

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin,
Abou Senan, Acca, Palestine.
March 2, 1915.

Dear Friends:-

During the day, I saw our Beloved Abdul Baha several times. In the morning, He took a long walk through the mountain and the valley of this delightful resort, where His family and friends have been living for the past few months. As He walked along the narrow path of the mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, He waved His hand toward me, and said:-

"Religious intolerance has been a venomous serpent that poisoned the pure fountain of religious freedom from the dawn of recorded history. It was intolerance that crucified Christ, again, it was intolerance that persecuted the Christians, created the Board of Inquisition, burned at the stake holy men as heretics and women as witches.

It was intolerance that expelled the Jews from their homes in Russia. It was intolerance that has enkindled the fire of war and carnage throughout the world. It was intolerance that martyred the Bab and His followers, exiled Baha'Ullah and confined Him in the worst of prisons.

Intolerance is the deadliest weapon in the hands of bigotry, the sharpest sword to cut to pieces the heart of freedom. It is the foul monster of the deep, the arch-fiend of mankind and the dreadful Satan of hell.

In this enlightened age and intolerant man or woman is an anomaly. Praise be to God, that in the Bahai Dispensation, the hands and feet are freed from these chains and fetters. We are taught to consort with all the people with joy and fragrance, and to look upon all mankind as the branches, leaves, the blossoms and fruits of one Tree.

The Sun of God shines on all, the generosity of God sustains all, the rain of His Mercy falls upon all, the splendor of His Forgiveness encircles all, and His Bounteous Table is spread before all. No created being is excluded from His all-inclusive Court.

He is kind to all His creatures, but they show toward each other enmity and hostility. The shepherd loves all his sheep but the sheep fight among themselves. Differences on the ground of dogmas and doctrines exist only in the sphere of the mind. Although they have no outward, tangible existence yet they are the cause of so much strangeness, alienation and envy. If the variety of colors which is real, does not prevent the doves from associating with each other, why should mankind prevent themselves from each others association simply on the ground of dogmatic views, and antagonistic opinions which have no outward forms and shapes.

These facts are as simple and plain as the rays of the sun, and still when a soul is inclined to be a little intolerant, he brushed aside all these creational truths and clings to narrow ideas of religious privileges and party spirit.

A Bahai, therefore, must not be only tolerant, but appreciative to the extent that he may extend the hand of genuine fellowship to an intolerant man. Broad toleration, universal toleration, all-embracing toleration, is the principal foundation of the Bahai Cause.

As the Blessed Beauty says in the Hidden Words, "The Doors Of the Placeless are open," let us realize the Doors of the Placeless, or in other words, the Kingdom of God are not open only for a few, but they are opened for all mankind.

Into the Bahai fold all are welcomed, and none are excluded.

In the Life and teachings of Baha'Ullah, we have a complete example of universal association. The Bahais must learn from Him, the practical lessons of tolerance and broadmindedness, and try their utmost to learn from His Words and Deeds, the principles of spiritual fellowship. If they walk in His footsteps, they will become as adornments to the temple of the Cause and make for themselves broader and broader fields of service and usefulness.

With a little thoughtlessness on our part, we may commit the mistake of the fore-fathers and drag the pristine Beauty and comeliness of the Bahai Cause through the quagmire of an intolerant sect, or thrown into the dark cell of a bigoted, unreasonable, blind community.

The fire of intolerance burns the Face of Religion; the iron of intolerance astigmatize the fair white limbs of love; the waves of intolerance wash away the banks of impartiality; the spirit of intolerance blinds the eyes of Truth; the attitude of intolerance thunders forth Popish bulls of excommunication against God-fearing innocent men and women, and the fierce, hot winds of intolerance blackens the green prairies and the verdant trees of Reality.

True religion binds together the members of a community, ^{if religion} but if it does separate them, if it discards amity and love as the basis of human relation, if it creates difference and brings ill-feeling - then it is not religion; it is better to be irreligious and to throw away the dogmas that bring shame upon the Glorious Head of Religion.

Religion is Light; intolerance is darkness,

Religion is Life; intolerance is death.

Religion is Truth; intolerance is falsehood.

That being the case, it were better