

Home of Baha'Ullah,  
Acca, Palestine.  
Feb.16, 1915.

Dear Friends:-

Today about eleven o'clock, the Beloved Abdul Baha came out of the house, and I followed Him on His walk. It was a perfect day, the city of Acca was bathed in the warm rays of the sun, and something filled my heart and whispered the words 'It is good to be here!'

Recently, the news of the war had set a train of thought in the minds of the people, the Turkish Government has sent spies all over the country, to find out what the people are thinking and doing; thus, suspicion and mistrust are eating away the heart of confidence and mutual relationship from amongst the inhabitants.

It was apropos of the above conditions, that the Beloved spoke as follows:-

"Suspicion, like unto the hot blast of mid-summer, withers the roots of the sweet and delicate flowers of trust and confidence.

It extinguishes the light of love, and spreads the darkness of surmise and doubts. It blights the immortal plants of faith and reliance, and increases the germs of destruction and ruin.

It is worse than the venom of the serpent and more harmful than the armies of locusts. The poison of an adder kills the body, but the virus of suspicion destroys the spirit.

It has been demonstrated by eminent biologists that a single bacterium, after twenty-four hours of self-production and generation, will reach the total number of 16,776,216 bacteria. This is true, in a higher degree of the germ of suspicion, for its generative energy is most marked and its power of fecundity well pronounced.

The numerous colony of our bacteria had at least one bacterium for their primal ancestor, but suspicion cannot even claim as much.

It is always of uncertain origin, it sulks in the darkness. It cannot show its genealogical tree. Its genesis is never established. It jumps into the midst of a company, nobody knows from where, and immediately it starts flying around in the dust of doubt and hesitation. The individual members of the company feel a strange and unexplainable sensation creeping over their souls and benumbing their finer spiritual sensibilities. They look at each other with different eyes, they begin to suspect one another, and shun each others association.

When, and how this retrograding transformation was wrought, how did we come to look on each other as social outcasts, as moral consumptives. With what kind of an epidemic disease are we afflicted, why are we so anaemic, how effectively this non-existent and yet all-powerful sispicion destroyed in the twinkling of an eye, the edifice of spiritual friendship, for the construction of which We had labored many a year.

Indeed the bacteria of suspicion is most vitulent and contagious. Only a Divine Pathologist can detect the presence of this germ. It cannot be seen with any microscope nor discovered by any process of ex-rays.

If we want to be spiritually sound and be kept immune from the attack of this disease, we must follow the course of moral hygiene as prescribed by the Ideal Physician.

Let us shut the door of our hearts to the undesirable guest of suspicion, clear the chamber of our mind from the dust of suspicion, banish from our dreams the ghost of suspicion,

turn away from any talk that diffuses the smell of suspicion and advance with a smiling face and open arms toward the court of trust and mutual confidence.

The Bahai Revelation and its all-inclusive teachings, is especially such a pure instrument to help us along this rather rocky road. Its Universal Grace is vouchsafed to all mankind, and its bestowal is not for the few, but for all men, irrespective of race, color or religion. It is the Manna from heaven to feed the hungry people, the rain from the clods of Mercy to give water to the thirsty ones, the light from On High to guide and illumine the Path of the erring ones, the fruits from the Tree of Life to strengthen the weary travellers, the songs of the bird of paradise to cheer the hopeless one, and the Gospel of Universal Salvation preached to all mankind.

It is not an exclusive society, but a divine congregation. The dome of which is the Infinite Heaven, and the temple of which is the expanse of the earth.

No one can bottle up the Bahai spirit, The Bahai spirit is the most illusive ether; it is here, it is there, it is everywhere. It is the origin and substance of the highest ideals of this and the coming ages. The Bahai spirit is undogmatic, super-racial, inter-social and non-partisan.

Its underlying idea is the basic unity of all things. In its broad principle of the Oneness of the world of humanity it welcomes everyone. There is not one single soul living, no matter how low he may have descended in moral deformity and spiritual gracelessness, but the Bahai love and fellowship is not able to save.

Baha'Ullah has established a Universal religion for all the children of the human race, for generations yet unborn. We are not allowed to commit the mistakes and blunders of former sectarians, many of whom flourished in bygone centuries and divided the religion of God into so many denominations and all of whom were pronounced by each other heretic and schismatic. The Bahai faith is alike for the cultured and the simple hearted, the high and the low, the rich and the poor; with this condition that the high, the educated, the rich will become the loving friend, the sympathetic helper of his less fortunate brother.

The Bahai Cause draws no veil between the various classes but brings them together and adjusts their differences through the surrendering power of sacrifice and mutual regard.

It demands no favor but gives its blessings and teachings to all inquirers. Like unto the sun it shines upon the flowers of the garden and the grass of the field. It drives away no soul; on the contrary it invites all to the banquet of the Lord, consequently those who have enlisted themselves under the Flag of Baha'Ullah, are striving day and night, to embody in their lives the spirit of the teachings, and manifest in their deeds, the beauty of the spirit. They consort with all the people with joy and fragrance and mingle with their fellowmen without constraint or apprehension. Whether they live in the East or in the West they are the same God fearing men and women. They do not assume the life of holiness in order to deceive others, for they have nothing to gain and everything to lose.

A holy life of useful services, dedicated to the progress of mankind and consecrated to the promotion of the principles of divine civilization is their highest aim and aspiration. Their complete trust is in the Favor of the Lord. The true Bahais are not even working for any spiritual reward. The greatest and most precious reward is that inner satisfaction, as the visible fruit of unselfish service, having realized joyfully, that they have certain ideal duties to perform, they go on performing them from day to day glad of the privilege offered them by their Great Maker.