

# DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children  
Issue 85

***Dayspring***  
**Produced under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly  
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom**

*Dayspring* is produced three times a year on an educational non-profit basis and seeks to nurture a love for God and mankind in the hearts of the children. Contributions by children and adults of suitable stories, plays, poems, artwork and news are warmly welcomed.

Note: Under the terms of the Child Protection Act regarding the publishing of images of children, permission must be given in writing or by email from the child's parent or guardian.

**UPDATED DAYSPRING WEBSITE.** Current and back copies of *Dayspring* can be read and downloaded from <www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk> Website manager: David Merrick.

**Editor:** Jackie Mehrabi, 95 Georgetown Road, Dumfries, DG1 4DG, Scotland, U.K. Tel. 01387-249264. Email: <dayspring@bahai.org.uk> or <jmehrabi@gmail.com>

**Distribution:** Helena Hastie.

**Printers:** Printsmith, Fort William, Scotland, PH33 6RT.

**Free Copies:**

(1) Free copies of *Dayspring* are sent automatically to registered Bahá'í children in the UK aged 5-12 inclusive. (Please notify the National Spiritual Assembly direct if you wish your child to be registered.)

(2) Free copies are also sent on request of a Bahá'í parent to unregistered Bahá'í children in the UK and to children of pioneers from the UK; also to teachers of children's classes on request. (For these requests, and others not listed, please contact the editor.)

**Subscriptions:** Others may subscribe as follows direct to the National Spiritual Assembly:

UK: £12 for a 2-year subscription (total 6 issues) including postage.

Overseas: £22 for a 2-year subscription (total 6 issues) including postage.

(You may, of course, subscribe for just one year at half the above rates.)

Subscriptions to be sent to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, 27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 IPD. Tel. 020 7584 2566. Email: nsa@bahai.org.uk. **NB:** Please also notify the editor that you have subscribed, giving details of the child's name, age, and address.

**Acknowledgements**

- Contributors to this issue: Midge Ault, Farshid Kazemi, Saba Khorassani, Maggie Manvell, Adam Pringle.
- "The Unhappy Man" is from an adaptation in *Three Gifts of Love*, by J.M., illustrated by Lisa Jackson, published by Brilliant Books, Belgium.
- A full account of "The Story of Kyle" can be found on several online sites. This is an adapted version.
- "A Friend is a Treasure" poem is from <www.ellenbailey.com/poems/ellen\_257.htm>
- The account about Mr Faizi has been adapted mainly from *The Baha'i World 1979-1983*. Vol. XVIII, plus an anecdote from a personal conversation.
- "Enemies Who Became Friends" is from an adaptation in *The Love of Bahá'u'lláh*, by J.M. published by Oneworld Publications Ltd, Oxford. The source of this story can be found in *Bahá'u'lláh, King of Glory* by Hasan Balyuzi, published by George Ronald, Oxford.

**July – October 2013**

**Issue 85**

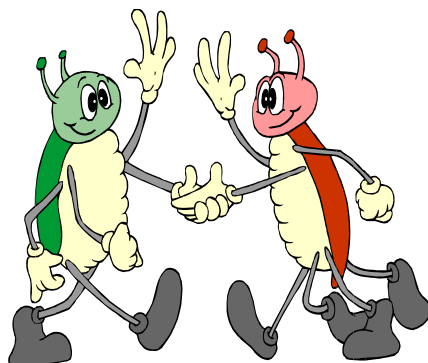
"Abdu'l-Bahá is day and night thinking of you ...,  
for the friends of God are dear to Him."

'Abdu'l-Bahá

*This issue is about friendship*

## CONTENTS

- Quotation (bright and friendly face) (4)  
Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "The Unhappy Man" (5)  
A Friend is a Treasure (poem) (6)  
Friendship Circle Games (7-8)  
The Story of Kyle (9-11)  
Word Search (11)  
How to be a Good Friend (12-13)  
The Farmer and the Stork (story) ((14)  
Quotations and Questions (15)  
Hands of the Cause of God: A. Q. Faizi (16-19)  
Calligraphy by Mr Faizi (activity) (20)  
Quotation (the true Friend) (21)  
The Bird and Me (22-23)  
"Friend" in Different Languages (24)  
Virtues of Friendship Crossword (25)  
Nettie's Gift (story) and Illustration (26-27)  
Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers: The Black Standard (28-29)  
The Kitáb-i-Aqdas - Lesson 22 (30)  
Enemies Who Became Friends (story) (31)

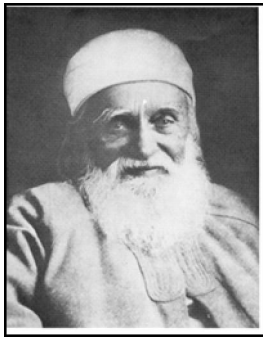




“Be worthy of the trust  
of thy neighbour,  
and look upon him with  
a bright and friendly face.”

Bahá'u'lláh





# Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

## "The Unhappy Man"

There was a very unhappy man living in 'Akká. He was not friendly to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and he told everyone else not to be friendly with Him either. But whatever bad things the man said, 'Abdu'l-Bahá remained kindly towards him.

The man was poor and often cold and hungry. Out of the kindness of His heart, 'Abdu'l-Bahá always sent him food and warm clothes. The man accepted these gifts but never said thank you.

Once, when the man was ill, 'Abdu'l-Bahá took a doctor to see him. The man held out his arm so the doctor could take his pulse. At the same time, he covered his head with his cloak and turned his face away from 'Abdu'l-Bahá and wouldn't look at Him.

Many years passed by. During all this time 'Abdu'l-Bahá lovingly sent food and clothes and money and medicine to the unhappy man. And the man continued to say bad things about 'Abdu'l-Bahá!

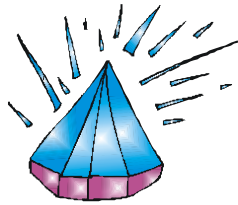
Then one day there was a knock on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's door. Outside was the man. He fell to the ground and cried bitterly.

"Forgive me, Sir!" he cried. "For twenty-four years I have done evil to you. For twenty-four years you have done good to me. Now I know I have been in the wrong."

'Abdu'l-Bahá gently helped the man to his feet, and from that day on they became good friends.



# A Friend is a Treasure



A friend is someone we turn to  
when our spirits need a lift.

A friend is someone we treasure  
for our friendship is a gift.

A friend is someone who fills our lives  
with beauty, joy and grace  
And makes the world we live in  
a good and happy place.



## Friendship Circle Games

### Making friends

- 1) The children sit in a circle.
- 2) One child begins by leaving her seat, crossing the circle, and shaking hands with a child opposite, who stands to meet her.
- 3) She introduces herself, saying, for example, "Hello, I'm Susan. I'm very pleased to see you."
- 4) She then takes the seat of the child who was greeted, and that child crosses the circle to shake hands and say hello to a third child.
- 5) This continues until everyone has been greeted and everyone has been introduced.

### I know your name



- 1) One child has a soft ball (or balloon) and calls out the name of another child, at the same time throwing the ball to him.
- 2) The child catching the ball quickly turns to another child, calls out his name and throws the ball again.
- 3) Continue this game until everyone has had lots of throws and catches, and everyone has had a chance to learn all the names.

### Just like me

- 1) Divide into twos.
- 2) The children in each pair face each other.
- 3) They are pretending to look into a mirror.
- 4) One is the leader, and makes different faces, gestures, and body shapes.
- 5) The second child tries to be a mirror image and copies exactly what the first child does. at the same time and at the same speed.
- 6) The leader will need to move slowly, and the copier will have to watch very carefully!
- 7) After a few minutes swap over so that everyone gets to be leader, and everyone has a go at being a mirror image.



You could play these games at a party, or at a children's class.



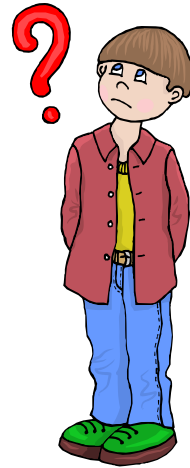
### Meet my friend



- 1) Each child works in a pair with the child next to them.
- 2) Each child tells their partner about three things they like, for example, their favourite colour, favourite animal and what they like to do in their spare time.
- 3) Make sure you swap over so everyone has a chance to speak.
- 4) Now take turns to go round the circle, with each child telling everyone their partner's name and three things about them. For example: "This is David. He likes to play computer games, his favourite colour is green and he likes tigers."

### "I'm your friend"

- 1) One child turns his back to the group and covers his or her eyes. (You could use a blindfold to make this easier.)
- 2) Someone from the group is silently chosen to be the 'friend'.
- 3) The 'friend' tiptoes up behind the first child, taps him on the shoulder, and says in a funny voice, "I'm you're friend. Guess who I am," and then tiptoes back.
- 1) The blindfolded child then turns around and looks at the group to try and guess who the 'friend' was. He can have three guesses.
- 2) If he guesses correctly, then that child has a turn at being blindfolded.



### Important tip:

Remember to make sure that everyone gets a turn.  
Be aware, and notice if anyone's getting left out.



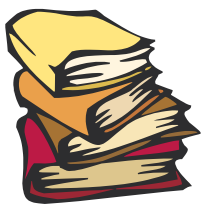
## The Story of Kyle

One day I saw a skinny kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle.

It looked like he was carrying all of his books, and I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He can't be much fun!"

I had quite a weekend planned ahead (including a football game with my friends the following afternoon) so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running towards him. They knocked all his books out of his arms and tripped him so he landed in the dirt.



His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.



As I handed him his glasses, he looked at me and said, "Hey, thanks!"

There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him to pick up his books and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before.

He said he had just moved to the area. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.



I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with me and my friends, and he said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends liked him too.



Monday morning came and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books every day!"

He just laughed and handed me half the books to carry.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college.



He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business studies. Although we were going to different universities I knew that we would always be friends.

Kyle was one of those guys that really found himself during high school, and he was very popular with everyone. On the last day of our time at school, because he was top of our class, he was asked to prepare a speech for graduation, and I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!"

He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled.

"Thanks!" he said.

He looked great up on that stage. He had filled out and actually looked good in glasses. And everybody liked him.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began:

*"Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your brothers and sisters, maybe a coach ... but mostly your friends.... I am here to tell all of you that*

*being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."*

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He said that he had been so unhappy he had planned never to return to school after that weekend, which is why he was carrying all his books home.



He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

*"Thankfully, my friend saved me,"* he said.

I saw his mum and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize how much one friendly act of kindness can change a person's life.



God puts us all in each other's lives to help one another.

### WORD SEARCH

Words go up, down, across and backwards.

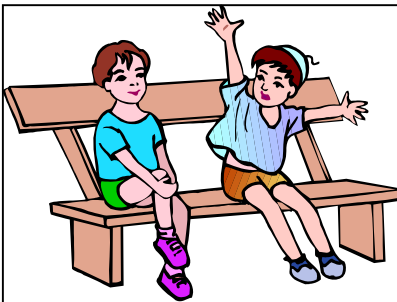
B	P	H	Y	O	B	G	X	M	E	F
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	V	F	R
W	P	M	E	O	T	A	Q	K	I	I
K	U	E	A	O	R	S	M	I	L	E
Z	L	F	R	K	A	S	B	N	U	N
S	A	D	G	S	E	E	J	D	I	D
C	R	G	Z	Q	H	S	T	O	R	Y

STORY GLASSES FRIEND LIFE KIND SMILE POPULAR BOOKS TEAR  
FOOTBALL HEART HOME BOY

## How to be a Good Friend

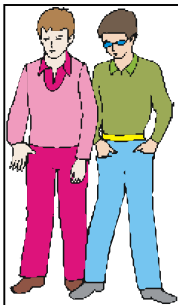
To have good friends you must be a good friend.  
Here are some of the ways you can be a good friend.

Good friends talk to each other.  
But, just as important—they listen to each other.  
They try to understand each others' feelings.  
They will forgive each other for sometimes being in a bad mood.



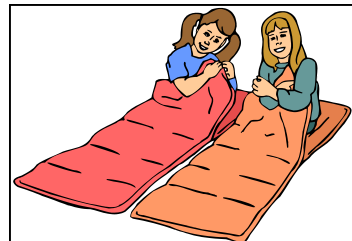
Good friends care about each other. If your friend has done something really well, you're as pleased as they are about it. You enjoy their success as if it were yours.

Good friends don't put each other down or hurt each others' feelings. They are tactful and think before they speak. They will help each other without making each other feel helpless. They will make sure all their friends get a chance to join in.



Good friends are dependable. They can be relied on to help, and to turn up when they say they will. To be dependable you have to put your friend first and sometimes be prepared to go out of your way for them.

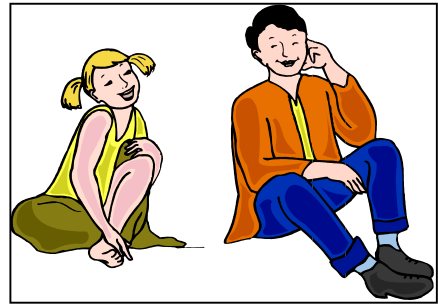
To be a good friend you are trustworthy and honest. Your friend should be able to believe what you say because it should be the truth. If your friend tells you something special you don't repeat it to anyone else.





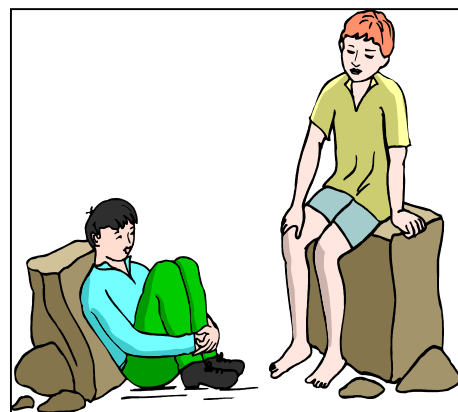
Good friends can disagree without hurting each other. They don't always have to do what their friends say. If they think something isn't a good idea they can say so. You should all listen to each other and think about what is said.

Good friends respect each other. They can have different ideas about things without upsetting each other. They don't have to like the same things to eat, and they don't have always to like the same music or the same TV programmes. They can be different, but still good friends.



If you are a good friend you will be loyal and stick up for your friends when they're in difficulties or in trouble with other kids. But if you think they are in the wrong you should say so. You have to live by your own good principles and it will help them too.

Good friends give each other room to change. If you fall out with your friend, go back later and try to make it up. Show that you care about them, even if you don't agree. Both of you can change your minds about things. Don't ever be afraid to say 'sorry' if you were wrong.



## The Farmer and the Stork



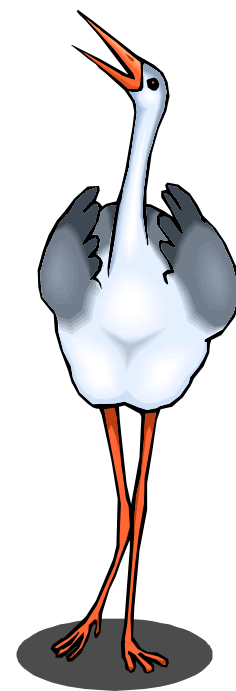
For several days a farmer noticed that something was eating his new crop of corn. He suspected it was a flock of birds so he made a net to catch them.

Sure enough, when he went to check his corn the following morning, he found a group of cranes caught in the net and

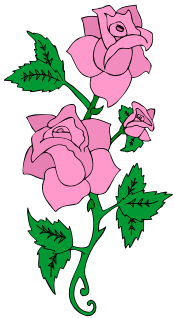
looking very sorry for themselves.

Among the cranes was a beautiful stork. When the stork saw the farmer it began to beg for its life, saying that he had been with his friends the cranes but had not stolen any of the corn. The farmer said that perhaps what the stork said was true, but it had been captured with the cranes who were destroying his crop so he couldn't be sure.

The moral is: you are judged by the company you keep, so choose your friends carefully!



O FRIEND!



In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold. Treasure the companionship of the righteous and eschew all fellowship with the ungodly. (Bahá'u'lláh)



*Whose companionship should we treasure? the.....*

O MY FRIENDS!



Walk ye in the ways of the good pleasure of the Friend, and know that His pleasure is in the pleasure of His creatures. That is: no man should enter the house of his friend save at his friend's pleasure, nor lay hands upon his treasures nor prefer his own will to his friend's, and in no wise seek an advantage over him. Ponder this, ye that have insight. (Bahá'u'lláh)



*Who is the Friend mentioned here? (note the capital letter!)*

.....

*In Whose ways should we walk? (i.e., Whose guidance and laws should we follow?)*

.....



## Hands of the Cause of God

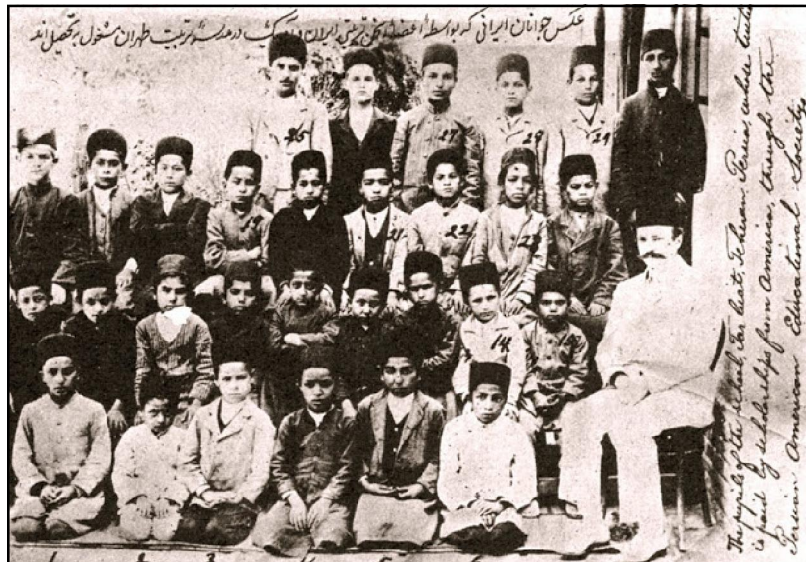
### Abu'l-Qasim Faizi

(c. 1906-1980)

Abu'l-Qásim Faizi was born in a town called Qum, in Iran. His mother was a Muslim and Mr Faizi was brought up as a Muslim too.

The people of Qum were not friendly to anyone who had a different way of thinking, especially about religion, and as a child Mr Faizi was not told about the Faith, nor did he meet the Bahá'ís who lived there. But he did have a happy memory of going to a local gymnasium where the youth and men practised virtues such as humility, modesty and courtesy while wrestling and weight-lifting to the beat of the leader's drum! When he was a little boy, Mr Faizi loved to go and watch.

A turning point in his life came when the family moved to Tehrán a few years later. His father sent him to the Tarbiyat Bahá'í School, Here, for the first time, Mr Faizi met other Bahá'ís. Many of the children became his lifelong friends, and he had wonderful teachers whom he loved and respected. He became an excellent student



First 30 children attending the Tarbiyat Bahá'í School in Tehrán in 1910.

and was also very good at sport. Some of the students took him to the weekly youth training meetings at weekends, where he learned about the Bahá'í Faith.

His Muslim relatives were very angry when he became a Bahá'í, but his mother, although she was a Muslim, always encouraged him to follow the laws of



Bahá'u'lláh. She even used to get up before dawn during the Bahá'í Fast to cook him breakfast and make sure he was up in time! Many years later she had a beautiful dream about the Báb and she became a Bahá'í too.



Shrine of the Báb

Another turning point in Mr Faizi's life was when he went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land to pray in the Shrines of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. And here he met the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. From that moment until the end of his life, he had just one desire, and that was to serve the Guardian. And this he did with all the love in his heart.

After his pilgrimage, he had decided to go to the Tarbiyat school to serve, but the government closed all the Bahá'í Schools in Iran so this was not possible. Mr Faizi reluctantly accepted a job with an oil company, but his heart was not in it.

This was not what he wanted to do! He wanted to spend his time teaching and helping children and youth.

It was then that the Bahá'ís of a little village in the country, whose schools had also been closed, asked for a volunteer to go to live among them and teach their children. Without hesitating, Mr Faizi said he would go. When the Guardian heard, he wrote: "I pray from the depths of my heart for the success of that active, radiant youth."



Mr Faizi's father had died by this time so his widowed mother went with him. She loved the children who were always in and out of their home. She washed the faces of the little ones and combed their hair and was friends with their parents, serving them in many ways. Others living in the house were an elderly man, two children whose father had died, and an orphaned child who had been adopted by Mr Faizi.



Mr Faizi taught the youth in their homes early in the morning before they had to go to the fields to work. And then, as the school had been closed by the government, he went from house to house to teach the children during the day. There were around 400 students altogether. In the evenings, he would visit the adults and tell them inspiring stories from the history and news of exciting teaching activities taking place.

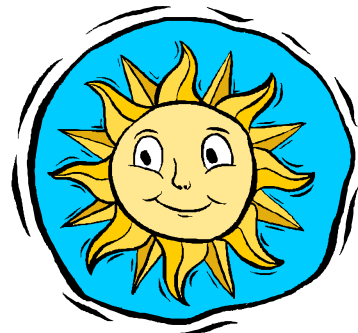
Mr Faizi stayed for five years in the village, and by the time he left there were many young people willing to take over the work he had been doing.

With his wife, Gloria, he pioneered to the island of Bahrain, in the Persian Gulf, where his two children were born. He had a job as a teacher in a government school. But at first he was not paid any money so the family was very poor. Also, people were suspicious of them because they were Bahá'ís. But their home was always open to everyone, and all were welcomed with love. Gradually the neighbours, the shopkeepers and many others became their friends.

During this time, Mr Faizi wrote hundreds of letters to other pioneers, encouraging them to stay at their posts, however difficult. One of the pioneers he wrote to lived in Lapland, in the icy north. She used to say how unbearably



cold it was and how she longed to live somewhere hot. Mr Faizi and his wife would write back saying how unbearably hot it was where *they* lived and how they longed to live somewhere cold! When they received these



letters from each other it made them laugh!

For fifty years Mr Faizi travelled the world, teaching and comforting and encouraging the believers wherever he went. He paid special attention to the children and youth, telling them stories and surrounding them with love and

the good in people. He was also very humble.

He loved to give little gifts to people and often his letters would include passages from the Writings or wise sayings from the Persian poets, written in a beautiful style of calligraphy and decorated with flowers and birds and mountains. People all over the world still treasure the letters he sent to them.

When Mr Faizi died and his pure soul left this world to go to the next, one of his fellow Hands said,

"A special sweetness has gone out of the world ...."

His wife, Gloria, wrote: "The Guardian ... had looked at this beautiful life in its entirety, and had written of Faizi..., 'Blessed is he and those who like unto him aided the Cause of God by their words, their deeds and all that was bestowed upon them by their Lord, and attained His good-pleasure.'"



Hand of the Cause of God Abu'l-Qásim Faizi  
and Gloria Faizi (c.1980.)

"Only God  
Who holds the slightest winged thing dear  
Knows all the sweetness folded here."

(from a poem by Roger White about Mr Faizi)

Below is an example of some calligraphy done by Mr Faizi.

One translation is:

**How lofty the love-winged Phoenix  
And how lowly our needy prayer.**



(Legends of the mythological Phoenix bird can be found in many religions and many lands. It is said to be reborn every 500 or 1000 years and is a symbol of rebirth, hope, purity, faith, love, constancy, summer, eternity, immortality, and light.)



**Make a card for a friend, or a picture like this to put on the wall**

1. In any language you wish (English, Arabic, Chinese, French etc.), write a few beautiful words from the Holy Writings or from a poem you like.
2. Using your own ideas, make the words into a pattern and decorate each one in a similar way to the one above. (Mr Faizi used red for the squiggly lines around each word, and very light yellow behind the letters, but you can choose your own colours and patterns, of course, and add any drawings you like.)
4. Experiment and practise until you are happy with how your calligraphy looks.
5. Sometimes Mr Faizi pasted his finished calligraphy onto the middle of a page cut from an old magazine or catalogue which had colourful scenes of mountains or flowers on it. This made a lovely frame for his artwork. If you do this, be sure to ask your parents first before cutting up a magazine!

# THE TRUE FRIEND

~\*~\*~

## The Manifestations of God

“... the true Friend  
hath loved and doth love you for your  
own sakes;  
indeed He hath suffered for your  
guidance  
countless afflictions.  
Be not disloyal to such a Friend,  
nay rather  
hasten unto Him.”

Bahá'u'lláh



# The Bird and Me

(A true story by Adam Pringle)

I had been ill and was staying in a nursing home for a few weeks until I was better. It was a nice place, with flowers either side of the path leading to the front door and big windows which let the sunshine in.

And the nurses were very kind, although they were usually too busy to stop and chat as they had many other patients to look after, not just me of course.



One day when I was feeling lonely, I decided I would go along the hall to the sitting room and see if anyone was there. The only problem was, on the way to the sitting room, I would have to pass the open door to a room where a bird was kept in a cage. And the bird always made the most dreadful screeching noise every time he saw someone. He would scream at the top of his voice and beat itself against the bars, sometimes causing wing feathers to come loose and flutter to the floor of the cage. He would go on screeching until the person disappeared from sight again.

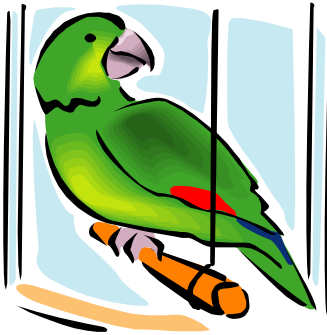
Everyone hated that bird and said he was mad and should be got rid of.

I wondered what to do about the problem as I felt sorry for him but couldn't bear the noise either. As I was in a wheelchair, I couldn't run past the door. And as I had to use my hands to wheel myself, I couldn't put my fingers in my ears to block out the sound. So I did something else. I went into the room.



Well, that bird jumped up and down and shouted at me in bird language for ages! But when I didn't move, just sat there, after a while he began to calm down.

I did not move a finger, and the bird and I looked at each other. He was the size of a pigeon but more beautiful. He was a tame parrot, although his great-grandparents would probably have been wild and free to fly in the rain forests of Africa. Parrots are said to be the most intelligent birds in the world, able to learn all sorts of tricks and up to 2000 words! No wonder this one was trying to tell us how bored he was, being shut in a small cage away



from everyone! I later learnt that his owner had died, which is why he was so unhappy.

I told him how beautiful he was and he cocked his head on one side and looked at me with bright, beady eyes full of questions. He had a very strong beak so I didn't try to touch him, though. Not then.

Every day I would visit the parrot and talk to him. And although he still made a fuss when people passed by, he stopped his terrible screaming. And a week later I opened his cage door, blocking it with my arm so he couldn't escape, and slowly put my hand inside, resting it on the bottom of the cage.

He looked at it for a minute then hopped onto my finger. It was the nicest feeling ever. I kept very still, not wanting to frighten him by moving too quickly, and he sat there for a long time, occasionally reaching out his head to peck at his bowl of seeds and taking sips of water, completely relaxed and happy. Then I very carefully lifted my hand so he was level with his perch, and he jumped onto it.



He trusted me, and I trusted him by opening the cage door and letting him come out. He would sit on my hand as good as gold and never tried to fly out of the room. I would tell him stories and he would make soft cooing sounds in the back of his throat and ruffle his wings contentedly. You see, he was lonely. He just wanted someone to be kind to him and be his friend.

I wanted a friend too, and in the end we found each other.

# "Friend" in different languages



French — ami

Cherokee — oginali

Irish — cara

Japanese — tomodachi

Korean — chingu

Swahili — rafiki

German — freund

Norwegian — venn

Persian — doost

Chinese — peng yoe

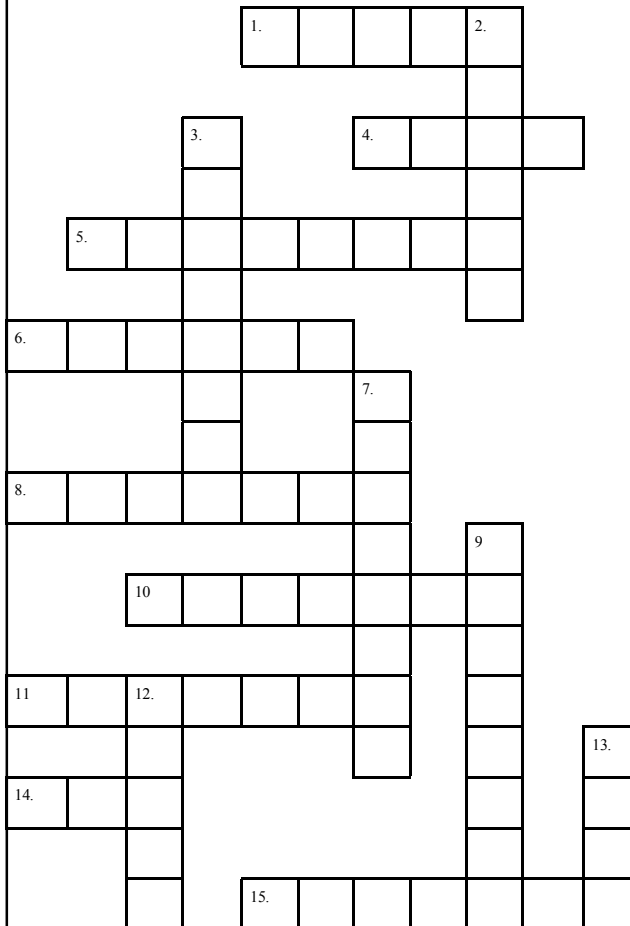
Hindi — mitra

Spanish — amigo





# Virtues of Friendship Crossword



## Across:

1. Always tell your friend the t\_\_\_\_\_.
4. When you do things to help your friend you are being k\_\_\_\_\_.
5. When you share, or give a present, you are g\_\_\_\_\_.
6. You are being c\_\_\_\_\_ when you think what your friend would like.
8. Sometimes you need c\_\_\_\_\_ to say if you disagree.
10. If your friend does something that upsets you, it's good to be able to f\_\_\_\_\_ them.
11. Doing things that are useful and make a difference is being h\_\_\_\_\_.
14. When you are happy to be with your friends you show j\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Listening carefully shows r\_\_\_\_\_.

## Down:

2. When speaking, be h\_\_\_\_\_ about your thoughts and feelings.
3. Speak kindly to c\_\_\_\_\_ your friend's feelings.
7. When you're willing to change your mind or try and fit in with your friends' ideas you are being f\_\_\_\_\_.
9. If you always do what you say you will do you are r\_\_\_\_\_.
12. Sticking up for your friend and being there when needed is being l\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Being careful what you say, and not hurting feelings is having t\_\_\_\_\_.

## Answers

helpful: honest: joy: kind: loyal: reliable: respect:  
 caring: consider: courage: flexible: forgive: generous:  
 tact: truth

**At a children’s class, Sabha’s teacher read the following story about Nettie. Sabha’s imaginative drawings illustrating the story are on the opposite page. In a similar way, can you do some drawings telling a story and send it to *Dayspring*? (Email and postal address of the editor are on p. 2)**

## **NETTIE’S GIFT**

(Adapted and based on the account in “*The Dawning Place*” by Bruce W. Whitmore)

It was the year 1908 and there were plans to build a Bahá’í House of Worship in the United States of America! Esther Tobin, or Nettie as she was known to her friends, was very excited. But she was also sad because she was poor and had no money to give to help build it. She prayed to God, asking for His help. Shortly afterwards, she read a letter in the *Bahá’í News* asking everyone to give what they could to the Temple fund, even if it were only a stone. The first stone, said the writer of the letter, “is equivalent to all the stones and implements which will later be used there.”

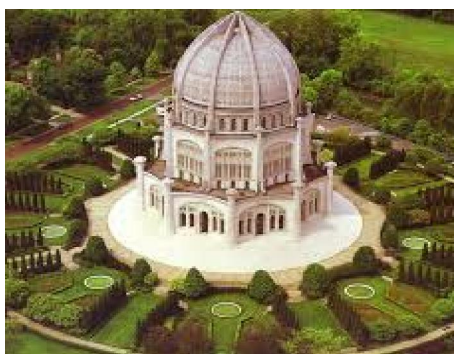
Nettie went to a building site near her home in Chicago. She told the foreman about the Temple project and asked if he could give her a building stone. The foreman showed her a pile of limestone rocks, damaged and unfit for use, and invited her to take one.

The one Nettie chose was very heavy and she wasn’t sure how she would get it home. But later that day she and her neighbour wrapped it in a piece of carpet, tied a clothes line around it and managed to drag the bundle home.

Nettie and her friend then later set off to the Temple site. The stone was carried by hand, in two buses, on one volunteer’s back, dragged along the ground, wheeled in a home-made cart, and taken to the site where the Temple was going to be built.

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá visited America in 1912, four years later, He went to the site to say prayers and to bless a special stone that was going to be laid that day. It was called a corner stone because it was the first one to be laid and the rest of the building would follow.

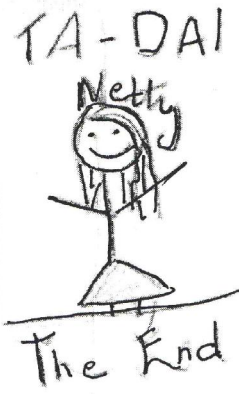
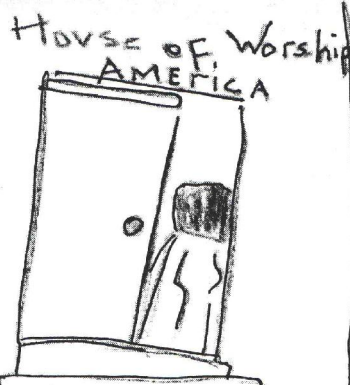
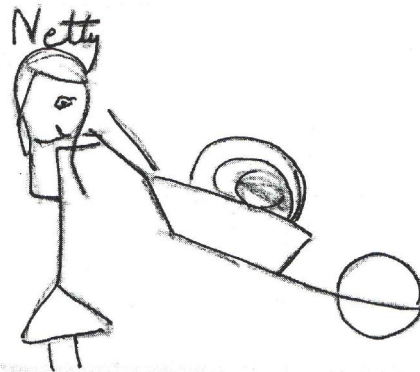
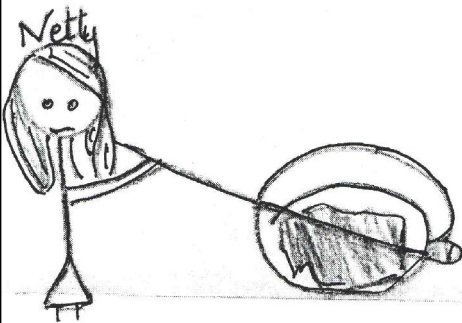
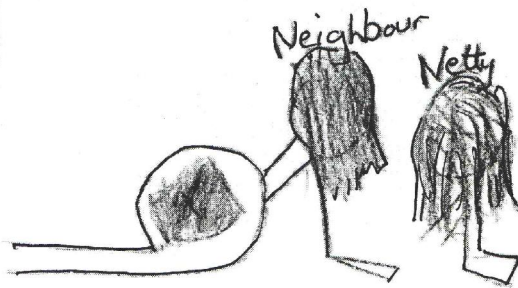
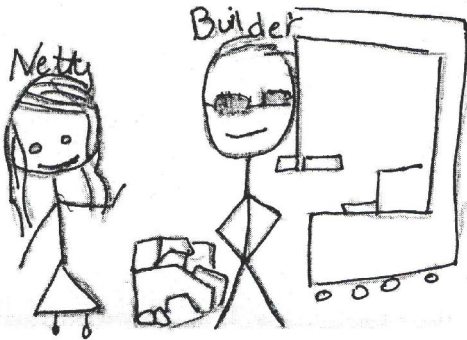
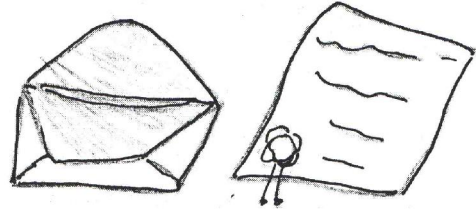
And the stone ‘Abdu’l-Bahá chose for that great honour? It was the one given by pure-hearted Nettie!



*“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.” (Psalms 118: 22)*

# Netty's Gift to the Bahá'í House of Worship

by Saba Khorassani (aged 10)



# Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers

*Adapted by Jacqueline Mehrabi from **The Dawn-Breakers** and illustrated by Malcolm Lee*

*(Published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of India)*

(The story so far: *On their way home after the Conference of Badasht, the believers were attacked. Quddús was imprisoned by religious leaders in his home-town in Barfurush, Táhirih was imprisoned in Tíhrán, and Bahá'u'lláh was also imprisoned, although only for a few days. At the same time, Mullá Husayn, who had not been at the Conference, was having an adventure of his own ...*)

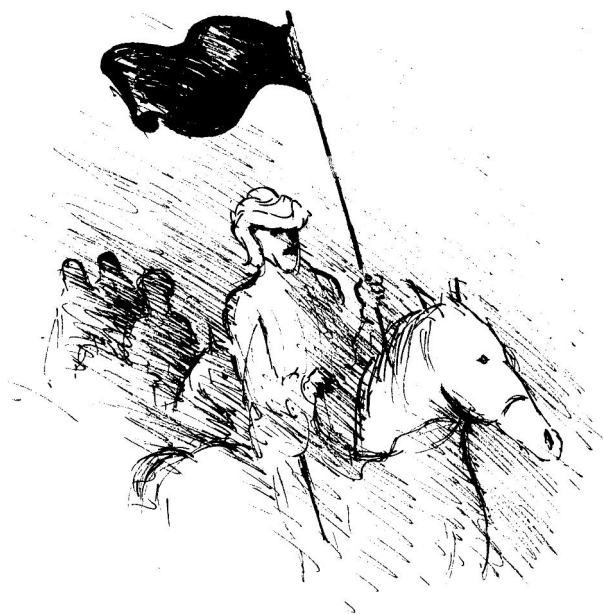
## Part 29

### The Black Standard

**(21 July-October 1848)**

When the Báb heard what happened after the Conference of Badasht, and how Quddús was now imprisoned in the house of a priest, He sent a message telling Mullá Husayn to rescue him. He also sent Mullá Husayn His green turban to wear and told him to carry a special flag called “The Black Standard”.

Mullá Husayn had missed the excitement of the Conference of Badasht because he



had been a prisoner in an army camp outside Mashhad at the time. Now he was free, he enthusiastically set off on a quest to rescue Quddús.

Two hundred and two believers went with him. Everywhere they went they told people of the New Day and invited those who became believers to join them on their journey. In the town of Nishapur, a rich merchant joined them. His

family owned a valuable turquoise mine, but he unhesitatingly followed Mullá Husayn, taking only a small bag of the precious stones with him. Even an old man of eighty joined them, who insisted on walking and never asked for any help.

In one town they were attacked by an angry mob of people, and Mullá Husayn told his companions, “Leave your belongings behind.”

Without hesitating, the rich merchant threw his bag of turquoise into a ditch by the wayside, even though he knew he would never see it again.

The mob then rushed towards them, killing several of the believers.

“Allow us to protect ourselves,” begged one of the friends.

Mullá Husayn said they should wait. But when the dear old man was shot through the heart, Mullá Husayn said a prayer asking God to help them.

“Mount your steeds, O heroes of God!” he called, and charged into the crowd of attackers.

The enemies were amazed because Mullá Husayn was a frail and studious-looking person, not strong or tall like a warrior. They dropped their guns and fled!

During the rest of their journey, Mullá Husayn and his companions were attacked again and again. They were near the village where Quddús was imprisoned when they were forced to take shelter in a shrine where a holy man called Shaykh Tabarsi was buried.

Here they built a fort around the shrine to protect themselves from their enemies and waited to see what would happen next.



*(To be continued...)*



## The Kitáb-i-Aqdas ~ The Most Holy Book

### Lesson Twenty-Two

Bahá'u'lláh says in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas (verse 148):

“Wish not for others what ye  
wish not  
for yourselves...”

Read these words of Bahá'u'lláh carefully. All the Messengers of God have given us the same advice. None of us likes to be hurt or unhappy, so we should never do anything that would make another person sad or unhappy either.

What good things do we wish for ourselves? Most of us want to be happy, and well, and loved and comforted. To be treated fairly. To be treated kindly. To be spoken to politely. To be forgiven when we make mistakes. To be helped when something is hard to do. To feel close to God. These are also what we should wish for others.

Add anything else that you most wish for yourself and therefore others.



---

---

---

---



In the following story, what made the enemies into friends?

## Enemies Who Became Friends

There were some enemies of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdád who were planning to hurt Him. When the believers heard this, they begged Him to hide and not leave His house. But Bahá'u'lláh was not worried and continued to walk in the streets, to visit people, and He even went out alone at night to walk and pray by the River Tigris.

"We have lighted a fire of love," Bahá'u'lláh told the friends. "We shall not run away."

However, the believers were still worried. And night after night they anxiously kept watch outside His house.

One night more than one hundred enemies marched up the street where Bahá'u'lláh lived. They were beating their chests and wailing loudly, pretending someone had died. When they reached Bahá'u'lláh's house, they stopped. The believers who were keeping watch got ready to fight them, but to their surprise Bahá'u'lláh said:

"They are our guests. Open the door and let them come in."

The angry men swarmed into the house, intend on causing trouble. But Bahá'u'lláh was not afraid. He welcomed them and spoke to them kindly. He gave them delicious drinks of rosewater sherbet and glasses of hot, sweet tea.

The men had planned to attack Bahá'u'lláh, perhaps even to kill Him. And here He was smiling and welcoming them! Who was this person? they wondered. They felt His great love and looked at one another, not knowing what to do. Because Bahá'u'lláh was being so courteous and kind, they felt ashamed of their bad behaviour.

They had come to His house as enemies, but all of them left as friends.

