Extract from the Guardian's letter of 19th December 1923 addressed to the Baha'is of the East

O heralds and chosen ones of the Beauty of the All-Glorious! O faithful followers of Abdu'l-Baha! O my true brothers and spiritual sisters!

More than two years have elapsed since the Orb of the Covenant, that bright, that radiant and heavenly r, our affectionate Father, our compassionate Master, Abdu'l-Baha took His flight to the celestial concourse. h lightning speed He stepped behind the vell of concealment and vanished from the gaze of men. He plunged the people of Baha, His forsaken children, into abysmal depths of grief and abandoned them, amidst the darkness of this mortal world of dust, orphaned and disconsolate. The passionate admirers of His soul-refreshing beauty He forsook in this painful and oppressive world sorely afflicted by the fire of separation and bereavement. He left behind a scene of intense mourning and lamentation, and deprived forever our physical eyes from beholding His fair countenance. Such is the exigency of God's consummate Wisdom. Such is what His invincible will has ordained.

His holy spirit which for no less than eighty years was sorely oppressed and was burdened with incalculable hardships and manifold tribulations, is now jubilant and free, abiding in the loftiest mansions of paradise and is seated on the right hand of the Lord of the kingdom. He has turned His face toward these griefstricken souls and has fixed His gaze upon us. From His most exalted retreat in the Realm above He is calling aloud, exhorting the people of Baha in the world below, saying:

O My beloved ones! Be not grieved nor dejected. Be not silent. Let not anything dismay or frustrate you. I am with you. I am shielding you within the stronghold of My protection, and sheltering you in the sanctuary of My care. I will, at all times, grant you fresh confirmation and assistance. Show ye fidelity to the cause of Baha'u'llah and, like unto this servant, strive assiduously, until the last breath of your lives, to serve the cause of God and to evince complete servitude to His holy Threshold. Be truly selfsacrificing and excel one another in this goal.

Be not remorseful on account of My departure and let not the things of this life, nor the changes and chances of these days disturb or alarm you. Take heed lest the trials and afflictions of this contingent world cause you to waver in the cause of God, inasmuch as ye are the hosts of the Almighty; ye are the concourse of the people of Baha, who will be raised up from amidst this fierce tempest of tribulation, and will become distinguished among the people of the world for your virtues of enduring meekness and of inflexible constancy, and will be adorned with the ornaments of noble character, of detachment and of upright conduct. Aid ye the cause of God, so that ye may gradually lead this gloomy, this harassed and agitated world to the summit of eternal glory, and may bring it under the shadow of the cause of God neath the sheltering shade of this Tabernacle of divine salvation.

O My beloved friend! O ye who have arisen to aid Me! Beware lest after My ascension ye fall of fall short in the path of your duty. Let not this priceless opportunity slip from your grasp. Otherwise it will be but yourselves who would suffer grievous loss, would be filled with remorse, and would deprive yourselves of inestimable bounty, and a crown of eternal glory. Do ye imagine that the silence or inactivity of any of the friends would weaken the cause of God? Nay, by the righteousness of the Lord! Verily, such heroes as will carry off the prize in the arena of service will be raided up. Wherefore, bestir yourselves and redouble your high endeavors. am with you and I will, from the court of the I All-Glorious, in the presence of His Holiness the Exalted one (the Bab) and of the Abha Beauty, most powerfully assist you and guide you aright. It behooveth you, one and all, to arise unitedly and harmoniously, so that ye may attain this exalted and glorious station. Otherwise ye shall see Me no more, nor shall ye attain the Divine presence in the Realm Beyond.

O ye loved ones of Abdu"1-Baha! Such are indeed the things that will bring joy and gladness to My soul in the Abha Kingdom.



درمردن المرور المرد وفرد فالمستند وتورا رت مراجر منه مزان اسم وشادادهن رواب دكف ماتم وقد دام آيا مدد الر جدد مع ، دفا ما مرح باند ومان فرماند مرعد ورف در مردعیت دسان موت دوجانت و ماند وار مدر سبغت کرد . از اجرا المرد دار مردن وجراد ز دار نا مرد . از مصار المكاراد لازار در امراته فاسراس ود تا ند به ر ماند الدر الدر المون مر مالطامت كرم دو من معظم وزيوراضان ومالر بقد وطراز تور من الأراث معوث والمدات . تغرب الرف ومدما المرتما تربك برومت والقناب دارادج عرت الدته درطنر المرادشر ، درسار/ تحات در دور . در مادان ازداف ام . در ار مار مداری توردا بال ما دا رفعت الانها والزدمت مرمد والاعات تو فاف وفامركويد وارم علم، تاجعزت المدر تحوام محاند . محام محاسد والدر المحرر المحرم والمراف المحرم الداج ومنر ردمرات ولددكردد لادانسر وحالى موث ثونه ودر معت داد مدار رما ر يس ومن يد ديمت موفد الديو مبدول داريد . مر باشا مستم و درمات ك در تخديت احفي و حمال مرفشه والتو ما تد ما منام ود والت كني . كل سى المسا تارد مرس منداع داسد والأمل وكرمس ويوز لها درعال مال בין וטן איניי אי אי אוריי ניד יור אי וייי די די 1. 20.00 1/10/00

\*5 HP

These celestial songs of the Nightingale of the rose-garden of servitude continually reach the ears of that yearn to behold His countenance. The occasion demands that we who are enraptured by His beauty which nes resplendent even as the moon, should wholeheartedly and with fresh endeavour, abounding energy, renewed dedication, astounding enthusiasm, invincible vigour, pure intention and with hearts freed from all attachments, truly respond to the call of this Herald of the Unseen, and proclaim the cause of Baha'u'lah among mankind with so mighty a cry of Ya Baha'ul-abha that the dwellers of the earth would be lost in bewilderment; so that when the remaining days of our lives come to an end, we may, even as He has affirmed, cheer our eves by gazing upon His eternal beauty, attain the Court of reunion with Him and gather round Him for evermore.