

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

California, 1-8 October 1912  
Stanford University  
*Science and Religion*

# Arrival in California

'Abdu'l-Bahá arrived at midnight in San Francisco, where a house had been rented for him. On 2 October he met the Bahá'ís in Oakland across the Bay at the home of Mrs. Helen Goodall, named by Shoghi Effendi a Disciple of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and her daughter Ella Cooper, who had been on the first pilgrimage in 1898, and was named a Herald of the Covenant. The first Japanese Bahá'í, Kanichi Yamamoto, was Mrs. Goodall's butler.



Helen Goodall and Ella Goodall Cooper



Kanichi Yamamoto, first Japanese Bahá'í  
Helen Goodall's butler



Goodall home in Oakland



'Abdu'l-Bahá at Goodall home in Oakland

# Hearts are connected

*I have come from the Orient to the Occident – this vast distance I have crossed... simply to meet you... for the hearts are connected and the spirits are exhilarated... Praise be to God! We have assembled here, and the cause of our gathering here is the love of God.*

# Stanford University

The President of Stanford University, Dr. David Starr Jordan, worked for world peace and was very attracted to the Bahá'í Faith. He visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá and invited Him to speak at the university. On 8 October the Master went to Palo Alto to speak at Stanford University about international peace and about science and religion. There were 1,800 students, 180 professors, many civic leaders and 30 school boys. After He spoke the whole audience rose and cheered Him.





'Abdu'l-Bahá at Stanford University, 1912

*The greatest attainment in the world of humanity has ever been scientific in nature. It is the discovery of the realities of things. Inasmuch as I find myself in the home of science – for this is one of the great universities of the country and well known abroad – I feel a keen sense of joy.*

*The highest praise is due to men who devote their energies to science, and the noblest center is a center wherein the sciences and arts are taught and studied.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá at Stanford 'University. California, 1912. Promulgation of Universal Peace, 110, p. 348*

*Inasmuch as the fundamental principle of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is the oneness of the world of humanity, I will speak to you upon the intrinsic oneness of all phenomena....*

*Fundamentally all existing things pass through the same degrees and phases of development, and any given phenomenon embodies all others.*

*The elements and lower organisms are synchronized in the great plan of life. Shall man, infinitely above them in degree, be antagonistic and a destroyer of that perfection?*

('Abdu'l-Bahá, talk at Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, California, 8 October 1912. *Promulgation of Universal Peace*. Wilmette, Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982. p. 350)

*If the animals are savage and ferocious, it is simply a means for their subsistence and preservation.... When man is ferocious and cruel toward his fellowman, it is not for subsistence or safety. His motive is selfish advantage and wilful wrong.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, talk at Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, California, 8 October 1912. *Promulgation of Universal Peace*. Wilmette, Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 1982.)

(Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 219)



'Abdu'l-Bahá at Stanford University, California, 1912

# Palo Altan

The local newspaper the *Palo Altan*, published a special 4-page edition on 1 November 1912 only about 'Abdu'l-Bahá with the texts of His talks.



# The Palo Alto

THE PALO ALTO TRIBUNE IS MERGED WITH THE PALO ALTO

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1912.

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## Abdul Baha, the Bahai Prophet, Speaks at Stanford University

### A great assembly of students and teachers crowd the auditorium to hear the Bahai Prophet of Persia expound the doctrine of a new day for Universal Brotherhood International Peace and Religious Unity

#### Oriental Savant with Entourage of Twenty-nine Persons Spent the Day at Stanford University and Are Entertained in Palo Alto

A crowded Assembly Hall, holding nearly two thousand people, awaited with eager expectancy the appearance last Tuesday morning, of Abdul Baha, Abbas Effendi, the world leader of the Bahai movement. The venerable prophet, with his long gray beard and Persian cloak and turban, gave a true impression of the reincarnation of the Far Eastern prophet of old. He spoke in Persian, and his remarks were translated by Dr. Ameen Fareed, a graduate of the University of Illinois and also of Johns Hopkins University.

Abdul Baha is revolutionizing the religion of Asia, bringing Mohammedans, Jews and Christians together on the basis of the laws of Moses, which they all ratify. He already has a vast host of followers and has aroused great interest by his present tour of America and England.

A pilgrimage through England and America undertaken by Abdul Baha has created great interest in the Bahai movement. The knowledge of the movement has been brought home to thousands of people who are willing and eager to spread its beneficent teachings. On this far western shore of America the seeds of peace and welfare find fertile ground and abundant fruitage. At Stanford there is a keen interest taken in International Brotherhood.

"For there is neither East nor West, Border nor Breed nor Birth, When two strong men stand face to face, Though they come from the ends of the earth."

Abdul Baha carries the message of religion and Doctor Jordan carries the message of science, both aiming for one great result. As all men are the children of one God so are they all brothers and we are at the dawning of a new day when the relationship of world fraternity will be seen and recognized.

The prophets of Israel, Moses, Elijah and Christ, are firmly established in the heart and mind of humanity as great teachers who delivered the message of God to the world. They lived and taught in one small country, never getting far away from the place of their nativity. In the case of Moses, who led the children of Israel up out of Egypt to Canaan, a notable journey in its day, would be a slight migration in the modern sense of people accustomed to traverse the globe. Our Savior lived and taught only in Palestine. Yet with all the differences which obtain in the stretch of two thousand years, one feels in the presence of Abdul Baha, that he is a living embodiment of the old patriarchs and prophets. He has accomplished a great journey.



Abdul Baha, the Effendi

#### Sketch of the Life of Abbas Effendi the "Servant of God" Reprinted from the London Chronicle, Bahaiism and its Prophet

quote Abbas Effendi's own commands, amongst the purposes of the Bahai are—

"To never allow ourselves (alas, for that infinitive!) to speak one unkind word about another; even though that other be our enemy. To rebuke those who speak to us of the faults of others. \*\* To be truthful, to be hopeful, to be reverent. To be a cause of healing for every sick one; a pleasant water for every thirsty one; a heavenly table for every hungry one; a guide for every seeker; rain for cultivation; a star to every horizon; a light for every lamp; a herald to every yearning one for the kingdom of God."

It is a condition of healthy-minded self-abnegation. There is no enthusiasm of asceticism, no flagellation or self-torturing for the sake of the dreams to come; but a joyous and a serviceable self-training to helpfulness and devotion. "Oh, God, protect me from myself!" is the Bahai's prayer.

#### A Spiritual Pilgrimage.

But the Mystic Way is also to be trodden. This is illustrated by a pilgrimage Mr. Hammond proves an admirable goal and exponent—through the Seven Valleys. How universal is that mystical number!

kind's unity with that One. That process accomplished, the way for the time becomes lighter, and the feet less weary. The traveler reaches the Valley of Contentment, wherein all things are joyous and beautiful, and the mystic finds his reward of happiness. But there follows the Valley of Astonishment or Perplexity, wherein old appearances are seen as really they are, old ideas are cleared of their errors and prejudice and the truth as it is recognized with such amazement as the child would show had he the wit to wonder at the miracles of life which surround him, to which we of older growth have become blindly accustomed.

Lastly, we reach the Valley of Poverty, wherein we recognize that of the earthly splendor, the tinsel, the tufts, the glories, the honors, and the ornaments of worldly fortune are really an organized make-believe. Here, again, obviously, the spirit of Bahai comes very close to that of Francis.

The principles which govern the Bahai movement are, doubtless, in their details not new. They are, indeed, older than the hills; but their application to these noisy, tumultuous times they are new enough. The absolute equality and spiritual

'Abdu'l-Bahá in  
Palo Alto, California,  
with local pastor

