

## **Joy**

*Leroy Ioas was an outstanding Bahá'í who was named a Hand of the Cause of God by the Guardian in 1951. He was a young boy in 1912 when the Master visited the city of Chicago.*

*Can you imagine the excitement of this spiritual child at having the opportunity to be in the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá?*

*One day, as he and his father were on their way to the hotel where the Master was staying, Leroy had an idea: He decided that he wanted to take 'Abdu'l-Bahá some flowers. With the little money he had, he managed to buy a beautiful bouquet of white carnations.*

*But by the time they reached the hotel, he had changed his mind. He decided that he did not want to give anything material to the Master, not even beautiful flowers. He would offer Him his heart. That was the most important thing he had to offer.*

*So, Leroy's father presented the flowers to 'Abdu'l-Bahá without mentioning who had brought them.*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá then gave a talk to all the friends who had gathered at the hotel to meet Him. During His talk, Leroy sat quietly at His feet and listened to His wise and loving words.*

*Afterwards, the Master stood up and shook hands with the guests, giving each one a white carnation as a token of His love.*

*Leroy was now standing behind the Master. "Oh! I wish He would turn around and give me one of those flowers," thought the young boy. Maybe, secretly in his heart, he wanted the Master to know who had really brought Him the beautiful flowers.*

*But, one by one, the white carnations were being given to other people, and it seemed unlikely that Leroy was going to get one.*

*Then, suddenly, the Master turned around and fixed His gaze on Leroy Ioas. His face radiated love and His eyes were full of kindness. And did He hand him a white carnation? No. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave Leroy something even more precious. He was wearing a beautiful red rose on His coat. He pulled it off and presented it to the young boy. Leroy's heart leaped with joy. The Master did know who had brought Him the white carnations after all.*