

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

the slideshow

1844 - 1921



This slideshow is a condensed version of the nine-part, 400-page, 900-photos & graphics online chronology created for the Centenary entitled “*The Extraordinary Life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.*”

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS PRESENTATION IN PDF FORMAT, NOT POWERPOINT, AS IT WILL CORRUPT ALL THE FORMATTING.

Please visit the chronology for many more stories, maps and photos: <https://theutteranceproject.com/the-extraordinary-life-of-abdul-baha/>





1844 - 1868

THE FOUR EXILES

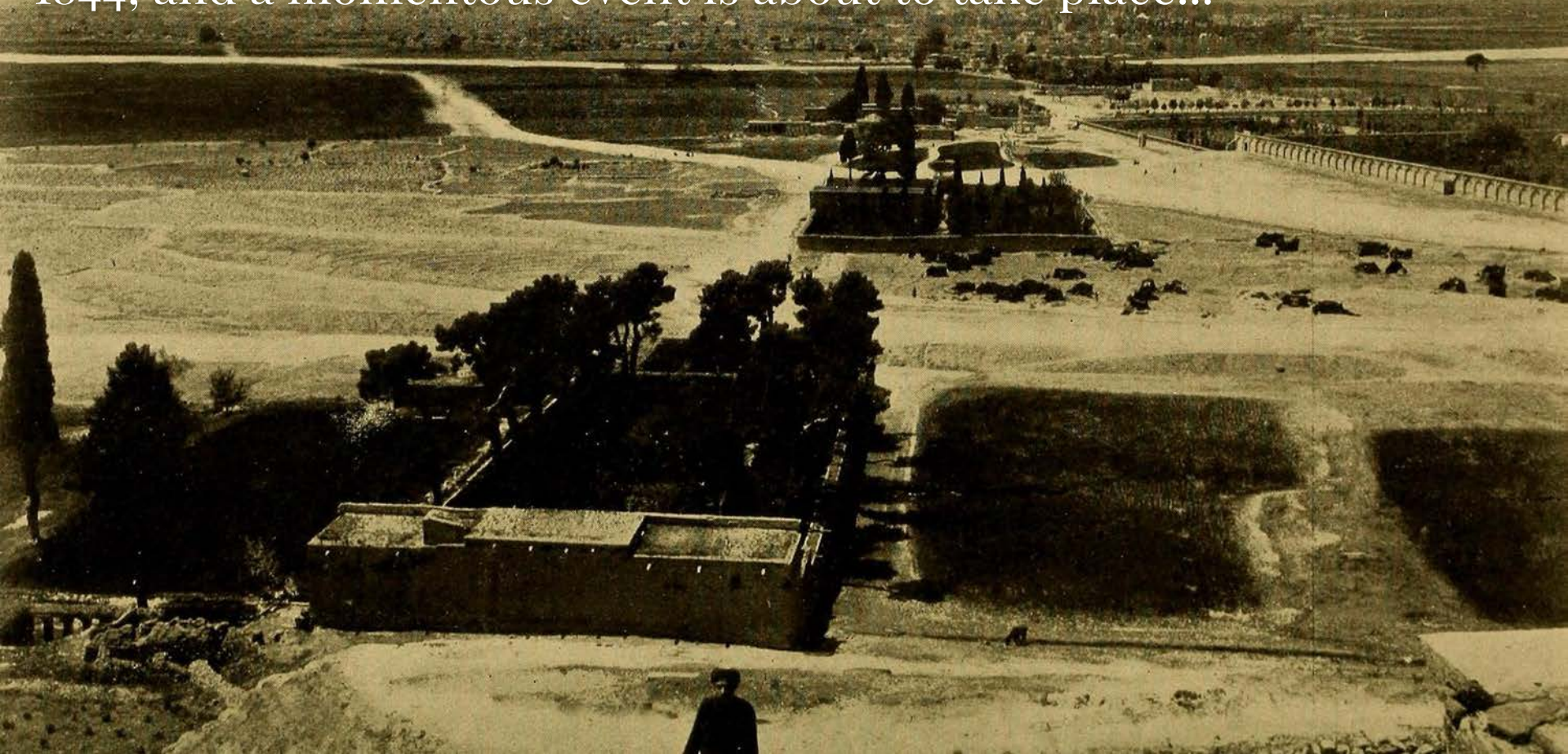
That Same Night

SHÍRÁZ & TĪHRÁN

23 May 1844

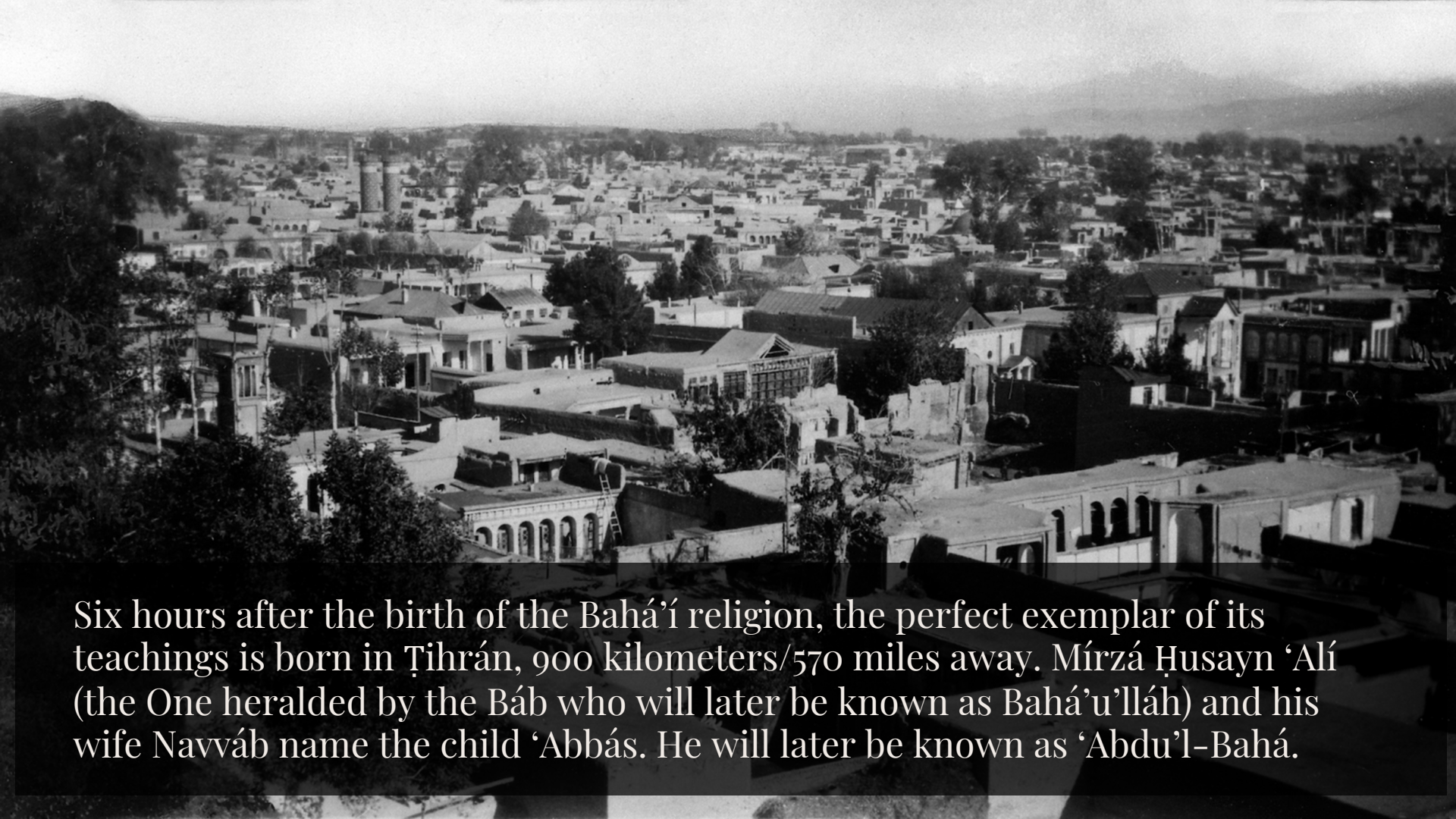


This is the city of Shíráz, in Persia taken in 1906. Today is 23 May 1844, and a momentous event is about to take place...





In this room of His house, in the hour preceding sunset, the Báb discloses to Mullá Ḥusayn that He is the Promised One, come to prepare the way for a new Manifestation of God.



Six hours after the birth of the Bahá'í religion, the perfect exemplar of its teachings is born in Tīhrán, 900 kilometers/570 miles away. Mírzá Ḥusayn 'Alí (the One heralded by the Báb who will later be known as Bahá'u'lláh) and his wife Navváb name the child 'Abbás. He will later be known as 'Abdu'l-Bahá.


 W h a t

This sentence was written from Washington by me
 at the Baltimore Terminus at 8.^h 45 min.
 A.M.
 on Friday May 24.th 1844, being the first ^{ever} first
 transmitted from Washington to Baltimore, ^{by telegraph,} and
 was indited by my much loved
 friend Annie G. Ellsworth.
 Saml. F. B. Morse. Superintendent of Elec.
 Mag. Telegraphs.

Twenty-four hours later and 10,000 km/6,000 mi away, in Washington D.C., the very first long-distance message is transmitted by telegraph to Baltimore. The birth of modern communications heralds a new age for mankind.

Childhood

MÁZINDARÁN & TĪHRÁN

1844 - 1852



Born into a noble family, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá enjoys a comfortable life in both Tīhrán and Mazindárán, which this picture depicts. It is in this rural setting that the story of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gifting sheep to shepherds at a country barbecue takes place.



After a failed attempt by half-crazed Bábís on the life of the Sháh, reprisals are severe. Bahá'u'lláh, the son of a Minister who became one of the foremost members of the Bábí community is especially attacked: He is tortured by bastinado, and He is chained and walked through the streets, while Navváb and the children, now penniless, struggle to survive while agonizing over Bahá'u'lláh's fate. (The engraving below depicts bastinado, lashing of a person's feet, a prevalent form of torture in Persian at the time).



In August 1852, Bahá'u'lláh is thrown into Persia's most notorious dungeon, the Siyáh-Chál, a vermin-infested pestilential hell reserved for the worst of criminals, shown here in later years. It is in these conditions that Bahá'u'lláh receives the Revelation indicating that He is the One heralded by the Báb. He tells no one.



The First Exile

BAGHDÁD

1853 - 1863



In the dead of a freezing winter and with inadequate clothing, Bahá'u'lláh and His family are exiled 1,000 km/600 mi to Baghdád. Navváb is pregnant during this harrowing ordeal, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá suffers frostbite.



BAGHDÁD

8 APRIL 1853

~ 1,000 KILOMETERS

KHÁNIQAYN

KARAND

KIRMÁNSHÁH

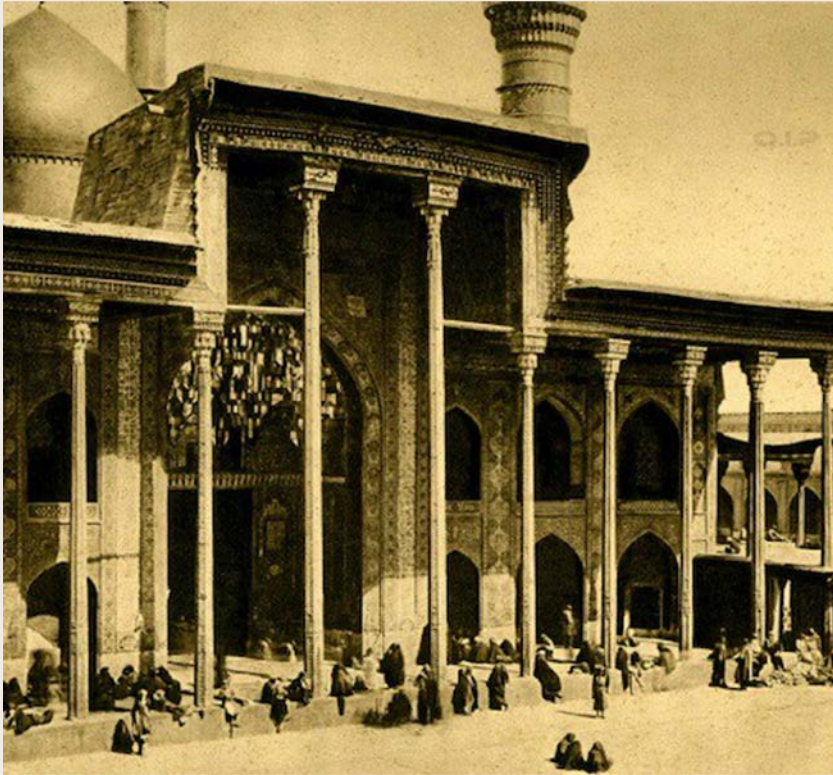
ṬIHRÁN

12 JANUARY 1853

Soon after arriving in April 1853, the venomous rancor and jealousy in the leaderless Bábí community of Baghdád force Bahá'u'lláh to remove Himself from Baghdád and retreat to the mountains of Kurdistán (left) under the guise of a dervish. The kashkúl, alms bowl, pictured to the right belonged to Bahá'u'lláh.



When Bahá'u'lláh returns to Baghdád in 1856, 'Abdu'l-Bahá is nearly a teenager. At 14, He frequents mosques and gives masterful interpretations of Quranic verses. His love for the poor is already present, as, during His years in Baghdád, He visits the home of a humble thornpicker (bottom right), whose wife serves a burnt cake, a memory He cherishes for decades. (Photo on the right shows thornpickers in Baghdád in the early 20th century)



Before their second exile to the heart of the Ottoman Empire, Bahá'u'lláh publicly reveals His mission during the twelve days in April 1863 known as the “Riḍván Festival.” the photograph above shows the Riḍván garden in Baghdád. Photo from the early 20th century.



Second and Third Exiles

CONSTANTINOPLE & ADRIANOPOLE

1863 - 1868



A historical map of the Ottoman Empire and surrounding regions, including the Black Sea, Caucasus, and Mesopotamia. A red dashed line with circular markers traces a route from Constantinople (Istanbul) in the west to Baghdad in the east. The route passes through numerous cities, each labeled with a blue calligraphic name. Two callout boxes provide dates for the start and end of the journey. A purple box indicates the total distance of 2,500 kilometers. The map includes geographical features like the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and various mountain ranges and rivers.

**CONSTANTINOPLÉ
(ISTANBUL)**

16 AUGUST 1863

2,500 KILOMETERS

BAGHDÁD

8 APRIL 1853

3 MAY 1863

ANYÁBULÍ

SINOPE

SÁMSÚN

ILÁHÍYYIH

AMÁSÍYÁ

ŤÚQÁT

DILÍK-TÁSH

KHARPÚT

SÍVÁS

DÍYÁR-BAKR

MA'DAN-I-NUQRH

JAZÍRIH

ZÁKHÚ

MA'DAN-I-MIS

MARDÍN

NISIBÍN

IRBÍL

MUSÚL

KARKÚK

DÚST-KHURMÁTÚ

ŠALÁHÍYYIH

QARIH-TAPIH

DILI-'ABBÁS

JUDAYAH



During the extremely long journey, the Holy Family camps more than sixty times in caravanserais and tents. The women travel in howdas, pictured above, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, now 19 years old, ensures provisions for the people and the nearly sixty animals of the caravan.

Bahá'u'lláh and His family arrive in Constantinople (Istanbul) in August 1863, and are again exiled four months later to Adrianople (Edirne).



Photo: Courtesy of Necati Alkan

**ADRIANOPLE
(EDIRNE)**

12 DECEMBER 1863

~ 274 KM

**BÁBÁ-ÍSKÍ
(BABAESKI)**

**BÚYÚK-CHAKMACHIH
(BÜYÜKÇEKMECE)**

**CONSTANTINOPLE
(ISTANBUL)**

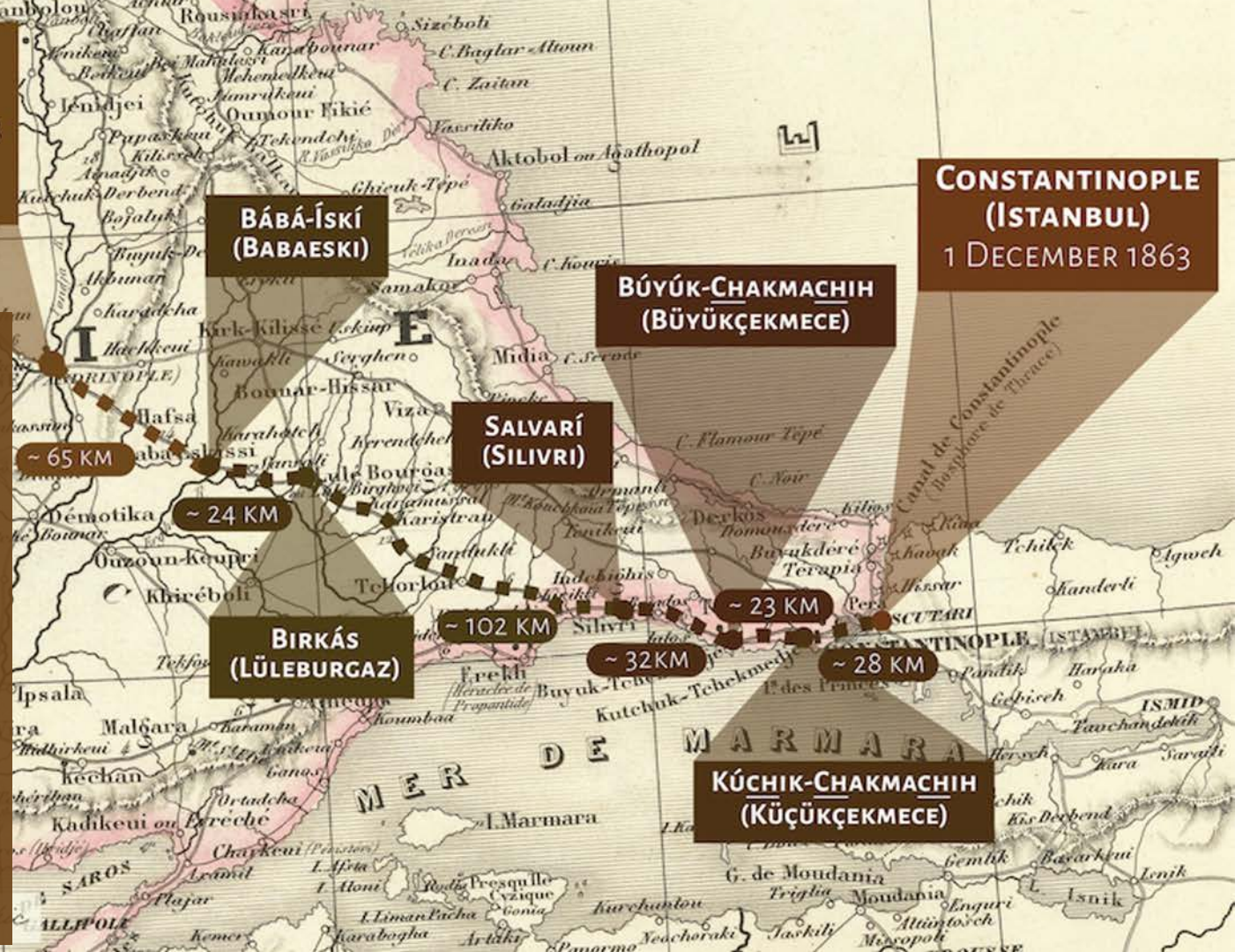
1 DECEMBER 1863

**SALVARÍ
(SILIRI)**

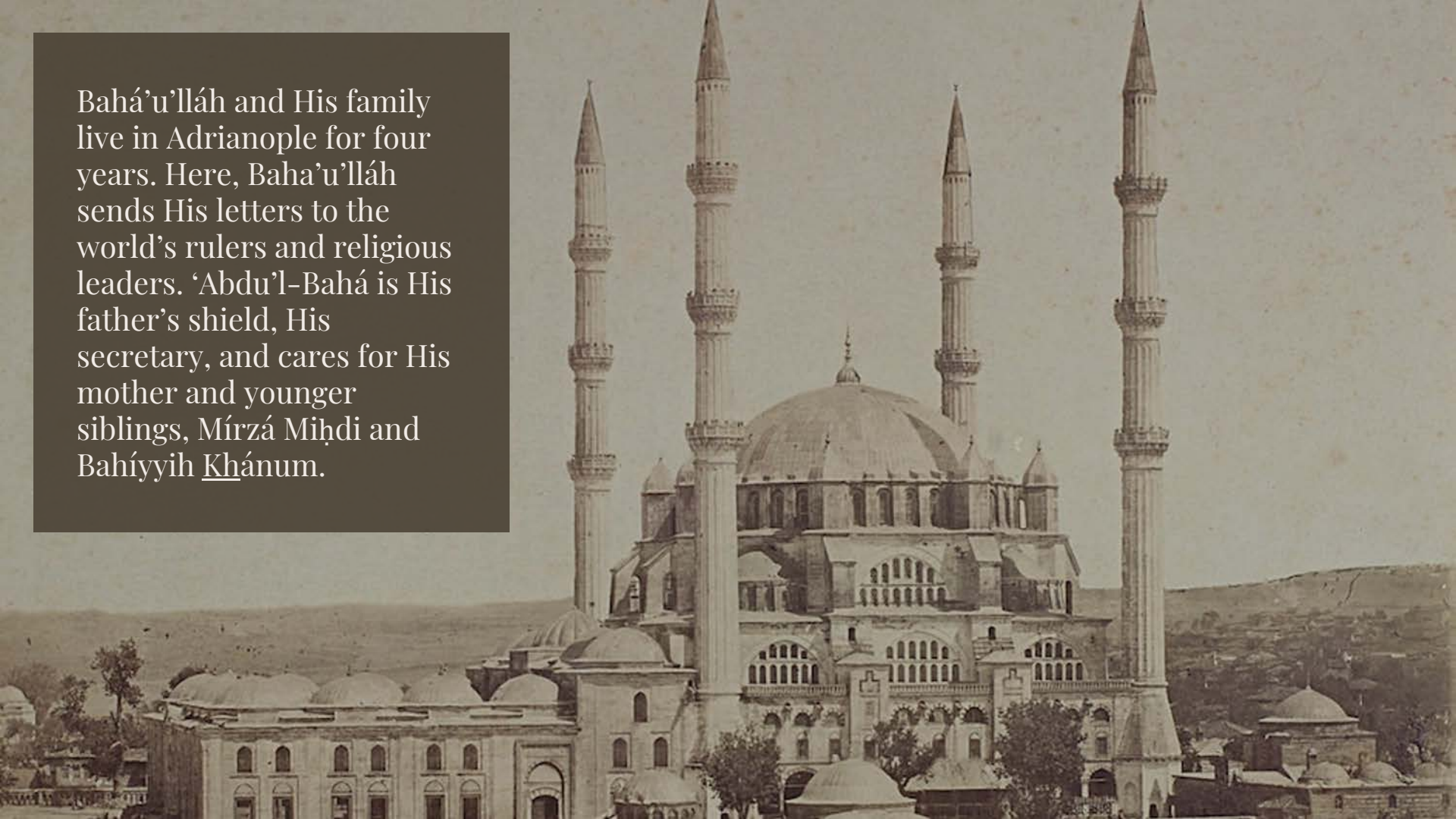
**BIRKÁS
(LÜLEBURGAZ)**

**KÚCHIK-CHAKMACHIH
(KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE)**

The journey to Adrianople is the shortest the Holy Family will travel during Their exiles, but this journey in the midst of the coldest winter in forty years, is by far the worst, nearly costing them all their lives. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá again suffers from frostbite.



Bahá'u'lláh and His family live in Adrianople for four years. Here, Baha'u'lláh sends His letters to the world's rulers and religious leaders. 'Abdu'l-Bahá is His father's shield, His secretary, and cares for His mother and younger siblings, Mírzá Miḥdi and Bahíyyih Khánum.





The Súriy-i-Ghuṣn

This sacred and glorious Being

This Branch of Holiness

The Limb of the Law of God

He is the most great Favour unto you

This sublime, this blessed, this mighty, this exalted Handiwork

The most perfect bounty upon you

Through Him every mouldering bone
is quickened

Whoso turneth towards Him hath
turned towards God

He is the Trust of God amongst you,
His charge within you, His
manifestation unto you and His
appearance among His favoured
servants.

We have sent Him down in the form
of a human temple.

They who deprive themselves of
the shadow of the Branch are lost
in the wilderness of error

Hasten to enter beneath the shadow
of God, that it may shield you from
the blazing heat of this Day

This is the first photograph we have of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá taken in Adrianople, sometime between 1864 – 1868, when He was 24 – 28.

At some point in Adrianople, Bahá’u’lláh, still at the very start of His own ministry, reveals the Súriy-i-Ghuṣn, the Tablet of the Branch where He partly unveils the station of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. To the left are the terms employed by Bahá’u’lláh to refer to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in this Tablet.

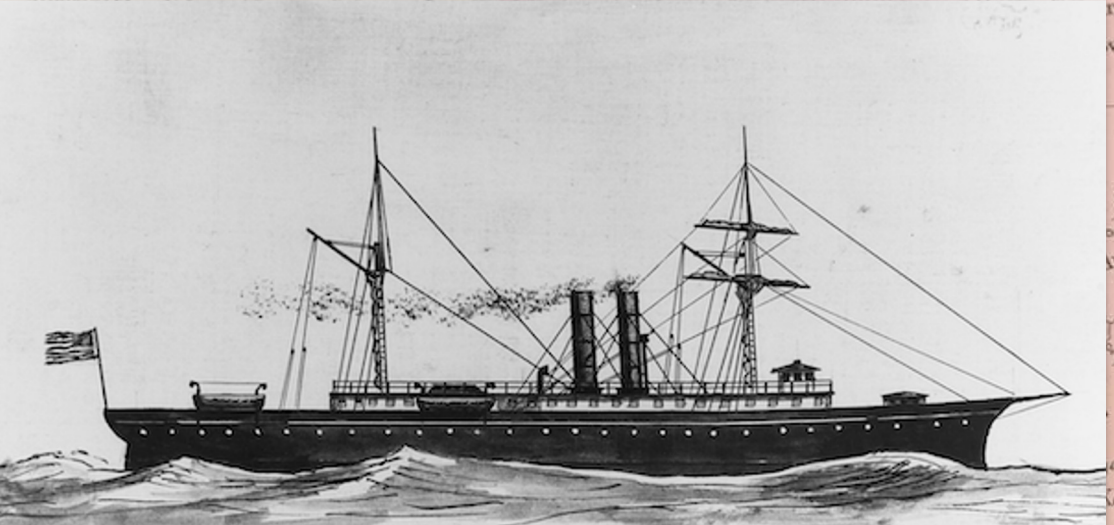
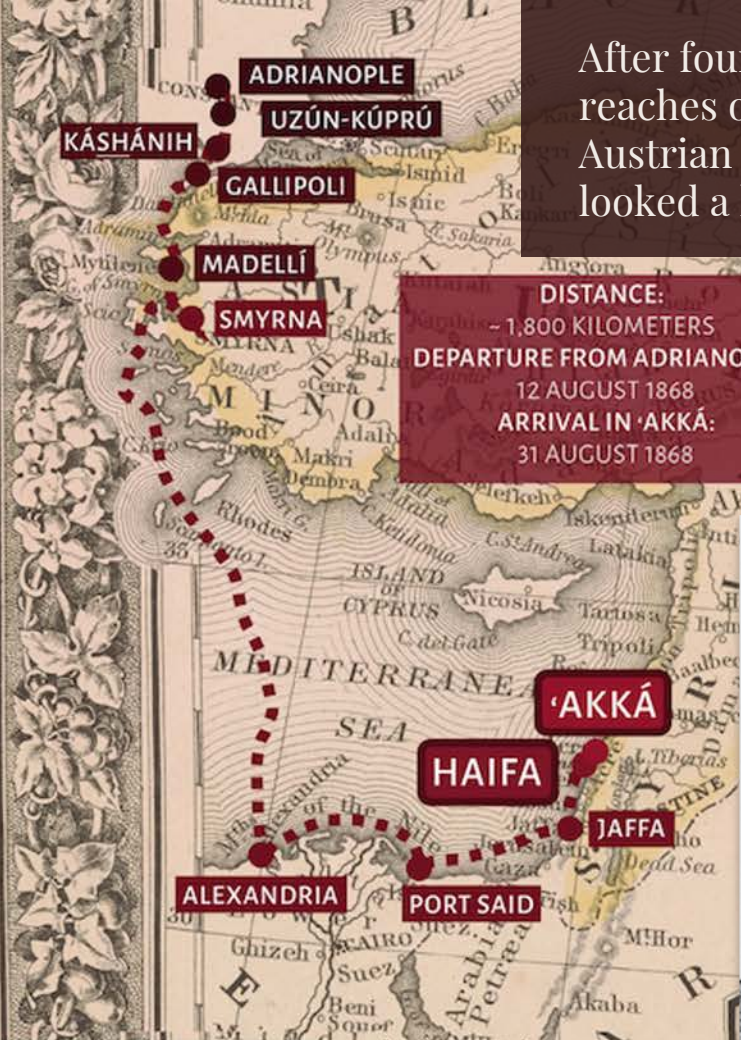
The Final Exile

‘AKKÁ

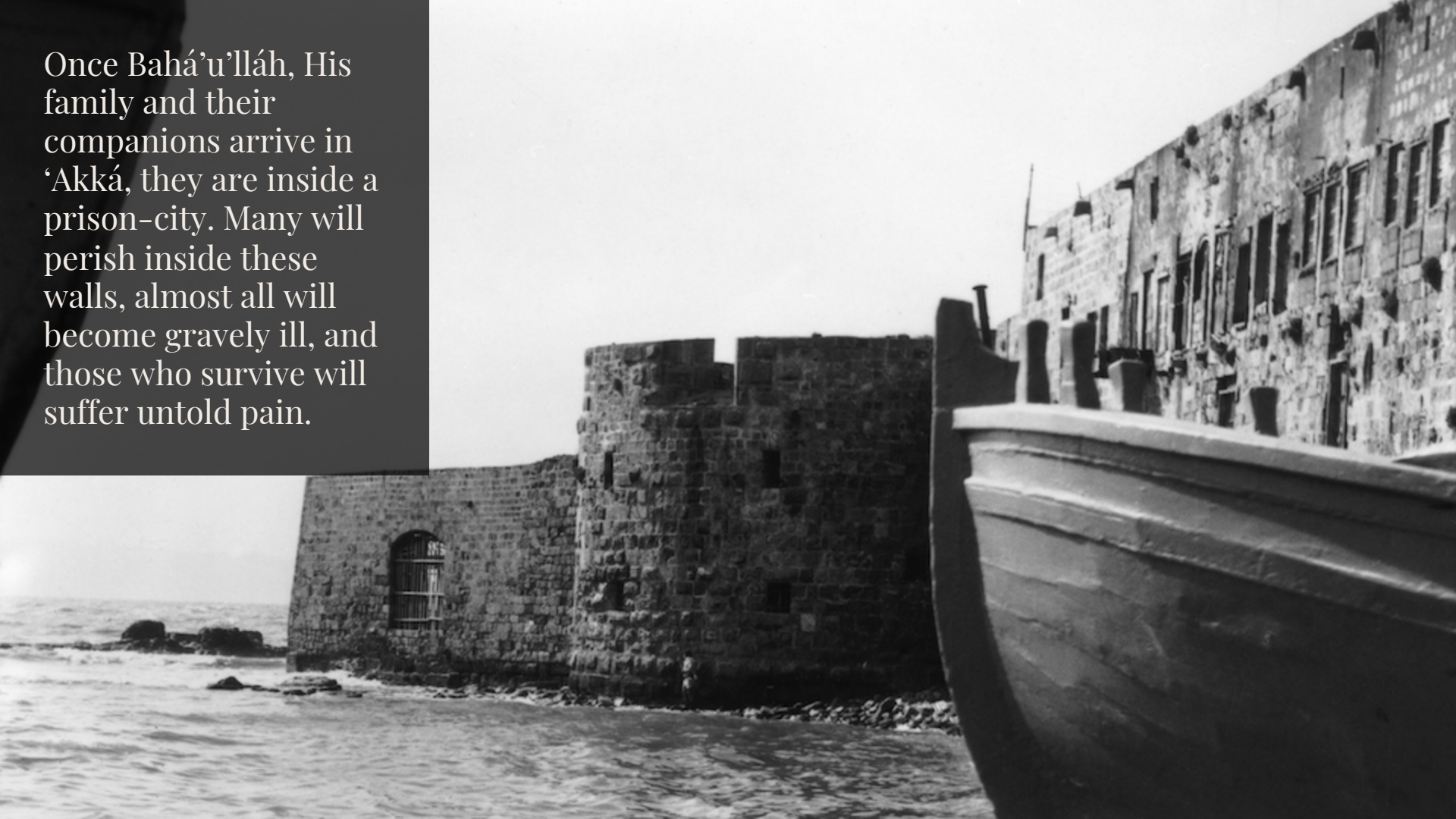
1868 - 1908



After four years in Adrianople, Bahá'u'lláh is exiled to the farthest reaches of the Ottoman Empire, the penal colony of 'Akká. The Austrian Lloyd steamer the Holy Family traveled on would have looked a lot like this watercolor below.



Once Bahá'u'lláh, His family and their companions arrive in 'Akká, they are inside a prison-city. Many will perish inside these walls, almost all will become gravely ill, and those who survive will suffer untold pain.





1868 - 1877

THE MOST
GREAT PRISON

Inside the Barracks

1868 - 1870



Soon after their arrival in the barracks, typhoid, fever and dysentery break out and 'Abdu'l-Bahá single-handedly nurses the sixty exiles back to health. When they are recovered, He falls ill and nearly dies.



One June 22, 1870, Mírzá Mihdí paces up and down the roof of the barracks, deep in meditation and prayer. On this tragic day, he does not remember to count his steps, as he usually does in order to avoid an open skylight. He falls and lands on a crate, which pierces his chest. The death of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s younger brother is a devastating blow to the whole family.



Life in 'Akká

1870 - 1908



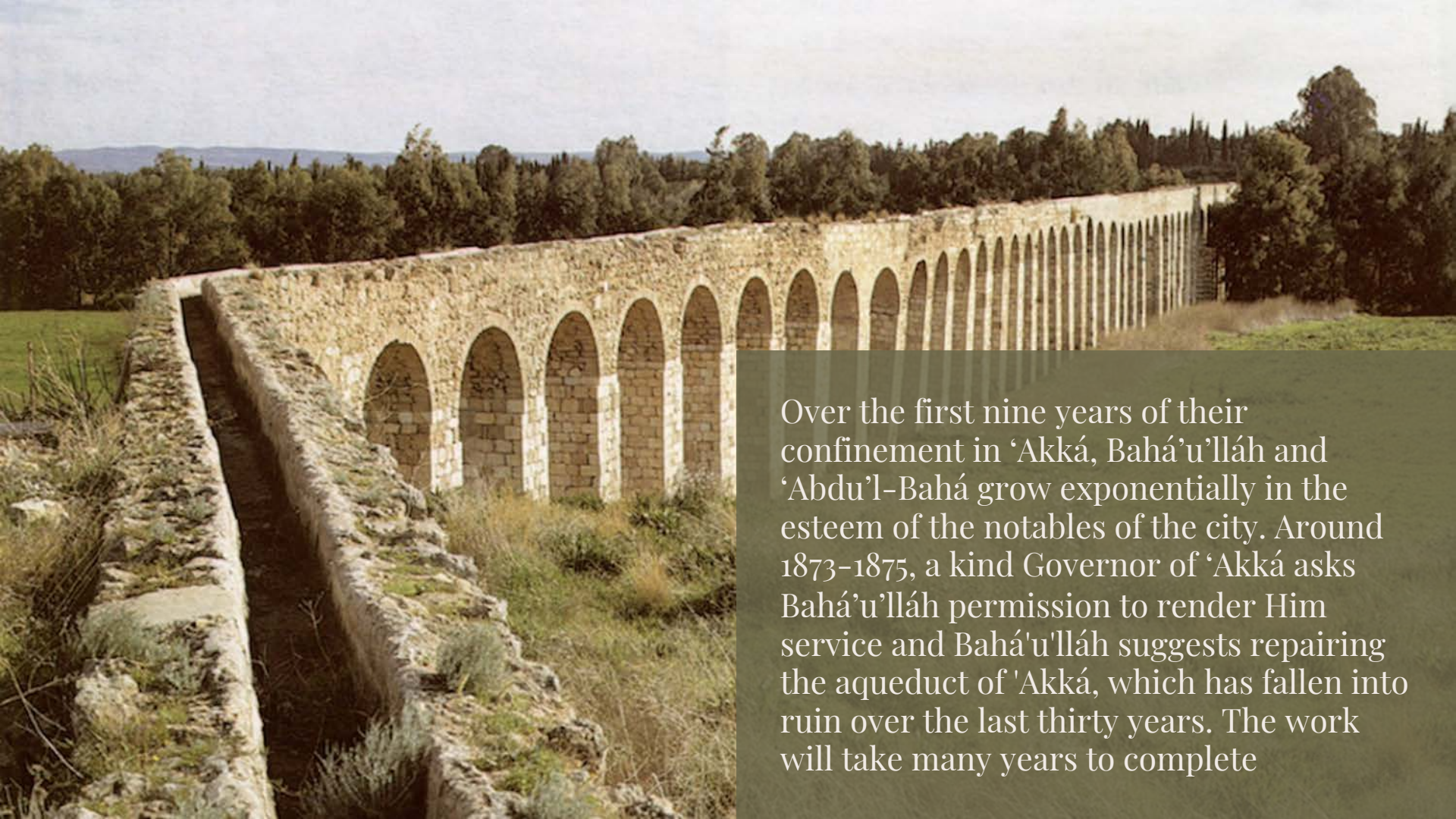


In October 1870, the movement of troops within the Ottoman Empire forces the authorities of 'Akká to requisition the barracks for military use, Bahá'u'lláh and His wife and daughter move from house to house until they arrive at the House of 'Abbúd (left), but 'Abdu'l-Bahá moves to the Khán-i-Avamíd, a caravanserai (right), living in abominable conditions as He makes reparations to the rooms which will accommodate Bahá'í pilgrims when they start arriving.



On 8 March 1873, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá marries Munírih Khánum, whom Bahá’u’lláh had seen in a dream with a luminous face (“Munírih” means luminous, and was a title Bahá’u’lláh bestowed on her). Munírih Khánum will have nine children with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, of whom five will die in the poisonous air of ‘Akká, and their marriage will last 48 years (1873–1921) until ‘Abdu’l-Bahá passes away. In her memoirs, Munírih Khánum remembers the months before her marriage, when she would watch ‘Abdu’l-Bahá swim in the Mediterranean Sea. The photo below is of the coast of ‘Akká.



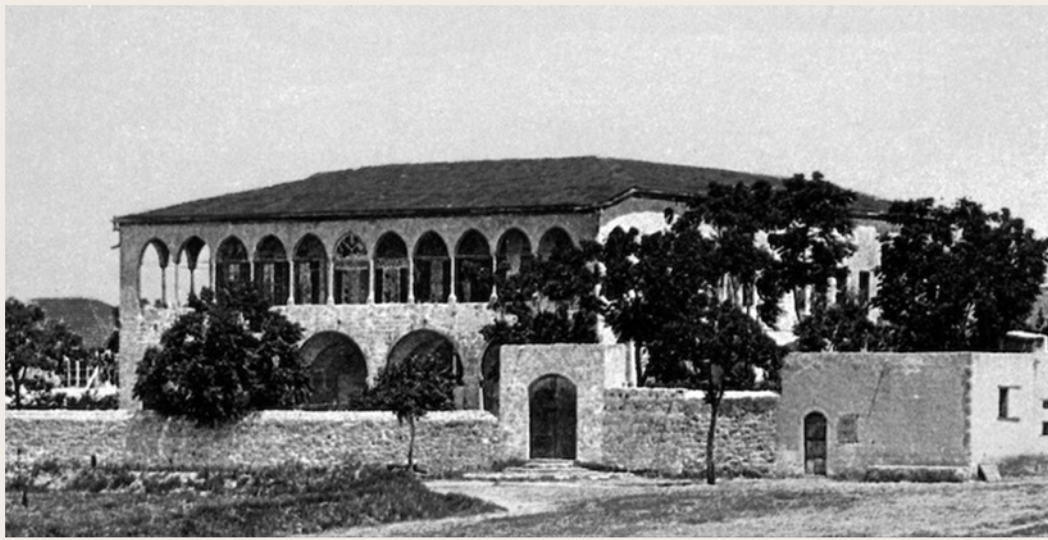


Over the first nine years of their confinement in 'Akká, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá grow exponentially in the esteem of the notables of the city. Around 1873-1875, a kind Governor of 'Akká asks Bahá'u'lláh permission to render Him service and Bahá'u'lláh suggests repairing the aqueduct of 'Akká, which has fallen into ruin over the last thirty years. The work will take many years to complete



1877 – 1892

THE MASTER
OF 'AKKÁ



In 1877, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá succeeds in convincing Bahá’u’lláh to retire to the countryside. Bahá’u’lláh, who had commented that He had not seen green in nearly a decade, now lives surrounded by plants, flowers, grass, and fruit trees, all lovingly arranged by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. (the Mansion of Mazra‘ih, the garden of Riḍván, and the Mansion of Bahjí.)





While Bahá'u'lláh is in the countryside, 'Abdu'l-Bahá remains in 'Akká, He counsels notables and religious leaders (similar to those in the top left photo), serves the population of 'Akká, who line up to speak with Him in the early hours of every morning (A photo of Palestinians around the early 20th century in the top right photo). But 'Abdu'l-Bahá also shoulders responsibilities to free Bahá'u'lláh and manages the influx of pilgrims (bottom-right photo)

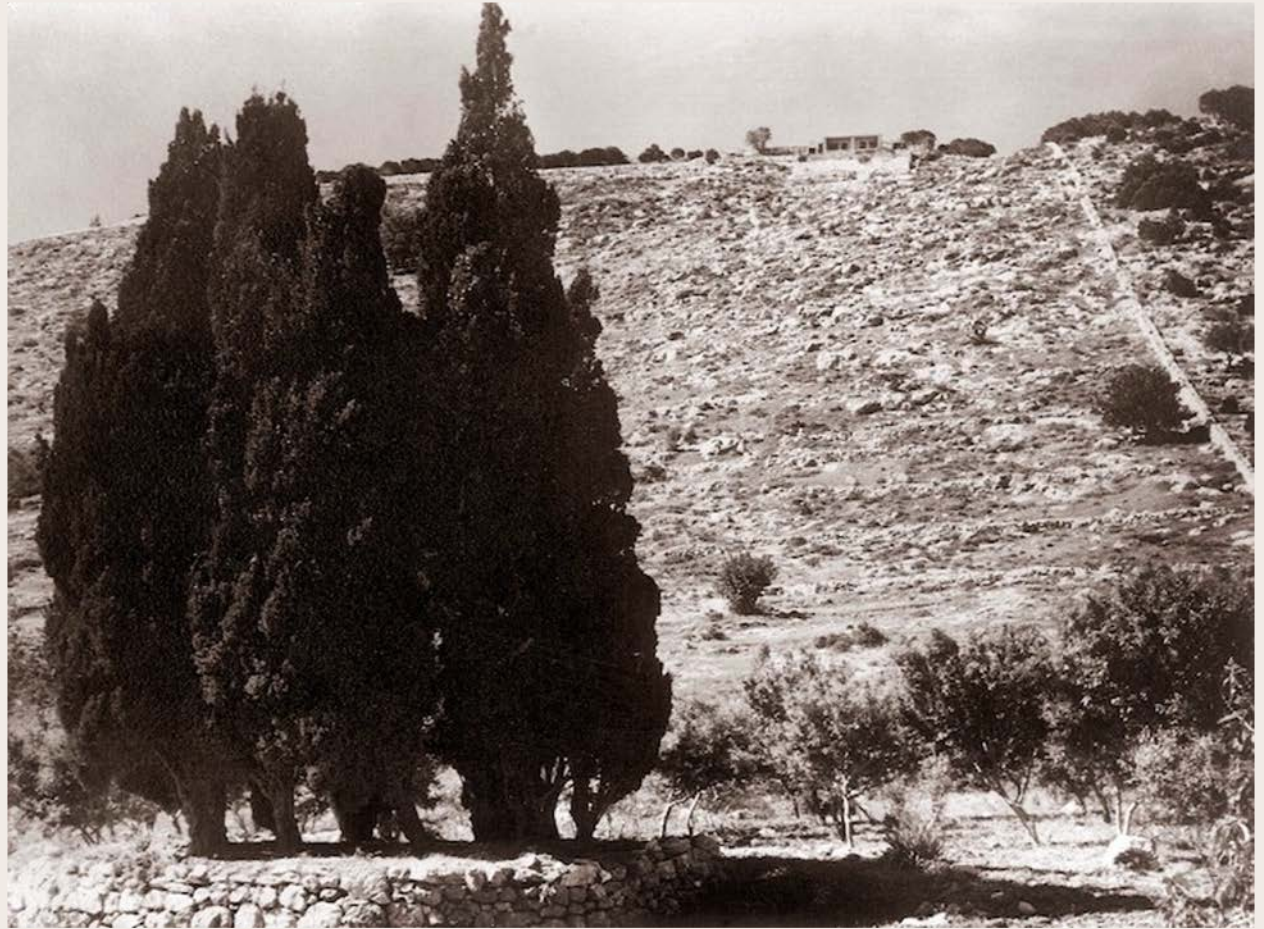
Although He is still a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is allowed to travel to Beirut , Lebanon (pictured below), at the invitation of the Governor. It is on this occasion, in June 1880, that Bahá’u’lláh pens another Tablet on ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s station, the ***Lawḥ-i-‘Arḍ-i-Bá*** (***Tablet of the Land of Bá***)



‘Abdu’l-Bahá suffers three devastating losses in close succession: the death of His saintly mother Navváb in 1886, and His steadfast and loyal uncle Mírzá Músá in 1887, and His beloved son Husayn.



During a visit to Haifa in June 1891, one year exactly before Bahá'u'lláh's passing, Bahá'u'lláh stands at this grove of young cypresses and indicates to 'Abdu'l-Bahá the precise spot where He should build the Shrine of the Báb. (Photo of the mature cypress grove, more than ten years later)





1892 - 1910

CENTER OF
THE COVENANT

When Bahá'u'lláh passes away on 29 May 1892, 'Abdu'l-Bahá interments His sacred remains in what is to become the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, the holiest spot in the world for Bahá'ís. In His Will and Testament, Bahá'u'lláh appoints 'Abdu'l-Bahá the Center of the Covenant. It is on His shoulders that rest the safety and growth of the Bahá'í Faith, the wellbeing of the worldwide community. 'Abdu'l-Bahá is the one who must see to immediate concerns and possess long-term vision, qualities He will demonstrate time and again in His 29-year ministry.



The Three Chief Objectives of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Ministry

“

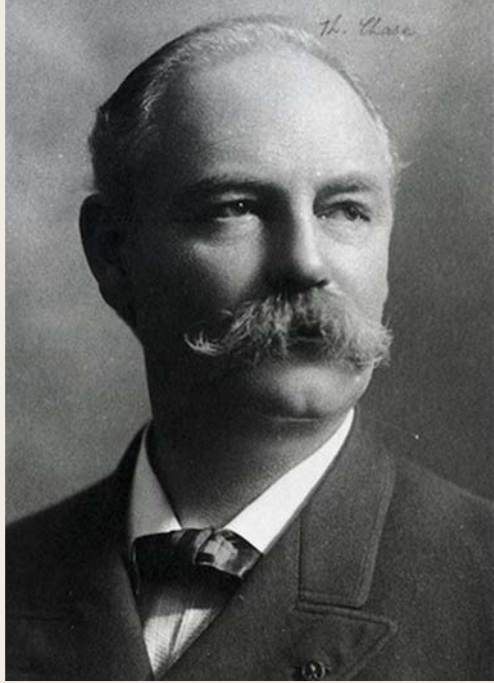
As to the three aims which Shoghi Effendi has stated in his “America and the Most Great Peace” to have been the chief objectives of 'Abdu'l-Baha's ministry, it should be pointed out that the first was the establishment of the Cause in America. The erection of the Baha'i Temple in Ishqabad, and the building on Mt. Carmel of a mausoleum marking the resting-place of the Bab, were the two remaining ones.

*Letter dated 14 December 1933 on behalf of Shoghi Effendi
to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada*





The Establishment of the Bahá'í Faith in the West

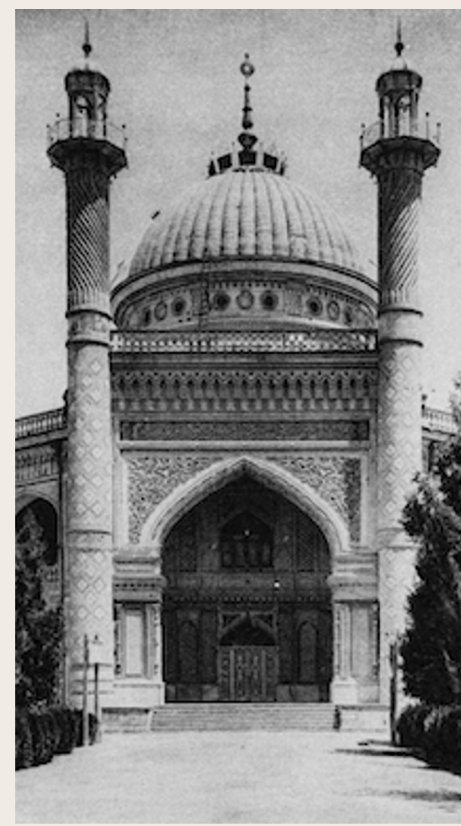
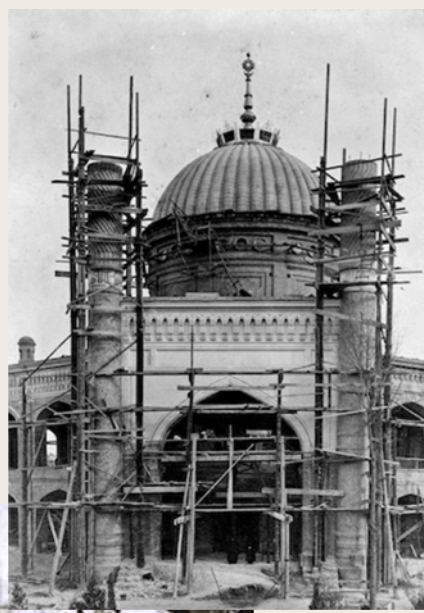


Thornton Chase (left) becomes the first American Bahá'í in 1894. Four years later, the first groups of Western Pilgrims start arriving in 'Akká to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá (center). Thanks to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's patient encouragement, nine years later, on 21 March 1909, the same day 'Abdu'l-Bahá lays the Báb's remains to rest, the first United States National Convention is held (right).





Erecting the Bahá'í House of Worship in 'Ishqábád



In 1893, the design is approved. Ground is broken in 1902, construction is partially complete in 1907, and completed in 1919.



Building
the Shrine
of the Báb



The map indicates the journey of the remains of the Báb to the Holy Land starting in 1898 - 1899. Top and bottom right: the marble sarcophagus completed in Burma and the crate in the Holy Land. Bottom left and center: the shrine completed in 1909. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá laid the remains of the Báb to rest on 21 March 1909. In ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s words: **“Every stone of that building, every stone of the road leading to it, I have with infinite tears and at tremendous cost, raised and placed in position.”**

Crisis and Victory

1892 - 1910

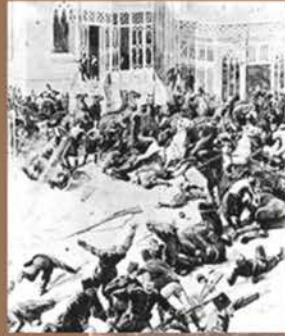




‘Abdu’l-Bahá fosters the growth of the Persian Bahá’í community and in 1899, the world’s first Local Spiritual Assembly is elected in Tīhrán. Among the members are the four Hands of the Cause appointed by Baha’u’llah, three of whom are seated in the middle row from left: Mírzá Ḥasan, known as Adíb (1848–1919); Mírzá ‘Alí-Muḥammad, known as Ibn-i-Aṣdaq (d.1928); and Ḥájí Mullá ‘Alí-Akbar (known as Ḥájí Ākhund), (1842–1910).

For the complete list, see:

[The Extraordinary Life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Part 4](#)



**BOMB MISSES SULTAN;
40 PERSONS KILLED**

Missile Explodes Close to the
Turkish Ruler.

CENSORSHIP HOLDS UP NEWS

Attempt at Assassination Made
After the Selamlık—Perpetrator
Believed to be Among the Dead.



1892 - 1905 are perilous years. There are attempts on the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His jealous enemies spread horrifying rumors about Him and the Shrine, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá is re-incarcerated within the city.

The danger culminates when Ârif Bey is dispatched as the head of the Commission of Inquiry in July 1905. He wants to hang 'Abdu'l-Bahá or exile Him to Fízan, in Libya.

After several days of intense interrogation, the commission is suddenly recalled after an assassination attempt against the Sulţan.



One cannot understate how dangerous these years were. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Himself says: ***“I am now in very great danger and the hope of even an hour’s life is lost to me.”*** It is at this time that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá pens His Will and Testament in three documents between 1901 - 1907, appoint Shoghi Effendi, His eldest grandson, then a child of 4-11 years old, as His successor and Guardian of the Cause of God.

Between 1901 and 1907, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá purchases thousands of acres of farmland in ‘Adasiyyih and three other farming villages in the Yarmuk and Jordan river valleys, and coordinates with the Local Spiritual Assembly of Tíhrán for Persian farmers to emigrate to these lands and grow crops.





La foule arrivant devant le Konak pour entendre la proclamation
de la Constitution par l'inspecteur

The Young Turk Revolution forces Sultán 'Abdu'l-Ḥamíd II to establish a constitutional government and release all political prisoners. In August 1908, 'Abdu'l-Bahá is released under the amnesty and, at the age of 64, is legally free for the first time since He was a child. The photo depicts the Crowd assembled to hear the proclamation of the restoration of the constitution after the Young Turk Revolution, Ottoman Empire, July 24, 1908.

To VISIT

of Movement, Which Seeks the
ent of Peace and Religious
ity in the World.



Portrait of Abdul Baha, head of the Bahá'í Faith, in the city of Haifa, in the mountains of the Lebanon.

Abdul Baha, head of the Bahá'í Faith, in the city of Haifa, in the mountains of the Lebanon.

... remarkable, Varied
Career.

A remarkable, varied career, with Eastern links and Western ties, the career of Abdul Baha, head of the Bahá'í Faith, is a study in itself.

APOSTLE OF PEACE MEETS SOCIALISTS

Abdul Baha's Novel Scheme for Distribution of Surplus Wealth.

MAN NEEDS COMMISSION.

Advocated Graduated Distribu- tion of General Wealth, but Socialism Could Not Obvi- ate Social Gradations.

Passing from the inviting atmosphere of a drawing room meeting held in a Pine avenue residence on Monday night to a socialistic and very cosmopolitan gathering held in Coronation Hall, associated with Jewish strikers, Abdul Baha, the Oriental Apostle of peace and concord, exhibited his catholicity of spirit last night, and also developed in his address something more in the shape of practical politics, as he unfolded a scheme for dealing with the superfluous wealth of a nation. His style was quite in contrast to the violent and denunciatory methods usually followed by the group for whom he lectured. He confined himself to stating that the human race was not

CHURCH AND BENCH GIVE A FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO SAGE

Baha Wins Eulogy Pre- sented to Departure for Chicago

1910 - 1913

JOURNEYS TO THE WEST EGYPT, EUROPE & AMERICA



Two years after gaining His freedom, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá leaves the Holy land with utmost discretion and embarks on His herculean journey to cement the establishment of the Faith in the West. Shoghi Effendi will call this, ***“the most outstanding achievement that will forever be associated with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s ministry.”***

For three years, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá will unceasingly travel and speak in public and private meetings in almost a hundred cities in ten countries, and meet some of the most famous intellectuals, businessmen and politicians of many walks of life and nationality. He will serve the poor in almost every country He visits, and will transform hearts and uplift souls everywhere he goes.



Race unity is one of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's most beloved issues, and He ceaselessly encourages the American believers to foster unity between Baha'is of European background and their black brothers and sisters. 'Abdu'l-Bahá organizes two Unity Feasts in the United States, speaks at Howard University, an all-African-American institution, and warmly encourages the first interracial Bahá'í marriage. It was between Louis Gregory and Louisa Mathew.



ABDUL BAHÁ
INVITES YOU TO BE PRESENT AT A UNITY FEAST
WHICH WILL BE CELEBRATED
SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1912
AT
WEST ENGLEWOOD, N. J.
(NEAR THE HOME OF H. C. WILHELM)
TAKE 1.15 P. M. TRAIN AT WEST 42D STREET FERRY—
WEST SHORE RAILROAD—TO WEST ENGLEWOOD

‘Abdu’l-Bahá seeks out meaningful encounters with the humble and the poor in every country He visited. Poor children in Paris, the men at the Bowery mission in New York, Fred Mortensen who “rode the rails” in Green Acre, the men at a Salvation Army Shelter and working single mothers in London, and children in Edinburgh.






Photo: United States National Bahá'í Archives

REPORT
LAKÉ MOHONK CONFERENCE
ON
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
MAY 12th, 13th AND 14th
1912

DR. CHRISTIAN L. LANGE



SECRETARY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION,
1921 Nobel Peace Prize

DR. ALBERT GOBAT



DIRECTOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU
1902 Nobel Peace Prize

PEACE CONFERENCE ENLARGES CIRCLE

Delegates Now Embrace Nearly
Every Walk of Life—Bahai
Leader's Talk.

Lake Mohonk, N. Y., May 13.—The
eighteenth annual conference on interna-
tional arbitration, which has just termi-
nated, gathered together many men of
distinction from various avocations. In
times past such vital interests as are in-

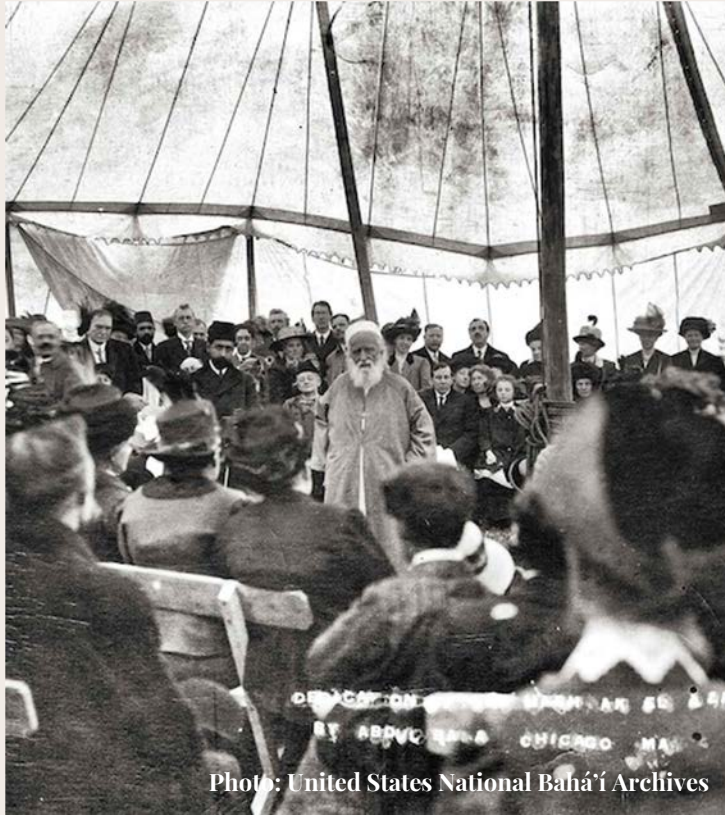
Second Session

THE ONENESS OF THE REALITY OF HUMAN KIND, BY ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS, OF PERSIA.....	42
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During His journeys, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá will unceasingly call for peace and condemn the war He warns is coming. This is such a feature of His travels that many articles nickname ‘Abdu’l-Bahá “the Apostle of Peace.” While in the United States, He attends the foremost peace conference at Lake Mohonk (where two Nobel Peace Prize laureates are present), and gives a speech the second night.

One of the most significant events of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's journeys to the West is the laying of the cornerstone for the Mother Temple of North America in Wilmette on May 1, 1912.



Places where ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke: Top row: City Temple in London where ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gives the first public address of His life; the stairs to Rue de Camoëns where a large portion of *Paris Talks* were given; Plymouth Congregational Church in Chicago, (see *The Promulgation of Universal Peace* for the address) and Temple Emmanu-El in San Francisco. Bottom row: Stanford University, Oxford University and the mosque in Woking, England.



This iconic photo of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá under the Eiffel Tower with a large number of Eastern men is a perfect illustration for ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s last long stay in Paris, where He attended an extraordinary number of meetings with Persian, Ottoman and Egyptian diplomats, all congregated in the city for various summits. The graphic on the next page is a glimpse of this intensity, with a list of meetings for a single diplomat, the Persian ambassador, during ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s stay in Paris in Spring of 1913.





'ABDU'S-ŞAMAD KHÁN'S ENCOUNTERS WITH 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ (IN 1913)

- 24 January - 'Abdu'l-Bahá sends Persians to visit ASK on His behalf
- 27 January - ASK visits 'Abdu'l-Bahá
- 28 January - 'Abdu'l-Bahá visits ASK
- 1 February - Dinner at the Dreyfus home
- 9 February - ASK visits 'Abdu'l-Bahá
- 19 February - ASK visits 'Abdu'l-Bahá
- 27 February - 'Abdu'l-Bahá visits ASK
- 5 March - 'Abdu'l-Bahá visits ASK
- 11 March - 'Abdu'l-Bahá visits ASK
- 16 March - ASK visits 'Abdu'l-Bahá
- 21 March - Naw-Rúz at the Embassy
- 12 May - 'Abdu'l-Bahá visits ASK
- 13 May - ASK visits 'Abdu'l-Bahá

PERSIAN DIPLOMATS



MAS'UD MİRZÁ,
THE ZILLU'S-SULTÁN



SIYYID HASAN
TAQIZADEH



NUSRATU'L-DAWLİH



DÚST MUHAMMAD
KHÁN



ABU'L-QÁSİM KHÁN
(NÁSIRU'L-MULK)



NAJAF-QULÍ KHÁN,
SAMŞÁMU'S-SALTANİH



SULTÁN-HUSAYN MİRZÁ
(JALÁLU'D-DAWLİH)



MİRZÁ MİHDÍ KHÁN-I-
CHAFFARÍ

OTTOMAN DIPLOMATS



AHMED PAŞA



SÂLİH MÜNİR
PAŞA



SAMİPAŞAZADE
SEZÂİ



REŞİD MUMTAZ
PAŞA



PRINCE MUHAMMAD
'ALİ BEY



HÁJÍ KHUSRAW KHÁN



MUHAMMAD-I-
QAZVÍNÍ



MİR SIYYID MUHAMMAD
(INTIZÁMU'S-SALTANİH)

THE BROTHER OF THE Khedive of Egypt

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s visit to Germany enchants Him, both the beauty of the believers’ spirits, and the beauty of Spring. In Scotland, bottom left, and Hungary, bottom center, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá visits countries that have respectively one and no Bahá’ís. In Austria, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá meets with the first Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Baroness Von Suttner, pictured in the photo on the right.



The Palo Altan

Abdul Baha, the Bahai Prophet, Speaks at Stanford University

great assembly of students and teachers crowd the auditorium to hear the Bahai Prophet of Persia expound the doctrine of a new day for Universal Brotherhood International Peace and Religious Unity

mental Savant with Entourage of Twenty-nine Persons Spent the Day at Stanford University and Are Entertained in Palo Alto



Sketch of the Life of the "Servant of God" from the London Christian and its Prophet

There are nearly daily articles during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's journey America, with millions of readers and this conveys the strong impression that 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit was a media phenomenon, added to the hundred-thousand people who heard Him speak. See next panel for a breakdown of both talks and newspaper articles during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's journeys to the west.

The New York Times.

BAHA POINTS TOWARD PEACE.

CHURCH AND BENCH GIVE A FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO SAGE

Abdul Baha Wins Eulogy Previous to Departure for Chicago

The Church united with the Bench in giving Abdul Baha's farewell address in the lecture hall of St. James Methodist Church, last night. Rev. A. J. Symonds, who presided, remarked that it was a great mistake to think the West could learn nothing from the East, while Recorder Weir referred to the lecturer as one who was in the lofty succession of the prophets. The Recorder said that

FAVORS WORLD WIDE RELIGIOUS UNITY

NEW YORK, April 11.—Abdul Baha Abbas, the leader of the Bahai movement for worldwide religious unity, arrived here early today on the steamer Cedric from the Mediterranean. Preparations for his welcome at the pier were made yesterday by the Persian-American Educational society and a number of local followers.

Abbas Effendi, as he is known by his official title, is the third of the leaders of Bahaiism. He has been recently imprisoned by the Moslems on account of his liberal tendencies with regard to the Moslems, the greatest distrust. The Bahai believe that universal peace is possible through the harmony of all religions.

Baha, Prophet of Peace, To Visit Canada.

Head of the Bahai Movement, Which Seeks the Establishment of Peace and Religious Unity in the World.



Herald of New World Religion

BAHAIST LEADER IN JEWISH PULPIT

As Come When All Should Enjoy at Peace."

RACIALISM WRONG, SAYS EASTERN SAGE

Strife and War Caused by Religious and National Prejudices.

RELIGION MEANS PEACE.

MATERIALISM NO PHILOSOPHY, SAYS ORIENTAL SEER

Philosophy Founded on Nature is Bankrupt. Declares Abdul Baha, Persian Preacher.

Palo Alto

Persian Indicts the Futility of War

Abdul Baha Declares International Strife Unscientific and Contrary to Nature.

לחיות בראייתנו
אמת צווישן מעני

Abdul Baha, who is to make several addresses in Boston for Universal Peace.

PERSIAN INTERESTED IN AFRICAN CAUSE

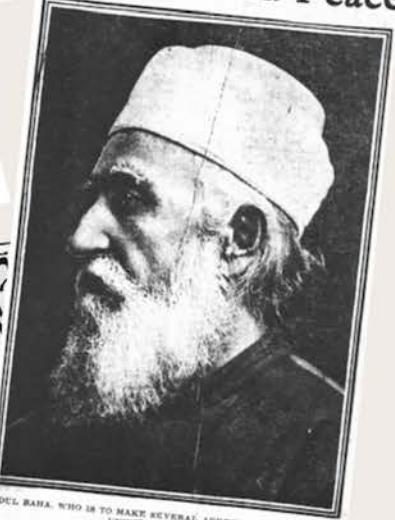
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Will Begin Fourth Annual Convention Tonight.

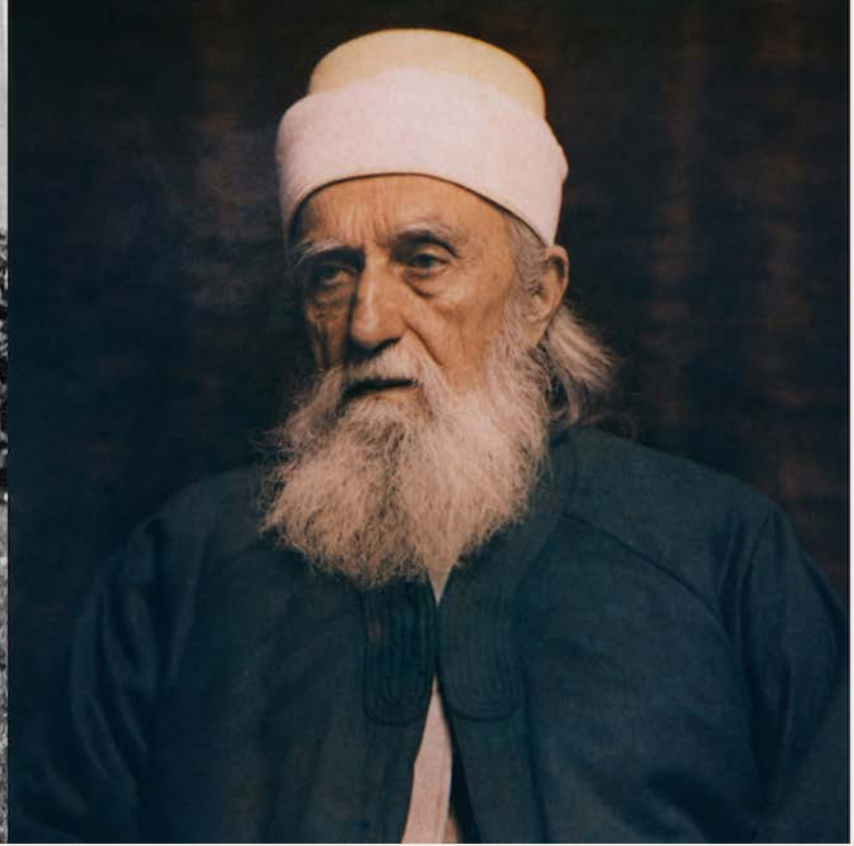
MISS JANE ADAMS WILL PRESIDE AT FIRST SESSION

APOSTLE OF PEACE HERE PREDICTS AN APPALLING WAR IN THE OLD WORLD

The fourth annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will begin tonight at the New Hotel, Forty-Ninth Street, New York City.

Persian to Plead for World Peace





'Abdu'l-Bahá's journey is a decidedly modern one. His voice is recorded in New York and Budapest, two films are made of Him in New York, including the one in Brooklyn (left), and the only color portrait we have of Him is made in Paris by Valentin Vaucamps (right).

Public Talks Reach

Disclaimer: attendance figures are estimates
from research by Earl Redman and Dariush Lamy

550 Public Talks
in **96** Cities

**Total estimated
attendance**

120,000

Media Reach

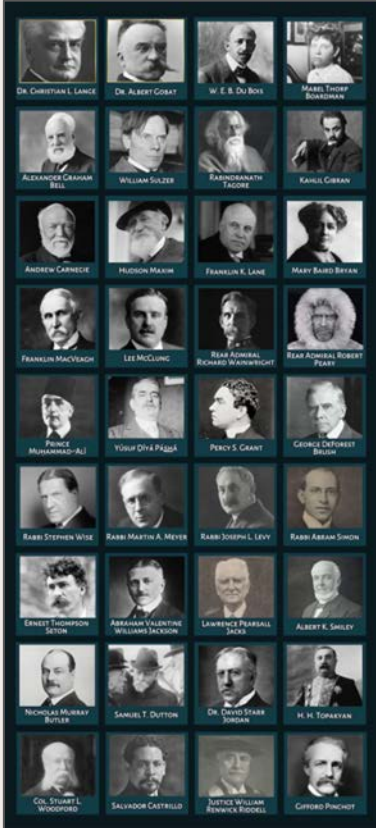
Disclaimer: readership figures are estimates
from research by Amin Egea

1,700 Articles
in **800** Newspapers

**Total estimated
readership**

28,000,000

Among personalities encountered by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá during His travels are world-famous scientists, explorers, politicians, writers and artists (Kahlil Gibran, W.E.B. Du Bois, the brother of the Khedive of Egypt, Felix Moscheles, Henri Bergson...) Please see the “Prominent Personalities” sections in *The Extraordinary Life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá* [Part 6](#) and [Part 7](#) for more information.



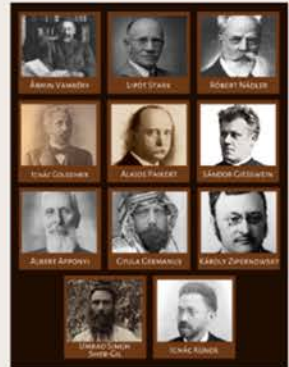
AMERICA



ENGLAND



FRANCE



HUNGARY



EGYPT

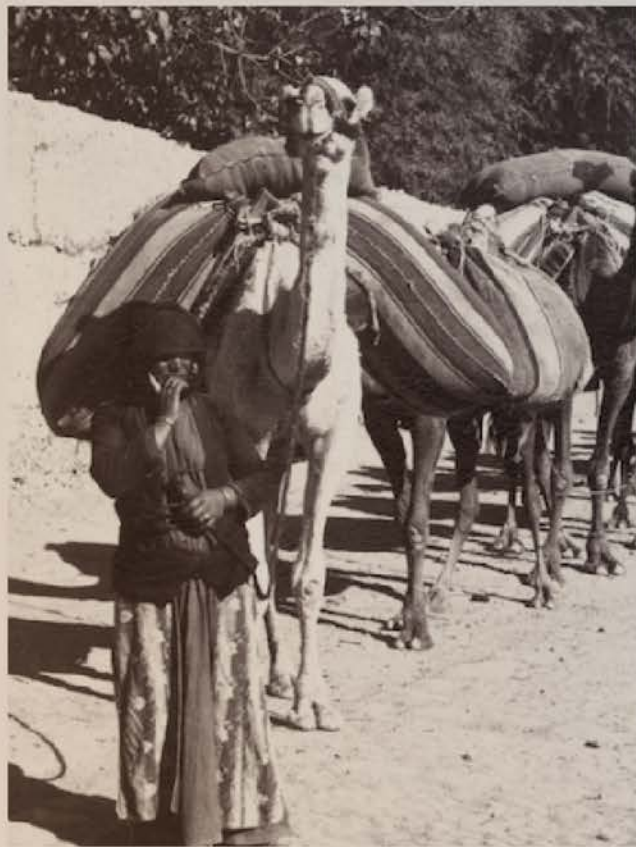


1913 - 1921

THE HOLY
LAND

THE WAR YEARS

1914 - 1918

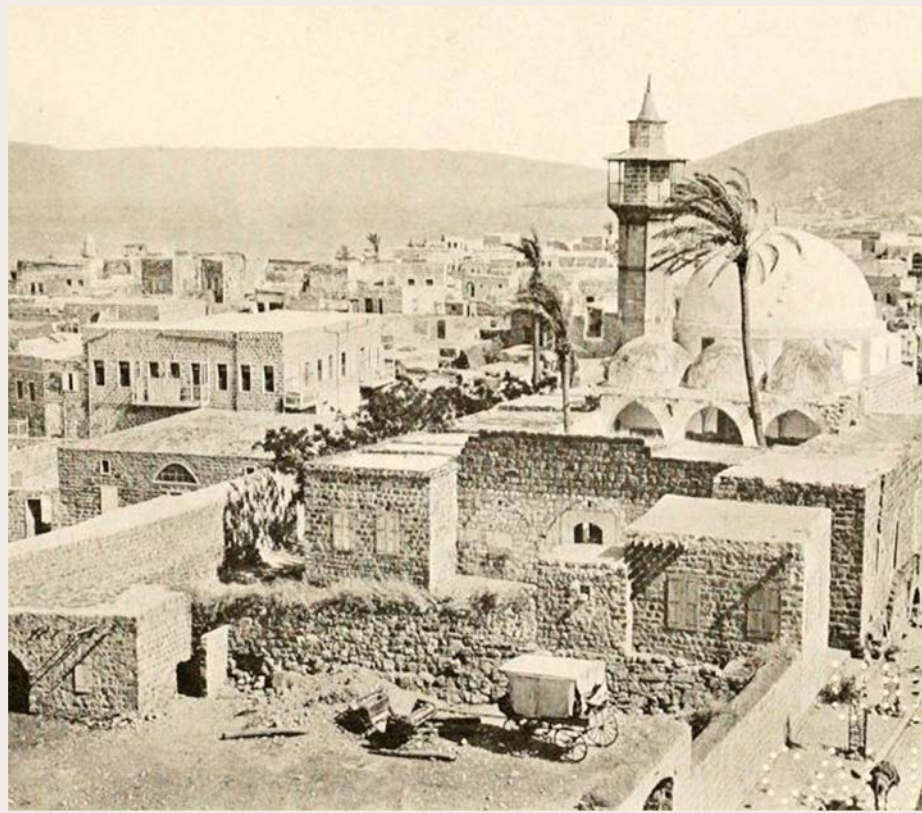


‘Abdu’l-Bahá finally returns home (right) on 5 December 1913, after a three-year absence. After a few weeks spent with His family, around the Shrines of the Báb and Bahá’u’lláh, and calling on friends in Haifa and ‘Akká, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spends a month in and around the Jordan Valley.





An undated photograph showing all the women of the Holy Family with pilgrim and resident women. From left to right, seated in the middle row: * Munavvar Khánum ('Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum's fourth daughter); * Ṭúbá Khánum ('Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum's second daughter); * Bahíyyih Khánum, the Greatest Holy Leaf and Sister of 'Abdu'l-Bahá; * Munírih Khánum, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's wife for 50 years; * Dīyá'íyyih Khánum ('Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum's first daughter and the mother of Shoghi Effendi); * Rúhá Khánum, ('Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum's third daughter)



This rare photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Tiberias in June 1914, sitting on His balcony overlooking the Sea of Galilee was taken by E. M. Newman (see [*The Extraordinary Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá Part VIII*](#) for more information). 'Abdu'l-Bahá often visited Tiberias, and He loved the association the place had with the ministry of Jesus Christ.

PRINTS THE NEWS WHILE IT IS NEWS

The Evening Herald

KLAMATH FALLS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Friday, June 29, 1914. Klamath Falls, Oregon, Monday, June 29, 1914. Price, Five Cents

ASSASSINATION MAY LEAD TO WAR

AUSTRIAN ARCH DUKE IS KILLED; BELIEVED THAT EMPEROR WILL DIE; GIANTIC MURDER PLOT IS FEARED

VIENNA, June 29.—The assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand and the empress, wife of the emperor, at Sarajevo Sunday by Gavrilo Princip, may change the map of Europe.

It is also feared that Emperor Franz Joseph will succumb to the shock of the tragedy.

WAR ON KILLING USEFUL BIRDS

DEFEAT BIRDIES ANV ON KILLING

Two Men Highly Considered for Provisional Presidency of Mexico



CUT THE WEEDS BEFORE RODEO EXTRA ROOMS IN CITY ARE BEING PLACED ON LIST

APPEARANCE OF THE CITY CAN BE IMPROVED 100 PER CENT BY TAKING ONE MEASURE—CUTTING THE WEEDS TO GET 'EM AHEAD

There's another war that a big town can be made here, and that is cutting the weeds which may have been allowed to grow rampant in the streets and yards.

The board of public health has announced that it will issue orders for the removal of all weeds and rubbish from the streets.

CHURCHES PLAN UNION PICNIC

CHURCHES LEAV

APPEARANCE OF THE CITY CAN BE IMPROVED 100 PER CENT BY TAKING ONE MEASURE—CUTTING THE WEEDS TO GET 'EM AHEAD

ALL WITH ROOMS AND AHEAD TO VISIT

Known This Year Will Be at Least 1000 Larger Than Last Year and the demand for Rooms Will Be Greater.

The board of public health has announced that it will issue orders for the removal of all weeds and rubbish from the streets.

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CHURCHES PLAN UNION PICNIC

CHURCHES LEAV

The war 'Abdu'l-Bahá so fervently warned about is here. 'Abdu'l-Bahá sends His family and all Bahá'ís to Druze villages in the mountains. This is a contemporary photo of a Druze village, but it is not of 'Abú Sinán.



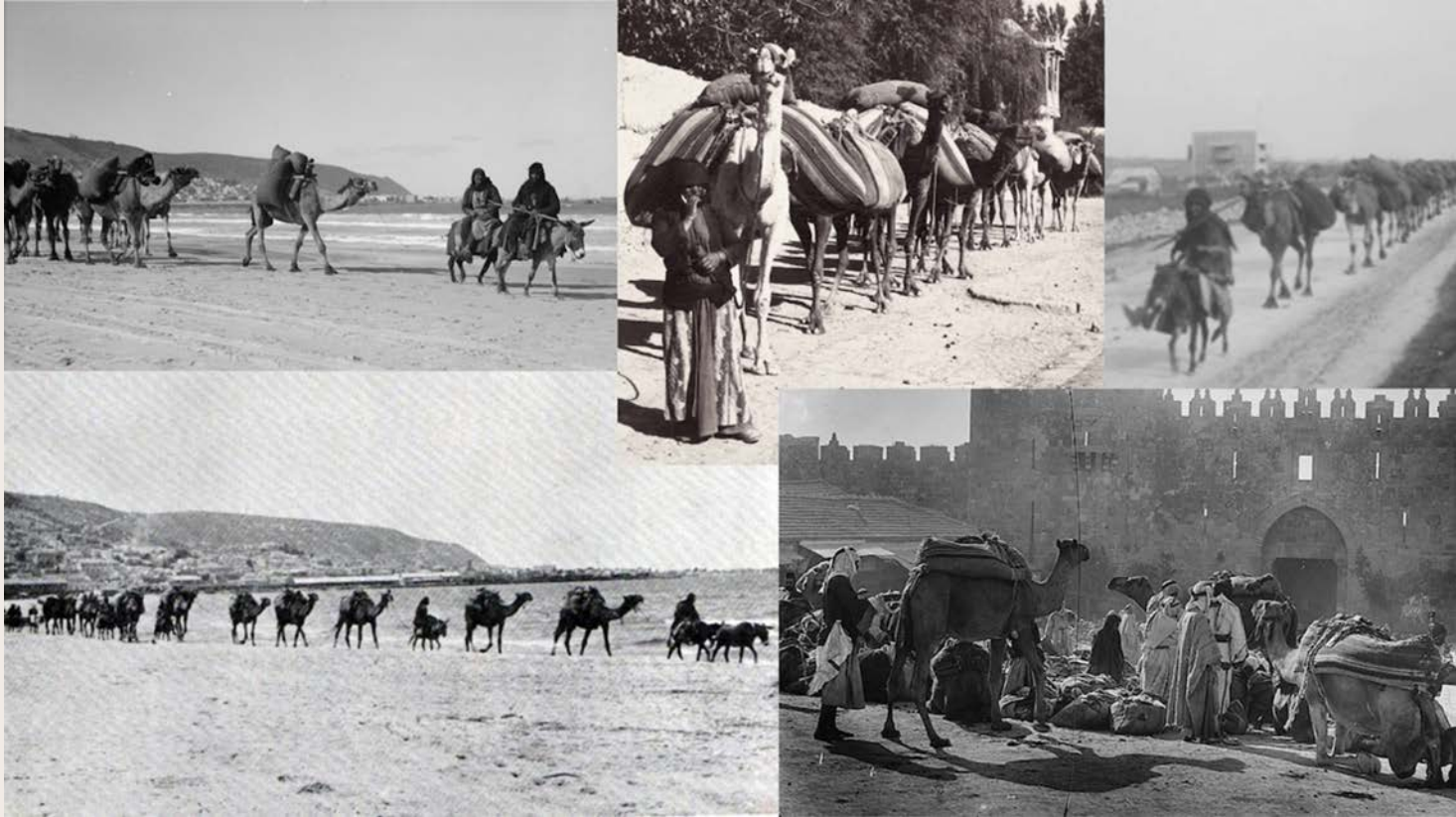
On top of the shortages due to the war, and an unusually-bad harvest caused by a drought, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan are descended upon by a swarm of millions of locusts that devour absolutely everything. Close to 500,000 people die of hunger, including half the population of Lebanon. 'Abdu'l-Bahá fights throughout the war to avert famine in the 'Akká-Haifa area. All these photos are from the Library of Congress collection on the 1915 locust plague in Palestine.



During the entirety of the war, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá will spend days and weeks in the Jordan (pictured here in modern times) and Yarmuk valleys in his four agricultural enterprises, buying all the wheat and corn He can find (some of which He Himself had stored underground in Roman pits and had been saved from the locusts).



‘Abdu’l-Bahá single-handedly and brilliantly manages the logistics of sourcing wheat and corn, expediting it via hundreds of camel loads (the same types of camel caravans pictured here), and overseeing the efficient distribution of the wheat in a fair and equitable manner, with the help of trusted associates.



The British army advances quickly through Palestine, capturing Beersheba, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Jericho in the Spring of 1918 and finally Haifa in a single afternoon on 23 September 1918, with a heroic victory by the two squadrons of Indian lancers (pictured below) who captured the entire city with only 8 casualties, on horseback and armed with lances.

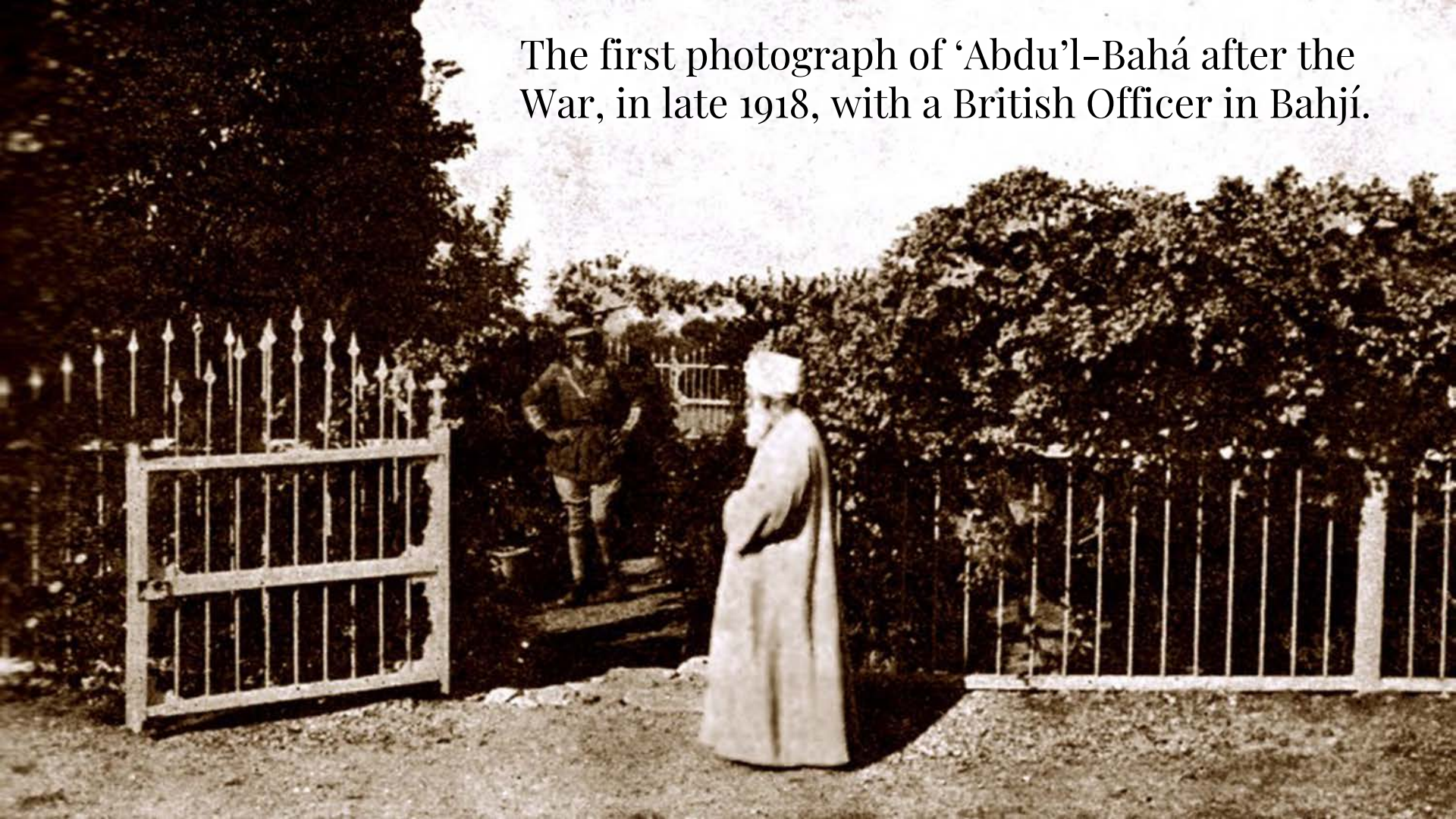


THE YEARS OF PRESTIGE

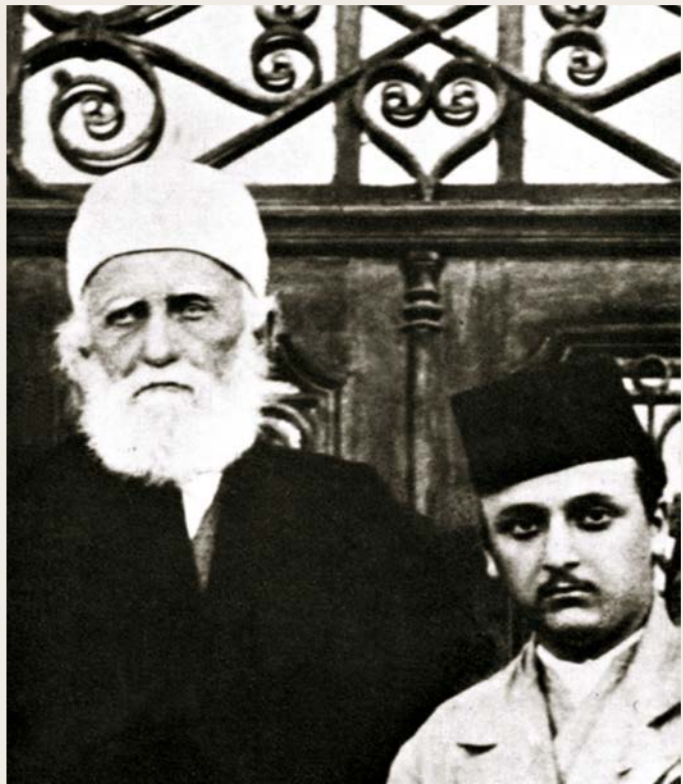
1918 - 1921



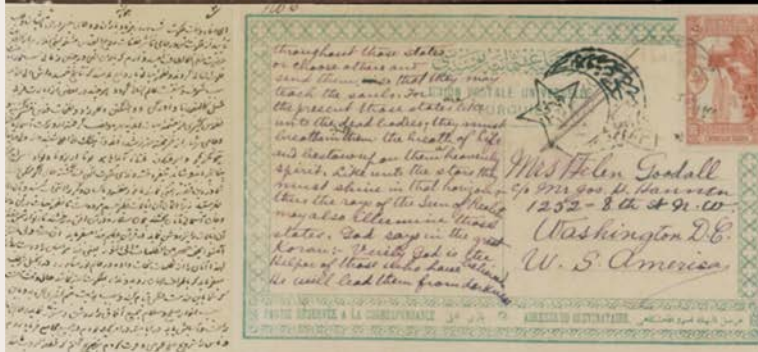
The first photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá after the War, in late 1918, with a British Officer in Bahjí.



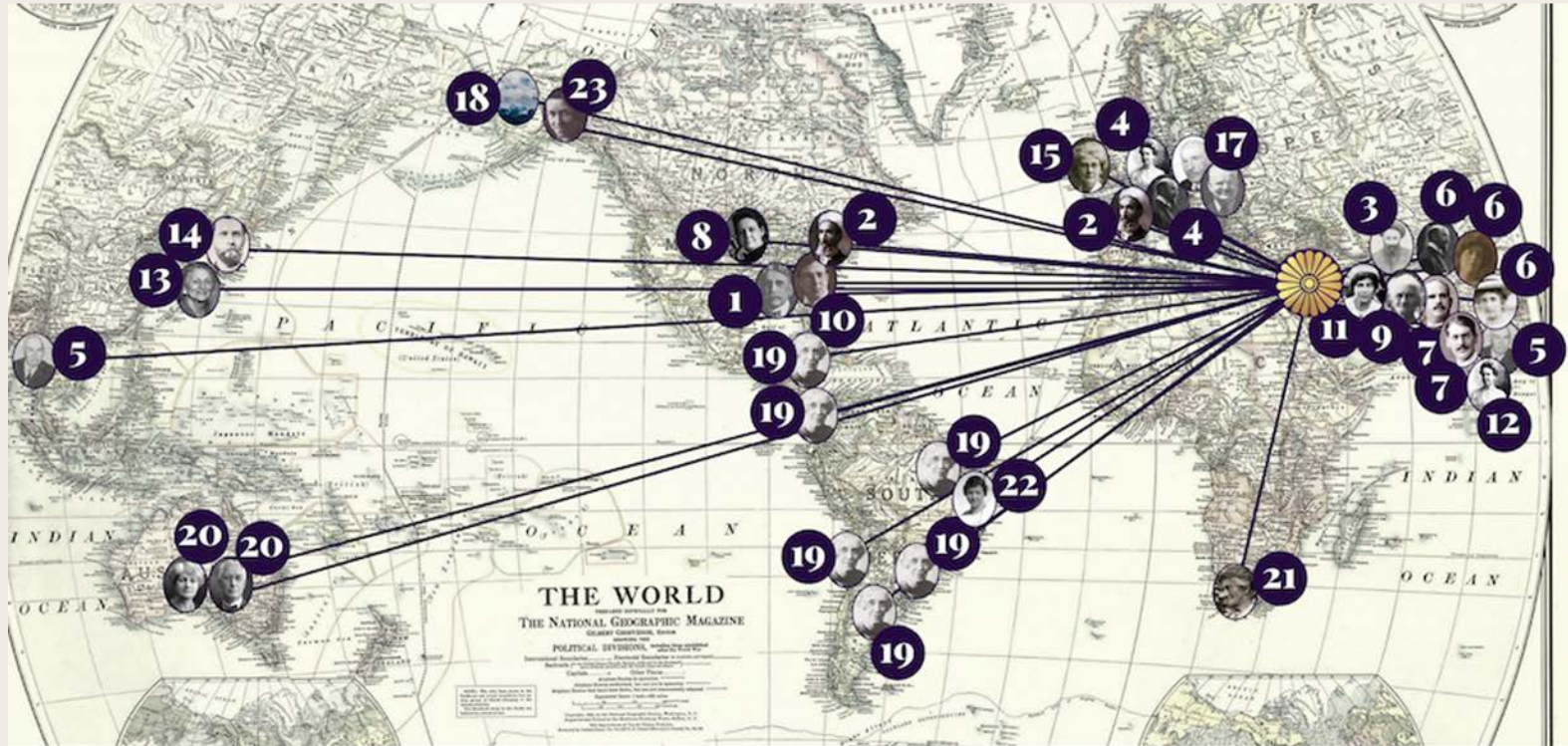
For two years, from 1918 to 1920, His grandson, Shoghi Effendi, learns at ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s side. He is ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s secretary, constantly at His side, following every instruction. Soon after the end of the war, eastern and western pilgrims return (collage).



During the War, in the springs of 1916 and 1917, 'Abdu'l-Bahá revealed 14 Tablets of the Divine Plan, one of the three charters of the Administrative Order of the Faith. Shoghi Effendi will dedicate His ministry to implementing the provisions of the Tablets, our very first Plan, and 102 years later, we are also continuing to implement the Plan 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave us in April 1919, when the Tablets were unveiled in New York. The photos show the participants, a sample of two original tablets and the girls who did the unveiling.



The last years of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s life are incredibly rich and exciting, as the Faith spreads to over 35 countries, when it had been in 15 countries at the start of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s ministry. This map shows the worldwide missions ‘Abdu’l-Bahá inspired or sent Bahá’ís on to. The map with details for each entry can be found at [*The Extraordinary Life of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá Part 8.*](#)





The British Government confers on 'Abdu'l-Bahá the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on 27 April 1920, effectively knighting Him as "Sir 'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Abbás."

In December 1919, 'Abdu'l-Bahá receives a letter from the Central Organization for a Durable Peace. He dictates a weighty and extremely long Persian Tablet in response, known the *Lawḥ-i-Láhih*, or *the Tablet of the Hague*, which Shoghi Effendi considers a *"Tablet of far-reaching importance."* The photo below depicts Participants of the World Congress for Peace held in 1913 in The Hague.



In 1921, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá receives a deeply spiritual letter from one of the world’s foremost scientists, Dr. Auguste Forel. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá responds with a fascinating and masterful 4,000 word Tablet in Persian which He reveals on September 21, 1921, just two months before His passing.

Shoghi Effendi will later refer to the Tablet to Dr. Auguste Forel as “*one of the most weighty the Master ever wrote.*”





28 November 1921

THE ASCENSION
OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

‘Abdu’l-Bahá returning from Bahjí along the coast in his carriage, driven by the faithful Isfándiyár, in October 1921, one month before His passing.



‘Abdu’l-Bahá carrying the coffin of a believer, ten days before His passing;



Photo: United States National Bahá’í Archives

The last photograph of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá walking towards the Pilgrim House.

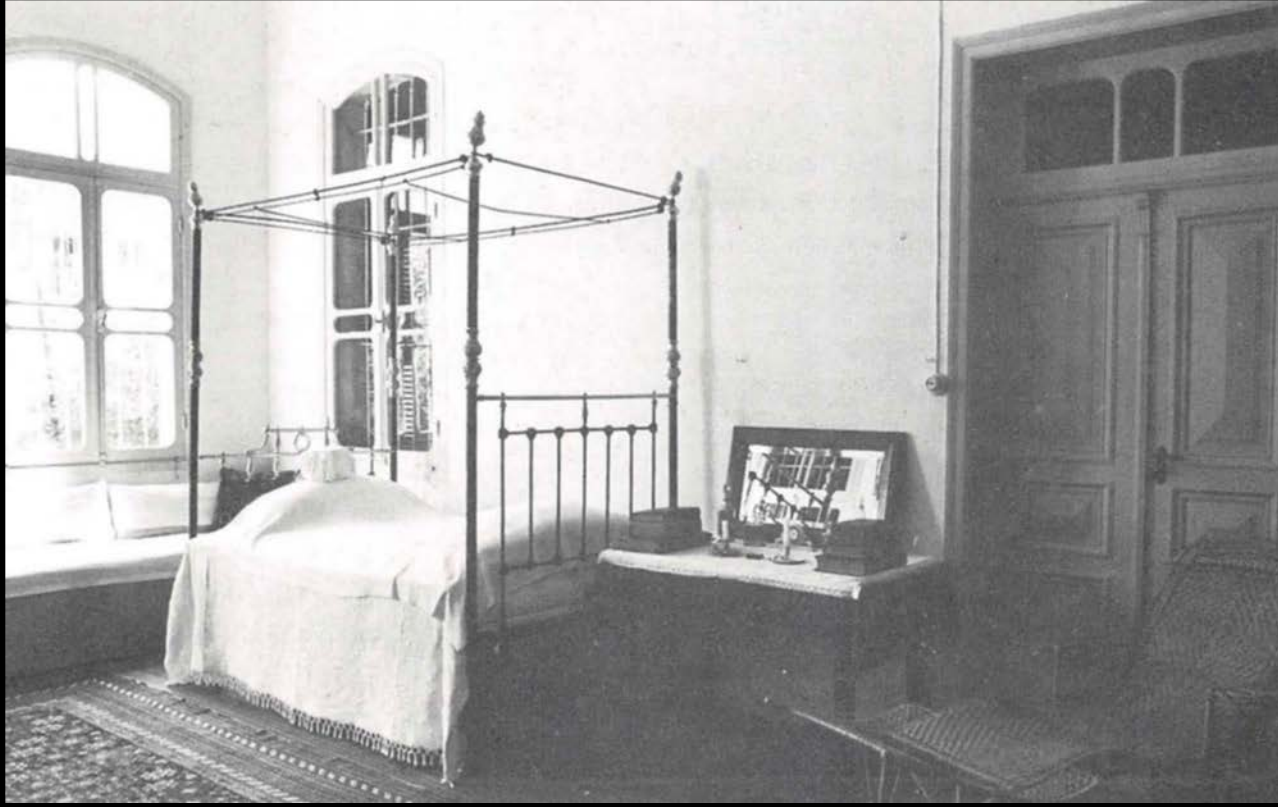


Photo: United States National Bahá’í Archives

The last Tablet of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, addressed to the German Bahá’ís.



Photo: Alexander Meinhard



The room of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, where He passes away from this world at one thirty in the morning on November 28, 1921, one hundred years ago, after having lived a perfectly exemplary life for 77 years.

CABLEGRAM



"VIA COMMERCIAL"

20 BROAD STREET,
TELEPHONE SECTOR 200

ALL SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON BACK HEREOF, WHICH ARE PRINTED AND NUMBERED 133

NOV 28 1921

NO 3 FL 103

HARFA IS

WILHELMITE BY

HIS HOLINESS ABDUL BAHÁ ASCENDED TO ASHÁ KINGDOM INFORM FRIENDS
GREATEST HOLY LEAF

The cable sent by Bahíyyih Khánum, the Greatest Holy Leaf and sister of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the day of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's passing, informing the world of the devastating news.

Some notables arrive for the funeral procession. In attendance will be the British Commissioner for Palestine and the Mufti of Haifa.



The casket containing the sacred remains of 'Abdu'l-Bahá is carried out of the Master's house on the shoulder of pallbearers. There will be many pallbearers relaying each other through the funeral route to the Shrine of the Báb.

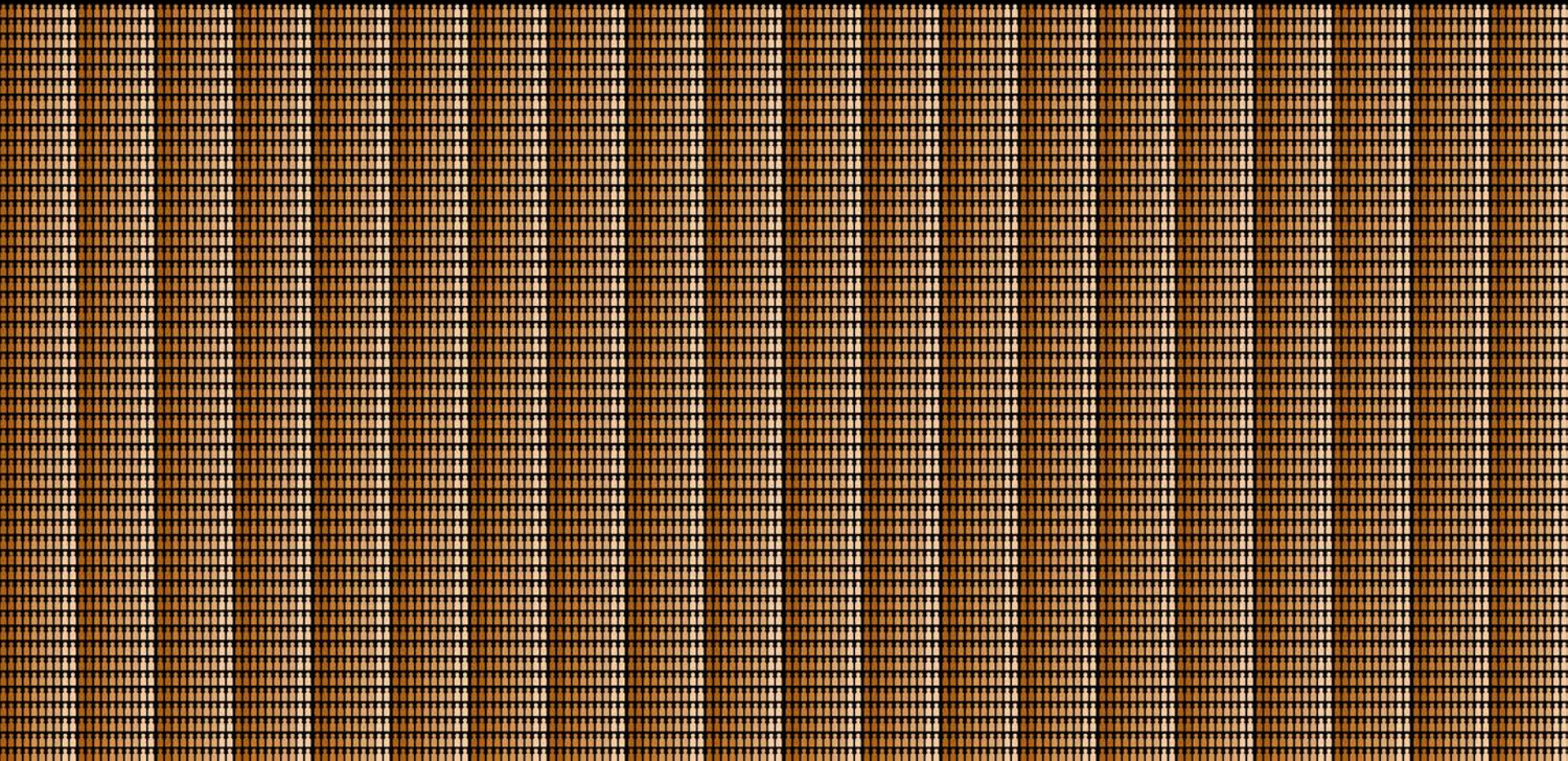


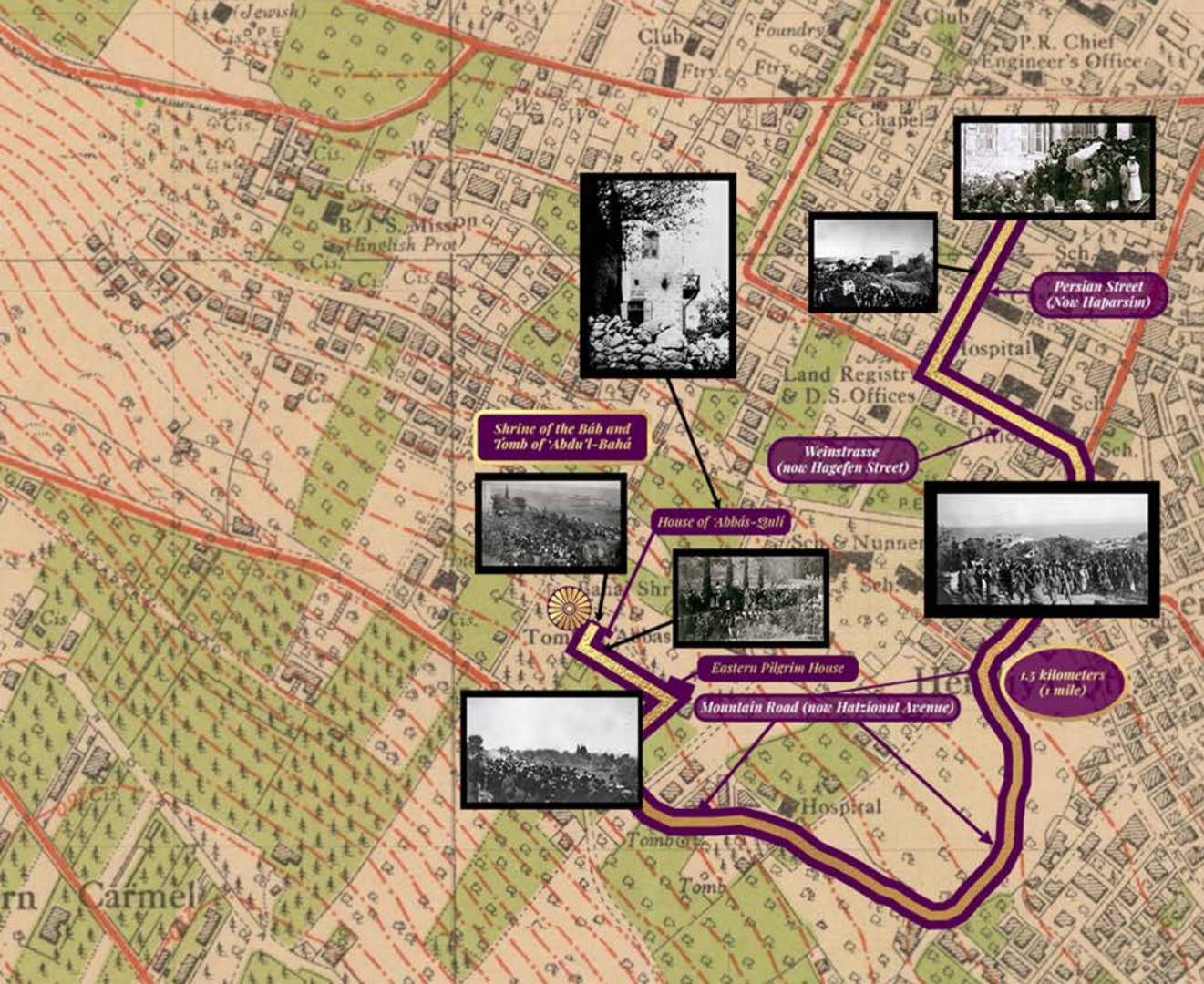
The casket has left the Master's House (in the background) and is heading uphill on Persian Street towards Weinstrasse, or Vine Street (now Hagefen Street).





This is a crowd of ten thousand people. The funeral of 'Abbas Effendi, as He was known in Palestine, was an unprecedented event of unity among Muslims, Christians, Jews, and Druze, all present to honor the "Father of the Poor" and a father-figure to many of them, over the six decades 'Abdu'l-Bahá lived in Palestine and served its people.





This is an exact map of the funeral route, which started from Persian Street, turned left on Weinstrasse, then right onto Mountain Road until the procession reached the entrance road to the Shrine of the Báb.

Credit: Michael Day, *Journey to a Mountain*.



The funeral procession has arrived in front of the Shrine of the Báb. This photograph shows a group of men and boys who have climbed on the roof of the Shrine. Bahá'ís will not speak at the funeral. Only British authorities, Christians, Muslims, and Jews will give eulogies, perhaps no better testament to the fact 'Abdu'l-Bahá, or 'Abbás Effendi as they all knew Him, belonged to all.



‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s lifelong love for the poor continued after His own physical death. For the seven days of the wake, between 100 - 150 of the poor were fed daily, and on the seventh day after His passing, wheat was distributed in ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s name to 700 of the poor. In this rare photo, we can see individuals walking away, weighed down by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s wheat, a powerful image.



2019 - 2021

THE SHRINE OF
'ABDU'L-BAHÁ



The structure that is envisaged in the design seeks to honour ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s unique position as the Centre of the Covenant, and to reflect at once His lofty station and His humility. It creates a space of immense sacredness, to which pilgrims and visitors will be drawn for the purpose of prayer and meditation.

*The Universal House of Justice,
Letter dated 20 September 2019*



This should be unlike any other building. It seeks to manifest ‘Abdu’l-Baha’s selflessness, wisdom, openness, acceptance, and kindness towards all people, to embody His love for gardens and nature, and to reflect His progressive and forward-looking approach.

Hossein Amanat, Architect

The immense and lofty majesty of the entrance, combined with the very humble, understated, flat profile of the Shrine, invisible at a distance, unlike a cathedral, perfectly illustrate the Universal House of Justice's description that the Shrine should ***“reflect at once His lofty station and His humility.”***

The groundbreaking design (immensely majestic up close, invisible at a distance) embodies what architect Hossein Amanat terms ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s ***“progressive and forward-looking approach.”***



‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Shrine
literally gives life: the entire
roof of the structure is a
garden with plants, shrubs,
trees, and flowers, which
embody what Mr. Amanat
calls ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s
***“selflessness, wisdom,
openness, acceptance, and
kindness towards all
people”*** and ***“His love for
gardens and nature.”***

A graphic-rendering film of
the Shrine follows in the last
slide of this presentation.





SLIDESHOW CREDITS

Slideshow designed by Violetta Zein, adapted from the online chronology [The Extraordinary Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá](#) she created for [The Utterance Project](#) on the occasion of the Centenary of the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Thank you to Joe Paczkowski, Michael V. Day, Ismael Velasco, Mona Grieser, Rob Stauffer, and Rochan Mavaddat for suggestions on improvement

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Slide 23: Photo courtesy of Istanbul Üniversitesi, [Nadir Eserler Kütüphanesi](#)

Slide 24: Original graphic by Violetta Zein. Base map: 1865 map of "Turquie d'Europe" (European Turkey) by Adolphe Hippolyte Dufour. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

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