

1910

(Deroy loan papers, Box 12*)

CMR (Leach B3 F10) **

"You must be very thankful to God for He brought you to this Holy Land to visit the Blessed Tomb, and to sit down with Him in absolute love and amity. There are many acquainted ones; but few are the friends. In the forest there are numerous trees; but blessed are the trees which are trained by the gardener. A King has a great number of subjects, but few are his initiated ones. Now God has elected you and led you to the Kingdom of Akha. Therefore, you must be very grateful to God, the Bestower of these bounties upon you.

"The people of the world are all divers, they plunge in the deep ocean of existence. Most of them when submerged bring out a few shells filled with mud; whereas some others bring out with them peerless pearls."

Question: It is said: "The Tabernacle of God is with man,"— "I have deposited My Light in thee."

'Abdu'l-Baha: "The Essence of Divinity holds the station of the sun, and the people are like polished walls: the sun sends down the rays on the walls, while itself is in the apogee of holiness and sanctity."

Question: "If the spirit is free from place, then what is in us which receives the Light?"

Answer: "The Bounty of God is within the heart; it receives the Light."

Question: "Is this Bounty universal, that is, is every soul endowed with it?"

Answer: "Certainly, yes. But it is as follows: The bounty is dormant or latent in the hearts. Belief and faith make it appear, and become manifest. For instance, the capacity of burning is latent in every candle, but the one which is ignited, makes the bounty of illumination to manifest and to become evident."

Question: "What is the difference between heart and mind?"

Answer: "Both are one. Sometimes it is called heart and sometimes mind; but mind is of two kinds; one is a worldly mind which seeks the livelihood. This mind is universal - is possessed by every individual. The other is a divine mind; it is directed to the Divine world, therefore, in the Gospel it is said, "You should have one mind," i. e., the heavenly mind through which the bounty and grace of Christ is obtained."

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Extracts from the Notes of Chas. Mason Remey's visit
to Abdul Baha, Haifa, Syria, May, 1910.

Extracts from the Notes of Charles Mason Remey.

Abdul Baha then asked about Prof. Barakatullah and the work in Japan. When told of the labors and services of that believer He was very pleased, and said that if the people of Japan responded to the teaching theirs would be a great blessing and productive of the greatest good.

Abdul Baha sent word to the American believers that it is necessary for some of them to go to Japan and there engage in spreading the Cause, saying that great results would be produced if some of the friends were to go to that country entering into trade or business, and at the same time doing spiritual work.

Abdul Baha spoke of the great work done by the uneducated believers. Through purity of heart many had become so spiritually enlightened that their words had had great effect upon the minds and hearts of the learned and wise. Some of these had even written books by ~~dictation~~ dictation.

Abdul Baha asked if the lectures given in various places had been prepared or were extemporaneous: when told they had been the latter He said that the teacher should always speak from the heart, for such reaches the hearts of the hearers, and has effect, whereas when one speaks not from the heart, the effect of his words is but a passing one, if any. All teaching should be done by the Spirit working through the teacher, and should not come from the mentality of the individual. One should always use spiritual methods of teaching. In speaking of spreading the Fragrances of the Kingdom Abdul Baha said: "In movement there is life, in immobility there is death. The travelling of the teacher from place to place, from Orient to Occident and from country to country, is one of the greatest means for spreading the Fragrances, and for sowing spiritual seeds in the hearts of the people."

In speaking again of Japan, Abdul Baha said: "Blessed results will appear in that land from the Holy Cause there established." (Tp C.M.R.) "I have sent your letter written from Japan to Mr. Mac Nutt in New York, that he may exhort some of the American believers to go to Japan and there serve and teach in the Cause." It is very good for teachers to travel and sow seeds of the love of GOD in the hearts of the people. American Bahais should go to the Oriental countries as teachers. At another time Abdul Baha said: "Encourage the Bahais to hasten to India, both men and women teachers. In India in particular women teachers are needed. Delay not! Now is the time to travel there, and in Persia too."

Some Questions and Answers.

Question.

Many of the American believers desire to worship daily in accordance with the teachings. What prayers should they use daily? No instruction has yet been revealed for them regarding prayer.

Answer. Later on I will give instructions.

2.

Question.

Was Baha'o'llah of the seed of Jesse?

Answer.

Yes. He was the ninth generation in succession from Jesse, but this was not from the Jesse of the Bible, but another.

Question.

What is the Command regarding the giving of tithes; is it 19% of the increase of one's capital or is it 1/19 of one's income?

Answer.

It should be 1/19 part of one's income. This is a blessed privilege (tithe-giving). Among mankind money is the greatest thing: this giving will confirm the people. With this money many great works will be done. In Hamadan in Persia the believers have not much money. Because of this at first I did not accept this money, but later I directed it should be used in their town for the school. This giving was a great spiritual confirmation to the Jews. Every one knows how Jews love money.

Question.

Is the Calendar as revealed by the Bab to be used in this Dispensation?

Answer.

Yes - but later on certain modifications will be made.

Question.

From what year does the New Dispensation date?

Answer.

1844 A. D.

Question.

Which day of the week will the Bahais of the future observe as a day of rest?

Answer.

Friday.

Question.

We have been taught that Baha'o'llah was the seventh of a series of great world manifestations of this present cycle. Christ being the sixth, Melchizidek the fifth, while the first four were before the compilation of our present world history: that their teachings were applicable to all mankind under all conditions - while upon the other hand the Manifestations such as Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Mohammed and the Bab were sent each to a certain people, being teachings which were applicable to those certain conditions only. Is this teaching correct?

3.

Answer. Yes, it is correct.

Question. What is the significance of the Prophecy, "Blessed is he that liveth and cometh unto the 1335 days." Dan. 12:12.

Answer. After that date a great disturbance - a terrible (material) calamity is to happen in the world.

Question. Is this to be in the form of war or strife, or will it be an earthquake, such as happened at Messina and elsewhere?

Answer. Wars and earthquakes such as you have mentioned will happen, but those compared with this great catastrophe to come will be as nothing. As in the past whole peoples and civilizations have, through physical changes been obliterated, so that not a trace has remained, so it will be when this great change will take place.

Question. In the Bible there is a prophecy - "And it shall come to pass that in all the land saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die, but the third shall be left therein." Zech. 13:8. Does this refer to the happening in question?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Will this take place soon after the date 1917 (which is the date mentioned, 1335 days or 1335 A.H. (after Mohammed) or 1917 A.D.) or will it be in the very distant future?

Answer. It is not so very soon after, nor again as it in the so very distant future.

In subsequent conversations during which questions were being asked and answered, Abdul Baha said that Baha'o'llah was not a descendant from the prophet Zoroaster; that it would be well for the western friends to interest themselves in commercial and industrial matters with the people of Persia, for Persia needs connection with the West.

That the anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Bab should be observed by the friends with solemnity; that the Anniversary of the Passing of Baha'o'llah should be observed in like manner, and that in the night a meeting of prayer should be held; that in serving together the believers should always avoid those matters upon which they cannot agree; that the believers should serve together- the men and women working together.

4.

In meetings of consultation the majority should rule, but it is far preferable that there should be such unity, that there be no minority-- that all should be of one mind.

(The above answers to prepared questions were written up shortly after the interview with Abdul Baha from notes taken at the time.)

Signed
Charles Mason Remey.

Some Questions And Answers.

- Q. Many of the American believers desire to worship daily in accord and with the Teachings. What prayers should they use daily? No instructions have yet been revealed for them regarding daily prayer.
- A. Later I will give instructions.
- Q. Was Baha'o'llah of the seed of Jesse?
- A. Yes. He was the 9th generation in succession from Jesse, but this was not from the Jesse of the Bible, but another.
- Q. Was it the command regarding the giving of tithes; it is one-nineteenth per cent of the increase of one's capital or is it one-nineteenth of one's income?
- A. It should be one-nineteenth part of One's income. This is a blessed privilege (tithe-giving), among mankind, money is the greatest thing, this giving will confirm the people. With this money, many great works will be done. In Ramadan, in Persia, the believers have not much money. Because of this, at first, I did not accept this money, but later I directed it should be used in their town for the school. This giving was a great spiritual confirmation to the Jews. Everyone knows how Jews love money.
- Q. Is the calendar as revealed by the Bab to be used in this dispensation?
- A. Yes, but later on certain modifications will be made.
- Q. From what year does the New Dispensation date?
- A. 1844 A.D.
- Q. What day of the week will the Bahais of the future observe as a Day of Rest?
- A. Friday.
- Q. We have been taught that Baha'o'llah was the 7th of the series of GREAT WORLD MANIFESTATIONS of this present cycle; Christ being the 6th, Melchisedek the fifth, while the first four were from the compilation of our present world history; that their teachings were applicable to all mankind under all conditions, while upon the other hand, the manifestations such as Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Mohammed and the Bab were sent each to a certain people, being teachings which were applicable to those certain conditions only, Is this teaching correct?
- A. Yes, it is correct.
- Q. What is the significance of the prophecy: "Blessed is he that liveth and cometh unto the 1355 days." Daniel 12-13.
- A. After that date a great disturbance & A terrible (material) calamity is to happen in the world.
- Q. Is this to be in form of war and strife, or will it be as an earthquake such as have happened in Messina and elsewhere?
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compared with this great catastrophe to come will be as nothing. As in the past whole peoples and civilizations have thro' physical changes been obliterated so that not a trace has remained, so it will be when this great change shall take place.

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