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Home of Baha Ollah
Acca Syria
January 3d 1915

Dear friends!

One of the causes that contribute to the happiness of the Beloved and the gaiety of those who are connected with this household in Acca is the little Labeel who is three or four years old. His mother died after the birth of the child in Egypt and thus he was brought here to be reared and trained by his grandmother, Sakineh Sultan. She was in turn the wife of a believer in Yazd who was martyred in the Cause many, many years ago and after his martyrdom she came to the Holyland with her little baby girl. The little girl grew and was educated by the Master in the principles of the spiritual life. After going through the school and studying French and other useful arts she was a comely little woman, graceful in body and refined in mind and soul. After awhile Mirza Rudi, the son of Haji Sayad Javad who was here the other day married her and the pair moved to Cairo and lived together in happiness. Then our little boy Labeel stepped into this world and the consequence of the birth - throes, the mother sacrificed her life, leaving behind a darling baby. Then the grandmother, with the intuitive tenderness of a noble woman came to the rescue and took entire charge of the training of the motherless baby. The result is that we have a little angel in our midst who laughs and cries, prattles and gambols and gives us much consolation. Sakineh Sultan is the incarnation of solicitude and love for the welfare of the little Labeel and I don't think even a mother could ever take better care of him. She takes care of the house and whenever the Master is in Acca cooks for us and does many little nice things that you can somehow divine that there is a good woman around, although you do not happen to see her or talk with her. Labeel is a clean and tidy little child and his clothes always spotless and immaculate, another evidence of the eternal vigilance of the loving grandmother. Every morning he runs to the door of the room of the Beloved and joyously salutes him with "Allaho Akbar" and then "Aga, Aga Bah-hah Bedeh". [Master, master, give me candy] After receiving his candy he goes after mandarines, oranges, sugar etc but don't think that we give him all these things. His childish heart longs after them

but his grandmother is very careful about his diet and will not be pleased if we feed him indiscriminately. The Master loves him very much and has given him the freedom of his room. Even when there are callers he walks in, looks into the faces of the guests intently, stands for a few minute motionless in the center of the room, attracting the attention of everyone to himself and when ^{some} one beckons to go to him he laughs mischievously and ~~runs~~ away.

Labeesh is a great friend of mine. We console each other and I teach him short, simple phrases in English and French. I am proud to say that he has taken a great likeness for me and the Beloved thinks I have somehow bribed him. He demonstrates his love for me in a most peculiar, laughable manner. When we sit around the table for dinner and supper, Labeesh is running during all that time between the dining room and the kitchen, bringing for me large cabbages, onions, green peppers, radishes, lemons, bread, oranges, spinach! I have to pile these things before me, otherwise he will not be satisfied. One day he brought for me six big cabbages and when he brought the seventh I could not find a place for it on the table, ^{so} I had to keep it on my lap. He doesn't ~~play~~ this kind of joke everyday but just once in a while to keep its interest and novelty alive. Labeesh is not afraid of strangers but has a ^{decoy} ~~decoy~~, sweet nature and every body loves him and caresses him. He is neither naughty nor spoiled but goes to the people with the pure spontaneity and innocent beauty of a baby. He has a happy, lovable disposition and is very intelligent. Once I teach him a sentence in English or French he does not forget it afterwards.

This evening we had a meeting and the Beloved was speaking about the early life of Baha-Ollah and his connections with the then Grand Vizier of Persia when Labeesh entered the room and went straight up to one of the believers who was sitting in the front of the bed and stood there calmly. No one could guess why he is so attracted to this particular ^{believer} and does not move from his place. The Master looking at him divined his object and told him to bring to him the box of "Bah-bah" [candy] and he would give him some. Immediately the little, immovable statue was changed into a rolling agitated ball and dived under the bed to bring the box of "Bah-bah", nor did he cry because he struck his head against the brass,

Ha! that was the reason why he was standing before the bed. He was not attracted to that believer but the box of candy under the bed had attracted him! That was smart of him, wasn't it? and we had a hearty laugh over it. When he got his candy and ran away that Beloved told us an experience he had today with a clever child. "I was sitting this morning in the Pharmacy when a child came to me ^{and asked} for a Matalaek. I gave it to him. He looked at it in a fretful manner. 'What is it, my child? Is it not good?' 'Oh! it is good all right, but I am thinking what can I do with ^{but} one Matalaek.' 'Well! I suppose thou canst buy candy with it.' 'What is the use of candy! I now eat a piece and after half an hour I long for another.' 'What dost thou want to do then?' 'I tell you what I want to do, you see, I am here-fasted and I like to buy a pair of Gal - Gal [wooden shoes] which costs only 5 Matalaeks.' 'Why does not your father buy it for you?' 'My father! Oh! he has been out of work for two months and has no money.' 'What is his name?' [Here the child gave the name of his father.] 'Very well, come my child and take this money and go and buy a good pair of shoes for thyself. The little child was most happy and was seen wearing them this afternoon.

Before noon the holy daughters and the grandsons and granddaughters left for Abov Senan and when Isfandiyar returned in the afternoon we rode to the Holy Tomb in the presence of the Beloved. While a Russian warship was passing before Acca and Haifa we sat quietly in the Blessed garden of the inner building and prayed from the depth of our heart for all those who have suffered and are suffering in this great world war. When we came out of the Sacred Shikkinah the Master said in a reflecting manner while walking on the green grass :- "This globe with all the infinite forms of life teeming through its length and breadth is but a grain of poppy in comparison to this stupendous creation and man is a part of this grain of poppy. Notwithstanding this infinitesimal smallness how proud, haughty is he of his origin! He is indeed negligent and unaware. It is through the Guidance of God and His Mercy that man assumes greatness, provided he lives in accord with the behests of his Creator, otherwise he will be less than the worm crawling in the darkness of the earth."