Excerpts of notes taken by Alice Dudley of Orleans,
France, during pilgrimage to Haifa, 15–23 April 1957 [[1]](#footnote-1),[[2]](#footnote-2)

The destiny of Israel is to become a Bahá’í State. They will support the International Institutions of the Faith. World opinion is pro-Arab but in time it will become pro-Israeli. The Jews have suffered long enough, their reward is to become a Bahá’í State. The decline of Islam is beginning—they will be punished for their treatment of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh.

[In] the evening the Guardian began speaking about the coming calamity—he was very emphatic and after he left, Bahíyyih Khánum and the members of the International Council stated that they had never heard him speak with such force or so decisively. He said the coming calamity would be worse than war. Cities would evaporate, especially the cities where it is hardest to teach the Faith, such as New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Americans would become refugees to other continents. The US would suffer the most because it was the most materialistic. Europe was the cradle of materialism but the US was the stronghold of materialism. Russia would also suffer greatly. He said there was no difference between Russia and the US in their systems because they were both materialistic—capitalism, which is purely materialistic and communism, which controls the proletariat. The coming calamity would be retributive.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá went to the US to specifically waken the nation to its dangers. His mission was a failure—both from the standpoint of the Bahá’ís and the Americans. That can be discerned by reading between the lines of His addresses in America.

The Faith will be spread by the dark-skinned races, by the so-called uncivilized peoples. The Bahá’ís of the US are going through a transitional period and they will be in a position of spectators in the spread of the Faith in comparison with the spread of the Faith in Africa and among the yellow-skinned races.

Speaking again about the calamity, the Guardian said it was retributive and referred to the passage in *Hidden Words*: All of a sudden “*an unforeseen calamity”*,[[3]](#footnote-3) etc., and to the quotation about the “*limbs of mankind to quake*”.[[4]](#footnote-4) It especially applies to the US because of the importance of the US. It is now America’s time to suffer. Referring to the coming cataclysm, the Guardian states that the world needs a blood-letting because of over-population of such countries as China, India and Japan. [He} refers to it as high blood-pressure and also to the unhealthy condition of many of the people—bad blood. Sally Sanor asked if in the future, when there would be no more wars, would there be a problem of over-population, and the Guardian replied that science by that time would have solved the food problem.

The Guardian stated that the US was chosen as the cradle of the World (Administrative Order) not because of its spiritual qualities but because of its corruption, the same as Persia was chosen for the Revelation because they, the Persians, were worse than African savages—far more barbaric.

After the coming of the calamity, the US will fulfill the prophesy of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that the US will lead all other nations because of its suffering. The Guardian said he had given up warning the friends because they paid no heed to him. Furthermore, that this calamity had been destined. The Guardian stated that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had warned the friends, He warned them—but that they were heedless. It is too late to save the world. The Message of Bahá’u’lláh has been in the world for over 100 years and has been rejected. The calamity will be sudden.

He spoke of our statesmen from the President down, all were helpless and impotent. Also stated that we were not an altruistic nation—we were only helping other countries to save ourselves. Said the submarines built by Russia will paralyze the United Kingdom, Western Europe, the Mediterranean, the Pacific and [the] Atlantic seaboards. He stated the US did not wish to coalesce with other nations—only wished to protect herself. Bahá’ís have failed with the Negro race in the US. There should have been more intermarriage. Speaking of LOVE—the Americans love money, their wives, their homes, their possessions, their friends. Just as there is a decline in the value of the American dollar, there is also a decline in our morals and home life.

[He] spoke of the large deficit in the Fund. (Jessie Revell said we should give every month. The size of the contribution had nothing to do with it. One contribution to the International Fund was for $1,335)

The Guardian said the calamity would happen before the Leaser Peace. He said in America the Bahá’ís should not only leave their houses but should go as far away as possible. Victories come only from sacrifice and self-abnegation. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the victory. Bahá’ís should lower their standard of living in order to give more.

I asked the Guardian if the calamity could be averted. He replied, “No.” I asked if it would be all of North America and he said mostly the United States.

[On] the night of Riḍván, the Guardian started the conversation by saying he had received over 1,000 telegrams from assemblies all over the world, mentioning specifically Salzburg, Innsbruck, Milan and Hiroshima. Edna True cabled to say Luxemburg had acquired its Ḥaẓíra. The Guardian cabled back and asked her, “What about Stockholm, Lisbon and translation into Lapp language?”

Isabel Sabri (she is in Africa) asked what attitude toward missionaries should be. The Guardian replied, we must be careful with Governments and reckless with missionaries.

The Guardian repeated many times that more settlers should come to France and the Scandinavian countries from the United States.

Sally Sanor asked the Guardian what an employee of the American Army should do in case of an alert as we would be evacuated. He said if our jobs interfered with our remaining at our posts we should change our jobs. The Guardian said that unless the home front (the US and England) improved, we may not have the Baghdad Conference. He said all the virgin areas far exceeded their goals but the home front lagged far behind.

One evening I asked the Guardian about the reference in *Gleanings* to the sister of Bahá’u’lláh. He replied that some of the half-sisters of Bahá’u’lláh were loyal to Him and some disloyal. She was a loyal sister.

The Guardian stressed many tines that there had not been a Christian civilization for centuries, only a materialistic civilization.

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Some notes from Sara Kenny’s
pilgrimage, May 1957

The enemies in Germany are the Catholics and the Lutherans, and you would not believe that they should have so much power. It seems similar to what would happen if a Negro church would want to build their church on the best corner in some Texas town—there is that much opposition.

After asking me if I had had a good trip and if I came by plane, I said, that I left my home in 1953 with my mother and that we had gone to Madeira and then been asked to go to France. “You are Knights of Bahá’u’lláh.” Then in a little while he asked if it was easy to teach the Faith in French and I said “No, that the people were very preoccupied with buying what they would have for dinner.” He laughed. Then he said: “What are your plans?” I said that we hoped to stay there until we had a strong LSA made up mostly of French people, and then we would go where we were sent. He said that this was a very good attitude and should be emulated by other American pioneers. He said, “some of them become afraid and have gone home.”

*Christ and Bahá’u’lláh*—he was very pleased with this writing. Several things he thought were done particularly well, as the way in which Dr Townshend showed the early collapse of Christianity. How Paul took it out of Peter’s hands and how the Teachings were diluted, then the adulation of Islam and the great force it had in the world.

He was talking about how free we keep ourselves from the churches. If we pray the Lord’s Prayer we are denying our Faith. “The Kingdom” has come and it is the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, not the Revelation, as great as it is. The World Order is the flower of what Bahá’u’lláh brought and we must not confuse it with the Administrative Order. He spoke of the general promise given by all the Prophets for 6,000 years, then the specific promise given by Shaykh Aḥmad and Siyyid Káẓim, the arrival of the Promised [Ones] (the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh), then the Covenant and then the eventual fulfilment of the World Order which would unfold when the world became unified, and it could not be spiritualized until it had become unified. It rained when I arrived and the Guardian quoted “*The World’s equilibrium hath been upset*”.[[5]](#footnote-5) He said even the weather is affected.

The last night, I asked the Guardian if I could ask a question, and he said I could. I said that a person who did most of the teaching in our community concentrated completely on the Bible and that people were hardly given any of the Teachings. The Guardian said, “That is a Persian. They teach from the Qur’án and the Bible. It is old-fashioned. When the Master returned from America, when He was in Egypt, He wrote to the Persians and said they must change their teaching methods and that they must teach as He had in Europe and the US using the universal Teachings, emphasizing the ONENESS OF HUMANITY and the rational proofs.”

The Guardian talked about the steps in the development of a Faith. I think there are seven steps (I do not recall the steps). There is obscurity in which the Faith is in most countries, then emergence, then repression as the Faith is in Persia and German (beginning), then recognition, then something else and finally establishment, as for example the Church of England. He said, which you have of course heard before, that we should appreciate Catholicism in Christianity and the Shí‘ah’s in Islam, because they are both purer and nearer to the wishes of Christ and Muḥammad.

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Translation of voice record
of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (from Persian)

*Praise be to God! that we are present in this radiant meeting and turned toward the Kingdom of Abhá. That which we behold is due to the Grace and Bounty of the Blessed Perfection. We are atoms and He is the Sun of Reality. We are drops and He is the Greatest Ocean. Though we are poor, yet the Treasury of the Kingdom is full of overflowings. Though we are weak, yet the Confirmation of the Supreme Concourse is abundant. Though we are helpless, yet our refuge and shelter is His Holiness Bahá’u’lláh.*

*Praise be to God! His Traces are evident.*

Praise be to God! His Lights are radiating.

Praise be to God! His Ocean is full of waves.

Praise be to God! His Radiance is intense.

Praise be to God! His Bestowals are abundant.

Praise be to God! His Favors are manifest.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The Morn of Guidance hath dawned.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The Sun of Reality hath shone forth.

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!

The Breeze of Favor hath wafted.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The raindrops of the Cloud of Bounty have showered.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The Sun of the Supreme Horizon hath radiated to all the world with boundless Effulgence.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The hearts are all in the utmost purity.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

It is the Splendor of His Highness Bahá.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

Zion is dancing.

*Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings!*

The Kingdom of God is full of Exhilaration and Commotion.[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. This document is from the Emma Maxie Jones Collection, https://bahai-library.com/emma\_maxwell\_jones\_collection , prepared by E. Jones, M. Thomas, and J. Winters (2021-2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Typed by Sara Kenny, Barbara Davenport, Valeria Nichols, Dee Worth, Ruth Blackwell, Emma Jones (25–01–58) and Anne Stadelman (29–11–65). Transcribed with minor typographical and spelling corrections from scanned photographic images of typewritten copy.—Ernie Jones (23–05-21) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bahá’u’lláh, *The Hidden Words of Bahá’u’lláh*, Persian No. 63. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 119. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh*, p. 136. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Bahá’í World 1936–1938*, vol. 7, p. 421. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)