

Radiance

Dorothy Baker was a noble and distinguished lady and one of the great figures of the Bahá'í Faith. When she was a young girl, she had the honor of meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His travels in the West. She was so drawn to His radiance and love that she longed to follow in His footsteps.

It was Dorothy's grandmother, Ellen Beecher, who took her to meet 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Arriving at a house that she had never been to before, Dorothy entered a room in which many people were talking quietly and reverently while waiting for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to speak.

'Abdu'l-Bahá smiled at Mrs. Beecher as they came in the room and motioned to the young Dorothy to sit near Him. Dorothy was a very shy child. Without looking up from the floor, she carefully walked past the people who were sitting around Him to reach the footstool near His feet.

While 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke, she sat with her eyes down, staring at her black shoes. He did not look at her, and she did not have the courage to look at Him. Dorothy was nervous and continued looking down, afraid of the unknown. But gradually she relaxed, and soon her fear was gone. A feeling of deep longing had come over her. She was filled by a strong desire for her soul to be lost in the greatness of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's love. She was touched by His radiance, wrapped in the warmth of His presence.

Dorothy's fear had been replaced by a greater force. She could not imagine being separated from 'Abdu'l-Bahá for even one moment. His loving eyes seemed to speak to her, telling her of the spiritual worlds of God. His radiance was magnetic. Without even realizing that she had moved, Dorothy found herself turned in His direction, with her elbows on her knees and her chin in her hands, gazing at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's luminous face.

Dorothy could not remember what 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke about that day. All she could remember was His kind face, His melodious voice, and the warmth of His presence. The love she had in her heart was so strong that at last she decided to write a letter to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. In her letter, she begged Him to let her serve Him and the Cause of His Father, Bahá'u'lláh.

In His answer to Dorothy, 'Abdu'l-Bahá praised her goal, assured her of God's bounties, and expressed the hope that she would succeed in her desire. And, indeed, Dorothy dedicated her entire life to serving God and humanity.