

DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children

Issue 79

Dayspring
Produced under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

Photographs of children: Under the terms of the Child Protection Act, great care must be taken in the publishing of images of children. Parental permission must be received. Permission must be given in writing or by email direct from the child's parent or guardian.

Editors:

Jackie Mehrabi, 95 Georgetown Road, Dumfries, DG1 4DG, Scotland, U.K. Tel. 01387-249264.
Email: <dayspring@bahai.org.uk> or <jmehrabi@gmail.com>
Ian and Lorrie Fozdar

Subscriptions & Distribution: Lizbeth Thomson, 20 Headrigg Road, West Kilbride,
Ayrshire KA23 9JF Scotland, UK. Tel. 01294-822843. Email:<Lizbeth thomson1@hotmail.co.uk>

Dayspring is produced three times a year. **FREE COPIES** are sent to the following children aged five until their thirteenth birthday: to Bahá'í registered children in the UK; to children of Bahá'í pioneers from the UK, on request; to unregistered children in the UK, on request of a Bahá'í parent; to teachers of Bahá'í children's classes in the UK, on request.

Others may subscribe as follows:

UK: £12 for a 2-year subscription (total of 6 issues) including postage.
Overseas: £22 ditto.

If you wish to subscribe, please make a cheque out to the **National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom** and send it either to the address under Subscriptions above or direct to the Finance Department of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, with full details of your name and address, plus your email address if you have one. Payment can also be made by credit card by email, phone or letter directly to the Finance Department of the National Spiritual Assembly: 27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 1PD. Tel. 020 7584 2566. Email: nsa@bahai.org.uk.

Printers: Printsmith, Fort William, Scotland. Tel. 01397-700330.

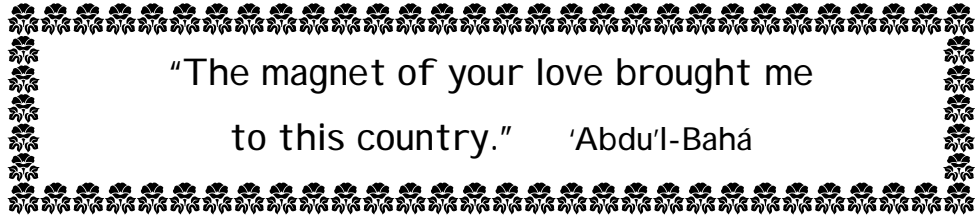
Acknowledgements

p. 5. This version of the story about 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi is from *Three Gifts of Love* by J.M.

pp. 8-9. The drawings and game are from the Museum of Childhood website.

pp. 20-21 & 28-29. The puzzle and crossword were devised and formatted by Maggie Manvell.

July – October 2011



"The magnet of your love brought me
to this country." 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Contents

The theme of this issue is
'ABDUL'BAHÁ'S FIRST VISIT TO THE WEST in 1911
to the British Isles and France

Contents (3)

Good News! (quotation) (4)

In the Presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "Shoghi Effendi" (5)

"'Abdu'l-Bahá Travels West" (poem) (5-7)

Fashion for Girls 1900—1920 to colour (8)

Throwing Smiles (game) (9)

I Remember . . . (10)

'Abdu'l-Bahá in Persia & the Holy Land: 1853-1909 (11)

Photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (12)

'Abdu'l-Bahá Visits the British Isles 4 Sept.—3 Oct. 1911 (13-19)

Picture Puzzle (20-21)

'Abdu'l-Bahá Visits France 3 Oct.—2 Dec. 1911 (p. 22-25)

Celestial Warriors (quotation) (26)

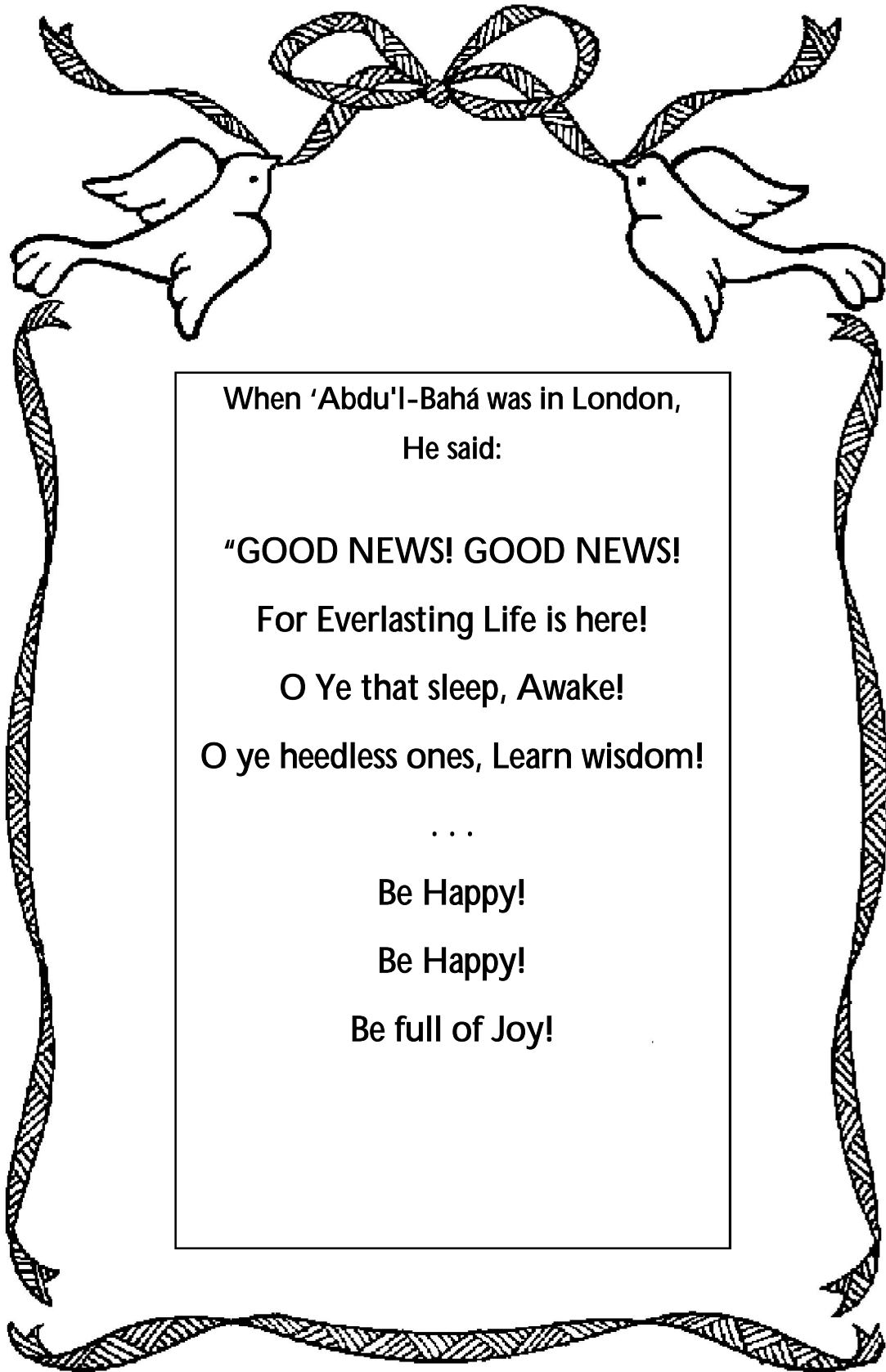
Photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (27)

Crossword (28-29)

Aqdas: Station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (30)

Book Advert (31)





When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was in London,
He said:

"GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

For Everlasting Life is here!

O Ye that sleep, Awake!

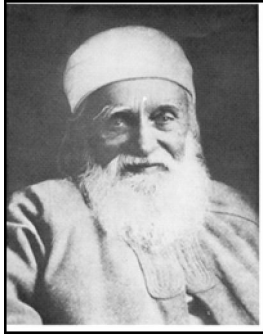
O ye heedless ones, Learn wisdom!

...

Be Happy!

Be Happy!

Be full of Joy!



In the Presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

"Shoghi Effendi"
(grandson of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)

It was early in the morning and 'Abdu'l-Bahá was sitting by the window writing letters. A samovar was bubbling away in the corner boiling water and a young girl was busy making tea.

'Abdu'l-Bahá put down His pen and asked his daughter to chant a prayer. She had just finished when a little boy appeared in the doorway. He was 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson Shoghi Effendi. The little boy took off his shoes and quietly came into the room.

Shoghi Effendi did not look at the other people in the room. He looked only at 'Abdu'l-Bahá. 'Abdu'l-Bahá looked back at Shoghi Effendi, and His eyes were full of love.

The small boy slowly walked towards 'Abdu'l-Bahá and stood in front of Him. Gazing all the time into his Grandfather's loving eyes, Shoghi Effendi reached down and picked up the hem of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's robe. He lifted it to his forehead, then kissed it, and gently put it down again.

'Abdu'l-Bahá nodded and smiled. There was no need for words. Shoghi Effendi knew how much 'Abdu'l-Bahá loved him, and ran happily out of the room to play.



'Abdu'l-Bahá Travels West

by Judy Cobb



In 1910, 'Abdu'l-Bahá took a trip.
He sailed away on a mighty ship.

Almost 70 years old, He said He could,
But after 40 years in prison, His health was not good.

From the Holy Land to the West He went
To share the Good News that God had sent:

There is only one God, only one religion,
Only one world, and one people who live in it.

You could be rich, you could be poor,
But 'Abdu'l-Bahá welcomed you at His door.



He ate dry black bread from a working man
Who in humble love had sent it from Iran.

It is 100 years since that glorious day
When 'Abdu'l-Bahá came to the West to say:

Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God, has come to you
Promising that Peace on Earth will surely come true.





Fashion for Girls in
London 1900 — 1920
(to colour)



Throwing Smiles

(An old-fashioned game described in *Games for Children* by Cecily M Rutley)

This game was played by children in the British Isles at the time of 'Abdu'l-Baha's visit in 1911, and it is still played today.

You must sit or stand in a ring. And you must all have solemn and grave faces. Then the first player begins to smile. After a moment he or she puts up their hand to their face and "takes off" their smile. When they have "taken it off" they must immediately become serious again. Then they "throw" the smile across to another player.



As that player "catches" the smile he or she begins to smile and keeps on smiling until they put up their hand to their face and "take off" the smile. They then becomes grave again and "throw" the smile to another player.

And so the game goes on for as long as there are any players left in the ring to play it. For the rule of this game is that only the player to whom the smile has been thrown, and who is "holding" it on their face, may smile. If any other player smiles, he – or she – has to leave the ring. It is the funniest thing to watch the comical grimaces the players make as they smile and stop smiling, and you will find it most difficult not to smile when it is not your turn.

This is an excellent game to start with at a party. It makes everybody become friendly and "at home" at once.

I Remember . . .

Over fifty years ago I met an elderly lady who told me how she first heard about 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This was the story she told me, as far as I remember it. (JM)

It was around the year 1912, and I was living in London. One day I was walking home feeling rather sad. A year before, I had heard that a holy person called 'Abdu'l-Bahá had come to London with a Message for the world about love and unity. I did not know how to find out more at the time and then I read in a newspaper that He had left to go to France. The article may have mentioned an address where meetings were taking place, but although I had prayed about it, I could not remember where it was.

I was walking along a street I had often walked along before, when something made me stop outside one of the houses. I was puzzled as I did



not know anyone who lived there. Through the window I could see people in the front room talking. I don't know how, but I was sure it was the house where Bahá'í meetings were being held. My heart jumped in excitement! I opened the gate and walked up the garden path and knocked on the door.

A friendly lady opened it and smiled.

"Have you come for the Bahá'í meeting?" she asked.

I could hardly believe it! I had found the house completely by accident!

Well, perhaps not really by accident. Many of the early believers were guided to the Faith through dreams and other mysterious ways. And *something* had made me stop at that particular house. I think it was a feeling of love that guided me there. And 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

'Abdu'l-Bahá in Persia and the Holy Land

1853—1909

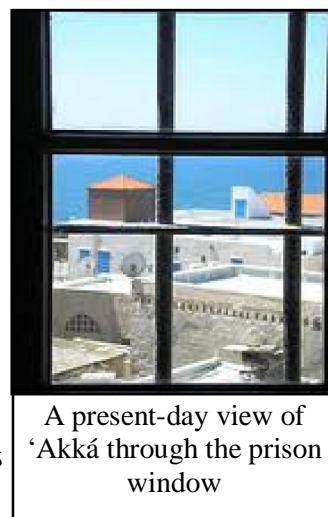
When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was eight years, He left His home in Persia along with His beloved Father, Baha'u'llah, His mother and His six-year-old sister. His little brother, who was four, had to be left behind and 'Abdu'l-Bahá did not see him again for several years. Not only was the Holy Family sent away from Persia, but they spent many years being banished from place to place until they ended up as prisoners in the far-off gloomy city of 'Akká in the Ottoman Empire.

40 years passed by. During all this time, 'Abdu'l-Bahá never knew how it felt to be free. But He never complained and His heart was full of love for everyone.

For many years the land had been ruled by a cruel king, the Sultan of Turkey. But in 1909, the government of the land changed. One of the first things the new government did was to set free all the religious and political prisoners who had unfairly been put into prison. Among those who were freed were 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the other Bahá'ís living in 'Akká.

Now He was free, 'Abdul-Bahá decided to set sail on His first journey to the West to visit the Baha'ís there and to tell people about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

These journeys were truly amazing, for 'Abdu'l-Bahá was now old and tired and He had been a prisoner for most of His life. For the first time, He was going to give talks to hundreds, even thousands, of people — in churches, temples, mosques, synagogues, homes, halls and universities.

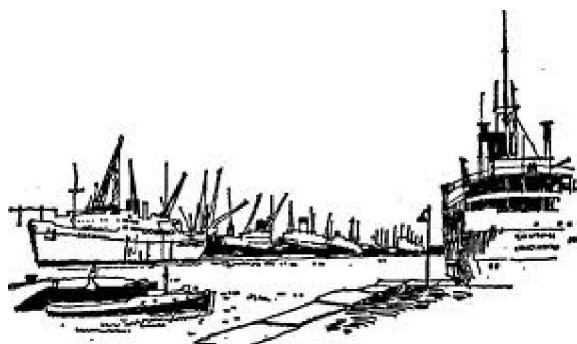




'Abdu'l-Bahá

'Abdu'l-Bahá Visits the British Isles

The First Visit: 4 SEPTEMBER — 3 OCTOBER 2011



When 'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived in London, many Bahá'ís were there to welcome Him. Among them was a believer called Lady Blomfield.

"A silence as of love and awe overcame us, as we looked at Him," she said. ". . . the radiance of . . . inner glory shone in every glance, and word, and movement as He came with hands outstretched."

'Abdu'l-Bahá 's eyes shone.

"The magnet of your love brought me to this country," He said.

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ MEETS A REPORTER

One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá was up as usual at 4 o'clock in the morning. By 6.30, He had spoken to over 18 people of many different nationalities who had come to see Him.



At 9 o'clock, a reporter from a local paper called the *Weekly Budget* rang the door bell, wanting to interview 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The reporter joined the other



people who were waiting in the living room.

Everyone sat in a circle facing 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and He asked if anyone had a question. The reporter said that his editor had told him to ask 'Abdu'l-Bahá about the time He was in prison in 'Akká.

'Abdu'l-Bahá described how there were many men, women and children locked up with the Holy Family in that horrible place, and that there was never enough food. The water was bad, and nearly everyone fell ill and some of them died.



"We had no communication whatever with the outside world," He said. "Each loaf of bread was cut open by the guard to see that it contained no message. There were no doctors, no medicines, no proper food."

The reporter's heart was very touched by what he heard.

"We are glad you are free," he said, and asked 'Abdu'l-Bahá how He felt now He was no longer in prison.

To the reporter's surprise, 'Abdul-Bahá said, "I was happy all that time in prison."

And He explained that when we are full of the love of God, we feel free and content wherever we are.



KIND LADIES AND BOY SCOUTS IN BYFLEET

'Abdu'l-Bahá loved flowers and trees, so He was delighted when He was invited one day to visit a village called Byfleet, which at that time was in the country, 20 miles away from the centre of London. A group of poor working women were staying for a holiday with two ladies who lived there. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was very happy to meet these kind women, who were devoting their lives to helping others.

He invited them to sit beside Him on a window seat.

"Though you may be poor, you are rich in the treasures of the Kingdom," He told them, and added with a smile, "If all the queens of the earth were gathered here, I could not be more glad!"

At the end of this meeting, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that He wished to do something to help them while He was there. He said He would have liked to help with the cooking (He was a very good cook!), but He knew there were already enough helpers in the kitchen.

But before He left, He gave the ladies some money to help with the great work they were doing for the poor.

Later, as He was walking in the village, many poor children came up to him, and also men who were out of work and mothers with sick babies. 'Abdu'l-Bahá did whatever He could to help and comfort them.

He then returned to London. But a few days later, He decided to visit the village of Byfleet again. On the way, the car He was in passed two groups of Boy Scouts walking along the road.

One of the Bahá'í friends with Him said that these Boy Scouts had recently put out a fire and also helped at a serious railway accident.

'Abdu'l-Bahá was very impressed when he heard this and praised their good deeds.



CHILDREN AND A GIRL ON HORSEBACK

During His stay in England, 'Abdu'l-Bahá met many important people and gave many public talks, but He also met with people in their homes and was especially happy when children were present.

One day He was invited to give a talk in the home of a Bahá'í couple called Mr and Mrs Jenner who had three very young children. As 'Abdu'l-Bahá was speaking, the children climbed onto His lap and clung around His neck. 'Abdu'l-Bahá continued His talk and did not mind at all.

"They were as quiet as wee mice whilst the Master spoke," said one of the ladies who was there that day.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said that children's hearts are very pure and we should all be like them.

At the end of the meeting, 'Abdu'l-Bahá went for a walk in Richmond Park. He watched with delight as a girl and some boys raced their ponies over the grass.

When the girl won, 'Abdu'l-Bahá clapped and called out "Bravo! Bravo!"





'Abdu'l-Bahá on the balcony

THE HOUSE IN BRISTOL

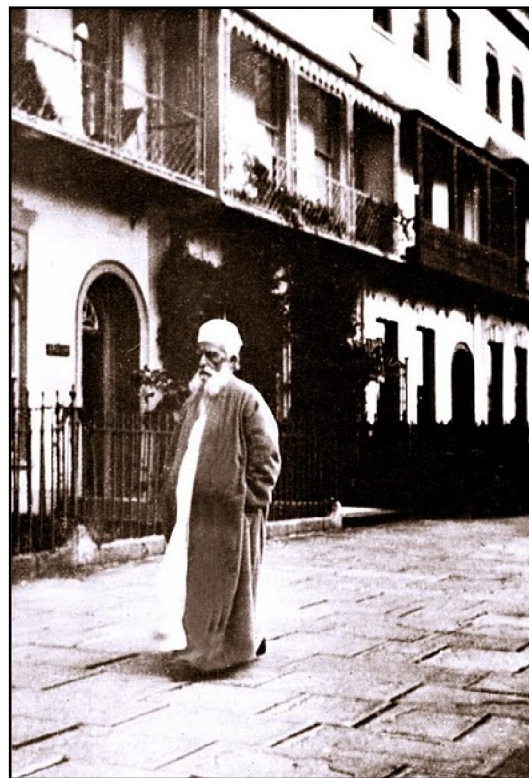
'Abdu'l-Bahá spent most of His time in London during this first visit to Britain, but He also visited Bristol. He stayed in the Clifton Guest House, and on the first night He gave a talk to over ninety people, telling them about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

On the second day of His visit, He went for a walk with some of the friends through the

woods and beautiful countryside.

On another visit to Bristol, He conducted the wedding of two Baha'is who had come all the way from Persia to have their marriage blessed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The house where 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed is in a peaceful spot on the edge of the town with a view of the open fields and hills beyond. And we can stand in the quiet street outside and say a prayer and feel His sweet presence everywhere.



'Abdu'l-Bahá walking outside the Clifton Guest House in Bristol

THE LAST DAY — 3 OCTOBER 2011

It was the last day of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's first visit to the British Isles. He was sitting at a table, writing. It would be over a year before He could return, and the Bahá'ís were hovering around, feeling sad that He would soon have to leave.

They were also worried because it was time for Him to catch a train from Victoria Station for the first part of His journey to France. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá said:

“There are things of more importance than trains!”


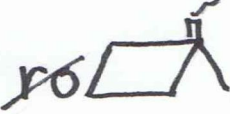


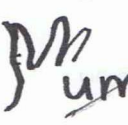











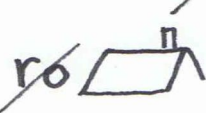









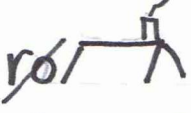







Suddenly, a man came rushing into the house, holding a garland of white flowers. He was a follower of the Prophet Zoroaster and had heard that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a holy person and wished to meet Him. The man bowed low before 'Abdu'l-Bahá with the greatest love and respect and put the garland of flowers around His neck. Then he anointed everyone else with perfume of roses.

Everyone was surprised and wondered how 'Abdu'l-Bahá had known the man was coming.

'Abdu'l-Bahá smiled and left just in time to catch the train.



Follow the picture clues to find what 'Abdu'l-Bahá
said attracted Him to come to Britain

The   Ur 
brought  2  Mumbis
coun~~t~~.    t~~e~~
the Divine  mA  ine
,  t~~e~~ the heavenly
  Bahá'u'lláh mA
strengt~~h~~ U, so t~~e~~ U mA
 e the cause  the
ness  hu~~man~~, t~~e~~ U
mA help 2  the d~~is~~ ness
 superstition  pre~~sent~~
disap~~pear~~  u~~nder~~ b~~y~~
creeds  nations.

**Use the puzzle opposite and the words below
to fill in the gaps**

Q 'Abdu'l-Bahá told the people of London that something had brought Him to this country.

A He said it was:
The of their

Q What did He hope would shine here in Britain?

A The

Q What did Abdu'l-Bahá hope would give people here strength?

A The of

Q Abdu'l-Bahá wanted people here to be the cause of something. What was it?

A The of

Q What did Abdu'l-Bahá say He wants to disappear?

A The of and

Q What did He want to unite?

A All the and

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Bahá'u'lláh | superstition | oneness | magnet | darkness |
| prejudice | Light | creeds | love | Divine |
| humanity | star | heavenly | nations | |

'Abdu'l-Bahá in France

The First Visit: 3 OCTOBER — 2 DECEMBER 1911

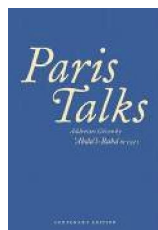


During His first visit to Paris, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed for two months.

Some of the friends from London came with Him, wanting to be in His company for as long as possible. He gave many talks and these were later published in a book called *Paris Talks*.

When the people of Paris saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá walking in the park or down the street wearing His long cloak and white turban, they wondered who He was. They noticed how dignified He looked, and they felt His love reaching out to them.

A taxi driver stopped his cab and raised his hat in respect when he saw Him, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá politely acknowledged him.



A GIANT OF A MAN

One Sunday, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was invited to go to a poor and rough part of Paris to give a talk. When He left at the end of the meeting He could not get passed a noisy crowd of people who had gathered in the street outside.

One of them was a giant of a man angrily waving a large loaf of bread! But when He saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá he became calm and quiet. Then waving the loaf again, he shouted;

"Make way, make way! He is my Father, make way!"

And he cleared a passage for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to pass safely through. Everyone stopped shouting and pushing, and as 'Abdu'l-Bahá passed them, they all saluted!

"Thank you, my dear friends, thank you," said 'Abdul-Bahá, smiling warmly at everyone.

In a talk He gave later, He said:

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * *

* ... let your heart burn

* with loving kindness for

* all who may

* cross your path..."

* * * * *

* * * * *

PEACE NOT WAR

On another day when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was giving a talk, He said that He had heard that a war had broken out in a place called Benghazi, which at that time, 1911, was part of the Ottoman Empire. The people were being attacked by an army from a neighbouring country and this made 'Abdu'l-Bahá very sad.

"The news of the Battle of Benghazi grieves my heart," He said. "How is it possible for men to fight from morning until evening, killing each other. . . ?"

There were many difference races in the audience listening to Him — French, American, English, German, Italian — and 'Abdu'l-Bahá mentioned them all, saying how they were like brothers and sisters meeting in friendship and harmony, and that this is how the world should be.

"If you desire with all your heart, friendship with every race on earth, your thought, spiritual and positive, will spread," He told them. "It will become the desire of others, growing stronger and stronger, until it reaches the minds of all men.

And He promised that in the future every child of God will realise that they are "sons and daughters of one Father, whose name is love."



THE FACE IN THE NEWSPAPER

Among the hundreds of people who came to see 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Paris was a little girl and her mother. They lived in America. One day the little girl saw a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the cover of a newspaper in the shop window. She became very excited. She thought it was a picture of Jesus. Of course, we know that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was not Jesus but He was filled with the same love from God and that is what the little girl felt. She knew He was someone very holy.



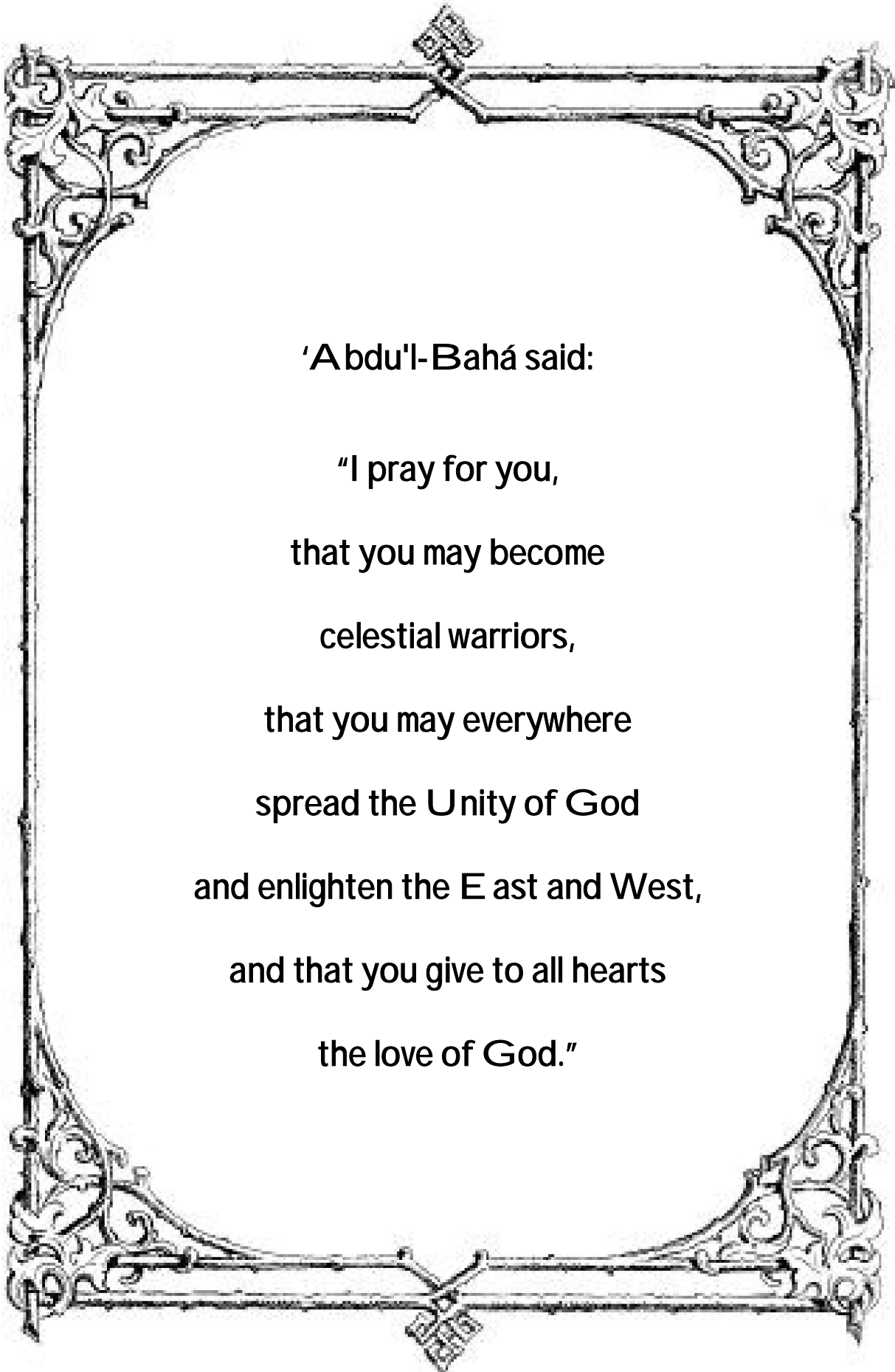
"There He is! There He is!" she cried out.

"She was trembling with excitement," said her mother. "I bought the paper, found this address, caught a boat that same night, and here I am!"

She arrived just two days before 'Abdu'l-Bahá left Paris to go to Egypt.

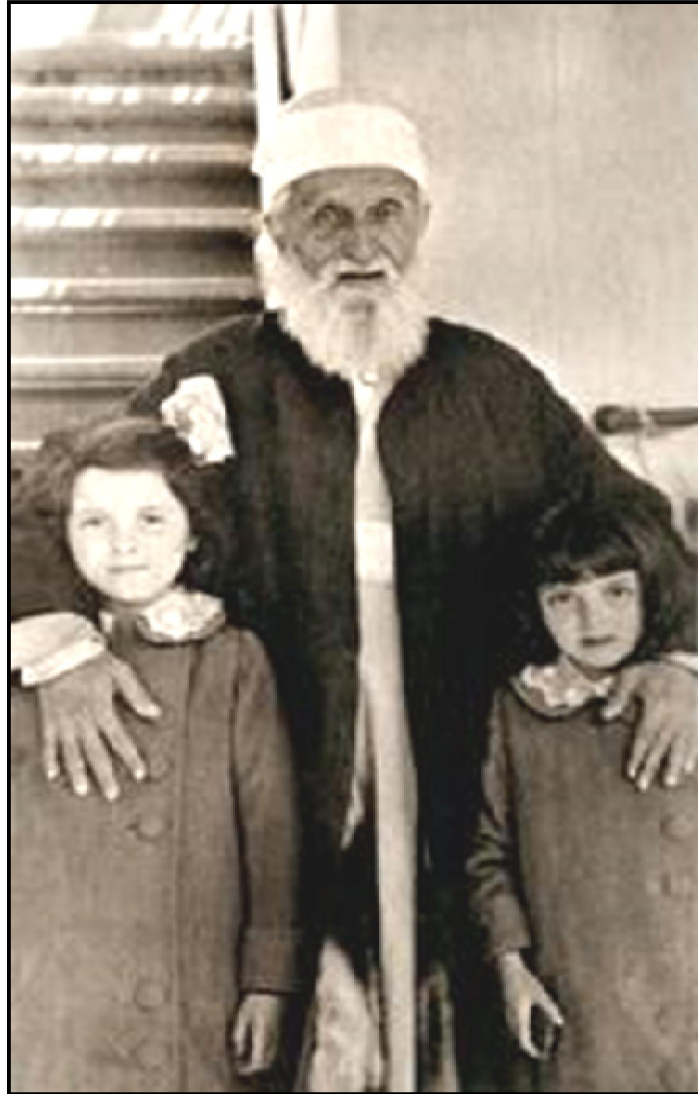
In 'Abdu'l-Bahá's last talk to the friends in Paris in 1911, He said:

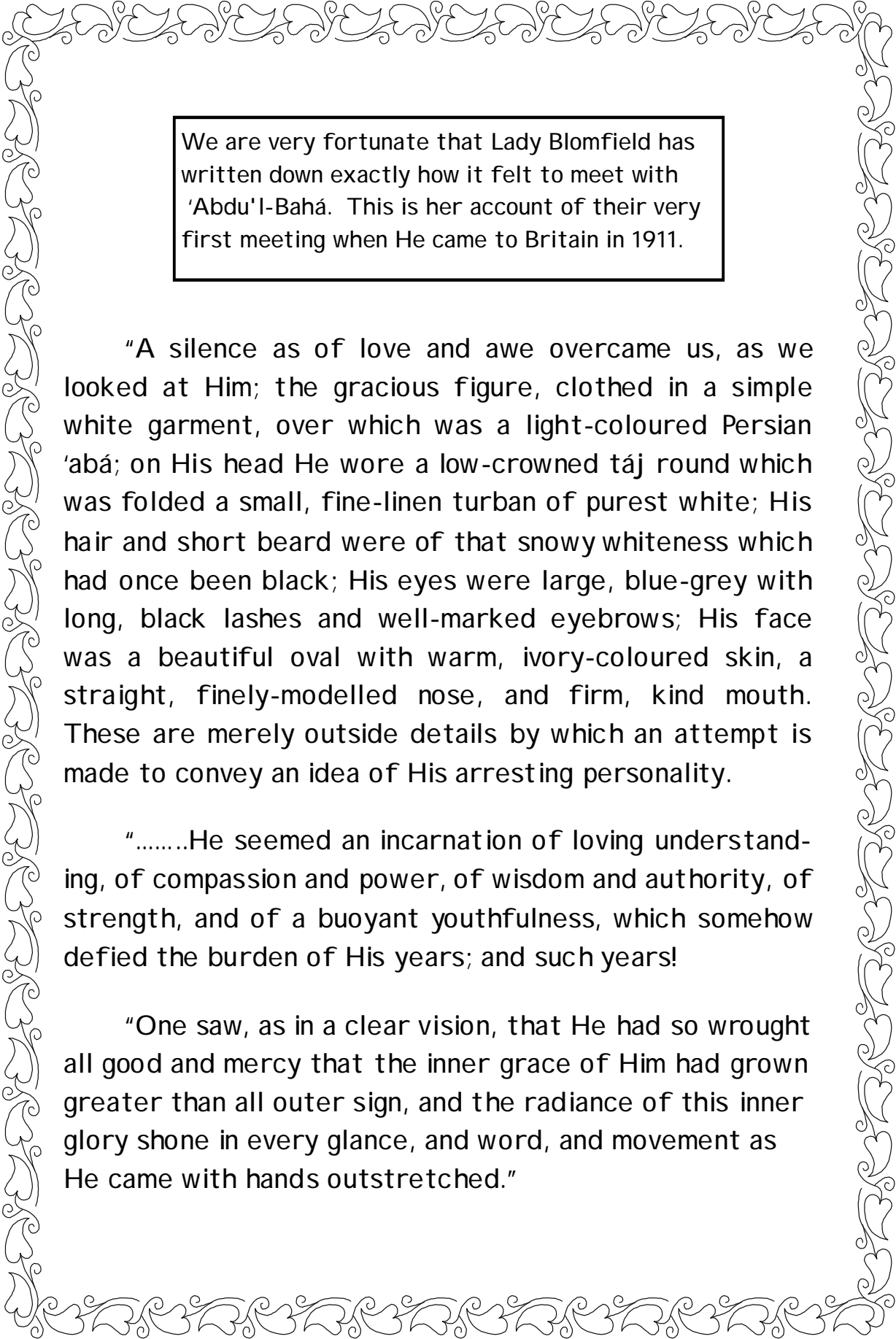
* "Tonight I come to say farewell to you — *
* but bear this in your minds, *
* that although our bodies may be far apart, *
* in spirit we shall always be together." *



'Abdu'l-Bahá said:

"I pray for you,
that you may become
celestial warriors,
that you may everywhere
spread the Unity of God
and enlighten the East and West,
and that you give to all hearts
the love of God."





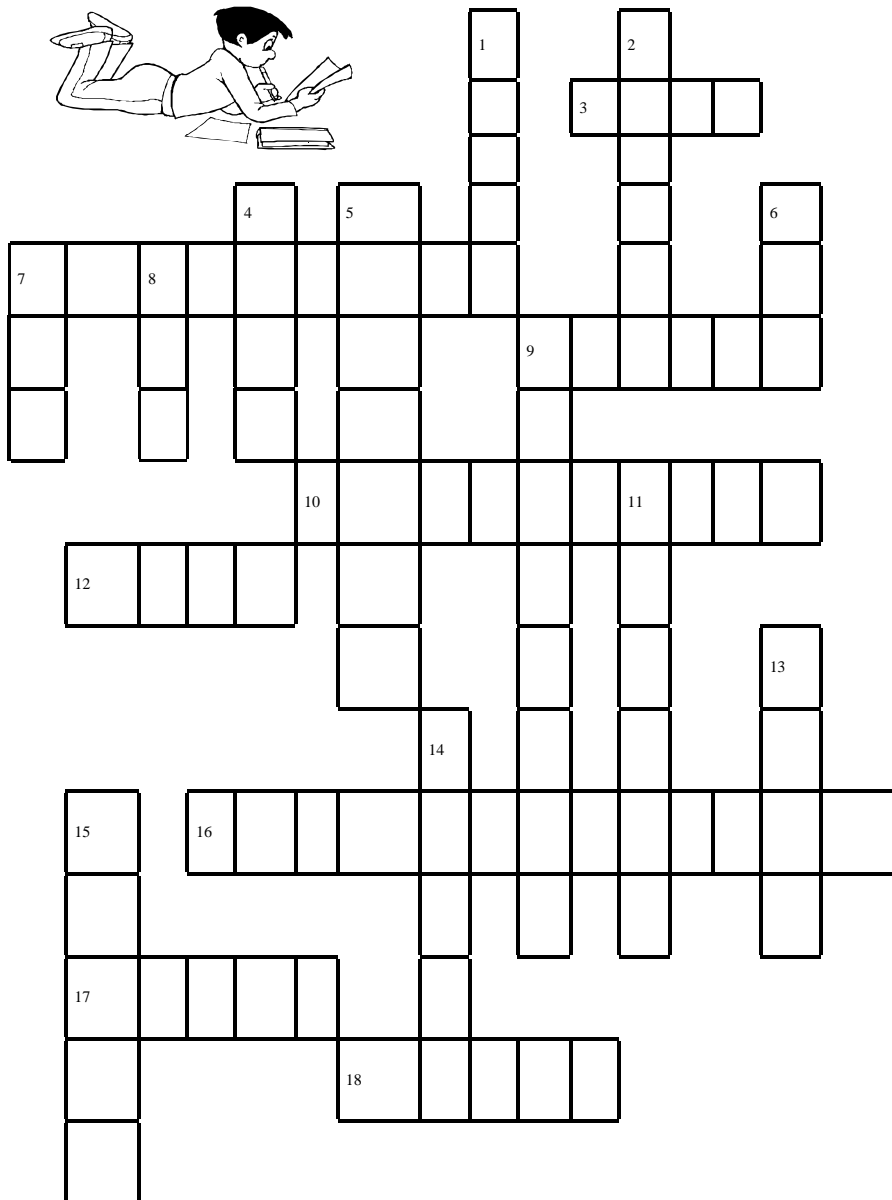
We are very fortunate that Lady Blomfield has written down exactly how it felt to meet with 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This is her account of their very first meeting when He came to Britain in 1911.

"A silence as of love and awe overcame us, as we looked at Him; the gracious figure, clothed in a simple white garment, over which was a light-coloured Persian 'abá; on His head He wore a low-crowned táj round which was folded a small, fine-linen turban of purest white; His hair and short beard were of that snowy whiteness which had once been black; His eyes were large, blue-grey with long, black lashes and well-marked eyebrows; His face was a beautiful oval with warm, ivory-coloured skin, a straight, finely-modelled nose, and firm, kind mouth. These are merely outside details by which an attempt is made to convey an idea of His arresting personality.

".....He seemed an incarnation of loving understanding, of compassion and power, of wisdom and authority, of strength, and of a buoyant youthfulness, which somehow defied the burden of His years; and such years!

"One saw, as in a clear vision, that He had so wrought all good and mercy that the inner grace of Him had grown greater than all outer sign, and the radiance of this inner glory shone in every glance, and word, and movement as He came with hands outstretched."

**Read what Lady Blomfield said about
'Abdu'l-Bahá to find the words for this puzzle**



Words down:

- 1 The colour of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's face.
- 2 He seemed an incarnation of w_____.
- 3 A silence of l____ overcame us.
- 4 We were over-come with s_____.
- 5 And a__.
- 6 He wore a light coloured a__.
- 7 On his head was a low-crowned t__.
- 8 He seemed an incarnation of s_____.
- 9 He seemed an incarnation of l_____ understanding.
- 10 His mouth was firm and _____.
- 11 'Abdu'l-Bahá had an inner g_____.
- 12 He seemed an incarnation of compassion and p_____.

Words Across:

- 3 His mouth was f____ and kind
- 7 He seemed an incarnation of a_____
- 9 He was clothed in a s_____ garment
- 10 He was radiant with an i_____ g_____
- 12 One saw He had wrought all g____ and mercy
- 16 He seemed an incarnation of loving u_____
- 17 The colour of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's hair was w_____
- 18 One saw in Him all good and m_____



The Kitáb'i-Aqdas — The Most Holy Book

Lesson Seventeen

Bahá'u'lláh says in the Kitáb'i-Aqdas (v.145)

“. . .turn your faces
toward Him . . . Who hath
branched from this
Ancient Root. . .”

Bahá'u'lláh explains that the one “Who hath branched from this Ancient Root” means ‘Abdu'l-Bahá. He says that ‘Abdu'l-Bahá is the Centre of the Covenant of God, and if we follow His example and the way He lived His life, then we will always know the right thing to do.

One day when ‘Abdu'l-Bahá was travelling to another town, Bahá'u'lláh said:

“Blessed, doubly blessed, is the ground
which His footsteps have trodden,
the eye that hath been cheered
by the beauty of His countenance ...
the heart that hath tasted the sweetness
of His love...”

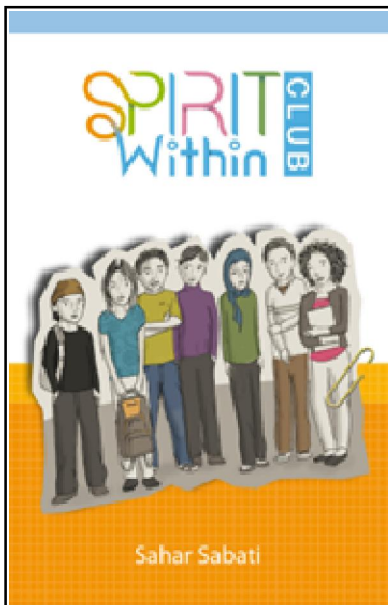
1. What blessed the ground? ‘Abdu'l-Bahá's f_____
2. What blessed the eyes of those who met Him? The beauty of His
c_____
3. What blessed the hearts? The s_____ of His l_____

New Book!



The Spirit Within Club

by Sahar Sabati



The arts teacher is ruining what used to be Aiko's favourite class. Zeke misses out on the best part of the whole year – the science fair – when he has to go into the hospital. Arwen lives to play soccer but a stupid lie means he might not be allowed to play. Ghada comes home to find that her beloved grandma has died.

When ten-year-old friends set up an after-school club so they can hang out together more often, they don't expect to be able to solve these problems themselves. But when they tap into the spirit within them, they and their friends discover that they have the power to make the world a better place.

208 pages, 203 x 287 mm (8 x 5 ins) £6.95

Available from www.grbooks.com

