

London, England.
January 19, 1926.

From the London Baha'is to the Friends of God in:-

S. Africa

Greetings in loving faith and trust through the Power of the
Greatest Name!

In these days of swiftly moving change the rush of growth in the Cause is like that of the Spring. Everywhere then the leaves of living trees push forward from their leaf sheaths making manifest the urge of life within them in burgeonings of colour, until that moment when the leaf forms are so advanced that each one true to type proves the root of the tree.

As visiting Baha'is move from one group of believers to another the realization of oneness of root grows with each contact with a fresh centre.

In our last Circular Letter we spoke of the pleasure and happiness given by the visit of Dr. Arastoo Khan and Dr. Youniss Khan from Teheran. One of their kind thoughtfulnesses was to show to the friends a beautiful cup which had belonged to the father of Baha'u'llah, and which they were taking to Haifa, for the Guardian of the Cause. It brought Teheran very near to us, for believers from that far land in giving to the Guardian of the Cause were giving to us and to our posterity for the welfare of all.

Through a letter from Teheran dated December 23, 1925, we have heard of the safe arrival of these friends on December 6th, and of the interest of the friends in Teheran in hearing the news of the Cause in England and America. May the blessings of their visits to far-away lands bring manifold blessings to the Friends in Persia.

Again our thoughts have been turned to Teheran by the visit of Madame Nooroolhoda Manganees who brought the Baha'i spirit of unity and assurance. She gave us vivid talks about the Cause in Persia and delighted all who heard her. Although often she did not have sufficient English to express what she wanted to say, what she felt illumined her words and made her meaning clear to our hearts.

Soraya Khanom Afnan, the granddaughter of Abdu'l-Baha is now in London, a resident of Bedford College for Women, where she is perfecting her studies in English. The friends in London are happy to have her here for her own sake, as well as for the spirit of love and Baha'i faith which she brings so radiantly to all believers.

Madame S. Asgarzadeh from Ashkabad is visiting the family of Mirza Ziaoullah Asgarzadeh and was warmly welcomed for herself and for the Friends of the Cause of God in Russia. Good news of the activities of the Friends there, and the fruitful progress of their endeavours in the Cause often reaches us. We pray that the Abha confirmations may surround them in all service, and that prosperity and peace may enable them to make beautiful their land with the knowledge of the Light of the Glory of God.

Madame Hess from Paris, who was in Haifa last year, has been on a visit to London in order to nurse a sick friend, and through her earnest faith and love a new tie has been formed with the believers of Paris.

Mr. Mountfort Mills, of New York, is in London at the request of Shoghi Effendi that he may co-operate through his work here with the efforts of Shoghi Effendi and the friends in Baghdad to secure justice in regard to the protection of the Holy Places in Baghdad. As soon as possible he hopes to leave for Haifa.

The Call of Shoghi Effendi to all believers to protect the Holy Places, is a proof of the capacity within the Cause for outer unity in service.

As we answer his Call, we shall draw nearer together, for from the East and the West, the North and the South, hearts beat as one with eagerness to make secure for all time, what Abdu'l-Baha declared, so often, was for the welfare of all believers now and to come!

Letters from many parts of the world have borne tribute to the sincere work and devotion of Dr. Esslemont. That the end of his life on earth came whilst he was in Haifa has been as a spiritual gift to those who knew how much he would have wanted to pass on to his next existence from the Holy Land.

The London friends held a memorial meeting that brought home, to all who were present the power of his obedience to his call, and his humility and steadfastness in service for the sake of the salvation of the world.

It is hoped that the biographical sketch prepared in London at the request of the Guardian of the Cause may become well known to all believers. "Baha'u'llah and the New Era" was the child of his faith, created through prayer and study, and a desire to make glad the heart of The Master, and to make clear to the world the Manifestation of Baha'u'llah.

As we use the book to spread the knowledge of the Cause let us think of each copy as a winged messenger of his faith sowing the seed that will make the harvest of redemption in the Kingdom of God.

The tide of letters flowing in from the various Assemblies all over the world has brought glad-tidings of unity and of activity in seed-sowing through love and faith.

The courage and steadfastness of those called to bear persecutions and difficulties, strengthen all hearts in their daily efforts to serve the Cause. May the doors of Bounty open afresh, and new capacities unfold, until these calamities are changed into the blessings of peace and progress.

Nothing can stop the power of the Covenant. All banners will be reversed save the Standard of God. Ours the privilege to work in this Day of the Dawning upon earth of that glory. How clear is the Divine Command:-

"Fear God, and follow not superstitions and imaginations. Follow Him Who hath appeared unto you with manifest Knowledge and evident Certainty!"

May the Abha confirmations strengthen all believers and assist them through the Hosts of Wisdom and Utterance to spread the glad news that the Orb of Remembrance hath dawned from the horizon of their Lord, the Merciful, the Forgiving!

"Who but Baha hath the power to speak before all the world?"

In His Name and faith,
The London Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is
through the Correspondence Committee,

per Claudia S. Cole



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