



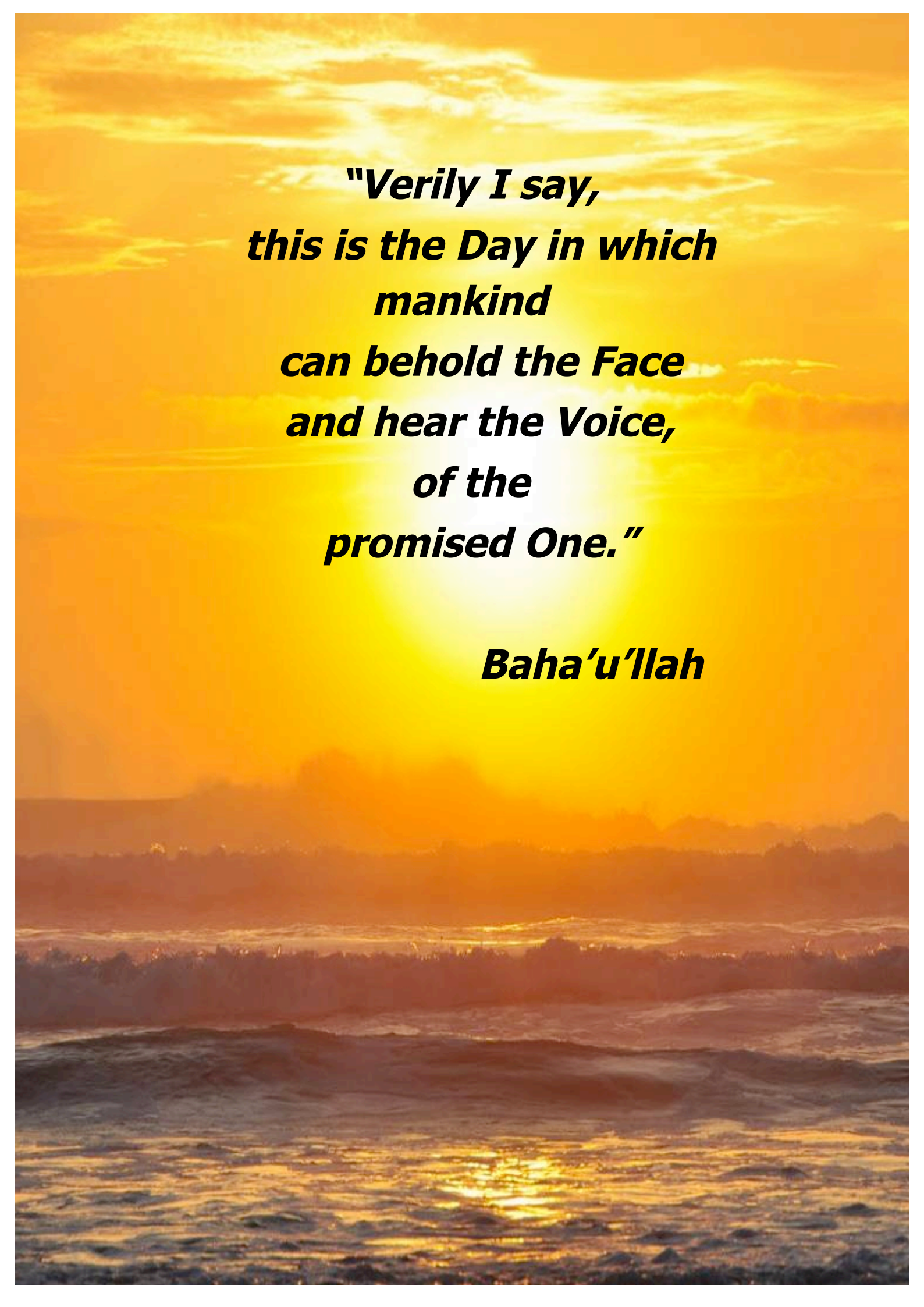
Painting by Stephen Paschal

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 264

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***"Verily I say,
this is the Day in which
mankind
can behold the Face
and hear the Voice,
of the
promised One."***

Baha'u'llah

“Mom, Dad, we are all ready.” said Mona from the doorway into the dining room where Mother and Father were having a cup of coffee after dinner.



Mother and Father looked at each other and then at Mona,

“Ready for what?” asked Mother with surprise.

“We are ready for telling the stories of Baha’u’llah, we all have prepared stories to tell for ‘mukashi banashi (old time story)! Even little Anisa has a story! Asma and I helped her with hers!” she said proudly.

Mother and Father laughed and said “Ok, then let’s go!” as they walked with Mona into the children’s bedroom.

All of their five children, plus Chihiro, the next door neighbor girl who was spending the night with Shahla, were sitting there in a semi circle.

“We all have our stories ready!” Riaz shouted excitedly, as Mother and Father joined the circle.

“Who is going to go first?” he asked.

“Well,” said Father, “since Chihiro chan might be a little confused if we just start with the stories, how about if I start with a little introduction about Baha’u’llah, so she will understand what we are talking about.

“Ok!” agreed the children...and Father started.

“Long ago, way over a hundred years ago, in the land of Persia, a Baby was born, a very special Baby. This Baby was the long awaited Messenger from God, Baha’u’llah, the Glory of God, that everyone around the world was looking for. He was destined to bring about a new world civilization. A civilization that will become the Golden Age of Mankind that will last for a hundred thousand years.”

“WOW!” said all the children.

“One night the father of this wonderful Baby, had a dream...”

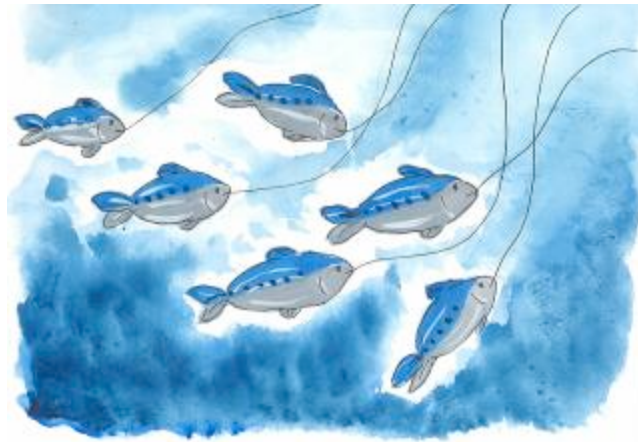
“NOOOOO!” shouted Anisa, “That’s my story!!”

“Oh, Oh, sorry!” said Father. “Anisa, please



tell the story.”

“Baha’u’llah’s father had a dream...” Anisa paused to give her father a dirty look. “In the dream Baha’u’llah was swimming in a big ocean, and His body was all bright and shiny, and His hair was long and swished out in all directions, and on every single bit of hair a fish would bite it and hold on. But Baha’u’llah, just swam and swam and pulled the fishies along after Him. They did not stop Him at all!” Anisa was waving her arms around to demonstrate.



“OK, tell us what Baha’u’llah father did when he woke up.” prompted Asma.

“Baha’u’llah’s father went to see a dream man, someone who knows about dreams! The dream man said that the ocean in the dream was the world, and that Baha’u’llah would one day rule over the whole world. He said that the fishies were the people of the world trying to pull Baha’u’llah, but they couldn’t stop or slow Him down or pull Him at all! All the people would gather around Him and follow Him!”

“And...” Mona hinted.

“And the dream guy also said that Baha’u’llah would have lots of trouble in His life but God would always protect Him!” Anisa finished with a big smile and did a little dance while everyone clapped.



“OK! My story is next!” Riaz jumped up as Anisa sat down.

“When Baha’u’llah was still a little boy, He was taken to His big brother’s wedding. There was a great Feast afterwards, that lasted for days and days. On the last day there was a puppet show that Baha’u’llah watched. It was a puppet show about a king and all his court. There were lots of puppets representing all the important people in the court. One scene was where a thief was brought in and the king said ‘Off with his head!’ and another puppet went ‘KUSHA!’ with his sword and cut off the puppets head!”



“EWWW! MEAN! GROSE! AWFUL!” shouted Mona, Shahla, Anisa and Chihiro.

Smiling that he got a rise out of the girls, Riaz continued.

“Another scene was where someone came in and announced that there was a war going on. You could hear gun fire and smoke and everything.....anyway it was a long and exciting puppet show, and Baha’u’llah watched it all. Then after the curtains closed, a man came out with a big box under his arm. Baha’u’llah asked the man what was in the box, and what had happened to the king and all his men. The man said that all of it was ‘here in this box!’ Baha’u’llah then understood that the real world was just like that kingdom in that box. All the jewels and beautiful robes and gold and soldiers and everything had no meaning. All this outward stuff would just end up like the puppets in the box. Even though He was just a little boy, He knew that nothing on this earth, only the spiritual things like love, were important!” Riaz finished with outspread arms and a spin, and then sat down...while everyone cheered and clapped.

“My turn!” jumped up Shahla, as her friend Chihiro clapped.

“In my story, Baha’u’llah was already a grown up man. He and His family had been sent away from Persia by the mean rulers and priests. They had gone to live in Baghdad. Baha’u’llah decided to go up into the mountains of Kurdistan, I guess so He could talk with God awhile. He lived in caves and ate very simple foods, and walked around the mountains. One day He heard a little boy crying. When He asked the boy what was wrong, the little boy said that he couldn’t go back to school because he didn’t have his homework. He was supposed to write a verse from the Quran, the Holy book of Islam, but he didn’t know how, and he had lost his paper that showed him. So Baha’u’llah wrote the verse for him so he could practice it. When the little boy got back to school and showed his teacher, the teacher was very shocked! ‘Who wrote this for you?’ the teacher asked. ‘The man in the mountains.’ the little boy answered. The teacher said, ‘That man is not a regular man, but a Prince! Only a Prince could write like that!’ So everyone started talking about the wise, kind Prince that lived in the mountains. And people used to come from all over to go up to the mountains and get advice from Him.



Baha'u'llah's family finally heard about these stories and knew it must be their Father that everyone was talking about. They sent someone up to the mountains to find Him and ask Him please to come home. So He did! And everyone was so happy to have Him back. He had been gone for two whole years!"

Shahla finished with a smile and sat down while everyone clapped.

"Ok, who is next?" asked Mother.

Mona and Asma looked at each other. With a nod they both stuck out their fists "Jan, Ken, Pon", they said. (Rock, Paper, Scissors) Asma won, so he stood up and looked around at everyone in the circle.

"Baha'u'llah was sent away from Persia to Baghdad in Iraq, then away from Baghdad to Constantinople, and then sent away from there to the great prison city of Akka in Israel. The reason why the government of Persia treated Him so badly is because His teachings were about unity. He taught that all men were brothers and men and women were equal and that there should be one language spoken everywhere around the world because there was only one country...the earth! The Government and religious people were afraid that these teachings would take away their power. Baha'u'llah tried to explain to them. He sent the Sultan a letter telling him that he needed to take better care of his people and not spend all the money on himself. He told him that if the Sultan didn't listen to Him that God would be very upset with him and he would be punished! When the Grand Vizier, the assistant to the Sultan, opened the letter and read it, he turned a funny shade of green, and had a scared look on his face. He gasped 'He sounds like the King of Kings giving orders to one of the least important little kings in His Empire telling him how to behave!!' Baha'u'llah said that the things that the Sultan had done wrong before he got the letter could be excused, but after he read the letter, there were no more excuses! He had better behave or God would punish him!"



"WOW!" said the children as Asma bowed and sat down!



“And was the Sultan punished?” asked Riaz.

“You can be sure of it!” answered Asma. “There is no more Sultan, or king of Persia or Iraq!”

“Ok Mona! Go for it!” Asma said smiling.

Mona stood up and started her story.

“As Asma said, Baha’u’llah sent letters to all the kings and rulers around the world, even to the rulers in America. He told them all that they needed to take better care of their people and stop being so selfish. He said that they were servants to all their people, not masters. He said that all the rulers needed to get together in a great meeting and figure out how to get along, with no more wars. He said all the rulers needed to be at that meeting, and that if any ruler tried to make war with any other country then all the rulers would have to join together to stop that one country. And then the world would have the Most Great Peace! With no more war. He also said that all children, boys and girls, needed to be educated. And that no one should be too rich and no one should be too poor. He said there should be one language....”

“I said that already!” put in Asma.

Mona gave Asma a dirty look and continued. “So one of the letters Baha’u’llah sent was to Napoleon III in France. Napoleon was then very powerful and proud. He took one look at the letter and said, ‘If this Man is God, then I am two gods!’ and he threw the letter behind his back!”

Here Mona threw the piece of paper she was holding behind her back for effect...all the children said, “Ohhhh!”

“Baha’u’llah then sent Napoleon a second letter saying that because he did that, he would lose his whole kingdom. Within a year Napoleon was completely defeated!

“Baha’u’llah also sent a letter to the German Emperor and told him that if he did not stop building up weapons of war and work for world peace the soil of Germany would be soaked in blood, not once but twice! The Emperor did not listen, and Germany suffered terribly in both World War I and World War II!”

“WOW!” said all the children.

Mona added, “Baha’u’llah sent all these letters to all these rulers and only the Queen of England gave a positive answer...Girls are so much smarter than



boys!”

“Hey!” said Riaz and Asma at once.

“Anyway, Baha’u’llah said that since the rulers didn’t listen to Him, the ordinary people of the world would have to work really hard for a long time to get the Lesser Peace and then it would take ages for the Most Great Peace to come!” As Mona sat down she mumbled, “Darn stupid kings!”

The children all clapped and cheered for Mona’s presentation.

“Chihiro has a story!” said Shahla as she jumped up pulling her friend’s hand. “I told it to her so she could be a part of the ‘mukashi banashi’ telling!”

“That was very nice of you Shahla!” encouraged Mother.

“YAY!” clapped everyone as Chihiro stood up.

Shahla explained. “This story is when Baha’u’llah and his family were already in Israel. They were in their house in Bahji, after they were released from the prison city of Akka....Ok, go ahead Chihiro!”

As Shahla sat down, Chihiro began quietly, looking at her feet...but got more and more confidence as she spoke.

“Lots of people had come to Baha’u’llah’s house to see Him, and there were some children too. It was in the afternoon, very hot, just like here in Okinawa, and everyone had gone to take a rest, just like we do! One little boy about 4 years old wasn’t sleepy....sounds like my little brother. This little boy’s name was Aqa Muhammad. He was walking around the house and he saw a table with some rock sugar on it. I guess that is like sugar cubes. The little boy liked sweets very much, just like my little brother! He grabbed two handfuls of these rock sugars and just then he turned around and saw Baha’u’llah coming towards him. The little boy quickly put his hands behind his back and looked at Baha’u’llah.

Baha’u’llah smiling, gently led him over to the end of the hall where there was a plate full of sweet cakes. Baha’u’llah took the plate and offered him a piece of cake. Aqa Muhammed didn’t know what to do! Both of his hands were full of sugar, but he really wanted a piece of cake!! Baha’u’llah laughed, took one of the cakes and put it on the little boy’s head! Then Baha’u’llah said, ‘It seems you like sweets, eat well, Good-bye,



and may God protect you!”

“Yay! Good job Chihiro!” everyone cheered and clapped as Chihiro sat down.

“Oh, Oh, I have one more....PLEASE!” begged Riaz.

“Ok,” said Mother.

“This one takes place in Israel too, in the little garden of Ridvan that Baha’u’llah and the Bahais used. One summer, a whole swarm of locusts came. They are like giant grasshoppers that go about in swarms of thousands and eat everything in their path!!!”

“Yeah, yeah, we know! Go on with the story!” Asma scolded.

“Well the locusts were all over the garden gobbling everything up. The gardener was so upset! He went to Baha’u’llah and said ‘My Lord! The locusts have come, and are eating away the shade from above Thy blessed head. I beg of Thee to cause them to depart!’ that is fancy talk for GET RID OF THEM!”

With that everyone laughed. Riaz continued.

“Baha’u’llah smiled and said, ‘The locusts must be fed; let them be.’ The gardener went back and watched for awhile as the bugs chewed and chomped, and finally he couldn’t stand it any longer. He went back and begged Baha’u’llah to do something about it. Baha’u’llah went out and said ‘*Abu’l-Qasim (the gardener) does not want you; God protect you.*’ Then Baha’u’llah lifted the hem of his robe and shook it. Then all the locusts flew up together in a big cloud of bugs and left.”

“Yay!” Shouted everyone, they were all clapping, as Riaz sat down again.

“Wow! Baha’u’llah was so nice to children and bugs and everyone!” said Chihiro, and everyone smiled and nodded.

“Oh, I just remembered a really good one! Please Mom, its short!” begged Asma. “It’s about how Baha’u’llah didn’t want to ever see any animals hurt.”

“Ok, last story! It is getting late!” said Mother.

Asma stood up and began. “There once was a hunter who was really good at shooting birds. He never missed. He became quite famous for being such a



good hunter. But he did it just for fun, not to eat the birds! Poor birds! One day, Baha'u'llah met him as he was on his way out to the field with his gun. Baha'u'llah told him to not shoot animals for sport. God did not like it when humans killed animals for fun. The hunter did not listen to Baha'u'llah and went on his way with his friends. But that day no matter how hard he tried he missed every bird he shot at. He was getting really frustrated and embarrassed! Finally, at the end of the day, there was a bird quite close to him, and he thought 'there is no way I can miss this time!' He took aim and shot and missed the bird, but the bird was so scared it flew straight at him. Right in front of him the hunter shot again, and MISSED! Then he remembered what Baha'u'llah had said. 'Oh, God doesn't like me killing animals for no reason!' So he stopped and never killed for sport again!"

"Yay!" the children clapped and cheered as Asma sat down. They all knew how much Asma loved animals and hated to see one hurt, even on T.V.

"You all prepared and told your stories so well! You are all first class Mukashi Banashi Story Tellers!" said Mother smiling. "Daddy and I are so proud of all of you! God willing you will all get a chance to go on pilgrimage and see all these places you have been talking about!"

"But," continued Mother, "right now, I think that it is enough for tonight. It is time for prayers and bed!"

"Ahhhh!" said all the children.

"Maybe you could tell some of these stories or some other stories at next Feast. There are lots and lots of stories about Baha'u'llah!"

"Yay!" shouted the children. "Let's do it!" And the children all gave Mother and Father big hugs, even Chihiro!



There are several very good children's books on the life of Baha'u'llah. One of them is a wonderful picture book with paintings from Baha'u'llah's life, published in Australia. **'The Incomparable Friend' Story by Shirin Sabri, Paintings by Sue Podger. There also is **'Stories of Baha'u'llah'** compiled by Ali-Akbar Furutan. Published by George Ronald, Oxford. As well as **"Central Figures"** by the Core Curriculum, at www.bahaibookstore.com. There are other compilations, from different publishing trusts.*

Quiz

1. What were the children all ready for at the beginning of the story?

2. What story did Anisa tell?

3. What was the puppet show that Riaz shared about?

4. What did Baha'u'llah decide that the puppet show meant?

5. In Shahla's story, who did Baha'u'llah help?

6. In Asma's story, what happened when the Grand Vizier read Baha'u'llah's letter?

7. In Mona's story, what did Napoleon do with the letter that Baha'u'llah sent him?

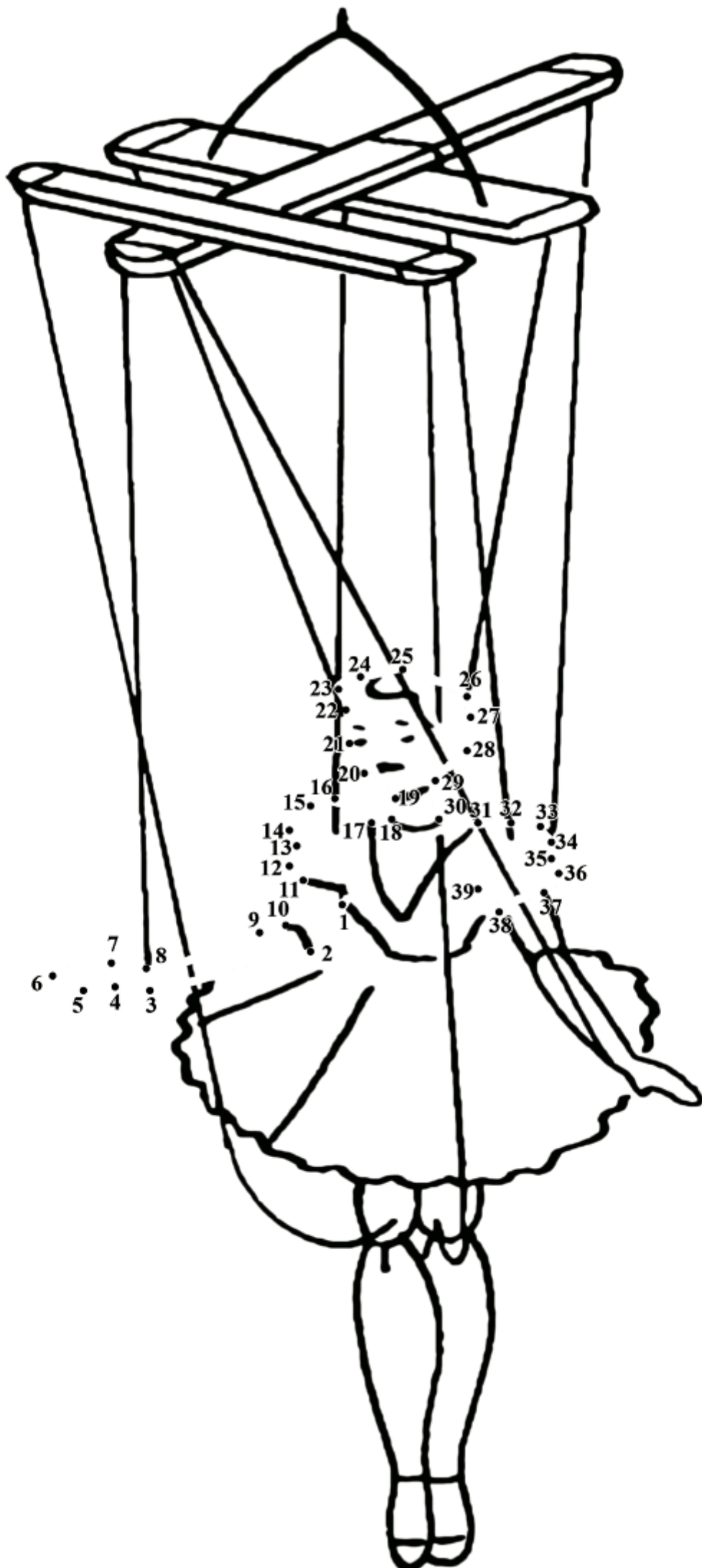
8. What did Baha'u'llah say would happen to Germany if the Emperor didn't listen to Him? What happened?

9. What story did Chihiro tell?

10. What were the two stories at the end about how people should treat animals?



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



Snow Man

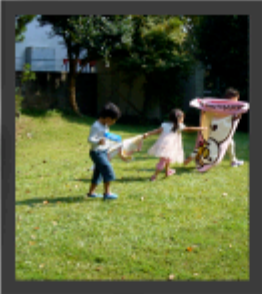
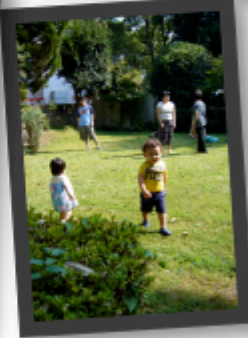
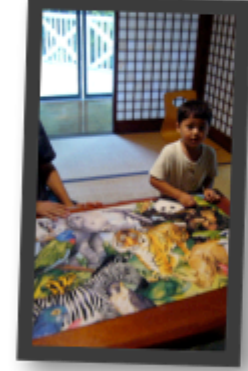
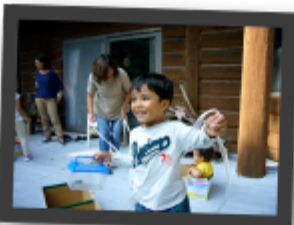
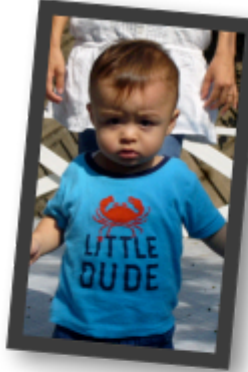
Materials

- *White children's sock (smaller is cuter)
- *Scissors
- *White thread
- *Sequins, buttons, sparkly round things.
- *White Glue
- *Small bit of ribbon or material for the scarf or cape
- *A bit of yarn or felting material for the puff on the hat (optional)
- *Rice (or synthetic filling)

Method

- *Cut the toe off of the sock as in photo (leave 1/3) turn inside out.
- *Wrap the thread several times around the foot part of the sock to tie it off to make a small bag. Turn right side out.
- *Fill bag with rice. (uncooked, duh!)
- *Wrap thread around the top several times and tie off.
- *Wrap thread around the top 1/3 to make the snow man's head and tie off.
- *Stick on bright round things, to make eyes and nose.
- *Add buttons or sparkly round things to make buttons on the snowman.
- *Glue eyes, nose and buttons in place.
- *Fold the left over toe of the sock twice and stick on the snowman for his hat.
- *Put a scarf or cape around his/her neck.
- *Glue a puff on the top of the hat.
- *Sprinkle some pixie dust and bring him/her to life! ;)





Parents Page

“Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest, if ye be of them that comprehend...Should anyone seek refuge with you, extend unto him your protection and betray him not.”

Baha’u’llah, Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 93

“We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations; yet they deem us a stirrer-up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment....That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should ease, an differences of race be annulled-what harm is there in this?...Yet so it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come....”

Baha’u’llah

“The time foreordained unto the peoples and kindreds of the earth is now come. The promises of God, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have all been fulfilled.”

Baha’u’ah

“O ye men of wisdom among nations! Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity. Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the well-being of all mankind. This span of earth is but one homeland and one habitation. It behoveth you to abandon vainglory which causeth alienation and to set your hearts on whatever will ensure harmony. In the estimation of the people of Baha man's glory lieth in his knowledge, his upright conduct, his praiseworthy character, his wisdom, and not in his nationality or rank. O people of the earth! Appreciate the value of this heavenly word. Indeed it may be likened unto a ship for the ocean of knowledge and a shining luminary for the realm of perception.”

Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, pp. 67-68

Stephen Paschal has graciously allowed Hiru no Hoshi to use his paintings. If anyone is interested in his work you can see his home page.

<http://www.stephenpaschal.com/archived-work.html>

Answers to the Quiz

1) Mukashi Banashi (story telling). 2) The dream Baha’u’llah’s father had about the fish and Baha’u’llah. 3) A king and his court. 4) This world is not important at all! 5) He helped the little boy with his homework. 6) He was shocked and turned Green. 7) He threw it behind his back. 8) That the soil of Germany would be soaked in blood, twice! World War I, and II. 9) The little boy and his homework. 10) The story of the Locust and the story of the hunter.



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