

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Departure for America 1912

First talk in New York

11 April 1912

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 10

Travel from Egypt to New York

'Abdu'l-Bahá boarded the RMS Cedric in Alexandria, Egypt, on 25 March 1912, bound for Naples, Italy, arriving 28 March. Shoghi Effendi (age 15) was accompanying 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but was obliged to leave the ship in Naples.

They passed through the Straits of Gibraltar on 3 April.



RMS Cedric

Arrival in New York

'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in New York City on 11 April 1912, returning to Europe on 5 December 1912.

In New York 11-25 April 1912, He gave at least one talk a day.

Arrival in New York

Reporters boarded the ship and found ‘Abdu’l-Bahá on the upper deck. He said:

“The pages of swiftly appearing newspapers are indeed the mirror of the world... But it behooveth the editors of the newspaper to be sanctified from the prejudice of egotism and desire, and to be adorned with the ornament of equity and justice.”

Arrival in New York

The major New York newspapers carried headlines:

ABDUL BAHA ABBAS IS HERE TO PREACH
BROTHERLY LOVE

PERSIAN TEACHER OF WORLD PEACE IS
HERE

ABDUL BAHA HERE TO CONVERT AMERICA
TO HIS PEACE DOCTRINE.

Arrival in New York

Several hundred Bahá'ís had gathered at the pier to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá as His ship docked at noon, but He sent word that they should leave and meet Him that afternoon at the home of Edward and Carrie Kinney.

(Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 55-59)

'Abdu'l-Bahá
in
New York



First talk

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Kinney 11 April 1912

Juliet Thompson described that first meeting.

“He was sitting in the center of the dining room, near a table strewn with flowers... At His knees stood the Kinney children, Sanford and Howard, and His arms were around them... No words could describe His ineffable peace. The people stood about in rows and circles: several hundred in the rooms, which all opened into each other. In the dining room, many sat on the floor.”

(Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 63)

'Abdu'l-Bahá
in
New York

with
Edward and Carrie
Kinney
and their sons
Sanford and
Howard



First talk

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Kinney 11 April 1912

How are you? Welcome! Welcome!

After arriving today, although weary with travel, I had the utmost longing and yearning to see you and could not resist this meeting. Now that I have met you, all my weariness has vanished, for your meeting is the cause of spiritual happiness.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 1)

First talk

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Kinney 11 April 1912

I was in Egypt and was not feeling well, but I wished to come to you in America. My friends said, “This is a long journey; the sea is wide; you should remain here.” But the more they advised and insisted, the greater became my longing to take this trip, and now I have come to America to meet the friends of God. This long voyage will prove how great is my love for you.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 1)

First talk

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Kinney 11 April 1912

As New York has made such progress in material civilization, I hope that it may also advance spiritually in the Kingdom and Covenant of God so that the friends here may become the cause of the illumination of America, that this city may become the city of love and that the fragrances of God may be spread from this place to all parts of the world.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 1)