

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

Massachusetts, 23-24 May 1912
Cambridge and Boston
Science and Religion

Cambridge, Massachusetts

'Abdu'l-Bahá visited the Boston area in the state of Massachusetts on 22-26 May, including Cambridge with two great research universities, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he spoke about science and religion.

Talks on 23 May at home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Breed, on Harvard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and on 24 May at the Unitarian Conference, Boston.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

with

Mr. Varqa
and

Mr. Nakhjavani



Science and Religion

Scientific knowledge is the highest attainment upon the human plane, for science is the discoverer of realities. It is of two kinds: material and spiritual. Material science is the investigation of natural phenomena; divine science is the discovery and realization of spiritual verities. The world of humanity must acquire both. A bird has two wings; it cannot fly with one.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 53)

Science and Religion

Material and spiritual science are the two wings of human uplift and attainment. Both are necessary—one the natural, the other supernatural; one material, the other divine. By the divine we mean the discovery of the mysteries of God, the comprehension of spiritual realities, the wisdom of God, inner significances of the heavenly religions and foundation of the law.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 53)

Science and Religion

This is a century of life and renewal. Sciences and arts, industry and invention have been reformed. Law and ethics have been reconstituted, reorganized. The world of thought has been regenerated. Sciences of former ages and philosophies of the past are useless today. Present exigencies demand new methods of solution; world problems are without precedent.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 52)

Science and Religion

Consider how the scientific developments of fifty years have surpassed and eclipsed the knowledge and achievements of all the former ages combined.... Shall man, gifted with the power of reason, unthinkingly follow and adhere to... beliefs which will not bear the analysis of reason...?

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 52)

Science and Religion

Unquestionably this will not satisfy men of science, for when they find premise or conclusion contrary to present standards of proof and without real foundation, they reject that which has been formerly accepted as standard and correct and move forward from new foundations.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 52)

Science and Religion

This is the century of new and universal nationhood. Sciences have advanced; industries have progressed; politics have been reformed; liberty has been proclaimed; justice is awakening. This is the century of motion, divine stimulus and accomplishment, the century of human solidarity and altruistic service, the century of universal peace and the reality of the divine Kingdom.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 52)



'Abdu'l-Bahá

in

New York