

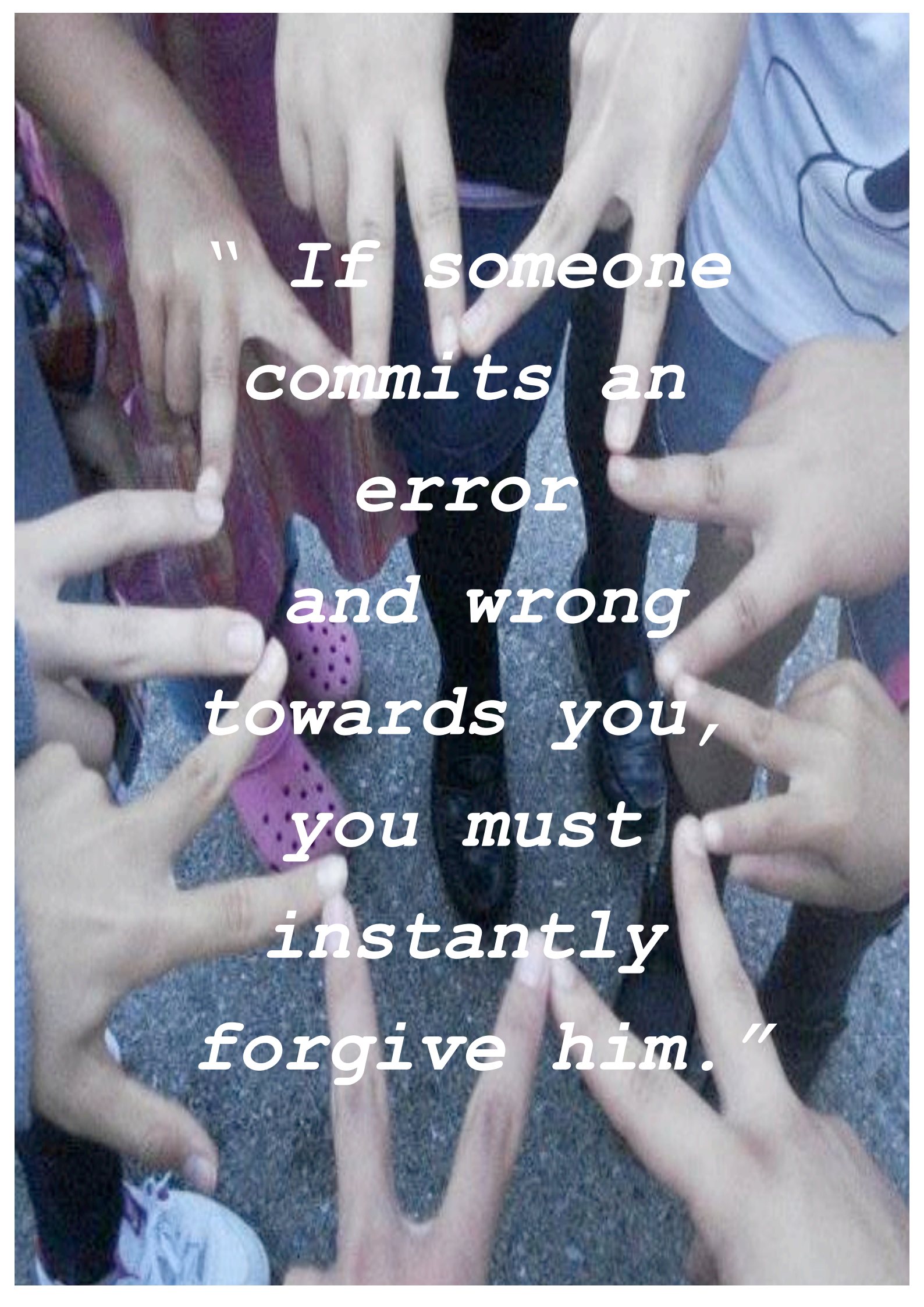
**Hiru no**

**Hoshi**

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**No. 255**

A top-down view of several hands of different skin tones reaching towards the center, forming a circle on a grey carpet. The hands are positioned around the text, which is centered in the image. The text is in a white, italicized, serif font. The background shows parts of people's clothing, including a purple shirt, a blue t-shirt with a cartoon character, and a purple shoe.

*" If someone  
commits an  
error  
and wrong  
towards you,  
you must  
instantly  
forgive him."*





It was a Sunday afternoon in September; Mother was folding clothes, thinking how unusually quiet it was in the house and wondering if everything was alright. Suddenly there was a loud bang, followed by crying and arguing coming from her and Father's room. When Mother arrived at the scene she saw chaos! Little Anisa was on the bed with a scattered tea set. She was covered in purple juice, as were her and Shahla's favorite dolls. Shahla was on top of Asma and Riaz, scratching their faces and pulling their hair. The boys were fighting her off, and fighting each other at the same time. Mona sat calmly in a chair in the corner ignoring everything.

"What is going on here?" Mother shouted. Everyone stopped what they were doing, and started talking at once, blaming each other.

"Stop!" shouted Mother. She turned to Mona, who was still sitting on the chair doing her homework, and asked her,

"Mona, what happened here?"

"I don't know, mom, I have never seen these people before in my life....I am an only child." Mona explained as she dropped her head and continued studying.

Mother sighed.....

"Ok, one at a time.....Asma, what happened?"

"Riaz and I were playing Mario Brothers and it was my turn, but Riaz was greedy and wouldn't give me my turn!" began Asma.

"NO!" interrupted Riaz, "It was my turn! Asma was hogging the controls!" Shahla jumped up and shouted, "They started pulling and fighting over the controls and fell into Anisa and me, and spilled our grape juice! They ruined our tea party!"



"Mommy, look! My poor baby rabbit used to be white and fluffy, now she is sticky purple!!!" cried little Anisa.

"Well all of you look at my bedspread!" exclaimed Mother. "None of you have permission to be in here! Baha'u'llah says no one should enter another's house without permission, so I think that should apply to one's room as well!"

“It’s cooler in here than our room.” explained Shahla, and the boys and Mona nodded their agreement.

“But now it’s so messy,” Mona calmly said as she picked up her books. “I think I will study someplace else.” The boys tried to quickly follow her out the door.

“Wait a moment, all of you!” Mother said sternly.

“Mona, go and get some wet towels....Riaz and Asma, clean up your game, Shahla and Anisa help me clear off my bed so I can wash my bedspread before it stains. And let’s try and clean up your dolls too. Then all of you sit back down here, because we have things to discuss!”

The children all quietly started cleaning up. Mona brought the towels in and helped wipe up the mess. When it was pretty well cleaned up, Mother sat all the children on the floor in a circle and she began.

“Mona, you have your notebook and pencils here, so you take notes. Now, what virtues were lacking to cause this incident?”

The children all looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders.

“Well, how about starting with Obedience? You all know you are supposed to ask for permission before playing in our room. None of you did so Mona, put Obedience on the list....What else? What caused the fight with Asma and Riaz?”

“Asma was greedy!” shouted Riaz.

“Riaz was greedy!” answered Asma.

“Girls, what virtue do you think is lacking here?” asked Mother.

“Hmmm.....They are both being selfish and only thinking about themselves!” suggested Shahla.

“So the virtue of Unselfishness and Cooperation, were lacking? Mona, please write down those virtues under Obedience. Now, girls, what virtues, were lacking with you?”

Shahla and Anisa looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders.

“HA! Obedience! They shouldn’t have been playing with grape juice in Mom’s room!” shouted Riaz.



“Yes, well that’s true...Please girls, grape juice ALWAYS is attracted to the floor. Please, just use water when you are playing with your tea set. And NEVER, EVER drink grape juice in my room!” said Mother, “What other virtue was missing....I distinctly saw Shahla attacking the boys. What was lacking there?”



“But Mom!” cried Shahla, They ruined our tea party and made a mess, what was I supposed to do? Just take it?”

“Patience, Forgiveness, and Understanding...to name a few virtues lacking, Shahla.” said Mona with a smug smile on her face.

“Yes, you could have been more patient, more understanding and more forgiving Shahla, and also more peaceful....that was a very violent reaction....look at the scratches on their faces!” said Mother to Shahla.

“Yeah, Shahla, CUT YOUR NAILS for pete’s sake!!” yelled Riaz. “Those things are weapons!”

“Well living with you two, I need them!” answered Shahla, sticking out her tongue at Riaz.

“Shahla is that the way Abdul-Baha would have handled the situation?” asked Mother. “Abdul-Baha always forgave everyone.....no matter how many times they did something bad to him....you know that. Abdul-Baha said. ***‘If someone commits an error or wrong towards you, you must instantly forgive him.’*** He also said if a person offends you a hundred thousand times, you must yet forgive him.



Mona please put down the virtues of Patience, Understanding, Forgiveness.....and Peacefulness.”

“Now Mona, how about you, what virtue was lacking in your case?” asked Mother.

“ME! I didn’t do anything wrong! I was just sitting here minding my own business!” complained Mona.

“Well a lot of bad things go on in the world, is it OK just to ignore them and say ‘It’s not my problem?’ ” asked Mother. “I would say Compassion for our fellow humans was a virtue sadly lacking in the world today. Perhaps if you had said something to the girls when they first came in with the grape juice, or to the boys



when they first started the argument, none of this would have happened. What do you think?”

“Hmmm I guess so.” agreed Mona.

“So please add Compassion to the list, Mona.” Mother said smiling.

“And the last virtue to think about is Unity, the most important virtue for the world today... So Mona, what do you have written down for us?”

“I have written here... the virtues of Obedience, Unselfishness, Cooperation, Patience, Forgiveness, Understanding, Peacefulness, Compassion, and Unity.”

After reading them out, Mona told everyone,

“Wow, nine virtues! Good number!”

And everyone smiled and clapped.

“So let’s all work on those nine virtues all week long and see if we can’t all get along better.” said Mother.

“Nine virtues, MOM! I can barely manage ONE!” shouted Riaz.

“OK Riaz, choose one virtue and practice that one virtue really well all week.” suggested Mother.

“Aaahmm....Ok, I will work really hard at Cooperation.” decided Riaz.

“I will do Forgiveness.” said Shahla. “I will practice being the most forgiving person.....EVER!”

“I will work on being more compassionate to my brothers and sisters.”

Mona said.

Asma put in “I don’t think I am compassionate enough, either. I want to try and be a more compassionate person.”

Mother smiled, “I am very proud of all of you!”

“What about me.....what can I do?” asked little Anisa.

“You can work on Obedience...listening to what Mommy and Daddy say and do it right away. OK?”

“OK!” answered Anisa, jumping up and down.

“And I will work on Patience! You guys are really good at making me work on being patient. I start the morning off with lots of patience, and little by little it gets all used up, and I have none left!” laughed Mother.

“And lastly,” exclaimed Mother, “the virtue of Moderation. It is a beautiful day, and you have all been in the house way too long! Go outside and get some fresh air and exercise. How about roller skating?”

“YAH!” Shouted the children, as they all scrambled to get their roller skates and go outside.





## Quiz

1. Where were the children?

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2. What happened to cause the trouble?

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3. What was Mona asked to write down in her notebook?

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4. What was the first virtue that they thought of that was lacking?

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5. What virtues were the boys lacking?

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6. What virtue was Shahla lacking?

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7. What virtue was Mona lacking?

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8. How many virtues did they find that had been lacking?

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9. What were they going to do about those virtues for the next week?

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10. What virtue do you want to work on this week?

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**How did you do? Did you get them all right?**

**The answers are on the Parents' Page.**



## Plastic Scrimshaw

(Scrimshaw are carvings done in bone or ivory)

### Materials

Plastic bottle (white is better)

Scissors

Nail or large pin or needle

Felt pens or crayons

Tissue paper

Tape or glue

### Method

Cut the flat part of a bottle into a shape

Scratch a design into the plastic with the needle

Color the scratches

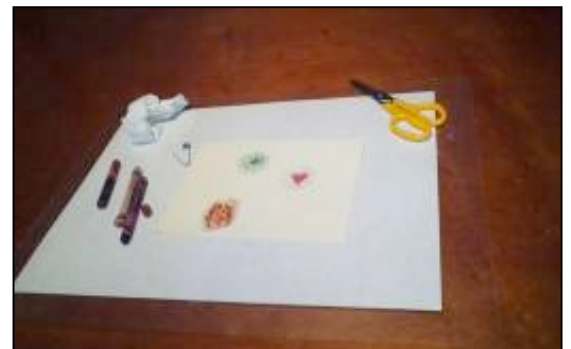
Rub the plastic with the tissue. Color will only be left  
in the scratches.

Tape or glue the Scrimshaw onto a colored paper.

Mount and decorate with a Felt pen....or

Punch a hole in the Scrimshaw and wear as  
necklace

or bracelet.

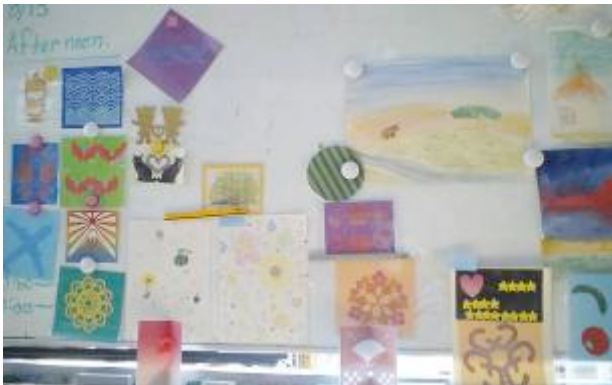


# Dot to Dot

**Connect the dots**  
to see how these kids are saving the planet.



Photos



## Parents Page

Children are going to fight, and get into mischief, it is part of growing up, but when they do, instead of “Stop it!” or “Don’t Fight!” we need to think of it as a teachable moment, and a crisis and victory chance.

Parents aren’t always going to be around to fix the children’s problems. By helping the children discover the virtues that were lacking that caused the problem, and then the virtues needed to solve the problem... they learn how to solve, not only their own problems, but the problems of others around them. This helps them to grow into peace makers that will contribute to the betterment of the world.

***“The betterment of the world can be accomplished by pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct.” Baha’u’llah.***

***“Each child is potentially the light of the world...”*** But they cannot achieve this without a proper education. It is our responsibility as parents to help them find those “gems of inestimable value” within themselves. ***If we fail in this supreme duty, we will be held responsible before a stern Lord.***

Let’s meditate again on the following quotation and how it relates to conflict resolution and furthering the process of unity.

***“Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value, education can alone cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.” Baha’u’llah.***



### Answers to the Quiz

1) In Mother and Father’s room. 2) The boys fought over the controller and spilled the grape juice. 3) She was making a list of the virtues that were lacking. 4) Obedience. 5) Unselfishness and Generosity. 6) Patience, Forgiveness, Understanding and Peacefulness. 7) Loving Concern. 8) Nine virtues. 9) They were all going to practice those showing those virtues.



## *Hiru no Hoshi*

No. 255

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*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](mailto:luanahirahara@hotmail.com)*

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