

1899

2/26/1899

(Leroy Loro papers, Box 12*)

2/1899 Mrs. Anne Apperson Flint (Lobb B7)**

1899 Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst (Chase B9 F17)***

1899 May Maxwell (Chase B9 F22) 4*

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CONVERSATION, FEB. 26TH, 1899, ACCA.

Our Lord said to Miss Pearson that as she had come to the Light and attained the blessing of the visit, her family also should be blessed and should come to the Light through her means and receive health. And that as her desire is to serve in the Cause of God, her way would be made clear to her. You can all serve in the Cause, no matter what your occupation; no occupation can prevent a soul coming to God. Peter was a fisherman and yet he accomplished most wonderful things; but the heart must be turned always toward God, whatever the work is, this is the important thing and then the power of God will work in us. You are like a piece of iron in the midst of fire, and which becomes heated to such a degree that it partakes of the nature, or quality, of the fire and gives forth the same effect to all it touches. So is the soul that is always turned towards God and filled with the Spirit.

"Can I come here again?" Yes, you will come again and when the time for you to pay the visit arrives, the way will be facilitated to you -- you will have no difficulty. There are two kinds of visits to be paid; the first, the visit of blessing, after the tidings have been believed in and the seeker received as a child of the Kingdom; but the second is the visit of reward for work accomplished and victories gained. You are like soldiers sent out to fight. They depart in the midst of acclaims, of cheers and music, but when they return, after having fought their battles, done great deeds and conquered their enemies, then they come back to receive honors and rewards from their King, so it is with the children of the Kingdom.

Many women in the past have made great names for themselves and been distinguished among the famous of the world, both in ways spiritual and material. Remember that these women are of the same flesh and blood as yourselves, possessing the same faculties and

powers, that which was open to them is open to you. And know that this is a far greater time than any preceding period in the whole history of the world, because God is pouring upon the earth of the highest of His gifts and blessings upon the souls that are serving Him. Far higher is this time than the time of Christ, and yet think what wonderful things His disciples accomplished. You will be able to do more than they did, because the Holy Spirit of God is being poured out now more abundantly upon the earth.

Miss B., "How must we cut our hearts from the world?" The hearts that are directed constantly towards God, the love that burns in them, that love will separate them from all other things, that love will be the wall that will come between them and every other desire. The nearer to God, the farther from the world; the nearer to heaven, the farther from earth; the nearer to the fire, the farther from the cold; the nearer to life, the farther from death. This is the balance! This is the balance!!

One thing I ask of you for your own good and that you must do, if you wish to gain the blessings. It is this: To stand firm in the faith without any waverings. Whatever troubles may come to you, or to any of the believers, do not let your faith be affected by them in the slightest degree, but stand as firm as a rock. Be like Mary Magdalene, whose faith was so strong that it was never shaken, even for a moment, when Christ was put to death, but with steadfast faith in Him she went to His discouraged disciples and renewed and rekindled in their hearts the wavering light of their faith, by reminding them of the promise their Lord had made to them of His constant Presence and showing them that it was really of little consequence if He were with them in the body or not. She so en-

couraged and strengthened them by her words that their faith was confirmed. They became strong as lions, and went out teaching in all directions and, by the power of God working through them, the knowledge of God spread all over the earth. Now in the eternal Kingdom their names shine as the most brilliant stars, and even on this earth their names are remembered with love and reverence by millions. So the best thing I can desire of you is to stand firm in the faith, even if you hear of most great trouble and sorrows, even if you were to hear that I had been killed or crucified, as Christ was 1800 years ago, let not your faith be in anywise troubled or shaken. Arise for the work of God and His Cause, and you shall see His mighty power working in you and you will conquer all things, and remember whether I am on earth or not, my Presence will be with you always.

But work as if you were all but one soul and one spirit living in different bodies. If you each work apart from the other, with divided aims and interests, you would be like so many tiny springlets that have neither volume nor power enough separately to accomplish any great work, but when these little springs are all joined together they become a mighty force. So you must all be joined one to the other in heart and soul, and then you will all be prospered in the work and gain ever greater gifts, and the Cause of God will be spread through all the countries by your means.

Remember what Christ said, you have taken the gifts of God without money and without price, so also you must freely give. This command shows too that all these gifts are sent to you by the free generosity of your God, not on account of any merit on your part, and you must rejoice greatly in the loving mercy of your God

upon you and all, for all will taste of these free gifts before long; they will come from the east and the west to the Kingdom of God, and even as Christ foretold, this also will come to pass --- that the children of the Kingdom will be cut out; so it is, some of those who are nearest are cut off, while those from a far distance receive these great free gifts.

All the sufferings you pass through in gaining the Kingdom of God will be obliterated when you attain its perfect happiness. It is as when a man who has been sick and helpless for two or three years becomes afterwards perfectly well and strong, then all the remembrance of his pain and weakness vanishes. Then too, the happiness of the Kingdom is a perfect one, unlike the imperfections of our best earthly conditions, and never again to be clouded with any vestige of sorrow. Whatever troubles we have on our way, the Kingdom is a rest to the soul. When the man enters this world it is in trouble and hardship, but he comes from the invisible to the visible to gain great things for himself. As the material birth is a time of trouble, so also is the spiritual; the way to God is impossible to be attained without trouble and difficulties, and remember what Christ said, that though the body is weak, the Spirit is powerful. Many great men, many great women, have desired, century after century, to be in this great time, in the Kingdom of God, and you ought to thank God with all your hearts that you have been chosen to be here at this time. Christ said, "The stone the builders rejected became the headstone of the corner." This means that the spiritually great men and women of this world have been rejected and despised in all times by the builders of this world, but that now in this time of the Kingdom, these high spiritual ones will become the chief stones of the building.

Dr. Kheiralla was the first who took the garment of Joseph, the fragrance of the Blessed Perfection, to America and however grateful you feel for this great message brought to you, you can never be grateful enough, and you ought to pray God day by day to bless him more and more, and to give him more power and strength, and to add blessings upon blessings upon his head. To the teacher that shows us how to read and write we feel grateful, how much more we ought to be to the one who brings us into the living Light of the Kingdom of God.

The material relationship is nothing, it produces no eternal fruit, the spiritual relationship is the true and only one. Cain was the earthly brother of Abel, and yet he was not his real brother. Abraham was the son of Terah, and yet not his son, for Terah was an idol worshiper and Abraham worshiped the true and living God. Canaan was the son of Noah, and yet not his son. All these instances show us that the earthly relationship is no real tie.

The wise man works not for the present moment, but for the good results of the future. See in the winter time, how bare and lifeless the trees and plants seem without leaves and without fruit. Suppose one passed by at this time, who knew nothing of the conditions of the earth, and saw a man plowing it up and casting grain seeds in the furrows. Would he not say, "How foolish this man is, he is troubling himself for no results, working for no purpose, and he is wasting that which would give him food by throwing these good grains into the earth, where they will die and become rotten." But in due time the showers of rain descend in the earth, the sun shines, the pure breezes blow, and we see the result in a great beauty and production. The seeds spring up and produce an hundredfold, the trees that seemed so lifeless before are now laden

with delicious fruits, and the shrubs and plants are covered with fragrant flowers. So is the work of the Holy Spirit of God in your hearts. The earthly sun is like the Sun of the Truth; the showers of rain, as the showers of the Mercy of God; the seeds, as the Word of God; the air, the fragrant waves of the Holy Spirit; and the soil is the hearts of the people. Now the spiritual seeds are being scattered throughout the world, and the heat of the Sun of Truth is interpenetrating powerfully through all souls, and the waves of the Holy Spirit are blowing through the world, and the showers of the Mercy of God are pouring on the hearts of the people. The results will be a great and wonderful harvest, and every tree and flower and shrub will bear fruit, and you will see it.

Suppose three or four Americans meet in a foreign country, how pleased and delighted they are, how ready to serve or help each other in any way, how warm are their feelings one to the other, Yet this is only the results of a material condition, which will last for a very few years, and will cease altogether at death. How much more should the children of the Kingdom, who are bound to each other by eternal and supremely greater ties, be loving and good and ready always to serve and perform every good and loving action.

There are three baptisms spoken of by the prophets. The baptism of water, of Spirit, and of fire. The first signifies the condition when the soul receives the teachings of the knowledge of God. The second, when the soul receives the Spirit. When the soul receives this baptism the Spirit speaks through him, he has no need to be taught of men, or to ask questions, because the Holy Spirit will enlighten and teach him. The third baptism is that of fire, when the soul becomes aflame with the love of God and insensible to any other attractions. This baptism Moses received when, as it is

written, he saw God in the flames of fire, and the same experience is recorded of many other prophets. In order to convey this spiritual condition to us they used the illustration of the fire, for this reason, while the soul is on the earth it receives sensual and intellectual perceptions. The first are those that come through the avenues of the five senses. The second are the abstract emotions, such as love, happiness, etc., and these cannot be perceived with or through any of the five senses. Now the things of the Kingdom cannot be perceived by the senses, and for this reason Christ taught the people always by means of parables and illustrations, because it is only through these outward signs and by comparisons that the soul here receives understanding. For this reason Moses and all the prophets gave their teachings by material objects, that through the outward forms the soul might receive the inward knowledge.

The song of Solomon is a sacred poem, representing Christ, the Bridegroom, and the Word of God, the Bride.

There are three kinds of visions or dreams. The first are those that arise from over-excited nerves or disordered stomach, and are of no use whatever. The second is when God sends a revelation to a soul that is not entirely pure from the world; to such He sends visions of symbols and signs, and these experiences need the help of an interpreter. The third kind is when a soul that is cut from the world receives a revelation from God; in such a condition everything is clear and pure and needs no explanation.

The blood of the martyrs that was sown in Persia will spring up and live again and bear fruit in the other side of the earth, even in far-off America.

Notes of the Words of 'Abdu'l-Baha, taken at Acca, by Mrs. Anne Apperson Flint, February 1899.

"We can all serve in the Cause of God no matter what our occupation, as no occupation can prevent a soul from coming to God. But the heart must always be turned towards God whatever our work is. This is the important thing and then the power of God will work in us. We are like a piece of iron in the midst of fire and which becomes heated to such a degree it partakes of the nature of the fire and gives out the same effects to all it touches. So is the soul that is always turned towards God and filled with the Spirit."

Question: "Can I come here again?"

"Yes, you will come again and when the time for you to pay the visit arrives the way will be facilitated to you. You will have no difficulty. There are two kinds of visits to be paid. The first, the visit of blessing after the tidings, and the Revelation believed in and the seeker received as a child of the Kingdom. But the second time is the visit of reward for work accomplished and victories gained. You are like soldiers sent out to fight. They depart in the midst of acclaim, of cheers and music, but when they return after having fought their battles, done great deeds and conquered the enemies, then they come back to receive honours and rewards from their King. So it is with the children of the Kingdom.

"Many women in the past have made great names for themselves and have been distinguished among the famous of the world in ways both spiritual and material. Remember that those women are of the same flesh and blood as yourselves, possessing the same faculties and powers; that which was open to them is open to you. Know that this is a far greater time than any preceding period in the whole history of the world because God is pouring upon the earth the highest of His Gifts and blessings upon the souls that are serving Him. Far higher is this time than the time of Christ yet see what wonderful things his disciples accomplished! You will be able to do more than they did because the Holy Spirit of God is being poured out more abundantly upon the Earth.

Question: "How must we cut our hearts from the world?"

'Abdu'l-Baha said, "The hearts that are directed towards God, the love that burns in them, that love will separate them from all other things; that love will be the wall that will come between them and every other desire.

"The nearer to God the farther from the world;
 the nearer to the fire, the farther from the cold;
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"One thing I ask of you for your own good and that you must do if you wish to gain the blessings. It is this: To stand firm

in the faith without any wavering. Whatever troubles may come to you or to any of the believers, do not let your faith be affected in the slightest degree, but stand firm as a rock. Be like Mary Magdalene whose faith was so strong it was never shaken even for a moment when Christ was put to death, but with steadfast faith in Him she went to His discouraged disciples and rekindled in their hearts the wavering Light of their faith by reminding them of the promise of their Lord had made to them of His constant Presence and showing them it was really of little consequence whether He were with them or not, in the body. She so encouraged, strengthened them, their faith was confirmed, they became strong as lions and went out teaching in all directions, and by the power of God working through them, the knowledge of God spread over all the earth. Now in the eternal Kingdom their names shine as the most brilliant stars and even here on earth their names are remembered with love and reverence by millions. So the best thing I can desire of you is to stand firm in the faith. Even if you hear of great troubles and sorrows, even if you were to hear that I had been put to death or crucified as Christ was 1800 years ago, let not your faith be in any wise shaken. Arise for the work of God and His Cause and you shall see His mighty power working in you and you will conquer all things. Remember whether I am on earth or not, my Presence will be with you always. Work as if you were all one soul and one spirit living in different bodies. If you each work apart from the other with divided aims and interests you would be like so many springlets that have neither power nor volume enough separately to accomplish any great work, but when these little springs are joined together, they become a mighty power. So must you all be joined one to the other in heart and soul and then you will all be prospered in the work and gain even greater gifts and the Cause of God will be spread through all the countries by your means. (The last conversation at Acca, February 26th.)

The Song of Solomon is a sacred poem representing Christ as the Bridegroom and the Word of God, the Bride.

"Although you are from a far country, yet the power of God, by His love united you to Him. Remember what Christ said, 'You have taken the gifts of God without money and without price. So also you must freely give.' This comment shows too that all these gifts are sent to you by the free generosity of your God, not on account of any merit on your part and you must rejoice greatly in the loving mercy of your God upon you all, for all will taste of the free gifts before long. They will come from the East and from the West to the Kingdom of God. Even as Christ foretold, this has also come to pass that the children of the Kingdom will be cut off while those from a far distance receive these great free gifts. All the sufferings you pass through in gaining the Kingdom of God will be obliterated when you attain its perfect happiness. It is as a man who has been sick and helpless for two or three years and afterwards becomes perfectly well and strong. Then all the remembrance of his weakness and pain vanishes. More than this the happiness of the Kingdom is a perfect one, unlike the imperfection of our best earthly conditions and are never to be clouded again with any vestige of sorrow. Whatever troubles we have on our way to the Kingdom is a rest to the soul. When a

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1400 New Hampshire Avenue. Washington, D.C.
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Mr. Isaiah N. Bradford.

Hubbard Minn.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of Oct. 24th. was duly received and I regret my inability to reply to it sooner, but I had left my California home, when it arrived there, so it was forwarded to to me here; however I take pleasure in answering your questions, as it gives me great happiness to enlighten any Truth seeker regarding the "Holy City" and the Blessed Master who dwells therein. Although my stay in Acca was very short, as I was there only three days, yet I assure you those three days were the most memorable days of my life. Still I feel incapable of describing them in the slightest degree.

From a material standpoint, everything was very simple and plain, but the spiritual atmosphere which pervaded the place and was manifested in the lives and actions among the Believers, was truly wonderful and something I had never before experienced. One needs but to see them to know that they are a Holy people. The Master, - I will not attempt to describe. I will only state that I believe with all my heart that He is the Master - and that my greatest blessing in this world is - that I have been privileged to be in His Presence, and look upon His sanctified and Glorious Face.

His life is truly the Christ life and His whole being radiates purity and Holiness. Without a doubt, Abbas Effendi is the "Messiah" of this day and generation, and we need not look for another.

Hoping ~~that~~ you will find the joy that has come into my life from accepting the Truth as revealed in these great days, -

I am very

sincerely yours,

(Signed) Mrs. Phebe A. Hearst.

November, 19. 1899.

are found among you."

From Utterances to Pilgrims in 1899. *may may well*

"Look at one another with the eye of perfection. Look at Me, follow Me, be as I am. Take no thought for yourselves, or your lives- whether ye eat or whether ye sleep; whether ye are comfortable; whether ye are well or ill; whether ye are with friends or foes; whether ye receive praise or blame: for all of these things ye must care not at all. Look at Me and be as I am. Ye must die to yourselves and to the world; so shall ye be born again and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Behold a candle, how it gives its light: it weeps its life away drop by drop in order to give forth its flame of light!"