

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Egypt and home

17 June-5 December 1913

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 52

Arrival in Port Said, Egypt

'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in Port Said, Egypt, on the P&O steamer *Himalaya* on 17 June 1913. He immediately sent a telegram to Haifa instructing the waiting pilgrims to come to Port Said, where He remained until 11 July. His time was consumed receiving pilgrims and writing endless letters. One of His secretaries described it thus.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá dictating letters

“The words of wisdom like unto a sparkling stream flowed from his blessed mouth, he was a transfigured person. He sat immovable on the sofa, his eyes most of the time shut, but his heart a waving ocean of revelation.”

(quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 322)

‘Abdu’l-Bahá dictating letters

“Now he revealed a tablet to a believer in Constantinople, and again to a friend in Rangoon, India; Stuttgart and Switzerland, London and Paris, New York and Honolulu, Washington and Boston were represented.”

(quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 322)

‘Abdu’l-Bahá dictating letters

“How wonderful and significant appears to me this golden network of spiritual correspondence, reaching to the different parts of the earth! This correspondence is not based upon any commercial or material scheme. It is the eternal plan of God, to diffuse the fragrance of the spiritual rose and scatter the rays of the Divine Sun!”

(quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 322)



'Abdu'l-Bahá

Ismailia, Egypt

On 11 July He went for a week to Ismailia with fever, but the climate was not better. He wrote to Ali-Kuli Khan with a certain sense of humour.

Port Said

Praise be to God you are spending your days in a delectable, verdant and refreshing place. We too are, praise be to God, enjoying ourself in the hot weather of Port Said with its excessive humidity, dust and dirt, while suffering with nerve fever. As the friends are comfortable, Abdul-Baha is in the utmost joy.

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 328)

Ramleh

On 17 July 'Abdu'l-Bahá moved to a house in Ramleh. He wrote of His travels in a tablet to the Persian believers.

Teaching the Cause

Now is the time when the believers of God may imitate the conduct and manner of Abdul Baha. Day and night they must engage in teaching the Cause of God but they must be in the same spiritual state which Abdul Baha manifested while traveling in America. When the teacher delivers an address, his words must first of all have a supreme and powerful effect over himself so that everyone may be in turn affected.

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 330)

Teaching the Cause

His utterances must be like unto flames of fire, burning away the veils of dogmas, passion and desire. Moreover he must be in the utmost state of humility and evanescence – so that others may become mindful. He must have attained to the station of renunciation and annihilation. Then, and not until then, will he teach the people with the Melody of the Supreme Concourse.

Egypt

On 1 August, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister Bahiyyih Khanum, grandson Shoghi Effendi and eldest daughter arrived in Ramleh for a visit of several weeks.

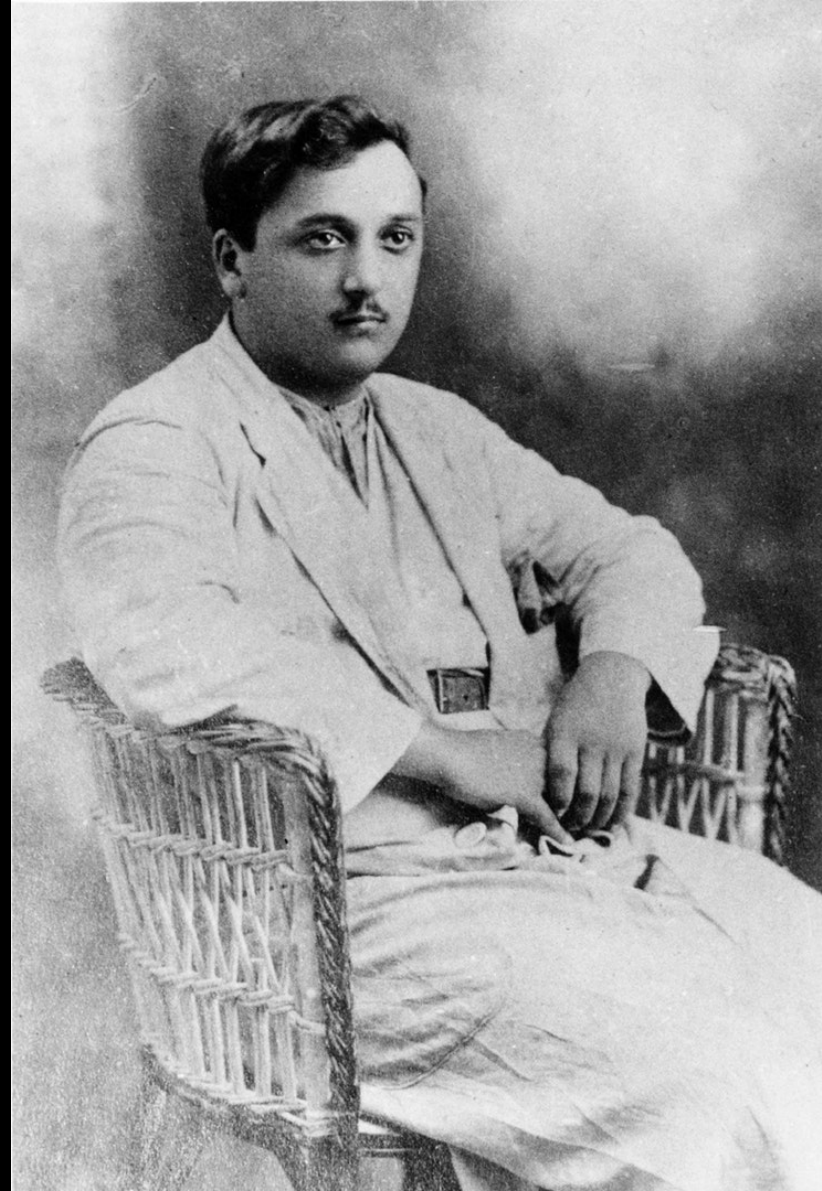


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Bahiyyih
Khanum

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Shoghi
Effendi



An important visitor to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Another important visitor was the Khedive, ‘Abbás Óilmí II, the ruler of Egypt, who showed a special reverence towards the Master. They had already met once in Cairo. One of the Ministers of the Khedive called on the Master, conveying the loving greetings of the Ruler of Egypt and his longing to meet him. His Highness the Khedive was staying in one of his palaces near Ramleh.

(Julio Savi, “‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Egypt” in *Lights of ‘Irfán Book Fourteen*, 2013, pp. 348-349)

An important visitor to 'Abdu'l-Bahá

On the afternoon of 17 August the sovereign of Egypt had the honour and privilege of talking with Abdu'l-Bahá for three hours. The Khedive was friendly to the Bahá'í Movement and had special regard for the Master. He was one of the few Oriental Rulers who received Abdu'l-Bahá with due honour.

(Julio Savi, "Abdu'l-Bahá in Egypt" in Lights of 'Irfán Book Fourteen, 2013, pp. 348-349)

Return to Haifa

Finally, on 2 December 1913, 'Abdu'l-Bahá boarded a ship for Haifa, arriving the afternoon of 5 December after an absence of three years and three months, His travels in the West completed.



'Abdu'l-Bahá in Haifa