

# FEAST MARKS BAHA'I RITES FOR 'COVENANT'

In the Baha'i World, November 26 is known as the day of covenant. Today Baha'is of Chicago and their environs are celebrating this day with a feast held in the Foundation Hall of the Baha'i House of Worship, in Wilmette. When Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, passed from this earthly life, he left two covenants. The first, the covenant that every prophet makes with humanity or, more definitely, with his people that they will accept and follow the coming manifestation who will be the reappearance of his reality. The second form of covenant is such as the one Baha'u'llah made with his people that they should accept 'Abdul-Baha, his eldest son, as the center of his covenant upon earth and the appointed exemplar and expounder of his teachings.

'Abdu'l-Baha was in this country for nine months in the year of 1912. He spoke before large gatherings throughout the United States and Canada, on the outstanding principles of the faith, universal peace and the oneness of mankind. The Baha'i peace program was defined by 'Adu'l-Baha in a letter written to the members of the central organization for a durable peace, the Hague, in 1919. Many years earlier he wrote the following significant words:

"True civilization will unfurl its banner in the midmost heart of the world whenever a certain number of distinguished sovereigns of lofty aims—the shining exemplars of devotion and determination—shall, for the good and happiness of all mankind, arise with a firm resolve and clear vision to establish the cause of universal peace . . . The fundamental principle underlying this solemn agreement should be so fixed that if one of the governments of the world should later violate any of its provisions, all the governments on earth would arise to reduce it to utter submission."