

DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children
Issue 83

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

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Distribution: Helena Hastie.

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Dayspring is printed by Printsmith, Fort William, Scotland.

Acknowledgements & Notes

With thanks to Maggie Manvell for the puzzle and the picture to colour on pages 16 and 17 and the puzzle on page 31.

The drawings for the stories were done by J.M.

November 2012 – February 2013

Issue 83

"Be kind to all around..."

'Abdu'l-Bahá

This issue is in memory of our dear Bahá'í friend Alison Watson (Carnie) (1962-2012), bringing together her lovely stories from previous Daysprings about "The Clue Club" children.

C O N T E N T S

Quotation: "Put into practice the Teaching..." (4)

The Clue Club stories:

1. "The Case of the Missing Dog and Other Mysteries" (5-10)
2. "Finding a Friend" (11-15)
- Puzzle (16)
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3. "Heroes are They" (18-23)
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- Crossword (30)
- Puzzle (31)





“Put into practice
 the Teaching of Bahá'u'lláh,
 that of kindness to all nations.

Do not be content
 with showing friendship in words alone,
 let your heart burn with loving kindness
 for all who may cross
 your path . . .”

'Abdu'l-Bahá

"A kindly tongue is the lodestone
of the hearts of men."
Bahá'u'lláh

The Clue Club

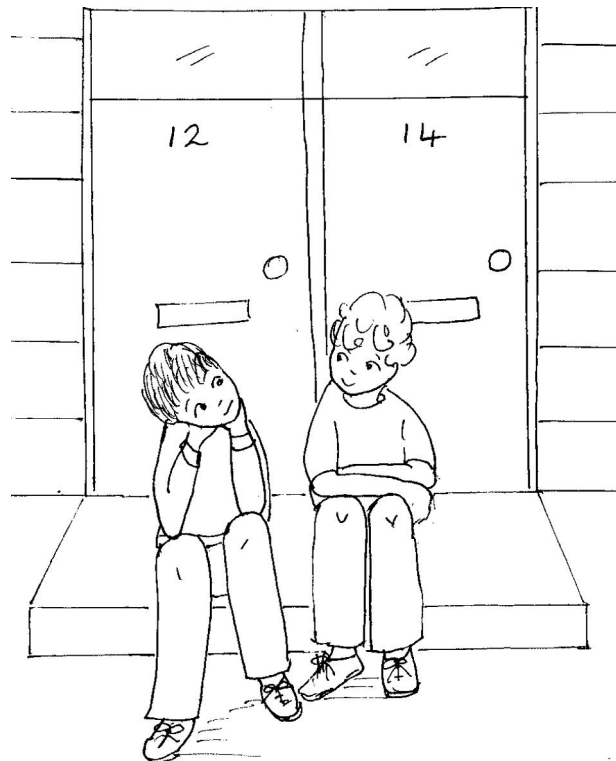
(1) "The Case of the Missing Dog and Other Mysteries"

Written by Alison Watson

Being two very busy boys, Abel and Theo had pretty much investigated everything in the neighbourhood.

They knew why Mr Thorn of number 10 Mystery Meadows was grumpy: he had very bad teeth and was terrified of going to the dentist. But sometimes it was difficult finding clues to other mysteries, such as why Mrs Renoir at number 16 never smiled.

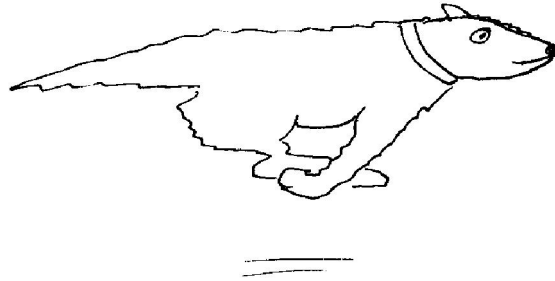
Abel lived at number 12, and Theo at number 14. Where the name Mystery Meadows came from nobody knew as the village they lived in was in a valley, folded happily in green rolling hills and there was no mystery about it!



On Saturday morning there was a Bahá'í class. This was always looked forward to, but just as Abel was leaving the house, Mr Thorn appeared, looking upset and unhappy.

"I've lost Oscar," he said. "He went running out the house the minute I opened the door. Can you and Theo help me find him?"

Abel was not too keen - Oscar was the biggest, drooliest, dopest dog in the street, if not the whole world. And he was always running away.



"Well, Mr Thorn," said Abel, "I'm off to my Bahá'í class with Theo and his little sister Celeste right now. I'm in a real hurry. But we'll see you when we get back." And with that, Abel grabbed his books and was off like a shot.

"What was that all about?" asked Theo as the car took off down the road to take them to their Bahá'í class.

"Oh, you know, Mr Thorn. That big dopey dog of his ran away - again!" said Abel. 'But I expect he will come home by himself when he's hungry.'

"Sounds like he needs our help. Another case for the Clue Club," said Theo.

Abel groaned. He was looking forward to watching cartoons and playing with Theo on his play-station when he got back home.

"Come on, it'll be fun, and we may even get Mr Thorn to smile for once," said Theo.

When they returned home after their class, Abel's mother said that Oscar was still missing.

"Time for the Clue Club to get moving," said Theo, anxious not to lose any more time.

Abel's mum was also looking worried.

"Mr Thorn loves that dog," she said. "His son gave it to him before he went to Australia to live. By the way, what did you learn at Bahá'í class today?"

"All about kindly tongues," said Abel. "I can remember the quote: 'A kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men.' That's what Bahá'u'lláh wrote."

Celeste looked thoughtful. "Is that the same tongue we eat our lunch with?" she asked.

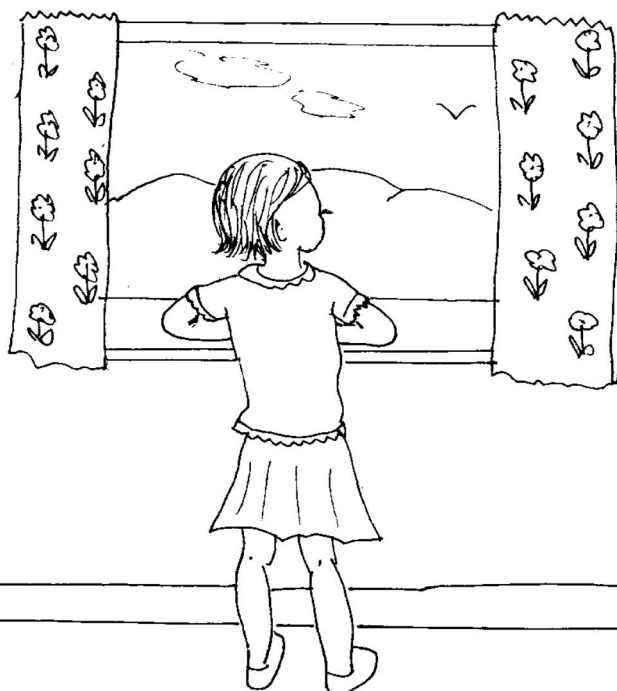
"I think it means using our tongues to say kind things," explained Abel.

"But what on earth is 'the lodestone of the hearts of men'?" asked Theo.

"Yeah, I don't know if I could have a big stone hanging on my heart," winced Abel.

"Well," laughed Abel's mum, "that's another mystery for the Clue Club to solve. You've got a busy day ahead of you – kindly tongues, lodestones and a big black drooly dog to be getting on with!"

Abel and Theo went to Mr Thorn's house at number 10, while Celeste

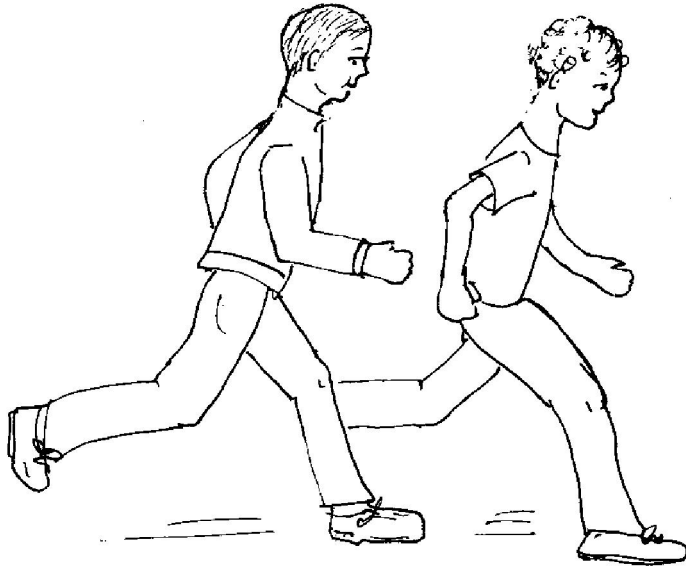


went home, saying she would keep watch from her bedroom window in case Oscar appeared in any of the surrounding gardens or nearby fields.

As the boys rang the bell of number 10, Abel thought of what he had said to Mr Thorn that morning and knew that his tongue had not been kindly. He wondered if he had hurt Mr Thorn's feelings.

"What's up with you?" asked Theo, but before Abel could say anything, the door was opened by a very worried looking Mr Thorn.

After finding out all the details of when Oscar had gone and in which direction and where he liked to chase rabbits, the boys ran past the last house in the lane. The trees nodded and creaked overhead in the wind, and great



swirls of red and gold leaves scattered around them as they hurried on. Apart from a couple of farms it was open country. Abel and Theo knew every path, stream and old ruin.

"You are very quiet," observed Theo after they had been running in silence for a while.

"Mmm, I keep thinking about having a kindly tongue," said Abel. "This morning, when Mr Thorn came and told us about Oscar, I was very snappy with him. He looked really sad as we drove away. If we don't find Oscar, I'm going to feel so bad!" he groaned.

By this time they had reached Oscar's favourite place, where there were loads of rabbits. He never caught any but enjoyed running after them. They examined every clue. Ahead on the muddy path they could see paw prints. They were of a big dog – Theo could tell from how far the paws had sunk in the mud.

Then they heard it. A very faint sound. It was a soft, low whimpering. They ran down to the bottom of the hill – and found Oscar. His leg was stuck in a rabbit hole.

"Ok, you keep him calm and I'll try to get his leg free," said Abel.

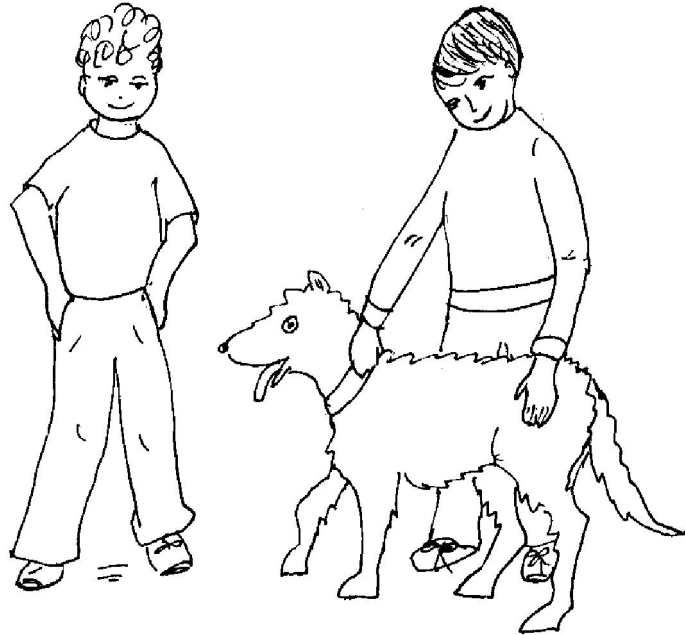
Theo took Oscar's head in his lap and started to talk to him.

"Is it broken?" he asked.

"Nope, but he's got a really nasty cut," said Abel.

Between them they managed to help Oscar home.

They were so happy when they rang Mr Thorn's doorbell and saw the relieved smile on his face that they didn't notice just how much mud they were covered in.



Abel had been practising in his head what he would say to Mr Thorn, remembering what a difference a kindly tongue would make. He and Theo had talked about it all the way back to Mr Thorn's house, and they both had decided that speaking kindly to everyone was what Baha'u'llah was asking them to do. When they reached the house, Abel apologised and explained about being in a hurry at the time, and Mr Thorn was very understanding. He smiled at the boys and said he couldn't thank them enough for rescuing Oscar.

Only one mystery remained - what was a lodestone?

"Mr Thorn, would you know what a lodestone is?" asked Abel.

Mr Thorn left the kitchen and was soon back with a large dictionary.

" 'Lodestone: a magnet that has the power to attract as well as to be attracted.' Does that help you?" he enquired.

Theo and Abel looked at each other and grinned. The third mystery of the day was solved!

"Of course - that's why 'a kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men'," exclaimed Abel. "Kind words are like magnets - they attract people's hearts!"

Theo could see Mr Thorn was looking slightly puzzled.

"We were at our Bahá'í class today and this is what we were studying," said Theo. "It's from Bahá'u'lláh's Writings," he explained shyly. He wasn't too sure if Mr Thorn was interested.

The two boys received their second big smile of the day.

"Well, I'll have to hear more about this Bahá'í class of yours," said Mr Thorn. "But first, would 'The Clue Club' like more cake? And would you take some for Celeste? She phoned just before you arrived to say you had found Oscar - she was looking out of the window and saw everything that happened!"

Two tired but happy boys nodded furiously as they cleared their plates for a second round.

"I think this has been our best day yet," said Theo. "Three mysteries in one day!"

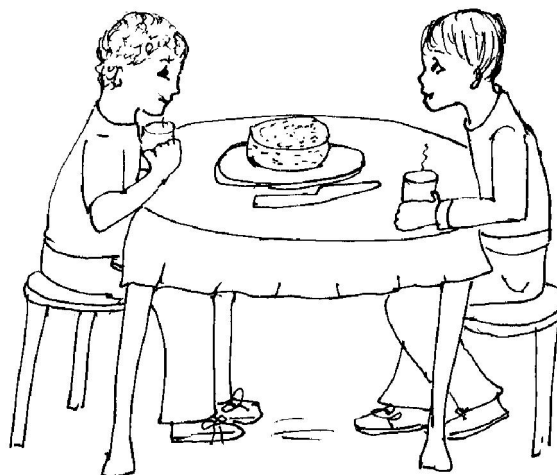
Mr Thorn looked puzzled.

"Finding Oscar," explained Theo.

"Finding out what a lodestone of the heart is," added Abel.

"And finding that we should always have a kindly tongue," grinned Theo.

"I wonder what our next mystery will be?" said Abel.



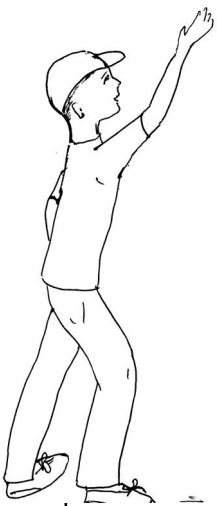
"Consort with all men, O people of Bahá in a spirit of
friendliness and fellowship."

Bahá'u'lláh

The Clue Club

(2) "Discovering a Friend"

Written by Alison Watson



It was one of those big sky days, the clouds miles above and white against the sharp blue. The kite was swooping and diving in streaks of red and blue with both boys running to keep it as high as it would go.

"This is going to be the best kite day ever," yelled Theo as he ran on ahead holding the string. They had reached the top of a hill not far from their homes. Here they could yell and call out as loud as they wanted, only scaring the odd bird and rabbit.

It was as the kite dived down that Abel and Theo noticed the boy. He had picked it up and was bringing it over. They hadn't seen him before.

"This your...", " the boy hesitated, not knowing the correct word in English. "I t very good," he grinned.

Abel and Theo looked at each other – yep, he certainly wasn't from the village.

"My name Ferouz. What yours?" said the boy.

Abel introduced himself and Theo, and that was it. The rest of the afternoon was spent with the three of them whooping and running from place to place watching the kite rising ever higher.

Ferouz could really run and it was all Theo and Abel could do to keep up with him. They eventually sat down and Ferouz was bombarded with questions. The boys managed to finally put together that he had recently moved into the village with his family from Turkey.



"I've never been there," said Theo. "Must be warmer than here."

"Very much warmer, but I come from small village, like this one," explained Ferouz.

It wasn't till Abel looked at his watch that he realised how much time had gone by.

"Theo and I will have to run, Ferouz, but we'll see you around," he said.

As they sprinted for home, Theo looked back and suddenly felt bad for leaving Ferouz standing all alone.

"He'll be fine," said Abel. "He's got dinner waiting for him just like us."

Theo wasn't so sure, but soon forgot as he piled into his house, scattering trainers, jacket and kite.

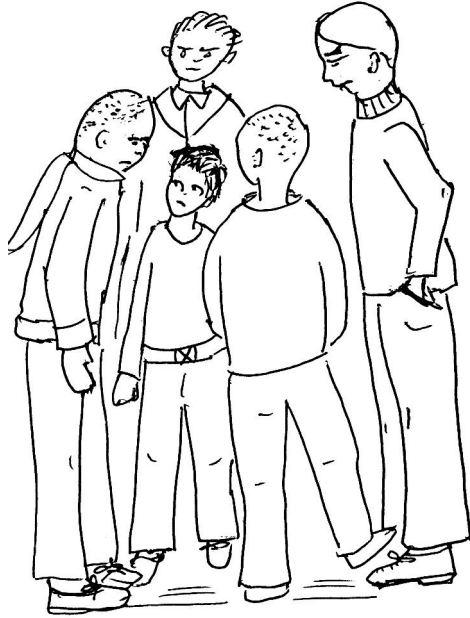
* * *

The next day, Amy, Abel's big sister, was hurrying them along the road to school as usual. Theo's young sister, Celeste, was barely able to keep up.

"I know Mum put you in charge but do you have to be sooooo bossy?" groaned Abel.

"Right," said Amy, as they came to the primary school. "There's the gate. Go straight in! I've got to run. Just wait till you guys go to High School, then you'll know why I'm always rushing you!"

The usual groups had formed in the playground and Celeste set off to



find her friends, but Theo noticed a crowd in the corner.

"I don't know what they're up to, but it doesn't look good," he whispered to Abel. Somehow the boys knew before they could even see him that Ferouz was in the middle of the crowd and that the bigger boys were bullying him.

"Can't you speak English?" one boy was saying. "If you're from *Turkey*, what do you eat for Christmas?"

They all laughed and Ferouz was near to tears. He folded his arms and stared them down as best as he could, pretending not to be frightened.

It was then that he saw Theo and Abel, and a huge grin spread over his face. Faced with the crowd, which had already grown bigger, Theo and Abel knew what they were letting themselves in for. But suddenly it didn't seem to matter. They rushed in and took Firouz along with them to the class.

"Hey, where are you going with him?" someone shouted.

"To show him around the school! What do you think?" yelled Theo as the three of them walked away.

The day passed and the boys made it clear to one and all that Ferouz was with them. They had sports in the afternoon, and Abel and Theo were excited. Teams were going to be chosen to compete in the annual sports day with the primary school in the next town. Usually the other school won most of the events, but perhaps this year would be different.

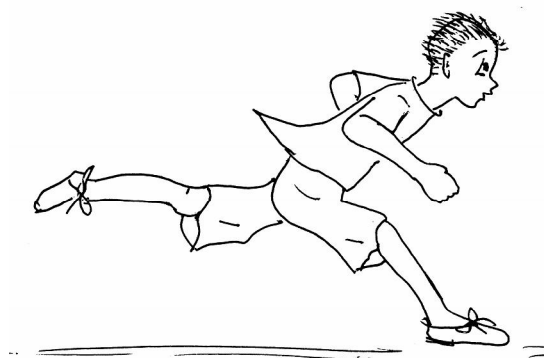
"Ferouz, be sure you try out for the running, you're so fast," said Abel.

But Ferouz did not want to run. Eventually, Theo realised why - he didn't have any gym stuff. Before long Theo had managed to borrow a pair of spare trainers from someone and Abel gave him his spare shorts.

Then the three of them fell around laughing because the shorts were far too big for Ferouz and he did look funny, but he didn't seem to mind and was grinning from ear to ear.

As everyone gathered to try out for the different events, they stared at the new boy. He was slight and small for his age and the bigger boys didn't think much of him, but they were curious to see how fast he could run.

Theo and Abel qualified in their heats for the 100 metre race, and then the last heat started. Firouz was in this one.



The well-worn track was once again trampled by speeding feet. The crowd fell to a hush. Nobody could believe their eyes — Ferouz was tearing up the track and all they could see was the back of his shirt! Even Mr Perriman the gym teacher was speechless.

Abel and Theo were hoarse with cheering Firouz on, and Celeste was leaping up and down with excitement.

As he crossed the finishing line the whole place erupted. The school finally had someone who could win a medal!

After school Ferouz walked with his new friends back to Abel's house.

"You must phone your mum to let her know you're with us," said Celeste

as they all trooped into Abel's house.

"No worry phone 'cos I right here!" called a voice from the kitchen.

Ferouz's face lit up as a very round, dark haired woman came out of the kitchen and gave him an enormous hug.

"This my mum," he explained.

The kitchen was a great gaggle of people making tea and juice, and plates of biscuits were disappearing faster than they could be put out. Amy was particularly popular as she was in charge of the ice-cream.



"How did you meet Ferouz's mum?" Theo asked Abel's mother.

"Well, his dad is going to be one of the doctors at the new Health Clinic, and as part of the Inter-Faith committee for this area they got in touch with me to help them settle in, but I see you've done that already for Ferouz!"

As a big thank you, Ferouz's mum made them the most delicious dinner they had ever tasted, and the boys told their parents about the "The Big Race".

* * *

Some days later, as Abel and Theo sat on the front step, it occurred to them how different things would have turned out if they had ignored Ferouz.

"I kept thinking what my mum and dad always say," said Theo.

"Let me guess - I bet it is the same thing my mum and dad always say!" said Abel. "'Consort with the followers of all religions with friendliness and fellowship'," he quoted.

"That's the one," smiled Theo.

Then they ran off to meet Ferouz. After all, there was a big race to train for!

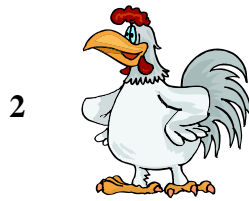
When Oscar the dog went chasing rabbits he met these animals too.

Write the correct name below each animal.

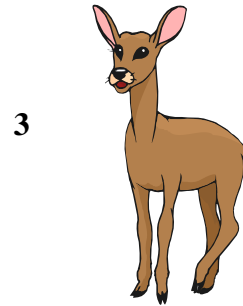
Then fill in the puzzle at the end.



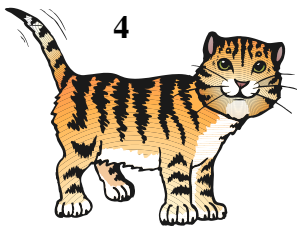
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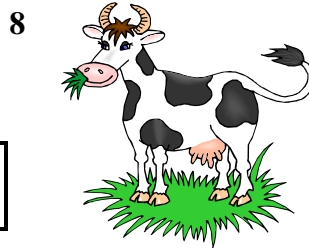
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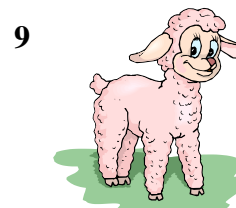
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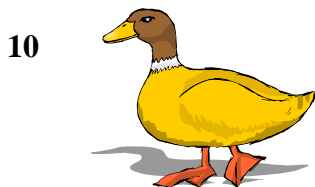
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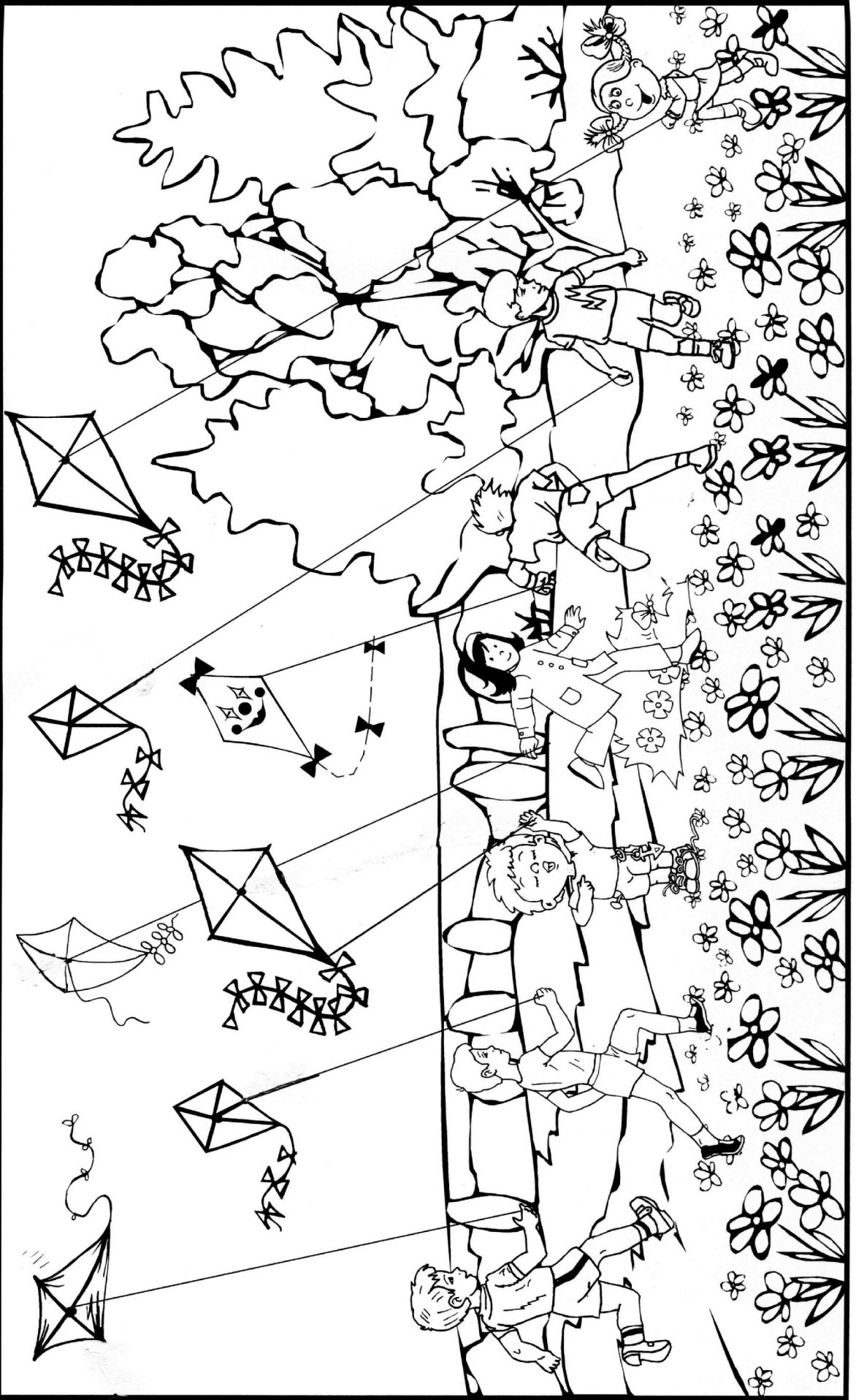
Write the letters with stars in the boxes below.

1	2	3
T		

4	5	6	7

8	9	10	11

Use pencil crayons (not felt tips). Colour each child's clothes to match the kite he or she is holding



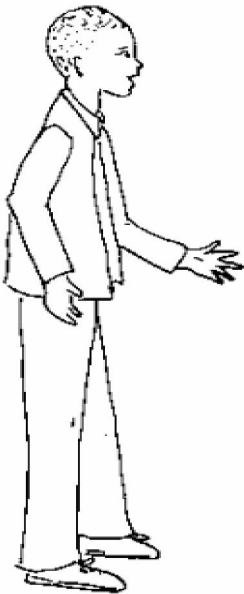
“Heroes are they , O my Lord ... make them to speak out ... make them lions that couch in the thickets, whales that plunge in the vasty deep.”

Bahá'u'lláh

The Clue Club

(3) “Heroes are they...”

Written by Alison Watson

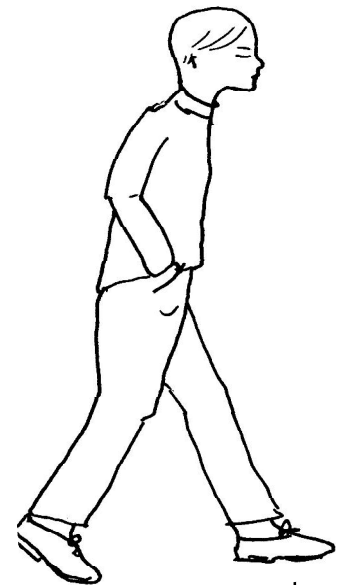


Before Theo had even asked he knew Abel would say “No”. Since Wednesday that had been pretty much it. He had thought Saturday would see a change, but it was not to be.

“Hey, how about we clean out the shed? Loads of stuff in there,” tried Theo.

“Nope, not interested,” said Abel flatly.

Theo wondered what to say that would help his friend.



“The Feast was great, eh? And the latest message – did you hear the bit at the end, all about heroes, lions and whales? Which one would you be?” asked Theo, hoping for some kind of answer.

“I don’t think I’d be any of them, not a ‘hero’ anyway,” sighed Abel. With a faint smile he wandered back home, leaving Theo with a mystery on his hands.

* * *

Sometime later Theo had managed to get Amy and Celeste together and they were in the tree house at the bottom of his garden.

"What on earth's wrong with Abel?" he asked desperately. Amy shrugged; it was Celeste who piped up.

"I don't know, but on Wednesday Abel was getting asked about being a Bahá'í in the playground at school. He tried his best to answer but some of the boys were laughing at him."

"Still doesn't explain why he's being like this," said Theo.

They had just finished saying a prayer to help solve this mystery when Abel appeared at the door of the tree house.



"No one told me there was a meeting, and why are THEY here?" asked Abel, pointing at Celeste and Amy.

"We need their help!" said Theo, and all three sat Abel down and pelted him with questions. Eventually he told them about the day at school.

"That's OK," said Amy. "It sounds like you really tried."

"That's not it," said Abel. "When they laughed at me, I just told them never mind, it doesn't matter and to forget it!"

"So, why are you so grumpy and saying no to everything?" asked Theo.

"Because I told them it didn't matter. And it does! I didn't stand up for Bahá'u'lláh, so NO, I'M NOT a hero or a whale or a lion as it says in that message!"

* * *

Abel's mum knew there was something wrong when Abel didn't take a second helping of macaroni and cheese and the rest of the crew were just too quiet.

"Everything okay here?" she asked.

"Abel had trouble at school," blurted out Celeste, and with that the whole story came babbling out.

"Abel, not everyone you talk to will want to hear about the Bahá'í Faith, because they don't understand how great it is, and it's what's in your heart that matters," said Mum. "I know you love Bahá'u'lláh," she added with a smile.

"Well, of course I do, that's why I was so upset!" said Abel.

Hearing himself say that seemed to push the grumpy feeling away, and everyone started to talk at once until Mum showed them the calendar of Bahá'í events she was holding.

"Look, next Saturday Mrs Sabeti is needing some help with the exhibition at the annual agricultural fair. They've got a stall but could really use the help of some young, energetic people. Would you lot know of anyone I could ask?"

Needless to say, four arms went up, the first being Abel's.

"Ok, that's settled. We'll have to leave early, so Celeste and Theo make sure you ask permission to go. Maybe your new friend Ferouz would like to come as well," said Mum.

* * *

The following Saturday saw five very sleepy heads in the mini van. Theo and Celeste's mum was going to take over from Mrs Sabeti in the afternoon, so she was coming later.

"Your mum didn't say we had to leave THIS early!" groaned Theo to Abel. He had just looked at his watch and it was only 7a.m.

"Well, we can sleep in the van - it takes about two hours to get there," said Abel.

"Ok, belts all on? Let's go then," said Mum.

It wasn't easy finding somewhere to park as the fair was so busy, but at

last they managed to find a space. The children were impatient to get to all the stalls and Ferouz was more excited than any of them as he hadn't been to a fair in this country before.

"Look at the horses - they big!" he squealed in awe as he caught sight of some farm horses with their magnificent huge heads and long, silky manes.

"Stay together and let's find the Bahá'í stall," said Mum firmly.

It wasn't too long before the much loved voice of Mrs Sabeti was calling them.

"Over here! Bahá'í stall is over here!"

It was a good size and very welcoming. Chairs had been arranged for people to sit and relax, and tea and juice were on hand along with Bahá'í books and a beautiful poster of the Shrine of the Báb in Haifa.



"So glad you have come!" smiled Mrs Sabeti. "We need your help to hand out leaflets and invitations to our devotional meetings."

Everyone was eager to do their bit and soon had a handful to give to people.

"Now, Amy and Celeste, you stick together and keep within sight of the stall," said Mum. "Abel, Theo, Ferouz, you do the same," she added.

They were soon talking and handing out their invites and pamphlets – everyone, that is, except for Abel.

“Why are you not out there with your friends?” asked Mrs Sabeti.

Abel shrugged his shoulders.

“You can stay here and help me serve the juice if you want.”

“Mrs Sabeti, what if a person doesn’t want the stuff? What if they laugh at me? How do I know if they’ll want to hear about it?” asked Abel quietly.

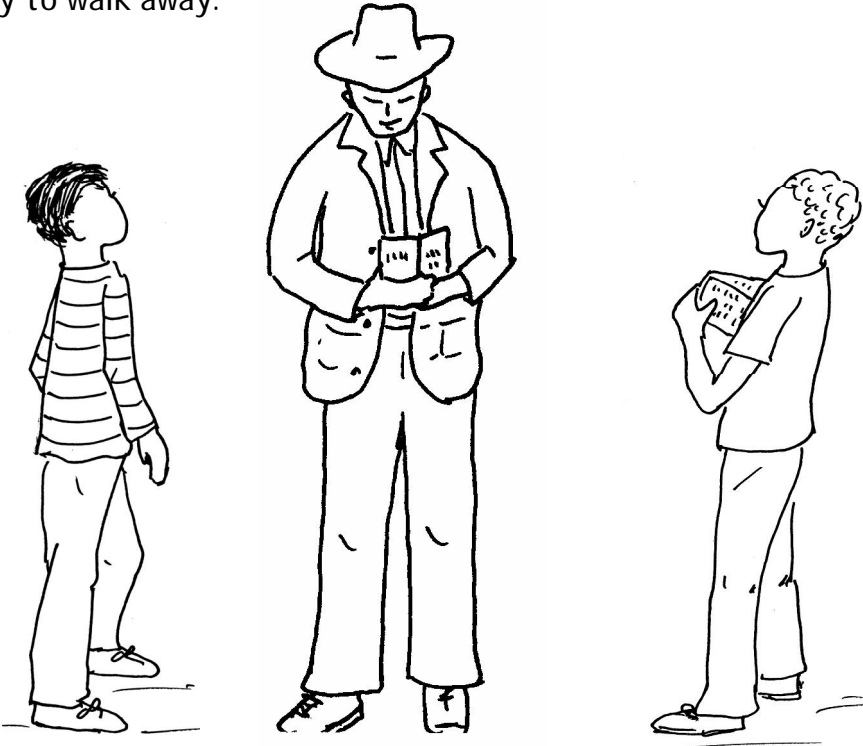
“Well my dear Abel, it is not for us to judge who might want to hear or not, our job is to offer. To take that step is faith, knowing that Bahá’u’lláh will be there to help us – but we have to take that first step,” explained Mrs Sabeti with a twinkle in her eye.

“Heroes are they...,” said Abel, remembering the words of the prayer of `Abdu’l-Bahá that was quoted in the Feast letter.

He could see Celeste and Amy talking to a mother with a baby and Celeste pointing to the stall.



Then he noticed Theo offering an invitation and leaflet to an elderly man while Firouz was looking up at the man encouragingly. They had already offered an invitation to three people who had smiled but said they weren't interested, but this man was reading the leaflet very seriously and didn't seem in any hurry to walk away.



To be a hero, a person has to be brave, thought Abel, and stepped out to join his friends.



"Rejoice and cheer thee every heart."

Bahá'u'lláh

The Clue Club

(4) "The Mystery of Mrs Renoir's Sadness"

Written by Alison Watson

The rain was battering against the car as they drove up to their front doors after their Baha'i class.

"So, what were you doing today?" asked Theo's Mum.

"Oh, talking about how we can help do something," said Theo vaguely.

He was trying to avoid bringing it up. He had a feeling once his mum knew, they would definitely HAVE to do what the class had been talking about. It wasn't that he didn't want to do it, just that he wasn't sure how. Usually it was just the adults who did it. But no amount of elbowing or looks was going to stop Abel.

"Our class has decided that we should all try to hold prayer-type meetings," said Abel.

"You mean a devotional meeting," piped up Celeste.

"Well, that sounds great," said Mum. "You know us adults will help with the food, but it will be up to you guys to arrange the programme."

Theo eventually caught Abel's attention by raising his eyebrows and staring hard at him. He knew this could mean asking their friends, and what if they didn't want to come? And what about choosing prayers and writings?

Abel hadn't thought about that, but it was too late to back out. Mum sensed they were getting worried and said they should ask Bahá'u'lláh to help them and then everything would work out all right.

Later, over plates of apple pie and cups of juice, plans were made.

"Right," said Theo. "A few prayers, some writings, and that should be it."

"Hang on!" said Abel. "Who will we invite? And what should the room look like? People usually have those smelly candles and fancy cloths."

The boys got a fit of giggles. Celeste looked at them and sighed.

"They are *nice* smelly candles," she said. "Like honeysuckle, or orange blossom. Oh, and don't forget about flowers. And making some invitations."

"And we have to make of list of people to invite," said Abel, making an effort to be serious.

A silence came over them; this was bigger than they had expected.

"I know," said Theo, "let's get Amy to help. She knows about these things."

Abel wasn't sure he wanted his 13-year-old sister to be involved; she might just get all bossy. But he knew they could do with her help and that she would be pleased to be asked, so he agreed.

It wasn't until the next day as they all walked home from school that Celeste noticed Mrs Renoir again. There she was, looking so sad at her window.



"Let's ask Mr Thorn why Mrs Renoir is sad," said Celeste. "He might know."

"Hey, we could invite them to our prayer thingy," said Abel.

Theo and Celeste stopped to look at him.

"What have I said?"

"It's a DEVOTIONAL MEETING!" groaned Celeste and Theo. "Not a prayer thingy!"

They decided to go to see Mr Thorn right away.

"Well, look who's here, Oscar," said Mr Thorn, as he opened the door and his dog went wild with excitement at seeing the children.

All attempts to avoid the large black drooly dog failed. If it wasn't the happy tail or wet nose that got you then it was the front paws on your shoulders. With Oscar safely put back in the living room, the kitchen table was soon full of biscuits, hot chocolate and three chattering children.

"Mr Thorn, would you know anything about Mrs Renoir?" asked Theo.

"She seems so sad," said Celeste.

"And always around this time of year," said Abel.

Mr Thorn cleared his throat. "Hmm, if I remember, Mrs Renoir moved in a while after us. That would have been some years ago. We're all getting on a bit now, but I do recall hearing her husband had died. That's about all I know."

Three very sad faces sat looking at him.

"Why the interest in Mrs Renoir?" asked Mr Thorn.

With that they all explained what they were doing; it just seemed to tumble out.

"Mr Thorn, would you like to come to our devotional meeting?" asked Celeste shyly.

"Celeste, I'd be delighted, count me in," beamed Mr Thorn.

Back home, Amy had been a big help getting all the “fancy stuff” as Theo called it. The rest of them selected their favourite prayers and writings and the boys practised a song on their guitars to play at the end of the programme, while Celeste said she would sing one of the Hidden Words at the beginning.

Then they wrote the invitations, mostly to neighbours and a few school friends, and set out to deliver them.

The last house they visited was Mrs Renoir's. As they sat in the front room, or “the parlour” as Mrs Renoir called it, they couldn't take their eyes away from all the lovely paintings, the beautiful ornaments and furniture. Everything was in pale blues with soft gold, decorated with flowers and birds.



On the wall facing them was a picture of a handsome young man.

Then Mrs Renoir appeared from the kitchen with a silver tray with the most delicious looking chocolate cake ever!

Celeste was the first to speak.

“Who is the man in the picture?” she asked.

There was silence as Mrs Renoir gazed at it, her eyes growing very sad. It was a picture of her husband and she told them how he had been killed in a war many years ago, just after they had married.

“You see, Jaques and I had decided to come to live in Britain when he came home, but then he was killed.” said Mrs Renoir sadly. “So when I retired forty years later, I decided to come anyway because that is what he would have wished. Next Saturday will be the very day all those years ago that I lost him. And now my little neighbours, can you explain what a ‘devotional meeting’ is?” she asked.

After they had explained as best they could and Mrs Renoir had said she would love to come, they ran to Abel's house for dinner.



"Well, here's the intrepid trio!" said Abel's mum. "Macaroni cheese is ready to serve, so wash up. Theo and Celeste, you've to be home for 8 pm."

Over dinner they told Abel's mum all about Mrs Renoir.

"Another mystery solved, but how sad for her," she said.

"Why don't we include a prayer in the devotional programme for people who have died?" suggested Amy.

"That's a great idea" said Theo, while the others nodded in agreement. "And we could say that it is especially for Jacques Renoir so everybody knows and can think about him."

* * *

On the following Saturday afternoon the living room was ready to receive the children's guests - Mr Thorn, Mrs Renoir, two Bahá'í students who lived nearby, three school friends and Ferouz and his mum.

The boys were still a bit nervous about what people would think, but after the music and prayers and readings were done it all seemed just right and everyone was looking very relaxed and happy.



In the kitchen all was busy as the children got the trays of cakes, tea and coffee ready to serve. To their surprise Mrs Renoir came through.

"My dear children," she said, "normally this day would be one of great sadness for me, but when the prayer was said for Jacques I felt so happy. Would you be kind enough to give me a copy?"

Celeste gave Mrs Renoir a hug.

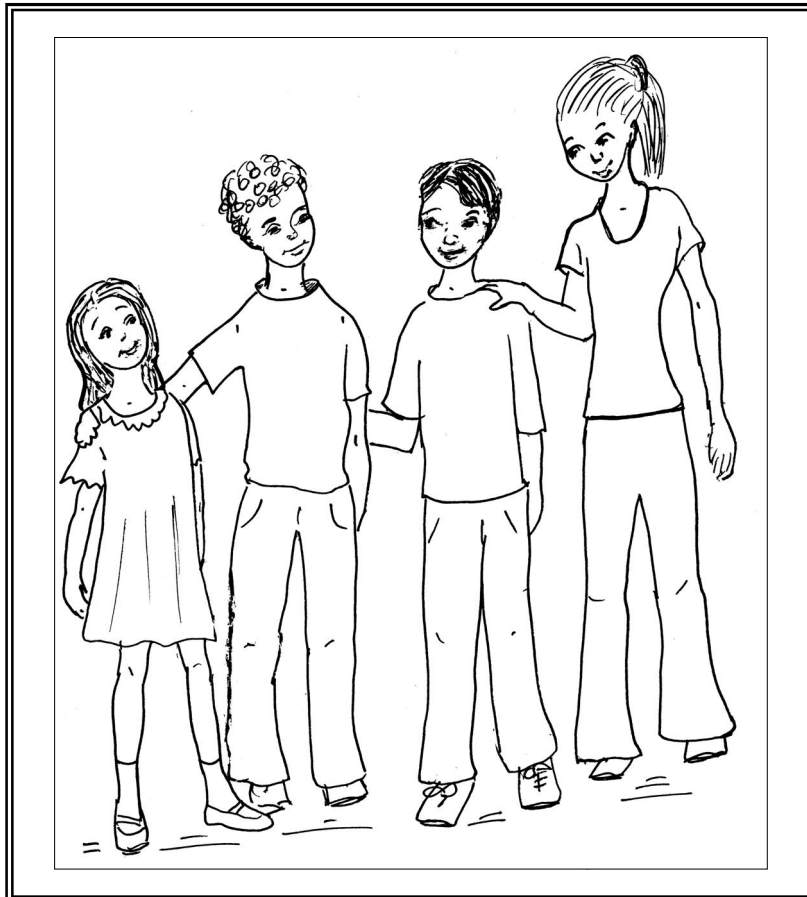
"You know, Mrs Renoir, Mr Renoir is really close to you," said Abel.

"It's just that you can't have a cup of tea with him," added Theo.

Mrs Renoir laughed.

"I think we should have more of these meetings," she said.

Abel, Theo, Celeste and Amy smiled and nodded to each other. They had already started to plan the next one!



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