



help from the hosts of the Supreme Concourse. Their feet are indeed made firm, their banners are hoisted, their deeds are righteous, and their actions are just. O Lord! make them odoriferous plants of Thy Paradise, flowers of the Garden of Thy Nearness, verses of Thy Glorious Book, words of Thy "Published Tablet" unto the people of the world, and as fa. Icons, soaring on the loftiest summit. - ' Verily Thou art the Beneficent, the Merciful, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Bestower !

O my dear friends! Yours wa.s not merely a letter; it was perfumed with amber, and diffused a sweet fragrance. Every word thereof was a rose in the rose-garden of the Love of God, a.nd wa.s a flower and hyacinth! When the breeze of Providence blows from the direction of Gift, the gardens of hearts thereby attain exceeding purity and freshness. Such significances a.rise from the soul and consciousness, and impart joy and fragrance.

O friends,! It is the wish of Abdul-Baha, that the friends may establish GENERAL unity, and NOT a PARTICULAR meeting of unity. You must have great consideration for this fa.ct! for during the past cycles, though SUCH EVENTS\* WERE, in the BEGINNING, a means for harmony, they became, in the END, the cause of trouble.

We are all servants of ONE Threshold, attendants at ONE Court, waves of ONE Sea., drops of ONE Stream, the dust before ONE Door, and plants of ONE Garden! There must arise no trouble to deprive one from that which is the real purpose. The beloved of God must be friendly even with strangers, a.nd intimate even with outsiders,-how much more with others amongst the righteous (i. e. believers) !

To organize assemblies is praise-worthy and acceptable, but these must be established for certain

\*Founding of particular, i. e. exclusive unity meetings.

matters. For example, assemblages for teaching (the Truth) ; gatherings for the spread of the Fragrances of God; gatherings for the relief of the orphans; gatherings for the protection (i. e. feeding, etc.) of the poor; assemblages for the spread of learning; and, in a word, there must be gatherings for matters which concern the well-being of men,-

such as organizations of a Society of Commerce, societies for the increase (or development) of arts (or industries), societies for the expansion of Agriculture. To be brief, similar societies are very acceptable and praise-worthy, and CONCERN ALL IN GENERAL, and NOT a particular number.

In a word: That which is conducive to the life (or growth) of the people, is acceptable, and whatever is the cause of disaffection is blame-worthy. I hope all the friends of the East and West, shall rest in the SAME assemblage and adorn ONE gathering; and appear with all the heavenly attributes and

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virtues, in the world of Humanity.

O my Lord! O my Lord! Enable me to witness this Most Great Sign, and to realize the fulfillment of this hope, throughout all regions! Verily Thou art the Bestower, the Beneficent, Whose Bounties are Great!

Some of the friends have asked to present themselves in these parts. In these days, this does not conform with wisdom. God willing, permission shall be given at some favorable time.

(Sig.) E. E. (Abdul-Ba.ha Abbas.)

(July 4th, 1906.)

To the beloved of GOD (Upon them be greeting and praise!) Oroumieh-(Persia).

Be is God!

O my God! O my God! Thou hast beheld how my face shone with cheerfulness, my heart was rejoiced and my breast dilated, when I read the names of Thy Beloved Ones in the letter of one of Thy Chosen Ones. With the reading of each name, I was pleased in soul, and supplicated Thee to make a spark of the Fire of Thy Love and a breeze from the Morn of Salvation, through the Bounty of Thy Mercifulness.

O Lord! The night of disappointment is indeed spread throughout the world; do Thou shine with the Lights of the Sun of Truth upon all existence; so that the Morn of Assurance may breathe with the Light of Knowledge, and illumine the earth with the Ray shining from the Kingdom of Beauty.

Then make Thou the beloved ones banners of guidance amongst mankind, birds of Sanctity in the Garden of Faithfulness, and whales of knowledge

in the seas of the Most Mighty Gift. Verily, Thou art the Mighty, the Powerful, the Gracious: There is no GOD but Thee, the Ancient, the Seer, the Hearer, the Bestower !

O my dear friends! His honor, Aga Mohammed Ali Abbasof, has written a letter wherein he has spoken of the friends and mentioned their names. He hath praised and commended the Chosen ones with the utmost joy and gladness; saying: that, praise be to God, the beloved ones are supplicating before the Threshold of the Almighty, and are in exceeding affection and faithfulness; that they are fragrant plants in the rose-garden of the Love of God, shining stars on the horizon of the Knowledge of God, graceful cypresses on the sides of the stream of Virtues,-and that they are roses, blossoms and myrtles in the gardens of Gifts.

This news produced effect in the hearts, and rejoiced the souls:-that, praise be to God, the friends are acting and living in accord with the Commands of the Affectionate Beloved One, and are skilled and accomplished in the qualities and virtues of the world of Humanity; that they have partaken a result from the world of being, found their way to the Watering-place, are assembled under the hoisted Banner, and are kind and affectionate toward all men of all nations and communities; that they are exerting with all their might, that foreignness may vanish from the world of Humanity, and familiarity become manifest among the peoples of the world; and that all men become affectionate to one another, and the world of mankind attain to infinite happiness and prosperity.

O ye friends of God! Engage in Love as much as you can, and be gentle to every outsider; suffer from enemies and behave with patience; see the asleep as the awakened, know the heedless as heedful, deal justly with the unjust, and treat the oppressor with faithfulness; Offend not the mind of any person, and grieve not the heart of any man; be towards all with the utmost humility and meekness, and be loyal and sincere subjects to the Royal Throne; obey the authorities of affairs, and make NO INTERFERENCE whatsoever with political matters; adorn the meetings with the Commemoration of God, and train the individuals with the Breath of the Merciful One; utter no word save in

the mention of God, and rest only in the shadow of Hope.

It is the hope of this servant that God may assist the wronged ones and help the sufferers of injustice.

In Persia, no one is more kind and more benevolent than His Majesty, the Shah. Pray you for composure and healing, with the utmost humility and submissiveness, in behalf of that King. A thousand times alas that the Persians do not appreciate the worth of this crowned head, and allow no time, - that on his own accord and with purity of intention, he may establish just laws and confer the freedom of thought and conscience!

Upon you be greeting and praise!

(Sig.) E. E. (Abdul-Baha Abbas.)

July 5th, 1906.

To Isa'ac Khan and Aga Shiekh-Ali.

Kirmanshah.

Through Mirza Assad 'ullah Isphahani, and to the beloved of God in Kurdistan.

He is God!

O ye friends of God! I have not forgotten you and will not forget you. The ear of mind is constantly waiting to hear the news of the friends, -so that great happiness may be attained. Ye are the friends of that affectionate Beloved One, -how can ye be forgotten? and ye are enamored of those dishevelled Locks, -how can ye be effaced from memory? and ye are longing for the Bounties of that Bright Moon, -how can ye be consigned to oblivion? Like unto a sea, we are always in ferment and motion in memory of the friends; and we are all eye and ear, in order to see the splendor of the friends and hear the life-imparting melody of the beloved ones!

O ye real friends! It is time that you confine all your days to witnessing the Divine Splendor, and act in accord with the Exhortations and Commands of God; -so that ye may be the cause of awakening others, and admonishing the heedless.

O my friends! God has adorned man with the crown of Grace and Beneficence, -in order that man may be kind and affectionate to every living thing, and be conducive to the appearance of the loftiness of the human world; that he may become the Blessing of the Almighty, and the Gift of God, the

Forgiver.

Consequently, deal with all men with the best disposition, and treat the people of the world with the utmost compassion, grace and benevolence. In this Great Cycle and New Age, man must SO beautify his morals in accord with the Divine Teachings, that he may count the enemy as the friend, the ill-wisher as the well-wisher, the outsider as the familiar fellow, and the stranger as an acquaintance. That is, man must deal with stranger, outsider, traitor and unjust, in the same way that others deal with friends and fellows, or one behaves towards the people of faithfulness.

O friends! Exert yourselves in the study of sciences and knowledge and bestow abundant effort on the acquisition of inward and outward perfections. Encourage the children from early childhood, in the study of every science, and urge them to acquire every art; in order that through the Favor and Assistance of God, the heart of every one may become a mirror reflecting the mysteries of beings, and fathom the reality of every thing, and that he may gain world-wide renown in sciences, knowledge and arts. You must by NO MANNER of means whatever neglect or overlook the education of the children; and you must train them in the Divine Virtues; and you must rely on the Gift and Providence of His Highness the Omnipotent One.

Upon ye be greeting and praise!

(Sig.) E. E. (Abdul-Baha Abbas.)

July 5th, 1906.

Through his holiness, the Ayâdi (i. e. hands) of the Cause of God, his honor Mollah Ali Akbar.

(Upon him be Baha'Ullah!)

To the beloved of God in Teheran. (Upon them be Ba.ha 'Ullah !)

He is God!

O GOD! O Thou Guide of seekers unto the Path of Guidance; Thou Deliverer of bewildered ones from the desert of error and blindness; Thou Bestower of Gifts and Bounties upon the sincere ones; Thou Protector of distressed ones in the well-guarded Cave; and Thou Answerer of supplicants from the Supreme Kingdom.

O Lord! Praise be unto Thee, for Thou hast guided the wanderers out of waste wildernesses, hast led

the advancing ones unto the watering-place, hast fulfilled the greatest wishes of the righteous, hast opened before the longing ones the doors of Union from the Kingdom of Beauty and hast delivered them from the fire of despair; until they have hastened toward Thee, found access unto Thee, arrived at Thy Spacious Gate and attained abundant Portion.

O Lord! These are thirsty ones, whose thirst Thou hast allayed with the Water of Union; whose burning Thou hast removed with the cool of Thy Grace and Beneficence, and whose ailment Thou hast healed with the Antidote of Thy Mercy, -O Thou Gracious One!

O Lord! Make their feet firm in the Path, change their tribulation into expansion, and lead them to everlasting Glory forevermore! Verily, Thou art the Beneficent, the Giver, the Mighty, the Bestower. There is no GOD but Thee, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Lofty, the Omnipotent!

O ye spiritual friends ! Praise be unto GOD, ye have removed the covering, recognized the Affectionate, Beloved One, hastened from the world of place to the Placeless, pitched your tent in the world of GOD, the Most High, engaged in singing the praise and glorification of the Living, Self-Subsistent One in a sweet tone, and chanted a soul-consuming melody.

A áthousand times Bravo! For ye have witnessed the Manifest Light and called out:-"Blessed is GOD, the Most Excellent of Creators," in the New Creation! Ye were a mere seed, and became a nursling and sucked the milk of knowledge from the Breast of the Almighty. Then ye reached maturity and found security and prosperity.

Now, it is the time of service, and the occasion to serve His Highness the One GOD ! Free yourselves from different thoughts, speak with an eloquent tongue and adorn meetings and assemblages with the praise and glorification of His Highness the Desired One; in order that this Bounty may pour down like unto a torrent, and embellish the world with flowers and myrtles. That torrent is the Exhortations and Commands, and is the Teachings and obligations of the Almighty.

O Friends! The gloom of animosity has enfolded the world, and the whirlwind of rancor has prevail-

ed. The fire of enmity extends its flames to the sky, the torrent of bloodshed is flowing and pouring down in the mountain and desert, and all men are in the utmost distraction.

Accordingly, the beloved of GOD must be the cause of (spreading) the Heavenly Love; must impart spiritual concord, deal with all men with the utmost sincerity and kindness in accord with the Commands and Exhortations of the Merciful One, and they must treat ALL with benevolence. They must render devoted service to friends, wish prosperity for enemies, show kindness to the bad-tempered and be affectionate toward the unjust. They must become a salutary water to thirsty ones, a swift healing to sick persons, a remedy to the ailing; comfort the minds of those afflicted with calamities; become the Light of Guidance to the erring, an affectionate guide to the wandering, a seeing eye to the blind, a hearing ear to the deaf, an eternal life to the dead, and an everlasting joy to the dispirited. They must be submissive to just Rulers, and well-behaving subjects to the benevolent Prince; they must obey the Government, and interfere NOT with political matters. They must turn toward the Orb of the Universe, and engage in beautifying their morals.

Upon ye be greeting and praise!

(Sig.) E. E. (Abdul-Baba Abbas.)

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Translated by A. K. K., Acre, Syria.

— Tablets Containing Instructions (Used by permission of the curator)