

Day 8: Friday, August 23, 1912



Mahmúd writes: In the morning, while the Master was preparing to leave, He said:

We have finished our work here. We have sown a seed. Many souls have been attracted and transformed. Every day we have seen gifts such as fruit, flowers, honey and sweets which have been placed here anonymously and without show. This is a proof of the sincerity of their hearts.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá was delighted to witness the influence of the Word of God on Green Acre. Indeed, it has become a second paradise on earth and had been transformed into verdancy and freshness.

At His instructions, the suitcases were packed and the carriage readied. The believers and seekers were burning with the fire of love, lamenting and shedding tears. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá sat in the carriage while the friends lined both sides of the road. For as long as the carriage remained in sight, they continued to wave their hats and handkerchiefs in farewell. On the way He stopped to visit Miss Farmer, who fell at His feet weeping and received from the Master His infinite favor and utmost kindness.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá left Green Acre at 10:00 a.m. and reached Malden, Massachusetts, at 1:00 p.m. He arrived at the home of Miss (Maria P.) Wilson, whose invitation to stay at her house He had accepted. A new spirit was breathed into the bodies and a divine happiness was shed upon the hearts.

As He was tired, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá did not eat but instead rested for awhile. In the afternoon and evening many friends were honored with meeting Him. —*Mahmúd’s Diary*, 219-20

On Friday, August 23rd 'Abdu'l-Bahá's beautiful visit to Green Acre came to an end. Several of us were at the Portsmouth railway station to bid Him a fond farewell. Allah'u'Abhá. — **Ella Roberts**

Shoghi Effendi wrote: THE BLESSING HE ['Abdu'l-Bahá] bestowed on the Open Forum at Green Acre, in Maine, on the banks of the Piscataqua River, where many of His followers had gathered, and which was to evolve into one of the first Bahá'í summer schools of the Western Hemisphere and be recognized as one of the earliest endowments established in the American continent; His address to an audience of several hundred attending the last session of the newly-founded Bahá'í Temple Unity held in Chicago; and, last but not least, the exemplary act He performed by uniting in wedlock two of His followers of different nationalities, one of the white, the other of the Negro race—these must rank among the outstanding functions associated with His visit to the community of the American believers, functions designed to pave the way for the erection of their central House of Worship, to fortify them against the tests they were soon to endure, to cement their unity, and to bless the beginnings of that Administrative Order which they were soon to initiate and champion. — **Shoghi Effendi, *God Passes By*, 288**

STATEMENTS BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ REGARDING GREEN ACRE (Reprise)

HOW IS GREEN ACRE? When will the season be opened? Green Acre is a most delightful spot. I enjoyed my visit to that charming place. If I go to America I will pay a second visit to Green Acre. It is a most ideal spot for the dissemination of lofty ideals. . . . You must lay such a foundation so that the influence of the confederation of religions and sects may permeate to all parts of the world from Green Acre; and Green Acre for all the future ages and cycles may become the standard bearer of the oneness of the world of humanity. I will pray for the fulfillment of this truth.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in a letter from Ahmad Sohrab, dated May 18, 1913, National Bahá'í Archives, Wilmette, IL

THE DESIRE TO SERVE Green Acre is in reality a very important matter. This name (Green Acre) must appear with all its significant meaning, that is, Green Acre must become the reflection of the plain of Acca, and attain to the utmost verdancy, greenness and artistic beauty. Its charms and wonder lie in this—that it may become the center of the Bahá'ís and the cry of Ya Bahá'u'l-Abhá (O Thou the Glory of the Most Glorious!) be raised from all its direction. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá, quoted in *The Bahá'í Yearbook*, Vol. I, 89



Are you all well and happy?
This is a delightful spot; the scenery is beautiful,
and an atmosphere of spirituality haloes everything.
In the future, God willing, Green Acre shall become a great center,
the cause of the unity of the world of humanity,
the cause of uniting hearts and
binding together the East and the West.
This is my hope.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Questions:

1. When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was getting ready to leave Green Acre,
 - a. The believers and seekers were burning with the fire of love, lamenting and shedding tears
 - b. The Green Acre staff was sad, but a little relieved that the intense week was coming to an end
 - c. Fred Mortensen refused to go with the Master, preferring his earlier method of travel
 - d. There was a tremendous storm, which postponed the journey

2. Shoghi Effendi noted 3 functions of particular importance regarding 'Abdu'l-Bahá's trip to America:
 - a. His peace message at Lake Mohonk, His visit to the NAACP in Chicago, His time in Montreal
 - b. His days in New York, His meetings with Howard Colby Ives, His dedication of the Temple
 - c. His meeting with servants at the boat dock, His time at Hull House, His days in California
 - d. His visit to Green Acre, His address to the Bahá'í Temple Unity held in Chicago, His uniting in wedlock two believers of different nationalities and races

3. *Fill in the blanks:* 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, It [Green Acre] is a most ideal spot for the _____ of lofty ideals. . . . You must lay such a _____ so that the influence of the confederation of religions and sects may _____ to all parts of the world from Green Acre; and Green Acre for all the future ages and cycles may become the _____ of the oneness of the world of humanity. I will _____ for the fulfillment of this truth.

4. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was fond of asking people:
 - a. Would you like to hear about the Cause of God?
 - b. Have you signed up for Book 1 yet?
 - c. Are you all well and happy?
 - d. Have you been investigating reality?

5. At Green Acre, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, *We have sown a seed*. How can we take up the work He began and nurture this seed?

Video: *Luminous Journey*, Part 2: Dublin through Malden (17 min.)
[YouTube: Luminous Journey Official Channel]

Answers to #3: dissemination; foundation; permeate; standard bearer; pray