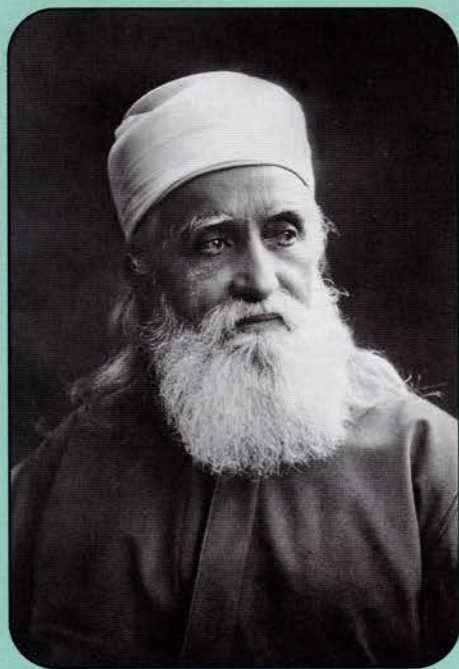


# The Perfect Example



'Abdu'l-Bahá

**W**hen 'Abdu'l-Bahá was born, His name was 'Abbás Effendi. Bahá'u'lláh chose 'Abbás, out of all of His children, to be called "the Master."

Bahá'u'lláh once said, "See 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Master, what a wonderful effect His deeds and words have in the world! See how kindly and patiently He endures every difficulty."

At the time that the Holy Family lived in Baghdád, Bahá'u'lláh gave 'Abbás a new title—the Mystery of God. This meant that, though 'Abbás was a human being like you and me, He was much more. He was the perfect Example of every virtue a Bahá'í can have.

In His later years, after His Father left this world, 'Abbás asked that everyone call Him 'Abdu'l-Bahá—the Servant of Bahá'u'lláh. Nothing was more important to 'Abbás than serving His Father. How did He serve Bahá'u'lláh? He loved and served all people.

*"Be as I Am"*

'Abbás Effendi was born on a wonderful night—midnight of May 23, 1844. This was the night that Mullá Husayn found the One for Whom he had been searching so long and so well. This was the night of the Declaration of the Báb!

When the Bahá'ís wanted to celebrate His birthday, 'Abdu'l-Bahá told them that remembering the Báb was the important part of May 23. Instead, He gave us the Day of the Covenant, November 26. Keeping the Covenant, or promise, to obey God is a good thing to remember on that day. Bahá'u'lláh wrote that, if we obey 'Abdu'l-Bahá, we obey God. When we sing, "Look at Me, follow Me, be as I am" today or on the Day of the Covenant, we may think of our own covenant to obey 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

*'Abdu'l-Bahá Is with Us*

In the last weeks of His life, 'Abdu'l-Bahá dreamed that He was leaving this world. And so it was that He peacefully ascended to the next world at about 1:00 a.m., on November 28.

Two days before, He had sent everyone to celebrate the Day of the Covenant without Him. The friends were sad that He was missing. He said, "In spirit I am, and shall always be, with the friends, even though I be far away." We can remember these words when we gather, in the middle of the night, to commemorate the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. ✨