

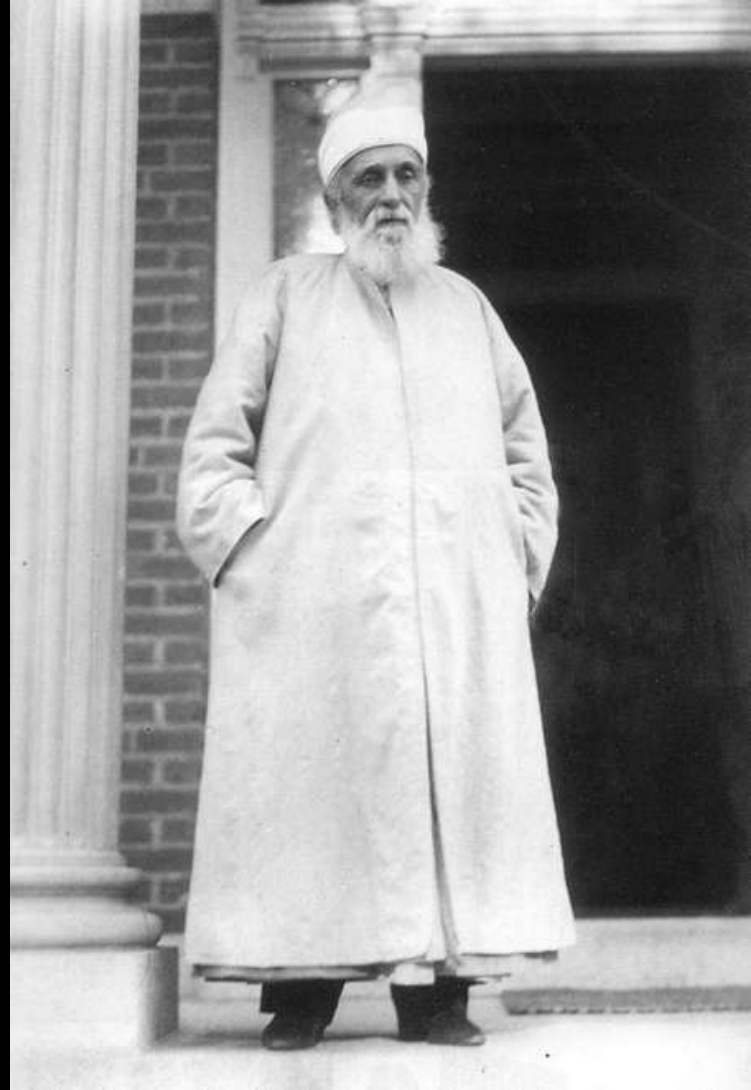
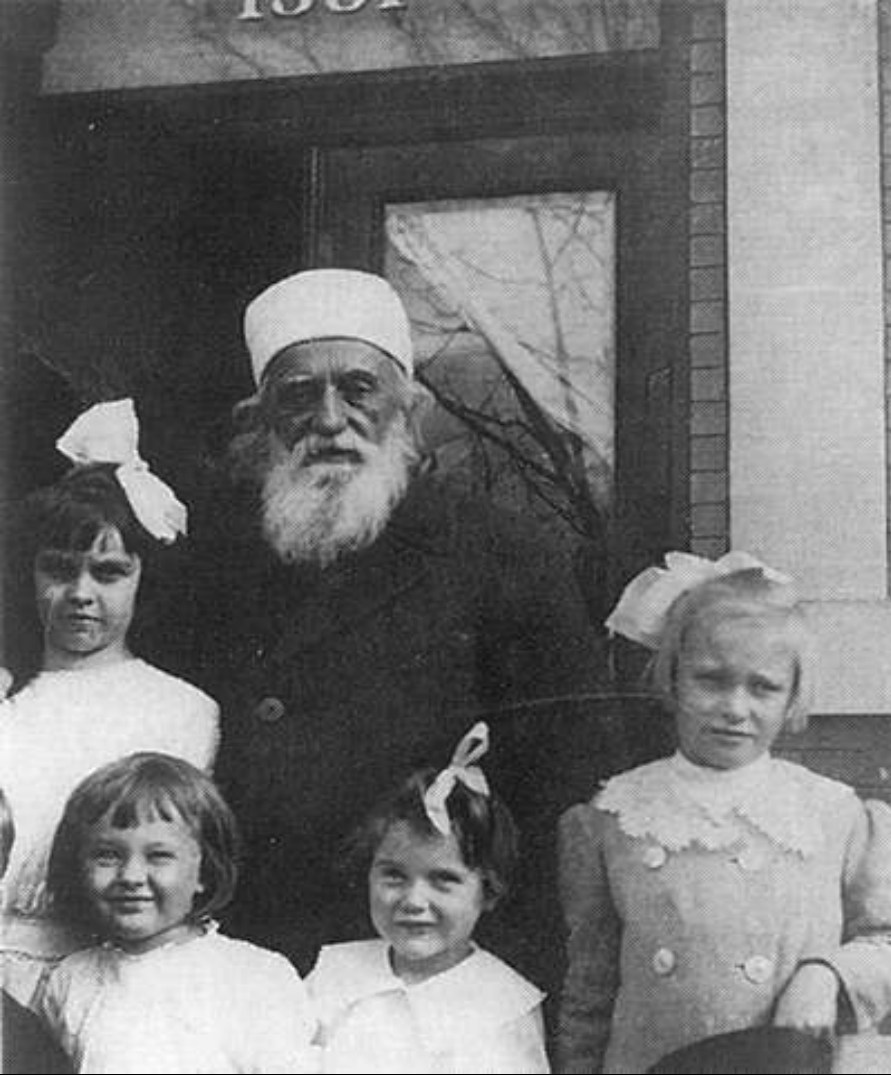
Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Washington, D.C, 24 April 1912
Children - Wellbeing of Humanity

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 14

Talk at Children's Reception

'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke at a children's reception at Studio Hall on 24 April 1912. One of the children present was 2 year old Paul Haney, who later became a Hand of the Cause. The children sang for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He then talked to the children about **music as food of the soul.**



'Abdu'l-Bahá in Washington, D.C.

Talk at Children's Reception

What a wonderful meeting this is! These are the children of the Kingdom. The song we have just listened to was very beautiful in melody and words. The art of music is divine and effective. It is the food of the soul and spirit.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 21)

Talk at Children's Reception

Through the power and charm of music the spirit of man is uplifted. It has wonderful sway and effect in the hearts of children, for their hearts are pure, and melodies have great influence in them.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 21)

Talk at Children's Reception

The latent talents with which the hearts of these children are endowed will find expression through the medium of music. Therefore, you must exert yourselves to make them proficient; teach them to sing with excellence and effect.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 21)

Talk at Children's Reception

It is incumbent upon each child to know something of music, for without knowledge of this art the melodies of instrument and voice cannot be rightly enjoyed. Likewise, it is necessary that the schools teach it in order that the souls and hearts of the pupils may become vivified and exhilarated and their lives be brightened with enjoyment.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 21)

Talk at Children's Reception

Today illumined and spiritual children are gathered in this meeting. They are the children of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of heaven is for such souls as these, for they are near to God. They have pure hearts. They have spiritual faces. The effect of the divine teachings is manifest in the perfect purity of their hearts.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 21)

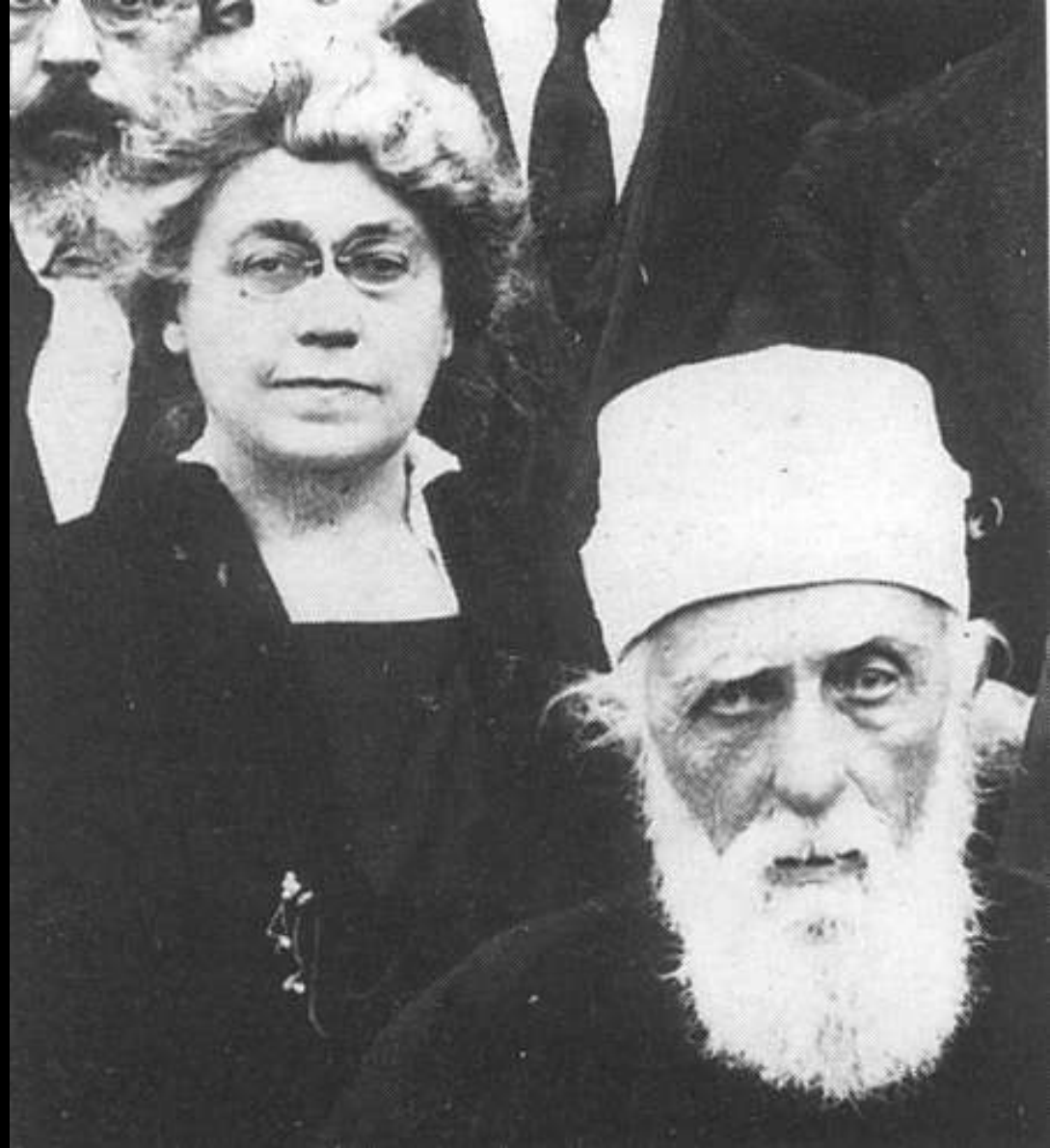


'Abdu'l-Bahá in Washington, D.C.

Meetings at Agnes Parson's Home

Agnes Parsons held a number of receptions and events at her home for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to meet important people, including former President Theodore Roosevelt, a Supreme Court Justice, and the Secretary (minister) of the Treasury.

Agnes Parsons
with
'Abdu'l-Bahá
in
Washington, D.C.



Meeting at Agnes Parson's Home

At one meeting at Agnes Parson's home on 24 April 1912 He said:

I hope that these gatherings may be productive of great results, and there is no greater result than the love of God. There is no greater result than bonds of service in the divine Kingdom and attainment to the good pleasure of the Lord.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 22)

Meeting at Agnes Parson's Home

Therefore, I desire that your hearts may be directed to the Kingdom of God, that your intentions may be pure and sincere, your purposes turned toward altruistic accomplishment unmindful of your own welfare; nay, rather, may all your intentions center in the welfare of humanity, and may you seek to sacrifice yourselves in the pathway of devotion to mankind.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 22)

Travel Washington, D.C. to Chicago

On 28 April, 'Abdu'l-Bahá took the night train to Chicago.