

## Food for all - and a Knighthood for 'Abdu'l-Bahá



'Abdu'l-Bahá took great care to help people when they were poor or hungry. During the First World War there was a danger that war would cause blockages in the food supplies to Haifa. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, realising that this might happen, made plans early. In 1912 He began to organise a large quantity of wheat to be grown, and by the time the blockade happened, 5 to 6 years later, He had large quantities of grain safely stored in underground pits.

The people would have died from starvation, but 'Abdu'l-Bahá made sure that the grain was shared fairly among everyone: rich and poor, old and young, and people of every race and religion received an equal share. It was carefully rationed so that there was enough for everyone and it did not run out before the normal supplies were back.

When the war finished the British government was very pleased that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had saved so many lives. It was decided that He would be given the great honour of being made a knight. A very grand ceremony was organised for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to receive His knighthood, at the residence of the British Governor in Haifa. Very important people gathered to pay their respects on this great occasion. An elegant car was sent to collect Abdul-Bahá and bring Him, the special celebrity, to the ceremony. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá preferred not to be so grand. Instead, He chose His usual

form of transport - a modest horse and carriage, and rode to a side entrance of the Governor's garden.

He arrived at the right time, but in His own way, and He humbly accepted the great honour that was bestowed upon Him by the British government.

He was now Sir'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Abbás, Knight of the British Empire, but this was a title He hardly ever used. He still preferred to be called 'Abdu'l-Bahá, which means 'Servant of the Glory'.

***Be kind to all peoples; care for every person; .....  
strive ye to gladden every soul.***

*(`Abdu'l-Baha: Selections ... `Abdu'l-Baha, Pages: 244-245)*



'Abdu'l-Bahá refuses the elegant car and travels to the ceremony  
in His horse and carriage.