



Everything in America Is “All Right!”

By **Caitlin Shayda Jones and Jonathan Menon**

Published: May 11, 2012

Permalink: <http://239days.com/2012/05/11/everything-in-america-is-all-right/>

THE FINAL LEG OF THE VOYAGE that carries the Hudson River to the sea walks a tightrope between the New Jersey shoreline on its right and the island peninsula of Manhattan on its left. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá sat in a chair by the window of his apartment on Riverside Drive, and looked out across the water to the rising cliffs of the New Jersey Palisades, which formed a canyon along the opposite shore.

He returned to New York today, the city that first greeted him upon his arrival to America. His friends had filled his rooms with flowers.

The Hudson Apartment House was at 227 Riverside Drive, a boulevard on the western side of Manhattan that runs along the river from 72nd Street to north of Harlem, where it finally turns inland. It is a relatively quiet, upper class neighborhood with a strip of park that slopes dramatically to the water below. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá will call this park “his garden,” and return to it again and again.

Over the next two days ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is going to speak to a number of peace societies in the New York area, after which he will travel upstate to deliver the opening talk at the Eighteenth Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration. It takes place every year at a lake resort about ninety miles north of the city, nestled among the mountains. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá has stated that attending this conference is one of the primary reasons for his visit to America.

The reflective atmosphere of the apartment has now been shattered by the arrival of guests. Questions pour in. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá admits that he has “had no rest by day or night,” since his departure, and has been “either traveling, moving about or speaking.” However, “it was all so pleasantly done,” and he has been “most happy.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s flat is located on one of the top stories of the building. Tomorrow he will cross the river once again for a day trip to Montclair, New Jersey. Now that he has spent a month in America, his impression of us is forming. We have been “kind and pleasant,” “polite,” and “inquisitive,” he says. He finds us energetic, progressive, and full of potential.

As his audience looks on, 'Abdu'l-Bahá tells the story of an American man he met who disagreed with his position that religion is a cause of unity. Yet the man changed his mind after hearing 'Abdu'l-Bahá's argument, declaring: "It's all right!" "All right! All right!" 'Abdu'l-Bahá repeats over and over, sending a ripple of laughter through the audience.

"Everywhere you go you hear it," he later observed. "You ask the bell boy at the hotel to do something and he responds, 'All right'; you inquire as to the health of a friend and he answers, 'All right'; everything is 'all right.'" 'Abdu'l-Bahá concludes, "I believe that it reflects the optimism of this great country."

How to Cite this Article

The formatting below is from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th Edition. For other academic citation styles, please adapt accordingly. Since the **239 Days** site and its contents may be updated from time to time, we recommend you include a “last modified” date, which is provided at the top of both the web and PDF versions of this article.

FOOTNOTE / ENDNOTE:

Caitlin Shayda Jones and Jonathan Menon, “Everything in America Is ‘All Right!’” *239 Days in America*, ed. Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett, May 11, 2012, <http://239days.com/2012/05/11/everything-in-america-is-all-right/>.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Jones, Caitlin Shayda, and Jonathan Menon. “Everything in America Is ‘All Right!’” *239 Days in America*. Edited by Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett. May 11, 2012. <http://239days.com/2012/05/11/everything-in-america-is-all-right/>.

HOW TO CITE THE *239 Days in America* WEBSITE IN A BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Menon, Jonathan, and Robert Sockett, eds. *239 Days in America*. <http://239days.com/>.

Terms of Use

239 Days in America™ and the 239Days.com website is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 License as specified at this link: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>. **This PDF file** is shared with you with the following additional terms:

YOU MAY quote from this PDF file with proper attribution. Your citation must include the author's name and the **239 Days in America** project's name. You may download and print this PDF file, and you may share individual PDF files in print or electronic form.

Although we want to make our work easy to share, we also wish to maintain the unity and integrity of **239 Days in America** as a whole. Therefore,

YOU MAY NOT republish or rebroadcast our PDF files in a public forum—such as by uploading them to a blog, app, or other web property, publishing them in print form, or distributing them widely using electronic means—without our prior written consent. We invite you to discuss such opportunities with us by contacting the Editor-In-Chief at editor@239Days.com. Otherwise, please share the permalinks displayed at the top of each file.

YOU MAY NOT extract pages from this file, recombine this PDF file with other documents, assemble its contents into any free or paid product, app, ebook, collection, compilation, or archive, nor remove this page of Terms. The **Adobe PDF**™ security features employed in this document have been selected to prevent such use. You may not circumvent these security features in any way.