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*Let the days in excess of the months be placed before the month of fasting. We have ordained that these, amid all nights and days, shall be the manifestations of the letter Ha, and thus they have not been bounded by the limits of the year and its months. It behooveth the people of Baha, throughout these days, to **provide good cheer** for themselves, their kindred and, beyond them, the poor and needy, and with joy and exultation to hail and glorify their Lord, to sing His praise and magnify His Name; and when they end – these days of giving that precede the season of restraint – let them enter upon the Fast. Kitab-i-Aqdas (the Most Holy Book), Baha'u'llah*

*All praise be unto God, Who hath revealed the law of obligatory prayer as a reminder to His servants, **and enjoined on them the Fast that those possessed of means may become apprised of the woes and sufferings of the destitute.** One who performeth neither good deeds nor acts of worship is like unto a tree which beareth no fruit, and an action which leaveth no trace. (Compilations, The Importance of Obligatory Prayer and Fasting)*

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16 “...these days of giving that precede the season of restraint # 16

17 *Bahá'u'lláh enjoined upon His followers to devote these days to feasting, rejoicing*  
18 *and charity. In a letter written on Shoghi Effendi's behalf it is explained that "the*  
19 *intercalary days are specially set aside for **hospitality, the giving of gifts, etc.**".*  
20 *(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 178)*

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## 21 STORIES OF ABDU'L-BAHÁ

## 22 ON HOSPITALITY AND GIVING GIFTS

23 Dr J. E. Esslemont, author of the often-printed Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era, was ‘Abdu'l-Bahá’s guest  
24 in Haifa for two and a half months in the winter of 1919-20. ... He delighted in gathering together  
25 people of various races, colours, nations, and religions in unity and cordial friendship around His  
26 hospitable board.’

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27 *As He said on another occasion, ‘My home is the home of peace. My home is the*  
28 *home of joy and delight. My home is the home of laughter and exultation. Whoever*  
29 *enters through the portals of this home must go out with gladsome heart.’*

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30 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 172*

31 ‘Abdu'l-Bahá knew how to give -- not just what He no longer wanted or needed. Once in Montreal  
32 when 'He prepared to return to the Maxwells' home for a meeting, the friends asked if they could call  
33 a carriage for Him. ‘Abdu'l-Bahá took the streetcar, saying, "Oh, it matters little. It saves expenses.  
34 There is a difference of one dollar in the fare." When He arrived at the Maxwells', He gave one pound  
35 to each of the servants.' After spending two nights at the estate of Phoebe Hearst, He gathered the  
36 servants together and thanked them -- each received ten dollars.

37 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 82*

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38 ‘Abdu'l-Bahá visited Henry Birks' jewelry shop, where He bought small gifts to give to people as He  
39 traveled. He always gave small gifts to porters, waiters, chambermaids, and others.

40 *Earl Redman, ‘Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 182*

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41 One July evening in 1919 a pilgrim held a sumptuous banquet at Bahji. ‘Abdu'l-Bahá Himself served  
42 about forty guests. *Bedouins camping nearby also received a generous share. When their children*  
43 *came, the Master gave a coin to each.* In the morning their fathers came to the Master, who was  
44 sitting in the garden by the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, writing Tablets, to express their appreciation and to  
45 seek His blessing. *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 99*

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46 One day ‘Abdu'l-Bahá was going from Akka to Haifa and asked for a seat in the stage coach. The  
47 driver, surprised, said ‘Your Excellency surely wishes a private carriage.’ ‘No.’ replied the Master.  
48 *While He was still in the coach in Haifa, a distressed fisherwoman came to Him; all day she had*  
49 *caught nothing and now must return to her hungry family. The Master gave her five francs, then*  
50 *turned to the driver and said: ‘You now see the reason why I would not take a private carriage. Why*  
51 *should I ride in luxury when so many are starving?’*

52 Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

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53 As the guests were served, *'Abdu'l-Bahá went from one to another with a vial of Attar of Rose,*  
54 anointing each one of the friends. *Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 147*

55 During this second stay in Chicago, 'Abdu'l-Bahá chose to stay in Corrine True's home for a day or  
56 two before moving to a hotel. When He arrived with His secretaries, Corrine served them all tea.  
57 *Unfortunately, it was a type of tea that Persians don't like, and some of them remarked that "there*  
58 *was a better tea". But the Master drank it anyway, saying, "This tea is very good because it is been*  
59 *prepared with love." Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 19*

60 He has been known to go into the kitchen and prepare a meal for His guests. *He never failed in such*  
61 *small attentions as seeing that the room where His visitors were entertained contained every possible*  
62 *comfort, though He paid no attention to His own comfort. Howard Colby Ives, Portals to Freedom, p.*  
63 *240*

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64 He stayed at a rented house in Montclair, often going to the market and preparing the meals Himself,  
65 for invited friends and visitors. In general, during His travels, He would always supervise kitchen  
66 matters. *For himself, He required the least possible amount of food, but for His guests He provided*  
67 *lavishly. Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 145*

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68 Howard Colby Ives recalled one meal at which 'Abdu'l-Bahá served me with His own hands most  
69 bountifully, urging me to eat, eat, be happy. He Himself did not eat but paced regally around the  
70 table, talking, smiling, serving.' Later he wrote that 'He has been known to go into the kitchen and  
71 prepare a meal for His guests. *He never failed in such small attentions as seeing that the room where*  
72 *His visitors were entertained contained every possible comfort.'* *His response when He was at one*  
73 *time asked to act as honorary chairman of a Bahá'í Assembly was simply, "Abdu'l-Bahá is a servant.'*  
74 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 104*

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75 In London it was noted that inquirers often hated to leave. If any were still present when luncheon or  
76 dinner was to be served, they were inevitably invited to dine also. To smother embarrassment,  
77 *'Abdu'l-Bahá would extend His hand to the humblest and lead him personally into the dining-room,*  
78 *seating him at His right and talking with such warmth that soon the surprised guest felt completely at*  
79 *ease.* As many as eighteen might find themselves being served by the Master Himself, but He was  
80 prone to continue His interrupted conversations or to tell an anecdote, often sparkling with his  
81 humour. *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 57*

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82  
83 Julia Gundy, an early pilgrim, described a beautiful supper at which many friends were welcomed by  
84 the Master Himself in Akka. He passed out napkins, embraced and found plates for each. All were  
85 individually anointed with attar of rose. He served pilau, a Persian rice dish, to each guest. There  
86 were also oranges and rice pudding. 'Throughout the supper, which was very simple in its character  
87 and appointment, *'Abdu'l-Bahá was the Servant of the believers. This was indeed a spiritual feast*  
88 *where Love reigned. The whole atmosphere was Love, Joy, and Peace.*  
89 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

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90 Later that day, a group of Californians, including Helen Goodall, Ella Cooper and Harriet Wise, arrived  
91 in New York to see 'Abdu'l-Bahá. After a bath and dinner, the women took a taxi to the house where

92 He was staying. *Arriving, they stepped out of the cab to find 'Abdu'l-Bahá sitting on the steps of the*  
93 *house awaiting them. "Very welcome! Very welcome! It is good that you have come", He said.*  
94 *Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 149*

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95 Mr Holley recalled one dinner: 'Our party took seats at two adjoining tables. The dinner was  
96 throughout cheerful and animated. 'Abdu'l-Bahá answered questions and made frequent  
97 observations on religion in the West. He laughed heartily from time to time – *indeed, the idea of*  
98 *asceticism or useless misery of any kind cannot attach itself to this full-developed personality. The*  
99 *divine element in Him does not feed at the expense of the human element, but appears rather to*  
100 *vitalize and enrich the human element by its own abundance, as if He had attained His spiritual*  
101 *development by fulfilling His social relations with the utmost ardour.'*  
102 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 168*

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103 One day, in London, while several people were talking to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, a man's voice was heard at  
104 the door. It was the son of a country clergyman, but now he looked more like an ordinary tramp and  
105 his only home was along the banks of the river Thames. He had walked thirty miles to see 'Abdu'l-  
106 Bahá. *The man was taken to the dining room, he was given food, and after he had rested for a while,*  
107 *he said, 'Last evening I had decided to put an end to my futile, hateful life, useless to God and man!*

108 In a little country town yesterday, whilst taking what I had intended should be my last walk, I saw a  
109 face in the window of a newspaper shop. I stood looking at the face as if rooted to the spot. He  
110 seemed to speak to me, and call me to Him!... I read that He is here, in this house. I said to myself, "If  
111 there is on earth that personage, I shall take up again the burden of my life. "...*Tell me, is He here?*  
112 *Will He see me? Even me? The lady replied, 'Of course He will see you...'*

113 *Just then 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself opened the door, extending His hands as though to a dear friend*  
114 *whom He was expecting. "'Welcome! Most welcome! I am very much pleased that thou hast come.*  
115 *Be seated."* Trembling the poor man sank into a chair by the Master. "Be happy! Be happy!...Do not  
116 be filled with grief..." encouraged the Master. "Though thou be poor, thou mayest be rich in the  
117 Kingdom of God." 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke these and other words of comfort, strength and healing. The  
118 man's cloud of misery seemed to melt away in the warmth of the Master's loving presence. Before  
119 the man left, he said that he was going to work in the fields, and that after he had saved a little  
120 money, he was going to buy some land to grow violets for the market.

121 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 89*

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122 *'That day 'Abdu'l-Bahá had bestowed many sixpences, and people had come from the neighboring*  
123 *villages, bringing their children to receive the blessing from "the holy Man" -- and of course the*  
124 *sixpences!* About nine o'clock in the evening the ladies decided that no one else must see 'Abdu'l-  
125 Bahá that night. But as they waited outside the cottage, a man came up the path, carrying one baby,  
126 and with others clinging to him. When he asked for "the holy Man", however, he was told severely  
127 that he could not be seen, he was very tired and had gone to bed. The man sighed, as he said, "Oh, I  
128 have walked six miles from far away to see Him. I am so sorry!" 'The hostess responded severely,  
129 feeling that the desire for sixpences had prompted the journey perhaps more than religious  
130 enthusiasm, and the man sighed more deeply than ever, and was turning away, when suddenly  
131 *'Abdu'l-Bahá came around the corner of the house. The way in which he embraced the man and all*  
132 *the babies was so wonderful, that the hearts of the too careful friends melted within them, and when*

133 *he at last sent away the unbidden guests, comforted, their hearts full of joy, their hands bursting with*  
134 *sixpences*, the two friends looked at one another and said: "How wrong we were! We will never  
135 again try to manage 'Abdu'l-Bahá!"  
136 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 73*

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137 The following touching incident took place one day when we were seated at table with the Master. A  
138 Persian friend arrived who had passed through `Ishqabad,. *He presented a cotton handkerchief to*  
139 *'Abdu'l-Bahá, Who untied it, and saw therein a piece of dry black bread, and a shrivelled apple*. The  
140 friend exclaimed: "A poor Bahá'í workman came to me: 'I hear thou goest into the presence of our  
141 Beloved. Nothing have I to send, but this my dinner. I pray thee offer it to Him with my loving  
142 devotion.'" *'Abdu'l-Bahá spread the poor handkerchief before Him, leaving His own luncheon*  
143 *untasted. He ate of the workman's dinner, broke pieces off the bread, and handed them to the*  
144 *assembled guests, saying: "Eat with me of this gift of humble love."*  
145 *Lady Blomfield, The Chosen Highway*

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146 This woman who makes the tea had been married only one year to one of these brothers. Having lost  
147 all of her relatives through the persecution, and Persian women having no openings for self-support,  
148 the Master took her into His household. What a wonderful household this is – *over forty people living*  
149 *here in one home, some black, some white, Arabic, Persian, Burmanese, Italian, Russian and now*  
150 *English and American! Not a loud command is heard and not one word of dispute;* not one word of  
151 fault-finding. Every one goes about as if on tip toes. When they enter your room, their slippers are  
152 left before the door and they come in with stocking feet and remain standing until you invite them to  
153 sit down.' *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 93*  
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155 To a minister who came to call on the Master in the Maxwell Home in Montreal, *"Abdu'l-Bahá*  
156 *presented an armful of gorgeous American Beauty roses*, standing in a tall vase at His side, sending  
157 him away with amazement and awe at the regal manners and gentle courtesy of this Prisoner from  
158 the East.' *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 98*  
159 Two ladies from Scotland, delighted that their request to have an evening with the Master while He  
160 was in London had been granted, were warmly received by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. How they relished having  
161 this intimate evening! Half an hour passed in His warm presence, when suddenly they were filled  
162 with consternation -- an aggressive reporter strode into their midst and seated himself -- he wanted  
163 information about the Master. His talkative, impolite manner left the ladies speechless -- such an  
164 intrusion could spoil that precious evening. Then, to their surprise, 'Abdu'l-Bahá stood up and,  
165 beckoning the reporter to follow Him, led the way into His room. The ladies had indeed got rid of the  
166 intruder, but they had also lost 'Abdu'l-Bahá. What were they to do? Before long the hostess went  
167 into the Master's secretary and asked that He be informed 'that the ladies with whom the  
168 appointment had been made are awaiting His pleasure.' Very soon kind words of farewell were  
169 heard. Then the Master returned, pausing by the door. *Gravely, He looked at each and said, 'You*  
170 *were making that poor man uncomfortable, so strongly desiring his absence; I took him away to*  
171 *make him feel happy.'* *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 54*  
172 Two pilgrims had just arrived in 'Akka in January 1908, after a long journey in the midst of winter.  
173 They described their first meeting with the Master, only minutes after they had entered His home.

174 'He came at once, the joyous ring of His voice reaching us even before we saw Him, calling,  
175 "*Welcome! Welcome! I am glad you are here!*" and adding to His warm, strong hand-clasp, the  
176 *greater welcome of His wonderful eyes and heavenly smile. He* made us sit down with Him and  
177 immediately asked about the American believers . . . When we mentioned those who had sent Him  
178 special greetings, His beautiful face beamed with happiness.'  
179 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 132*

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180 When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was in San Francisco, His hostess arranged an interview with the Mayor of  
181 Berkeley. Many dignitaries and university people were to gather at a reception. 'As the appointed  
182 hour for departure approached the hostess went upstairs to warn 'Abdu'l-Bahá that the time was  
183 near. He smiled and waved her away, saying, "Very soon! Very soon!" 'She left him with some  
184 impatience, for there was no evidence of preparation for the trip. After some time she went up  
185 again, for the automobile was honking at the door, and it looked as if the Mayor of Berkeley would  
186 be kept waiting. But she met only a smile, and "Very soon! Very soon!" from the important guest. At  
187 last her patience was quite exhausted for she knew that they could not possibly arrive at the  
188 reception in time. Suddenly there was a ring at the door bell. Immediately 'Abdu'l-Bahá's step was on  
189 the stair, and when the door opened he was beside the maid, pulling over the threshold a dusty and  
190 disheveled man whom no one had ever heard of, but whom '*Abdu'l-Bahá embraced like a long lost*  
191 *friend.'* *He had read of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the newspapers and felt he must see Him, but as he did not*  
192 *have enough money for the car fare, he walked the fifteen miles into San Francisco. Had 'Abdu'l-Bahá*  
193 *left on time, they would have missed each other -- but the Master had 'felt his approach' and would*  
194 *not leave until His guest was seated at the table with tea and sandwiches.* Only then could the  
195 Master say, 'Now I must go, but when you have finished, wait for Me in My room upstairs, until I  
196 return, and then we will have a great talk.'  
197 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 56*

198 With all of His spiritual knowledge and vision 'Abdu'l-Bahá was extremely practical. On His third visit  
199 to New York He stayed with the Kinneys at their home on West End Avenue. This was only one block  
200 from Riverside Drive, where, often, He would walk. *One late afternoon He came back with his snowy*  
201 *'aba' wrapped close around Him and He was laughing. It seemed that on the Drive, he had come*  
202 *across a poor man whose trousers were literally in rags. So 'Abdu'l-Bahá had taken him behind some*  
203 *thick shrubbery where quickly He had taken off his own trousers, stripped the rags from the man, and*  
204 *got him decently clothed.* How amazed that poor man must have been. And how amused 'Abdu'l-  
205 Bahá, who, with his aba wrapped tight around him to hide his trouser less condition came home  
206 laughing. Reginald Grant Barrow, Mother's Stories: Stories of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Early Believers told by  
207 Muriel Ives Barrow Newhall to her son, p. 40

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208  
209 '*Abdu'l-Bahá believed in using medicine as well as spiritual healing. As there was no hospital in Akka,*  
210 *He hired a doctor by the name of Nikolaki Bey. He gave teh doctor a regular salary to look after the*  
211 *very poor, and He asked the doctor not to tell who paid for the service. But* always, the poor turned to  
212 'Abdu'l-Bahá for help. For instance, there was a poor, crippled woman named Na'um who used to  
213 come to ABdu'l-Bahá every week for a gift of money. One day, a man came running; "Oh Master!" he  
214 said, "Poor Na'um has the measles, and everybody is keeping away from her. What can be done?"  
215 '*Abdu'l-Bahá immediately sent a woman to take care of her; He rented a room, put His own bedding*  
216 *in it, called the doctor, sent food and everything she needed. He went to see that she had every*

217 *attention. And when she died in peace and comfort, He arranged a simple funeral and paid all the*  
218 *expenses Himself."* Lady Blomfield, *The Chosen Highway*

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220 'Abdu'l-Bahá was born on the same night that the Báb declared His Mission in Shiraz on 22 May  
221 1844, so on that day in 1906 it was about the Báb, His work and message, that He spoke. For the  
222 occasion over two hundred guests were to dine at the Master's table. *Since dawn He had been busy*  
223 *helping with the work involved, Himself kneading dough to be put in the ovens, 'in gay spirits,*  
224 *inspiring, uplifting, cheering all His helpers'. Later He 'assisted in passing the platters...the rice...the*  
225 *lamb...the fruits of the region (of such large size, such colour, and such fragrance as only the sunshine*  
226 *of the East produces and paints). Moving among His two hundred guests, He spoke to them as He*  
227 *served them, such Divine words of love and spiritual import.*

228 ***Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 49***

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229 Of the guests who remained to lunch or dinner, *the Master would often hold out His hand to the*  
230 *humblest or most diffident, lead them into the dining-room, seat him or her at His right hand, smile*  
231 *and talk until all embarrassment had passed away, and the guest felt as though all uneasiness had*  
232 *changed into the atmosphere of a calm and happy home.*

233 ***Lady Blomfield, The Chosen Highway***

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234 A friend had sent some fur so that the Master could have a good warm coat; *He had it cut up*  
235 *and made into twenty caps for the elderly men of the town.*

236 ***(Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of "Abdu'l-Bahá)***

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237 The gates of the Akká prison were finally opened for Baha'u'llah, His family and companions after a  
238 confinement of two years, two months and five days. Many of His companions were consigned to the  
239 caravanserai, an unfit dwelling-place. 'Abdu'l-Bahá occupied one room himself. The rooms were  
240 damp and filthy. *'Abdu'l-Bahá sold a certain gift which had been given to Him in Baghdad and with*  
241 *the proceeds began to repair the rooms for the companions of Baha'u'llah. He left the repair of His*  
242 *own room to the last. The money ran out and as a result His room remained unrepaired and in very*  
243 *bad condition. Not only were its walls damp but the roof leaked and the floor was covered with dust.*  
244 *He sat and slept on a mat in that room.* His bed cover was a sheepskin. The room was infested with  
245 fleas and when He slept under the sheepskin, fleas gathered and began biting. 'Abdu'l-Bahá worked  
246 out a tactic of defeating the fleas by turning over His sheepskin at intervals. He would sleep for a  
247 while before the fleas found their way again to the inner side. He would then turn the sheepskin over  
248 again. Every night He had to resort to this tactic eight to ten times.

249 ***(Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)***

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250 He didn't allow his family to have any luxuries either: He does not permit his family to have luxuries.  
251 He himself eats but once a day, and then bread, olives, and cheese suffice him. His room is small and  
252 bare, with only a matting on the stone floor. His habit is to sleep upon this floor. Not long ago a  
253 friend, thinking that this must be hard for a man of advancing years, presented him with a bed fitted  
254 with springs and mattress. So these stand in his room also, but are rarely used. *"For how," he says,*  
255 *"can I bear to sleep in luxury when so many of the poor have not even shelter?" So he lies upon the*  
256 *floor and covers himself only with his cloak.* (Myron Henry Phelps and Bahiyiyih Khanum, *Life and*  
257 *Teachings of Abbas Effendi)*

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258 'Abdu'l-Bahá's generosity was natural to Him already in childhood. A story is recorded of the time  
259 when young 'Abbas Effendi went to the mountains to see the thousands of sheep which His Father  
260 then owned. The shepherds, wishing to honour their young Guest, gave Him a feast. Before 'Abbas  
261 was taken home at the close of the day, the head shepherd advised Him that it was customary under  
262 the circumstances to leave a present for the shepherds. *'Abbas told the man that He had nothing to  
263 give. Yet the shepherd persisted that He must give something. Whereupon the Master gave them all  
264 the sheep.'*

265 *We are told that when Bahá'u'lláh heard about this incident, He laughed and commented, 'We will  
266 have to protect 'Abdu'l-Bahá from Himself -- some day he will give himself away.'*

267 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 69*

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268 At the close of his talk, 'Abdu'l-Bahá made a practical demonstration of his tactful love for the poor.  
269 *In generous conformity with Bahá'u'lláh's teachings that "our words should not exceed our deeds," he  
270 left twenty golden sovereigns and many handfuls of silver with Colonel Spencer of the Army, so that  
271 the poor might enjoy a similar dinner New Year's night.* Colonel Spencer told the men that they were  
272 to have this New Year's dinner in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's honour. The Master was just leaving the hall when  
273 this announcement was made. With one accord the men jumped up and waving their knives and  
274 forks gave a rousing farewell cheer. *'Abdu'l-Bahá, Star of the West, v2, p. 8*

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275 Before a winter's cold took hold of 'Akka, *the Master would go to a clothing shop where He would  
276 arrange that a number of the poor should come to receive their annual cloaks. He would adjust the  
277 garments over some of those poor shoulders. He gave where He felt it was merited and kept a record  
278 of the recipients. He did not wish to be abused* -- but even abuse was known to receive kindness at  
279 His generous hands, as has been shown. Small wonder that the Arabs called Him the 'Lord of  
280 Generosity' and Bahá'ís became ablaze by observing His actions of continuing kindness and loved  
281 Him as the Servant of God. *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 76*  
282 Early Monday morning the household was called together, when *'Abdu'l-Bahá gave a short talk and  
283 His Blessing. He admonished each one to be faithful and said He had prayed for all. Afterward He  
284 gave each servant a handmade silk handkerchief as a souvenir.*  
285 *Agnes Parsons' Diary, April 22, 1912*

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286 For 'Abdu'l-Bahá inexpensive clothes were sufficient. One day He was to entertain the Governor of  
287 'Akka. His wife felt that His coat was hardly worthy of the occasion. Well ahead of time she went to  
288 the tailor where she ordered a fine coat, thinking that, with His lack of self-consciousness, He would  
289 surely not notice that His old coat was missing. He desired, after all, only to be scrupulously clean.  
290 The new garment was laid out at the proper time, but the Master went searching for His own coat.  
291 He asked for it, insisting that the one laid out was not His. His wife attempted to explain the new  
292 coat, but He would have none of it, and He told her why: *'But think of this!...For the price of this coat  
293 you can buy five such as I ordinarily use, and do you think I would spend so much money upon a coat  
294 which only I shall wear? If you think I need a new one, very well, but send this back and have the  
295 tailor make Me for this price five such as I usually have. Then you see, I shall not only have a new  
296 one, but I shall have four to give to others!'*

297 *Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 74*



298 How could this Prisoner give to the needy of 'Akká every Friday morning? Had not His exiled family's  
299 wealth and property been almost totally confiscated? *One pilgrim found that, 'All that the Master*  
300 *gives is a real sacrifice, and is saved by the cutting off of what most people would consider*  
301 *necessities.'* Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 82

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302 On the occasion of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's first dinner in the home of Lady Bloomfield in London His hostess  
303 had prepared course after course in her eagerness to please Him. Afterwards He gently commented:  
304 *'The food was delicious and the fruit and flowers were lovely, but would that we could share some of*  
305 *the courses with those poor and hungry people who have not even one.'* Thereafter the dinners were  
306 greatly simplified. Flowers and fruit remained in abundance, for those were often brought to the  
307 Master as small love tokens. Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

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308 On this occasion, the *Master stopped her and asked her to hold out her apron, whereupon He filled it*  
309 *with all the quarters that had not been passed out at the Bowery, about \$20 worth.* When one of  
310 'Abdu'l-Bahá's retinue told the startled young woman what He had been doing, she immediately  
311 replied that, I will do the same with the money. I will give away every cent of it.  
312 Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 88

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313 In a final touching tribute to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's generosity this true story emerged in the 1990s, some 70  
314 years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's passing. The Universal House of Justice, the supreme governing Council of  
315 the Bahá'í world community, announced a major construction project on Mount Carmel, Haifa, of  
316 buildings that would, at last, meet the commands of Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder. Accordingly, a tender  
317 was put out for Israeli construction companies to bid for, and a public call for engineers was made by  
318 the House of Justice. To everyone's astonishment, a large number of Arab engineers emerged from  
319 the greater Haifa area offering their services. When the bemused Bahá'ís asked them why they had  
320 come forward they all said: *"The Master, Abbas Effendi ('Abdu'l-Bahá) gave our grandparents and*  
321 *great-grandparents money to start small businesses. Our family businesses prospered and our*  
322 *families were able to pay for our school and university education. We are here to give something*  
323 *back to Abbas Effendi."*

324 *Extract from A Presentation on the Centenary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to the United Kingdom in 1911.*  
325 *Given on 10th September 2011 in Bourne Hall, Ewell Village, Surrey, by Trevor R. J. Finch*

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326 Never forget this; look at one another with the eyes of perfection; look at Me, follow Me, be as I am;  
327 take no thought for yourselves or your lives, whether ye eat or whether we sleep, whether we are  
328 comfortable, whether we are well or ill, whether ye are with friends or foes, whether ye receive  
329 praise or blame; for all of these things we must care not at all. Look at Me and be as I am; ye must die  
330 to yourselves and to the world, so shall ye be born again and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

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331 *Behold a candle and how it gives its light. It weeps its life away drop by drop*  
332 *in order to give forth its flame of light.'*

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333 (Dated Collection, 1898, Maxwell - Early Pilgrimage)

334 The stories are from a compilation of stories I found on the web- Formatted by Barbara Talley for  
335 FHU Study