

THE BAHAI REVELATION



By Thornton Chase

Thornton Chase (1847 – 1912) is commonly recognized as the first convert to the Bahá'í Faith of Occidental background. During his life he organized many Bahá'í activities in Chicago and Los Angeles and was considered a prominent Bahá'í. In 1894, Chase met Ibrahim Kheiralla, a Bahá'í from Beirut who had recently come to the United States. Chase and a small group of Chicagoans began to study the Bahá'í Faith with him. In 1907 Chase was able to go on pilgrimage. Though Chase was able to be with 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Akka for only three days, the experience transformed him. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, highly impressed by Chase's qualities, conferred on him the title *Thábit*, "steadfast". On returning home, Chase wrote an account of his pilgrimage, which was published under the title *In Galilee* in 1908. Chase then turned his thoughts to an introductory book on the Bahá'í Faith. Published as *The Bahai Revelation* in 1909, this work was one of the most comprehensive and accurate introductions to the Bahá'í Faith written by an early American Bahá'í. It continued to be reprinted until the 1920s. The work emphasized the Bahá'í Faith and its teachings as a vehicle for personal spiritual transformation. Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, later honoured him as one of the Disciples of 'Abdu'l-Bahá (also termed "Heralds of the Covenant"). For more information on the Bahá'í Faith, visit bahai.org

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