

## Story for Year 1, Lesson 5

While ‘Abdu’l-Bahá was in England, He continually received visits from the Bahá’ís there. Lady Blomfield, His hostess, related the following story.

Two ladies had written from Scotland asking if it were possible that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá would spare them one evening.

They accepted my invitation to dinner. Having come straight from the train, and being about to return the same night, every moment was precious.

The Master received them with His warm, simple welcome. Everybody was feeling elated at the prospect of a wonderful evening, unmarred by the presence of any but the most intimate and the most comprehending of the friends.

Not more than half an hour had passed, when, to our consternation, a persistent person pushed past the servitors, and strode into our midst. Seating himself, and lighting a cigarette without invitation, he proceeded to say that he intended writing an article for some paper about ‘Abdu’l-Bahá... He talked without a pause in a far from polite manner.

We were speechless and aghast at the intrusion of this insufferable and altogether unpleasant bore, spoiling our golden hour!

Presently ‘Abdu’l-Bahá rose and, making a sign to the man to follow Him, went to His own private room.

We looked at one another. The bore had gone, yes, but alas! so had the Master!

Can nothing be done? Being the hostess, I was perturbed and perplexed. Then I went to the door of the audience room, and said to the secretary: ‘Will you kindly say to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that the ladies with whom the appointment has been made are awaiting His pleasure.

I returned to the guests and we awaited the result.

Almost immediately we heard steps approaching along the corridor. They came across the hall to the door. The sound of kind farewell words reached us. Then the closing of the door, and the Beloved came back.

‘Oh, Master!’ we said.

Pausing near the door, He looked at us each in turn, with a look of deep, grave meaning.

‘You were making that poor man uncomfortable, so strongly desiring his absence; I took him away to make him feel happy.’

Truly ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s thoughts and ways were far removed from ours!