

Home of Abdu'l Baha
 Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
 June 3d 1915

Dear friends!

A portion of the Tablet of Baha Ollah to the King of Persia was chanted tonight in the presence of the Beloved and then he delivered a talk on the character and moral courage of the messenger who carried that divine Epistle from Acca to Teheran. Our admiration is increased when we realize that he knew perfectly well that he will be martyred for the sake of this cause and yet he accepted this service with no hesitation whatsoever.

The Master said: "In this glorious Tablet to the King of Persia Baha Ollah has perfected His Proof from every standpoint. There has been left for him no loophole through which he might escape. First, there are ample references to history, both spiritual and descriptive. Second, There are supplications, the effect of which would move the hearts and melt the adamant rock. Third, there are exhortations, advice, behests, and counsels. Fourth, there are glowing spiritual utterances whereby mankind might turn their faces toward God, receive the Bestowals of their Maker, walk in the path of righteousness and be characterized with the qualities of severance and detachment from the world and its material conditions. Fifth, the Blessed Perfection offers to the King of Persia a most unmistakable proposition to the effect that he might invite and gather together all the Ulemas and theological leaders in ~~a~~ large conference and ask Him also to be present - thus He may produce for their conviction the most irrefutable proof and incontrovertible argument. In that Conference they might demand the performance of any ^{miracle} or extraordinary feat - thus the mystery of reality be revealed, light be distinguished from darkness, the rays of the Sun of Truth dispel the gloom of doubt and the hidden facts of the spiritual world become evident and manifest. If their demands be not promptly performed they might do unto Him and inflict upon Him all that they desired.

Up to the present time no such comprehensive Epistle has been revealed by any of the former Manifestations. It is an Arcana of divine Mysteries. But it is most regrettable that it played no marked effect upon the mind of the recipient. Before the Epistle was read the messenger, the faithful courier was put to death by inflicting upon him the most cruel tortures. They branded him with hot iron and brick; - so that he may reveal the name of the Bahais but all that could be extracted from him was this: 'I do not have any friends, I know no Bahais, I am all alone in this'.

"When his holiness Badi reached Teheran he found the Shah was not in the city but in Doushan Tappeh, - a royal summer resort - , therefore he marched toward that place. Because the guards, the soldiers, the doorknobs and the Ferrashes prevented his approach to his Majesty, he went away and finding a commanding hill, opposite the imperial quarters sat on a rock. Without much food and drink he sat motionless for three days on that stone, waiting patiently to be called. The Shah through his looking-glass had seen him several times during those three days and wondered at his steadfastness and power. Finally, his curiosity being arisen he sent for him and inquired about his business. He drew the holy Epistle out of ^{his} pocket and offered it to the King: 'This is a book from Baha Ollah!'. Immediately he was arrested by the courtiers and thrown into the prison. Repeatedly he was branded; - in order that he may ^{directly} divulge the names of his 'accomplices' with no evident result. Then they made him be seated, put chains around his neck and with his two executioners on his right and left they took his photograph. In that photograph he is sitting with the utmost supplication and invocation and truly I say, the lights ascend from his blessed face to the Supreme Concourse. This photograph is still extant amongst the friends and can be procured by every person.

"In reality, from the beginning of the world up to the present day not a more trustful messenger has appeared! With the utmost sanctity and holiness, severance and detachment, with a heart attracted by the Fragrances of God and a spirit rejoiced by the glad-tidings of God he travelled on foot from Acrea to Teheran

ever carrying this wonderful Epistle in his bosom, not revealing his whereabouts to friend or foe and finally delivering it into the very hand of the Shah of Persia. This is an unprecedented service in the Bahai Cause.

"According to a report it is stated that the Shah read the Epistle after words and was much struck with its unparalleled contents. It is also claimed that he regretted the death of Badi. After reading it he sent it to the representative Ulemas and demanded of them a direct, logical, satisfying answer. They read and deliberated on it and wrote back their consensus opinion that this Person [Baha-Ollah] is the enemy of the Shah and as such he must be destroyed. When he received this irrelevant, ludicrous decree he was quite angry and said: 'I have kept, fed, honored and respected these Ulemas for the solution of such problems. Now is that an answer that they have sent me? How can they prove through the contents of this Epistle that the Writer is the enemy of the Shah.'

"In short, Badi displayed such supreme self-sacrifice that caused happiness and rejoicing to the hearts of the dwellers of the Supreme Cause and became the object of the praise and glorification of the angels of the Kingdom of Abha. Throughout all the succeeding generations he shall shine like unto a brilliant star from the horizon of Everlasting Glory. Had he not attained to the station of self-sacrifice in the path of the Beloved he would have been dead a long time ago but like unto a real winning hero he carried away the ball from the field and adorned his brow with the imperishable garland of victory. Those whose characters are woven out of such real stuff display such courage and accomplish such deeds! What a rare spiritual soul was he! When the Blessed Perfection was incarcerated in the barrack he stood in His holy Presence and received this memorable commission. He was a flame of fire, a torch of light."

Many lovely scenes of a spiritual nature were witnessed and around the Beloved during the day all of which are recorded in the book of universal history for the benefit of our fellowmen.