

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

## New York City of the Covenant

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 24



'Abdu'l-Bahá in New York

# Centre of the Covenant

On 19 June, 'Abdu'l-Bahá proclaimed to about 125 Bahá'ís who had gathered at His house that he was the Centre of the Covenant.

Always in the past, after the passing of the Manifestation of God, differences and splits would arise.

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

*But the Blessed Beauty has shut the door on such differences and has referred all affairs to the House of Justice so that whatever the House of Justice commands, all must obey and submit to it.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, quoted in Earl Redman, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst, Oxford: George Ronald, p. 142)

# The Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh

*Bahá'u'lláh wrote His Covenant with His own pen and, prior to the establishment of the House of Justice, He appointed and confirmed the Centre of the Covenant, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, directing that 'whatever He does is correct'.*

(‘Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, p. 142)

# 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Covenant

Later that day, as Juliet Thompson was working on the Master's portrait while Lua Getsinger was also in the room, He fell asleep.

(Juliet Thompson, quoted in Earl Redman, *'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p. 144)



← Lua Getsinger

Juliet Thompson





# ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Covenant

Juliet Thompson wrote:

“Suddenly, with a great flash like lightning He opened His eyes and the room seemed to rock like a ship in a storm with the Power released. The Master was blazing. ‘The veils of glory’, ‘the thousand veils’, had shrivelled away in that Flame and we were exposed to the Glory itself.”

(Juliet Thompson, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p. 144)



# ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Covenant

“Lua and I sat shaking and sobbing. Never shall I forget that moment, the flashing eyes of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, the reverberations of His Voice, the Power that still rocked the room. God of lightning and thunder! I thought.”

(Juliet Thompson, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p. 144)

# ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Covenant

“Then He spoke to Lua.

*‘I appoint you, Lua, the Herald of the Covenant. And I AM THE COVENANT, appointed by Bahá’u’lláh. And no one can refute His Word. This is the Testament of Bahá’u’lláh.’*”

(Juliet Thompson, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p. 144)

# ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the Covenant

*You will find it in the Holy Book of Aqdas. Go forth and proclaim, ‘This is THE COVENANT OF GOD in your midst.’*

A great joy had lifted Lua up. Her eyes were full of light. She looked like a winged angel. ‘Oh recreate me,’ she cried, ‘that I may do this work for Thee!’

(Juliet Thompson, quoted in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, p. 144)

# 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Covenant

For these reasons, New York is named the  
*City of the Covenant.*

# Portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

The famous photographer, Gertrude Käsebier, agreed to make a portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on 20 June 1912. Juliet Thompson described the scene: "I shall never forget the Master's beauty in the strange cold light of her studio, a green, underwater sort of light, in which He looked shining and chiseled, like the statue of a god. But the pictures are dark shadows of Him."

(Juliet Thompson, *The Diary of Juliet Thompson*, p.317)

Photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
by Gertrude Käsebier during  
her portrait session with Him  
on 20 June 1912

