

5-68-W-149<sup>th</sup> Street  
New-York City  
U. S. Pa.  
October 14<sup>th</sup>  
1913

Count Okuma: -  
Dear Sir: - Miss Mie Tsuda  
has been in my new  
home here recently  
and my thoughts revert  
to 1898 when you  
Marquis Ito, Dr. Toyama  
and last-but not  
least - your beloved  
Dowager Empress  
sent - Miss Tsuda and

for the 1915-Exposition  
Pan-American.

He was in  
this country last-  
year.

A broad, universal  
far-seeing, tolerant  
man like yourself  
must-see and know  
Abbas-Effendi or  
Abdul-Baha (Servant  
of God) as he calls  
himself, and it will  
be my pleasure to  
inform you when  
he arrives in your

country. I am  
sending you some  
little books telling  
you who he is and  
all about him.

We have  
many books on this  
universal subject, but  
I am sending small  
booklets so that Miss  
Isuda will not be burdened  
with too large a package.  
Miss Isuda told me about  
the beautiful Silk Flag  
Counters Akuma presented  
to the General Federation of  
Women's Clubs in America  
and I was very pleased.  
With highest regards for you  
and the Countess Akuma  
I remain faithfully yours  
Alice Stone Breed.

Madame Watanabe  
at my request to  
travel in this Western  
world and observe  
what was being done  
by and for women  
in Women's Clubs etc  
along educational  
lines. Now I come to  
you again, although  
unable to do so in person,  
to inform you of a very  
remarkable prophet  
of Universal Peace  
and Love who expects  
to make a tour of India  
Egypt and Japan and  
then to San Francisco

## True Belief

The guidance of God is that which will always guide people in the right way.

All human beings are earthly, their hearts are connected with this world. Day and night their thoughts and occupations are earthly, all belong to this world. They think about the honors of this world, or about the riches and wealth of this world, or of name and fame in this world. Their days and nights pass in this way.

The guidance of God makes it evident and plain when the Way of the Kingdom, the Divine Path is opened, that this is the road of the Kingdom.

It is not sufficient only to distinguish the Way of the Kingdom—only to discover the Holy Way—you must travel upon it until the end is reached. For example, when a man discovers the way to America, it is not sufficient. He must travel in it until he may reach the country; otherwise, if he remains for years discovering more about the way, and does not travel by it, he will never arrive.

It is not sufficient for a child to know where the school is, he must study in it that he may gain knowledge. Faith is

not merely to know which is the school and to recognize the teacher, but one must acquire knowledge in this school. If one does not gain knowledge it is useless to know of the school.

This is what Christ said: "Ye shall know the tree by its fruits."

If you see one who is truthful, who really believes and is just, who is attracted to the Kingdom, and whose will is annihilated in the Way of God; then you will know that he is a tree of the Kingdom if he shows forth all these qualities.

If you see one whose heart is attached to this world, and in whom there is no truthfulness or detachment, or turning to God—one who is not occupied in praising and speaking of God, or in attraction to the Love of God—then you will know he is a tree of darkness. For true belief is not only to acknowledge the Oneness of God; by belief we mean that the reality of a man will be characterized by divine characteristics. If his reality is dark, he will become enlightened; if he is heedless, he will become conscious; if he is sleeping, he will be awakened; if he is earthly, he will become heavenly; if he is satanic, he will become divine. This is the meaning of true belief.

Therefore, I say that man must travel in the Way of God. Day and night he must endeavor to become better, his belief must increase and become firmer, his good qualities and his turning to God must be greater, the fire of his love must flame more brightly; then day by day he will make progress. For to stop advancing is the means of going back. The bird when he flies, soars ever higher and higher. All the time he endeavors to mount higher, for as soon as he stops flying he will come down.

Every day, in the morning when arising you should compare today with yesterday and see in what condition you are. If you see your belief is stronger, and your heart more occupied with God, and your love increased and your freedom from the world greater; then thank God and ask for the increase of these qualities. You must begin to pray and repent for all that you have done which is wrong, and you must implore and ask for help and assistance that you may be better than yesterday, so that you may continue to make progress.

Do not let the desires of the self find a place within you; for it is certain that even when you reach the highest state of spirituality, one worldly desire can cause

your downfall. The spirit is like a bird, when it flies in the air it is always mounting, but the self is like the hunter, who is thinking all the time how to catch the bird. As when a bird is in the air, the hunter aims at it and brings it down, so it is with the human desires in the soul. You will see that by one arrow, one shot, it will be brought low. This arrow is the connection with this world, the occupation of this world, the desires of this world, the honors of this world.

For many ways the hunter will stop the spirit from ascending. That is why you must ask and implore and entreat: "O God, protect me from myself!"

Abdul-Baha Abbas.

Count Okuma

Courtesy of Miss Tsuda.