

A Bahá'í Magazine for Children Issue 105

### Dayspring

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

**Dayspring** is produced twice a year on an educational non-profit basis and seeks to nurture a love for God and mankind in the hearts of children. Material by children and adults of stories, plays, poems, artwork and news is warmly welcomed. Please note that under the terms of the Child Protection Act regarding publishing images of children, permission to do so is required from a parent or guardian.

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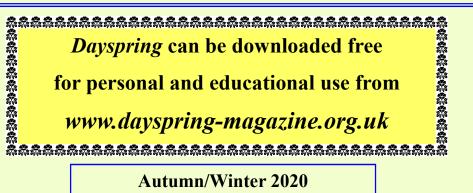
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pp. 4-5:	Adapted from several sources. (Photo of 'Abdu'l -Bahá and friends Copyright © Bahá'í
	International Community.)
pp. 6-7:	Adapted from Stories for Children.
p. 14:	From The Love of Bahá'u'lláh.
pp. 20-21:	Adapted from Message of UHJ, 2017-1-March on Economic Life.
pp. 24-25:	Adapted with permission from Stories about Bahá'í Funds by Gloria Faizi.
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Issue 105



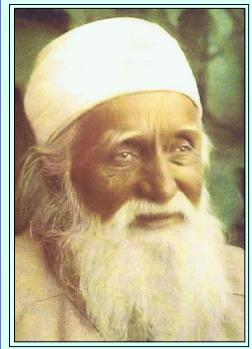




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# Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Mankind is One

'Abdu'l-Bahá was kind to everyone He met, no matter who they were or where they came from. When they were on pilgrimage people from many different countries would stay in His home in Haifa. Because they came from different parts of the world, they would speak in other languages, have

different customs, and wear different kinds of clothes; they would have different types of faces and skin colours. 'Abdu'l-Bahá treated everybody with kindness and respect.



'Abdu'l-Bahá with a group of friends in America.

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was travelling in America He stayed in New York and went to visit the men at the Bowery Mission. This was a special place where the very poorest people of New York could go. Most of them had no homes, no jobs and no money. They were dressed in shabby old clothes and most people in New York had no respect for them at all. There were hundreds of poor men there and 'Abdu'l-Bahá greeted each one of them. As He shook their hands He placed silver coins in each and said that this gift represented His love and care for them. He said to them:

"Tonight I am very happy, for I have come here to meet my friends. I consider you my relatives, my companions; and I am your comrade."

On another occasion, while He was travelling in America, 'Abdu'l-Bahá met a small Japanese man called Fujita. Fujita loved 'Abdu'l-Bahá so much that he gave up his studies for two months to go and help 'Abdu'l-Bahá on His travels.



Fujita

One day they stopped at a hotel for some lunch. As it was a nice day a table and chairs were set outside for 'Abdu'l-Bahá and His travelling companions to have lunch.

The hotel manager placed only five chairs at the table, although there were



Fujita with some pilgrims in Haifa.

six people.

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá asked the manager why there were not enough seats, the manager looked at Fujita and said that Fujita was only a servant and therefore wouldn't sit with the others. 'Abdu'l-Bahá surprised the manager by saying:

"Make another place. It doesn't make any difference whether servant, or different colour. We are all one."

# The Snowflake and the Kitten

A kitten was playing in the snow. Suddenly a small, soft snowflake fluttered from the sky and landed on her nose.

"Goodness!" said the snowflake, quite out of breath. "That was a long way down!"



The kitten blinked her

eyes and shook the snowflake from her nose and onto the ground where she could see it better.

"What did you see on your journey down?" asked the kitten, gently stretching her paw to feel the snowflake's softness.

"I saw the world," said the snowflake, settling itself more comfortably on the snow.

"And what did it look like?" asked the kitten, her eyes round with wonder.

"Like a garden," said the snowflake, nodding its head sleepily.

"Were there different coloured flowers?" asked the kitten.

"Yes," said the snowflake, "and the people were like flowers too. I saw lots of different faces and different colours, and every one was beautiful. They were like flowers in a garden." "What else did you see?" asked the kitten, rolling onto her back to have a look at the sun.

"Some of them had happy faces full of love for God and other people," said the snowflake, melting slowly away as the sun grew hotter.

"The world sounds wonderful," said the kitten.

And looked round in surprise to find the snowflake gone!



"All mankind are the fruits of one tree, flowers of the same garden, waves of one sea."





# **Building Spiritual Muscles**

Practising the Oneness of Mankind

Every person in the world is different from every other. And every person is special. If we get to know all sorts of different people we may have more interesting lives.

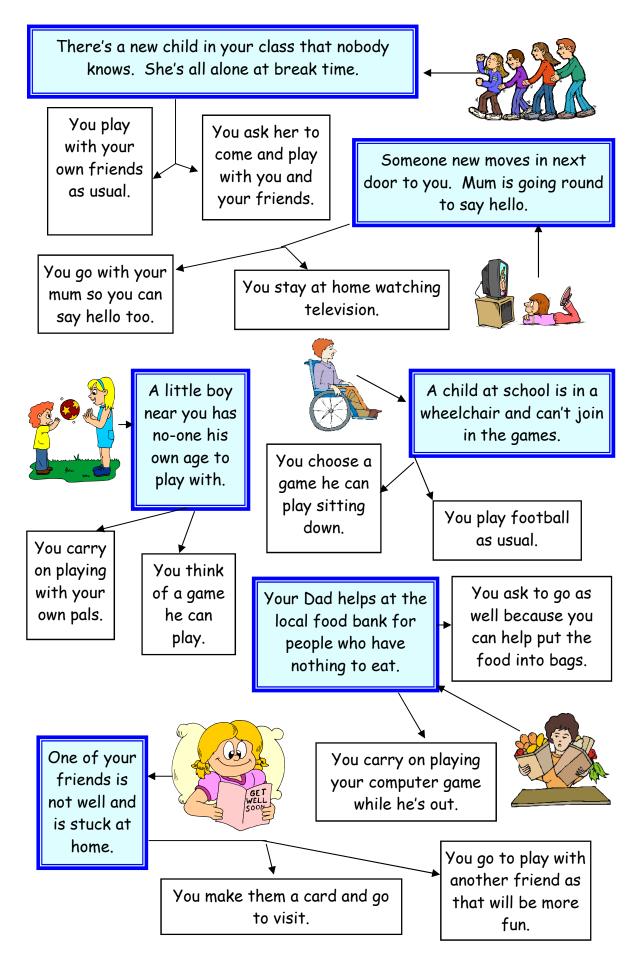
Think about all the different people you know. In the list below, put a tick in each box if you know someone like this:

Someone older than you	Someone with fair hair	
Someone younger than you	Someone from another country	
Someone very old	Someone with another language	
A baby	Someone tall	
Someone with black hair	Someone very small	
Someone with a disability	Someone who plays music	
Someone with red hair	Someone kind	
Someone who lives far away	Someone good at drawing	

'Abdu'l-Bahá met all kinds of people and He was kind to all of them. He said: **"Let your heart burn with loving kindness** for all who may cross your path."



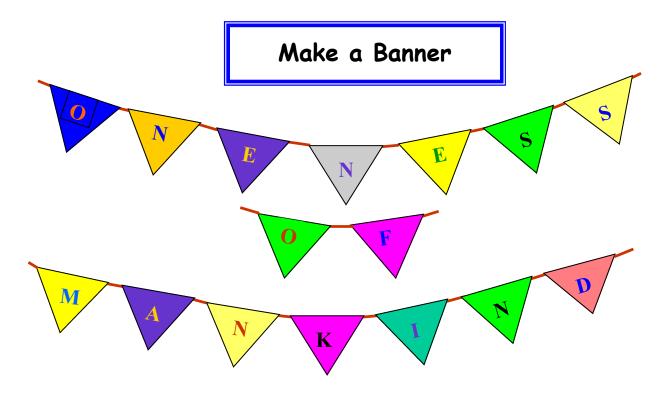
Look at the boxes on the next page. Choose the actions that show you are helpful and kind to people who are different from you. Lightly colour those boxes green. Colour the other boxes red.



O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

O God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

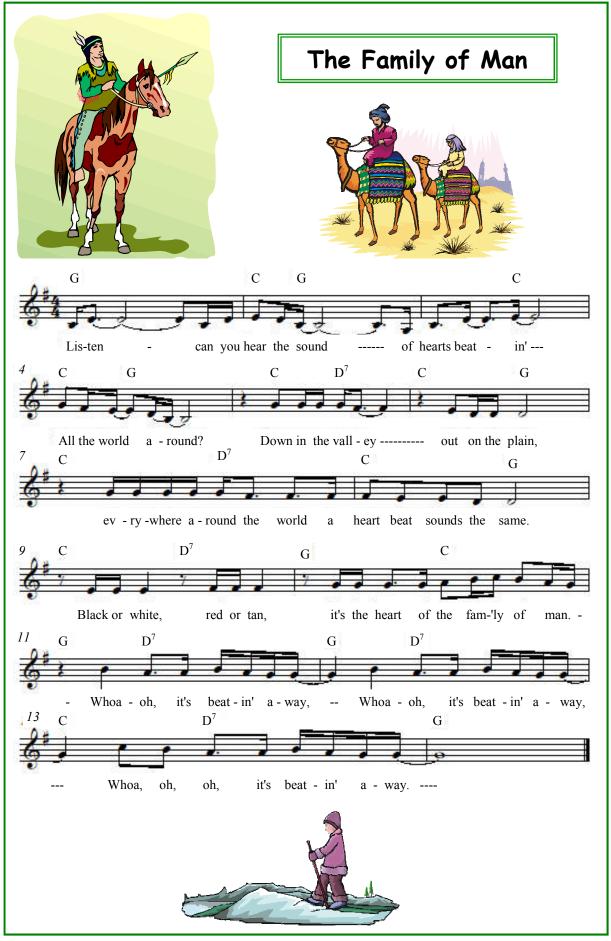


- 1. Draw a triangle on cardboard. Make it as big or small as you like. Make the width and the height the same.
- 2. Choose pieces of coloured paper. Use as many different colours and patterns as you can find.
- 3. Using the card triangle to draw round, make 16 triangles on the papers.
- 4. Carefully cut them out.
- 5. Place 7 of the triangles next to each other.
- 6. Take a long piece of ribbon or string and glue it along the tops of the triangles. Leave some ribbon at each end so you can tie your banner up.
- 7. Do the same with another 7.
- 8. Do the same again with the last 2.
- 9. Turn your triangles over and colour a large letter on each triangle as in the picture at the top of the page.
- 10. Hang your banner up for everyone to see.









 Listen... can you hear the sound of hearts beating, all the world around? Down in the valley, out on the plain. Everywhere around the world a heartbeat sounds the same. Black or white, red or tan, it's the heart of the family of man.





(Chorus) Whoa oh, it's beatin' away, Whoa oh, it's beatin' away, Whoa oh, it's beatin' away.

2 Listen... can you hear the sound of laughter, all the world around?
High in the mountains, down by the sea. Everywhere around the world laughter sounds the same to me. Black or white, red or tan, it's the sound of the family of man.

(Chorus) Whoa oh, laughin' away, Whoa oh, laughin' away, Whoa oh, laughin' away.

3 Listen... can you hear the sound of singing, all the world around?
Walkin' through the jungle, or on a busy city street. Everywhere around the world singing always sounds so sweet. Black or white, red or tan, it's the sound of the family of man.

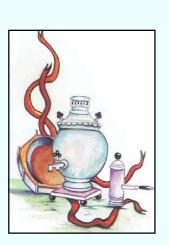
(Chorus) Whoa oh, singin' away, Whoa oh, singin' away, Whoa oh, singin' away.





# Enemies who became Friends

When Bahá'u'lláh was in Baghdad some people were jealous because many of the people loved Bahá'u'lláh so much. They caused a great deal of trouble, and sometimes they even told their followers to try to hurt Bahá'u'lláh.



When the believers heard this they became very

worried. They begged Bahá'u'lláh to hide and not to leave His house. But He continued to walk in the streets, to visit people, and even went out alone at night to walk by the River Tigris.

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

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

Meanwhile, in another part of the town, Bahá'u'lláh's enemies were plotting an attack. The next night more than one hundred of them came up the street towards the house. They pretended they were on a religious march and were beating their chests and chanting loudly.

When they arrived at the door, some of the believers wanted to stop them in order to protect Bahá'u'lláh. But Bahá'u'lláh was not afraid.

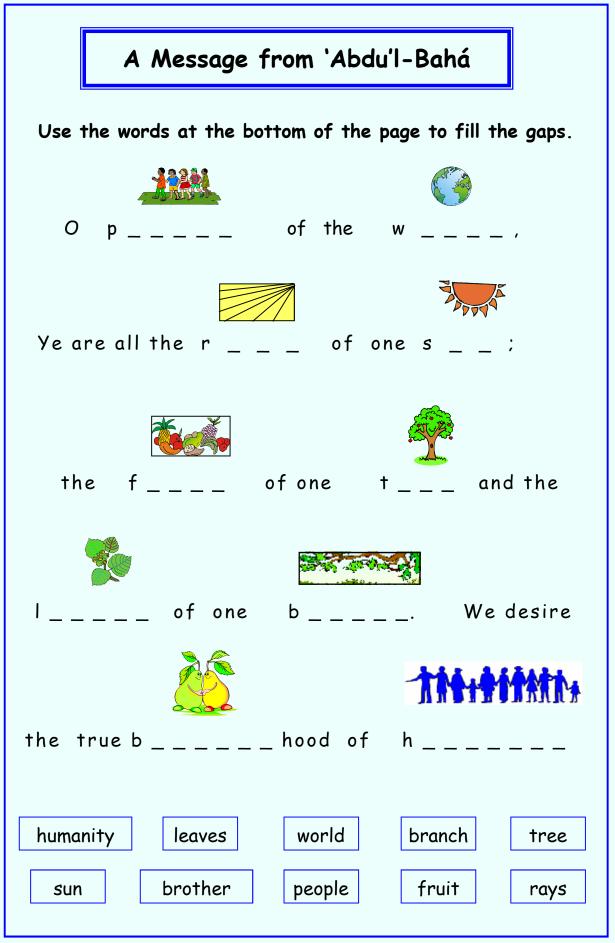
"They are our guests," He said. "Open the door and let them come in."

More than a hundred angry men crowded into the house. Bahá'u'lláh spoke to them kindly and made them very welcome. He gave them delicious drinks of rosewater sherbet and little glasses of hot, sweet tea.



The men stopped shouting and felt ashamed of their bad behaviour. Bahá'u'lláh had changed their hearts with His love and kindness.

They had come as enemies to Bahá'u'lláh's house, but all of them left as friends.



## The Story of Robert C. Turner

The first African-American to become a Bahá'í

Robert was born in America in 1856, in a place called Virginia where many slaves lived and worked in the cotton fields and as servants in people's houses.

The names of Robert's parents and grandparents are not known, and they were probably brought as slaves from Africa to America. It is very likely that Robert himself was born as a slave. Not much is known about his early life, but we know that when he was still quite young he worked as a waiter in the Palace Hotel in San Francisco and, later, that he married a young woman called Malissa.

The Palace Hotel was famous for its high standards and good food. Many rich and famous people went there. Two of these important guests were Senator and Mrs.



Phoebe Hearst, and they noticed how hard-working, honest and dignified Robert was. They were so impressed with his good character that Mrs. Hearst asked Robert if he would like to come and work for them instead.

He stayed more than 35 years working for the Hearst family, first for Senator Hearst and then for Mrs. Hearst as her butler. He became responsible for many important duties, for Mrs. Hearst led a busy social life and was also involved in several charities. He made sure that everything ran smoothly, and several times he accompanied her when she travelled to France and other countries.

### The special visitor.

One day, a visitor came to the house. Her name was Lua Getsinger and she was a Bahá'í. Robert showed her into the sitting room, where Mrs. Hearst warmly welcomed her. After Robert had served the tea, Lua told them about the Bahá'í Faith. Robert and Mrs. Hearst listened eagerly to everything she said.

It was the year 1898, just six years after Bahá'u'lláh had passed away in 'Akká, in the Holy Land. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá was still alive, and Mrs. Hearst longed to meet Him. She decided to go on pilgrimage to see Him, taking Robert with her as her butler.

Mrs. Hearst also took thirteen of her friends, including Lua. After a great deal of planning and going on a long sea-journey that lasted several weeks, they eventually arrived in 'Akká.

### Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

The fifteen pilgrims divided into three groups, five in each, and Robert was in the first group that would enter the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

'Abdu'l-Bahá was sitting by the window looking out at the sea as everyone came in. Everyone, that is, except for Robert! He was waiting outside, feeling he was not good enough to go into the holy presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Mrs. Hearst always treated him kindly, but he knew that many people looked down on him because he was a servant, and he was not sure he would be welcome.

'Abdu'l-Bahá greeted the little group of pilgrims, and said, "Where is Robert?" Nobody knew, so He left the room to find him.

As soon as Robert saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá coming towards him, he dropped to his knees and exclaimed, "My Lord, my Lord! I am not worthy to be here!"

'Abdu'l-Bahá raised him to his feet and embraced him saying, "Robert, your Lord loves you!"

When he heard these words, Robert's face became radiant and shone with love and happiness. And 'Abdu'l-Bahá took him into the room where the others were gathered.

#### The passing of Robert Turner.

After the pilgrims had returned to America, 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote several letters to the Bahá'ís saying how much He loved Robert. And when Robert became so ill that he was unable to leave his bed, 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote, saying:

"Give wondrous, glorious greetings to Mr. Robert, the servant of that honourable lady (Mrs. Hearst) and say to him: 'Be not grieved at your illness, for you have attained eternal life and have found your way to the World of the Kingdom. God willing, we shall meet one another with joy and fragrance in that Divine World....'"

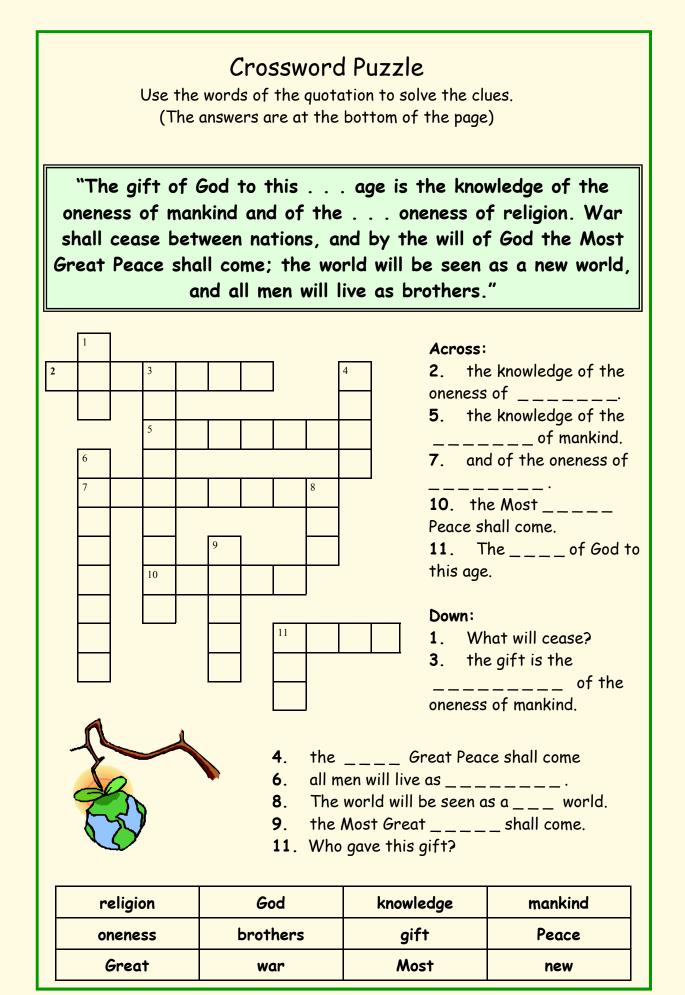
Robert died in 1909, and it is said that the last word he spoke was the Greatest Name, "Alláh-u-Abhá", the Glory of God.

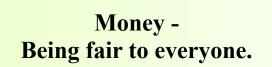
The Bahá'ís put a simple and beautiful tombstone to mark the place where Robert is buried. And 'Abdu'l-Bahá told them to visit it often to say prayers for this dear believer.



### Robert was like a brilliant star:

- \* He was the first African-American to become a Bahá'í.
- \* He was among the first group of Bahá'ís from the West to go on pilgrimage to see 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
- \* He had the great honour of being named by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, as "one of the nineteen Disciples of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the West".
- \* 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that he will be blessed forever in all the worlds of God.







Having money is very important because people use it to pay for all the things they need. In the same way countries use money for hospitals, schools, houses and all the other things that give people a good life.

Some nations are much richer than others. They can afford to pay for these things. But in many countries, even though people may work very hard, there is not enough money and many suffer. If you think this isn't fair, you're right!

The Universal House of Justice wrote a letter to all the Bahá'ís of the world about this. Here are some important things for all of us to think about:

The Universal House of Justice wrote:

"The welfare of any segment of humanity is . . . bound up with the welfare of the whole. . .

Humanity's collective life suffers when any one group thinks of its own well-being in isolation from that of its neighbours......"

If some people are very rich and think only of themselves and how they can become richer, while other people are poor, then everybody suffers in some way —both rich and poor. This is because people are like members of one large family and what happens to one part of the family affects the rest.

This applies to the countries of the world too. If one country is very rich and cares only about itself, while other countries are very poor, this can affect everyone.

An example of this is the spread of disease. Rich countries may have medicine and hospitals to keep the people well, but if poor countries can't afford these things, people may become ill, and disease may continue to spread through the world.

It would be better for everyone if all the money in the world could be spread more fairly between the countries.

'Abdu'l-Bahá said:

". . . the world of humanity is like one kindred and one family."

The Universal House of Justice also wrote that when people and countries are trying to gain more money for themselves they must be careful not to damage the natural world, because the whole family of man depends upon it.



"Humanity's collective life suffers when any one group . . . pursues economic gain without regard for how the natural environment, which provides sustenance for all, is affected."

We all depend on our environment for the most important things: the food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink. If one group of people damages these things then we all suffer—including the people who have caused the damage.

An example of this is how a leak of nuclear waste may do damage over many countries. Another is when plastic waste spreads through the oceans to distant parts of the world.

People and countries always have to make difficult choices about how they make and spend their money. But the Universal House of Justice tells us that people's true natures are spiritual and noble, because all people have been given beautiful God-like qualities:



"... honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, generosity, and other qualities of the spirit. The individual is not merely a self-interested economic unit, striving to claim an ever-greater share of the world's material resources."

The letter from the Universal House of Justice tells us what qualities



people should try to use when choosing how to make and spend money .This advice could make the world a much fairer place for everyone:

"At all times, contentment and moderation, benevolence and fellow feeling, sacrifice and reliance on the Almighty are qualities that befit the God-fearing soul."

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The Universal House of Justice mentions some spiritual qualities that will help make a fairer world. Can you work out what these qualities are?

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## STORIES ABOUT THE FUND (2) Everybody gave something

Many years ago, something marvellous happened in a Bahá'í community in Africa which was made up of very poor people.

These Bahá'ís were longing to proclaim the Faith in their town but did not have the money

to pay to advertise it in the newspapers, which were very expensive. Then, at one of their Nineteen Day Feasts, someone explained the spiritual nature of giving, and how if everyone gave something, even if it was just a little, it could bring marvellous results, and the holy souls in the next world would help. The important thing was for everyone to give something, however small.

After hearing about the spiritual bounties that result from giving in unity, everyone decided to try it. That evening every single member of the community, even the children, put something in their Fund box. But when the Treasurer counted out the money, there was only three dollars and ten cents in it, which is about  $\pounds 3$  and not enough to pay for even one advert!

The Treasurer was very disappointed, but a young boy of twelve or thirteen stood up and said they should have more faith! So the community consulted and decided the only thing they could afford to buy with the money was a book about the Faith for their library. When it arrived, the secretary, who had not read that book, took it with her to read on the bus going home.

At one of the bus stops a man came in dripping with rain and looked around for a seat. There was only one left - the seat beside the secretary.

He sat down and asked her, "What are you reading?"

She did not like being interrupted and said, "I am reading a book!"

The man was not put off and said, "It looks interesting. May I ask what kind of book it is?"

"It's a Bahá'í book," said the secretary.

The man said he had not heard about that before and asked her to tell him all about the Bahá'í Faith, which she did. She also told him about their small community and how they longed to tell the people of the town about the wonderful Message of Bahá'u'lláh, but they could not afford to.

He listened to all this with interest, then he told her that he was the editor of a newspaper. He asked if he could borrow her book to take home to read. She said he could. And he was so impressed with what he read and touched by the sincerity of the Bahá'ís he met, he decided to help them. And this is what he did.

He printed two articles in his newspaper, headed: "The New Religion in Town"! After that he wrote a series of thirteen articles about the Bahá'í Faith as well as arranging for the Bahá'ís to have two radio programmes and two television shows!

If the Bahá'ís in that town had had to pay for all the proclamation that was done through that man on the bus, they would have had to pay  $\pm 10,000$ . This blessing came to them because everyone had contributed something to the Fund.



# BIRTH OF A NEW REVELATION

Part 2 of a children's version based on the Statement on Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh first knew of His great Mission in the year 1852, when He was in prison in an underground dungeon in Tehran. He had been born into a rich and noble family whose ancestors had been kings of Persia. But Bahá'u'lláh did not want to accept an important job in the government and instead spent His time helping the sick and the poor. Everybody loved Him and He became known as "Father of the Poor".

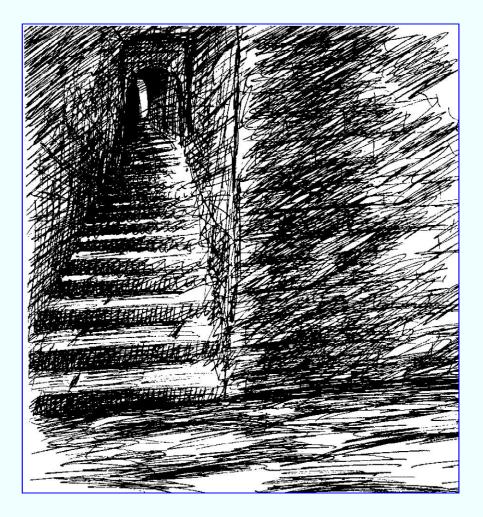
In Europe and America, people knew from the prophecies in the Bible that the time was near when Jesus Christ would return to the world. In the Middle East people knew that the prophecies about the coming of the Promised One which were in their Holy Book, the Qurán, were also about to come true.



Everywhere people were waiting for something wonderful to happen.

When a young man called the Báb said that the time had come, people became very excited. The Báb said that the whole world would soon change and in the future children would be able to learn things which at that moment the most clever adults did not know. As well as giving new teachings, the Báb said that He had come to prepare people for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh, the One promised in all the Holy Books.

Some of the religious leaders did not like these new teachings and they killed thousands of followers of the Báb, and even killed the Báb Himself. It was then that Bahá'u'lláh was thrown into prison. He was put into a black pit, called the Síyáh-Chál, a heavy chain was locked around His neck, and the guards tried to poison Him.



Bahá'u'lláh described what it was like in that underground cell:

"The dungeon was wrapped in thick darkness, and Our fellowprisoners numbered nearly a hundred and fifty souls: thieves, assassins and highwaymen. Though crowded, it had no other outlet than the passage by which We entered. No pen can depict that place, nor any tongue describe its loathsome smell. Most of these men had neither clothes nor bedding to lie on. God alone knoweth what befell Us in that most foul-smelling and gloomy place."

Every day some of the prisoners were taken away to be killed. But it was in this dark dungeon that God first told Bahá'u'lláh about His great Mission:

"One night, in a dream, these exalted words were heard on every side: "Verily, We shall render Thee victorious by Thyself and by Thy Pen. Grieve Thou not for that which hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid, for Thou art in safety. Erelong will God raise up the treasures of the earth -- men who will aid Thee through Thyself and through Thy name, wherewith God hath revived the hearts of such as have recognised Him."



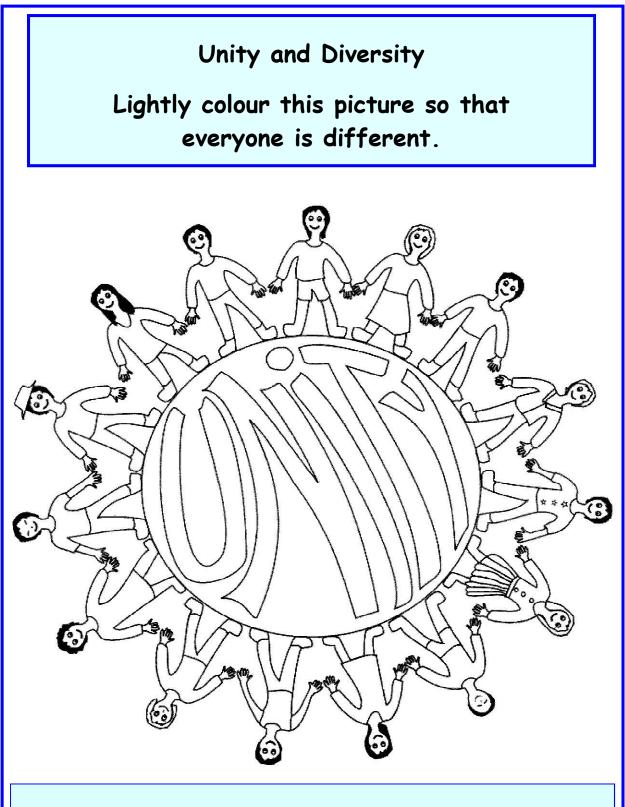
Buddha, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad all had similar experiences, but it was the first time that a Messenger of God has described exactly how He felt when God spoke to Him.

Bahá'u'lláh said it was like a mighty waterfall coming from a great height and flowing over Him. It caused Him to speak such wonderful words that no one could bear to hear them.

### Some Questions.

You can find the answers by looking in the right paragraphs.

- A) When did Bahá'u'lláh first know of His great mission? (para.1)
- B) What title was He also known by? (para.1)
- C) At the time, what were many people in the world waiting for? (paras.2 & 3)
- D) What did the Báb say about children? (para.4)
- E) Who had the Báb come to prepare the way for? (para.4)
- F) What had happened to the Báb? (para.5)
- G) What happened to Bahá'u'lláh? (para.5)
- H) Describe the dungeon where Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned. (para.6)
- I) What did God tell Bahá'u'lláh in the dungeon? (paras.7 & 8)
- J) What did Bahá'u'lláh feel when God spoke to Him? (para.9)



"Bahá'u'lláh has drawn the circle of unity, He has made a design for the uniting of all the peoples, and for the gathering of them all under the shelter of the tent of universal unity." 'Abdu'l-Bahá

### Answers to puzzles

#### Page 15: A Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

"O people of the world, ye are all the rays of one sun; the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch. We desire the brotherhood of all humanity."

#### Page 19: Crossword puzzle:

Across: 2. mankind 5. oneness 7. religion 10. Great 11. gift Down: 1. war 3. knowledge 4. Most 6. brothers 8. new 9. peace 11. God

#### Page 22: Message:

"Let your vision be world embracing rather than confined to your own self."

#### Page 22: Virtues:

Trustworthiness; integrity; honesty; generosity.

#### Page 23: Picture Message:

"All mankind will dwell together as one family, blend as the waves of one sea, shine as stars of one firmament and appear as fruits of the same tree."

### References:

P6:	'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 117
P8:	'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p. 15
P10:	'Abdu'l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 99
P15:	'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 80
P19:	'Abdu'l-Bahá in London, p. 19
PP20-21:	Adapted from Message of UHJ, 1st March 2017 on Economic Life.
P23:	'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith,p. 230
P24:	Bahá'u'lláh, The Persian Hidden Words, No. 49
P28:	Bahá'u'lláh, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 21
P30:	'Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks, p. 53
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