

Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

New York City

30 June-23 July 1912

Poverty and Wealth

Preparing for the World of the Kingdom

With the Persian Consul General

The day after the Unity Feast, 30 June, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was invited to the home of the Persian Consul General, Mr. Topakyan, in Morristown, New Jersey, who had said “ I am happy to say that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is the Glory of Persia today.” He had invited several prominent public people, reporters and photographers.

(Hussein Ahdieh and Hillary Chapman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in New York*, Juxta Publishing Limited, 2012, pp. 122-123)



With the Persian Consul General, Mr. Topakyan

With the
Persian
Consul
General,
Mr.
Topakyan



New York

'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed in New York City from 30 June-23 July, with a sojourn in West Englewood, New Jersey.

He gave a talk at 309 West Seventy-eighth Street, New York, on 1 July 1912, on **Poverty and Wealth**

Poverty and Wealth

No deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor.... Each one of you must have great consideration for the poor and render them assistance. Organize in an effort to help them and prevent increase of poverty. The greatest means for prevention is that whereby the laws of the community will be so framed and enacted that it will not be possible for a few to be millionaires and many destitute.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)

Poverty and Wealth

One of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings is the adjustment of means of livelihood in human society. Under this adjustment there can be no extremes in human conditions as regards wealth and sustenance.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)

Poverty and Wealth

For the community needs financier, farmer, merchant and laborer just as an army must be composed of commander, officers and privates. All cannot be commanders; all cannot be officers or privates. Each in his station in the social fabric must be competent—each in his function according to ability but with justness of opportunity for all.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)

Poverty and Wealth

When the laws [Bahá'u'lláh] has instituted are carried out, there will be no millionaires possible in the community and likewise no extremely poor.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)

Poverty and Wealth

The fundamental basis of the community is agriculture, tillage of the soil. All must be producers. Each person in the community whose need is equal to his individual producing capacity shall be exempt from taxation.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)

Poverty and Wealth

But if his income is greater than his needs, he must pay a tax until an adjustment is effected.... if his necessities exceed his production, he shall receive an amount sufficient to equalize or adjust. Therefore, taxation will be proportionate to capacity and production, and there will be no poor in the community.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 77)



'Abdu'l-Bahá

New York

Preparing for the World of the Kingdom

In a talk at 309 West Seventy-eighth Street, New York, 6 July 1912, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's topic was **Preparing for the World of the Kingdom** (life after death)

Preparing for the World of the Kingdom

In the beginning of his human life man was embryonic in the world of the matrix. There he received capacity and endowment for the reality of human existence. The forces and powers necessary for this world were bestowed upon him in that limited condition.

Therefore, in this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 81)

Preparing for the World of the Kingdom

What is he in need of in the Kingdom which transcends the life and limitation of this mortal sphere?

First, through the knowledge of God. Second, through the love of God. Third, through faith. Fourth, through philanthropic deeds. Fifth, through self-sacrifice. Sixth, through severance from this world. Seventh, through sanctity and holiness. Unless he acquires these forces and attains to these requirements, he will surely be deprived of the life that is eternal.

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 81)