

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Departure from America

5 December 1912

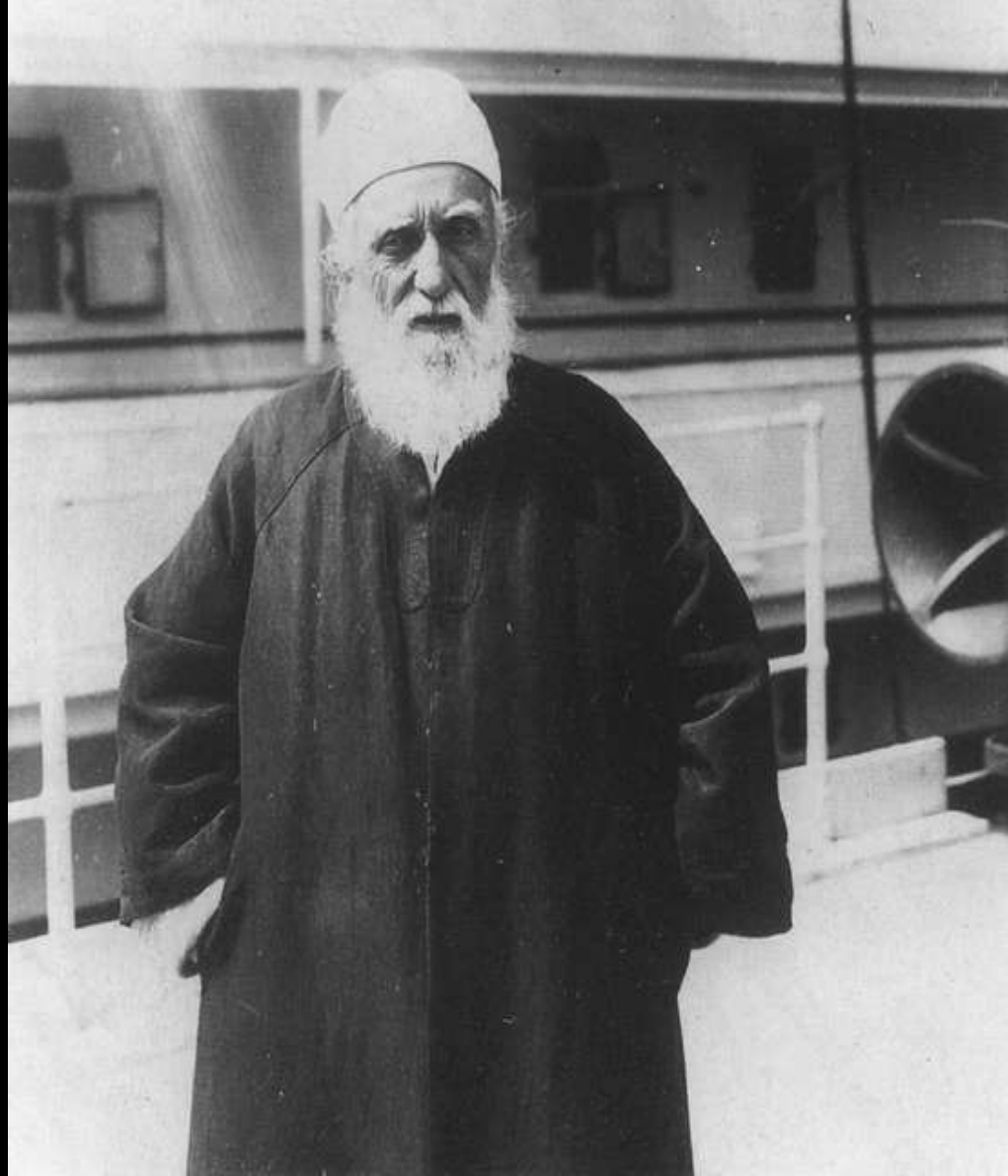
New York harbour

Departure from New York

The New York dock alongside the S.S. Celtic was crowded with Bahá'ís, many in tears. Young and old were affected by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's departure after eight months. Juliet Thompson and a hundred others boarded the ship and gathered in the large first class lounge where He spoke to them, walking back and forth, while all the friends were weeping quietly.

(based on Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 270-271)

Departure of
'Abdu'l-Bahá
on *S.S. Celtic*



Talk on board S.S. Celtic

This is my last meeting with you, for now I am on the ship ready to sail away. These are my final words of exhortation. I have repeatedly summoned you to the cause of the unity of the world of humanity, announcing that all mankind are the servants of the same God, that God is the creator of all; He is the Provider and Life-giver; all are equally beloved by Him and are His servants upon whom His mercy and compassion descend. Therefore, you must manifest the greatest kindness and love toward the nations of the world, setting aside fanaticism, abandoning religious, national and racial prejudice.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 140)

Talk on board S.S. Celtic

...if man lives up to these divine commandments, this world of earth shall be transformed into the world of heaven, and this material sphere shall be converted into a paradise of glory. It is my hope that you may become successful in this high calling so that like brilliant lamps you may cast light upon the world of humanity and quicken and stir the body of existence like unto a spirit of life. This is eternal glory. This is everlasting felicity. This is immortal life. This is heavenly attainment. This is being created in the image and likeness of God. And unto this I call you, praying to God to strengthen and bless you.

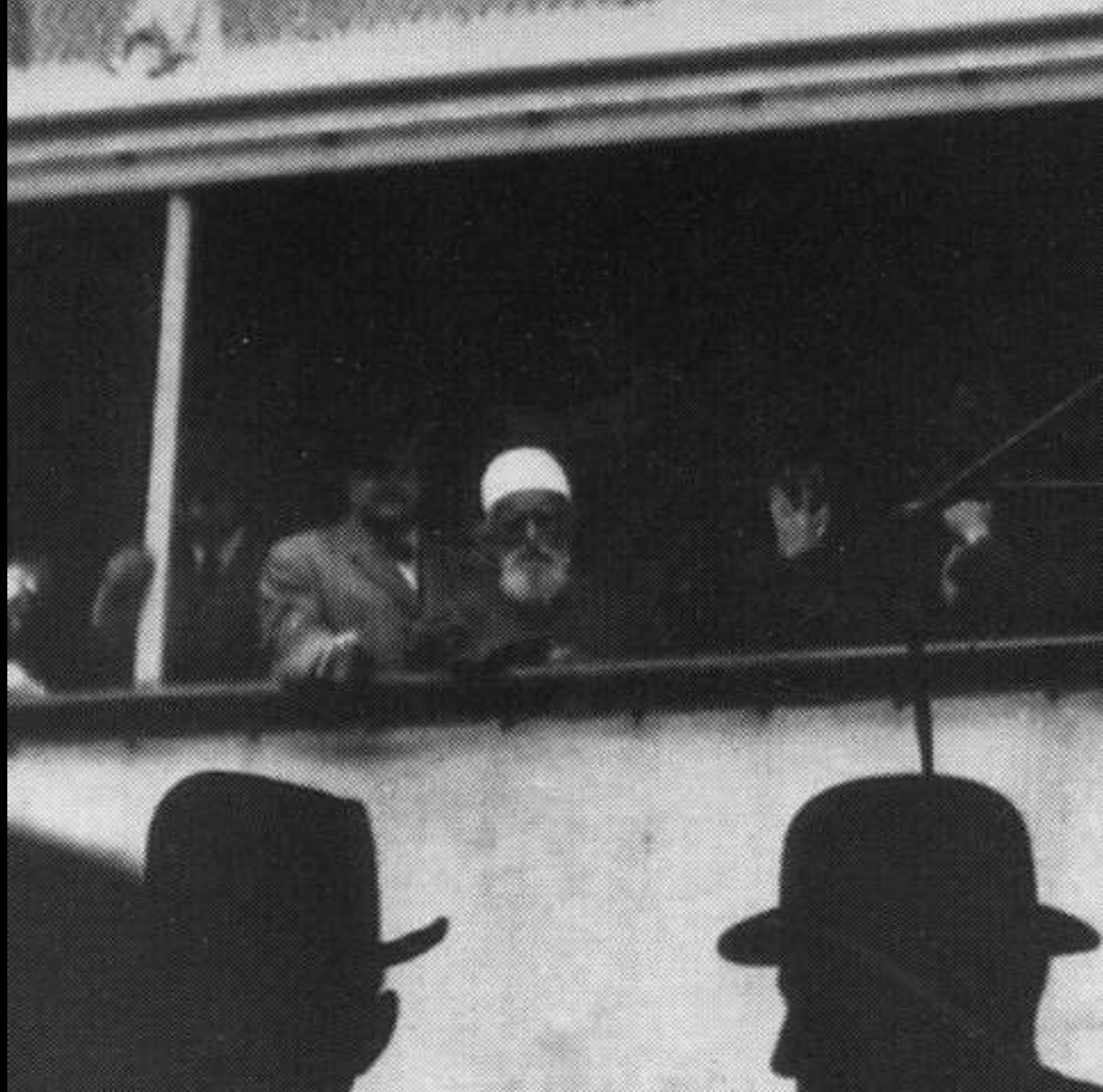
(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 140)

Departure

The passengers and officers of the Celtic were astonished at the scene, with the Master seated in a corner of the lounge while the believers flocked around him for the last minutes left. As the ship departed, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stood at the rail, His white hair and beard moved by the breeze, His erect, majestic figure outlined clearly.

(based on Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 271-272)

Departure of
'Abdu'l-Bahá
on *S.S. Celtic*



Departure

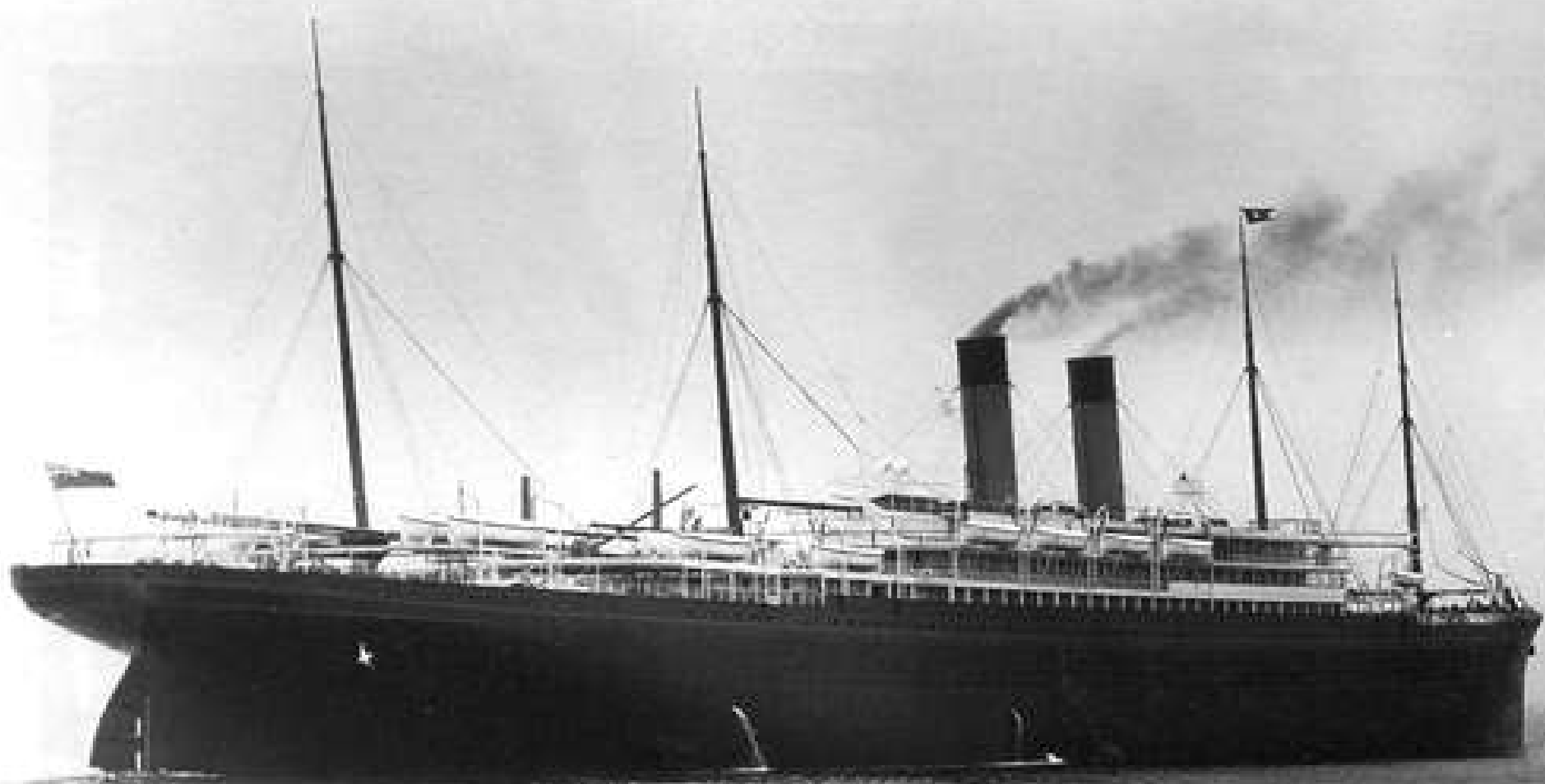
Juliet Thompson wrote “It was death to leave that ship. I stood on the pier with May Maxwell, tears blurred my sight. Through them, I could see the Master in the midst of the group of Persians waving a patient hand to us. It waved and waved, that beautiful hand, till the Figure was lost to sight.”

(based on Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 271-272)

Departure

Seen from the ship, the throng of believers, stretching as far as the eye could see, waved farewell to the Master, now far in the distance.

(based on Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 271-272)



Departure of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on *S.S. Celtic*

Return to Europe

The RMS Celtic sailed at noon for Liverpool, England, carrying 'Abdu'l-Bahá away from America and back to Europe after 239 days in America