

Dear friends!

"Bravo ! you are welcomed!" "Come my dear ones. Be seated. You are the friends and servants of the Blessed Beauty and consequently my sons. Whenever I look into your luminous faces I feel rejoiced and my troubled heart is eased." "Thou hast found a good companion. A friend must need be of such a noble character, godlike, spiritual, heavenly. When we were in Bagdad there was amongst the believers a young man by the name of Janabe Moneeb. He was one of the most spiritual youths that I have known in the Bahai revelation. He possessed a sweet, affable temper and a pure sterling character. I was greatly attached to him and from the depth of my heart I admired and loved him. His father had died when he was still an infant and his mother had reared him up amidst comfortable surroundings and luxurious environments. Notwithstanding his early training he forebore the cheerless discomfort of exile with happy resignation and joyful submission and served the friends with a sunny face. From Bagdad to Samson he walked on foot in front of the palanquin of Baha-Ollah which was carried on the back of mules. Now and then we urged him to ride at least for a few miles but never did he accept it. On August 5th 1868 A D. WE WERE EXILES FROM Adrianople to Acca. We travelled in carriages as far as Galiopoli guarded by a company of Turkish soldiers with their lieutenant Hassan Effendi. After spending a few days in Galiopoli we all embarked on the Steamer of the Austrian Lloyed Company for Acca by way of Smyrna and Alexandria. In Smyrna while we were being removed to another steamer of the same Company Janabe Moneeb became severely sick and we were obliged to carry him to shore and leave him in a hospital. Meanwhile they brought us word that he had expired. I landed again to arrange the details of his burial but the guards following closely did not give me a chance and hurried me back on the pretext that the steamer will soon leave the port. I offered them all I had in order to give me time enough for his internment but they insisted that I should return at once and thus I found myself obliged to leave his body in the hospital. Whenever I think of our last meeting my heart is filled with sadness. It is now a little less than fifty years and still that youth is living in my memory, as though it was a matter of yesterday. Often do I see him in dreams. While alive he had a very melodious voice and I now and then asked him to sing for me the poems of Baha-Ollah. There are some souls whose spiritual constitutions are so etherialized that although they live in this world yet they belong to another realm, they breath another air, they speak another language and walk another plane. If one associate and converse with them for one moment he will never forget them."

"A few years ago when my confinement was renewed by the cruel Abdul Hamid having ordered that a strict ~~xixxxx~~ vigilance and surveillance be kept over all my deeds and words this man Fouzi was detailed to stand in front of our home to spy what was going on, preventing people to call on us, intercepting letters and not permitting any one to leave the house. In fact he obeyed his orders most strictly and hedged us in from all sides. We did not complain. Then the conditions of the country changed and Fouzi disappeared from the scene. I met him today in the street. He dropped down his head and was going to run into a small lane when I called after him. I knew he was thinking I was ~~carrying~~ carrying some grudge against him on account of his former deeds. When he came near I I told him: 'Don't think that I am harboring the least ill-feeling against thee. Thou hast been and still art my friend. I love thee very much. We are commanded to forgive the shortcomings of others and never look at the deeds of the people; nay rather we must love them as the members of our own family and never be angry against any human creature. In those days thou didst according to the instruction of thy superior officers who deemed us corrupters of morals and the desrtroyers of public weal and religion. Thou wert not responsible for ~~hat~~ what thou didst do then. I am thy father and am