

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

**Washington, D.C.**  
**10 November 1912**  
*Race unity*

# Washington, D.C.

In Washington, D.C., the nation's capital and then a segregated city, 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Hannen and, in His last talk in the city, spoke about race unity.

'Abdu'l-Bahá



# Race Unity

*This is a beautiful assembly. I am very happy that white and black are together. This is the cause of my happiness, for you all are the servants of one God and, therefore, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. In the sight of God there is no distinction between whites and blacks; all are as one. Anyone whose heart is pure is dear to God—whether white or black, red or yellow.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 126)*

# Race Unity

*Among the animals colors exist. The doves are white, black, red, blue; but notwithstanding this diversity of color they flock together in unity, happiness and fellowship, making no distinction among themselves, for they are all doves. Man is intelligent and thoughtful, endowed with powers of mind. Why, then, should he be influenced by distinction of color or race, since all belong to one human family?*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 126)*

# Race Unity

*...it is evident that excellence does not depend upon color. Character is the true criterion of humanity. Anyone who possesses a good character, who has faith in God and is firm, whose actions are good, whose speech is good—that one is accepted at the threshold of God no matter what color he may be.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 126)*

# Race Unity

*I hope you will continue in unity and fellowship. How beautiful to see blacks and whites together! I hope, God willing, the day may come when I shall see the red men, the Indians, with you, also Japanese and others. Then there will be white roses, yellow roses, red roses, and a very wonderful rose garden will appear in the world.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 126)*

# Agnes Parsons

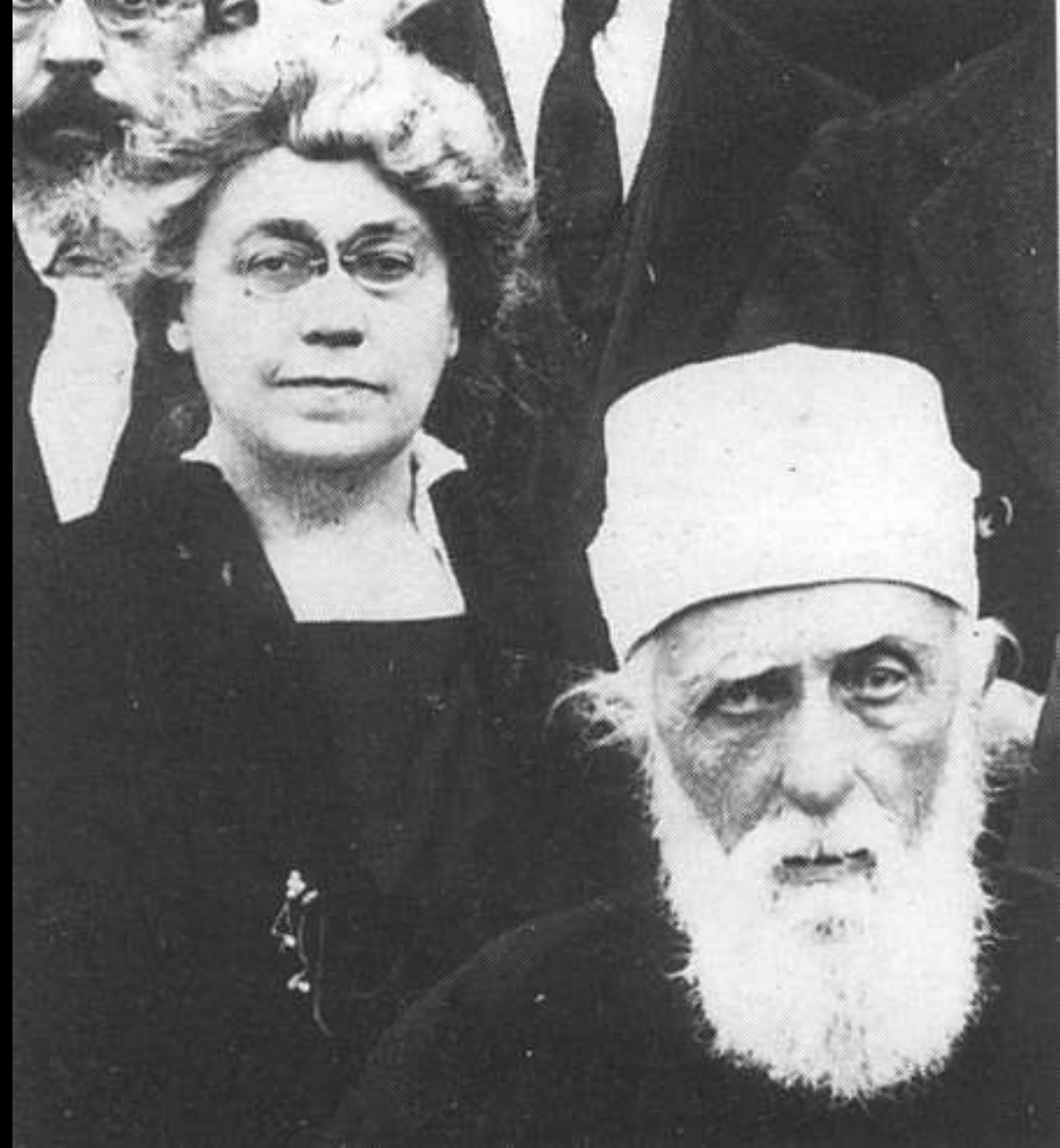
He then left them in the care of Mrs. Parsons.

*O ye revered people! I leave you in charge of Mrs. Parsons. Let her be your advisor. Just as I have been kind to you, she will be kind to you.... And I bear testimony to the effect that she is ideally kind; and you must be grateful for having such a benefactress in your city.*

(Earl Redman, *Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 253)



Agnes Parsons  
and  
'Abdu'l-Bahá



# Return to New York

On 11 November 'Abdu'l-Bahá travelled to Baltimore and spoke at a Unitarian Church, and then went on to Philadelphia. On 12 November, He returned to New York City, staying until 5 December 1912.