



MRS. CORALIE FRANKLIN COOK

Excerpt from letter to Abdu'l-Baha from Cora Lee Cook

Honored and dearly beloved
Teacher:

Only a short time ago, after many months of waiting, I dared to send you a brief letter expressing my love for the Cause and telling you in what way your visit to this Institution had planted seed, which, already begins to grow and bear fruit.

Writing a letter to you is like no other writing. No sooner do I take up the pen with that intention than I seem somehow, to be ushered into your very Presence. However

that may be, you will know that I shall write no thoughtless word and shall try to be just and honest in every sentiment.

Knowledge of the progress of the colored people during their fifty years of freedom has astounded the world and incited the envy and hatred of those who prophesied their extinction and argued their inability to work for themselves.

In the midst of unfriendly surroundings they have accumulated \$7,000,000,000 worth of property raising a million and a half of dollars in the past year alone for educational work, coming out of slavery with 95 percent of their whole number unable to read or write to say that number is reduced to only 30 percent an advance surpassing that of the whites during the same period.

Instead of this marvelous achievement appealing to all that is best and noblest in the whites it has seemed to have a contrary effect. Laws are being passed in many sections compelling colored people to live in segregated districts, where they have had handsome houses among white residences these houses have been attacked, lives endangered, valuable property ruthlessly destroyed,

anonymous orders to vacate, if ignored, have even resulted in the use of dynamite and total destruction of a house and its contents, the Law Courts offer no redress, for the word of a black man is not taken against that of a white man where Judge and Jury are all of the dominant class.

Because the Race situation is so acute, because the colored people and their brave friends feel this is the most crucial period in all the Nation's History, I pray God that no one who has ever embraced the Faith will step aside to so contribute to the Nations' shame and so abandon the Cause. Let them say like Luther, "Here I stand, God helping me I can do not other," like Garrison will not retreat a single inch and will be heard. "I will not hesitate, I will not equivocate."

"There are ministers filling hundreds of pulpits today who dare not preach the Truths beating in their breasts for utterance! There are hundreds of starving souls who never enter the churches because of the hollow mockery they find there. "They ask for bread and are given a stone."

Every noble principle, every lofty ideal, every rule of conduct in the Bahá'í Faith can be defended by passages in our own Bible, the Faith is seeking followers at a time when it would seem as if the Universe itself were challenged to choose between Peace and War, brotherhood and disunion, right and wrong. It is not plain to all that the TEST is crucial and that the times are so momentous that what may seem for the present to put back the Cause of Bahá'í may be in reality the one thing that will put world progress forward immeasurably".

My greetings and my prayer for your blessings,

Coralie F. Cook