

# DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children  
Issue 86

***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 children. Contributions by children and adults of 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.

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**November 2013 — February 2014**

**Issue 86**

“O God! ... These children are  
... the flowers of Thy meadow,  
the roses of Thy garden.”

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*This issue is about Gardens*

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“... in this garden of God ...

every plant

can even match

the laughing,

hundred-petalled rose

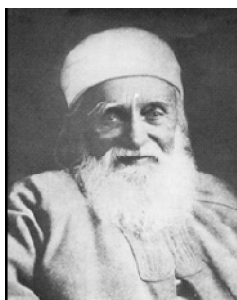
in rejoicing

the sense

with its fragrance.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá





## Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

### "The Garden at the Shrine"

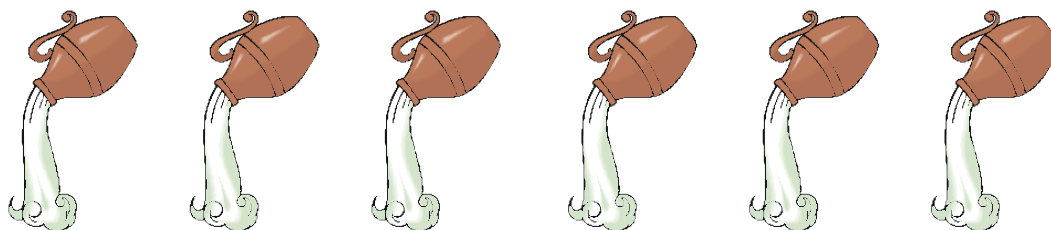
'Abdu'l-Bahá made a beautiful garden round the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. Twice a year, with the help of pilgrims and other friends, He carried over one hundred flower pots from the Ridván Garden outside 'Akká to the Shrine in Bahji. They walked two by two, each person carrying a flower pot on his or her shoulder and chanting prayers and singing as they travelled along.

'Abdu'l-Bahá worked hard in the garden. He was now sixty-five years old, but He stood for hours pumping water from a well and then carrying it in jars to pour onto the flowers. Sometimes He made sixty trips to fetch enough water and He often became ill with a fever.

The Bahá'ís begged Him not to work so hard and to let them carry the jars of water instead. To please them, 'Abdu'l-Bahá eventually agreed. But He became very unhappy. He loved working in the garden around the Shrine.

Two weeks passed. Then 'Abdul-Bahá called the friends together. He told them that He had done as they wished and not worked in the garden. He asked them to please consider allowing Him to work there again.

The friends felt terrible. They thought they had been helping 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but all they had done was to make Him unhappy. Never again did they try to stop Him from watering the flowers round the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.



## Pippa's Song

by Robert Browning (1812-1889)

The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in His heaven —  
All's right with the world!



## In the Garden of Thy Heart

Near the town of 'Akká there is a beautiful garden. The birds sing happily in the trees, the oranges are gold with sunlight, the water dances from the fountain and the air smells sweet with the scent of flowers.



Because the garden was so beautiful, Bahá'u'lláh loved to visit it. He would leave the hot, dusty town of 'Akká and walk out into the cool countryside to enjoy its beauty.

There, on a blue bench beneath the trees, He would fill the garden with love as He praised God for all the lovely things around Him.

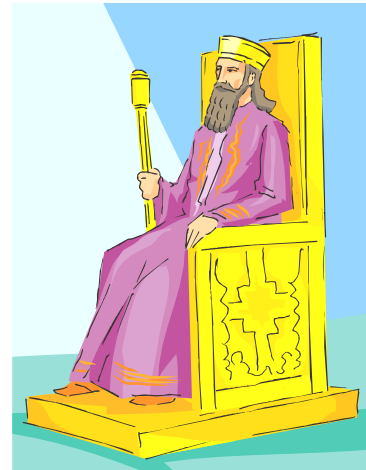
Our hearts are like gardens. If we do good deeds and think good

thoughts, then our hearts become full of good things. Bahá'u'lláh liked to visit the garden because it was beautiful, and He likes to visit our hearts too when they are filled with beauty.

# The King Who Loved Flowers

by Lois Lambert

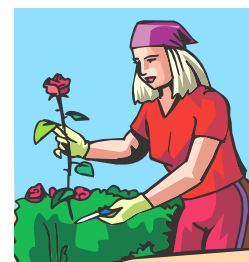
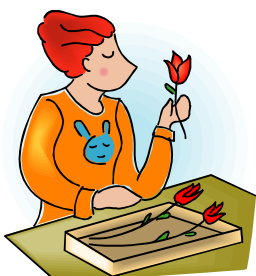
Once upon a time there was a King who ruled over a beautiful country called Garland. This King was so beloved by his people for his kindness, his wisdom and his mercy that they decided to give him a present to show their love for him. All the people gathered at a meeting to discuss what his present should be.



Now the King of Garland loved flowers above all things, and it did not take the people very long to agree that the present that would please him most would be a garden planted with the loveliest flowers they could find.

However, they could not agree which flowers should be chosen for the garden. Some said they should be sunflowers because they were so tall and proud. Others said they should be roses because they smelled so sweet. There were those who liked tulips because their petals folded up so neatly, and those who preferred orchids because of their elegance.

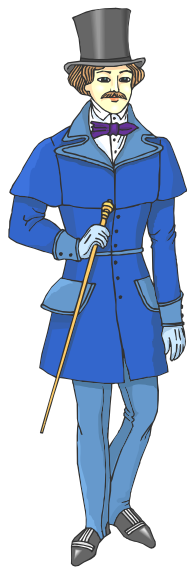
Everyone began to argue about which flowers were the best until they quite forgot the reason for their meeting. But when they remembered they decided that each person should plant a garden with the flower they thought the King would like best, and that the King should be taken to visit all the gardens so that he could choose the one he liked most of all.



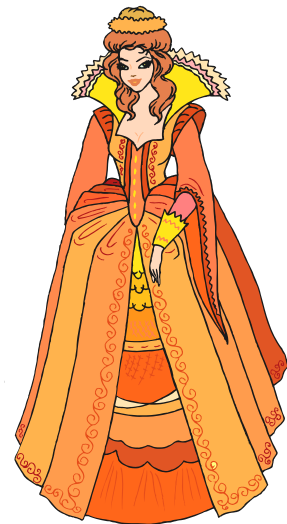


For several weeks people were busy in the Kingdom of Garland, digging and watering, sowing and planting, weeding and pruning. And there was such a hurry and scurry to make all ready for the day they had chosen to present the gift.

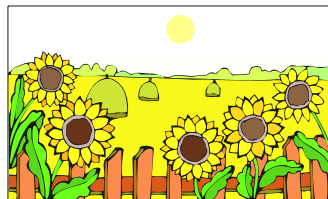
At last the great day came, and the King and his court began their tour of all the wonderful gardens.



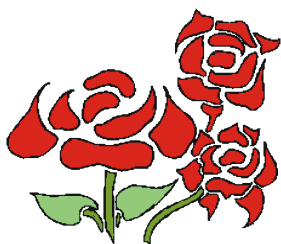
You should have heard the "Oooohs!" and "Aaaahs!" of the ladies of the court that day and the grunts and "Hmmmms!" of the lords. Such richness and splendour had never been seen in Garland before.



One garden was made entirely of tall, proud sunflowers which blazed gold like the sun which gives warmth and light.



Another was full of roses which gave a fragrance that spread over the whole kingdom.



Another had hundreds of tulips which nodded and bowed, the very essence of order and good behaviour.



And another garden was made of orchids which danced delicately in the breeze to show off their grace and beauty.



There were other gardens too, some made of just daisies or daffodils or honeysuckle, and they were all beautiful.

All day the King walked through the gardens and said kind words of praise and encouragement. And there was much excitement as the lords and ladies guessed which one the King would choose for his present.

“Oh, your Majesty,” said a shy lady. “I meant to make a garden with just one kind of flower like everyone else did, but when I came to decide which flower to grow, I found them all so beautiful that I did not have the heart to leave any of them out. And this is how they came to grow all higgledy-piggledy like this!”



“Thank you,” said the King, to the astonishment of all the lords and ladies of the Court. “This is the garden I choose as my present. I love all the qualities that each of you valued in the flowers in your gardens. So how could I accept just one? This garden is the most beautiful because it is made of all of your flowers, and all of your fine qualities!”

That night in the Kingdom of Garland there was one person who was very happy and many who were very thoughtful.

## Questions and an Idea:

1. In the second-to-last paragraph, the King said he loved all the qualities that each person valued in the flowers. One of these was the tulip, which is described in the story as being orderly and of good behaviour! What were the qualities mentioned in the story about the following three flowers?



**Rose:**

**Sunflower:**

**Orchid:**

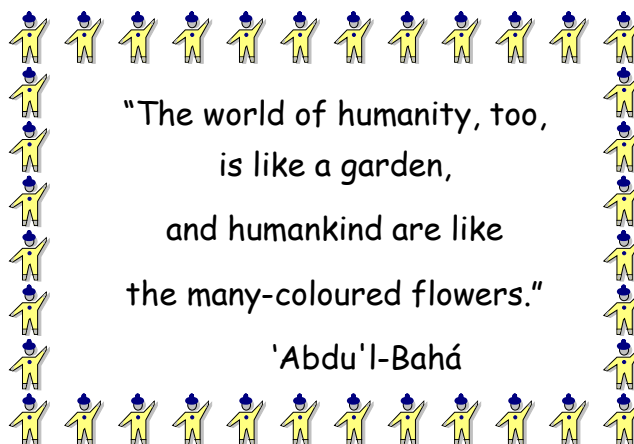
2. The qualities of the following flowers were not mentioned in the story. Choose from the following words which ones best describe each of these flowers: **happy, sweet, humble.**

**Daisy:**

**Daffodil:**

**Honeysuckle:**

3. Take a walk round your garden or a park, or look over the wall at a neighbour's garden, and think of the quality of another flower and how it could also be used to describe something good about people.



## Mrs Brown's Garden

Mrs Brown was very sad. She loved doing her garden, but she wasn't well enough to go outside, and she couldn't manage to dig any more.

Jack and Emily lived next door, and they'd heard that Mrs Brown wasn't very well. They remembered that 'Abdu'l-Bahá said we should visit people who are not well and try to help them. They wondered what they could do.

"I know," said Jack, "we could tidy up her garden and pull up some of the weeds. Maybe we could cut the grass? Mrs Brown would be able to see it from her window."

Then Emily had another idea. "And we could also make her a little indoor garden!" she said.

They found an old metal tub, put some stones in the bottom then filled it with soil. They planted it with some flowers from their own garden, and arranged a few stones in among them.

Mrs brown was delighted.



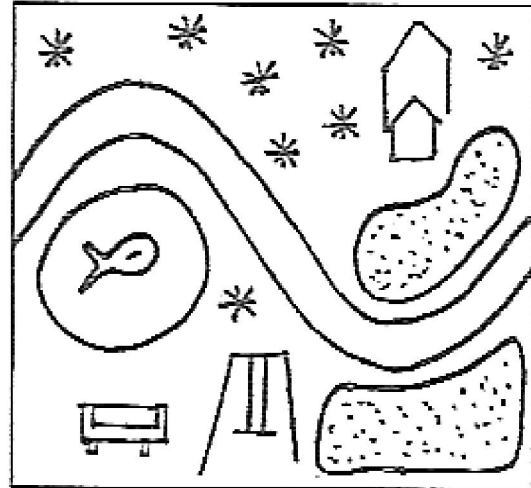
# Make a Model Garden

You could make a garden yourself out of soil, stones, twigs and flowers. It wouldn't have real, growing plants, like Mrs Brown's, so it wouldn't last long, but it would be fun to do.

On a piece of paper work out a rough plan.

Draw a line where the path might go; add crosses to show trees, and put dots for flowers.

Add a pond, a little shed and maybe a garden swing. You could mark spaces for a rockery, a lawn and flower beds.



Find a container. An old baking tray or seed tray would be ideal. (Make sure to ask Mum, though!) Put in a shallow layer of soil from the garden. Then collect things from your garden to make the model.



Twigs with leaves, stuck in the soil, will look like trees.



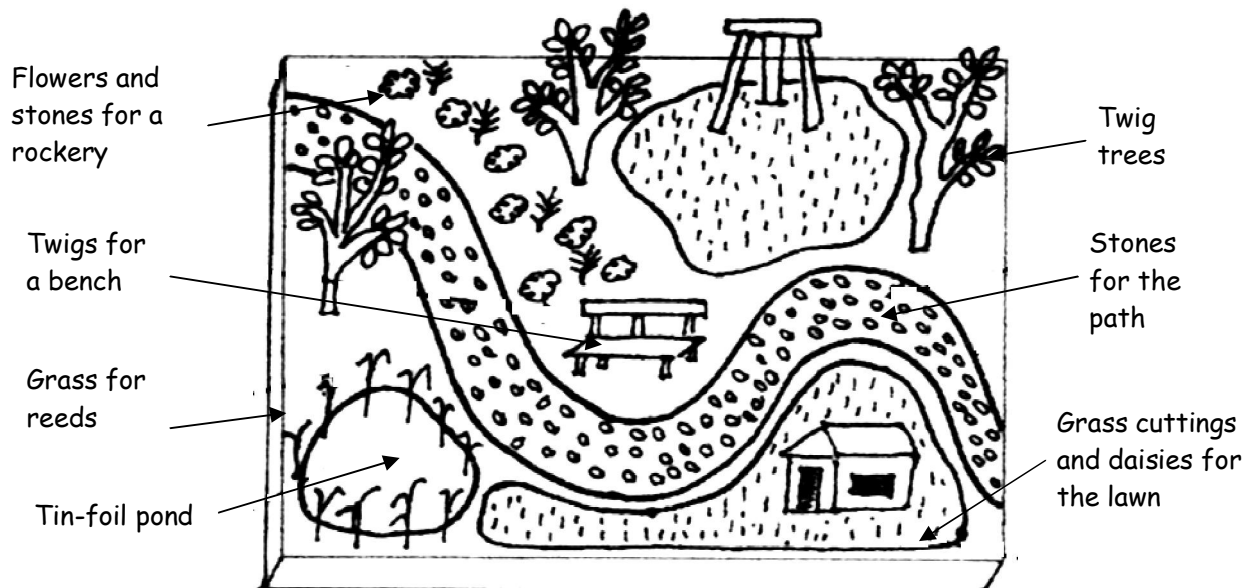
Dead twigs could be used for a bench.



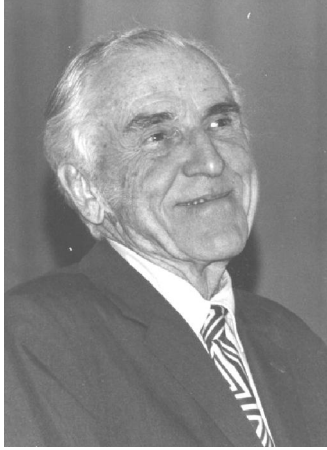
Matchsticks could make a swing.



A little shed could be made from cardboard.



## HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD



### John Aldham Robarts

(1901-1991)

John Robarts' grandfather was born during a hurricane. At the time, the baby's mother was sheltering from the hurricane in a large old-fashioned oven used for baking and which was half underground. As the wild wind was racing across the land, uprooting trees and flattening houses, she promised God that she would dedicate the life of her child to God if he lived. When the baby was safely born, his mother gave him the middle name of Tempest because of the storm. When he grew up he became a minister in the Church. He also got married.

The family moved to Canada in the eighteen hundreds and this is where Tempest's grandson John Robarts was born. No one could have guessed that one day he would become a Hand of the Cause of God. At that time no one in the family had even heard of the Bahá'í Faith.

John was a very hard-working little boy and when he was only six he started a newspaper round in the streets where he lived. When he was seventeen, he left school to work in the office of the Canadian National Railway.

When that job came to an end, he became a salesman selling farm supplies, which kept him



away from home for months at a time as he travelled many miles along rough country roads trying to find customers. Later in his life he became a very

successful insurance salesman.

John was in his 20s when he married a lovely young lady called Audrey. She had a very interesting family history as her grandmother was from the native Cree tribe of North America. Audrey was also part Irish, Welsh, English, Spanish and French. John's ancestors came from England and Scotland but now both he and Audrey were Canadians, so between them they represented many different countries of the world.

Six months before John married, he met his Aunt Grace for the first time. She was a Bahá'í and told him about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, explaining how these would bring peace and justice to the world and had been promised in all the world religions.

John thought about what she told him, and although it took him several years, the day came when he and Audrey both declared their faith in this wonderful message and became Bahá'ís. And in 1948, when the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada was elected, John was one of its members.

Two years later, in 1950, John visited England, Ireland and Scotland to help with the teaching work. He visited 10 cities in 13 days and 18 people became Bahá'ís. John wrote to Audrey (who was still in Canada) that the success was not because of him but "it just happened when I was there!"

Everywhere John went he spoke about the great power of prayer and how we should say them every day. He told people inspiring stories of the wonderful things that can happen when we remember to do this. He said we would then be filled with joy and able to face all sorts

A prayer revealed by the Báb to say when life is difficult:

“Is there any  
Remover of difficulties  
save God?  
Say: Praised be God!  
He is God!  
All are His servants,  
and all abide by His bidding!”

of difficulties, and able to do great things in the path of God.

Although John was busy travelling and teaching, he always made time to be with his children whenever he could. He helped the older children and their friends to appreciate music and to practise giving interesting talks, and he played ball and skipping with the younger ones. All the children loved him, and a little girl of six who lived down the street would often ring the doorbell at his house to ask if Mr Roberts was coming out to play!

In 1953 Shoghi Effendi (the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith) announced that there would be a ten-year plan to take the Faith to many other countries and islands in the world to tell people about Bahá'u'lláh. John and Audrey wrote to Shoghi Effendi, asking where they should go, and he said to go to Bechuanaland (now called Botswana) in the continent of Africa.

John gave in his notice at work, sold their house, and away he and Audrey



sailed, taking their two youngest children (Patrick, 19, and Nina, 13) with them. Their two older sons pioneered as well but to different places.

Before long there were many more believers in Africa, and one day a telegram arrived from Shoghi Effendi appointing John Roberts a Hand of the Cause of God.

From then on he travelled to every continent in the world, visiting the Bahá'ís and teaching the Faith. Everyone who met him remembers his warm and loving ways, his fun-loving nature, and his deep faith in prayer.



# CROSSWORD

(do it in pencil first in case you need to rub something out)

Answers can be found in the story about Hand of the Cause John Robarts on pages 14-16.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 13 numbered starting points for clues:

- 1: Down, 4 squares
- 2: Down, 4 squares
- 3: Down, 4 squares
- 4: Across, 7 squares
- 5: Down, 4 squares
- 6: Across, 5 squares
- 7: Down, 4 squares
- 8: Across, 6 squares
- 9: Down, 4 squares
- 10: Across, 7 squares
- 11: Across, 4 squares
- 12: Across, 5 squares
- 13: Across, 8 squares

## ACROSS

4. John Robarts always made sure he spent time with his .....
6. Everywhere he went he made people .....
8. He said ..... has a great power (begins with p).
10. The ancestors of Mr Robarts came from England and .....
11. Everyone remembers his ..... and loving ways (begins with w).
12. The first name of Mr Robarts' wife.
13. Something he started when he was six years old (a ..... round).



## DOWN

1. A game John Robarts played with the younger children.
2. The country where he was born.
3. The name of Mr Robarts' aunt who told him about the Faith.
5. The name of the wild wind that was blowing when John Robarts' grandfather was born (begins with h).
7. The continent Mr and Mrs Robarts and their children pioneered to.
9. The name of the Native American tribe the grandmother of Audrey Robarts came from.

# All Things Bright and Beautiful



*Chorus:* All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea-tures great and



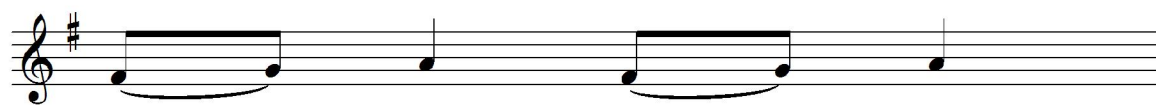
small. All things wise and won -- der --- ful, the



Lord God made them all.



*Verse:* Each litt -- le flower that o --- pens, each



li -- tt -- le bird that



sings, He made their glow -- ing



co --- lours, He made their ti -- ny wings.

*Chorus*

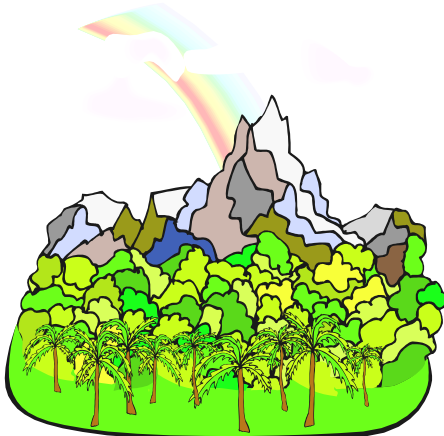
All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

*Verses:*

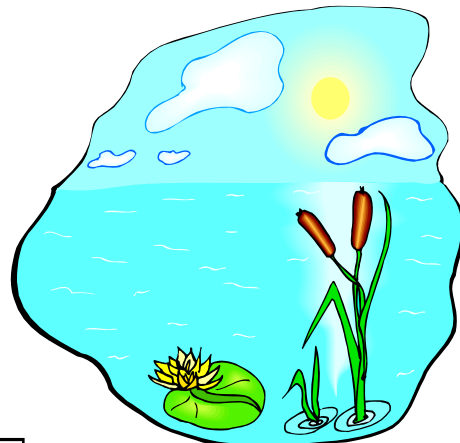
1. Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.



2. The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.
3. The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them, every one.



4. The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows for our play,  
The rushes by the water,  
To gather every day.
5. He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.



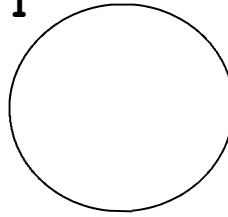
Written by Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

## Make a Special Virtue Flower

### You will need:

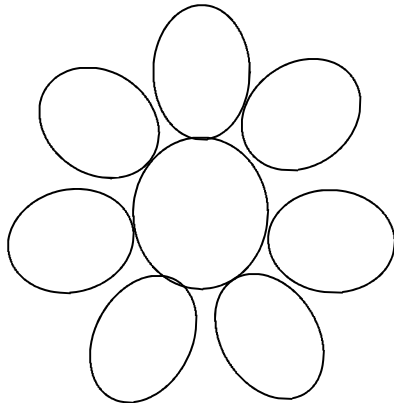
- 1 Paper and pencils
- 2 A 10p piece
- 3 Wax crayons
- 4 Felt tip pens
- 5 Scissors
- 6 A bowl of water

1



Draw round a 10p piece to make a circle on a piece of paper.

2



Draw five or six petals around the circle.

3



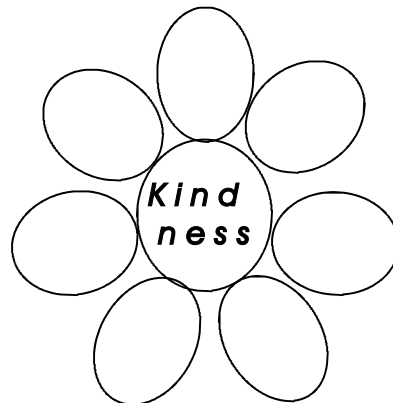
Cut out your flower. Be careful not to cut the petals off!

4



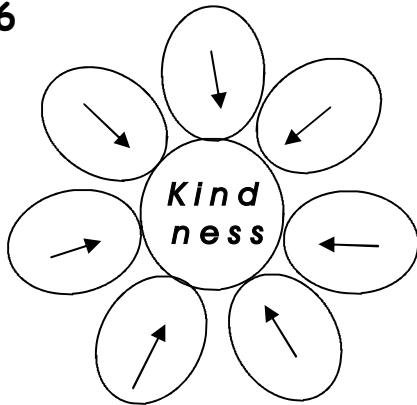
Cover the back of your flower all over with wax crayon.

5



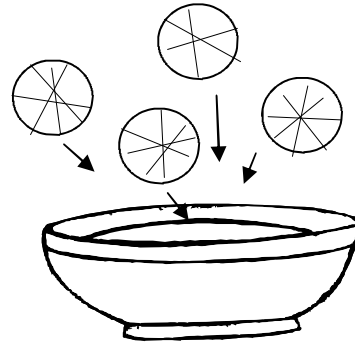
Turn the flower over. Write a virtue or a greeting on the front side with a felt tip.

6



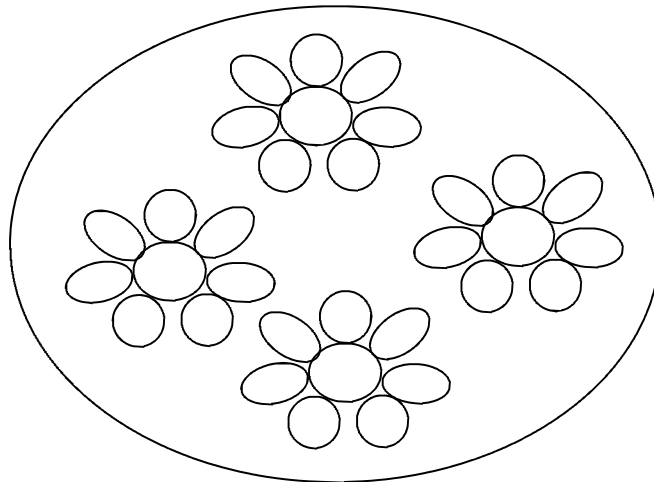
Fold all the petals over the writing and press down well.

7



Ask everyone who has made a flower to place them on the water.

8



Watch what happens!  
(The petals will magically open, very slowly,  
to reveal the virtue.)

Try experimenting: Will it work with a smaller or bigger circle?  
Will it work if you colour both sides?  
Will it still work if you colour one side with felt tip pen and the other with wax?  
Will it work with differently shaped petals?  
You could try this at a children's class, or after a prayer meeting.

# Jokes



Q. How can you cut the sea in half?

A. With a seesaw!

Q. What do you call a sad strawberry?

A. A blueberry!

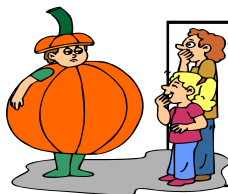


Q. What is the tallest building in a town?

A. A library because it has the most stories!

Q. What has a head and tail but no body?

A. A coin!



Q. Why was Cinderella no good at football?

A. Because she had a pumpkin as a coach!



Q. What do you get if you cross a snake with a book?

A. His(s)tory!



Q. What dinosaur could jump higher than a house?

A. All of them! A house can't jump!



Q. Why do some fish only swim in salt water?

A. Because pepper makes them sneeze!



# Your News



## Dumfries Children's Class

The children and their parents offered to make a flower and herb garden in the grounds of a local library, and they were given a little plot near

the main entrance to work in. They also made a poster illustrating the quotation “In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love” which is on a wall in the library for everyone to see.

They love to sing prayers and songs about mankind being one family, and they have been asked to sing for other groups in the town at their special festivals.

The class has children of many nationalities. It is like a spiritual garden full of kindness and love — and a lot of laughter!



Some of the children with their teacher Betty.

# Henri Matisse – Painting with Scissors

To see the patterns on the opposite page in colour, go to the *Dayspring* website: [www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk](http://www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk)

Henri Matisse was born in 1869 in a tiny cottage with a leaky roof. He grew up to be a famous painter but he did not know he could paint until, as a young man, his mother brought him some paints and art materials so that he would have something to do while he was getting better after an illness. He loved the beautiful colours so much that he knew that he wanted to be an artist.

Matisse painted, drew and created with clay and bronze, but towards the end of his life he became ill again. After an operation he had to use a wheelchair or spend long hours in bed.



He wanted to create beautiful things all around him, so instead of paints he used bright coloured paper and scissors to make big shapes and little shapes and he even used the scraps. He cut so many pieces that they covered the walls of his room. He pinned them to the wall so that he could move them around, and when the windows were open he loved to see them gently moving in the breeze.



His room looked like a garden of paper leaves, seaweed and coral. He said, "I have made a little garden all around me where I can walk. There are leaves, fruits . . . a bird . . ." The pictures are full of energy and the deep colours seem to leap before our eyes.



Matisse called his art "Painting with scissors".



### Create a paper garden like Henri Matisse did



You will need scissors and paper to cut out shapes. If you can't stick or pin them on your wall you could stick them onto a sheet of paper. To get



ideas, look at things in nature, such as leaves, shells or flowers, or just cut out different coloured shapes like squares, triangles and wavy patterns. If the shapes are strange and misshapen that will work even better!



Before you stick them down, place them on your paper and move them around until you like the way they look.



# Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers

*Stories 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: *The Báb sends a message to Mullá Husayn to rescue Quddús, who is being held as a prisoner by the religious leaders in his village. Mullá Husayn enthusiastically sets off on his mission accompanied by other Bábis. On the way they have many adventures and are attacked many times. Eventually they have to take shelter from their enemies in a shrine built for a holy man called Shaykh Tabarsi.*

## Part 30

### The Rescue of Quddús



The believers were happily sweeping and sprinkling water on the pathway leading to the shrine of Shaykh Tabarsi. They were happy because Bahá'u'lláh was coming to visit them.

As soon as Bahá'u'lláh arrived, Mullá Husayn ran towards Him and tenderly embraced Him. With reverence and love, he introduced Bahá'u'lláh to the rest of the believers in the shrine. It had now been made into a fort, and a wall had been built round it, with a moat to prevent enemies from attacking those who were sheltering inside.

Bahá'u'lláh inspected the fort to make sure the friends had everything they needed to

protect themselves, and He made suggestions for making the fort safer and more comfortable.

Before He left to go to Tihrán to buy some things the believers needed, Bahá'u'lláh said:

“The only thing this fort and company require, is the presence of Quddús.”

Mullá Husayn had been on his way to rescue Quddús when he and his companions had been attacked and found shelter in the shrine. Bahá'u'lláh told him to send seven men to the village where Quddús was being kept as a prisoner and rescue him. Bahá'u'lláh then went to Tihrán to buy the things the believers needed.

Without more delay, Mullá Husayn sent seven believers to free Quddús and bring him back to the safety of the fort.

It was night when the men returned. And as soon as Mullá Husayn knew Quddús was with them, he went out into the dark forest with one hundred of the friends to meet him. Each person held two lighted candles, one in each hand.

Mullá Husayn warmly greeted Quddús, and as they triumphantly made their way to the fort, he sang:



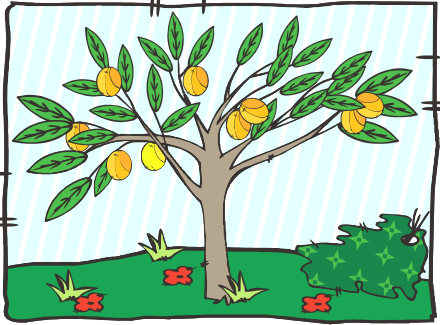
“Holy, holy, the Lord our God,  
the Lord of the angels and the spirit!”

The believers repeated the words after him until the forest was filled with the light of their candles and the joyful sound of their singing.

*(To be continued . . .)*

## The Celestial Garden

In His Book of Names (The Kitáb-i-Asmá) the Báb describes religion as



being like a garden or orchard planted by God. He says that the trees are like the teachings of God revealed through His Messengers and that they bear delicious fruit, such as Kindness,

Justice, Love and Peace. Each time a Messenger of God comes He invites everyone to live in the spiritual garden and enjoy its beauty and happiness; and each time He promises that another Messenger will come again in the future. But when a new One does come, only a few people living in the garden (which is the previous religion) recognise Him. The rest of the people always rise up against the new Messenger of God at first, and sometimes they even kill Him.

The Báb told the believers about Bahá'u'lláh, the Messenger of God Who would come after Him and unite the world in peace and justice. He told them to be pure in all things so they would be worthy to meet Him. He said they should use their eyes to see God, their tongues to speak of God, their hands to write the words of God, and their hearts to wish whatever is the wish of God.



Speaking of Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb said, "Were He to appear at this very moment, I would be the first to adore Him, and the first to bow down before Him."



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

### Lesson Twenty-Three

Bahá'u'lláh says in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas (verse 70)

**"Truly,  
the Lord loveth  
union and harmony . . ."**

The aim of all the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is to bring about unity and harmony in all things — unity in families, unity in countries, unity between the countries of the world. The example of flowers in a garden is often used in the Writings to describe how the people will one day live together in harmony and there will be no more wars.

Look at the following quotations from the Writings. What do you think they mean?

- (1) "Thou hast invited the wandering birds to the rose garden of grace"
- (2) "In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love"
- (3) "make me a flower"
- (4) "He will send unto you sweet perfumes from the highest Paradise"

Could "the wandering birds" mean people who are looking for a place where people are kind and love one another? Where do you think that place is? Could a "rose of love" be a good thought or deed? What does "make me a flower" mean? And what are "sweet perfumes from Paradise"? If you are not sure, ask other people what they think. Choose one of the quotations and paint or draw a picture about it.

It would be lovely if you could send a copy of your artwork to *Dayspring* by email or post and say a little about yourselves.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Abdu's-Sālih, the Gardener

by 'Abdu'l-Bahā

"Among those . . . in the Most Great Prison was Áqá Abdu's-Sālih. This excellent soul, a child of early believers, came from Isfahán [in Persia]. His noble-hearted father died, and this child grew up an orphan. There was none to rear or care for him and he was the prey of anyone who chose to do him harm. At last he became adolescent, and older now, sought out his Well-Beloved [Bahá'u'lláh]. He emigrated to the Most Great Prison and here, at the Ridván, achieved the honour of being appointed gardener. At this task he was second to none. In his faith, too, he was staunch, loyal, worthy of trust; as to his character, he was an embodiment of the sacred verse, 'Of a noble nature art thou.' That is how he won the distinction of being gardener at the Ridván, and of thus receiving the greatest bounty of all: almost daily, he entered the presence of Bahá'u'lláh . . .

He was humble in the presence of every one of the believers; in all that time he never hurt nor offended anyone . . .

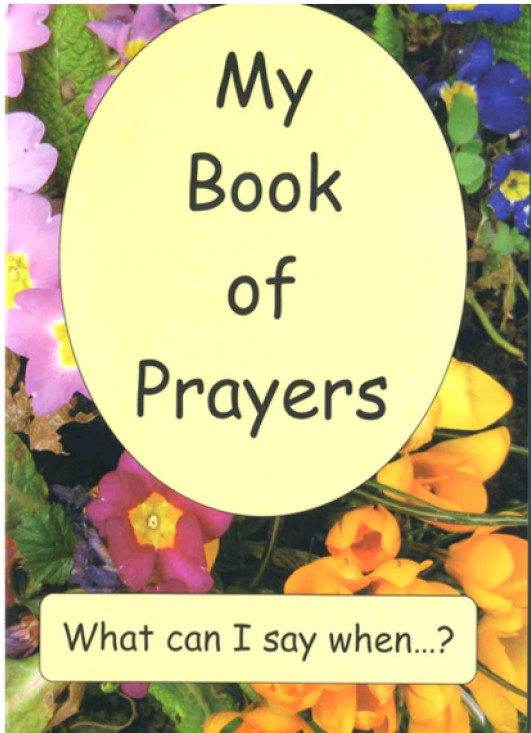
Upon him be the glory of the All-Glorious! Upon him be God's gentleness and favour in the Exalted Realm."

The fountain in the Ridván Garden near 'Akká, where Abdu's-Sālih was a gardener. Bahá'u'lláh used to sit beneath the trees on the benches seen in this photo.



Bahá'u'lláh said:  
"... We ... entered the Garden. Every tree uttered a word, and every leaf sang a melody."

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