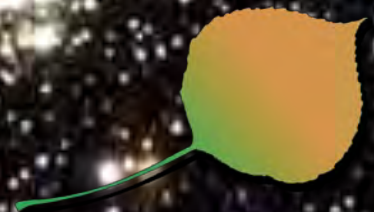


Digital Transformations Ltd.

presents

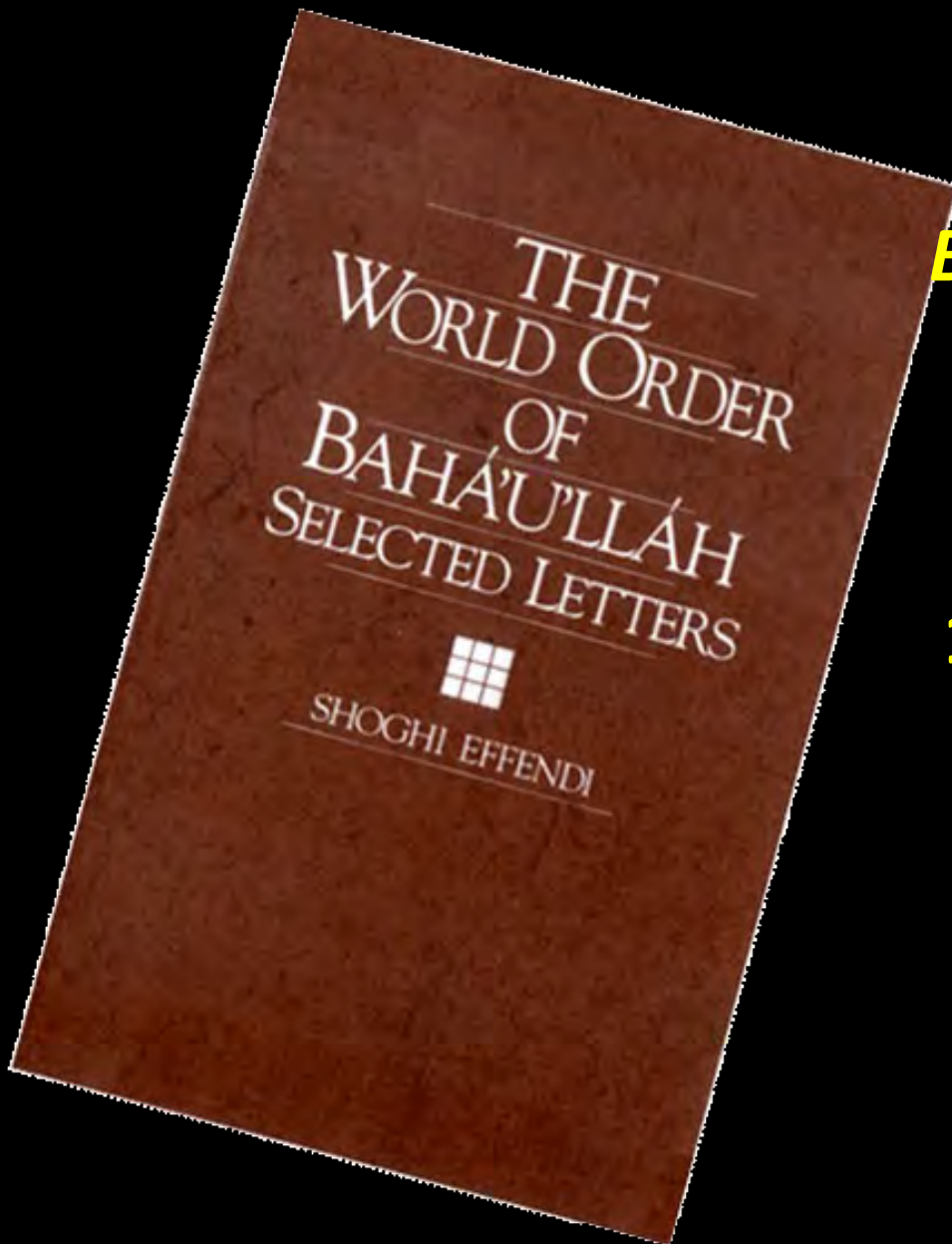




The Early Years of the Bahá'í Faith in the West

1890 - 1912





In *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh* Shoghi Effendi directs our attention to the earliest years of the Cause in America in his 1933 letter, "America and the Most Great Peace."



"The East hath verily been illumined with the light of the Kingdom. Ere long will this same light shed a still greater illumination upon the West. ... Rejoice, therefore, O denizens of America, rejoice with exceeding gladness!"



**Our story begins in the
late 1880s in Cairo,
Egypt.**





**OTTOMAN
EMPIRE**

Turkey

 **Syria**

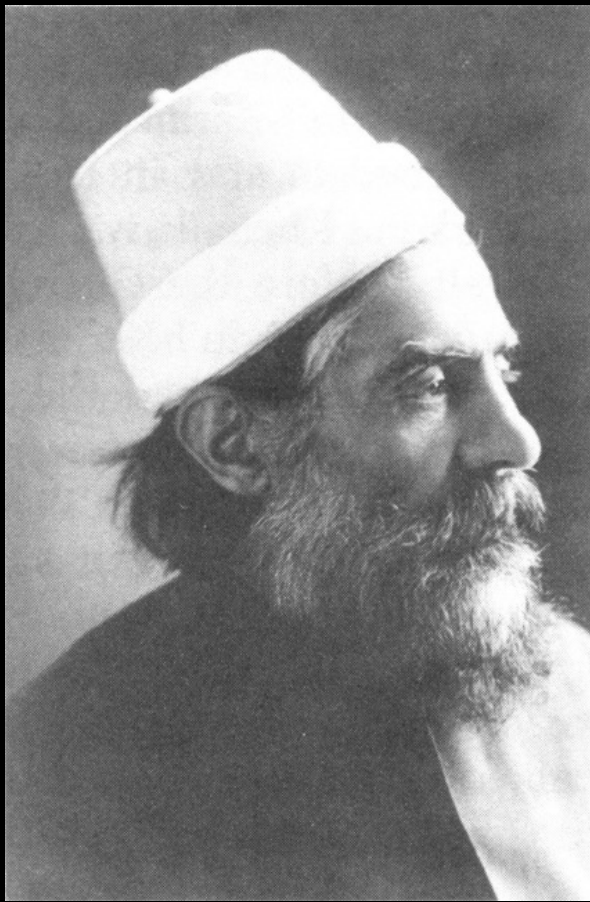
Persia

Egypt

Arabia



'Abdu'l-Karím-i-Tihrání Persian merchant living in Cairo





Ibrahim George Kheiralla
1849-1929



Anton Haddad
1862-1924





**Ibrahim
George
Kheiralla**

**Both became
Bahá'ís and
eventually
travelled to the
United States in
1892.**



**Anton
Haddad**



Ibrahim Kheiralla became a Bahá'í in 1890. He received a Tablet from Bahá'u'lláh that urged him to be “charitable, upright and pious, holding fast to that which will draw you nearer to God...”

Four years later he became the first Bahá'í teacher in America.



‘Akka, Syria

April 1890

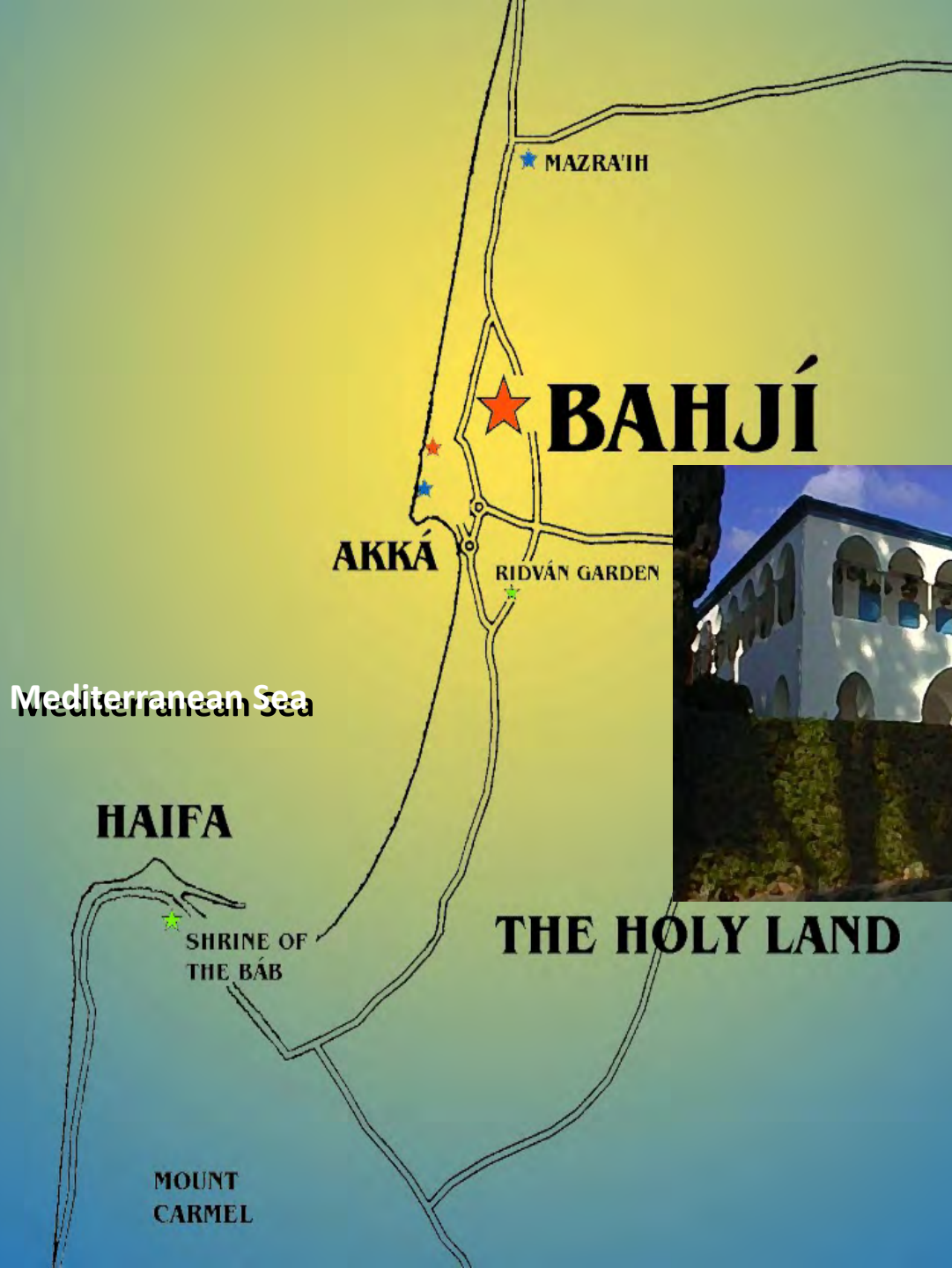




Prof. Edward Granville Browne of Cambridge University who had come to the Holy Land to interview Bahá'u'lláh as part of his scholarly work as an orientalist.

He had just come from visiting Mírzá Yahya—the Arch-Breaker of the Báb's Covenant—in Famagusta, Cyprus.





BAHJÍ

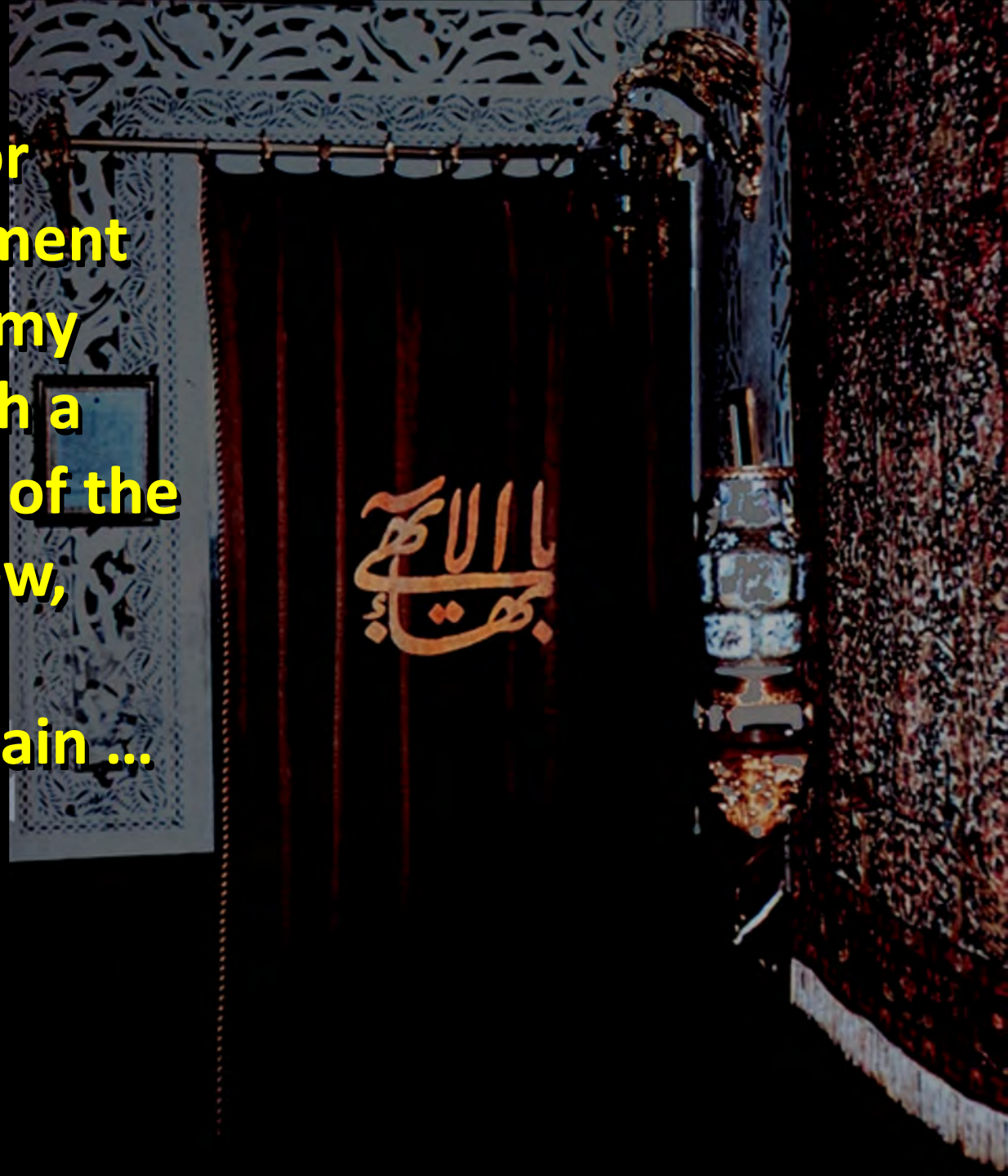




...[H]ere did I spend five most memorable days,... ... It was in truth a strange and moving experience, but one whereof I despair of conveying any save the feeblest impression.



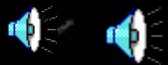
. . . My conductor
paused for a moment
while I removed my
shoes. Then, with a
quick movement of the
hand, he withdrew,
and, as I passed
replaced the curtain ...



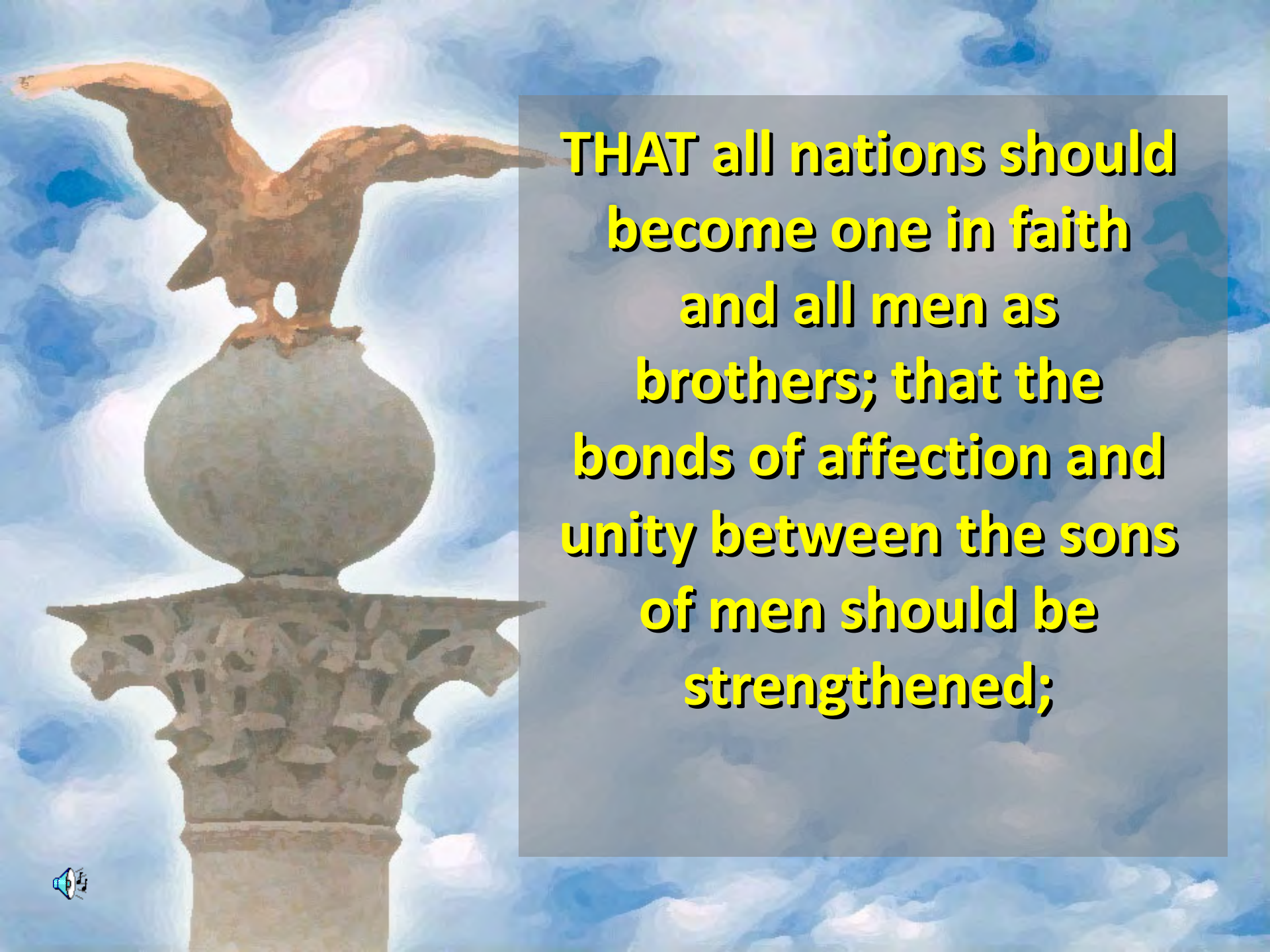
**...A second or two elapsed ere,
with a throb of wonder and awe,
I became definitely conscious
that the room was not
untenanted.**



**In the corner where the divan
met the wall sat a wondrous
and venerable figure ...**








**THAT all nations should
become one in faith
and all men as
brothers; that the
bonds of affection and
unity between the sons
of men should be
strengthened;**





**that diversity of religion
should cease and
differences of race be
annulled –**

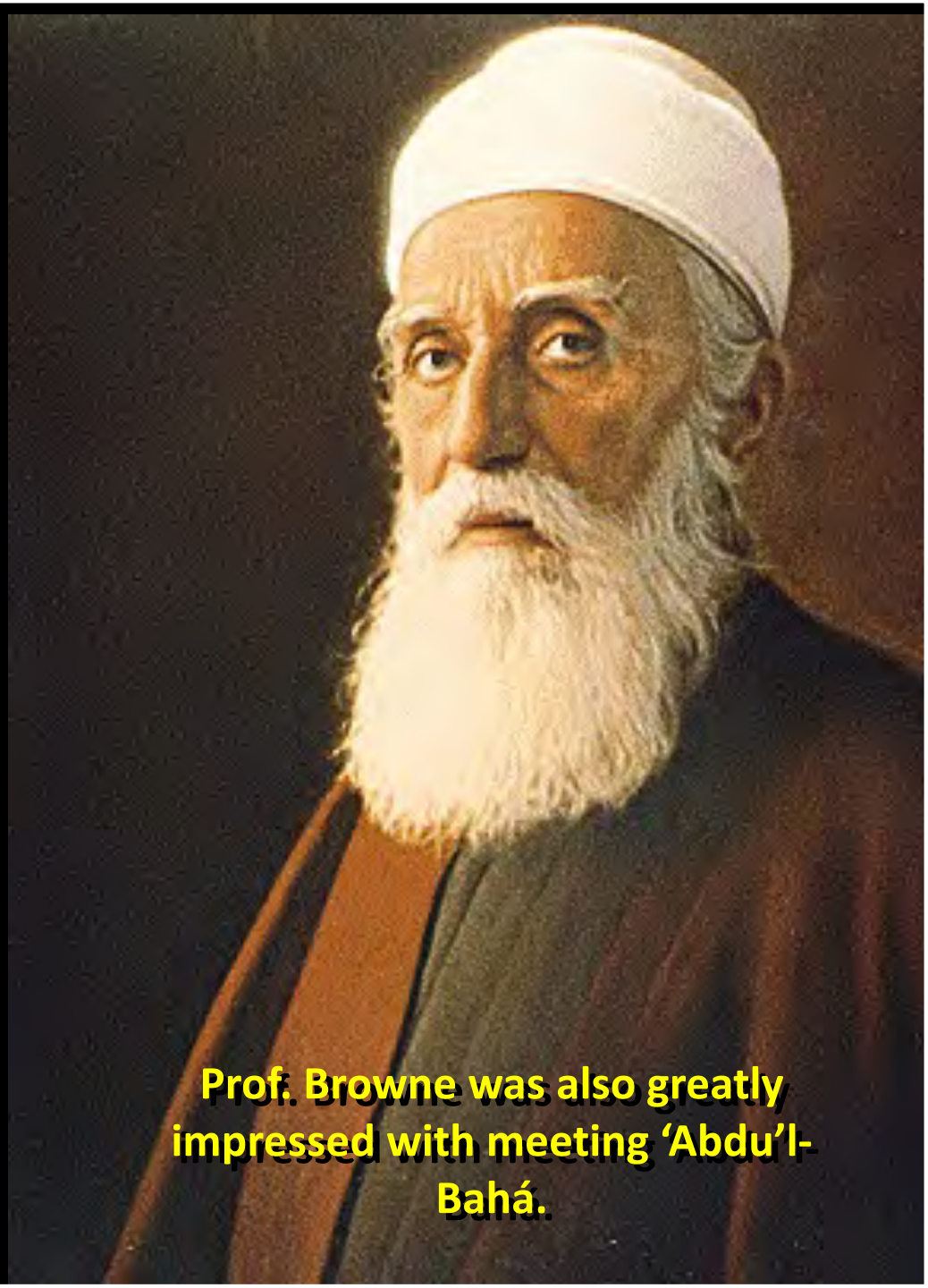
**What harm is there in
this?**



**... These fruitless
strifes, these ruinous
wars shall pass away,
and the 'Most Great
Peace' shall come ...**

“Seldom have I seen one whose appearance impressed me more. A tall strongly-built man holding himself straight as an arrow. ... About the greatness of this man and his power no one who had seen him could entertain a doubt.”

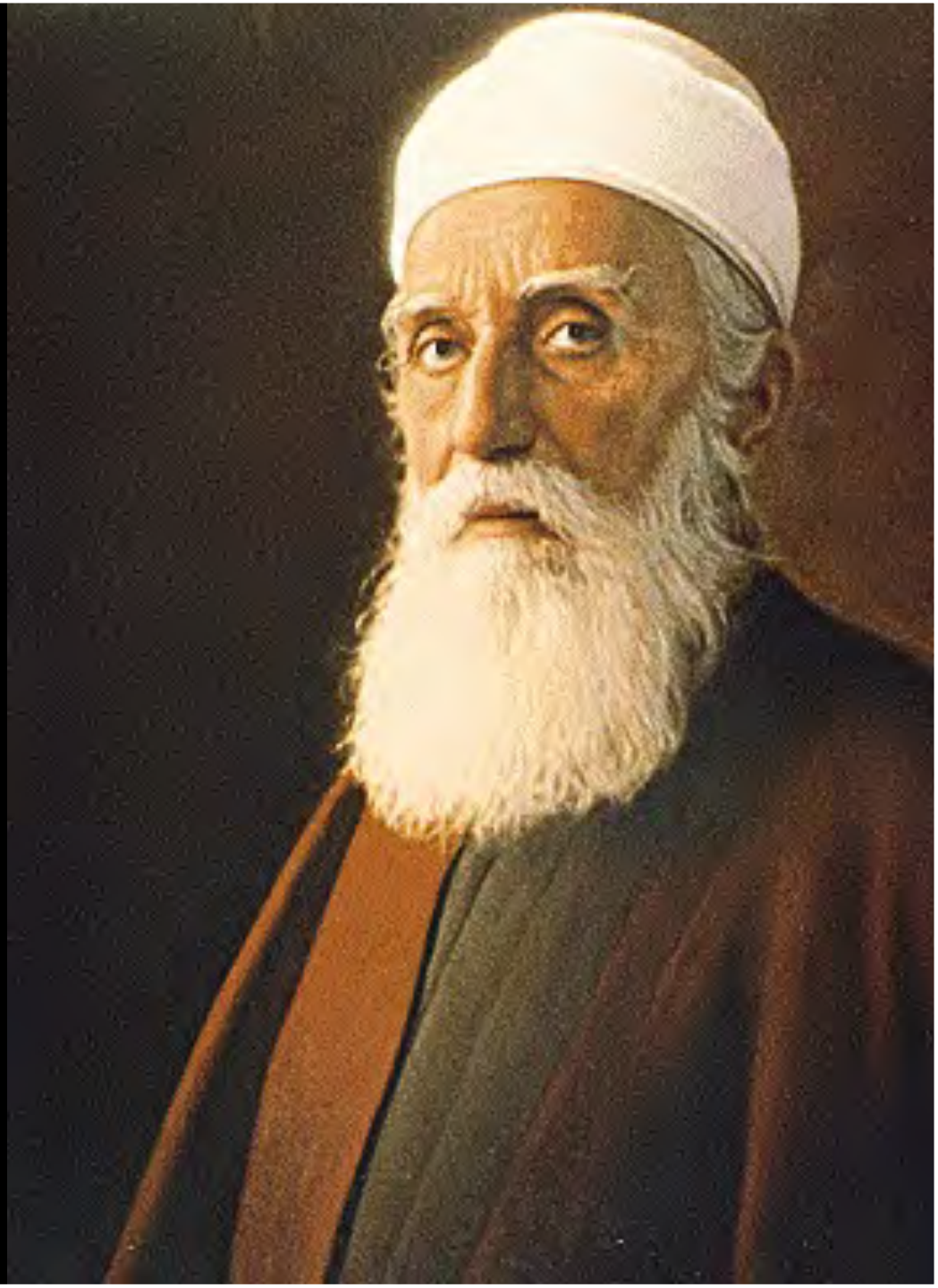
Prof. Browne was also greatly impressed with meeting ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

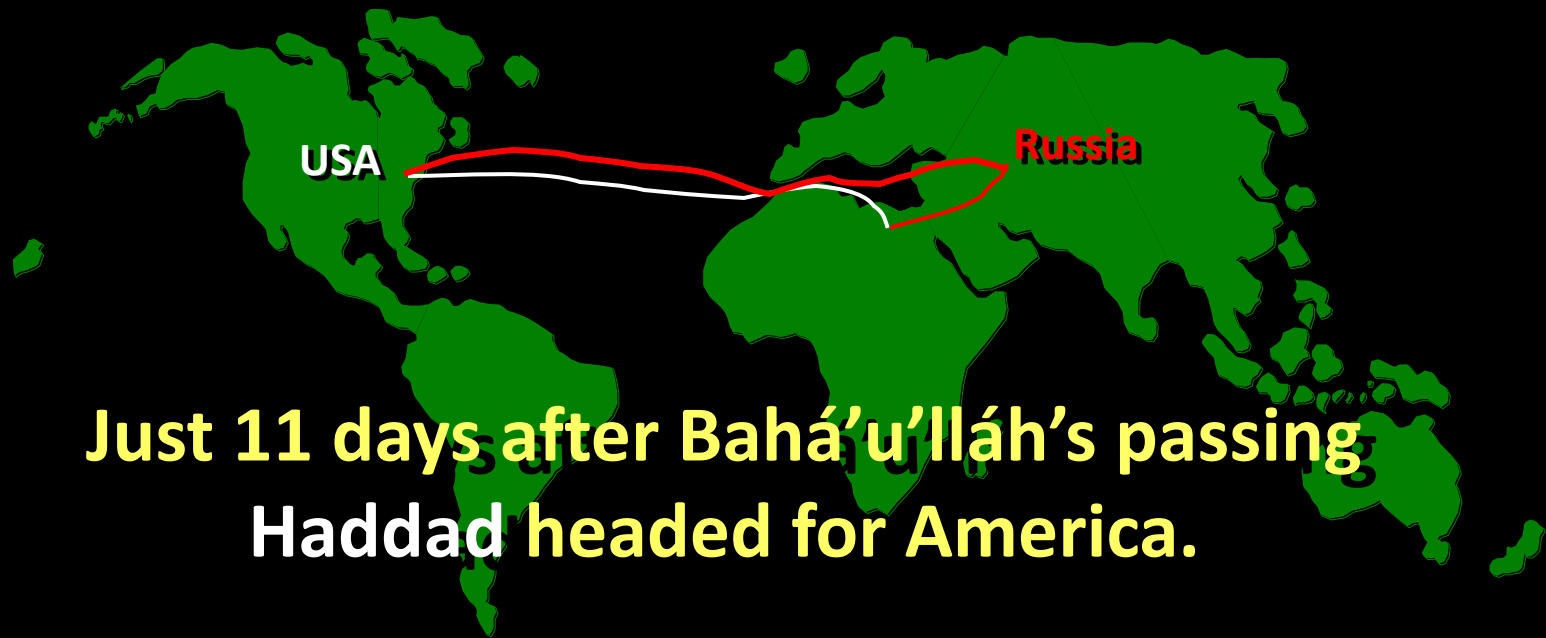




**'ABDU'L-BAHÁ CENTRE
OF THE COVENANT**

**HEAD OF THE BAHÁ'Í
FAITH FROM 1892-
1921**





**Just 11 days after Bahá'u'lláh's passing
Haddad headed for America.**

He and Kheiralla had a business arrangement.

**Haddad was to go to America to sell
Kheiralla's ticket invention. Kheiralla went to
Russia and joined Haddad later in the U.S.**





**When
Haddad
reached
America in
the summer of
1892, he
became the
first Bahá'í to
set foot on
American soil.**





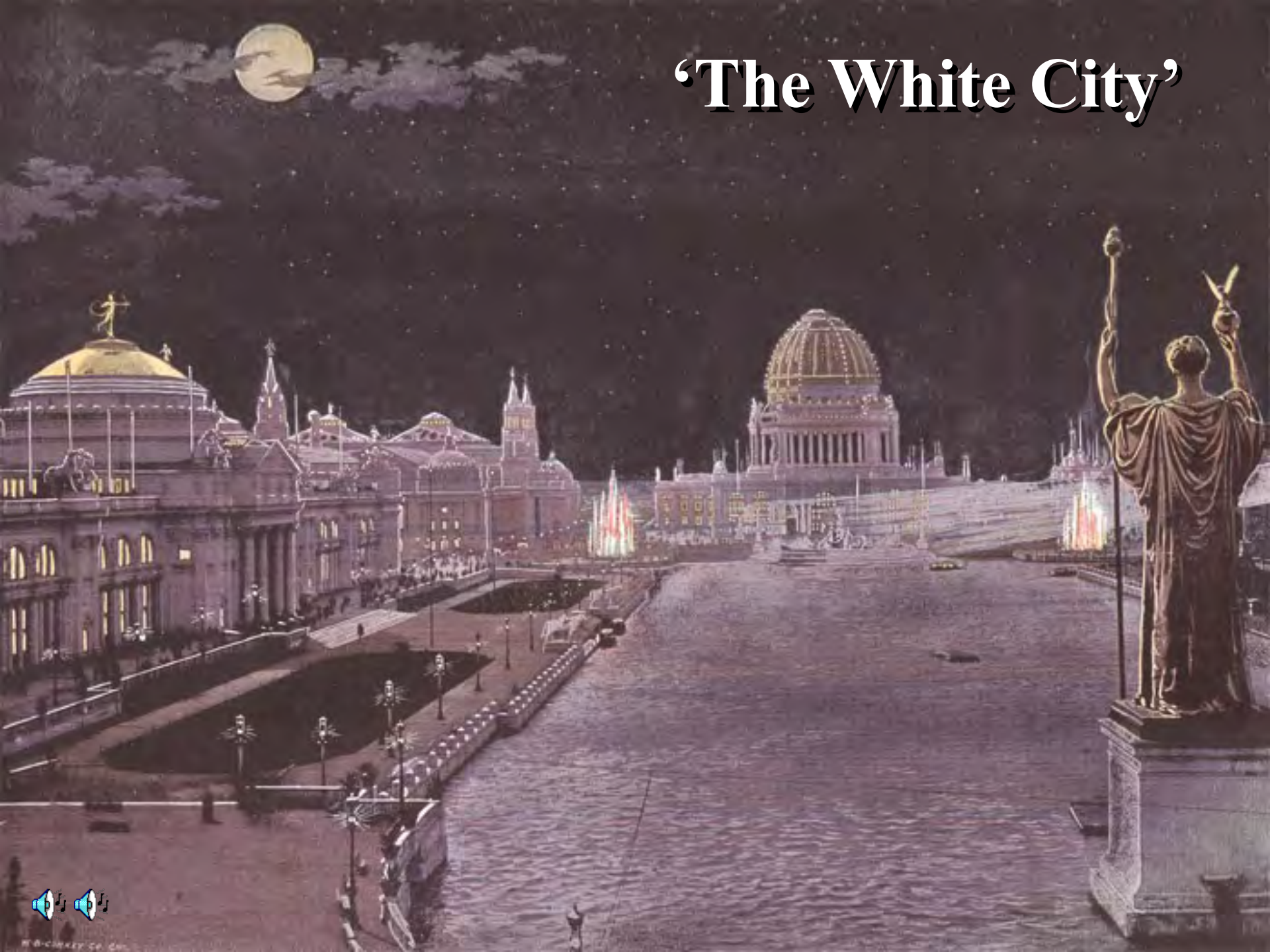
FIRST PUBLIC MENTION
of the BAHÁ'Í FAITH IN
THE WEST Chicago
September 1893



Columbian Exposition The Chicago World's Fair of 1893



'The White City'



THE
WORLD'S
CONGRESS
of
RELIGIONS



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS





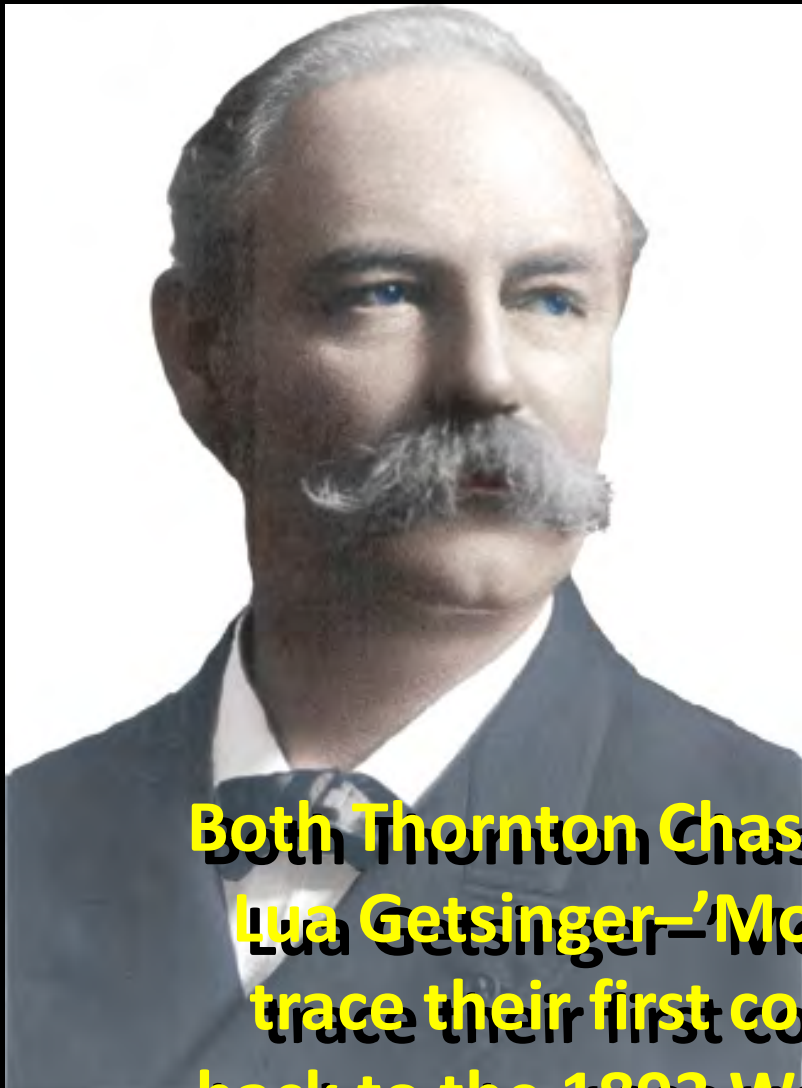
The Religious Mission of the English
Speaking Nations.

Paper by REV. HENRY H. JESSUP, D. D., of Beirut, Syria.

"In the palace of Bahji, or Delight, just outside the fortress of Acca, on the Syrian Coast, there died, a few months since, a famous Persian sage named BAHHA'O'LLAH—the Glory of God. "Three years ago he was visited by a Cambridge scholar to whom he uttered sentiments so noble, so Christ-like that we repeat them as our closing words—'We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations—that all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease and differences of race be annulled—and so shall it be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the most great peace shall come.



The Rev. Henry H. Jessup



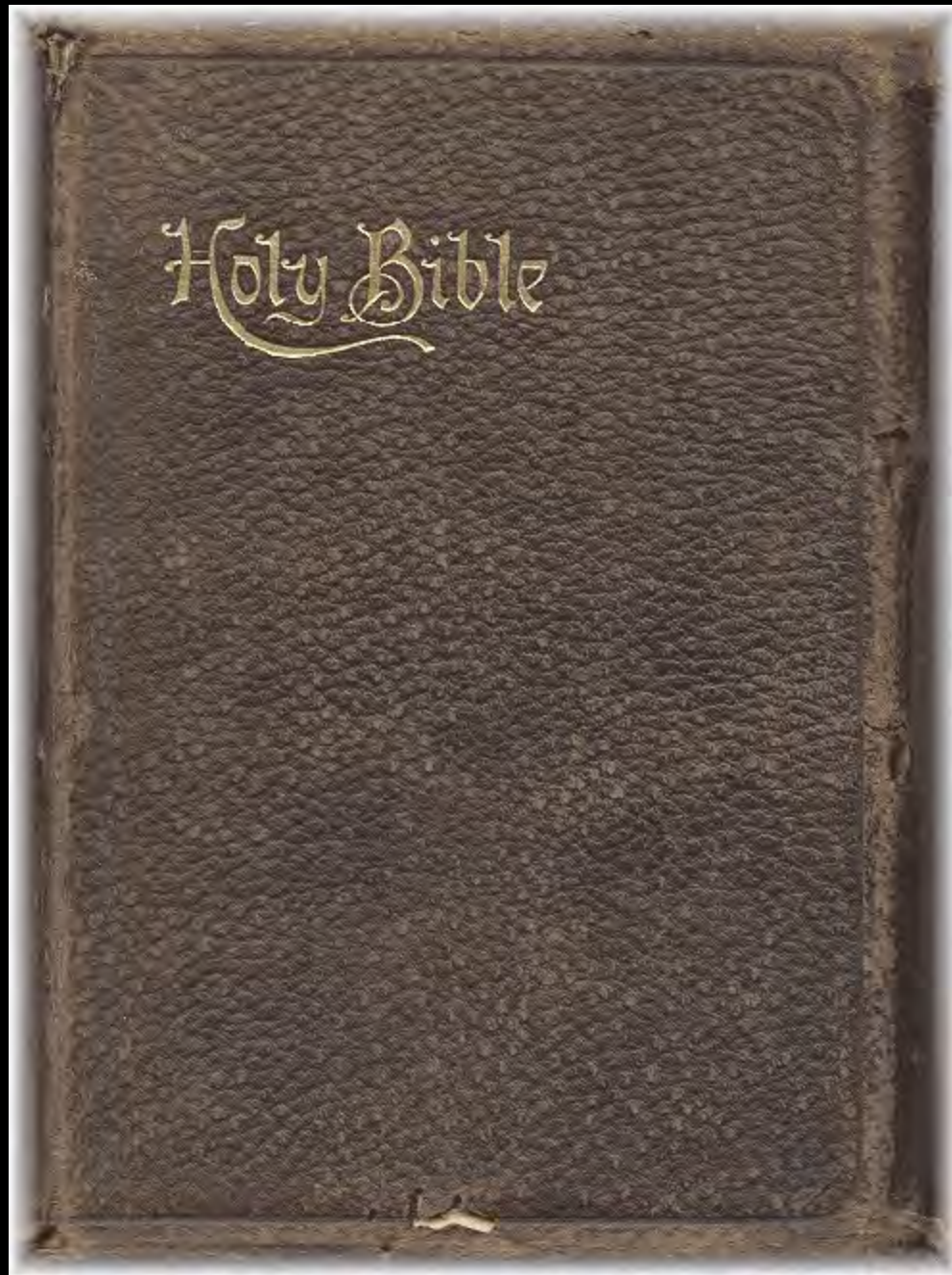
**Both Thornton Chase—first American Bahá'í—and
Lua Getsinger—'Mother teacher of the West'—
trace their first contact with the Bahá'í Faith
back to the 1893 World Parliament of Religions.**



**By Feb.
1894 he
had
settled in
Chicago.**

**Ibrahim
Khayru'llah
arrived NYC
Dec. 1892.**





In 1894 Khayru'llah began offering 13 secret lessons on the Bahá'í Faith. Almost the entire course was invented by him. He did use the Bible as a reference for some of his interpretations of prophecy and doctrine.





Kheiralla purchased a bogus “*Dr.*” degree for \$20.00 and used the title for the rest of his life.

Although he *did* accept Bahá’u’lláh he knew very little about His teachings. Kheiralla taught his own erroneous version of the Bahá’í Faith:

- Bahá’u’lláh was God incarnate.
- ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was Christ returned.
- Abraham had founded Hinduism.
- Bahá’ís believed in reincarnation!

There was no mention of Bahá’í ethical teachings, Bahá’í administration, and almost no Sacred Writings.



WISCONSIN

IOWA

CHICAGO

INDIANA

ILLINOIS

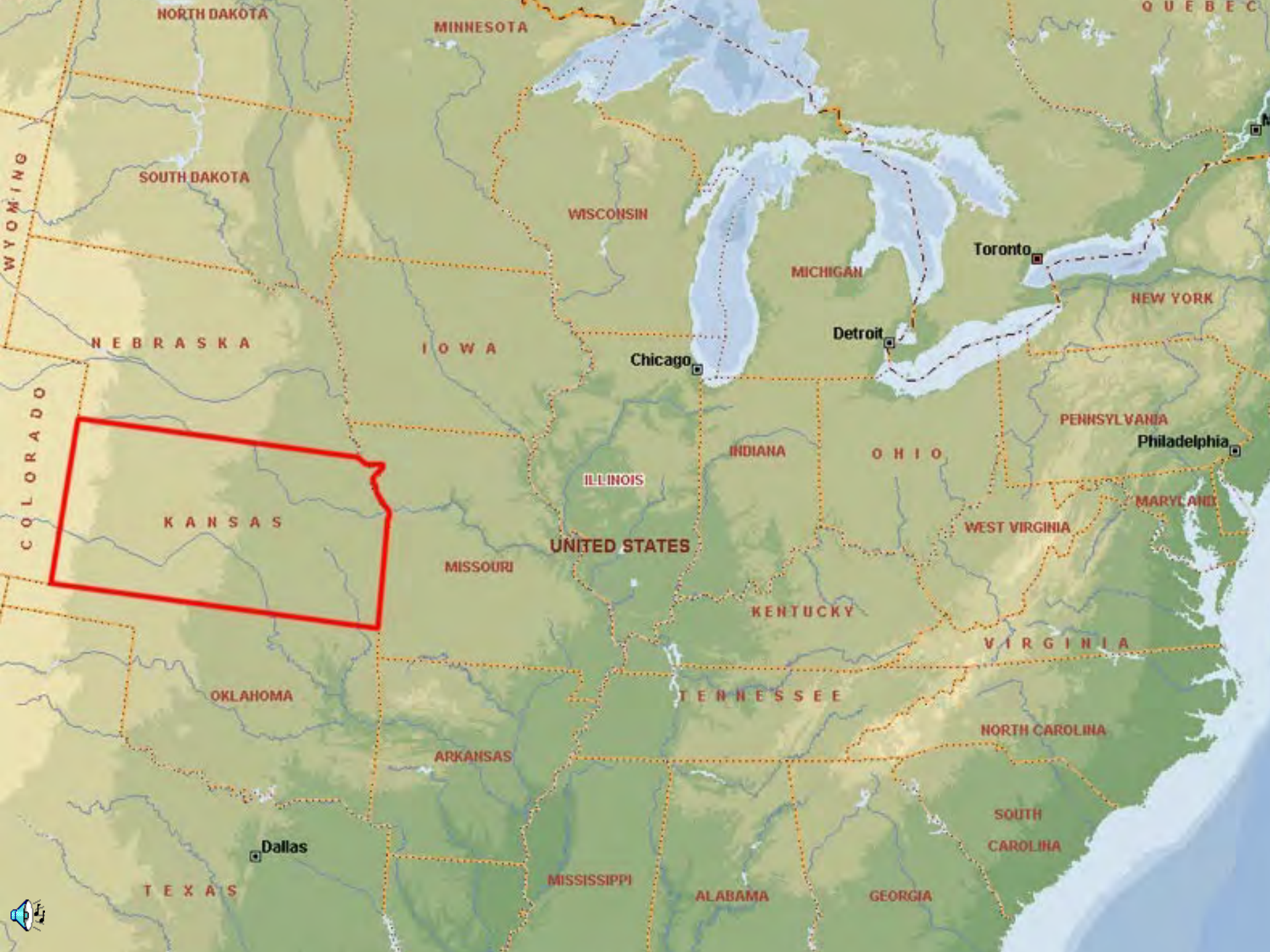
**First state where
the Faith was
taught**

MISSOURI

KENTUCKY







NORTH DAKOTA

MINNESOTA

QUEBEC

SOUTH DAKOTA

WISCONSIN

Toronto

MICHIGAN

NEW YORK

Detroit

Chicago

NEBRASKA

IOWA

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

KANSAS

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

OHIO

MARYLAND

UNITED STATES

MISSOURI

WEST VIRGINIA

KENTUCKY

VIRGINIA

OKLAHOMA

TENNESSEE

NORTH CAROLINA

Dallas

ARKANSAS

SOUTH CAROLINA

TEXAS

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

GEORGIA



NEBRASKA

KANSAS

Second state where
the Faith was
established.

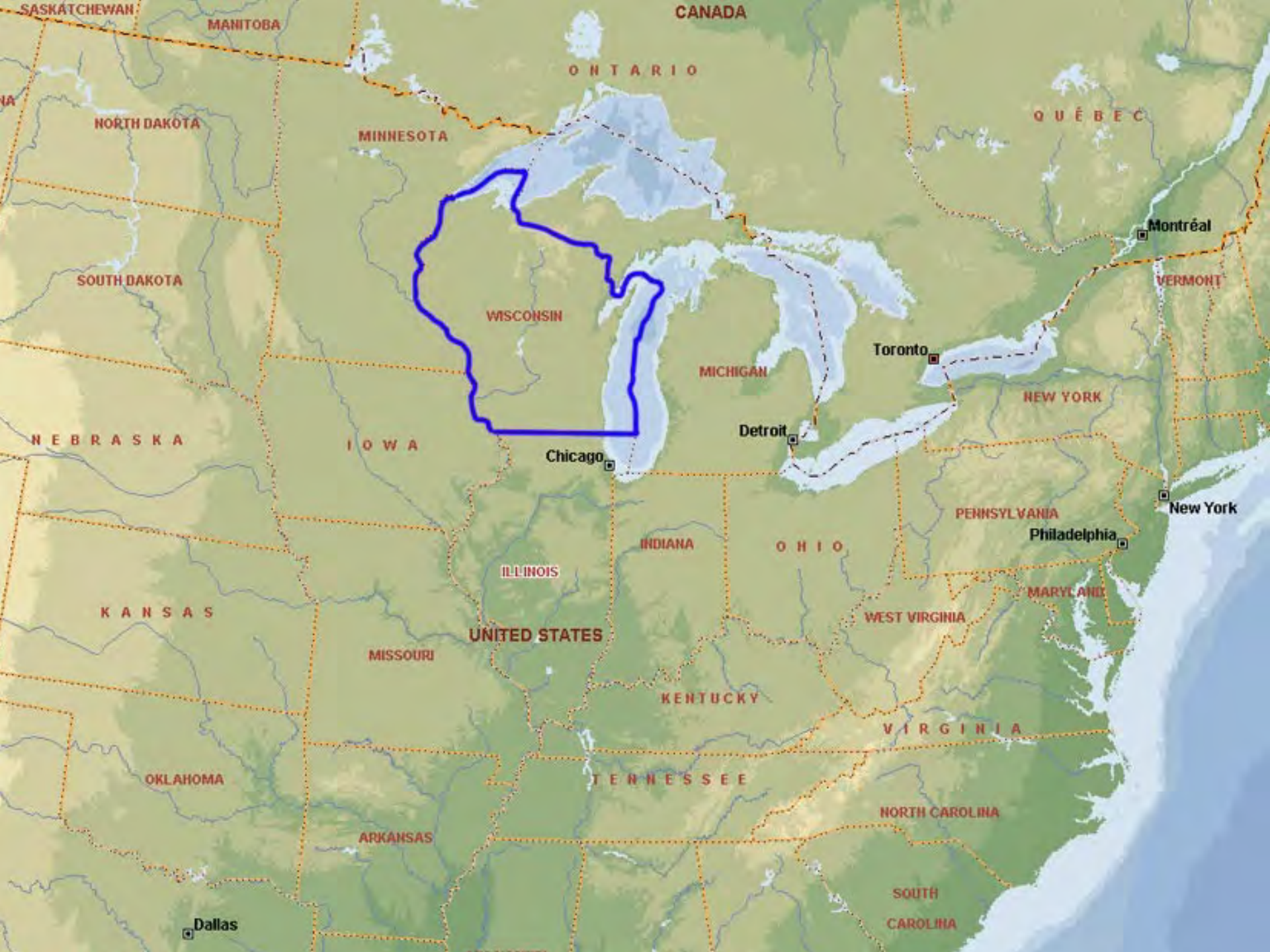
ENTERPRISE



MO.

TEXAS

CO.



MN.

MICHIGAN

WISCONSIN

Third U.S. state where the
Faith was taught and a
community established.

MICH.

IOWA

KENOSHA

ILLINOIS





**Louisa Aurora
Moore
embraced the
Bahá'í Faith 21
May 1897.**

**Five days later
she married
Edward
Getsinger.**





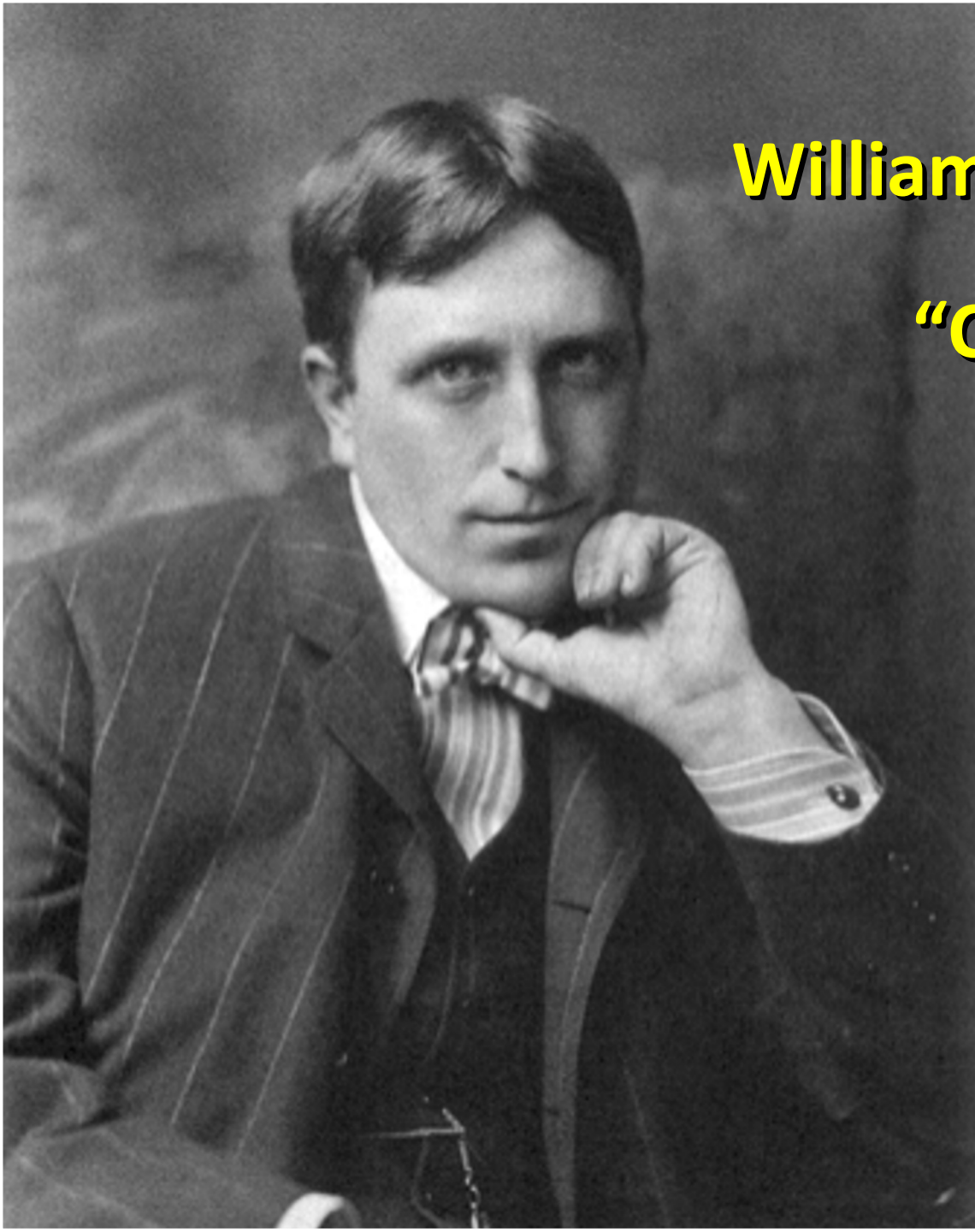
**I daresay
most
American
Bahá'ís in
this room
can trace
their
spiritual
lineage back
to Lua.**



**Almost
immediately
after her
declaration
Lua began to
teach.**







William Randolph Hearst

“Citizen Kane”

SOME EARLY BAHÁ'ÍS
of the WEST



PARIS
November
1898





May Bolles

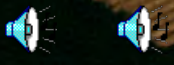


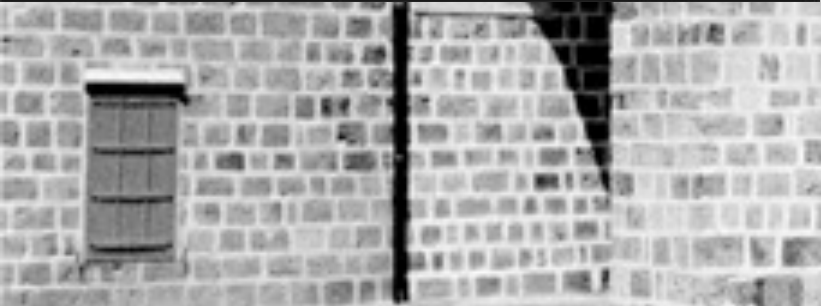


Lua Getsinger



May Bolles









**Robert
Turner**

Dr Kheiralla

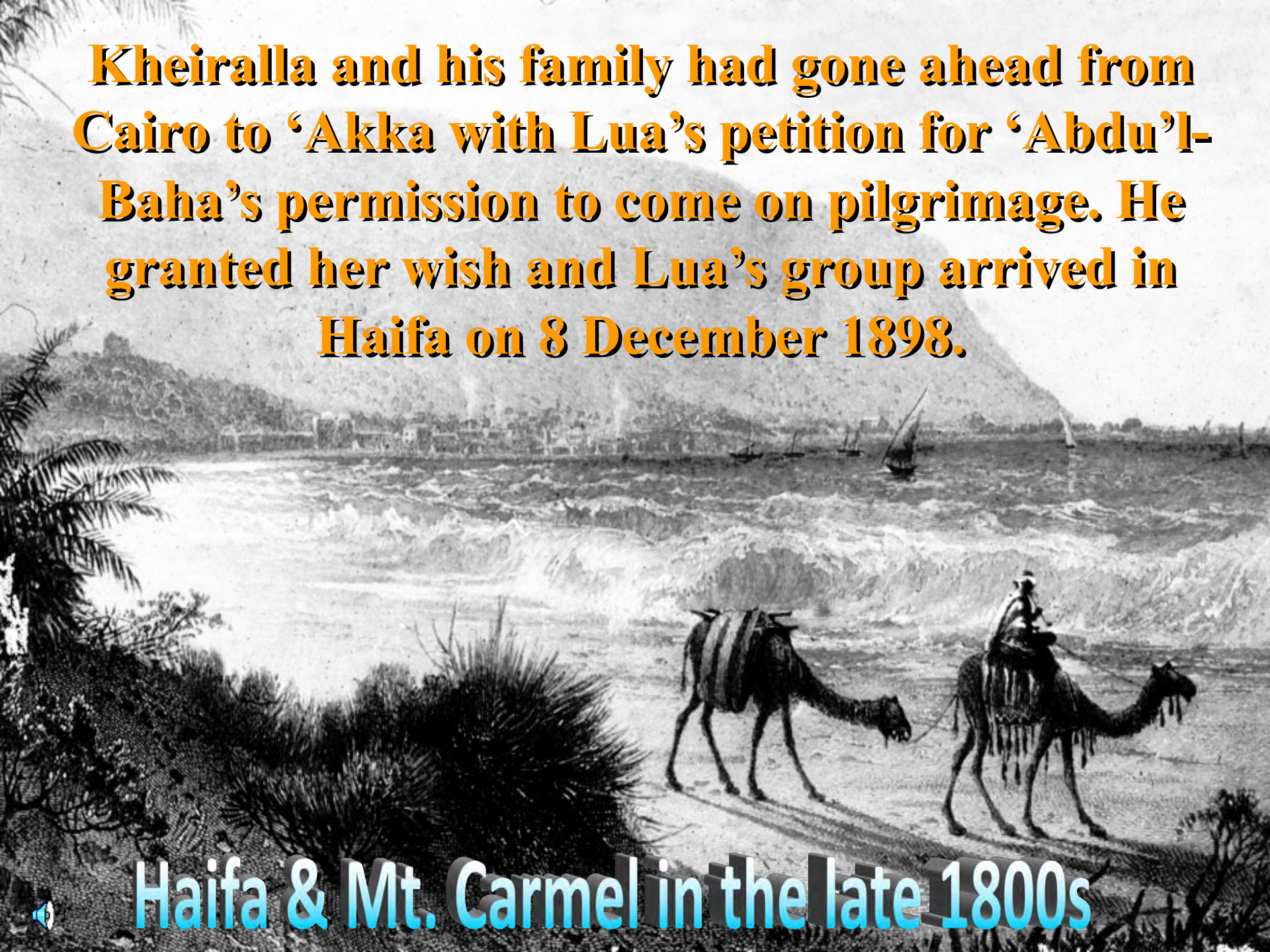
**Kheiralla's
daughter**

**Marion
Miller
Kheiralla**

**Lua M. Kheiralla's
Getsinger daughter**

FIRST WESTERN PILGRIMS – NOV 1898 MAR 1899

Kheiralla and his family had gone ahead from Cairo to 'Akka with Lua's petition for 'Abdu'l-Baha's permission to come on pilgrimage. He granted her wish and Lua's group arrived in Haifa on 8 December 1898.



Haifa & Mt. Carmel in the late 1800s



... We took a carriage after night had fallen, and drove along the hard sand ... which led us to the gates of the prison city.



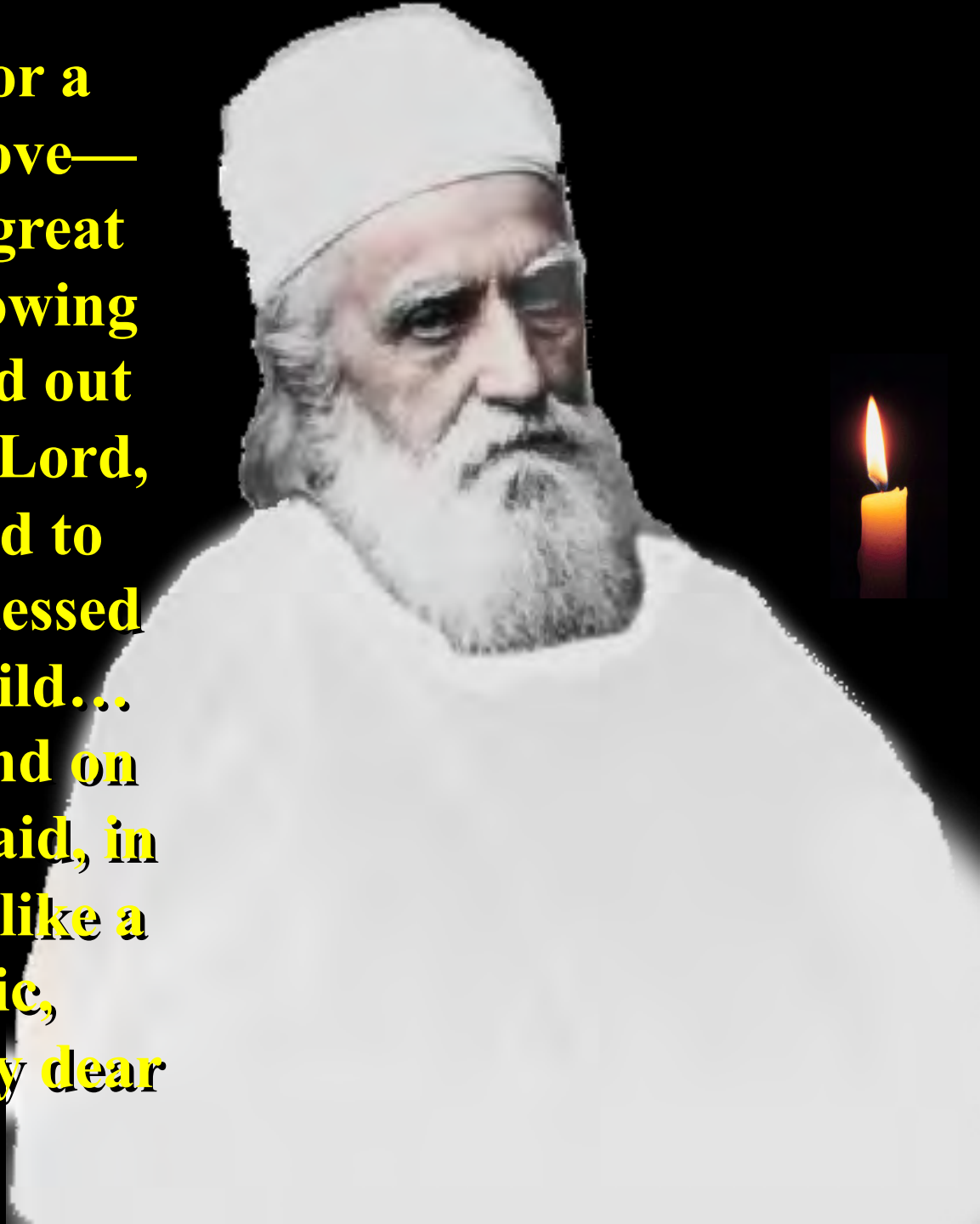


...[W]e started up the uneven stairs that led to Him.

Someone went before us with a small piece of candle, which cast strange shadows on the walls of this silent place.

Suddenly the light caught a form that at first seemed a vision of mist and light. It was the Master.... His white robe, and silver, flowing hair, and shining blue eyes gave the impression of a spirit, rather than of a human being.”

Lua said, We stood for a moment “unable to move— then my heart gave a great throb and scarcely knowing what I was doing I held out my arms, crying: “My Lord, my Lord!” and rushed to Him kneeling at His Blessed Feet, sobbing like a child... .. He put His dear hand on our bowed heads and said, in a voice that seemed ... like a strain of sweet music, “Welcome, welcome, my dear children, ...”



"OF THAT first meeting, I can remember neither joy nor pain, nor anything that I can name. I had been carried suddenly to too great a height, my soul had come in contact with the Divine Spirit, and this force, so pure, so holy, so mighty, had overwhelmed me ... We could not remove our eyes from His glorious face ... existence seemed suspended; and when He arose and suddenly left us, we came back with a start to life; but never again, oh! never again, thank God, the same life on this earth."



May Bolles





**The
Greatest
Holy Leaf**



Bahji around the turn of the century.





Most Holy Tomb

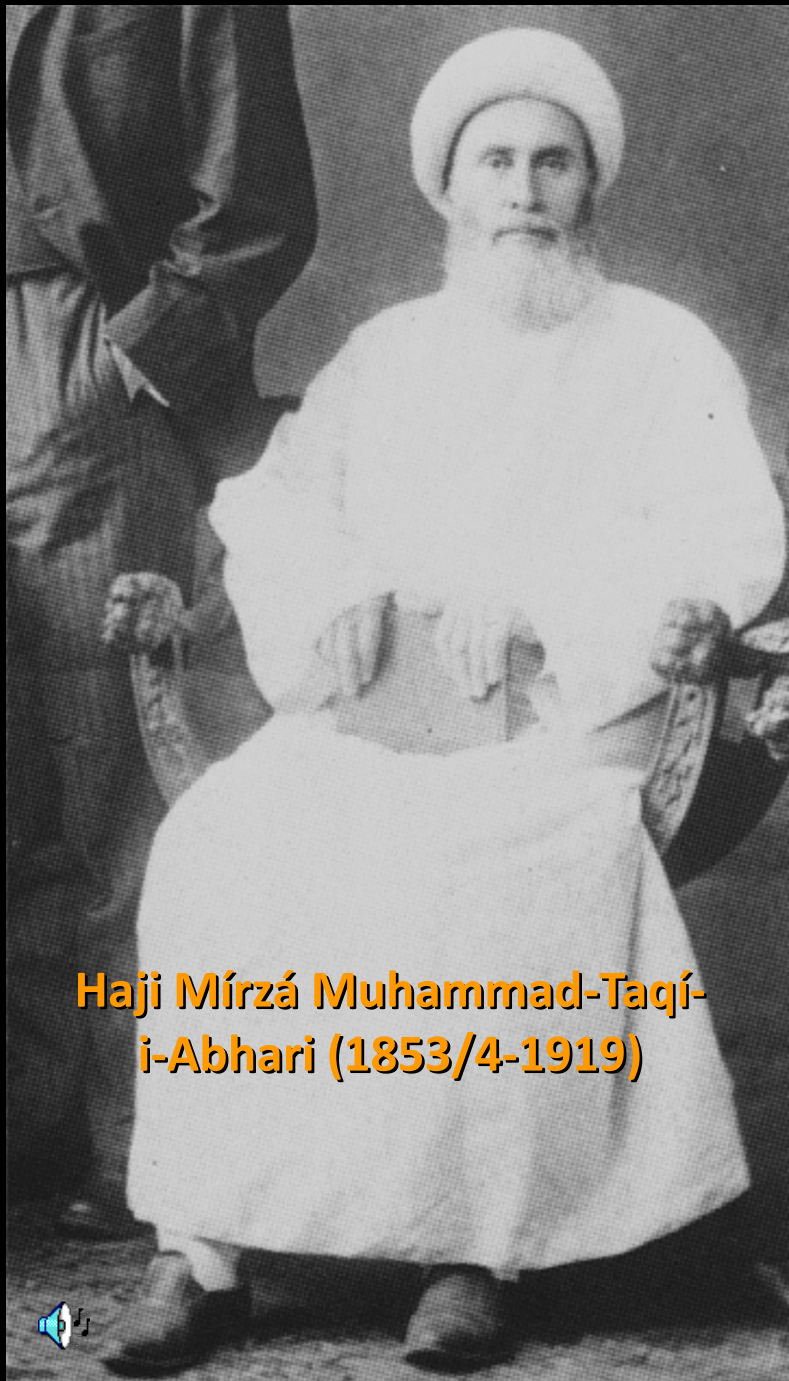
**While Lua and May and
the other Western
pilgrims were attaining
heights of spiritual
ecstasy, the principle of
light and darkness was at
work in the heart of
Ibrahim Kheiralla.**



BEHÁ' ULLAH
BY IBRAHIM KHEIRALLA



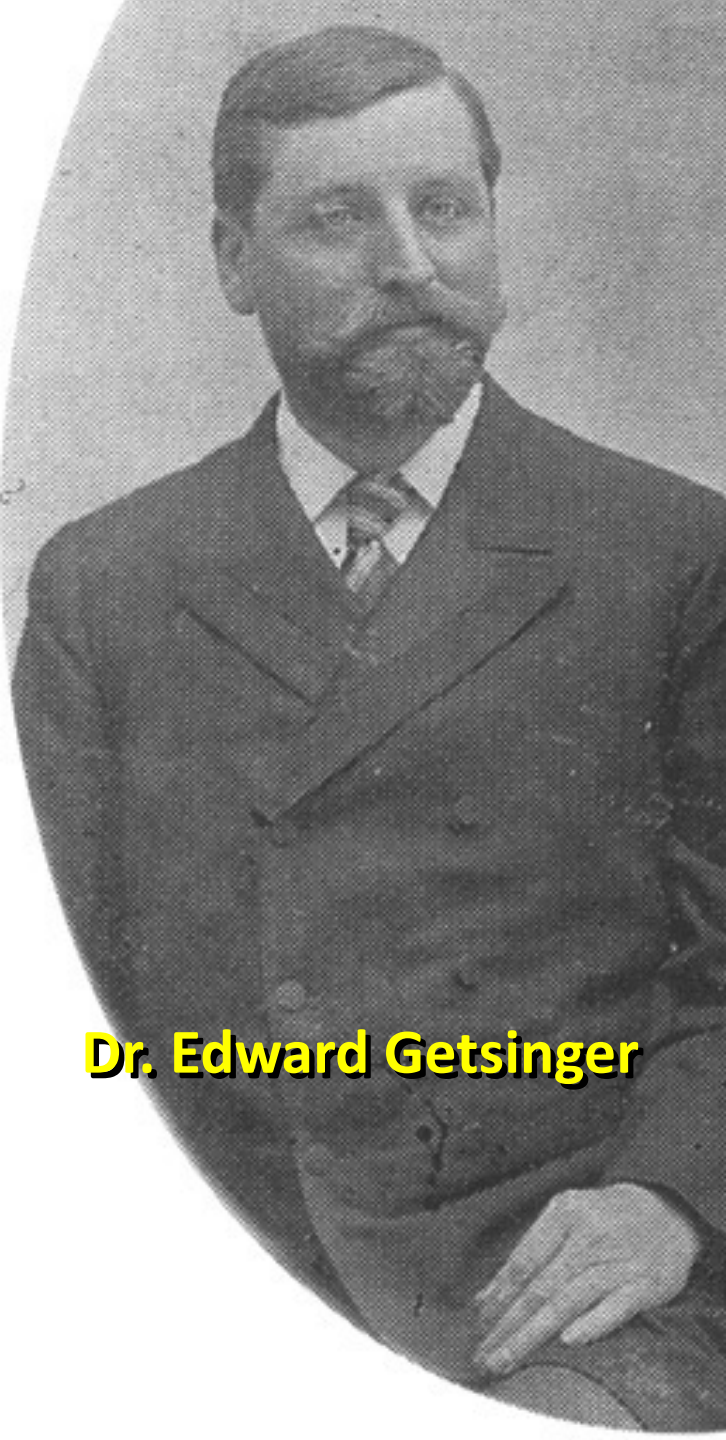
“Baha’s Peter”



Haji Mírzá Muhammad-Taqí-
i-Abhari (1853/4-1919)

Kheiralla proposed to Ibn Abhar—one of the Hands of the Cause of God—his notion that God has a personality. Abhar disagreed and placed the matter before ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Who explained this was not so. By this and the Master’s other clarifications of Bahá’í beliefs, Kheiralla realized his manuscript would not be approved.





Dr. Edward Getsinger

Lua's husband, Edward, did not help matters by baiting Kheiralla and bringing up the subject of reincarnation in the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to hear it refuted.

Kheiralla got angrier and angrier—and it became apparent later—refused to alter his views to conform to the true teachings of the Faith.

On a more positive note, Robert Turner, Phoebe Hearst's butler, dropped to his knees when he came face-to-face with the Master crying, 'My Lord! My Lord! I am not worthy to be here!' Whereupon the Master raised him to his feet and "embraced him like a loving father." He became the first of his race in the West to embrace the Bahá'í Faith.

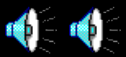


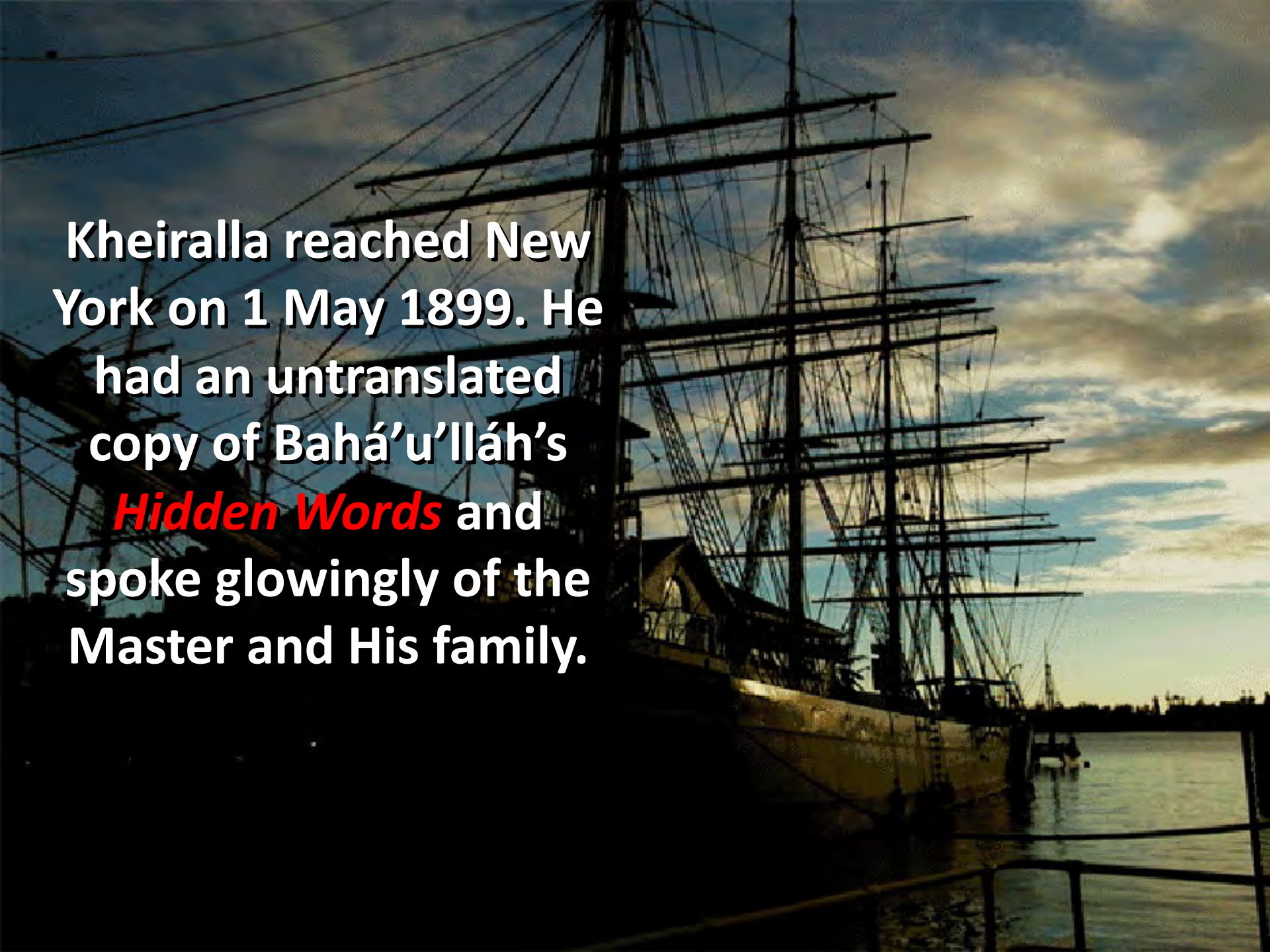
**Mr. Robert Turner 1855-
1909**

'Disciple of 'Abdu'l-Bahá'



AFTER tearful farewells
the pilgrims made their
way back to America,
while 'Abdu'l-Bahá
remained a Prisoner of
the Ottoman Empire;
though He once
reminded us that the
only prison was the
'prison of self.'





Kheiralla reached New York on 1 May 1899. He had an untranslated copy of Bahá'u'lláh's *Hidden Words* and spoke glowingly of the Master and His family.

Perhaps fearing the Getsinger's would expose his many false teachings that had been corrected by the Master, he began to slander Lua and Edward to the friends.



The Getsingers returned to the US just 19 days after Kheiralla. They brought along, The Kitab-i-Aqdas; a voice recording of 'Abdu'l-Baha; and His photograph. Instead of slandering Kheiralla they praised him to the skies. This caused Kheiralla to undermine his own credibility with the Bahá'ís.

1

Kitab-i-Aqdas

2

**Voice recording of
'Abdu'l-Bahá**

3



**Photograph of 'Abdu'l-
Bahá as a young Man**

ANOTHER CONTROVERSY

Is the Bahá'í Faith a 'Movement' or a religion to be organized?

- Most Bahá'ís retained their membership & participation in their church or synagogue.
- Many believed the Faith was never supposed to be organized feeling it was a *zeit geist* 'spirit of the times'.
- The Getsingers brought news from the Master that a *House of Justice* was to be established in every city & town.

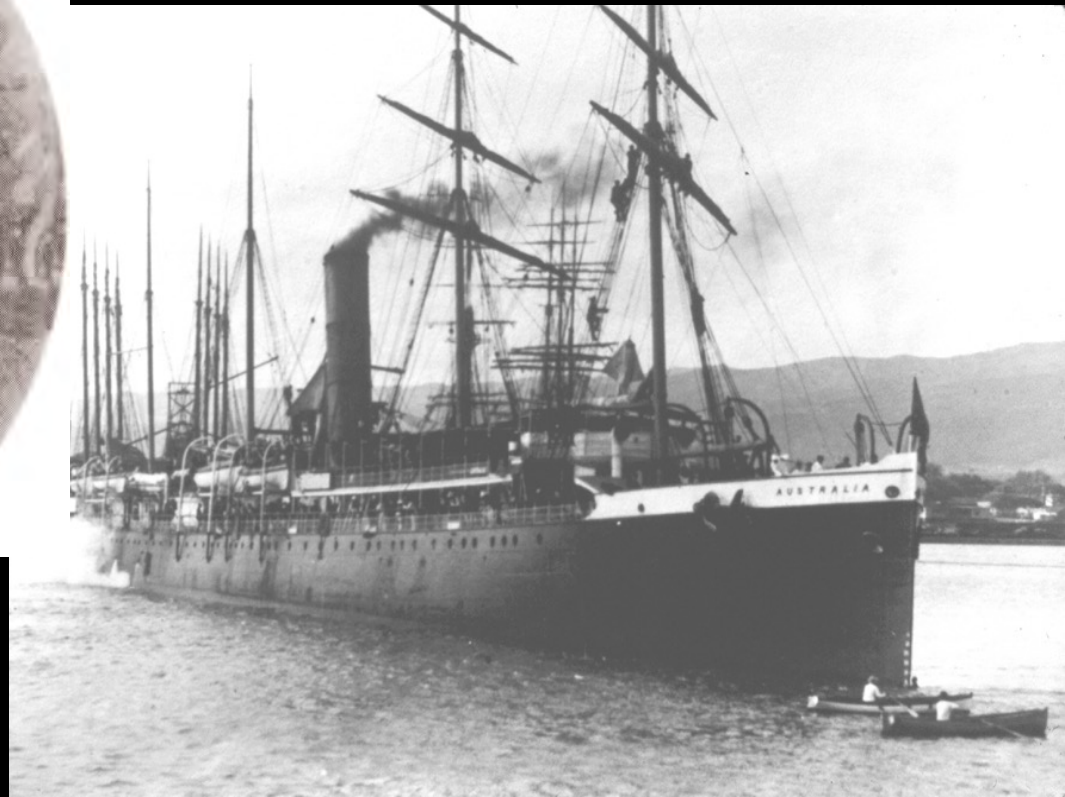


A time of great testing had come for the American Bahá'í Community.

- Their teacher—Ibrahim Kheiralla—was no longer the sole authority of Bahá'í knowledge. Many Americans had gone on pilgrimage and learned of the Faith from the Master Himself.
- Kheiralla asked Haddad to write the Master and ask that He authorize the publication of his book “as the fundamental basis of the Behai teachings in America”
- He wanted Tablets from the Master praising his work and commanding the American Believers to obey him.
- These and other demands deeply concerned Haddad who informed Phoebe Hearst.



**Mrs. Hearst financed
Haddad to travel to 'Akka
and lay the matter before
'Abdu'l-Bahá.**



It was around this time that Kheiralla gave an interview to the New York Herald newspaper in which he announced that he was the head of the Bahá'í 'centre' in America.



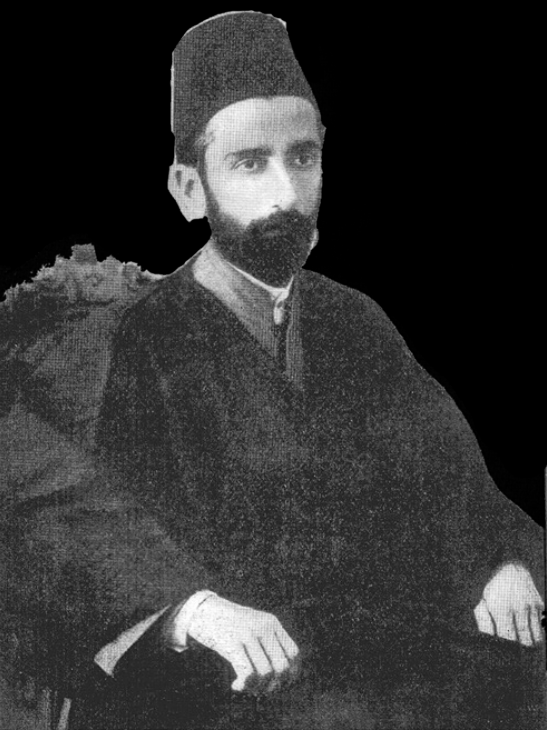
BEHÁ' U'LLAH
BY IBRAHIM KHEIRALLA



Kheiralla initiated correspondence with Mírzá Muhammad 'Alí—Arch-Breaker of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. For the edition of his book published in 1900 carried photographs of ...



Mírzá Muhammad 'Alí (1853/4-1937)
'Arch-Breaker of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant
and half-brother of the Master.



Mírzá Badí'u'lláh (1853/4-1937)—
another half-brother of the Master—
and a vacillating **Covenant-Breaker**,
who wrote a Confession of his deeds
that is mentioned in *The Will &*
Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



In late December 1899 Haddad returned from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and wrote **“A Message From ‘Akka”** which emphasized the spiritual requirements of Bahá’í teachers and suggested that believers should not claim special distinctions for themselves. And though ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was loving and forgiving towards Kheiralla and sent him Tablets—Kheiralla was outraged.



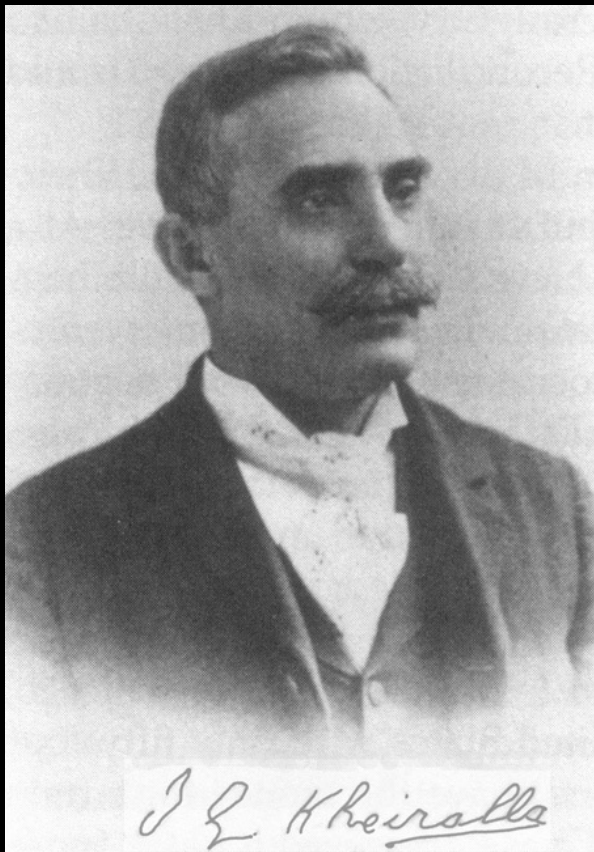


Anton Haddad ●

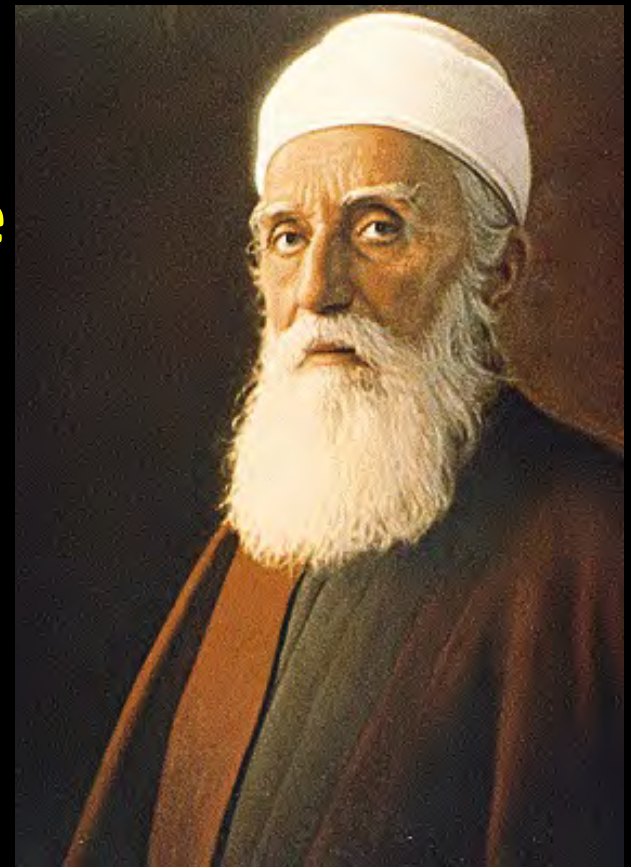
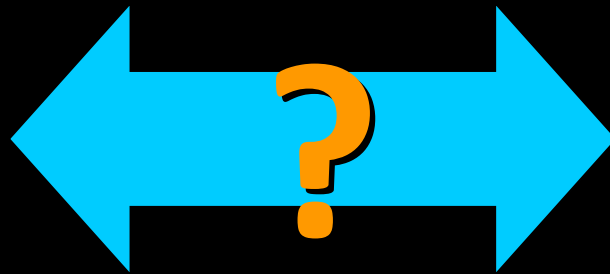
● ● ● Thornton Chase



In April 1900 'Abdu'l-Bahá sent 'Abdu'l-Karím Tihrání—Kheiralla's first teacher—to America to save Kheiralla and protect the Faith. He also did some valuable deepening.



By May 1900
matters had come
to a head.



The believers were now obligated to **choose** between their first teacher—Kheiralla—and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, appointed Center of the Covenant by Bahá'u'lláh and Authorized Interpreter of Bahá'í Scriptures and teachings.

The overwhelming majority of the Bahá'ís chose 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The few who followed Kheiralla in his newly established "Church of the Manifestation" vanished within a decade.

Bahá'í enrollments had increased exponentially from 1894 to 1899. They now underwent a serious decline. The crisis divided the Bahá'í community into two groups.

- Those who followed 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and wished to be obedient to the Covenant.**
- Those who wanted nothing more to do with the Faith and left it "to seek religious satisfaction elsewhere."**

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- Behai Publishing Board which printed *The Hidden Words* & eventually grew to become the Bahá'í Publishing Trust.
- Visit (1901-1904) of Mírzá Abu'l-Fadl, foremost Bahá'í scholar in the world, and publication of his book "Bahá'í Proofs."



Mírzá Abu'l-Fadl (1844-1914)

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- **Green Acre Bahá'í School** founded by Sarah Jane Farmer. It was a rallying place for Bahá'ís and center of Bahá'í learning.
- **Mírzá Abu'l-Fadl** gave classes at Green Acre.

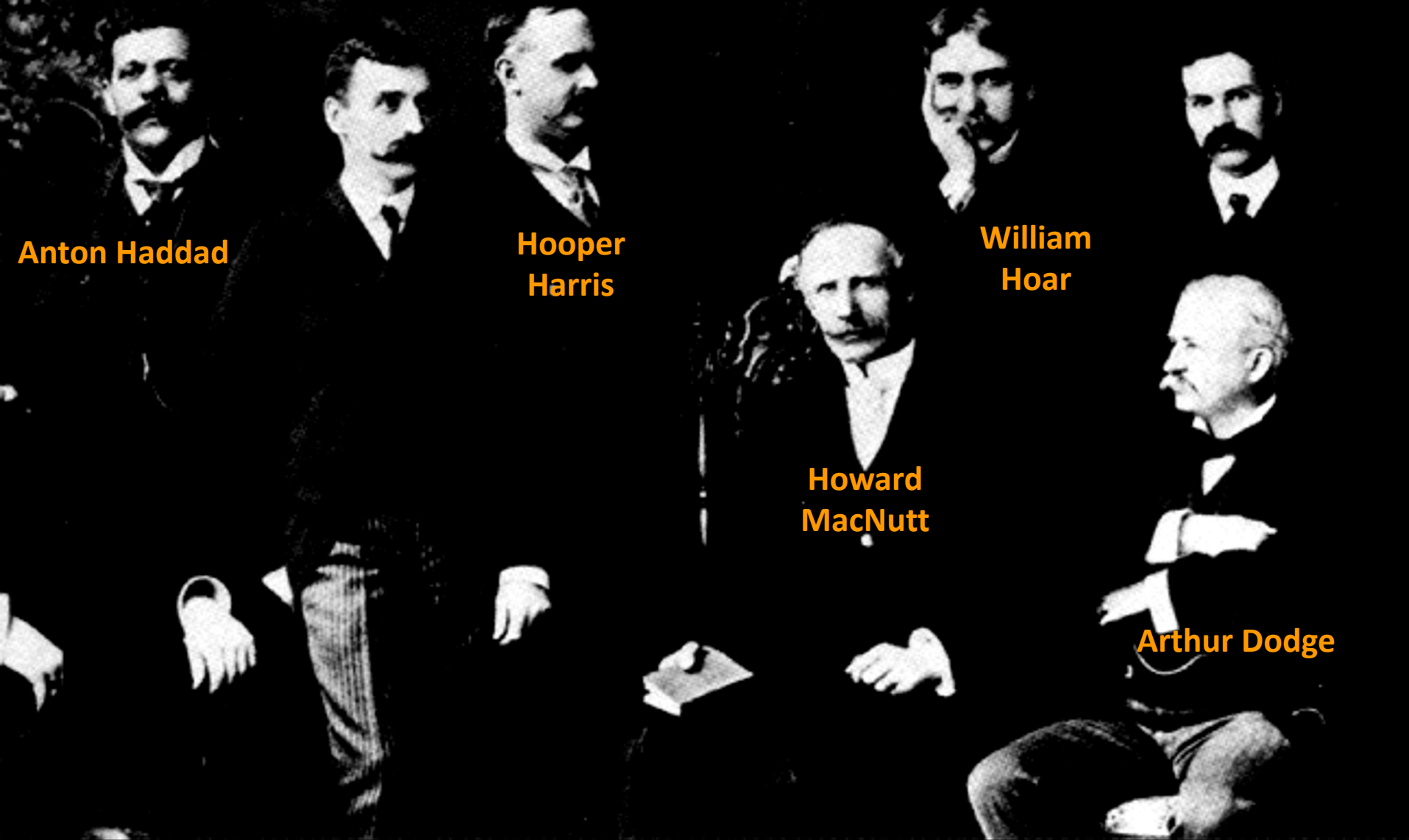


**Sarah Jane
Farmer &
Green Acre
(1847-1916)**



**Mírzá Abu'l-
Fadl and his
translator 'Alí
Kuli Khan.**

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES



Anton Haddad

Hooper
Harris

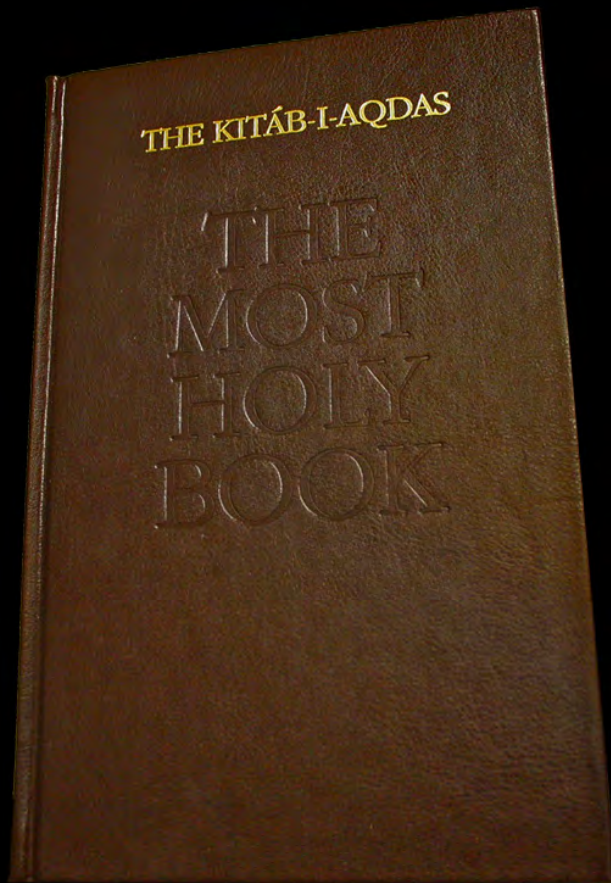
William
Hoar

Howard
MacNutt

Arthur Dodge

NYC Board of Counsel - 1900





When the Aqdas—brought back by the Getsingers—was translated it was seen that the administrative bodies were called “Houses of Justice;” the Boards changed their names accordingly. In 1902 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá advised that “Spiritual Assemblies” be used instead. Someday the name ‘Local House of Justice’ will replace ‘Local Spiritual Assembly.’

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- **Typed Tablets**
- **Bahá'í House of Worship**
- **Permission granted in 1903**

HE IS GOD!

O Thou Almighty Lord!

**Strengthen all mankind that
they may do according ...**



Laura Barney stands on Bahá'í Temple Land in Wilmette c1908.



The cornerstone of the 'Ishqábád House of worship laid in 1902.





Bahá'í Temple Unity - 1909



By an amazing coincidence that day—March 21st 1909—was the same day ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’í placed the remains of the Báb in His Shrine on Mt. Carmel.

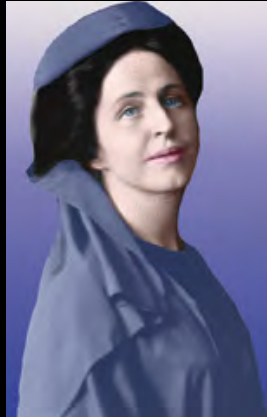


Clothing and possessions of the Báb



CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- Bahá'í traveling teachers, authors and letter writers....



Lua Getsinger



Thornton Chase



Isabella Brittingham



May Maxwell



Martha Root



CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- Returning pilgrims



Shoghi Effendi

Lua Getsinger

Laura Barney

Ethel Rosenberg

Claudia Coles

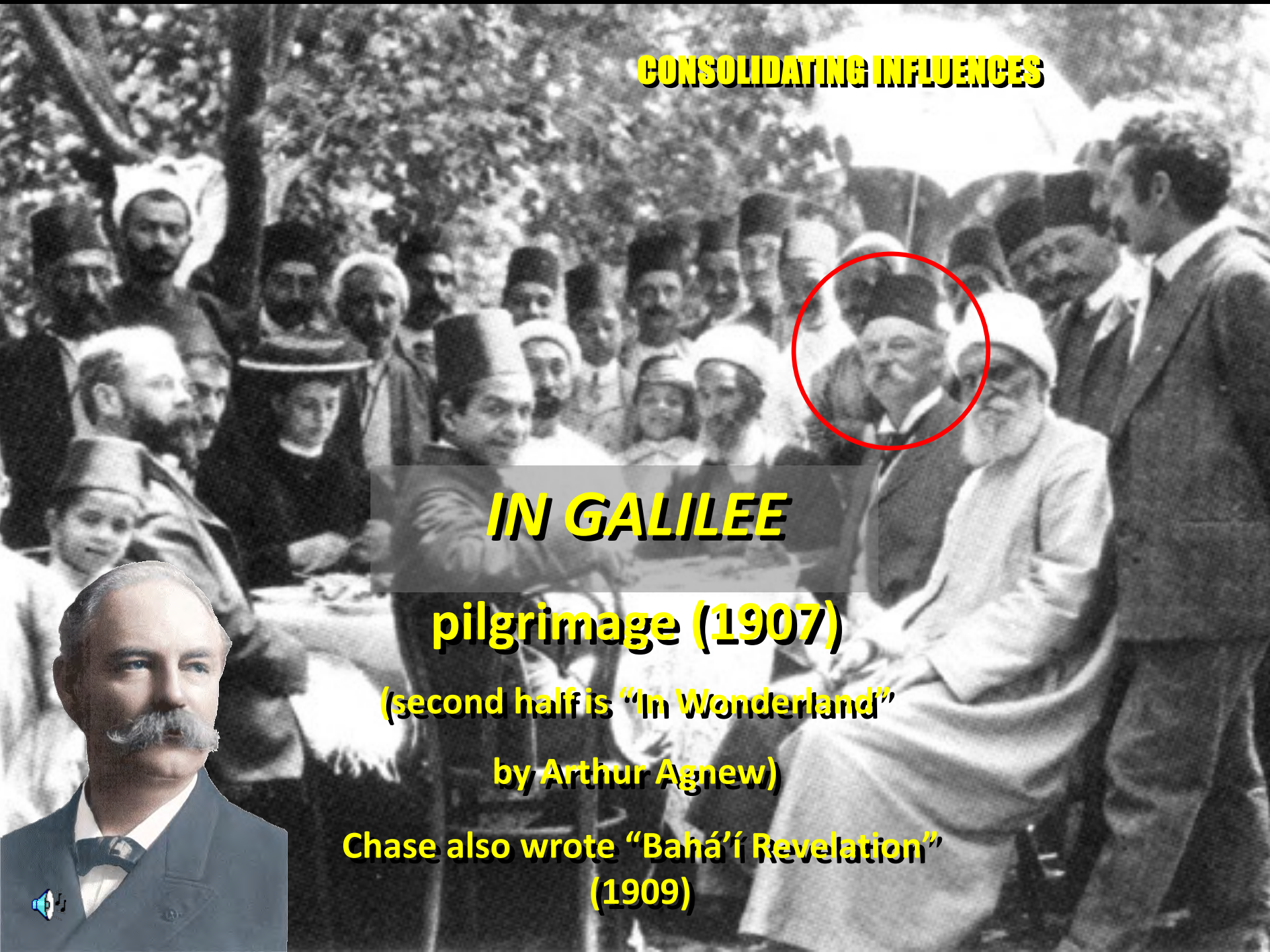
Charles Mason Remey

"Blessed the man," He, moreover, as confirmed by Baha'u'llah, had declared, "that hath visited `Akka, and blessed he that hath visited the visitor of `Akka."

1901 PILGRIMS



CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES



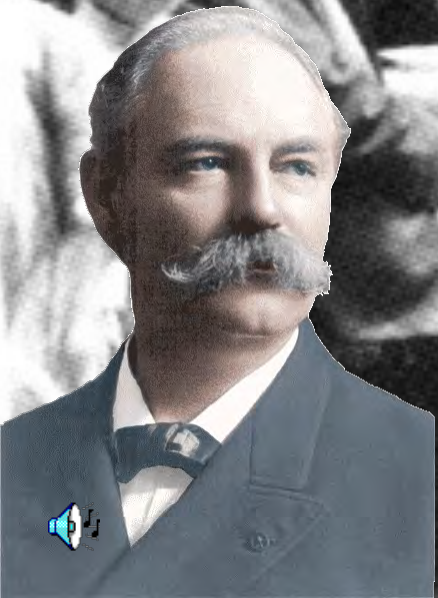
IN GALILEE

pilgrimage (1907)

(second half is "In Wonderland")

by Arthur Agnew)

Chase also wrote "Bahá'í Revelation"
(1909)



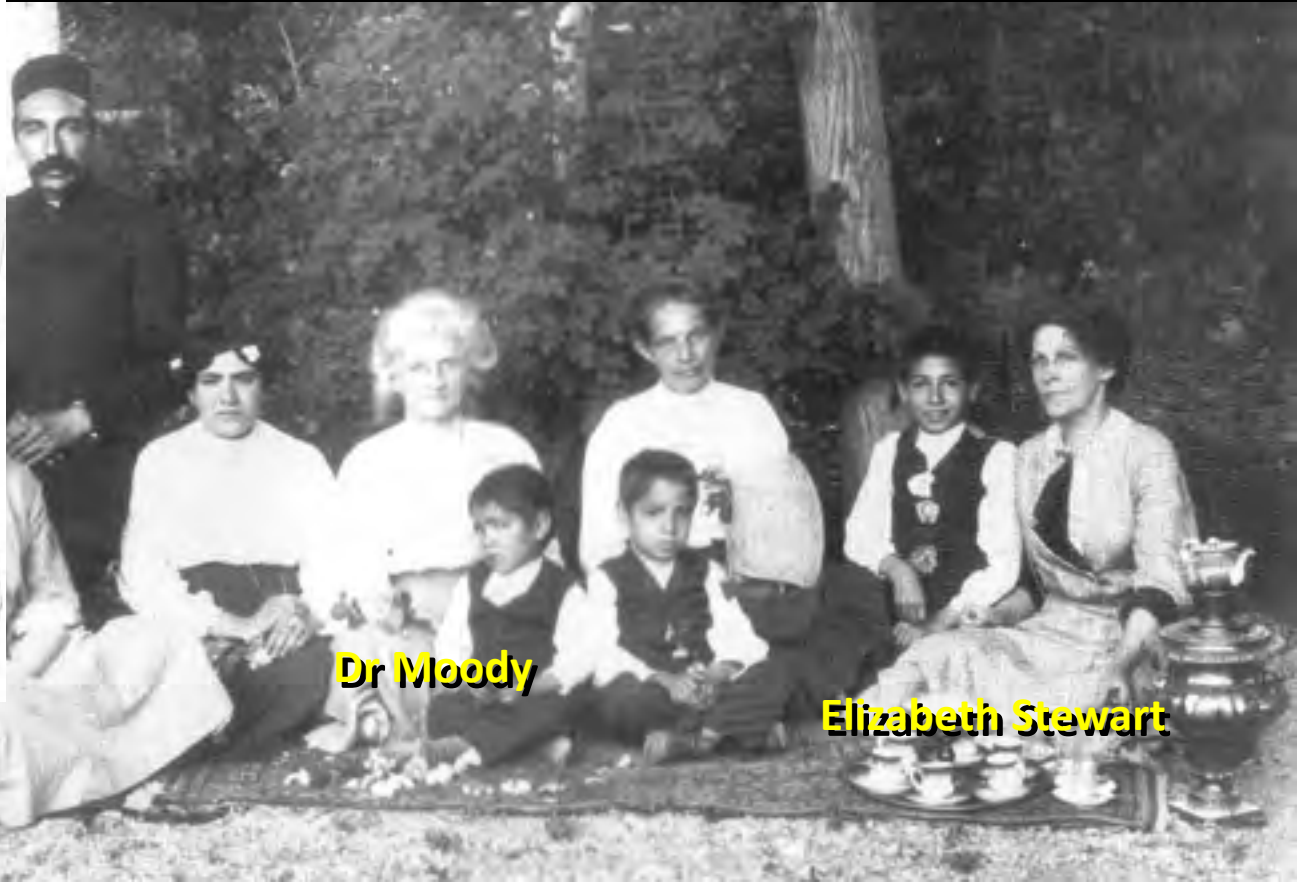
Tarbíyat Bahá'í School Tihran

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

- Lillian Kappes (1878-1920)
- Dr. Susan Moody (1851-1934)
- Elizabeth Stewart (left 1922)
- Dr Sarah Clock (d. 1922)



Lillian Kappes



Dr Moody

Elizabeth Stewart



The Disciples of 'Abdu'l-Bahá





Howard Struven

Charles Mason Remey

First global teaching trip

1909 -1910



Honolulu 1909

CONSOLIDATING INFLUENCES

Baha'i Bulletin

1908-1909

Star of the West began publication in March, 1910 and continued until March 1935.



STORYTELLING

- **MAY (NEE BOLLES) MAXWELL (1870-1940)**
- **AGNES BALDWIN ALEXANDER (1875-1971)**
- **THOMAS BREAKWELL
(1872-1902)**



May Bolles



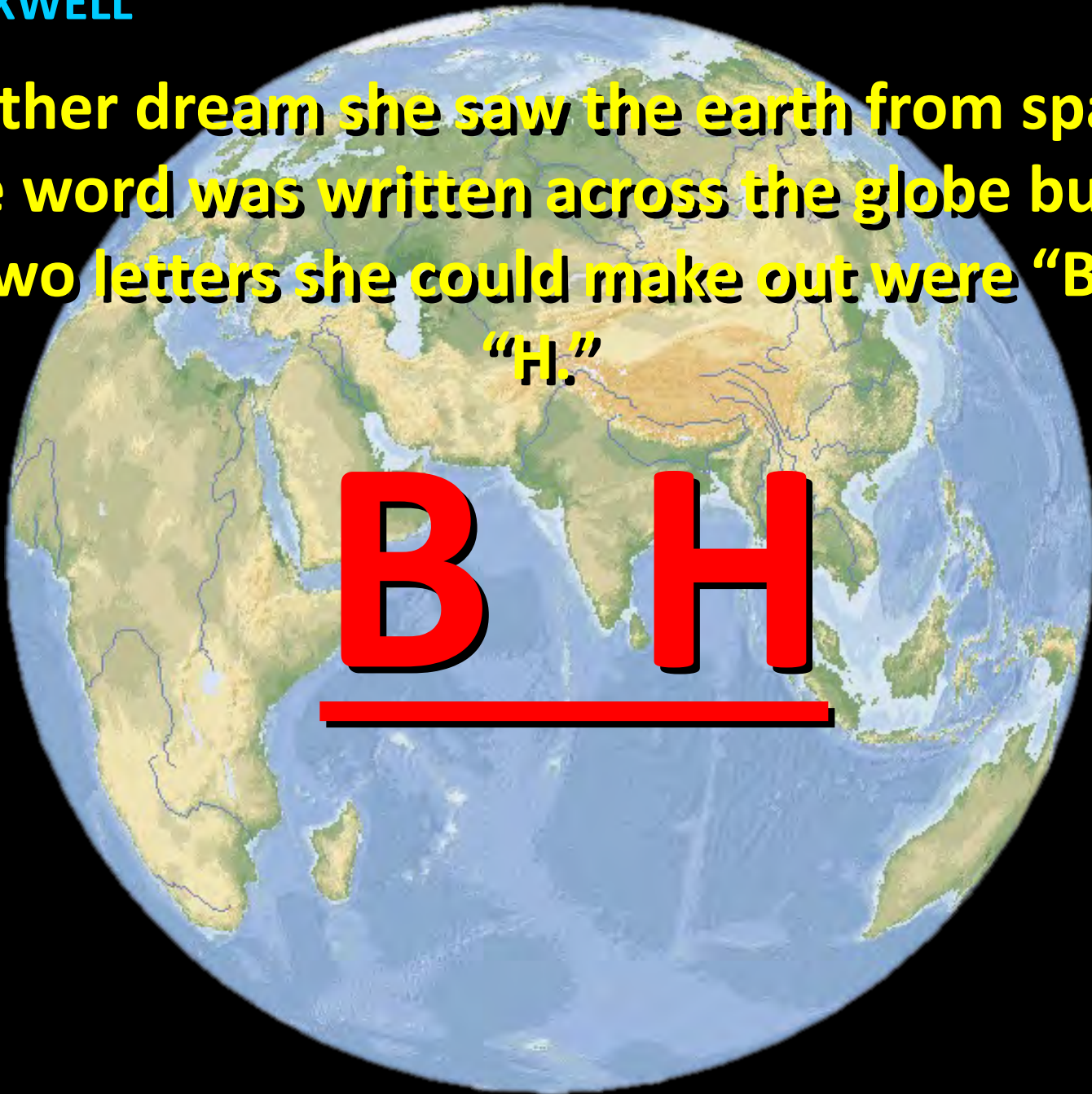
MAY MAXWELL

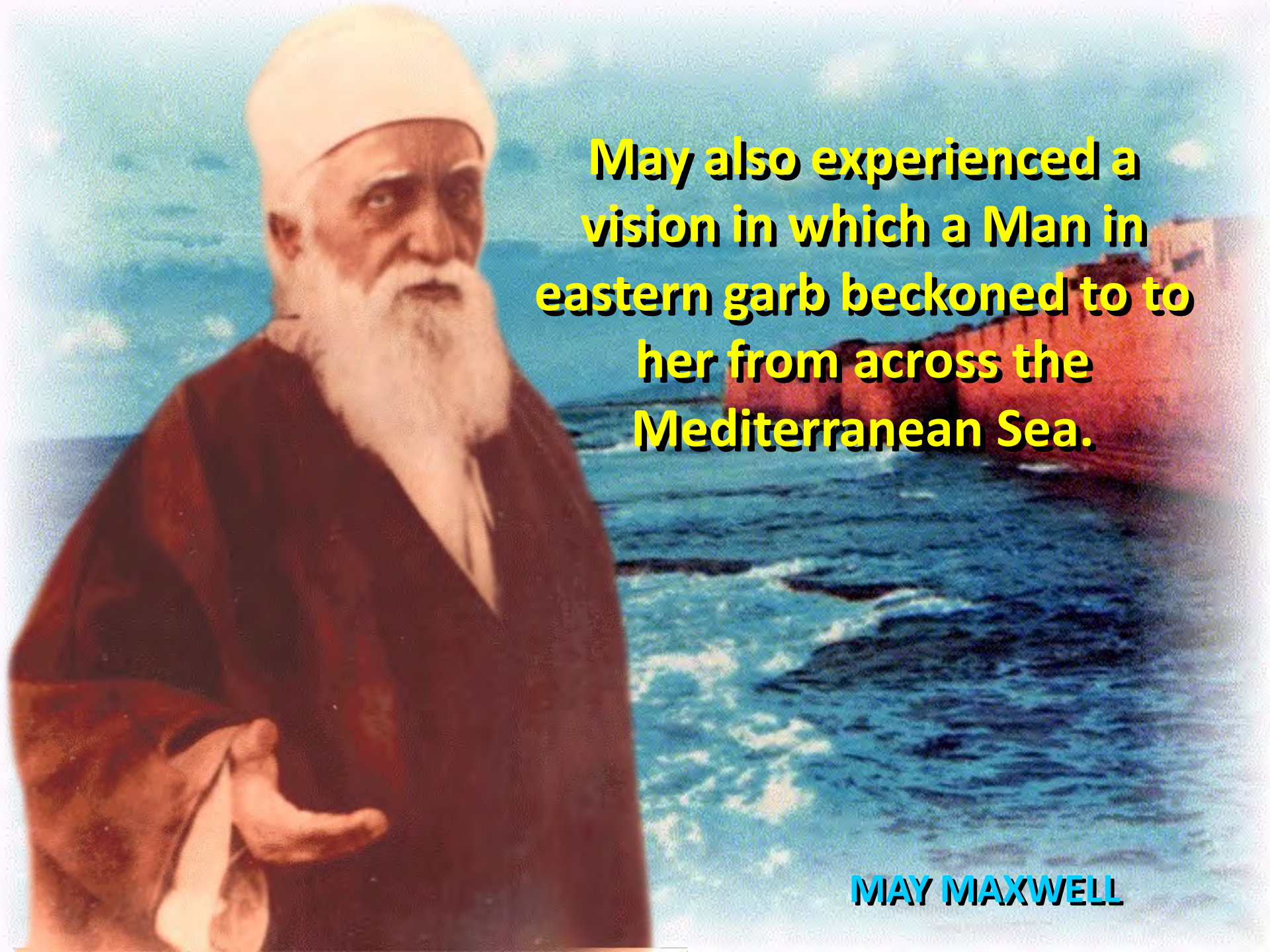
As a child she had a dream in which she experienced a flash of light so bright she was blinded for a day.



MAY MAXWELL

In another dream she saw the earth from space. A single word was written across the globe but the only two letters she could make out were "B" and "H."

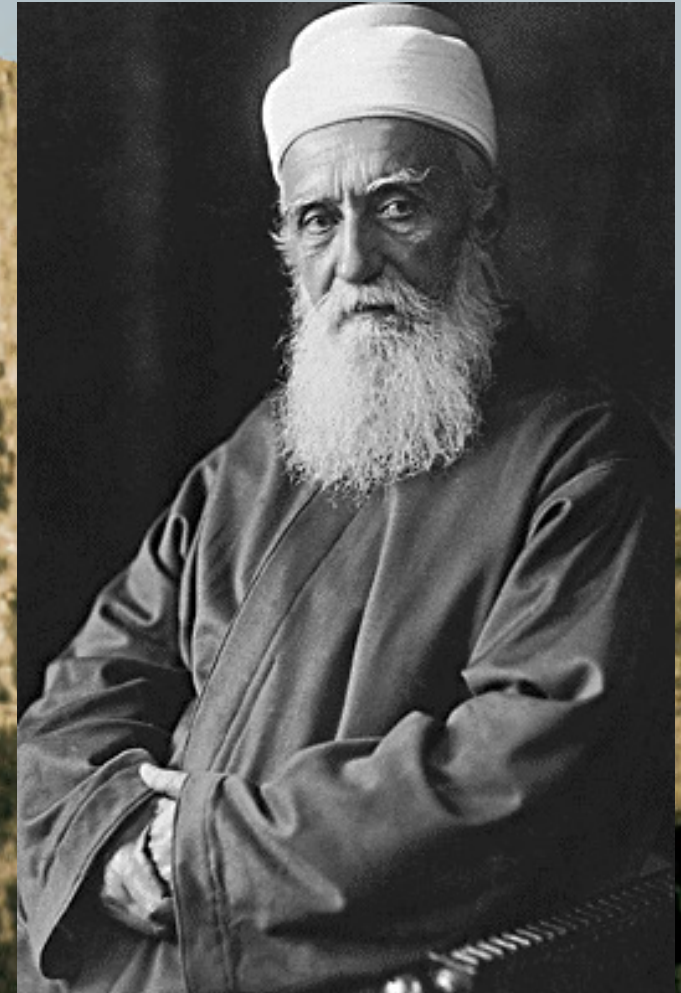




May also experienced a vision in which a Man in eastern garb beckoned to to her from across the Mediterranean Sea.

MAY MAXWELL

When May reached Akka and met 'Abdu'l-Bahá she was amazed to discover He was the same Man she had seen in her vision years before.





May Bolles – Paris 1901 – She became the “Heart” of the Paris Bahá’í community.



MAY MAXWELL

On August 8, 1910 she gave birth to Mary Sutherland Maxwell who would marry Shoghi Effendi in 1937. The Master once said of May, that association with her “uplifts and develops the soul.”



MAY MAXWELL



MAY MAXWELL WON A 'DOUBLE CROWN' OF MARTYRDOM 'DESERVEDLY WON' UPON HER PASSING IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA ON MARCH 1ST, 1940.

1870-1940



STORYTELLING

- AGNES BALDWIN ALEXANDER (1875-1971)



AGNES ALEXANDER

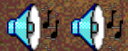


Agnes around 1900.



AGNES ALEXANDER

By late November she was staying in a pension in Rome when she noticed a radiant lady and her two daughters.



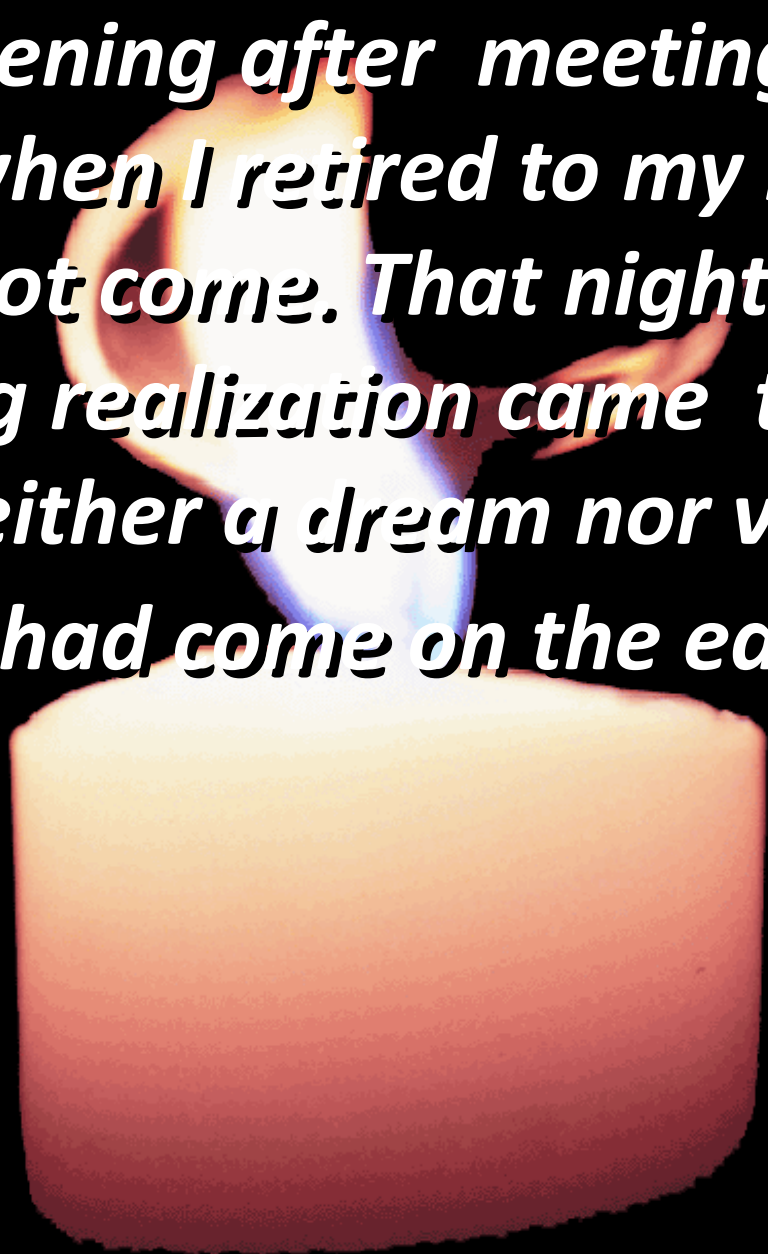
AGNES ALEXANDER

**Mrs. Charlotte
Dixon of
Maryland**



AGNES ALEXANDER

THE THIRD evening after meeting with Mrs. Dixon, when I retired to my room, sleep did not come. That night an overwhelming realization came to me, which was neither a dream nor vision, that Christ had come on the earth.

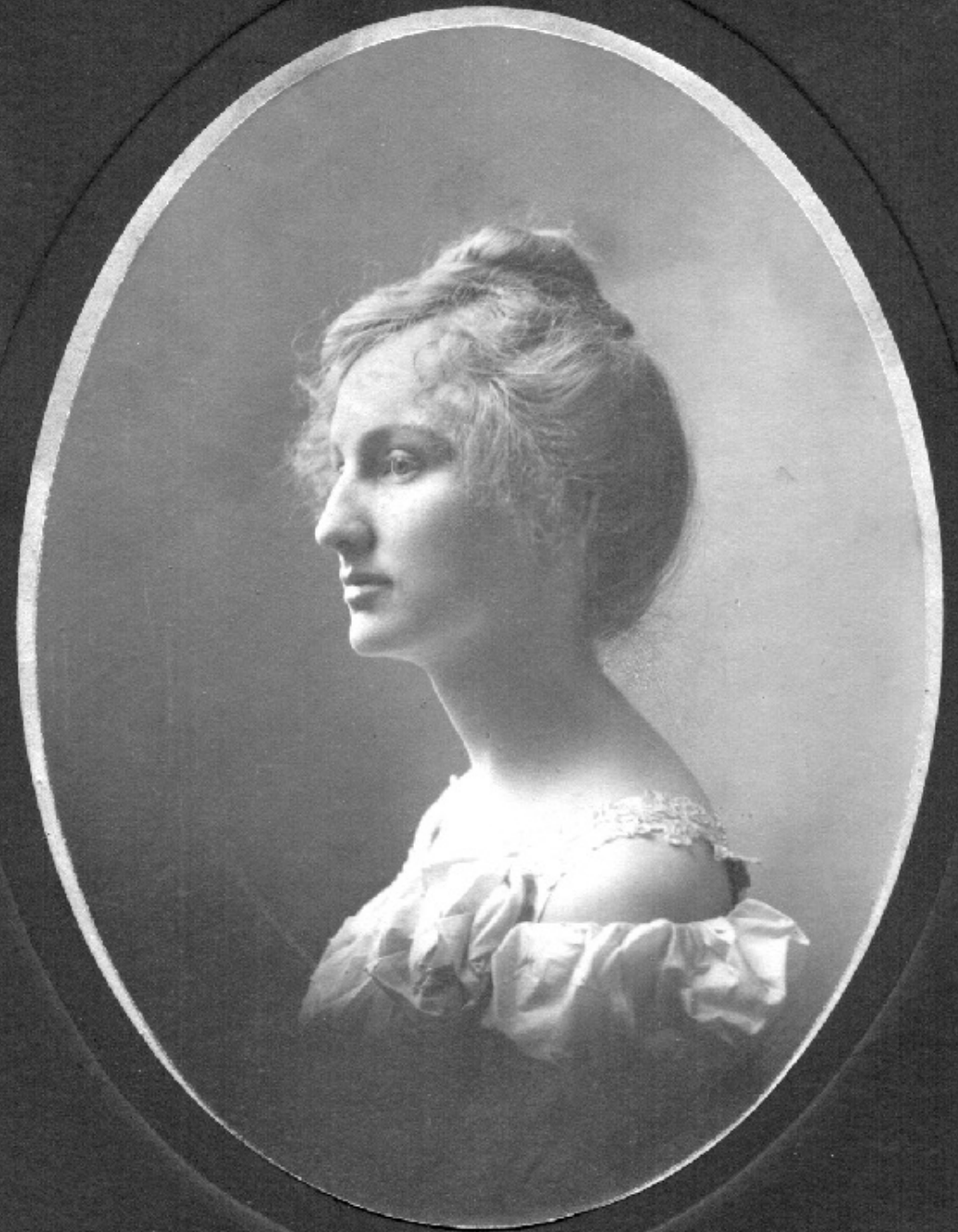
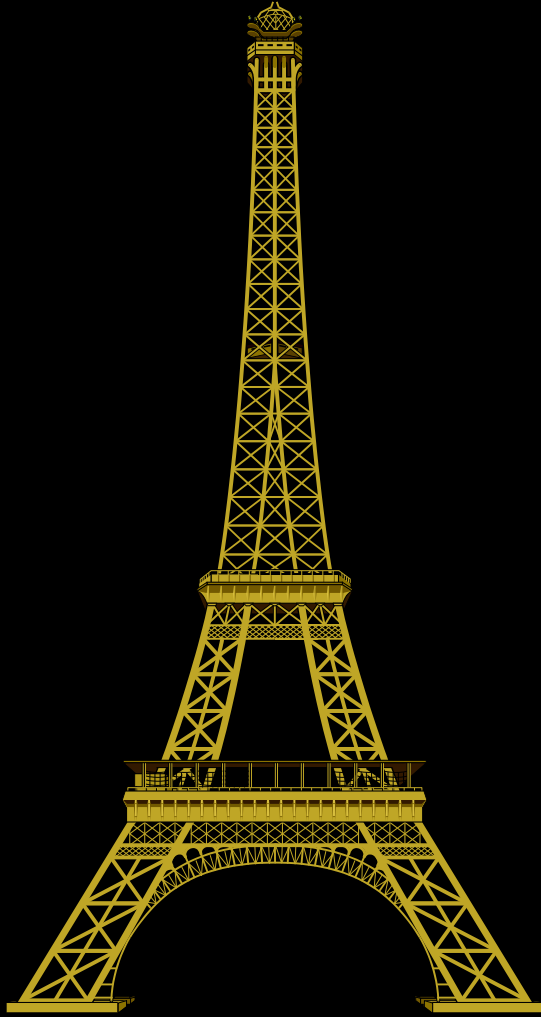


AGNES ALEXANDER

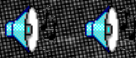
The next morning Agnes said to Mrs. Dixon "Christ is on this earth!" She replied, "Yes, I can see by your face that you know it." 'Abdu'l-Bahá later wrote her in Tablet "By God, the Truth, the Spirit of Christ from the Supreme Concourse doth in every time and aspect announce to thee this Great Good News."



AGNES ALEXANDER



AGNES ALEXANDER



AGNES ALEXANDER



1902

KANICHI

YAMAMOTO

1879-1961

**1st Japanese Bahá'í in
the World**

AGNES ALEXANDER



In 1964 Miss Alexander represented The Universal House of Justice at the election of the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Hawaiian Islands.



AGNES ALEXANDER

“At this time, in the island of Hawaii, through the efforts of Miss Alexander, a number of souls have reached the shore of the sea of faith! Consider ye, what happiness, what joy is this! I declare by the Lord of Hosts that had this respected daughter founded an empire, that empire would not have been so great! For this sovereignty is eternal sovereignty and this glory is everlasting glory.”

-’Abdu’l-Bahá

STORYTELLING

- **THOMAS BREAKWELL
(1872-1902)**





In the summer of 1901 May's mother wanted her daughter to accompany her to Brittany. May said she could not. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had told her she must not—under any circumstance—leave Paris at that time.



THOMAS BREAKWELL



Meanwhile a young Englishman—Thomas Breakwell—who was on holidays from his job in America was directed to meet May if he wanted to discuss spiritual topics.



May did not mention the Faith by name at their first meeting. The next day he arrived and said, *“When I was here yesterday, I felt a power, an influence that I had felt once before in my life, when for a period of three months I was continually in communion with God.”*



THOMAS BREAKWELL



He said that the day before he had walked along the Champs Elysees when a wind came up and from that wind a “voice said, with an indescribable sweetness and penetration, 'Christ has come again! Christ has come again!’” May then told him of the Faith and he accepted at once. He penned his declaration to ‘Abdu’l-Baha in these two lines:

**'My Lord, I believe, forgive me,
Thy servant Thomas Breakwell.'**

THOMAS BREAKWELL



The next day May posted Breakwell's declaration to 'Akka. That evening, before Breakwell's letter could have reached 'Akka, a cable came from 'Abdu'l-Bahá which said,

YOU MAY LEAVE PARIS AT ANY TIME



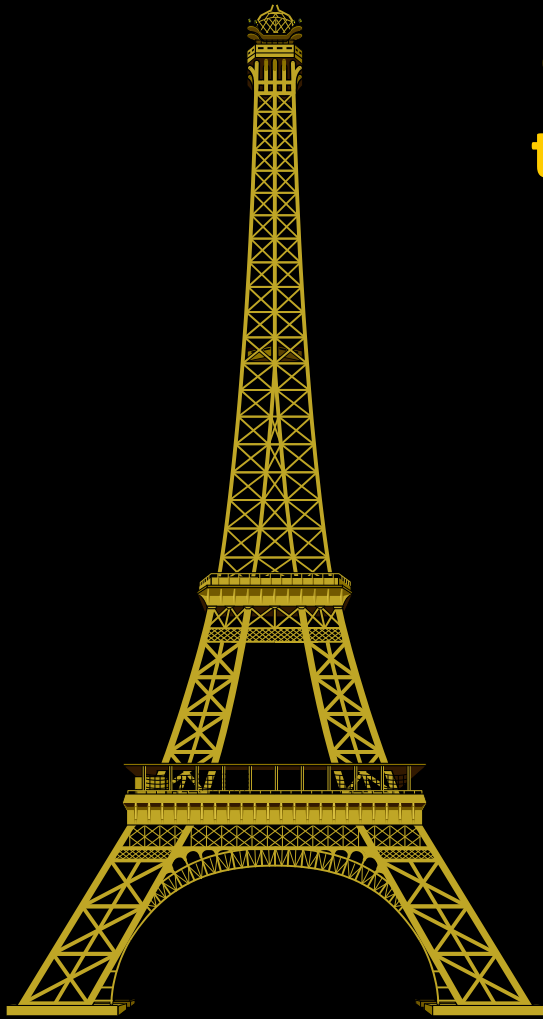
THOMAS BREAKWELL



That same year Breakwell made a three day pilgrimage to his Lord. One of the Persian believers living there said of Breakwell's visit,

'The fervour and the faith of this young man were so sublime in character that the blessed name of Breakwell shall ring throughout the centuries, and shall be remembered with deep affection in many chronicles.'





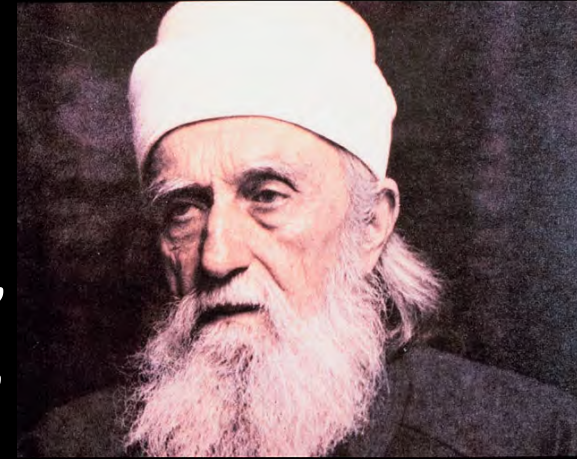
Breakwell was a Bahá'í only one year when he died of tuberculosis in Paris. One of the believers in 'Akka said that the Master seemed to be in some kind of mystic communication with him. Breakwell did not appeal for healing and said shortly before passing,

'Suffering is a heady wine ... torments of the flesh have enabled me to draw much nearer to my Lord'

THOMAS BREAKWELL

One day in 'Akka the Master suddenly turned to one of his secretaries and said, 'Have you heard?' 'No, Master,' I replied, He said:

'Breakwell has passed away. I am grieved, very grieved. I have revealed a prayer of visitation for him. It is very moving, so moving that twice I could not withhold my tears when I was writing it. You must translate it well, so that whoever reads it will weep.'



THOMAS BREAKWELL

O Breakwell, O my dear one!

Where now is thy fair face?

Where is thy fluent tongue?

**Where thy clear brow? Where
thy bright comeliness?**

O Breakwell, O my dear one!

**Where is thy fire, blazing
with God's love? Where is thy
rapture at His holy breaths?**

**Where are thy praises, lifted
unto Him? Where is thy rising
up to serve His Cause?**



THOMAS BREAKWELL

O Breakwell, O my dear one!

**Where are thy beauteous eyes?
Thy smiling lips?**

**Thy princely cheek? Thy graceful
form?**

O Breakwell, O my dear one!

**Thou hast quit this earthly world
and risen upward to the Kingdom,
thou hast reached unto the grace
of the invisible realm, and offered
thyself at the threshold of its
Lord.**

O Breakwell, O my dear one!



THOMAS BREAKWELL was a Bahá'í only one year but was so transformed that his name will live forever.

When Hand of the Cause of God George Townshend died Shoghi Effendi said that Townshend would rank as one of the “three luminaries” of the United Kingdom along with *Thomas Breakwell* and Dr John Esslemont.





**Young Turk
Revolution of
1908**

**'Abdu'l-Bahá
began His
Western Tour
1911-1913**





'Abdu'l-Bahá's

Visit to America


April – December 1912

**A FEW VIGNETTES OF HIS
SOJOURN IN AMERICA**



ABDU'L-BAHÁ ARRIVED 11 APRIL 1912



S.S. CEDRIC. 

Wm. J. Bailey

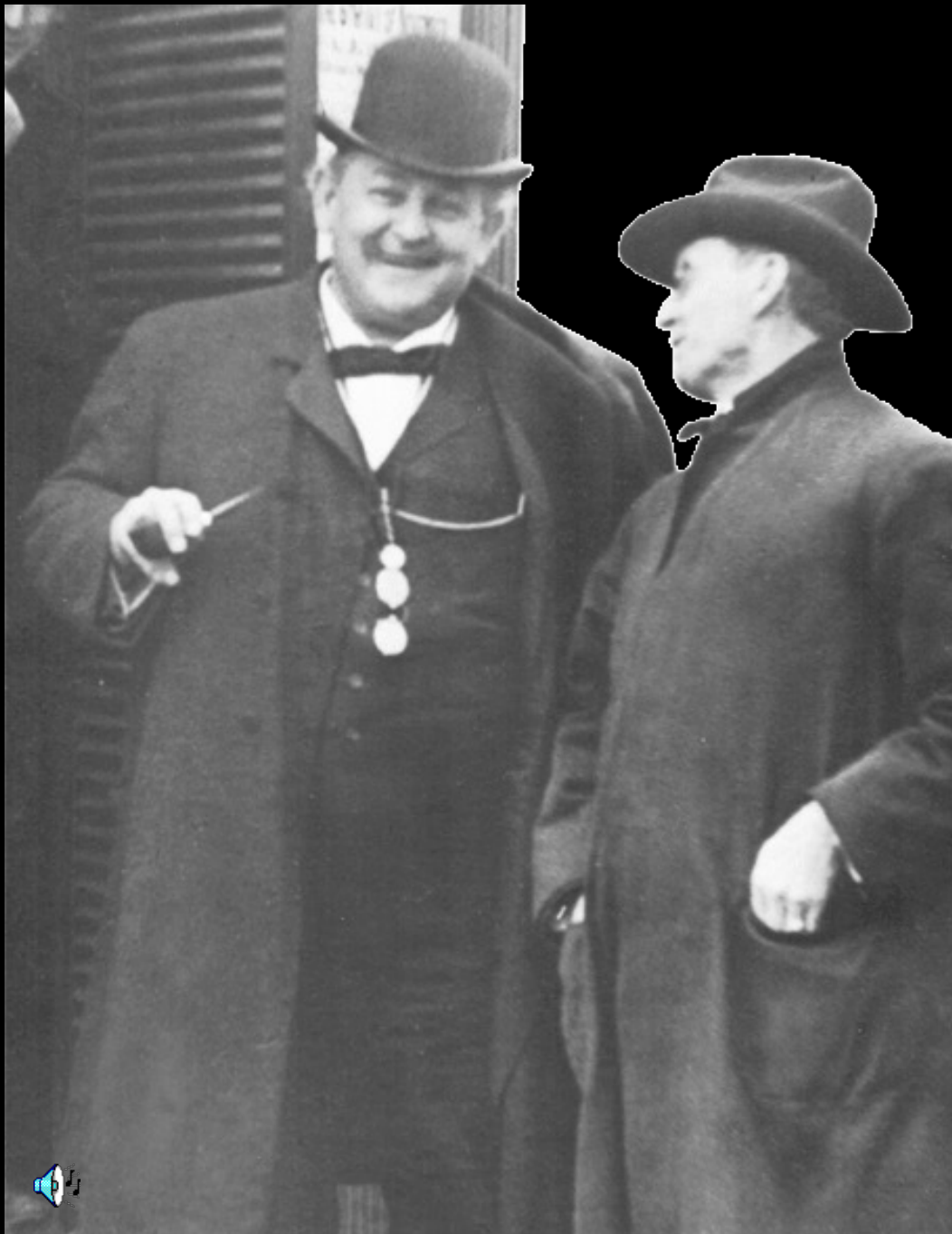


7 May 1912



**Martha Root
arranged a
public meeting
at the Hotel
Schenley in
Pittsburgh
where 400
heard Him
speak!**





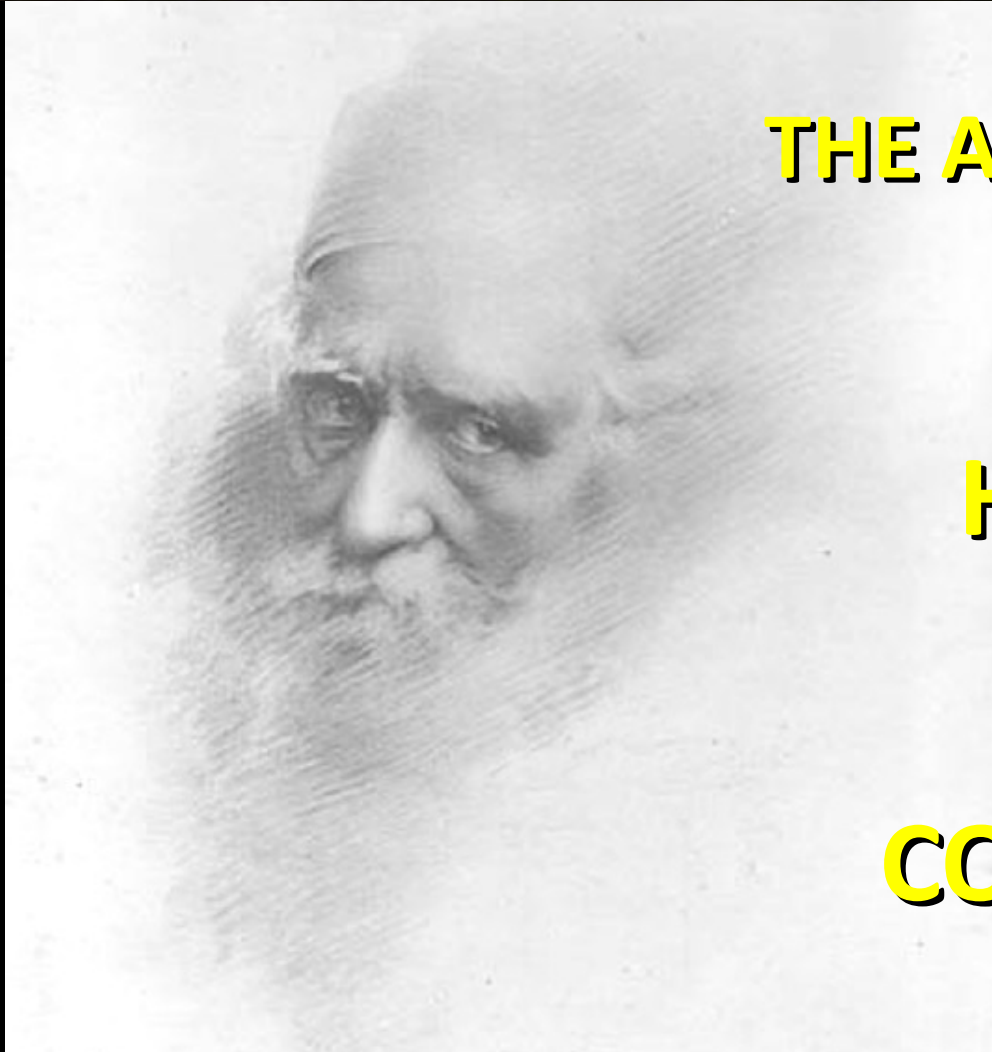
**Single Tax
Movement
asked the
Master for a
message for
their members.**





'Abdu'l-Bahá & Sarah Jane Farmer - 1912





THE APPOINTMENT

of the

HERALD

of the

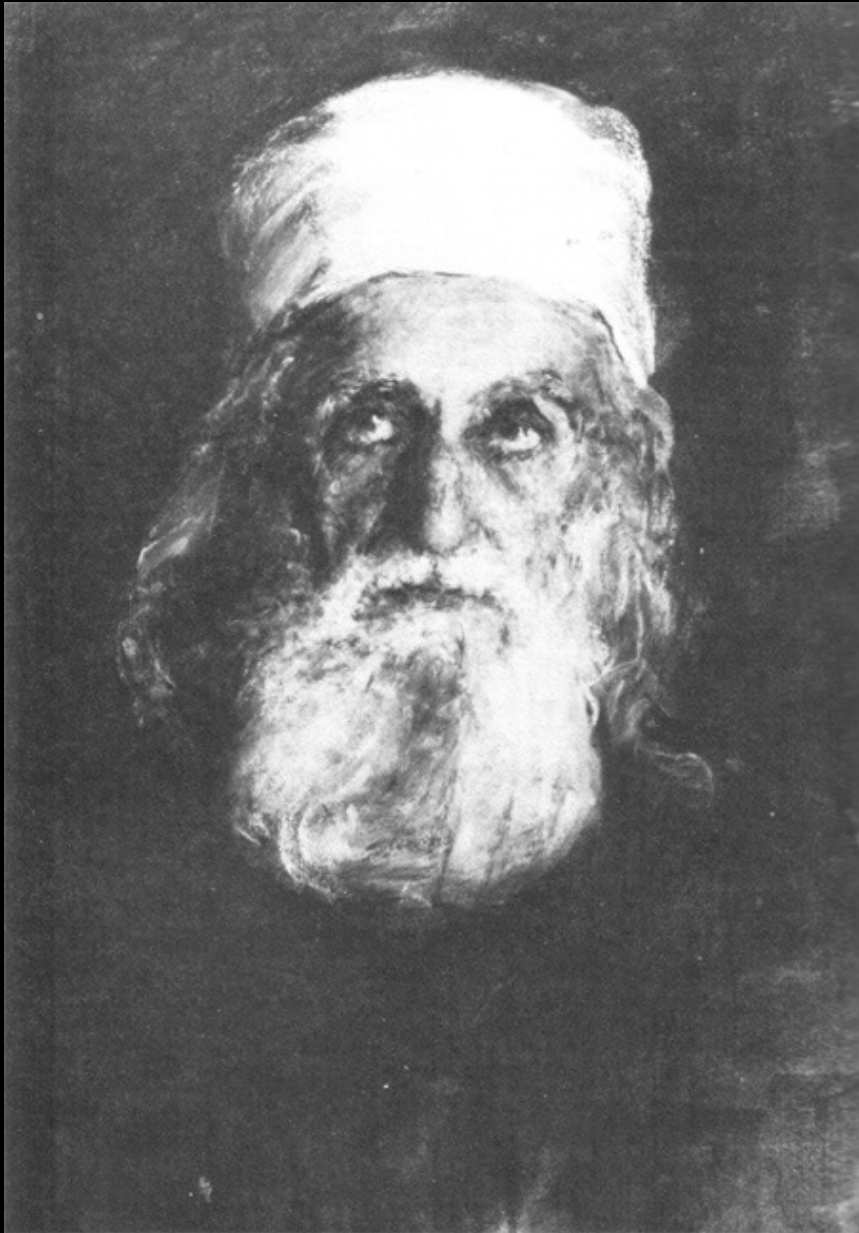
COVENANT



**The Master in
Juliet
Thompson's
studio with Lua
on 5 July 1912**

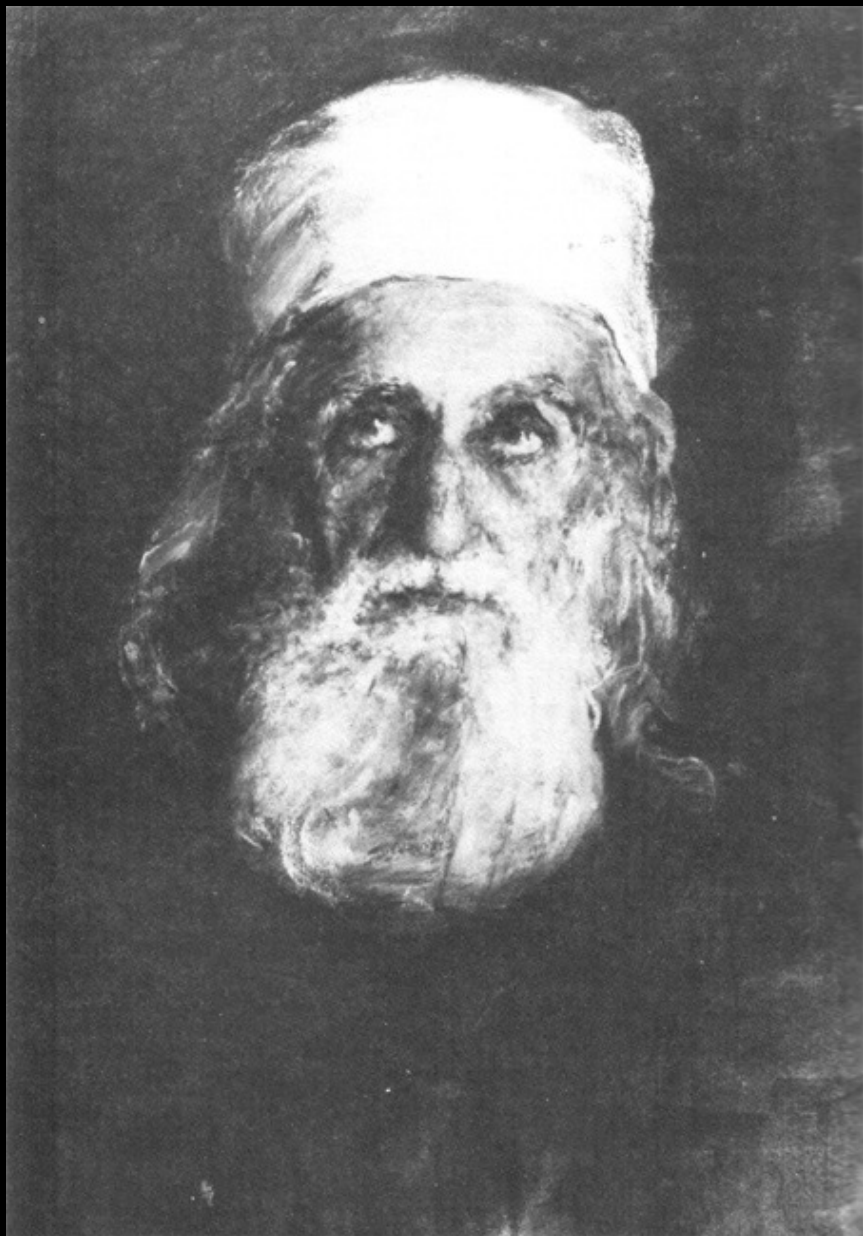
Juliet Thompson 1873-1956





The Master had sat a number of times for Juliet to paint Him. On this day He closed His eyes as if sleeping.

“Suddenly, with a great flash like lightening He opened His eyes and the room seemed to rock like a ship in a storm... Lua and I sat shaking and sobbing.”



He spoke to Lua.

**“I appoint you, Lua,
Herald of the Covenant.**

**And I AM THE
COVENANT appointed by
Bahá'u'lláh. . . . Go
forth and proclaim, ‘This
is THE COVENANT OF
GOD in your midst.’”**



**“A great joy had lifted Lua up.
Her eyes were full of light.
She looked like a winged
angel. “O recreate me,” she
cried, “that I may do this
work for Thee!”**

**“Juliet too wants to be
recreated.”**



Juliet





Enroute to Visit
**ALEXANDER
GRAHAM BELL**

'Abdu'l-Bahá's automobile



***'O Baha'u'llah! What hast Thou
done!***


***O Baha'u'llah! May my life be
sacrificed for Thee!***

***O Baha'u'llah! May my soul be
offered up for Thy sake!***

***How full were Thy days with trials
and tribulation! How severe the
ordeals Thou didst endure! How
solid the foundations Thou hast
finally laid, and how glorious the
banner Thou didst hoist.'***



**ALEXANDER
GRAHAM BELL**



**The Master Dedicates
the Bahá'í House of Worship in
Wilmette, Illinois
May 1, 1912**



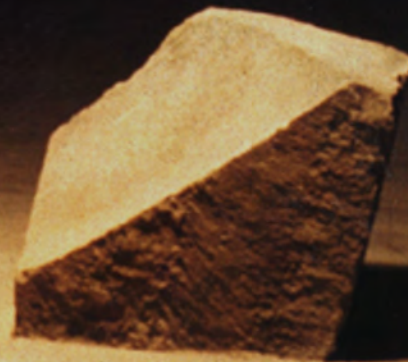


'Abdu'l-Baha laid the cornerstone of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Chicago. The stone had been brought to the building site with great difficulty by Mrs. Nettie Tobin, a believer who had no money and nothing else to offer.

[Jesus said]

'And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner'

-Mark 12:10



**The Master visits the
Maxwell home in
Montreal, Canada**



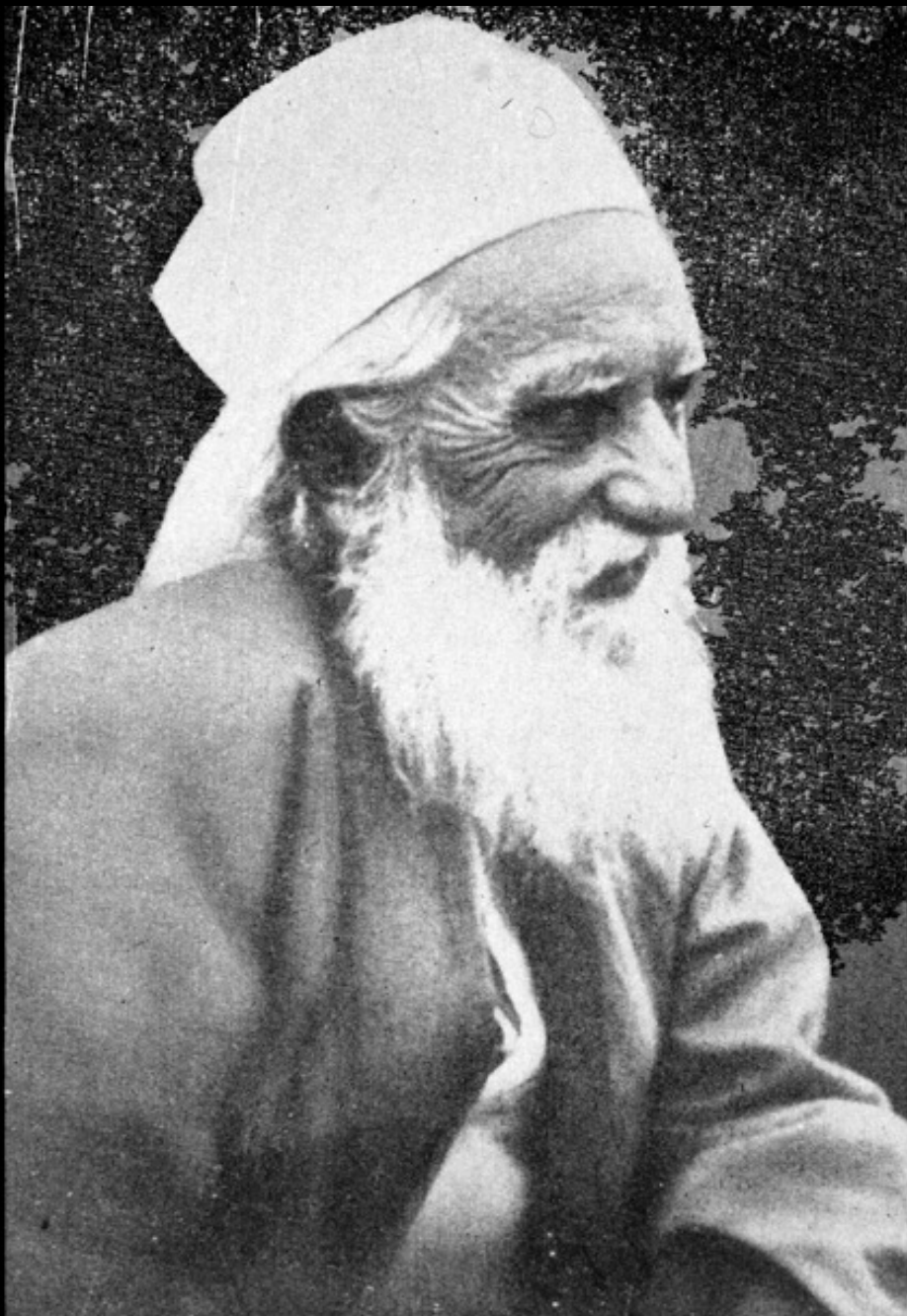
**William
Sutherland
Maxwell**



**May Bolles
Maxwell**



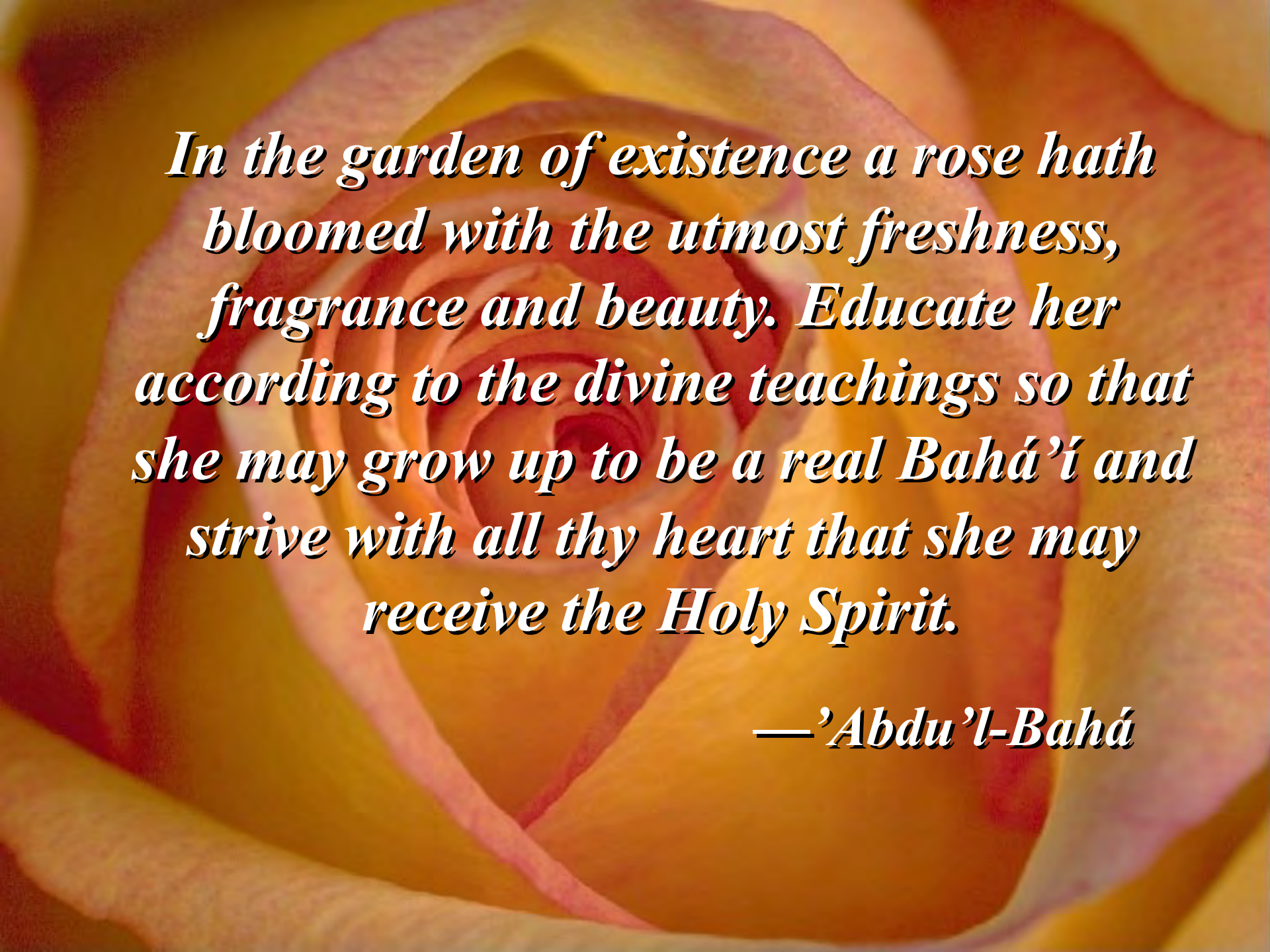
“Today I was resting on the *chaise longue* in my bedroom. The little girl came in to me and pushed my eyelids up with her small finger and said, ...



“Wake up, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá!’ I took her in my arms and placed her head on my chest and we both had a good sleep.”



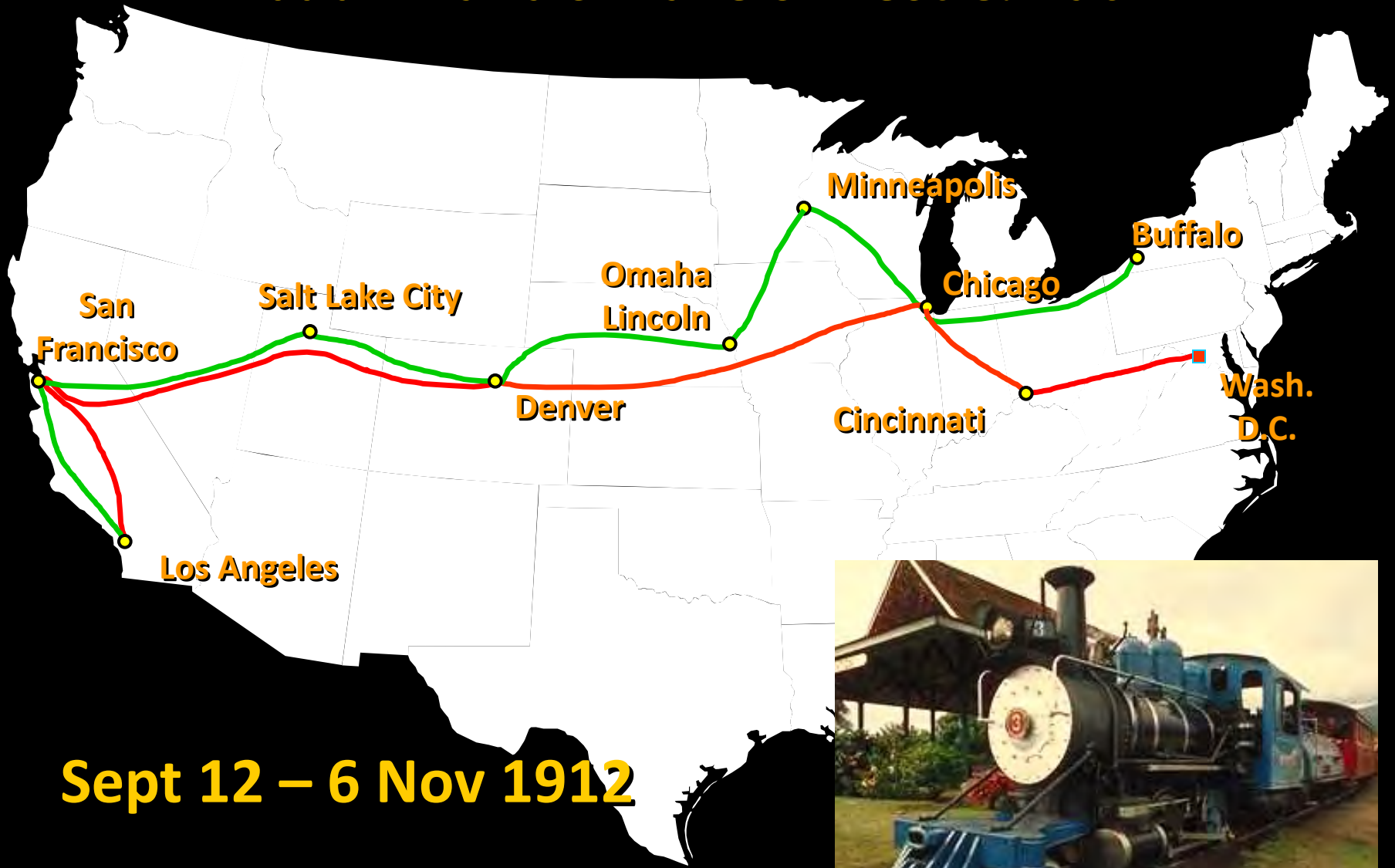
2 year old Mary



In the garden of existence a rose hath bloomed with the utmost freshness, fragrance and beauty. Educate her according to the divine teachings so that she may grow up to be a real Bahá'í and strive with all thy heart that she may receive the Holy Spirit.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

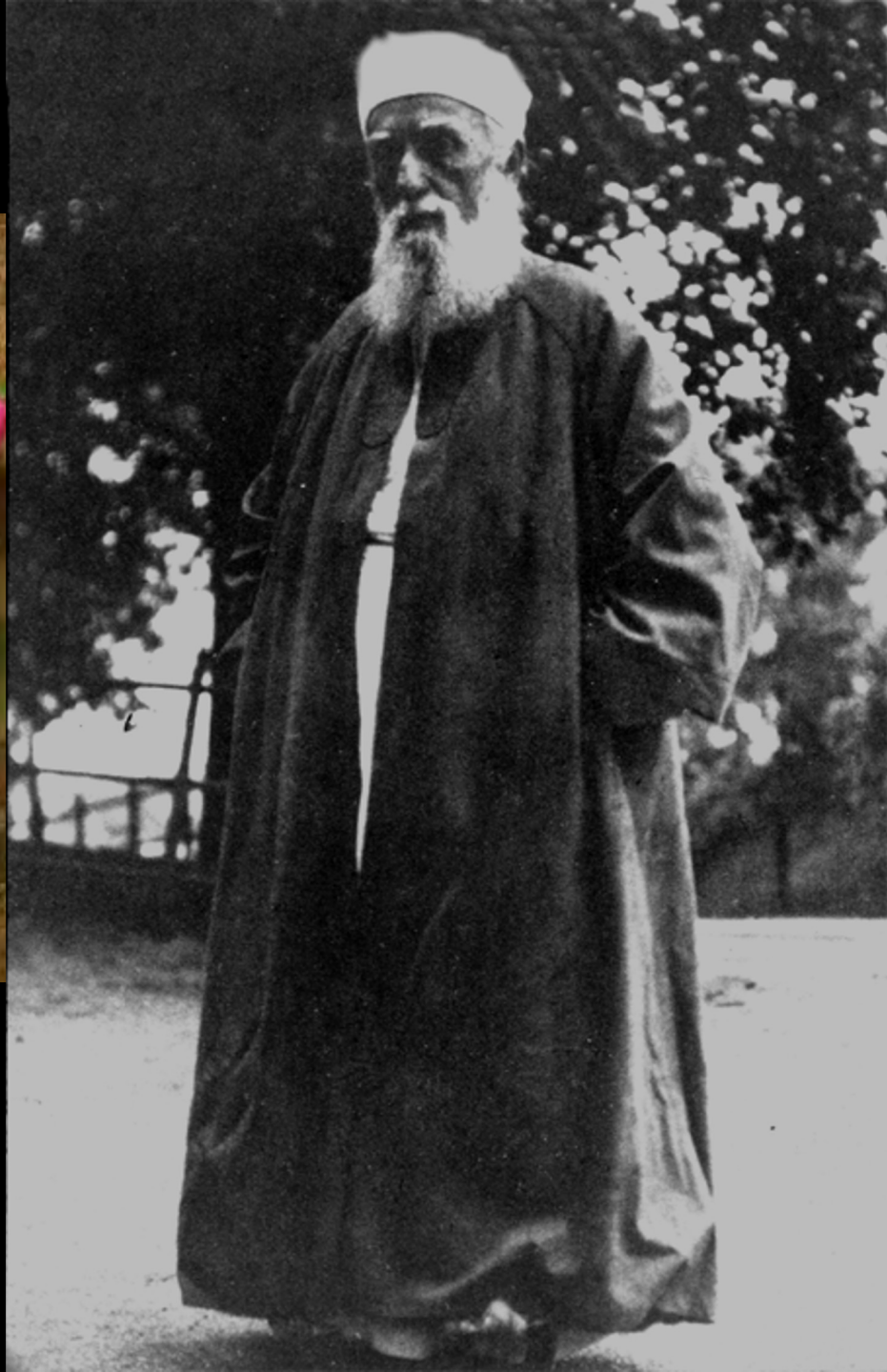
'Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels West & Back



**The Master Visits the Grave
of
THORNTON CHASE**

FIRST AMERICAN BELIEVER





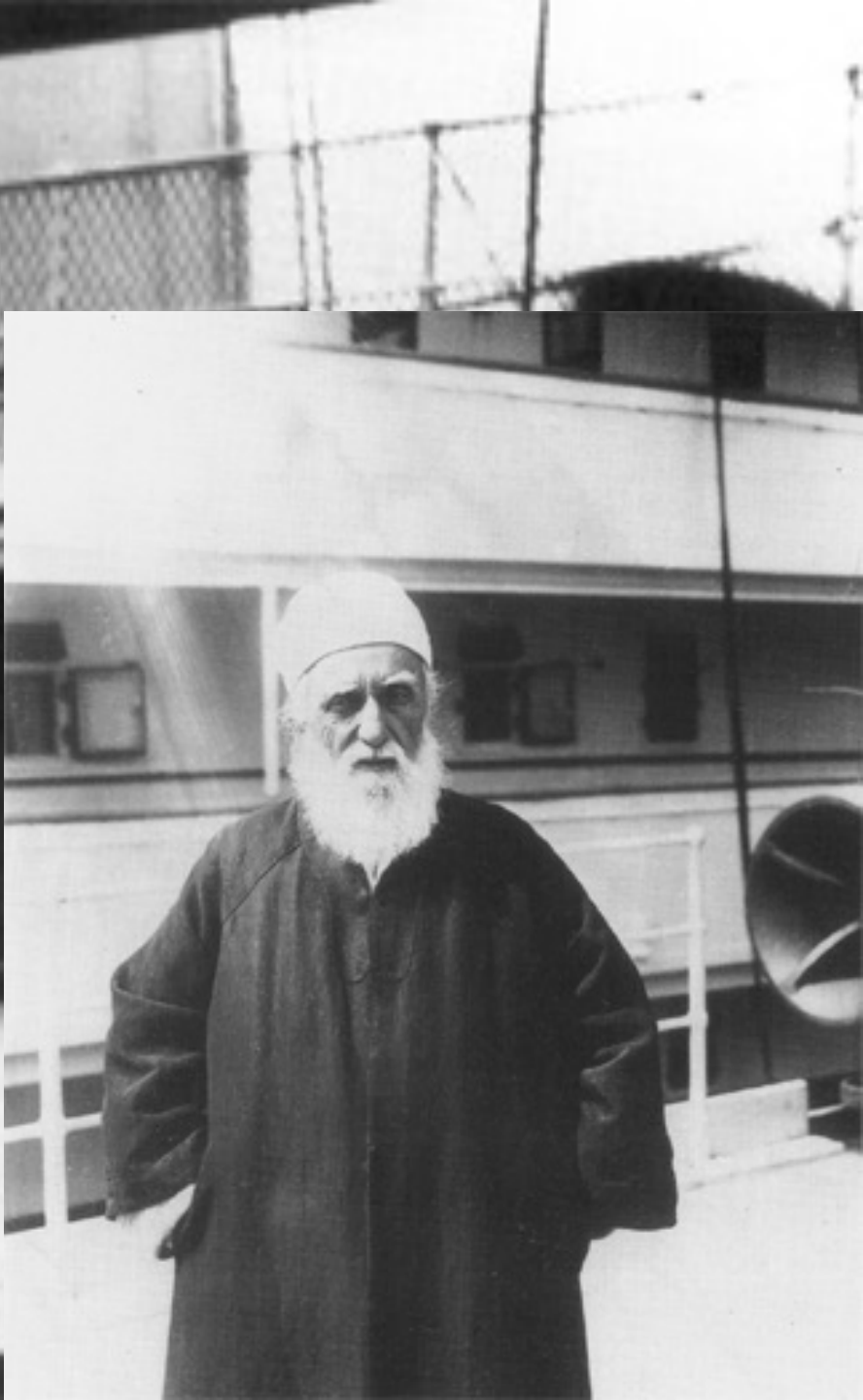
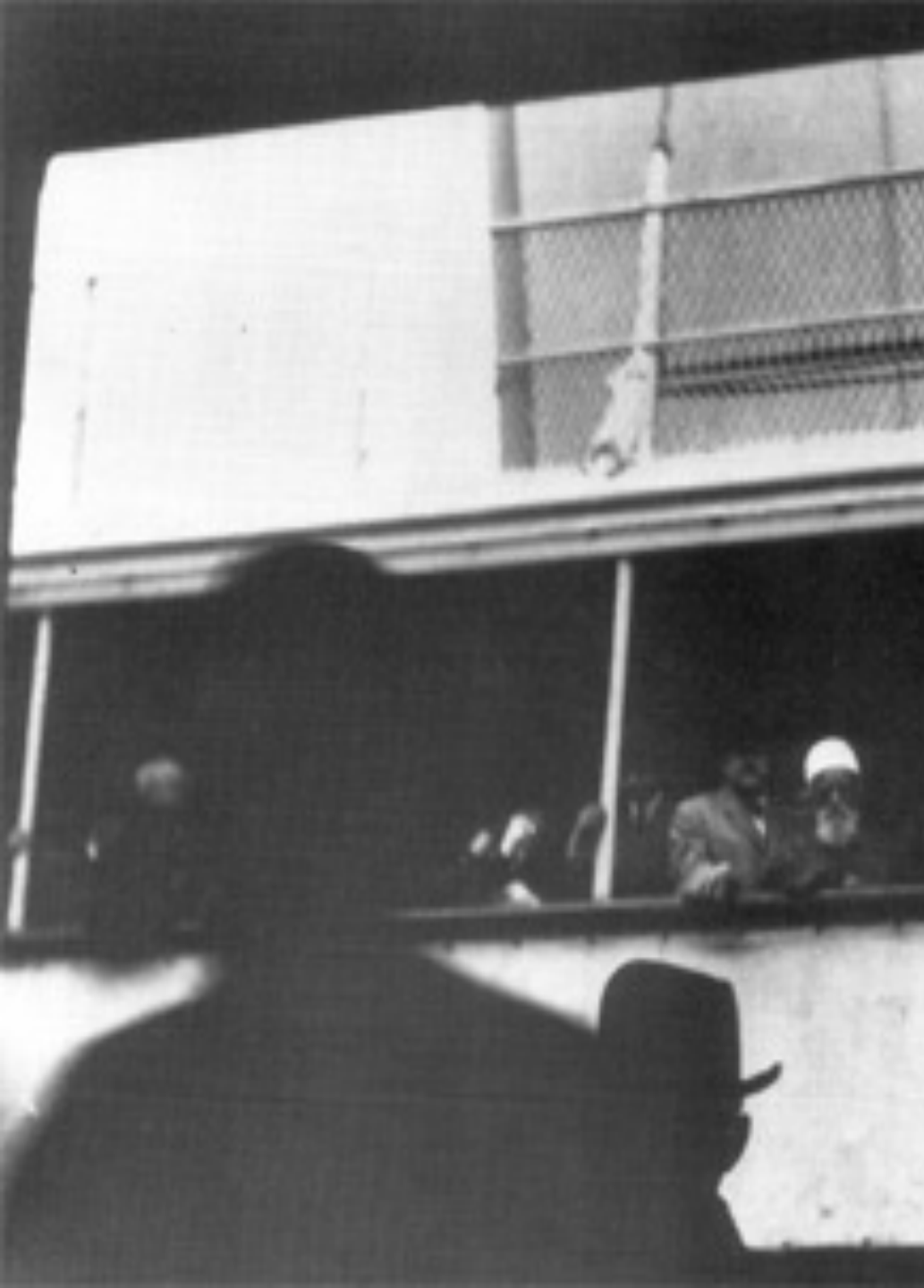
Mahmud





THIS IS THE REMAINED RESTING
PLACE OF THE BODY OF
THORNTON CHASE
WHO IS SHINING IN THE
HORIZON OF ETERNAL LIFE
EVER LIKE A STAR
APRIL 6-1844
1916





'Abdu'l-Bahá *“the incarnation of every Baha'i virtue and the embodiment of every Baha'i ideal, continued for three crowded years to trumpet to a world sunk in materialism and already in the shadow of war, the healing, the God-given truths enshrined in His Father's Revelation.”*





THE END

**This program was written, narrated and
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