

## *The Bride of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

“My brother and I used to stand at a window and watch [‘Abdu’l-Bahá] swimming; such a strong and graceful swimmer. Every afternoon about five o’clock the wife of Mírzá Músá [Bahá’u’lláh’s brother] would go with me to visit Bahá’u’lláh. I cannot describe the wonder and gladness and happiness of being in His presence. My soul was wrapt in an ecstasy of utter joy, and seemed to float in a celestial atmosphere of peace and loving-kindness.

“Many beautiful daughters were offered from time to time by parents anxious that their child should have the honor of becoming the wife of [‘Abdu’l-Bahá]. He refused to consider any of them, until I arrived; we met each other once, and our marriage was arranged....

“Bahá’u’lláh spoke wonderful words to me:

Oh Munírih! Oh my Leaf! I have destined you for the wife of [‘Abdu’l-Bahá]. This is the bounty of God to you. In earth or in heaven there is no greater gift. Many have come, but We have rejected them and chosen you. Oh Munírih! Be worthy of Him, and of Our generosity to you.

“Bahá’u’lláh chanted the prayers [at the wedding].

“Oh the spiritual happiness which enfolded us! It cannot be described in earthly words.

The chanting ended, the guests left us. I was the wife of my Beloved. How wonderful and noble He was in His beauty. I adored Him. I recognized His greatness, and thanked God for bringing me to Him.

“It is impossible to put into words the delight of being with [‘Abdu’l-Bahá]; I seemed to be in a glorious realm of sacred happiness whilst in His company.

“...then, in the youth of His beauty and manly vigor, with His unfailing love, His kindness, His cheerfulness, His sense of humor, His untiring consideration for everybody, He was marvelous, without equal, surely in all the earth!

“For fifty years my beloved and I were together...years [that] fled by in an atmosphere of love and joy and the perfection of that Peace which passeth all understanding, in the radiant light of which I await the day when I shall be called to join Him, in the celestial garden of transfiguration.”

~ Munírih Khánúm, *The Chosen Highway*, pp. 87-90; quotes in *Marriage Can Be Forever—Preparation Counts!*, p. 485