



"It is quite important that the Greatest Name or a picture of Abdu'l-Bahá be placed in a dignified position"

Lights of Guidance #1624

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 265

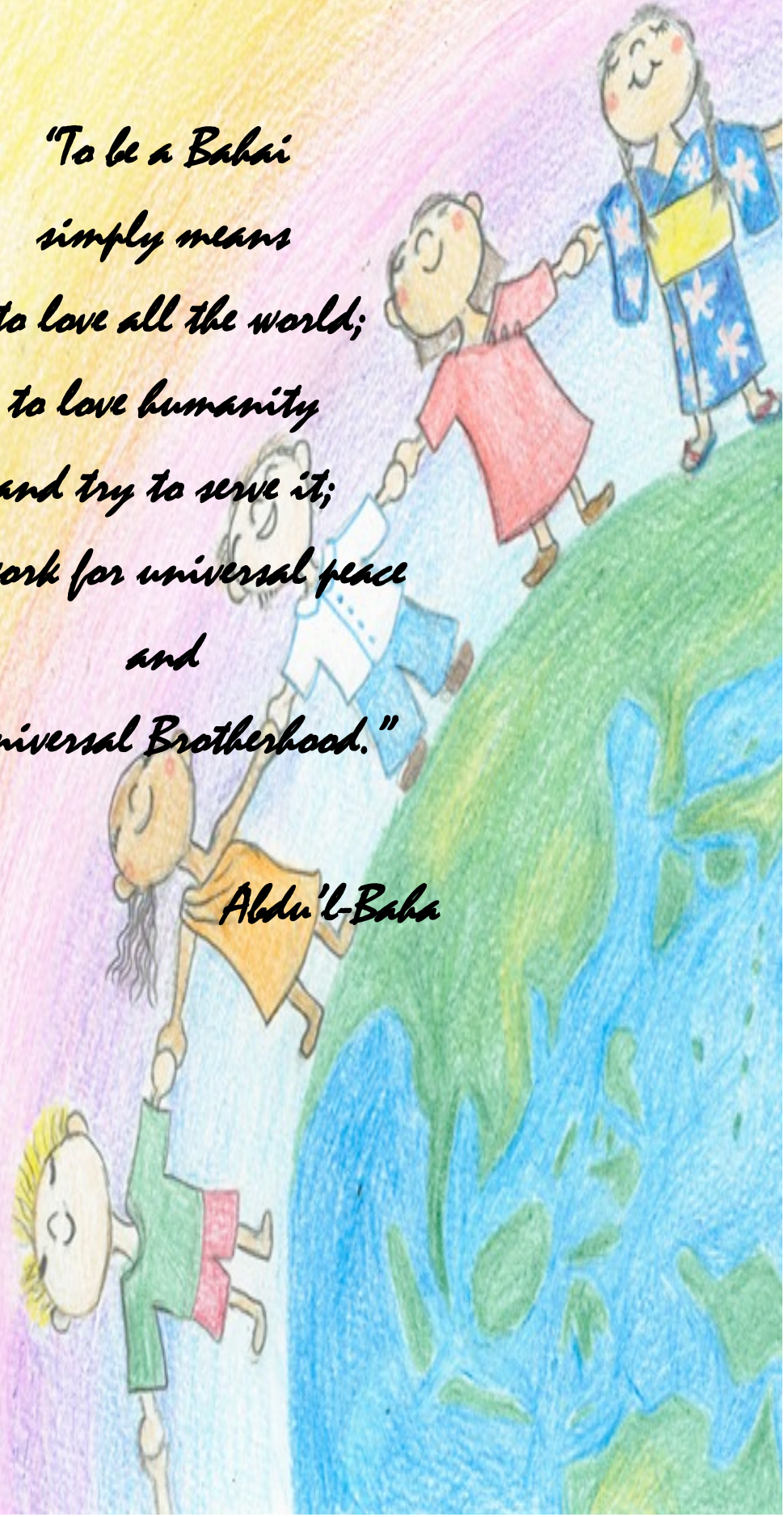
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*"To be a Bahai
simply means
to love all the world;
to love humanity
and try to serve it;
to work for universal peace
and
universal Brotherhood."*

Abdu'l-Baha



It was Monday afternoon and all the children but Asma had returned home from school. Mother was starting to get worried. She asked Riaz if he knew where Asma was. Riaz looked kind of sheepish, looking down he said, "Well, he might have gotten into a fight."

"What!!" said Mother, "that doesn't sound like Asma!"

"No!" agreed Mona, looking up from her homework. "That sounds more like what you would do, Riaz!"

Just then, they all heard the front door open and close and Mother ran to the entry way to see Asma limping into his room.

"Asma! What happened?"

All the kids had followed Mother and were looking expectantly at Asma.

"I don't know.... As I was leaving school a group of boys I didn't know jumped on me and started hitting and kicking me. As they left one of the boys said that that would teach me not to tease his little brother anymore."

"Uh oh....my friend told me they were looking for me, he thought they might have found you instead." said Riaz quietly, and everyone turned to stare at him.

"Riaz...What is this about?" asked Mona.

"Ahhh, well...there is a really irritating kid in our class, he always tries to be the teacher's pet, and is always tattling on everyone..."

"You mean telling on you, right, Riaz." clarified Shahla.

"Well, yeah, and so I made it my mission to tease him all day today. He told me he was going to tell his big brother to get me, but I wasn't afraid!" boasted Riaz. "I guess the big boys asked someone where the Hirahara kid was and they must have pointed out Asma...." Riaz finished quietly, looking down at his feet. "Sorry Asma."

Shahla jumped up and said, "OK guys! Let's all get together tomorrow after school, and pound those bullies!"

"Wait a minute guys," said Mother, "Everyone come in here and settle down, let's talk about this." Mother brought everyone into the tatami room and they all sat down around her.

Mother took a deep breath, and began, "Let me start with saying how sorry I am Asma that you were an innocent victim of an attack.



You guys know that Baha'u'llah told us that Abdul-Baha is our exemplar, that means we can look at Abdul-Baha and try and act just like He did. Well, there is a story of something that happened to Abdul-Baha as a young boy that was kind of similar to what happened to Asma. Do you guys want to hear the story?" All the children nodded their heads, they all loved stories.



"When Abdul-Baha was a small boy in Tehran many of the followers of the Bab, including Abdul-Baha's Father, Baha'u'llah, were thrown into prison and their families were persecuted (treated badly). The young boys of the town would often chase after and bully the children whose parents were Babis, (followers of the Bab). When the boys bullied Abdul-Baha, His family did not get angry, they explained that *'the power of God is manifested in persecution. A tree is watered by rain, and the sun falls upon it, it is not damaged by a little dust, if the father is pleased with his child, of what importance is the opinion of the neighbors.'* That means that God will make us stronger when things become difficult, and we should still remain patient, happy, and loving. So for all His life, Abdul-Baha would always be kind and loving to everyone, especially to those people who treated Him badly."

"Yeah," put in Shahla, "I remember the man who spit at Abdul-Baha every day for 40 years and Abdul-Baha was always nice to him and helped him, until finally he became a friend."

"Are there any more stories of Abdul-Baha as a child, Mom?" Asked Asma, becoming interested in the stories and forgetting his own situation.

"You know that Abdul-Baha, even though He was a small boy, was one of the first people on this planet to recognize Baha'u'llah as the new Manifestation of God. He used to love to study and memorize the Holy Writings. He also loved to ride horses. One time in Bagdad, He joined a party of hunters, riding after them on the chase, but when He saw that they were shooting and killing the innocent birds and animals, He decided that from then on He would only hunt the souls of men to bring them to God."

"I know just how He felt!" agreed Asma, "I hate that people kill animals and eat them!" With that Riaz laughed and said,

"Sorry Asma, if I didn't eat animals I would starve to death! I hate vegetables!"

Mother continued, “Oh, yes, I remember a story of how Abdul-Baha was an excellent teacher, even when He was a very young boy. One day, one of the believers brought his brother, who was a very educated man to Abdul-Baha and Abdul-Baha explained to Him about God sending a new messenger from God, and many of the teachings for this new day. The man said he was not convinced, he was not satisfied. Abdul-Baha told him that if a man was very thirsty and was given water, he would drink it and be satisfied. He would take the glass. *‘But you,’* He told the man, *‘are not thirsty, if you were thirsty, then you would be satisfied’.* Then Abdul-Baha told the man *‘I can speak of the sun to every seeing person, and say it is a sign of the day; but a blind person would not be convinced because he cannot see the sun. If I say to a man with good hearing, listen to the beautiful music, he would then listen and be made happy...But if you play the most beautiful music in the presence of a deaf man he would hear nothing. Now go and receive seeing eyes and hearing ears, then I will speak further with you on this subject.’* The man left, but soon came back and became a strong believer.”

“Wow!” all the children said.

“Even us little kids can teach people.” said little Anisa, jumping up and down.

“Oh, I remember a story about Abdul-Baha and a little girl named Mona, you guys want to hear it?” asked Mona.

The children all looked at Mona and said, “Yes!!”

“When Abdul-Baha was quite old, He visited Europe and America. One day on His trip He met a small girl named Mona. He took Mona in His arms and kissed her on both cheeks. He started talking to her, and asked her if she was French, or English. She was very shy and didn’t answer. Abdul-Baha told her that if anyone asked her that question, she should answer that she is a Bahai. Then He told her the story of a shepherd that took care of Baha’u’llah’s sheep. He was a very simple man who could not read or write. When his neighbors would come to him and ask him if he were a Christian, a Muslim or a Jew, he would answer that he didn’t understand their question, but that all he knew was that he was a shepherd for Baha’u’llah. Then Abdul-Baha told Mona that she was His dear daughter, and patted her on her cheeks and back.”

“So what do you guys think of that story?” asked Mother.



Mona continued, “I think it means that we shouldn’t worry about what nationality people call us, like here in Okinawa when people call us ‘hafu’, or any other names people go by, what is important is to follow God’s teachings...shepherds for Baha’u’llah!”

“Wow, Mona!” said Mother in surprise, “You are Abdul-Baha’s dear daughter!” And all the children laughed.

“Oh, Mommy,” broke in Anisa, “tell the story of Abdul-Baha at the zoo, that you told me yesterday when the kids were at school. I love that story!”

The older children were all surprised as they had never heard that story before.

“Well, it was around 1912, when Abdul-Baha went to America, it was in Chicago. Abdul-Baha wanted to go to the zoo to see the animals, but the Friends told Him that since it was spring, the mother animals all had their new babies hidden, and it would be difficult to see any. But Abdul-Baha insisted. So they went to the zoo. Abdul-Baha told the Friends to stay behind Him. When He went up to each cage, the animal mothers would bring out their new babies to show Abdul-Baha, but if any of the other Friends would come near, the mothers would rush to hide their babies again.”



“Yeah, just like Baha’u’llah, Abdul-Baha loved animals and they loved Him.” said Asma. “I remember someone asked Abdul-Baha if some animals were evil, like flies and mosquitoes. Abdul-Baha told them that the same good that man gives to the world, the mosquito does too. He said that the mosquito sucks human blood, but people kill animals and eat them, so people do more harm than the mosquitoes do.”

Asma smiled as the other children clapped their hands and laughed at that story.

It seems as if Asma had forgotten all about his bad day.

“Asma, do you remember that quote of Abdul-Baha’s we learned in children’s class about not bruising the serpent in the dust?” asked Mona.

“Ahh...*Unless ye must bruise not the serpent in the dust. How much less wound a man. And if ye can, no ant should ye alarm, much less a brother harm.*”

“Wow! Sugoi, Asma!” shouted all the children.

“Let’s all memorize that!” suggested Shahla, and the other children agreed.

“Yeah, let’s all be like Abdul-Baha and be nice to all the critters and people!” shouted Anisa jumping up and down clapping her hands.

“So,” put in Mother, “I guess that means that all of you will be kind and loving to the boys that beat up Asma by mistake...and Riaz, what do you think you should do about this problem?”

“Well.....I guess I should go and apologize to the kid that I teased, and try and be friends with him. Then,... maybe find the big boys and let them know they beat up the wrong guy.... ?”

“Wow! Riaz! That would be really brave!” said Asma, and all the children agreed.

“Say, maybe we should say some prayers that Riaz doesn’t get beat up too badly by those boys tomorrow.” added Mona.

The children all agreed, and ran to get their prayer books. Each one said a prayer for Riaz.



The next day, Riaz walked into the house with a big grin on his face.

Mother and the girls looked up from their conversation, and Riaz said,

“I did it! I apologized to the kid, and he introduced me to his big brother.

Boy was I scared! But the big boy felt really bad that he and his friends had beat up Asma for no reason.”

Asma walked in right behind Riaz, he too was smiling.

“Yeah, those boys came up to me today during lunch break, and said they were really sorry for yesterday. They invited me to play soccer with them!”

“Well,” said Mother, “Looks like the dust on the leaves did not hurt the plant! It sounds like confirmation!”

“What does confirmation mean?” asked Anisa.

“Confirmation is when we do the right thing, and everything works out well.” explained Mona

“Yeah! Confirmation!” shouted Anisa. And all the older children laughed and echoed, “Yeah! Confirmation!”



*These stories are from Star of the West Vol.9 , #18 p.201-203.

Quiz

1. What happened to Asma after school?

2. Why did the big boys beat him up?

3. When Abdul-Baha was a little boy and got bullied, did His family get angry? What did they say?

4. Did Abdul-Baha like to hunt animals? Why not?

5. What did Abdul'-Baha tell the man who was not satisfied with the explanation about God's new Messenger?_____

6. What did Abdul-Baha tell Mona to answer when someone asked her what her Nationality was?_____

7. What did the shepherd in Abdul'-Baha's story answer when people asked him about his religion?_____

8. What happened when Abdul'-Baha went to the zoo in America?

9. What did Abdul-Baha answer when someone asked Him about bad animals or insects?_____

10. Did Riaz get beat up at the end of the story? What happened?

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



Dot to Dot



Star Window Decorations

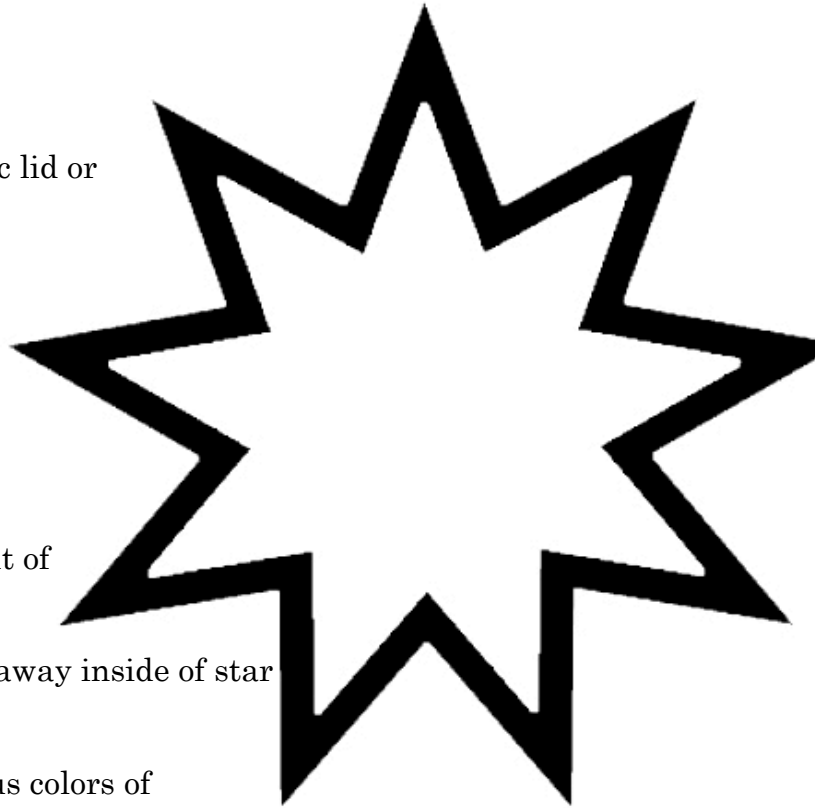


Material;

- Black outline of Star
- Scissors
- Clear Plastic (Disposable Plastic lid or other clear plastic sheet)
- Colored tissue paper
- Glue
- Cutter

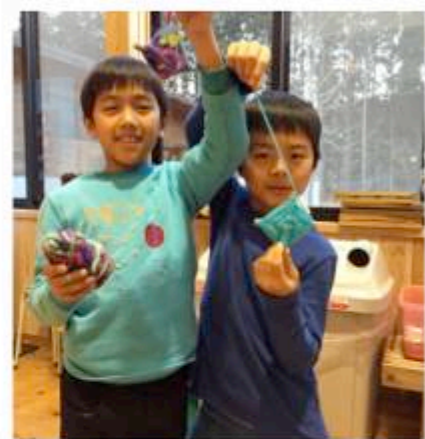
Method;

- Print and cut out star (or cut out of black construction paper)
- Use cutter (exacto knife) to cut away inside of star
- Glue star to plastic sheet
- On the opposite side glue various colors of tissue paper
- Cut out plastic stained glass star
- Tape to window for decoration





Children's Class from 2014



Parent's Page

Below are some quotations from the writings of Abdul-Baha that we can study and think about with our children.

“May each one of you become a shining lamp, of which the flame is the Love of God.”

“Let the light of truth and honesty shine from your faces.”

“Beware, beware, lest any of you seek vengeance, even against one who is thirsting for your blood. Beware, beware, lest ye offend the feelings of another, even though he be an evil-doer, and he wish you ill.”

“Train your children from their earliest days to be infinitely tender and loving to animals. If an animal be sick, let the children try to heal it, if it be hungry let them feed it, if thirsty, let them quench its thirst, if weary, let them see that it rests.”

“Concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity. When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.”

“Let all your striving be for this, to become the source of life and immortality, and peace and comfort and joy, to every human soul, whether one known to you or a stranger, one opposed to you or on your side.”

“God has crowned you with honour and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world.”





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