

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

New York, 19 May 1912

*Progressive Revelation*

*Brotherhood*

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 20

# Progressive Revelation

‘Abdu’l-Bahá gave a talk at the Church of the Divine Paternity, on Central Park West, New York, on 19 May 1912, where he explained progressive revelation.



Church of the  
Divine Paternity  
New York

# Progressive Revelation

*The divine religions are like the progression of the seasons of the year. When the earth becomes dead and desolate and because of frost and cold no trace of vanished spring remains, the springtime dawns again and clothes everything with a new garment of life.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 49)*

# Progressive Revelation

*The meadows become fresh and green, the trees are adorned with verdure and fruits appear upon them. Then the winter comes again, and all the traces of spring disappear.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 49)*

# Progressive Revelation

*This is the continuous cycle of the seasons—spring, winter, then the return of spring. But though the calendar changes and the years move forward, each springtime that comes is the return of the springtime that has gone; this spring is the renewal of the former spring. Springtime is springtime, no matter when or how often it comes.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 49)*

# Progressive Revelation

*The divine Prophets are as the coming of spring, each renewing and quickening the teachings of the Prophet Who came before Him. Just as all seasons of spring are essentially one as to newness of life, vernal showers and beauty, so the essence of the mission and accomplishment of all the Prophets is one and the same.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 49)*





Church of the  
Divine Paternity  
New York





'Abdu'l-Bahá

with  
Unitarian Minister  
and then Bahá'í  
Howard Colby-Ives

# Brotherhood

The same day, 19 May 1912, 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave a talk at the Brotherhood Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, speaking on the brotherhood of mankind.

# Brotherhood

*The real brotherhood is spiritual, for physical brotherhood is subject to separation. The wars of the outer world of existence separate humankind, but in the eternal world of spiritual brotherhood separation is unknown. Material or physical association is based upon earthly interests, but divine fellowship owes its existence to the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual brotherhood may be likened to the light, while the souls of humankind are as lanterns. The incandescent lamps here are many, yet the light is one.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 50)*

# Brotherhood

*Through this divine brotherhood the material world will become resplendent with the lights of Divinity, the mirror of materiality will acquire its lights from heaven, and justice will be established in the world so that no trace of darkness, hatred and enmity shall be visible. Humanity shall come within the bounds of security, the Prophethood of all the Messengers of God shall be established....*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 50)*

# Brotherhood

*Trust in the favor of God. Look not at your own capacities, for the divine bestowal can transform a drop into an ocean; it can make a tiny seed a lofty tree. Verily, divine bestowals are like the sea, and we are the fishes of that sea. The fishes must not look at themselves; they must behold the ocean, which is vast and wonderful. Provision for the sustenance of all is in this ocean; therefore, the divine bounties encompass all, and love eternal shines upon all.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 50)*





'Abdu'l-Bahá in New York