

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

The beginning 1910
Haifa to Egypt

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 1

Leaving Haifa

On 29 August 1910, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá suddenly left Haifa by steamer for Egypt. He wrote His sister:

In recent days, I have made a plan to visit Egypt, if this be God’s will. Do thou, on my behalf, lay thy head on the sacred Threshold... and ask that I may be confirmed in my work; that I may, in return for His endless bounties, win, if He will, a drop out of the ocean of servitude.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá to His sister Bahiyyih Khanum, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p.



'Abdu'l-Bahá

In Egypt 1910-1911

He stayed in Port Said for one month. He sailed for Europe, but was forced by poor health to get off the boat at Alexandria. He stayed in Ramleh, an eastern suburb of Alexandria, for 8 months.

(Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 11-12)

In Egypt 1910-1911

13-year old Shoghi Effendi arrived in Ramleh and stayed with his grandfather. Shoghi Effendi and the 11-year old Ali Yazdi both attended the French Brothers' School there and became friends. Like his grandfather, Shoghi Effendi, who was always full of energy and the love of life, called his younger companion Sheikh-Ali. Shoghi Effendi was commonly 'Abdu'l-Bahá's translator for talks.



The young
Shoghi Effendi

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Ali Yazdi
and Marion
1958

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Ali Yazdi's account

Ali Yazdi, a lad of 11 years who lived in Ramleh, left this description ([excerpts](#)):

“I heard the news of the coming of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to Ramleh. I looked. There He was! Then He walked through the crowd – slowly, majestically, smiling radiantly as he greeted the bowed heads on either side. I could not get near Him. Nevertheless, I went away happy.

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Ali Yazdi's account

“A villa was rented for Him. It was there that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá chose to receive a great variety of notables, public figures, clerics, aristocrats and writers – as well as poor and despairing people. I went there often, sometimes on the way home from school, sometimes on weekends.”

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Ali Yazdi's account

“I spent most of my time outside of school in His garden. I would wait to get a glimpse of Him as He came out for His customary walk or conversed with pilgrims from faraway places. To hear His vibrant and melodious voice ringing in the open air and to see Him exhilarated me and gave me hope.”

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Ali Yazdi's account

“Quite often He came to me and smiled and talked. There was a radiance about Him, an almost unlimited kindness and love that shone from Him. Seeing Him infused me with a feeling of goodness. I felt humble and at the same time exceedingly happy. When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá spoke to me, I would look into His eyes – blue, smiling, full of love.”

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Ali Yazdi's account

“He was straight as an arrow. His head was thrown back. His silver-grey hair fell in waves to His shoulders. His beard was white. His eyes were keen; His forehead, broad. He wore a white turban around an ivory-coloured felt cap. He looked at everyone, smiled and welcomed all....”

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Ali Yazdi's account

“He spoke often and on many subjects. For nine months it seemed like paradise. Then He left us and, after three months in Cairo, sailed for Europe. How dismal everything became.”

(Ali Yazdi, in Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, pp. 9-10)

Departure for Europe

'Abdu'l-Bahá went for 3 months to Cairo, and back to Ramleh on 22 July 1911 for 3 weeks. He sailed on 11 August 1911 for Marseilles, where He was met by Hippolyte Dreyfus-Barney, and travelled by train to Thonon-les-Bains, on the French shore of Lake Geneva.

'Abdu'l-Bahá with
Hippolyte Dreyfus
and Laura
Dreyfus-Barney

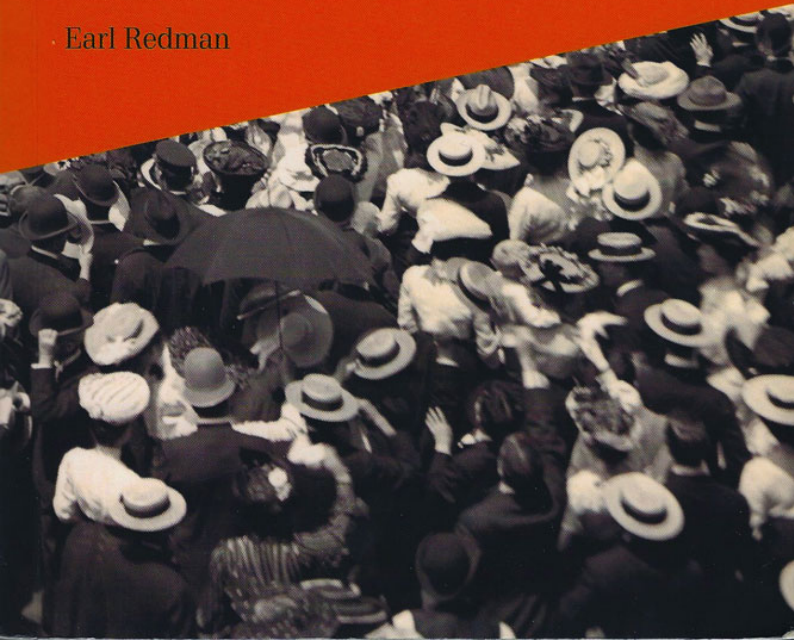
Shoghi Effendi
on the right





'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst

Earl Redman



'Abdu'l-Bahá's
travels are
described in
many books

'Abdu'l-Bahá

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