

The Most Mighty Branch

“It is incumbent upon . . . My Kindred to turn, one and all, their faces towards the Most Mighty Branch [‘Abdu’l-Bahá].” —*Bahá’u’lláh*

Bahá’u’lláh’s eldest Son was called ‘Abbás Effendi. Bahá’u’lláh gave Him titles like “the Master” and “the Mystery of God.” After His Father’s passing, ‘Abbás took the name ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, which means, “Servant of Bahá.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá spent many years as a prisoner in ‘Akká. Still, He helped the Bahá’í Faith grow by encouraging the Bahá’ís in His Writings. Many Bahá’ís also traveled to visit Him. They were inspired by His kindness, wisdom, and love.

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was 64, He was finally freed. He went to Egypt, Europe, and North America to share His Father’s Message. In 1912, He went to the United States. He gave popular talks to the public. He also dedicated the site for the Bahá’í House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá wrote thousands of Tablets to



Bahá’ís around the world. He explained Bahá’u’lláh’s Teachings. He sent the Tablets of the Divine Plan to North America. In these special Tablets, He named about 120 places where Bahá’ís should go to teach the Faith. As soon as they heard His wishes, some Bahá’ís left their homes to travel to these places.

The Covenant Continues

‘Abdu’l-Bahá ascended to the next world on November 28, 1921.

He was 77 years old. Like His Father, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá left a written will explaining who should lead the Bahá’í Faith after His passing.

The Bahá’ís were very sad at the loss of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. His grandson, Shoghi Effendi, was heartbroken. He was at college in England. When he returned to Haifa, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Will and Testament was read. Shoghi Effendi received another shock. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had appointed him Guardian of the Bahá’í Faith. His job was to guide the Bahá’ís and explain the Bahá’í Writings.

In His Will, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá continues Bahá’u’lláh’s Lesser Covenant. He protects the unity of the Bahá’í Faith. He also explains the Universal House of Justice and other parts of the Administrative Order. His Will even includes guidance and prayers for the Bahá’ís. He writes, “O Lord, my God! Assist Thy loved ones to be firm in Thy Faith, to walk in Thy ways, to be steadfast in Thy Cause.” ✨



In 1912, during His visit to Chicago, children gathered around ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (center). In one talk, He told them, “You are all my children, my spiritual children.”