

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Dayspring Bahá'í Magazine for Children

A special issue for
the centenary of the
Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



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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*Meeting
'Abdu'l-Bahá*

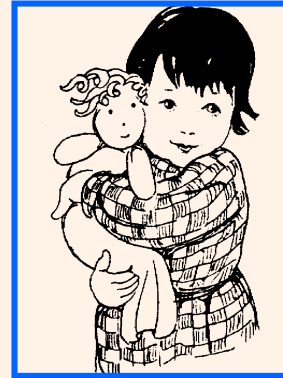


"I wished only to look and look at
the beauty of His face! . . .
the wonderful silver of hair and beard,
and the blue of His eyes.
The side face majestic and sweet and loving."

(From *In His Presence: Visits to 'Abdu'l-Bahá* by Genevieve L. Coy)

"One of the children, a small girl, went straight to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He embraced her, gave her some candy and held her in His arms The child sang 'Abdu'l-Bahá a Christmas carol before telling Him about her doll and horses and cars and elephants. . . ."

(From *Lady Blomfield: Her Life and Times* by Robert Weinberg)

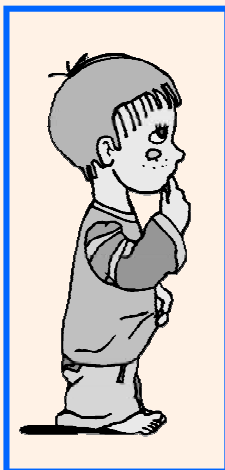


"He urged me to speak, saying I should tell Him all that was in my heart; that I must always be sure that my joys were His joys, and my sorrows, His sorrows."

(From *Portals to Freedom* by Howard Colby Ives)

"I dreamed I was running behind 'Abdu'l-Bahá, trying to walk in His footsteps. He turned and smiled and said it was difficult to walk in His footsteps and be like Him, but He wanted me to try."

(A pilgrim's dream)

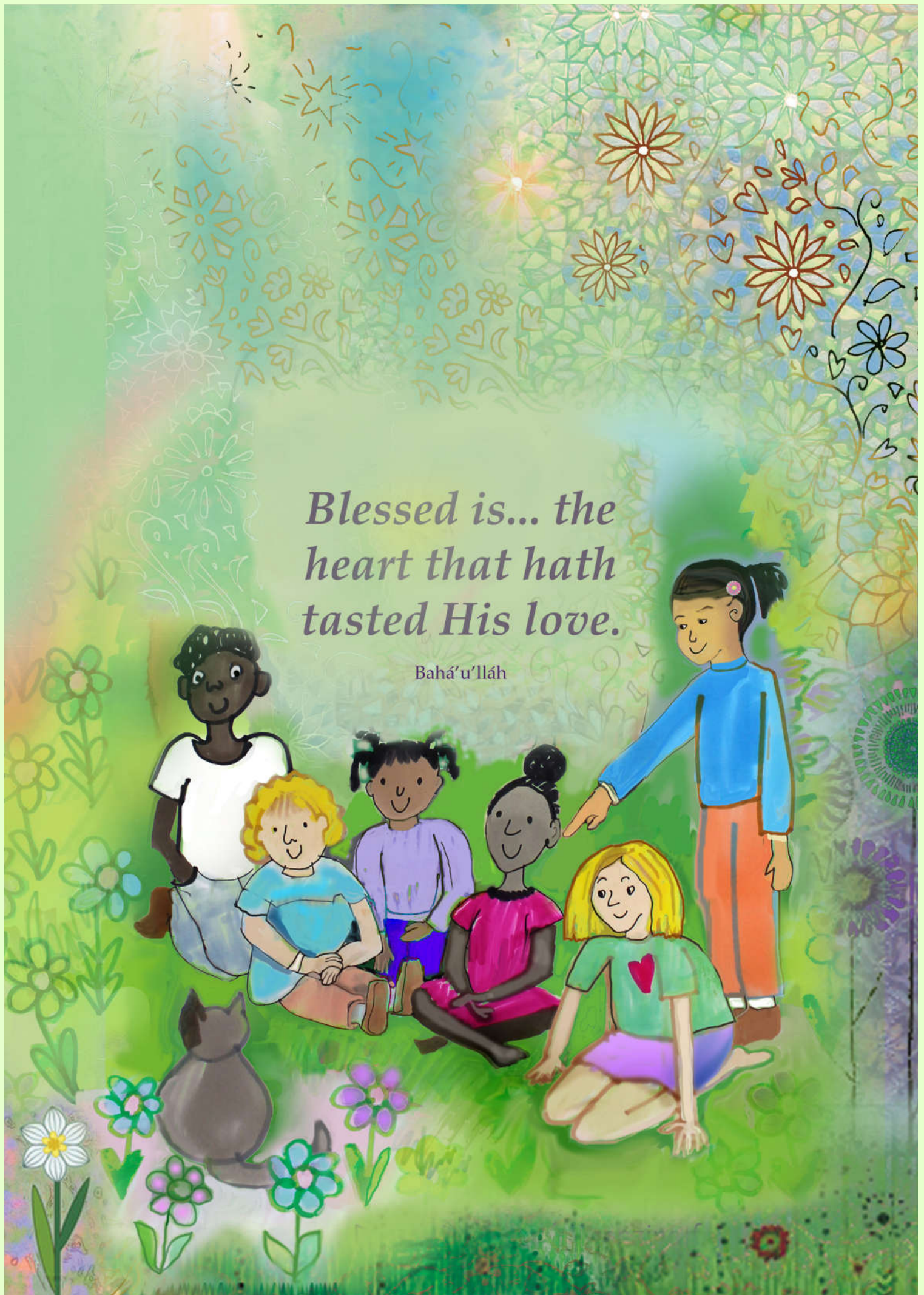


" 'Abdu'l-Bahá sat in the window in the afternoon sunshine, His arm round a very ragged but very happy little boy, who had come to Him for sixpence for his money box and for his invalid mother. . . ."

(From *'Abdu'l-Bahá in London*)

*Blessed is... the
heart that hath
tasted His love.*

Bahá'u'lláh



'Abdu'l-Bahá is Born

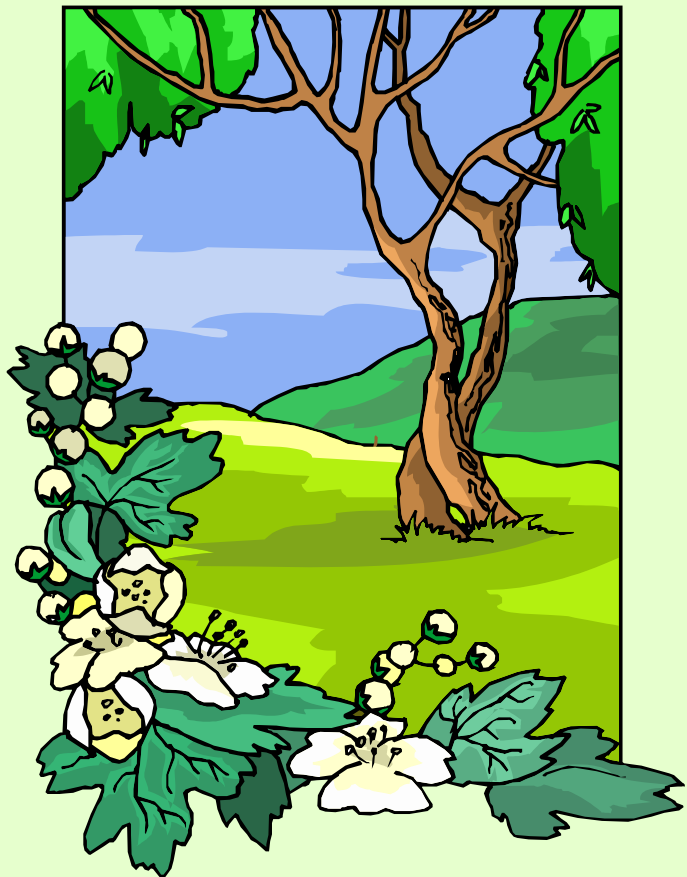
It was a warm and sunny day in May and the garden was full of flowers. Birds swooped down to drink the clear water in the pool, feeling safe in this lovely garden where no one would harm them.

Inside the house servants were busy making the meal and visitors sat in comfortable chairs drinking lemonade and eating delicious fruit. This was a house where everyone was welcomed and no one was ever turned away.

The day came to an end. Birds chirped busily as they settled down in their nests. The people in the house finished their work and chanted their prayers to thank God for all the good things that had happened during the day.

But the best thing of all was yet to happen. As the clock struck midnight, a perfect baby boy was born in that happy home. His mother was the beautiful Navváb, and His Father was His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh.

The baby was given the name of His grandfather: 'Abbás. But soon Bahá'u'lláh called His Son by a very special name - a name which He did not give to any of His other children. He called 'Abbás the Master. Many years later, people all over the world would know Him as 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



A Festival



Among the mountains and valleys in the north of Persia many flocks of sheep and goats grazed. Some of these belonged to 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Father, Bahá'u'lláh. To make sure that everything was going well and the shepherds who looked after them were well and happy, Bahá'u'lláh employed a man called Rahím to visit them from time to time.

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was about seven years old, Rahím offered to take Him to visit these shepherds when they

were holding a celebration. He asked 'Abdu'l-Bahá's mother for permission to take Him and she said yes.

They rode through the wild countryside until they came to the foot of a mountain. They followed a narrow path that zigzagged up the mountain until they came to a large grassy area where the festival was being held.

Over eighty shepherds came forward to welcome 'Abdu'l-Bahá. They knew He was the Son of Bahá'u'lláh, Whom they loved very much. To His surprise, they all saluted Him!

'Abdu'l-Bahá gazed at the wonderful sight before Him. There were thousands of sheep as well as cows and goats, not just those belonging to His Father, but belonging to other people too. All the shepherds in the area had come together for the festival. There were bonfires and the appetizing

smell of cooking. Children were playing games and dancing, and the shepherds and their wives were dressed in their best clothes.

The shepherds and their families sang and danced round the fires all morning until the food was cooked and everyone had a great feast together.

When it was time for 'Abdu'l-Bahá to return home, the shepherds gathered round to say goodbye. Rahím told 'Abdu'l-Bahá that they were expecting a gift. Whenever Bahá'u'lláh visited them, He always gave them something, and they were expecting His Son to do the same.

But 'Abdu'l-Bahá had not brought anything with Him to give! Then He had an idea. He gave to each shepherd some of the sheep from Bahá'u'lláh's flock to keep for themselves!

The shepherds were very happy. And when Bahá'u'lláh heard what had happened He was very happy too because 'Abdu'l-Bahá had been so generous. He laughed and said that we must appoint a guardian to protect 'Abdu'l-Bahá, else, some day, He may give Himself away!

'Abdu'l-Bahá was always . . . what??

A word search puzzle featuring a grid of empty boxes and scattered letters. The letters are: G, N, D, K, O, S, E, R, A, I, U. The letters are connected by colorful lines, forming the word 'GENEROUS'.

He Gave Himself Away

All His life, every moment of every day,
'Abdu'l-Bahá gave His possessions away.

And with every present, His love went along,
His dearest desire was to right every wrong.
Give food to the sick, pay for doctors and pills,
He'd visit and bathe them, whatever their ills.

He'd offer His bed, or trousers or cloak,
To bring comfort and warmth to some very poor folk.
When people had problems that needed the law,
He paid for a lawyer for justice for all.

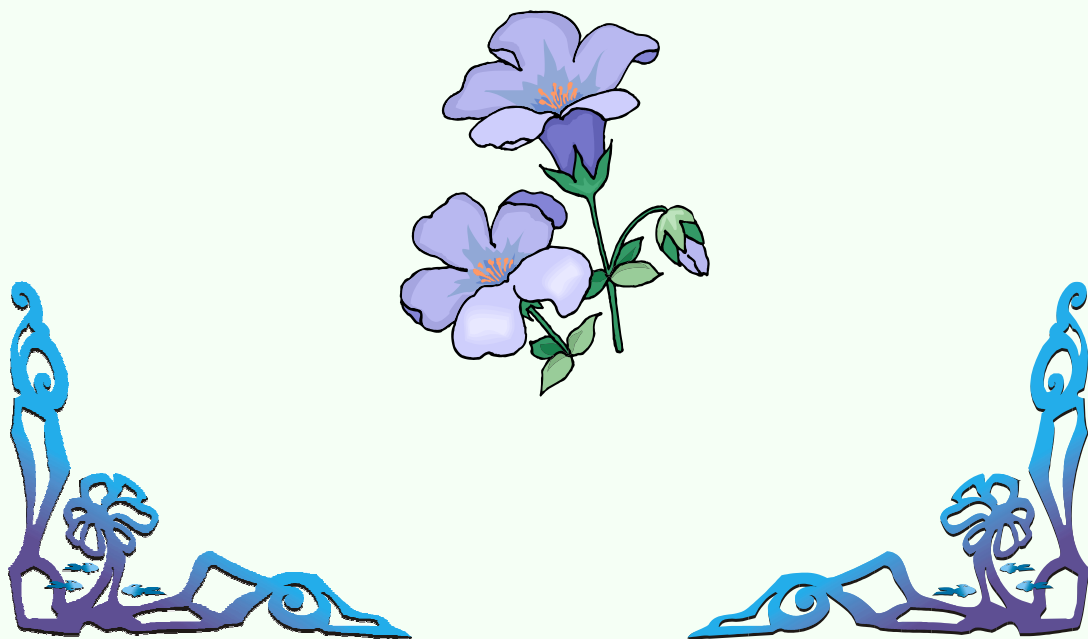
Sometimes, when His family had started to eat,
He would hear of some people with no rice or meat.
His heart would be saddened, and up He would stand
And would take them some food with His very own hand.



He handed out money to help those in need,
Prevented starvation by giving out seed
To be planted and nurtured and grown into corn.
No need was too small. He helped all the forlorn.

To serve the Bahá'ís, He would stay up to write
And to pray for their efforts far into the night.
It isn't so strange, then, at seventy seven,
'Abdu'l-Bahá rose to His father in heaven.

Because every moment of every day
'Abdu'l-Bahá just gave Himself all away.



In Baghdád

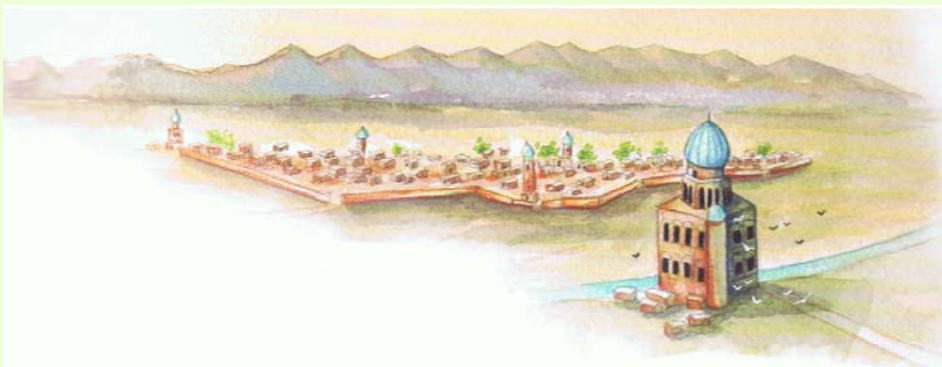
One day, when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was eight years old, Bahá'u'lláh was sent far way from Persia to live in another land. His Family went with Him, travelling for months on horse-back and mules through the snow-covered mountains until they reached the town of Baghdád in the land of Iraq.



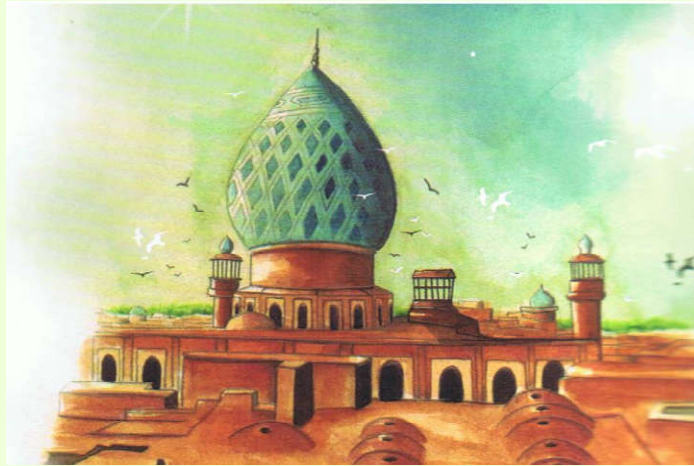
Not long after they arrived, Bahá'u'lláh left to spend two years praying to God in the mountains of Kurdistán. 'Abdul-Bahá missed Him very much and prayed every day for His return. While He waited He spent His time reading the Holy Writings and copying out the prayers of the Báb, for there were not many printed books in those days and the Bahá'í Writings had to be written out by hand. He would also go for long rides into the peaceful countryside.

One day, after 'Abdu'l-Bahá had prayed all night for Bahá'u'lláh to return, all His sadness suddenly vanished. He became very happy and knew in His heart that Bahá'u'lláh was on His way home.

"At last! At last!" said 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister, Bahíyyih Khánum, when they heard a step and Bahá'u'lláh came into the room. Later, she said, "I can see now my beloved mother, calm and gentle, and my brother holding His Father's hand fast, as though never again could He let Him go out of his sight. . . . I will never forget this scene, so touching and so happy."



After Bahá'u'lláh returned from the mountains of Kurdistán, His fame spread far and wide and many people came to see Him to ask for His help and advice. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was also deeply respected because of His kindness and how polite He was to everyone.



'Abdu'l-Bahá enjoyed talking about God with the wise men at the mosque, and they enjoyed talking to Him, too. They were astonished at His deep understanding for one so young. One day they asked Him, "Who is your teacher? Where do you learn the things that you say?"

'Abdu'l-Bahá replied, "My Father has taught me."

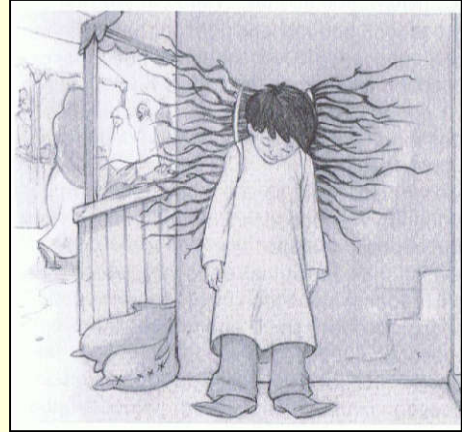
There was a very special understanding and love between Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. When He was still a child, 'Abdu'l-Bahá knew that Bahá'u'lláh was a Manifestation of God, long before most other people knew. He said:

*"In Baghdád I was a child ... and I believed in Him.
As soon as He proclaimed the Word,
I threw myself at His feet."*

Later, in a beautiful garden called Riḍván (Paradise), Bahá'u'lláh also told other believers that He was the Manifestation of God Whom the Báb and all the Prophets of the past had promised would come to bring peace to the world.

The Thorn-Picker

A desert boy was standing on the corner of the street in Baghdád. He was leaning against the wall and his eyes were closed. On his back was a large bundle of thorns. He had been walking all night to come to market and sell them. He was so tired that when he stopped walking he fell asleep standing up.



People used to buy the thorns to burn on their fires. The bakers burnt them in their stoves when they made bread. The nomads in the desert sometimes used them to make a fence to surround their tents. Then, when it became too hot in the middle of the day, they would pour water over the fence of thorns. As the hot desert wind blew through the wet thorns it made a cool and pleasant breeze.

The thorns grew in the desert and they were very difficult to pick because they were prickly. Nobody paid much money for them and all the thorn-pickers were poor.

One day, when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was living in Baghdád, He was invited to the home of one of these poor thorn-pickers. It was a very hot day and everyone was inside their houses, sheltering from the sun. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá did not want to disappoint the thorn-picker by not going, and He set off for the long walk into the desert. 'Abdu'l-Bahá walked for many miles over the scorching desert sand until He came to a small hut, where the thorn-picker and his family lived. They were very happy to see Him.












Although the family had very little food, his wife began to bake a cake for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. She became so excited at having a visitor that she left the cake in the oven too long and it burnt. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá did not mind. He knew that she had tried her best to make Him welcome.





At the end of the day, 'Abdu'l-Bahá walked the many miles back to Baghdád.

'Abdu'l-Bahá never minded whether a person was rich or poor. To Him it did not matter if they lived in a castle or a hut. What was important was that their hearts were pure. The poor thorn-picker and his wife had pure hearts. That is why 'Abdu'l-Bahá enjoyed being with them.

Can you work out this message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá?


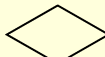





8	1						

6	5	1					2	5	3		8	5

3	7	5	1			1	9	4					5

* * * * *

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	B	C	D	E	H	L	M

9							
N	O	P	R	S	T	U	Y

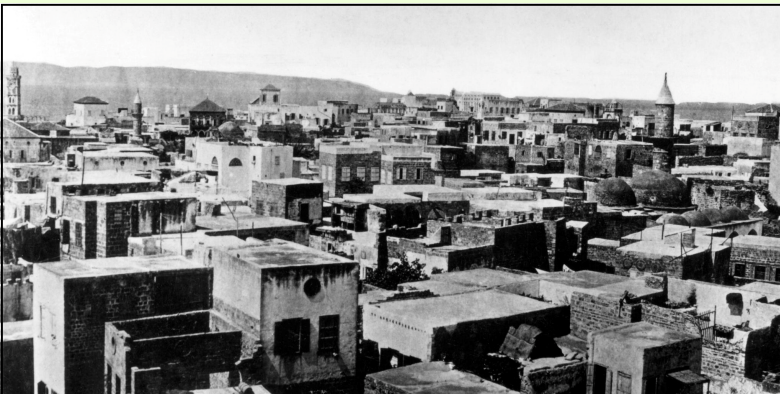
Poor People in 'Akká

'Abdu'l-Bahá lived for ten years in Baghdád. Then one day the Holy Family were sent further and further away, until they eventually arrived by boat in the prison-city of 'Akká.

There were many poor people in 'Akká, and from early morning until late at night 'Abdu'l-Bahá was out and about helping them with their troubles. He would clean their rooms and take them food if they were ill and had nobody else to help them. At other times He would send a doctor with medicine. And if they were unjustly accused of doing something wrong, He would go with them to the court to make sure they were treated fairly.

Every Friday men, women and children would gather in the courtyard of His house, waiting to see Him. As many as 100 came. Some were blind, some were ill, and all of them were hungry. 'Abdu'l-Bahá knew and loved each one. And they loved Him, too.

He would lovingly encourage them, saying, "Well done! Well done!" and put a few coins in their hands so they could buy food for themselves and their families. And in winter He would buy them warm cloaks to wear so they would not be cold. With His own hands He would gently adjust the cloaks round their frail, thin shoulders to make sure they fitted comfortably.



The Prison-city of 'Akká

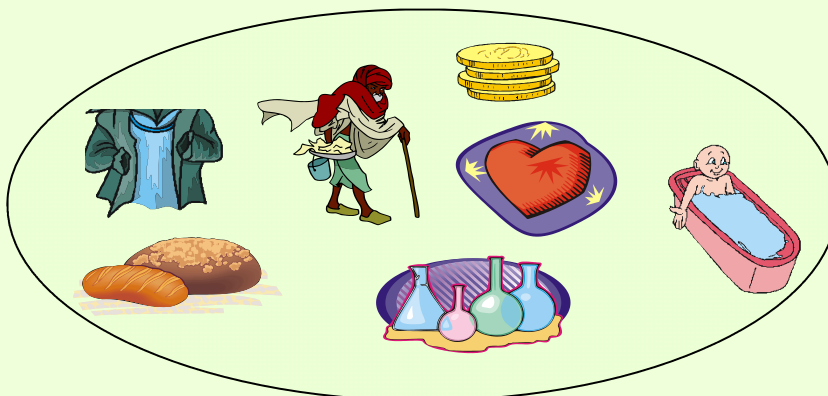
Sometimes it would take hours to get to the end of the line because everyone wanted to hold 'Abdu'l-Bahá's hands and not let go!

There were also other poor people who needed help but were too shy and embarrassed to ask. 'Abdu'l-Bahá would secretly send them bread, too, and nobody else ever knew.

These are some of the things that 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave to the poor people.
Can you find them in the grid?

HOPE	COMFORT	LOVE	VISITS	FOOD
CLOAKS	MEDICINE	MONEY	JUSTICE	CARING

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



The Delightful Garden

The Bahá'ís were very excited because they were going on a picnic with Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh was riding His white donkey, which was called Thunder, although it was really very quiet and gentle. One of the friends walked by Bahá'u'lláh's side, holding a large umbrella to shade Him from the sun as they travelled slowly along until they came to a beautiful garden called Junaynih, which was full of red flowers.

Bahá'u'lláh chanted prayers and the love of God seemed to fill the garden. It made the flowers smell even more sweetly, and the hearts of the friends became tender and happy.

Bahá'u'lláh was also happy, but He wished that 'Abdu'l-Bahá could have been there to enjoy the picnic with them. He knew that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was busy discussing important matters with some of the town officials in 'Akká, and also looking after many of the poor and sick people who lived there.



Later that day, after everyone had eaten their lunch and was resting among the trees and flowers, to Bahá'u'lláh's delight He saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the distance, walking towards the garden.

"The Master ['Abdu'l-Bahá] is coming!" called Bahá'u'lláh, and He told the friends to hurry to meet Him.

They jumped to their feet and ran over the fields to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and walked with Him back to the garden, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá humbly entered the presence of Bahá'u'lláh, and Bahá'u'lláh lovingly welcomed Him.

"Now, with the presence of the Master, the garden has become truly most delightful," said Bahá'u'lláh.

These are foods they might have had at the picnic.
Draw lines to connect them with their names.



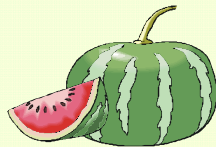
juice

cake

melon



bread



tea

bananas

cheese

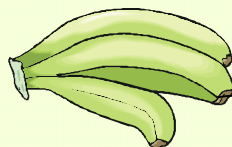
apple



tomatoes



eggs



grapes

pears



The Wedding of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



The wedding of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Munírih Khánum in the prison-city of 'Akká was very simple and very beautiful. Instead of having hundreds of guests dressed in fine clothes, and dish after dish of rich food to eat, their wedding was quite different. It was simple in every way. Munírih wore a dainty white dress that had been made by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's mother and sister. There were only a few guests, and instead of having a great feast after the wedding, there were cups of tea.

What made this wedding so very, very wonderful was because it was blessed by Bahá'u'lláh Himself.

Before they were married, Bahá'u'lláh spoke these loving words to Munírih:

*"Oh Munírih! Oh my Leaf!
I have destined for you to be the wife
of My Greatest Branch ['Abdu'l-Bahá].
This is the bounty of God to you.
In earth and heaven there is no greater gift
Oh Munírih! Be worthy of Him and of
Our generosity to you."*

And Munírih Khánum

Munírih said after the wedding:

*" . . .the glory and beauty of love and happiness were beyond
and above all luxury and ceremony"*

No fine clothes or beautiful decorations could ever have made such a wonderful wedding, and Munírih said that the simple white dress she wore that day, and which was made for her by the Greatest Holy Leaf,

"was more precious than all the silks and brocades of paradise."

Later, when speaking of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Munírih Khanum said:

*"I recognized His greatness, and thanked God
for bringing Him to me"*

How wonderful and noble He was. . . .

With His unfailing love,

His kindness,

His cheerfulness,

His sense of humour,

His untiring consideration

for everybody,

He was marvellous, without equal,

surely in all the earth!"



My Home is the Home of Joy

One day a man came to the house of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. A little while later another man came and 'Abdu'l-Bahá warmly welcomed him as well. But when the two men saw each other they frowned and were not pleased at all. The problem was that they had had a quarrel about something and couldn't bear to be in the same room as each other.



'Abdu'l-Bahá told them funny stories to cheer them up but they refused to laugh. However, He was very patient. He told them more and more stories and eventually they began to smile. 'Abdu'l-Bahá looked at them with love in His eyes, and said:

"My home is the home of joy and delight.
My home is the home of laughter and exultation.
Whosoever enters through the portals of this home,
must go out with gladsome heart.

This is the home of light;
whosoever enters here must become illumined.

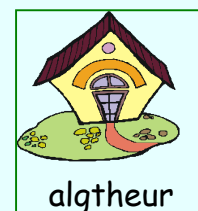
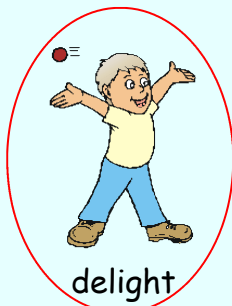
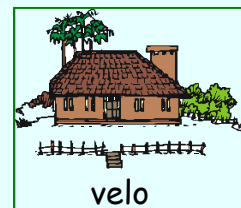
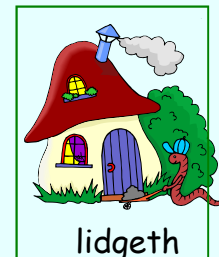
This is the home of knowledge:
the one who enters it must receive knowledge.

This is the home of love:
those who come in must learn the lessons of love;
thus may they know how to love each other."

The two men listened carefully to the loving words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and their hearts became filled with love. He gave them gifts of sweets and silk handkerchiefs, and by the time they left they were laughing and had become friends.

They said to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "God directed our steps to your home this morning."

Can you draw a path from each of these people to their homes?



Bahá'u'lláh appoints 'Abdu'l-Bahá 'Centre of the Covenant'

Bahá'u'lláh had not been well and He knew that it was time for His soul to leave this earth and return to the spiritual worlds of God. He sent for 'Abdu'l-Bahá and 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister, the Greatest Holy Leaf, to tell them. A few days later, the rest of the friends gathered at His bedside.

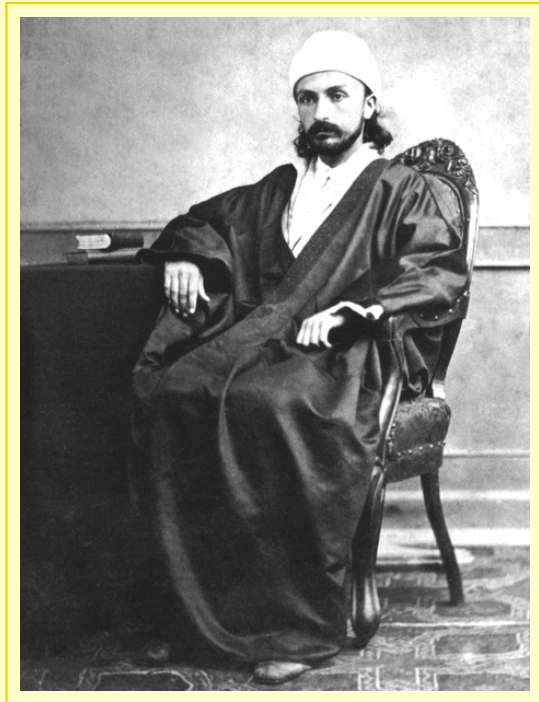
"I am pleased with you all," said Bahá'u'lláh, and tenderly told them how much He loved them. He said that He prayed that God would help each one to teach the Cause and always to remain united. One of the friends began to cry and Bahá'u'lláh beckoned him to come closer. He gently wiped away his tears and lovingly smiled and comforted him. A few days later, Bahá'u'lláh passed away.

After the funeral, Bahá'u'lláh's Will was read. In His Will, Bahá'u'lláh said that when He died we should turn to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, for He was now the Head of the Bahá'í Faith. If we love and obey 'Abdu'l-Bahá, promised Bahá'u'lláh, we will always be happy and united.

He said if we turn to 'Abdu'l-Bahá the Bahá'í Faith will never be divided and we will always know the right thing to do. This is because just as the Light of God shines in Bahá'u'lláh so the Light of Bahá'u'lláh shines in 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



Bahá'u'lláh called 'Abdu'l-Bahá "The Master", "the Mystery of God", and "the Centre of the Covenant". 'Abdu'l-Bahá understood all the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh in a way nobody else could, and there has never been anyone like Him before. He is not a Manifestation of God, but He is the most perfect Bahá'í, and a wonderful example for us to follow.



*"Render thanks
unto God, O people,
for His appearance"*

Bahá'u'lláh



Bahá'u'lláh had special names for His special Son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá

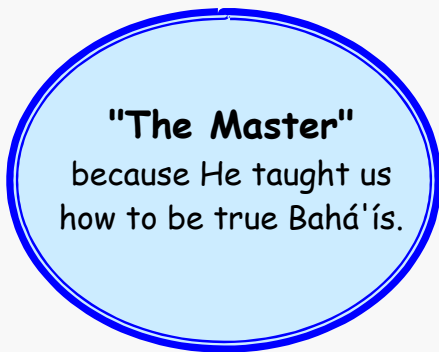
"The Apple of Mine eye"

which means that He loved Him very, very much.



"The Mystery of God"

because there has never been anyone quite like 'Abdu'l-Bahá before and no one can understand completely how wonderful He is.



"The Master"

because He taught us how to be true Bahá'ís.



"The Centre of the Covenant"

because He understood all the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, and to obey 'Abdu'l-Bahá is the same as obeying Bahá'u'lláh.



"The Most Great Branch"

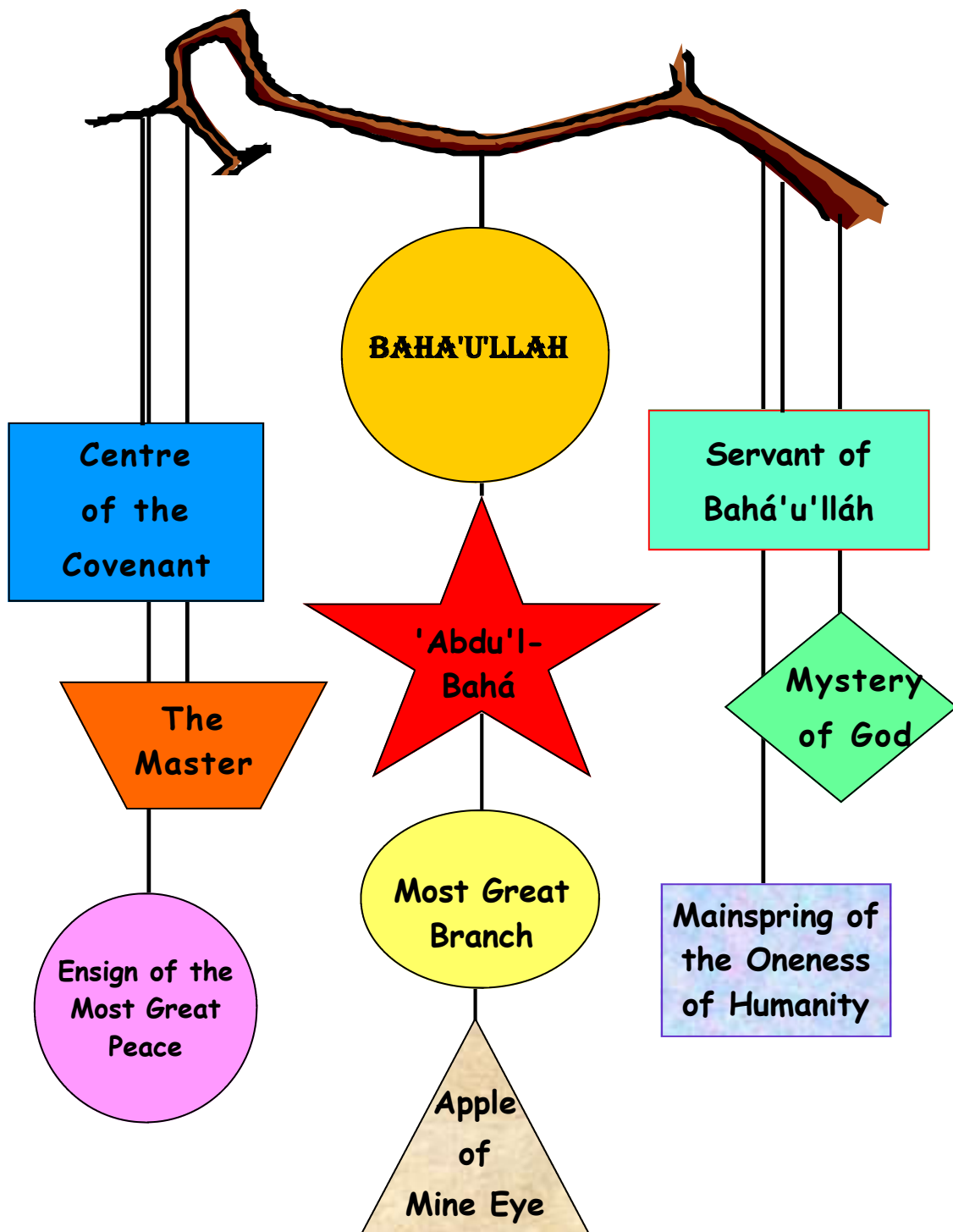
because He was the most important member of the Family of Bahá'u'lláh, and like a strong and mighty Branch growing from the Tree of the Religion of God.



'Abdu'l-Bahá called Himself "'Abdu'l-Bahá" which means **"Servant of Bahá'u'lláh"**.

Make a Mobile

Cut out different shapes of card and write a name or title of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on each. Use lots of colours to make it eye-catching!
And colour both sides. Place Bahá'u'lláh at the top.
Find a strong twig that you can hang everything from.



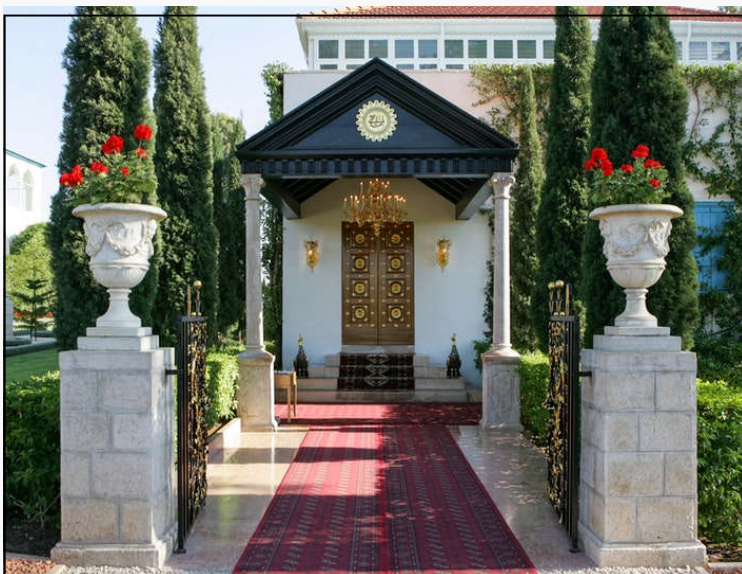
The Silk Rug

A pilgrim arrived in Haifa with a gift for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It was a beautiful rug with a pattern of a rose garden on it. It was woven with silver and gold silk thread.



The generous pilgrim asked that the rug be spread at the entrance to the pilgrim house so that 'Abdu'l-Bahá would walk on it when He came in. But when 'Abdu'l-Bahá saw the precious rug on the floor, He said it was far too valuable to be walked on. There was only one place for such a lovely rug, He said.

Several days later, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the pilgrims travelled by train to 'Akká. From there, 'Abdu'l-Bahá rode a white donkey for the short distance to Bahjí, where the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh is. The friends sang as they walked along behind 'Abdu'l-Bahá and His donkey.



The Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh

When they reached Bahjí, they became quiet. They said prayers, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá reverently placed the beautiful rug in the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Sick Man

A man who lived in the same street as 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 'Akká became very ill. His family did not go into his bedroom to help him, and even his friends stayed away. A servant left food just inside the door and the man hardly had the strength to reach it.

Through the window in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's house, His sister saw what was happening and told 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He went at once to the sick man's house and did everything He could to help him. He took tasty treats for him to eat, and read him stories to cheer him up. 'Abdu'l-Bahá sat and kept him company for hours and hours so that he would not be lonely.

The man eventually became very weak and there was nothing the doctor could do to cure him, but 'Abdu'l-Bahá continued to visit him every day. And when he died, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was with him.

A picture of a street in 'Akká at the time 'Abdu'l-Bahá lived there.



The Hurt Heart

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was allowed to leave the prison-city of 'Akká, He went to visit people in the West. When He arrived in London, people flocked to see Him from early morning until late at night. One day a lady knocked at the door and asked to see Him, but there were so many people already waiting, one of the friends told her He was too busy. The lady turned away feeling sad and disappointed.



'Abdu'l-Bahá was upstairs in the living room of the flat and had not seen the lady arrive. But He suddenly felt something was wrong. Leaving His visitors, He went into the hall and said:

"A heart has been hurt. Hasten, hasten, bring her to me."

One of the Bahá'ís hurried down the stairs to the front door, calling to the lady to come back as 'Abdu'l-Bahá was asking for her.

"with tenderness
rejoice and cheer . . .
every heart."
'Abdu'l-Bahá

A Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá



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The Face in the Newspaper



A homeless man was sleeping on the banks of the River Thames outside London. He had no home to go to. Once he had lived a comfortable life. He was well educated and his father was a clergyman in the Church. But things had gone wrong in his life, and now he was poor and alone and unhappy.

The man woke up, feeling cold and hungry. He walked down the street and passed a newspaper shop. It was then that he saw the Face! It was a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a newspaper. It seemed to the man that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was looking straight at him and knew how unhappy he was.

The newspaper article said that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was staying at a house in London, and gave the address, which was thirty miles away. Although it took all day, the man walked until he came to the house where 'Abdu'l-Bahá was staying.

When he arrived, the lady who owned the house invited him in and gave him something to eat. When he had rested, he told her about his sad life and then how he had seen the photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

"He seemed to speak to me, and call me to Him," said the man. "Tell me, is He here? Will He see me? Even me?"

"Of course He will see you!" said the lady. And at that moment 'Abdu'l-Bahá opened the door and came into the room. He stretched out His hands to the man.

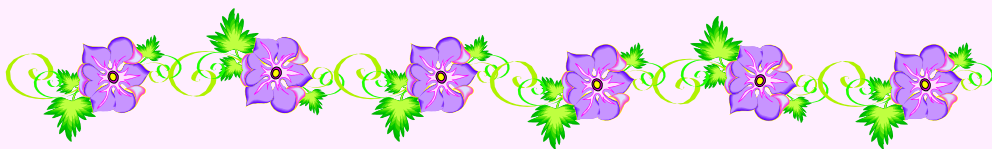
"Welcome! Most welcome!" said 'Abdu'l-Bahá. "I am very much pleased that you have come. Be seated."

The man hung his head and trembled as he sat down. 'Abdu'l-Bahá held his hand and patted his tangled hair.

"Be happy! Be happy!" said 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and told him not to be sad because he was poor. "You can be rich in the Kingdom of God," 'Abdu'l-Bahá told him with a smile.

'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke with him for a long time, and the man realised he had been wasting his life. He decided he would not beg any more but find work on a farm. He said that when he had saved a little money he would grow violets and sell them in the market.

By the time he left 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the man was feeling very happy. He knew that God loved him and wanted him to do something worthwhile with his life.



"Work done in the spirit of service is worship."

'Abdu'l-Bahá's Grandchild



It was early in the morning and 'Abdu'l-Bahá was sitting by the window writing letters. A samovar bubbled away in the corner and a young girl was busy making tea. 'Abdu'l-Bahá put down His pen and asked one of the Bahá'ís to chant a prayer.

She had just finished when a little boy appeared in the doorway. He was 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson, Shoghi Effendi. He took off his shoes and quietly came into the room.

Shoghi Effendi did not look at the other people in the room. He looked straight at 'Abdu'l-Bahá. 'Abdu'l-Bahá looked back at Shoghi Effendi, and His eyes were full of love.

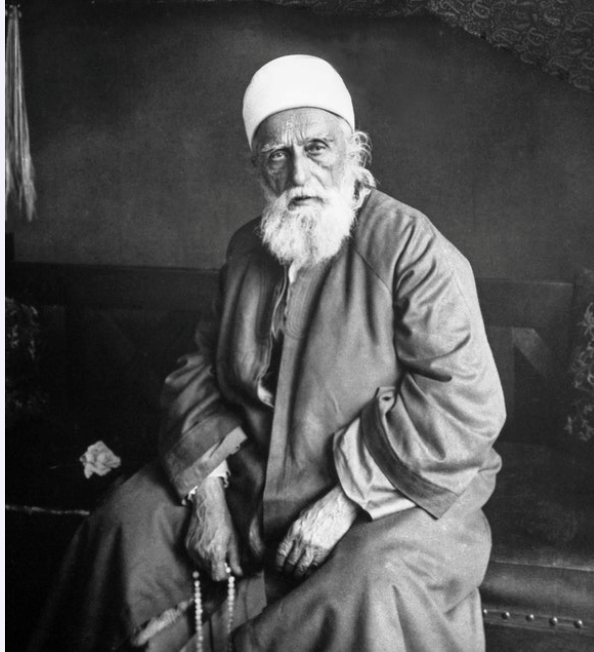
The small boy walked slowly towards 'Abdu'l-Bahá and stood in front of Him. Still looking at 'Abdu'l-Bahá, he reached down and picked up the hem of his Grandfather's robe. He lifted it to his forehead and kissed it, and gently put it down again.

'Abdu'l-Bahá nodded and smiled. There was no need for words. Shoghi Effendi knew how much 'Abdu'l-Bahá loved him. He turned and ran happily out of the room to play.

When Shoghi Effendi grew up he became the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith.



The Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá



One day 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "I have finished my work. I can do nothing more. Therefore must I leave it"

The next day He got up early in the morning. He was feeling cold, so He put on a coat that had belonged to Bahá'u'lláh. Later, He went back to bed with the coat spread over Him to keep Him warm.

All that day He continued to feel ill, but by midnight He felt a little better, and the following morning He was able to get up for a while. In the afternoon, all the Bahá'í friends went to the Shrine of the Báb to pray. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá could not go. He was not well enough to walk up the mountain. When they returned to the house, they told Him how much they had missed Him. 'Abdu'l-Bahá smiled and said:

"But I was there. Though my body was absent, my spirit was there."

That night two of His daughters sat by His bed in case He needed anything. For a while, one of the pilgrims joined them. 'Abdu'l-Bahá looked very peaceful and they thought He was asleep. But beloved 'Abdu'l-Bahá had died. His soul was now with the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh in the Abhá Kingdom.

Ten thousand people came to His funeral - the Mayor of Haifa and important people from the government; religious leaders of the Muslims, Christians and Jews; the rich and the poor, men, women and children. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had loved them all, and they were all sad because He was no longer with them.

Near the front of the funeral procession, Christian and Muslim Boy Scouts marched together, holding a banner above their heads. They were followed by a choir chanting prayers, and the sky was full of the beautiful sound of their voices.

It took two hours for the funeral procession to slowly make its way up the mountain to the Shrine of the Báb. Here, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was lovingly buried in one of the rooms in the Shrine.

Everyone felt they had lost their dearest friend because 'Abdu'l-Bahá had always been there to help them; and they felt they had lost their Father because He had always looked after them.

"Thou hast been good to us!" cried one of the Christians who lived in the town. "Thou hast shown loving-kindness to the people."

* * *

But the world had not really lost 'Abdu'l-Bahá. He said that His spirit would always be with us even when His body was no longer here. And when He left this world He gave us a beautiful gift.

This gift was His grandson Shoghi Effendi.

'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote in His Will that Shoghi Effendi was the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, and whatever the Guardian told us to do was what God wanted us to do as well. For thirty-six years the beloved Guardian took care of us. And when he died, the Universal House of Justice was elected to look after us and all the people in the world.



Forty days after the funeral, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's family held a feast in His memory. Long tables were laden with food and decorated with purple bougainvillea and white narcissus and large dishes of golden oranges from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's garden. Hundreds of people were invited from different religions and different countries. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had loved them all. He was the "Servant of Bahá'u'lláh", the "Centre of the Covenant", a "shelter for all mankind". And He was an example for us all to follow.

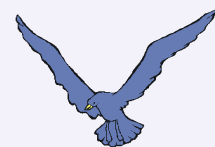
When we remember how 'Abdu'l-Bahá loved us, we want so much to do something for Him. And there is something we can do that will make Him very happy. He said:

*"How My heart leaps with joy
when I hear the friends love each other,
always overlooking one another's small mistakes;
and that they are forgiving their enemies!"*


New Dawn

*A poem by Afsaneh Hamidi (age 10)
inspired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá*

His spirit soaring high
Spreading joy on earth and sky
Sharing love everywhere
Always showing lots of care.
His words, kind and true,
He is there for me and you.
No-one's ever really gone
He is here all along.
Like a bird in the sky
May His spirit soar sky high.



Can you work out this message
about 'Abdu'l-Bahá?

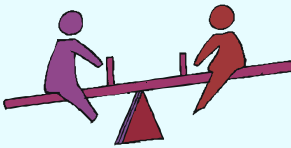
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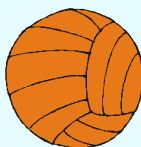
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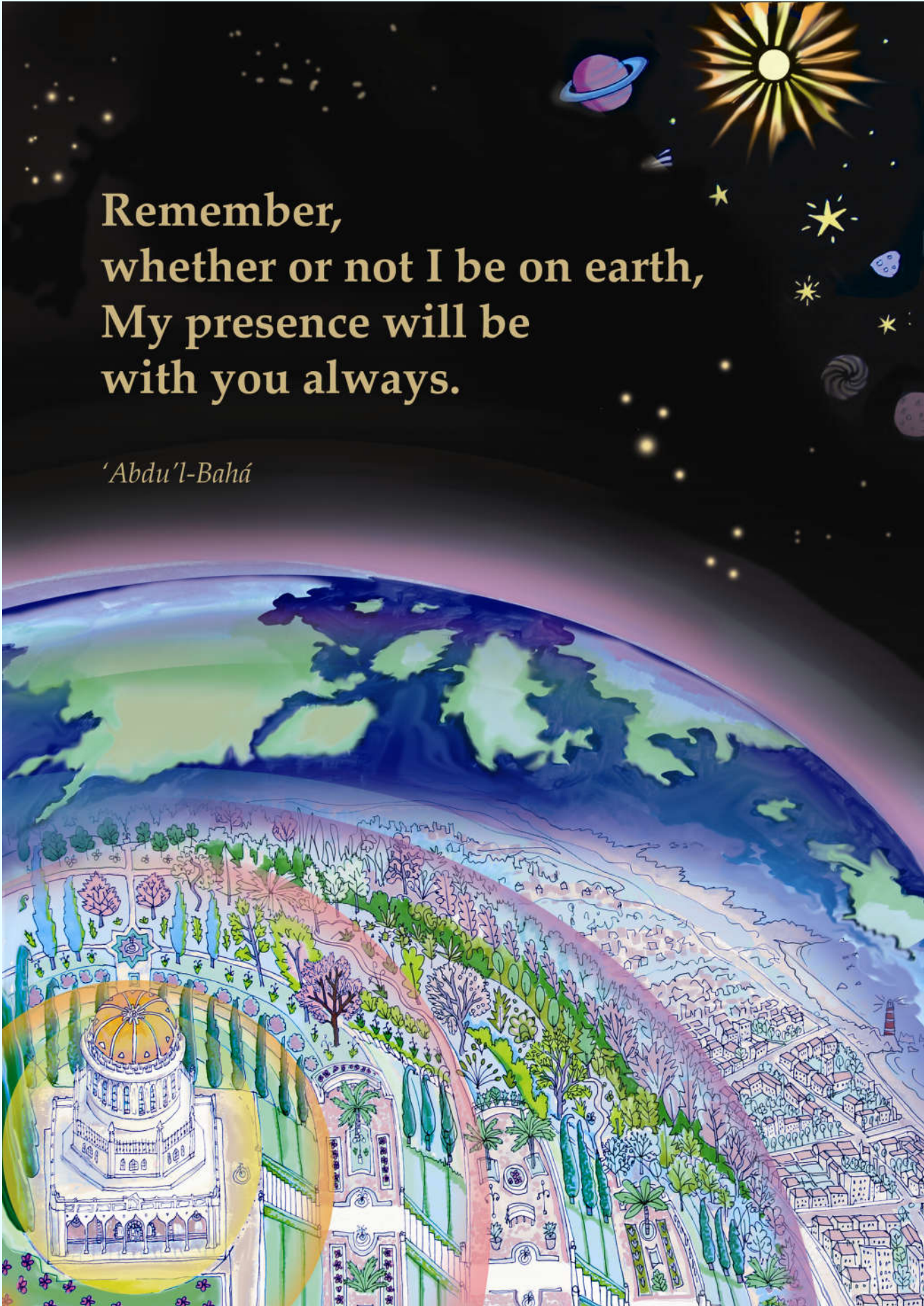
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Remember,
whether or not I be on earth,
My presence will be
with you always.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

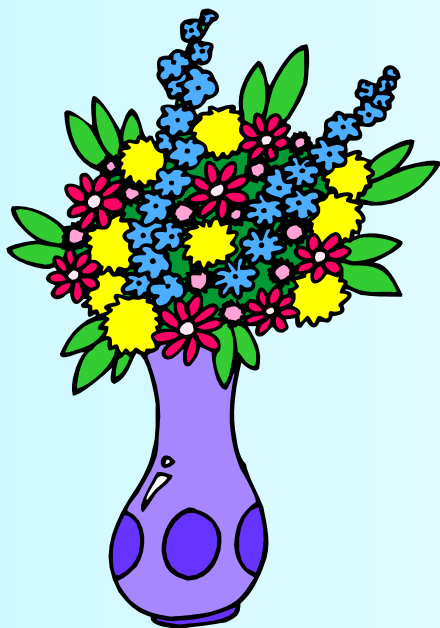
'Abdu'l-Bahá's Spiritual Children

There was a buzz of excitement in the air. 'Abdu'l-Bahá had come to Chicago and there was to be a special meeting with the children. Some of the children lived outside the town. They had had to get up at five o'clock in the morning to get to the meeting in time.

When everyone arrived, the children sat in a circle. The grown-ups sat behind them.

'Abdu'l-Bahá entered the room and everyone stood up. Then the children sang a song they had been practising. It was called "Softly His Voice is Calling Now". When they finished, 'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke to each of the children and asked them what their names were. He gently stroked their hair and held their hands, and kissed the little ones.

One very small child ran up to 'Abdu'l-Bahá and threw herself into His arms. He gave her a hug and when He let her go, she stood for a moment looking at Him. Then she laughed out loud in happiness. All the other children began laughing too.



"You are all My children," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "you are My spiritual children You are very dear; you are most beloved!"

There were some flowers on the table. 'Abdu'l-Bahá picked them up and divided them among the children. He also gave each child an envelope of sweet-smelling rose petals.

Then He invited them to come outside into a park to have their photographs taken with Him.

Fruitful Trees

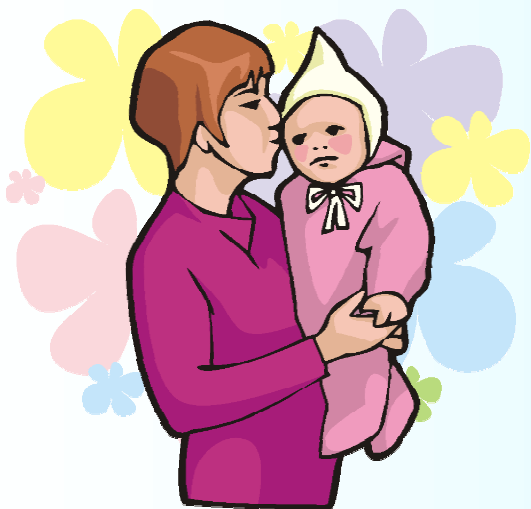
It was raining as 'Abdu'l-Bahá was being driven through the streets of London. He was on His way to a meeting where nearly sixty mothers and over one hundred children were gathered. Because they were so poor they were being looked after by a charity.

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered the room, He walked among the women and children, beaming with happiness.

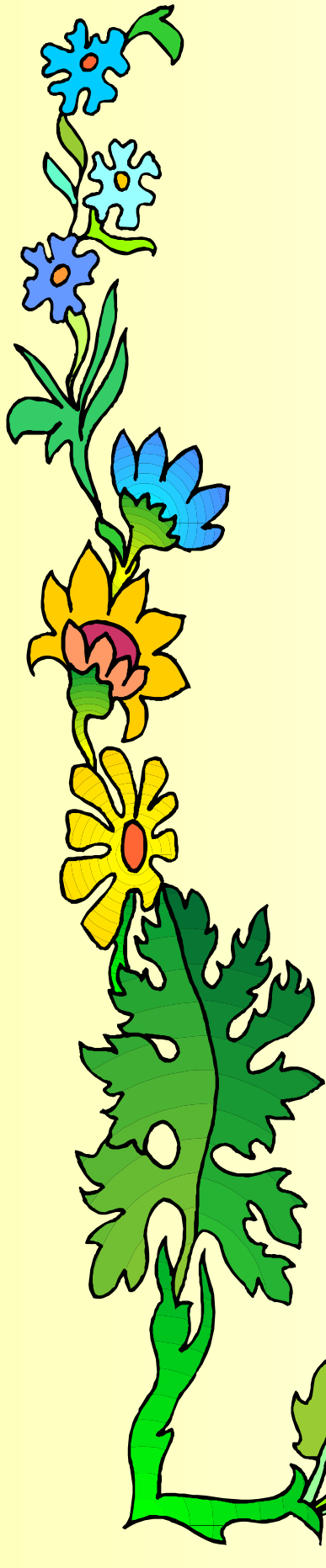
"I am very glad to be among you who are blessed in God's name with children," He said. "These little ones will grow to be fruitful trees."

He stopped in front of one of the mothers who was holding a small child who was very pale. 'Abdu'l-Bahá patted the child's head and spoke to her softly. She stretched her tiny hand towards 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and He gently closed it over a bright new shilling.

'Abdu'l-Bahá spoke to every child, even to the youngest baby, and gave them all a silver coin. None of the babies cried and everyone felt loved and peaceful.



"I am truly happy when among the gatherings of the poor," 'Abdu'l-Bahá said afterwards. "It brings full joy to my heart . . . for their sufferings draw them closer to God. . . ."



Hush Little Child

by Joan Lincoln

Hush, little child of the Kingdom
Hush, don't you cry
Hush, little child of the Kingdom
Hush, my little Bahá'í.

Hush little child of the Kingdom
Hush, don't you fear
Hush little child of the Kingdom
'Abdu'l-Bahá is near.

Guiding you, protecting you
Illumining the lamp of your heart
Guiding you, protecting you
Making you a brilliant star.

Hush, little child of the Kingdom
Hush, don't you cry
Hush, little child of the Kingdom
Hush, my little Bahá'í.

Hush, little child of the Kingdom
Hush, don't you fear
Hush, little child of the Kingdom
'Abdu'l-Bahá is near.

Hush Little Child

Am E Am G F G C E

Hush lit-tle child of the King-dom, Hush don't you cry -----;

Am E Am C E Am

Hush lit-tle child of the King-dom, Hush my lit-tle Ba----ha'i.

Am E Am G F G C E

Hush lit-tle child of the King-dom, Hush don't you fear -----;

Am E Am C E Am

Hush lit-tle child of the King-dom, 'Abdu'l-Ba--ha is near.

C E Am E

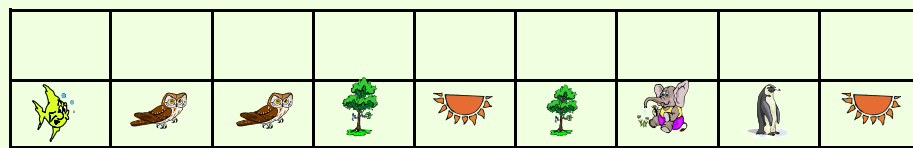
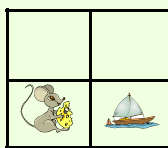
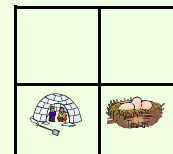
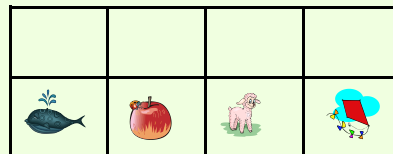
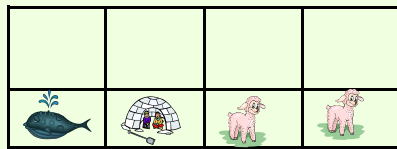
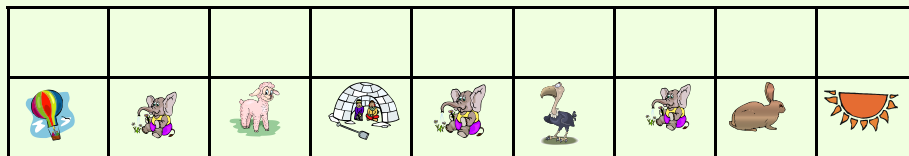
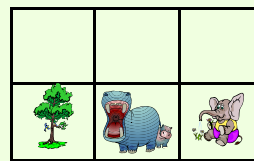
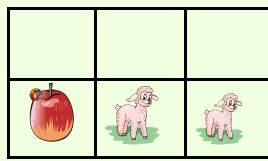
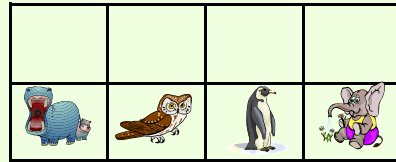
Guid-ing you, pro----tect---ing you, il---lu-min-ing the lamp of your heart;

C E Am E E7










Guid-ing you, pro----tect---ing you, mak-ing you a brill-i-----ant star.

A Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Code

If you look at the boxes at the bottom of the page, you can see what letters to use.



A	B	E	F	H	I	K	L	M
								

N	O	P	R	S	T	V	W	Y
								

A Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá

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a	b	c	d	e	g	h	i	j	l
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m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u	w	y
○	■	□	□	□	◆	◆	◆	◆	◻

'Abdu'l-Bahá's New Shrine

'Abdu'l-Bahá passed away in Haifa on 28 November 1921. The next day His coffin was carried up Mount Carmel to be buried in one of the rooms in the Shrine of the Báb. But Shoghi Effendi knew that a separate Shrine would be built for 'Abdu'l-Bahá one day, and that is where He would eventually be buried. That day has now come, exactly 100 years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá died.

'Abdu'l-Bahá had told one of the early believers that He wanted to be buried between Haifa and 'Akká, which He described as "the pathway trodden by the loved ones and the pilgrims".

He loved to walk along the white, sandy beach around the bay between the two holy Shrines where the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh were buried. Sometimes He stopped to rest and pray when He became tired, for it was a long way to walk. Once, when a pilgrim was passing by, he saw the luminous figure of 'Abdu'l-Bahá peacefully resting on the shore.

The design of the Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá is very beautiful and completely different from any other building, just as 'Abdu'l-Bahá is completely different from any other person. Bahá'u'lláh called Him "the Mystery of God".



The architect who was chosen by the Universal House of Justice to design this Shrine explained how he wanted it to reflect 'Abdu'l-Bahá's beautiful spiritual qualities :

*His high station and humility,
His wisdom and kindness towards all people,
and His love of gardens and nature.*

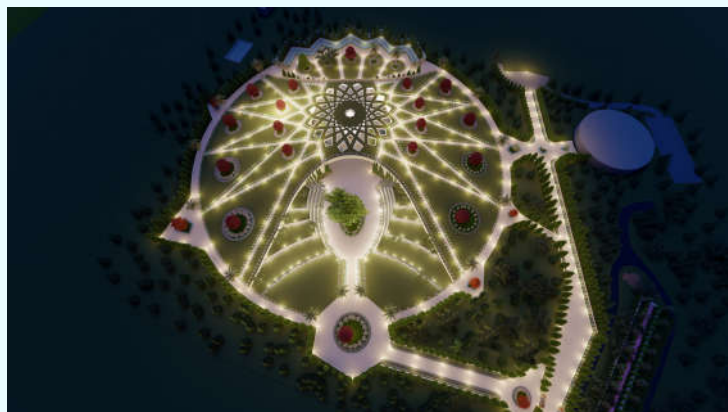
Can you see those qualities in these beautiful pictures of the Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá?



This model shows how the garden, with the grass and trees, will grow over the top of the Shrine.

This picture shows what the Shrine will look like, at night, from above.

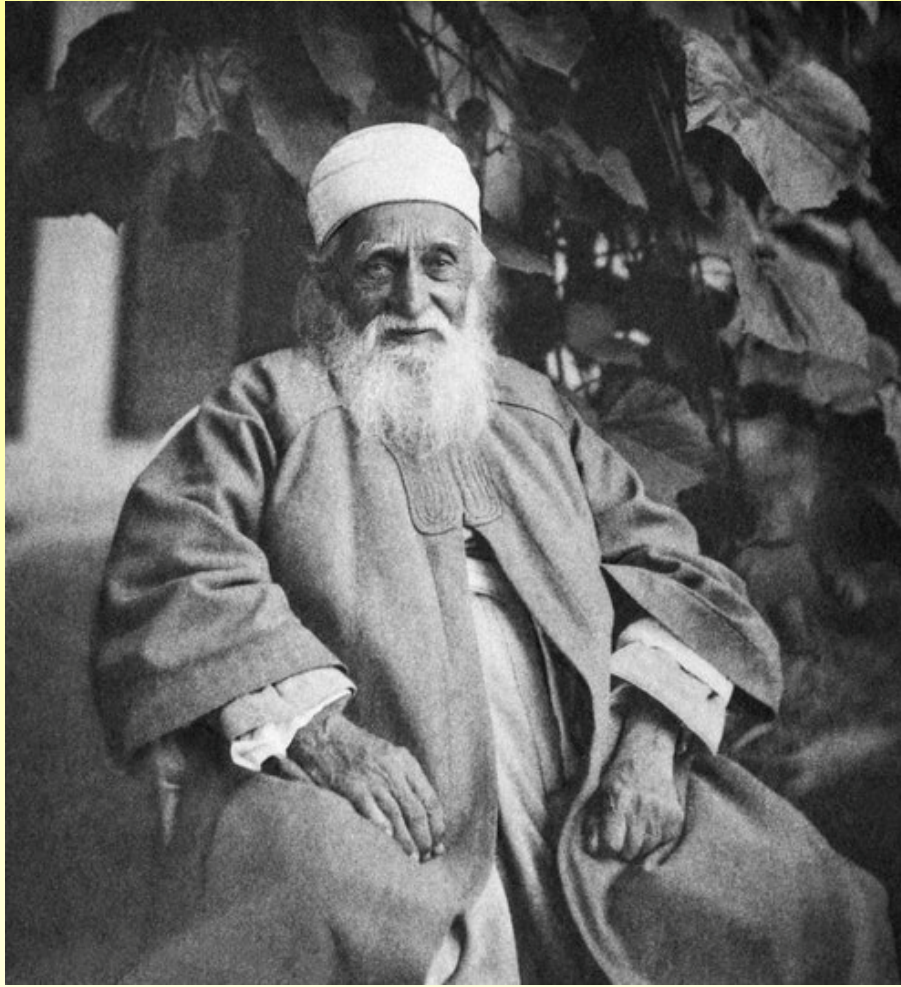
The picture on the opposite page shows the welcoming, colourful entrance.





*"Blessed, doubly blessed, is the ground
which His footsteps have trodden,
the eye that hath been cheered by the
beauty of His countenance,
the ear that hath been honoured by
hearkening to His call,
the heart that hath tasted
the sweetness of His love"*

Bahá'u'lláh

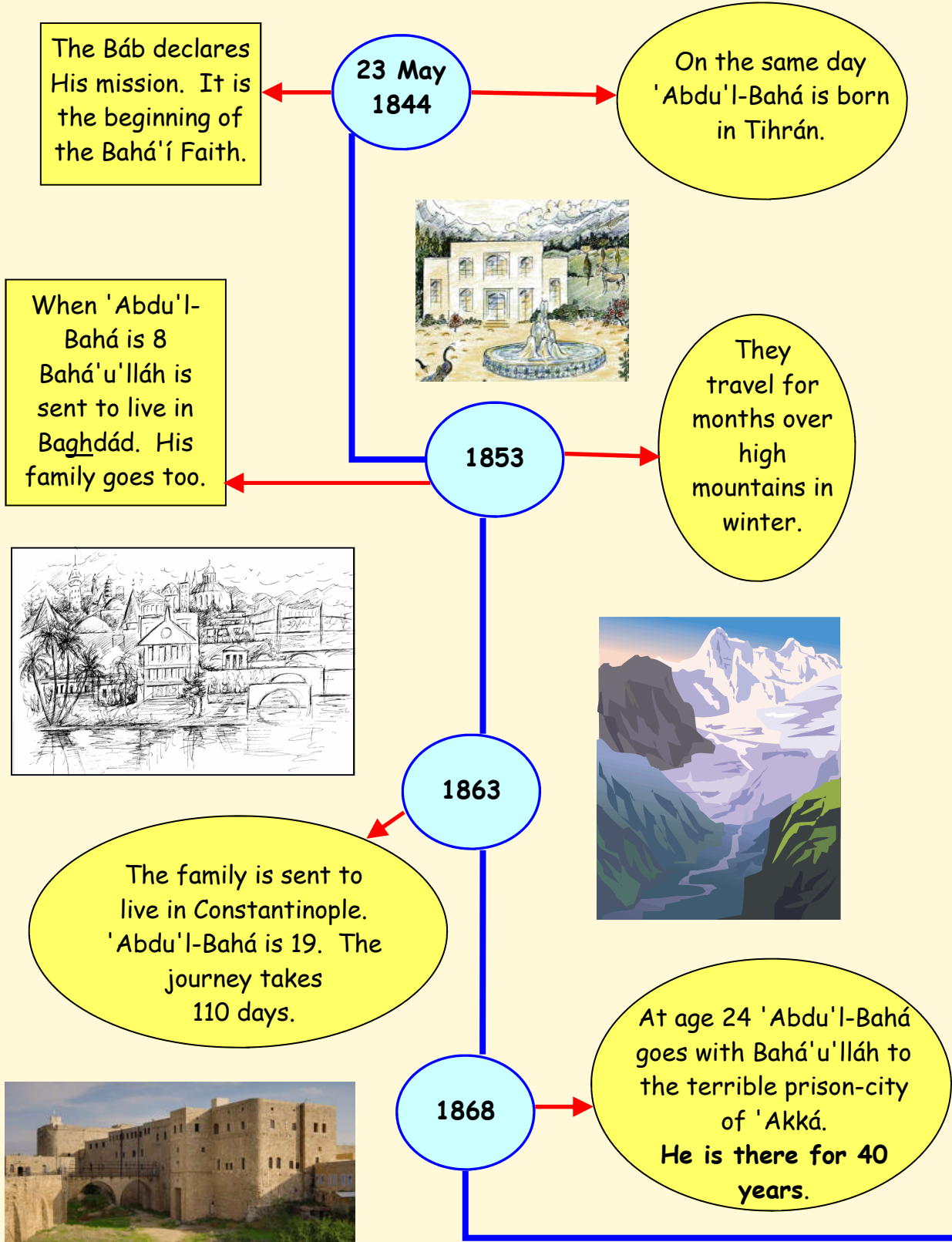


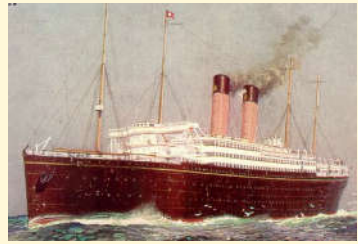
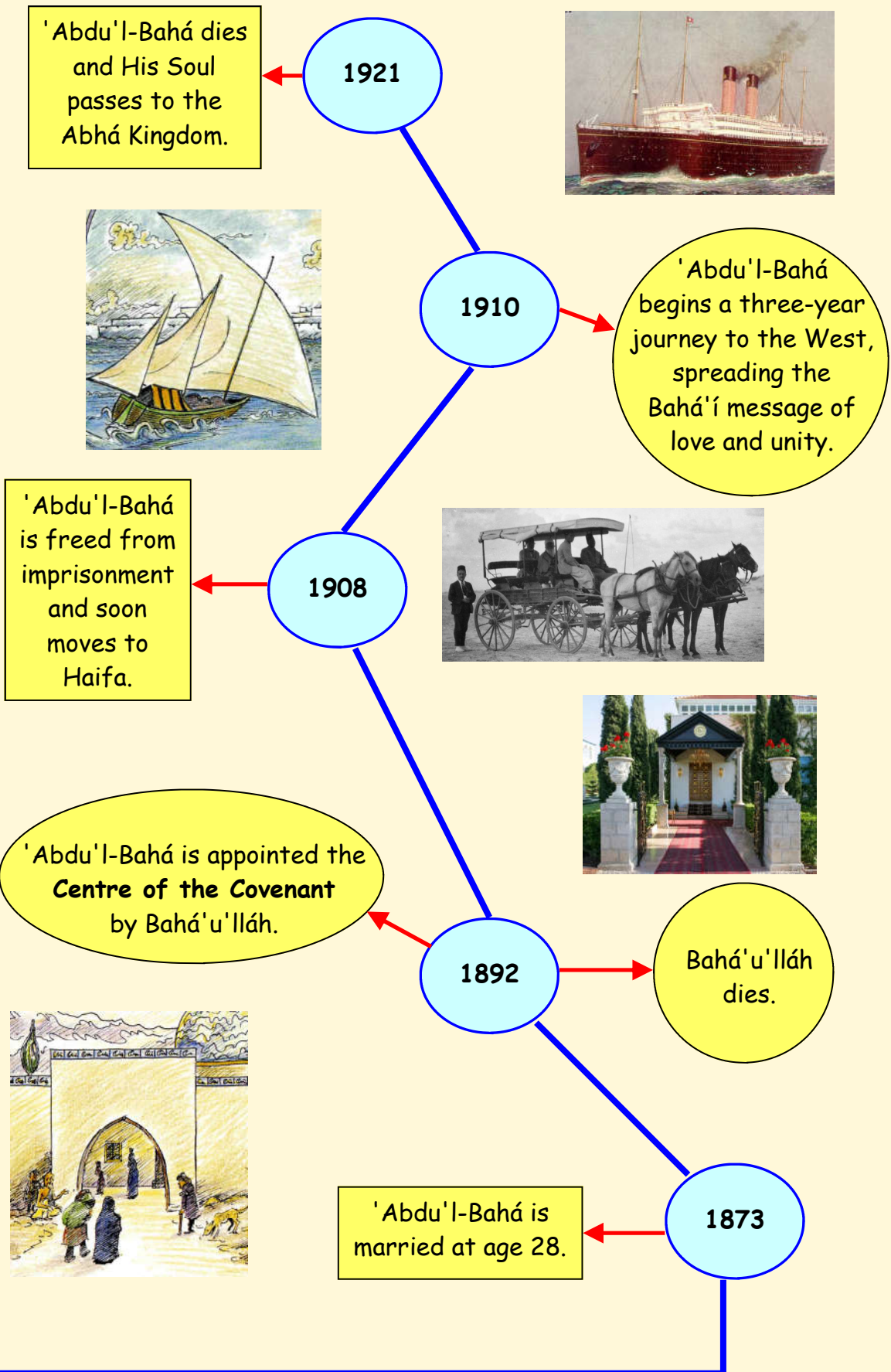
O Lord! Make these children excellent plants.

*Let them grow and develop in the
Garden of Thy Covenant,
and bestow freshness and beauty
through the outpourings
of the clouds of the Abhá Kingdom.*

'Abdu'l-Bahá

A Timeline of the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá







Quiz

You can find the answers by looking back at the pages numbered.

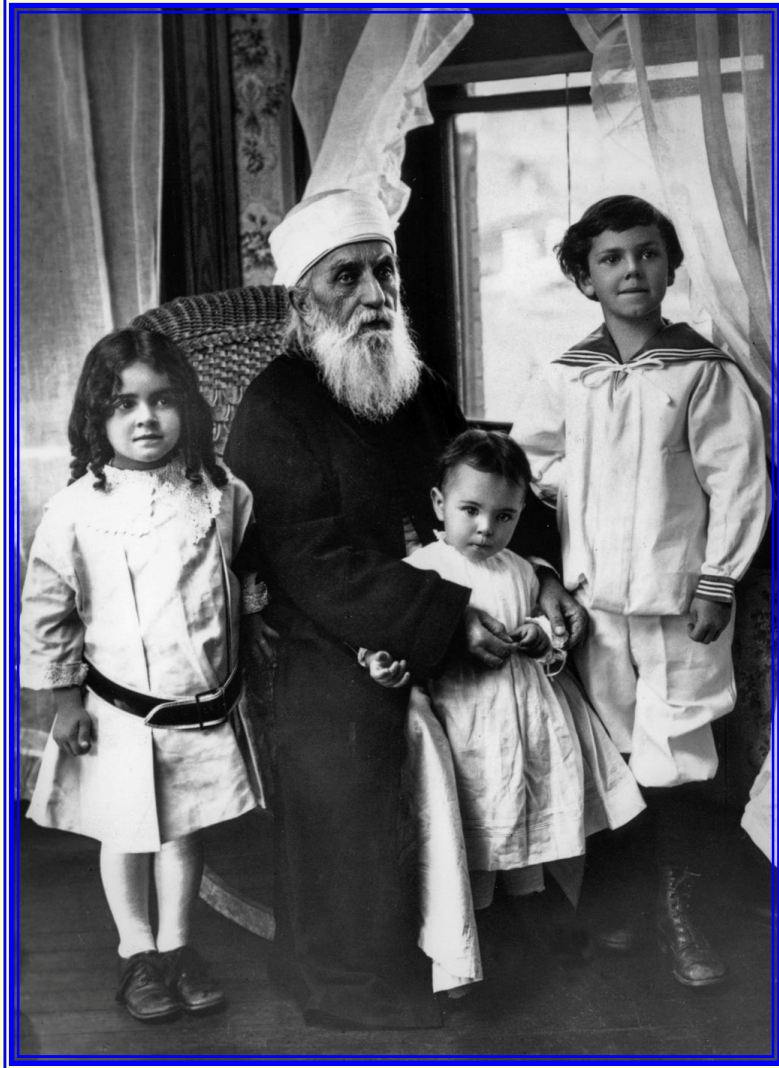
- 1 What was the name of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Father? (p7)
- 2 What generous gift did 'Abdu'l-Bahá give to the shepherds at the festival? (p9)
- 3 Why did 'Abdu'l-Bahá enjoy visiting the Thorn-Pickers in the desert? (p15)
- 4 What was the name of the prison-city where 'Abdu'l-Bahá was sent? (p16)
- 5 What made the garden, where the picnic was, 'most delightful'? (p19)
- 6 What made 'Abdu'l-Bahá's wedding 'very wonderful'? (p20)
- 7 Bahá'u'lláh appointed 'Abdu'l-Bahá to be the Centre of the - what? (p24)
- 8 What are some of the other special names Bahá'u'lláh gave to Abdu'l-Bahá? (pp26-27)
- 9 Where did 'Abdu'l-Bahá put the beautiful silk rug? (p28)
- 10 How did the homeless man know about 'Abdu'l-Bahá? (p32)
- 11 Who was the grandchild that loved 'Abdu'l-Bahá very much? (p34)
- 12 Where was 'Abdu'l-Bahá buried? (p36)

- 13 In His Will, who did 'Abdu'l-Bahá say should become the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith? (p36)
- 14 What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá say made His heart leap with joy? (p37)
- 15 What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá say is 'always with us'? (p39)
- 16 What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá give the children who met Him in Chicago? (p40)
- 17 Why did 'Abdu'l-Bahá say He was truly happy among poor people?(p41)
- 18 Where is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's new Shrine? (p46)
- 19 What qualities did the architect of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's new Shrine want it to reflect? (p47)
- 20 'Abdu'l-Bahá is the name 'Abdu'l-Bahá wanted people to call Him. What does the name mean? (p26)



It would be lovely if you would write a poem, or a story, a letter, a puzzle or a joke that we could print in Dayspring.

Please send them to: dayspring@bahai.org.uk



"Look at me, follow me,
be as I am . . .
so shall ye be born again
and enter the
kingdom of heaven."

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Answers to Puzzles



p9: 'Abdu'l-Bahá was always: *KIND AND GENEROUS.*

p15: Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "*May your hearts become clear and pure.*" ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks p94)

p31: Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "*Let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path.*" ('Abdu'l-Bahá, Paris Talks p2)

p38: *Even though we can not see 'Abdu'l-Bahá we know that He is with us all the time.*

p44: Message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá in code: "*I hope that all the believers will walk in my footsteps.*" (Star of the West V:6, 24 June 1914 p81)

p45: A message from 'Abdu'l-Bahá: "*I want you to be happy, to laugh, smile and rejoice . . . in order that others may be made happy by you.*" (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p218)



Answers to Quiz

1. Bahá'u'lláh. 2. Some of Bahá'u'lláh's sheep. 3. They had pure hearts. 4. 'Akká. 5. The presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. 6. Bahá'u'lláh blessed the marriage. 7. Centre of the Covenant. 8. The Master, Mystery of God, Centre of the Covenant, Most Great Branch, Apple of Mine eye, Ensign of the Most Geat Peace, Mainspring of the Oneness of Humanity. 9. In the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. 10. He saw a photo of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a newspaper. 11. Shoghi Effendi. 12. In the Shrine of the Báb. 13. His grandson, Shoghi Effendi. 14. When the friends love each other, overlook their small mistakes and forgive their enemies. 15. 'Abdu'l-Bahá is always with us. 16. Flowers and rose petals. 17. Their sufferings bring them close to God. 18. Between Haifa and 'Akká in the pathway of the pilgrims. 19. His high station and humility, kindness to all people, love of gardens and nature. 20. The Servant of Bahá'u'lláh.



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