

Are you pleased with me?

A story about ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s kind friend.

Extracted from “The Beloved Master” by Mahnaz Afshin
and sent to Dayspring by Kamyar Solhjoo

Once, during the Fast, one of the Bahá’ís, Dr Yunis Khan, a physician, observed that the Master looked very weak. His face was pale. Dr Yunis Khan knew this must be because ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was too weak to fast. Unable to bear the sight of the Master in such a state, he summoned his courage, went up to the Master, and suggested that He break His fast. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá replied that such a thing would not be proper. The Doctor insisted that it would be advisable. Whatever reason ‘Abdu’l-Bahá gave for keeping the Fast did not convince Dr Khan. Soon he was almost in tears, literally begging the Master to think of His health. To himself he thought, “Come what may, I will beg and beseech until my wish is granted.”

While he was thinking of what to say next a thought came to him. Almost without intention he said, “For one day break your fast so that you may gladden the heart of one sinful believer in Bahá’u’lláh”. Dr Yunis Khan goes on, “Praise be God! I do not know how the words sprang to my lips. That Essence of compassion was moved. He said aloud, ‘Bi-chasm, bi-chasm, bi-chasm!’ (certainly, certainly, certainly!)”

Calling Nasir ‘Abdu’l-Bahá said, “Fill the little kettle with water, bring it to the boil. Prepare a cup of tea and bring it here.” Then putting His arm on Dr Yunis Khan’s shoulder, He said, “Now are you pleased with Me?”

After His tea had arrived and He had drunk, the Master said to Dr Yunis Khan, “What a good thing you did!... If I had not broken My fast now I would assuredly have fallen ill.” Then assuring Dr Yunis Khan that He would pray for him, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá went to attend to His affairs.

