



Hiru no Hoshi

No. 253

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*" Kings of the earth!
He Who is the sovereign Lord
of all
is come...*

*Know ye that the poor
are the trust of God in your
midst.*

*Watch
that ye betray not His
trust..."*

Baha' u' llah



As Mother was folding the laundry she heard gleeful laughing coming from the boy's room. She was so glad to hear the happy sounds of laughter, rather than fighting and crying, that she got up to investigate. She looked in the

doorway and saw Riaz dressed up in his best clothes strutting around the room with his hand on his chest, and inside of his jacket, saying over and over, "If this letter be from God, then I am two Gods!" The other four children were laughing and clapping.

"What's going on?" Mother asked.

"Riaz is pretending to be Napoleon III!" explained Mona. "I was telling them what I was reading about Baha'u'llah's letter to Napoleon, and what Napoleon answered, and Riaz decided to show us what that looked like!" Then all the children started laughing again. Riaz always was the comedian of the family, and the children loved to put on plays.

"Is that true mom? Did Baha'u'llah really write to Emperor Napoleon and tell him to behave, just like Baha'u'llah was the grown up, and Napoleon was the kid?" asked Asma.

Mother laughed, "Something like that." She answered.

"But wasn't Baha'u'llah a prisoner?" Asma continued. "That was really brave for a prisoner to write to an emperor like that."

"Yes, when Baha'u'llah wrote to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Grand Vizier, who opened the letter, turned pale with shock. He gasped and said it sounded like the King of Kings was giving orders to one of the least important little kings of His Empire!"

"What did Baha'u'llah tell all these kings?" asked Riaz. Riaz loved stories about Sultans and Viziers.

"Well," said Mother, "lots of different things, depending on the country and what that king, or queen was doing at the time. But to all of them He said to stop building up weapons of war, making their people pay for it. He told them it was time for all the countries of the world to stop fighting, and to live together in peace. He also said that the kings need to take care of the poor people in their country.

I guess the most important thing He told them was that God had sent a new Teacher to the world, and the kings needed to listen to the new Teacher.

Napoleon was at the height of his power when he received the letter from Baha'u'llah. That is why he was so bold that he threw the letter behind his



back and forgot about it. But then, Baha'u'llah sent him a second letter, saying that Baha'u'llah had seen what he had done with the letter, and because of that he would lose his entire empire. Within a year, that is exactly what happened. Napoleon was completely defeated.

“What other kings did Baha'u'llah send letters to? Anyone we have heard of?” asked Riaz.

“Hmmm, you know Germany, right? Well the German Emperor was told by Baha'u'llah that if he did not stop building up weapons of war, his country would be soaked with blood, not once, but twice. The German Emperor did not listen, and World War I and World War II were both terrible defeats for the Germans.”

“Oh, I have heard of the World Wars and the Germans!” said Mona.

“Duh!” said Asma, “both of our grandfathers, the Japanese one and the American one were in World War II!”

“On opposite sides!!” shouted Riaz, “How weird it that! We are lucky to be here at all! What would have happened if they had met each other then!!”

“Ok, Ok, back on subject.” said Mother.

“There is an interesting story about a youth that involves one of these letters of Baha'u'llah to a king. While Baha'u'llah was still in Adrianople He wrote a letter for the Shah of Persia. That was the king of Baha'u'llah's own country, the king that had originally made Baha'u'llah a prisoner. After He wrote the letter, Baha'u'llah said, ‘Who is going to bell the cat’. Do you know what Baha'u'llah was talking about? Have you heard that story?”

“Yeah! I know that story!” said Shahla, “Some mice wanted to put a bell on the cat so they would know when it was coming, but they needed one brave mouse to volunteer to put the bell on the cat.”

“That's right Shahla, so what Baha'u'llah was saying was, who was going to be brave enough to deliver the letter. This was a very dangerous mission. Just like in the story of the mice that wanted to bell the cat.”

“Why didn't they just send it in the mail box?” asked little Anisa, and everyone laughed.

“They couldn't airmail letters like we do today, silly,” said Riaz.

“That's right,” said Mother, “the letters had to be delivered by hand. A lot of brave men volunteered for this dangerous mission, but Baha'u'llah kept saying no to them. Then, a youth named Badi, who had been very rebellious, and a lot of trouble to his parents, came and talked to Baha'u'llah.



Talking to Baha'u'llah completely changed Badi. It made him spiritual, and kind, and loving. He wanted so badly to be of service to Baha'u'llah, and to the cause of world peace and unity that Baha'u'llah taught. So Baha'u'llah agreed to let him deliver the message. Badi spent months walking to Persia where the Shah was. He waited outside where he knew the Shah would be riding his horse, and when the Shah came by, he called 'O King! I have come to thee from Sheba with a weighty message.' The Shah knew then, who had sent the letter and it made him very angry. He ordered that Badi be arrested. Badi was tortured and killed just for delivering the letter...He was only 17 years old."



"Ahhh poor Badi," said Mona, Shahla and Anisa.

"In that letter," Mother continued, "Baha'u'llah told the Shah that Baha'u'llah was the Promised One and His words were from God. He also told the Shah over and over again in many different ways to treat his people with justice."

"I have heard the expression, 'don't shoot the messenger', meaning, don't be mad at the person who just delivered the message. Maybe that's where the expression comes from." said Asma...and the children all nodded.

"Did Baha'u'llah only write to Kings?" asked Shahla, "No Queens?"

"Yes, He did write to a Queen, the Queen of England. It was Queen Victoria. In that letter Baha'u'llah praised her for stopping the slave trade, and outlawing slavery. He also praised her for giving her people a say in the government. She set up the elections all over her country so the people would have some of the power to rule. He told her that the world would continue to get worse until the rulers of the world united to put an end to war.



"Wow, she must have been the best ruler, cause she was the only one Baha'u'llah said something nice about. See, girls make better bosses!" said Shahla.

Anisa and Mona laughed, and Riaz and Asma threw pillows at the girls.

"Ok, Ok, settle down," said Mother. "She was also the only one that responded positively to Baha'u'llah's letter. It is reported that she said, 'If this is from God, it will endure; if not, it can do no harm.'"



"How about America, did Baha'u'llah write to the President?" asked Mona.

"He didn't send a letter directly to the President," answered Mother, "but in the Kitab-i-Aqdas, His Most Holy Book, He spoke to the Rulers in America, so I guess that means Canada, USA, Mexico, and probably the rulers in South America too. He wrote



to the Pope and many other World Leaders in the same Book. He told them that Christ had returned, and that they needed to listen to this new Teacher from God. He also said God commanded them to defend the weak and help the victims of injustice.”

“ In each of the messages to each of the rulers around the world Baha’u’llah told them that they had to work for world unity and peace, so that we could have the Most Great Peace, then all the world’s people could be happy and prosperous.”

“Finally, since all of the kings and rulers turned away or ignored Him, Baha’u’llah said that instead of the Most Great Peace coming quickly and easily, we would have to all work very hard, for hundreds of years to go through the Lesser Peace, to finally reaching the Most Great Peace. ”

“So if the letter didn’t get send, if it was just in a book, how could the rulers that didn’t get sent a message know what God wanted them to do?” asked Riaz.

“Well, said Mother, “The Baha’i’s all over the world try to make sure that these important letters are seen by every ruler, in every country, and even every state and city around the world. All mankind, all of us around the world, have to do our best to work for the Lesser Peace...so that it can eventually become strong and grow into the Most Great Peace.”

“Yah!” said the Children.

“What can we do to work for the Lesser Peace?” asked Mona.

“Hah!” said Riaz, “I will become Emperor of Okinawa so that I can help the Lesser Peace.” With that the children laughed so hard they were rolling on the floor.

Mother smiled and said. “The road to the Lesser Peace, as well as the Most Great Peace is through unity. No one person, or even king, can do it alone. So the best thing you can do is to have unity in your own family, and with your friends and with everyone you meet. That means no fighting! Can you guys try and not fight so much with each other? That would be a good step towards the Lesser Peace.”

The children all looked at each other and smiled and nodded their heads.

And with that, they all promised to try.



Quiz

1. What silly thing was Riaz doing that made the children laugh?

2. What did Napoleon III supposedly say after he read Baha'u'llah's letter?

3. What was the name of the boy that delivered Baha'u'llah's message to the Shah?

4. What did Baha'u'llah say would happen to Germany after the Emperor refused to listen to Him?

5. What country's queen did Baha'u'llah send a letter to?

6. What did Baha'u'llah say in praise of that queen?

7. What other rulers did Baha'u'llah speak to?

8. Did the rulers listen to Him?

9. Why can't we have the Most Great Peace now?

10. What can we do to help bring about the Lesser Peace and work towards The Most Great Peace?

**How did you do? Did you get them all right?
The answers are on the Parents' Page.**



COOPERATION

Now it is time for us to take a special journey to help us remember what we have learned so far. First, let's prepare for our journey. Close your eyes and be still. Take a deep breath, hold it, and blow it out. Do it one more time. Squeeze your arms, and let them loose. Squeeze your legs, then let them loose.

We are walking in a park where we find all of our favorite things. A tree bows low and we hear it whispering in the wind. Butterflies are painted on the breeze. The pathway leads over a bridge and around a rock garden to a pretty waterfall beside a cooling pool. Deep in the pool we see a frog staring at us. We also see the reflection of many other people standing beside us. The frog opens its mouth to croak. We think he is telling us that in this beautiful park, we must remember to work with others if we are to do our best work. We turn to see that the people beside us are gardeners, teachers, helpers and friends. Each one with an important job.

We follow them and pick up each piece of trash blown in by the wind. Soon the park is more beautiful than ever. Our friends are smiling at us. We have become a part of the team now. We then walk over the bridge and up the stairs to the pagoda and watch as all the frogs come out in the moonlight and sing, as if in a chorus. Their beautiful song shows us how beautiful cooperation is.

We take a deep breath, and open our eyes. In our circle we see our friends who we cooperate with to make this a wonderful class.

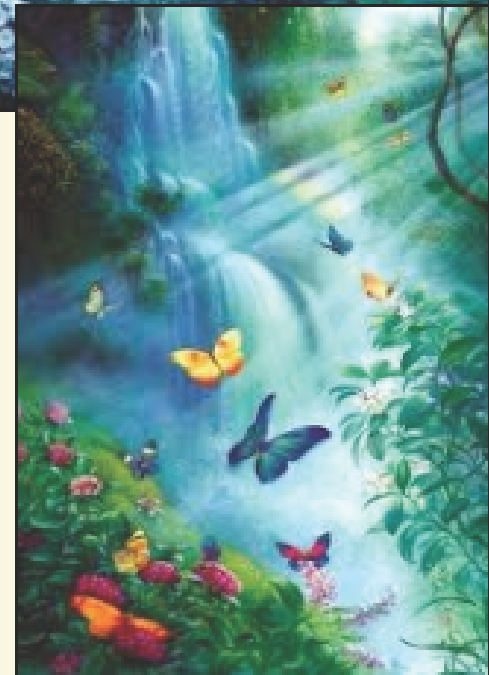
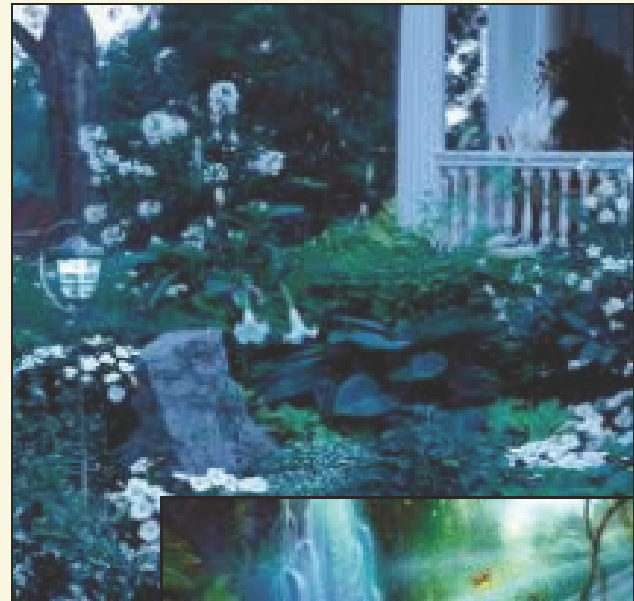
さあ、これからすてきな旅に出ましょう。先に準備をしましょう。目を閉じて。気を静めて。息をすって、はいて。もう一度すって、はいて。腕をぎゅっとして、力をぬいて。足をぎゅっとして、力をぬいて。

ここは私たちの一番好きなものが集まった庭園です。風にささやく木、空をえがくちょうちょう。今歩いている道は岩庭のそばを通り、橋を渡り、その向こうにはすてきな滝と泉が輝いています。泉に反射している私たちのそばには他の人もたくさんあつまっています。泉のそばにすわっているカエルがなきます。きっと私たちにこの庭園では協力をすればすばらしい結果が出ると教えてくれているのです。となりにいる人たちを良く見ると庭の管理人や、先生たち、お手伝いさんや友達でした。みんな大切な仕事がある人たちです。

風に飛ばされたゴミなどを拾って みんなとこのすてきな庭園をきれいにします。もっともっとすてきな所になっていきますね。みんな喜んでいきます。私たちは協力し合うチームになったのです。みんなと橋の向こうの階段を上り、丘の上で月ひかりをあびます。そこでカエルたちの声が合唱をしはじめます。このすてきな歌は私たちに協力の美しさを教えてくれているのです。

さあ深呼吸をして。目をあけて。私たちのサークルの中には協力し合う友達が集まっていますね。本当にすてきなクラスだと思いませんか？

～協力～



Virtue “Go Fishing” Cards

Materials

- 1 deck of playing cards
- List of 13 Virtues
- 52 card size pieces of thick paper
- Glue

Method

- *Make a list of 13 virtues..Love, Patience, Kindness, Unity, ...etc.
- *Write four of each of the 13 virtues on the pieces of paper.
- *Glue four of the 1st virtue on the four Ace cards (hearts, clubs, spades & diamonds)
- *Glue four of the 2nd virtue on the four 2 cards
- *Glue four of the 3rd virtue on the four 3 cards ...All the way through to the four King cards.

How to Play

- *Shuffle the cards well.
 - *Deal out 7 cards each. Stack the rest in the middle.
 - *Everyone take out their pairs, and place in front of them.
 - *Youngest goes first...then go clockwise.
 - *First player asks anyone...“(name of person) Can you show me ‘forgiveness’”?(or any of the virtues to make a pair).
 - *The player answers either with “I’m sorry, I haven’t learned the virtue of ‘forgiveness’ yet” (if they don’t have the card) or “Yes, I will show you ‘forgiveness’.” In that case they will give them the card. The person receiving the card will say, “Thank you.” and as they put the pair in front of them... “I learned the virtue of forgiveness from..(name of person)”.
 - *If they don’t have it, the person asking will “go fishing” and get a card from the middle.
 - *Then it is then next person’s turn to ask to see a virtue.
 - *As soon as anyone has used the last card in their hand, the game is over.
 - *Each person explains what virtues they have learned by pointing out their pairs, ie... “I learned the virtues of “love, forgiveness, compassion, courtesy..”
- The person with the most virtue pairs, wins.



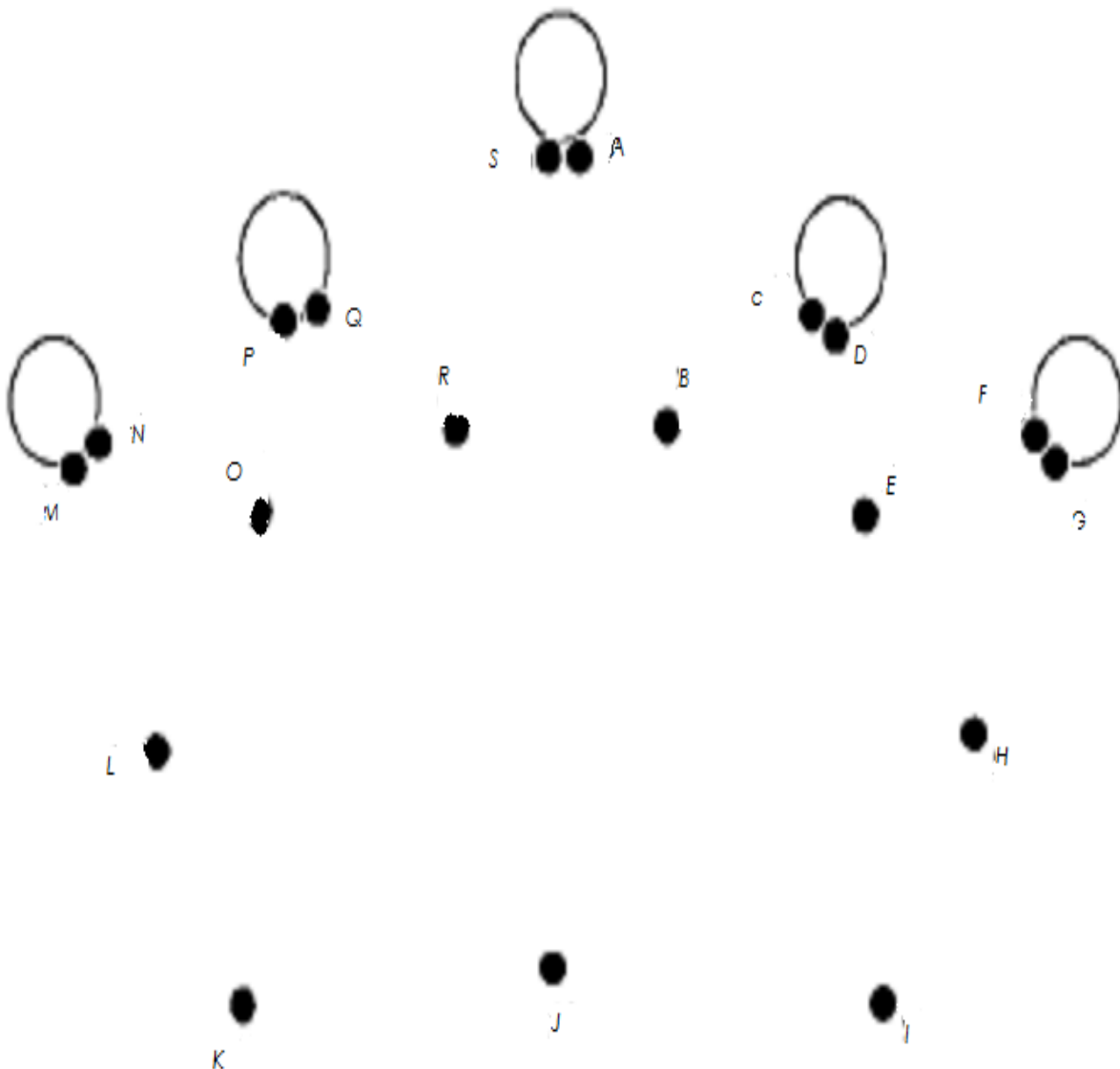
From A to B...

Then from B to C...

Follow the dots...

And what do you see?

A crown worn by one of the kings?

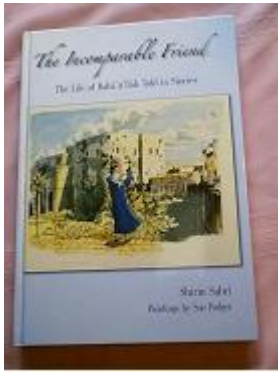


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Photos





Parents Page



For more details on Baha'u'llah's letters to the kings and rulers there is a beautifully illustrated children's book on the life of Baha'u'llah, "*The Incomparable Friend*" by Shirin Sabri, Illustrated by Sue Podger. For adults, William Sears' book, "*The Prisoner and the Kings*" is very interesting. And of course please read "*The Summons of the Lord of Hosts*", Tablets of Baha'u'llah to the Kings and Rulers. Also, "*Proclamation of Baha'u'llah*", which is a compilation of these letters and messages can read be read online, for free. I found it using Google.

The main point our children need to understand is that the betterment of the world, including world peace, starts with us. And, that this cannot be achieved except through unity. As Baha'u'llah explains...

"The wellbeing of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable, unless and until its unity is firmly established."

And,

"The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct."

We should train our children to act in unity and with compassion, with a spirit of service to their family members, classmates, and strangers. Help them to see every person in the world as just as important as themselves.



Answers to the Quiz

- 1) He pretended to be Napoleon. 2) 'If this be from God, then I am two Gods'. 3) Badi. 4) That its land would be soaked in blood, not once, but twice.
- 5) England. 6) He praised her for stopping slavery, and for giving the power to vote to her people. 7) The rulers of America, and the Pope among others.
- 8) No, no one did. 9) The kings and rulers didn't make peace. 10) We can work for unity in our family, and everyone around us...no fighting.



If you have stories of your children learning a virtue or anything connected to the Faith, please send them to us, so we can have stories of "A little boy in Yamaguchi" or "A little girl in Akita". You can either write the story yourself or send the details and we will write the story. Either English or Japanese is fine. We also are waiting for pictures of Children's Classes from your community, or drawings from your children. Please send all stories and pictures to luanahirahara@hotmail.com

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