred glow of this heavenly
Fire and do not let the serenity of the Cause be disturbed by
outside circumstances. This is the plain duty of every Bahai,
otherwise there will remain no sign or trace of the
movement. While His Holiness Mohamad lived in Arabia,
one day his followers came to him and asked: "Was
Khalid, who lived many years before thee a prophet?"
Mohamad answered: "yes, He was a great prophet and he
instituted many laws but after his death his followers grew
lukewarm and lost their leader's enthusiasm and thus
the light became extinct, the faith was not propagated
and the standard of truth was not unfurled."

Similarly if we do not protect the Cause, if we are not
self-sacrificing, if we do not think of the progress of these
ideals, if we do not give up everything for the best

interest of Truth - the Light will become extinct, especially after me.

O ye beloved friends! The Spiritual forces are with us, the divine Angels are supporting us, the Favors of the Blessed Perfection are all around us, the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit are hovering above our heads, the invisible cohorts are continually assisting us! If we do not labor and work in these days, then on what days should we labor and work. First of all, I will pray on my own behalf, then on behalf of every one of you - so that you may be under the protection of the Almighty! May you be the servants of the Cause! May you be the victorious hosts of God's revelations! May you sacrifice your lives in His Path! Let us strive by day and by night, surge like unto a waving sea, roar like unto a fearless lion, move like unto the velocity of the winds and serve and spread the Cause of Baha-Allah according to the best of our ability. Praise be to God, we are all beneath the shade of the Bestowals of the Blessed Perfection. He has selected us from amongst all the nations of the world and brought us with himself in this Prison and made us co-sharers in His trials and sufferings. If we thank him a hundred thousand times at every moment, we have not praised

him sufficiently. The duration of our lives is only a few days⁶⁵. Consider, when we entered this prison we were about 72 persons but now only a few of us are left behind. We will also pass away....." His eyes were shut and now and then his voice was more like a whisper that I could hardly catch the words. Then descending the stairs, he cautioned no one to come down. All the believers felt so strongly the power and the appeal of his talk. He left them amidst a great, disconcerting silence. He rode on his little donkey to the station. I was walking behind the little animal. Another believer had the rein in his hand. After a few minutes waiting the train pulled out of the station for Haifa. Descending from the train he got into a public carriage and was ^{driven} to the house. In the evening, because all the friends were gathered in the garden in the expectation of seeing him, he came out and stood at the top of the stairs and requested them to excuse him for this evening, because he is very tired, but they were all invited to come tomorrow morning and have their tea in his holy presence.

Shougi Effendi and Rouhi Effendi with about a dozen of the Bahai students arrived yesterday from Beirut. Every one has been successful in his examination and they have come home ^{for their vacations} with flying colors. The girls

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students have also returned but they are in the Androuns
of their parents and no one has ^{so much} the ghost of a chance to
see or talk to them, even a word. I believe, when they are
in the college, they are given greater freedom and exercise more
social liberty, but here conditions are changed and they must
live in accord with the religious scruples of the people.
They tell me they are quite advanced in their studies and
their professors are pleased with them.

This morning the Beloved called me into his own blessed
presence and ~~showed~~ ^{presented and in words for me} me a seat near the bed. I trans-
lated to him several letters just received from Europe
and America. Their answers were postponed to some
more opportune time. Then he went out to pay a
number of visits to the officials and other citizens
previous to his departure for Haifa. On his return he
stopped for half an hour in the reception room and
entertained us with a number of Turkish anecdotes.

Again we are in Haifa, not knowing how long we will
stay before leaving for another direction. Badi Effendi
Beshrevi is my constant friend. While I am in the
home of the Beloved he stays in my tent. He is busy
writing a fine pamphlet on the Bahai Cause from the stand-
point of the Began, quoting numerous verses from this book
as regards the appearance of him whom would God manifest.