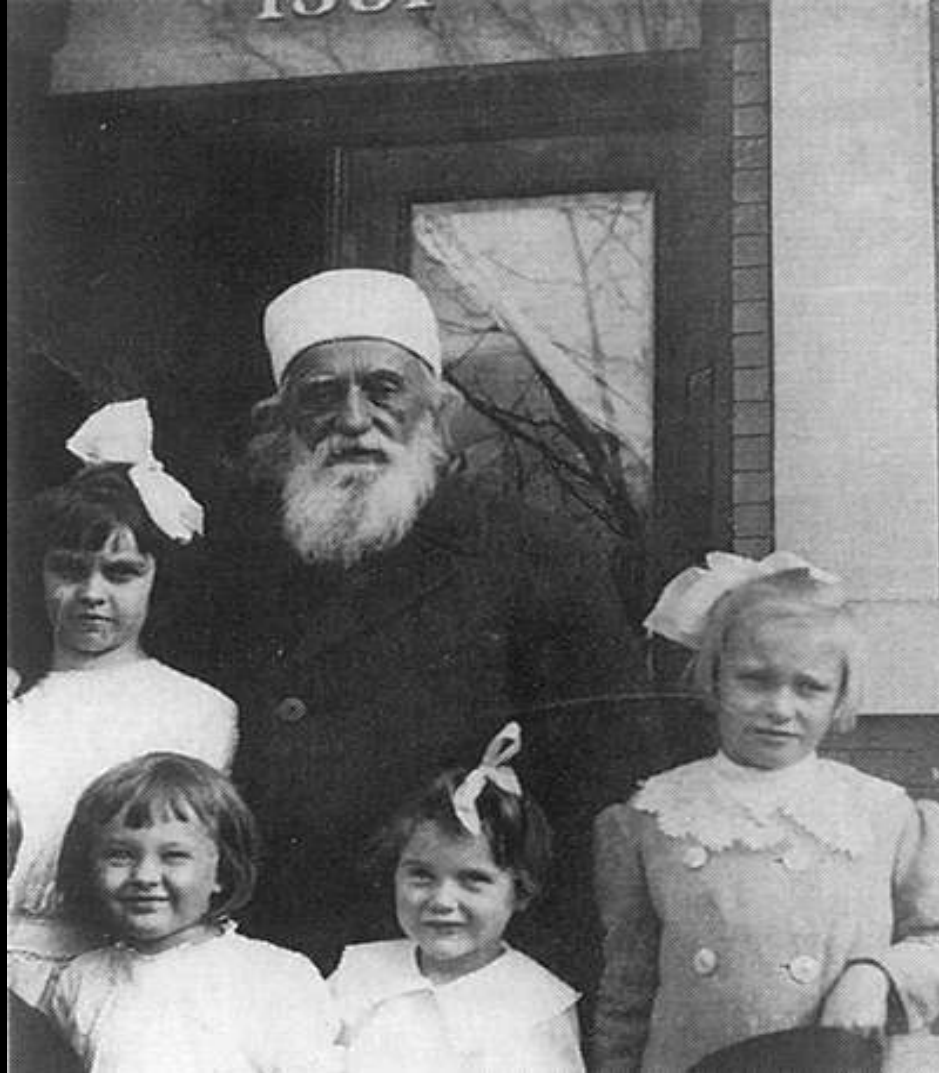


Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Washington, D.C.
9 November 1912
The Reality of Man

Washington, D.C.

In a talk at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Parsons, in Washington, D.C., 'Abdu'l-Bahá explained the difference between the material and spiritual realities of mankind and the power of science



'Abdu'l-Bahá in Washington, D.C.

Reality of Man

Every composition is necessarily subject to destruction or disintegration. For instance, this flower is a composition of various elements; its decomposition is inevitable. When this composed form undergoes decomposition—in other words, when these elements separate and disintegrate—that is what we call the death of the flower. For inasmuch as it is composed of single elements, the grouping of multitudinous cellular atoms, it is subject to disintegration. This is the mortality of the flower.

Reality of Man

Similarly, the body of man is composed of various elements. This composition of the elements has been given life. When these elements disintegrate, life disappears, and that is death. Existence in the various planes, or kingdoms, implies composition; and nonexistence, or death, is decomposition.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 123)

Reality of Man

But the inner and essential reality of man is not composed of elements and, therefore, cannot be decomposed. It is not an elemental composition subject to disintegration or death.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 123)

Reality of Man

...we know that in the human organism there is a center of intellection, a power of intellectual operation which is the discoverer of the realities of things. This power can unravel the mysteries of phenomena. It can comprehend that which is knowable, not alone the sensible. All the inventions are its products. For all of these have been the mysteries of nature.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 123)

Reality of Man

There was a time when the energy of electricity was a mystery of nature, but that collective reality which is manifest in man discovered this mystery of nature, this latent force. Having discovered it, man brought it into the plane of visibility. All the sciences which we now utilize are the products of that wondrous reality.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 123)

Reality of Man

...man is possessed of two realities... a reality connected with the senses which is shared in common with the animal, and another reality which is conscious and ideal in character. This latter is the collective reality and the discoverer of mysteries. ... it is real, eternal and does not have to undergo changes and transformations.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, 123)



'Abdu'l-Bahá in Washington, D.C.