

'Abdu'l-Bahá and the tramp

[An] eyewitness has related the following story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Dublin.

Early one morning, when He was in the grounds of the Inn dictating to a secretary, an old man, obviously a tramp, came shuffling along the street. 'Abdu'l-Bahá noticed him and told His secretary to go and call him in. He took the old man's dirt-crust-ed hands in His, and spoke to him with love and affection. It was as if He had known this weary, dejected tramp all His life.

And then He saw how filthy and torn the old man's trousers were. At that hour of the day no one was about. 'Abdu'l-Bahá walked towards the porch of the Inn, wrapped His long-flowing 'aba round Himself, took off His own trousers, gave them to the old tramp, and told him: 'May God go with you.'

(In the Holy Land, many a time did He invite a passing bedouin or a shepherd to come and sit beside Him and share His meal.)

H.M. Balyuzi, *'Abdu'l-Bahá – The Centre of the Covenant*, pp. 238-239.