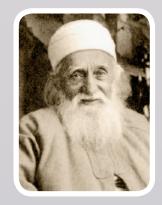
'Abdu'l-Bahá's Love for the Poor

o deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor," said 'Abdu' I-Bahá, during his 1912 visit to North America. As the leader of the Bahá'í Faith at the time, he traveled and gave talks in the U.S. and Canada to share the Bahá'í teachings of peace, oneness, and generosity.

One of his many stops was the Bowery Mission, a shelter for the homeless in New York City. 'Abdu'l-Bahá asked that some of



his money be exchanged for coins. Juliet Thompson and another Bahá'í carried bags of coins to the mission. About 400 homeless men gathered. 'Abdu'l-Bahá began, "Tonight I am very happy, for I have come here to meet my friends. I consider you my relatives, my companions..." He spoke of God's love for them, and how Messengers of God like Jesus and Bahá'u'lláh had been poor themselves.

"Although in the material realm you are poor," he said, "yet in the Kingdom of God you are precious."

After his talk, 'Abdu'l-Bahá greeted the

men, shook their hands, and gave them coins. Today, people still get help at the Bowery Mission, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá showed his compassion for the poor.

