

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

San Francisco and Los Angeles

11-21 October 2021

*Unity of Religion*

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 31

# Oakland, California

On 11 October, 'Abdu'l-Bahá went again to Mrs. Goodall's home in Oakland to meet with many children for Children's Day. They sang for him and he gave them candy and flowers.



'Abdu'l-Bahá with children at Goodall home

# San Francisco

On 12 October, 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke at the Jewish Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco before about 2,000 people on the unity of religions.



Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco



Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco

# Unity of Religions

*Praise be to God! The medieval ages of darkness have passed away and this century of radiance has dawned, this century wherein the reality of things is becoming evident, wherein science is penetrating the mysteries of the universe, the oneness of the world of humanity is being established, and service to mankind is the paramount motive of all existence.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 112)*

# Unity of Religions

*The age has dawned when human fellowship will become a reality.*

*The century has come when all religions shall be unified.*

*The dispensation is at hand when all nations shall enjoy the blessings of international peace.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 112)*



# Unity of Religions

*The cycle has arrived when racial prejudice will be abandoned by tribes and peoples of the world.*

*The epoch has begun wherein all native lands will be conjoined in one great human family.*

*For all mankind shall dwell in peace and security beneath the shelter of the great tabernacle of the one living God.*

*(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, [The Promulgation of Universal Peace](#), 112)*

'Abdu'l-Bahá  
in  
San Francisco



# Visit to Phoebe Hearst

On 13-16 October, He visited the mansion of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst near Pleasanton. The wealthy widow of a US Senator and mother of journalist William Randolph Hearst, she led the first Western pilgrimage in 1898, started Bahá'í study classes in San Francisco with Lua Getsinger, and supported many Bahá'í activities and charitable causes. Her butler Robert Turner was the first African-American Bahá'í.

'Abdu'l-Bahá returned on 16-18 October to San Francisco.



Phoebe  
Hearst





Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst, about 1900.  
(Library of Congress)

Phoebe Hearst  
and  
Robert Turner  
her butler





The first Western pilgrimage 1898

Hearst hacienda  
near  
Pleasanton  
California





Hearst hacienda near Pleasanton, California





Hearst hacienda near Pleasanton, California

# Los Angeles

On 18-21 October, 'Abdu'l-Bahá took the train to Los Angeles to visit Thornton Chase's grave on 19 October. Thornton Chase became a Bahá'í in 1894, the first American believer. As a travelling salesman, he was able to teach in many places. He visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1907 and wrote a book *In Galilee*. He died in Los Angeles while 'Abdu'l-Bahá was in California, so the Master visited his grave.



Thornton Chase, first American Bahá'í



Thornton  
Chase  
gravesite



# Thornton Chase First American Bahá'í

*Mr. Chase was of the blessed souls. The best time of his life was spent in the path of God.... The people will honor this grave.... This personage will not be forgotten.*