



Aftermath

By Jonathan Menon

Published: April 16, 2012

Permalink: <http://239days.com/2012/04/16/aftermath/>

WITHIN FIFTEEN MINUTES A swarm of 4,000 faces had taken possession of the streets north and east of the New York Times building at West 43rd Street. They stared at three of the building's windows along Broadway, which displayed three sheets of scrolling paper, thirty-three inches wide by seventy inches high. Three synchronized printers pressed letters onto the surface large enough to be read from the street, typed on a special device that enabled the newsroom to deliver updates to the waiting public in real time.

It was 7:30 p.m. yesterday—April 15, 1912—and many of the watchers were coming home from work after a busy Monday. They carried the evening editions of the newspapers home with them, which reported what, until that moment, had been the latest news: the Allen liner *Virginian* had taken the *Titanic* in tow and the two ships were en route to Halifax. Now they stopped and gaped in disbelief as the Times's news ticker brought home to them for the first time the true scale of the catastrophe.

"How dare you," one distraught man asked the typist, "how dare you say they're all lost now when they were saying all day they were all saved?"

The tragic news had streamed out of Times Square on the tongues of pedestrians, glided up Broadway along streetcar rails, piloted automobiles around the statue of Columbus at the southwest corner of Central Park, and spread through the neighborhoods of the Upper West Side, where the Hotel Ansonia stood at Broadway and 73rd Street.

'Abdu'l-Bahá had made friends with passengers on the *Titanic*. Some had traveled with him on the *Cedric* from Alexandria. But they had disembarked at Naples to catch the train to Cherbourg where they planned to board the doomed liner. He, himself, had been offered tickets on the ship, but had chosen to take the *Cedric* direct from Naples instead. Now his friends gave thanks to God that he had declined their offer and took another boat.

One night a few days later he spoke of the ship to an audience in Washington, DC, where the Senate hearings into the disaster had just begun. "Within the last few days a terrible event has happened in the world," he said, "an event

saddening to every heart and grieving every spirit.” “A number of beautiful souls passed beyond this earthly life.”

“When I think of them,” he continued, “I am very sad indeed. But when I consider this calamity in another aspect I am consoled by the realization that the worlds of God are infinite; that though they were deprived of this existence, they have other opportunities in the life beyond, even as Christ has said, ‘In my Father’s house are many mansions.’”

“They were called away from the temporary and transferred to the eternal; they abandoned this material existence and entered the portals of the spiritual world. Forgoing the pleasures and comforts of the earthly, they now partake of a joy and happiness far more abiding and real, for they have hastened to the Kingdom of God.”

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:

Jonathan Menon, “The Aftermath of the Titanic Disaster,” *239 Days in America*, ed. Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett, April 16, 2012, <http://239days.com/2012/04/16/aftermath/>.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Menon, Jonathan. “The Aftermath of the Titanic Disaster.” *239 Days in America*. Edited by Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett. April 16, 2012. <http://239days.com/2012/04/16/aftermath/>.

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.