




# Hiru no Hoshi

**No. 275**

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*“Make thou an effort  
that thou mayest take thy place  
under the sun  
and receive an abundant share  
of its dazzling light.”*

*‘Abdu’l-Baha’*

## Mona's Magic Teardrop Story

"Mona! Mona!" I heard Mother calling me. I opened my eyes and the sun was shining so bright! Mother was standing over me to wake me up. I saw a shining jewel around her neck; it was on a gold chain. I had never seen it before; it looked so beautiful. It had the Baha'i ring stone symbol on an amber colored teardrop crystal. Mother saw me looking at it, and she said, "Do you like it?" She turned the stone over and there were words on it written in gold letters. "This is a special jewel that helps people get through life's tests!" Mother explained.

Oh! Tests! I had a big Kanji test that day at school! I had fallen asleep worrying about it last night! We had moved back to Japan just three years earlier and I was still behind the other kids when it came to Japanese tests. It made me feel so stupid!

I quickly got ready for school, and as I was leaving Mother said, "Good luck! I am going to take a nap now. Good-bye!" I paused; I needed that magic jewel to pass the kanji test! So I waited a few minutes, then I tiptoed into Mother's room as she lay sleeping. I opened her jewelry box... there it was! The magic stone! Now I could pass the test! I gripped the stone tightly and ran out of the house.

Later at my desk, I began feeling guilty. But I shook my head, "NO! I have to pass this test!" I opened my hand to look at the jewel... I turned it over to see the magic words that would give me the answers to the test, but the only thing written on the jewel was, "**O God Thou art more a friend to me than I am to myself.**" I couldn't believe it! I went through all that pain and guilt for a **prayer!** I was so mad! I squeezed the stone in my fist and crushed it, just like jelly! I opened my hands and it was crushed into little cold pieces of stone! Now I wouldn't get a good grade on the kanji test. All the kids would look at me and think "poor foreign girl she's not good in any language...she must be stupid!" I started to cry. I looked down at my test, but it was all blurry from my tears. A cool tear fell into my hand....The tears were shining in the light and they were so bright!

I opened my eyes wide and I was looking up at the sun shining brightly on me from my bed. It was just a dream!! What a relief! Suddenly I felt something in my hand; I looked down and there was the jewel! It was the stone that Mother had gotten when she first became a Baha'i. It had the Baha'i ring stone symbol on the front but nothing on the back. It was cracked and chipped on the top where the chain should go through. Asma, my younger brother, had broken it so Mother gave it to me. I had fallen asleep with it in my hand because I had been so worried about my test. "TEST! OH! I do have a kanji test today!"

I jumped out of bed, hurried and got dressed and ran into the prayer room to say morning prayers with the family. Everyone was waiting for me. I sat down and opened my prayer book. When it was my turn, I read the prayer I had opened to... "**O God, refresh and gladden my spirit. Purify my heart. Illumine my powers. I lay all my affairs in Thy hand. Thou art my Guide**





***and my Refuge. I will no longer be sorrowful and grieved; I will be a happy and joyful being. O God! I will no longer be full of anxiety, nor will I let trouble harass me. I will not dwell on the unpleasant things of life. O God! Thou art more a friend to me than I am to myself. I dedicate myself to Thee, O Lord.”***

Those were the words written on the jewel in my dream! ***“O God! Thou art more a friend to me than I am to myself!”*** I hadn't understood them in my dream, but now I thought I did!

After prayers, I ran to school thinking about the test and the prayer. When I got to school, I studied all through recess while my friends talked and played. So when it was time for the test, I felt confident with the tear drop jewel in my pocket and the knowledge I had from my extra studying through recess.

While I was walking home from school, I thought about what the prayer meant. God is telling us that we can't expect God to just give us whatever we want. A mother doesn't give a child candy instead of dinner just because the child cries and wants it. Because the mother loves the child, she knows what is best for the child. That is how God is with us. In my dream the jewel didn't give me the answers to the test... that would have been bad for me. I had to study for the test and earn my grade!

From now on, I will believe in God's help, knowing that God will guide me to follow the right path, but I have to work for it!

As for the tear drop jewel.... I will treasure it always. The End!

Mona finished the story with a bow, and Asma, Riaz, Shahla, Anisa, Mother and Father all clapped and cheered.

“Wow! Did it really happen, just like that?” asked Riaz.

“Pretty much,” answered Mona, smiling.

“I think you should thank me for accidentally breaking Mom's necklaces!” Asma said, laughing.

“I have seen lots of Baha'is wear these Baha'i necklaces, and rings too!” said Shahla.

“Does everyone know that it is magic?” asked Anisa, and everyone laughed.

“The purpose of wearing the ring stone symbol,” Father said seriously, “is so that we will see it, and remember that we are spiritual beings connected to God, through Baha'u'llah, and we should act accordingly!”



"I heard it put this way;" said Asma smiling, "it's there so that we will remember who we are, and what God expects us to do!"

"That's an easy way to think of it!" agreed Mona.

"Well I think that it was a wonderful story about confirmation!" Mother praised.

"Confirmation? What is that and what does it have to do with Mona's story?" asked Shahla.

"Confirmation means working hard and God will help you. Mona needed to study hard before she could get a good grade on the test. God helped her, by giving her the dream and showing her what she needed to do," Mother explained.

"Yeah, like the story of the two frogs that fell into the cream!" shouted Riaz.

"The one frog gave up and was ready to drown....," added Shahla.

"But the other frog kicked and kicked until he made butter," quickly added Riaz before Shahla could.

"....And then he climbed out!" they both finished together.

"Then he helped his friend out, didn't he?" asked Anisa in a worried voice, and everyone laughed.

"Of course, Anisa. The point is God helped him by giving him the idea to start kicking.... but he had to work hard for himself to achieve it," explained Mother.

"Show me the jewel again. Please, Mona," asked Shahla.

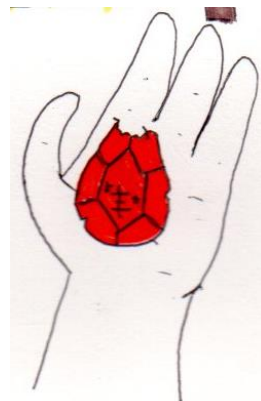
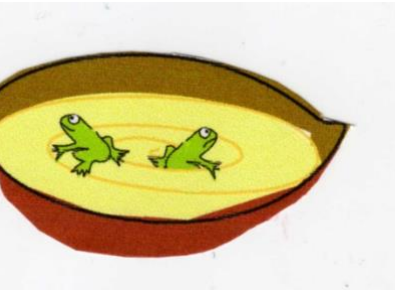
"I want a magic jewel!" said Anisa, as she and Shahla examined the stone.

Mother smiled and said, "When each of you turn fifteen, I will give you a Baha'i ring stone to wear. OK?"

"I don't want a necklace, that's a girl's thing!" shouted Riaz.

"How about a manly silver I.D. bracelet with the ring stone symbol on it?" Mother said, laughing.

"OK; that sounds good," agreed Riaz.



Laughing, Mother and Father left the room to go and have some coffee, while the children all talked together about Mona's story, what confirmation looks like, and what kind of ring stone jewelry they wanted when they turned fifteen.

*"God never forsakes His children who strive and work and pray." 'Abdul'-Baha*

Illustrator Annette Bergenthal



## Quiz

1. Why was Mona worried?

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2. In her dream, what did Mona take from Mother's jewelry box?

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3. Why did she take it?

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4. In her dream, what was written on the jewel?

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5. In her dream, did the jewel help her pass the test?

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6. Where did the jewel really come from?

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7. What was really written on the jewel?

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8. How did Mona pass the test?

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9. What did Mona learn?

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10. Why do we wear the ring stone symbol?

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



## String Art

### Materials:

- \*Paper (2 pieces for each painting)
- \*Paint
- \*String (or yarn)
- \*Heavy books (for weight)

### Method:

- \*Dip string in 1, 2 or 3 different paints along the string's line.

(Make sure the paint is not on thickly. Squeeze out extra paint with fingers if necessary.)

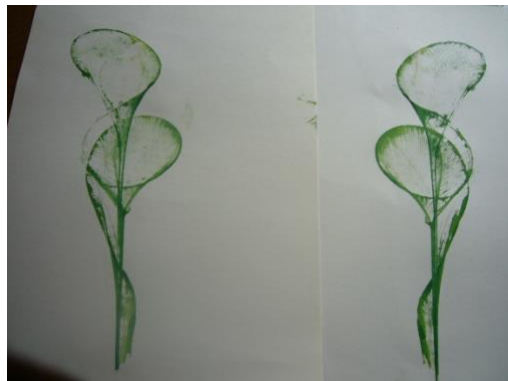
- \*In a curvy line lay the string on one piece of paper going downwards; a loop is ok too.

- \*Lay the other piece of paper on top and quickly lay the heavy books on top.

- \*Carefully pull the string straight out the bottom.

- \*Quickly take off the weights and the top paper.

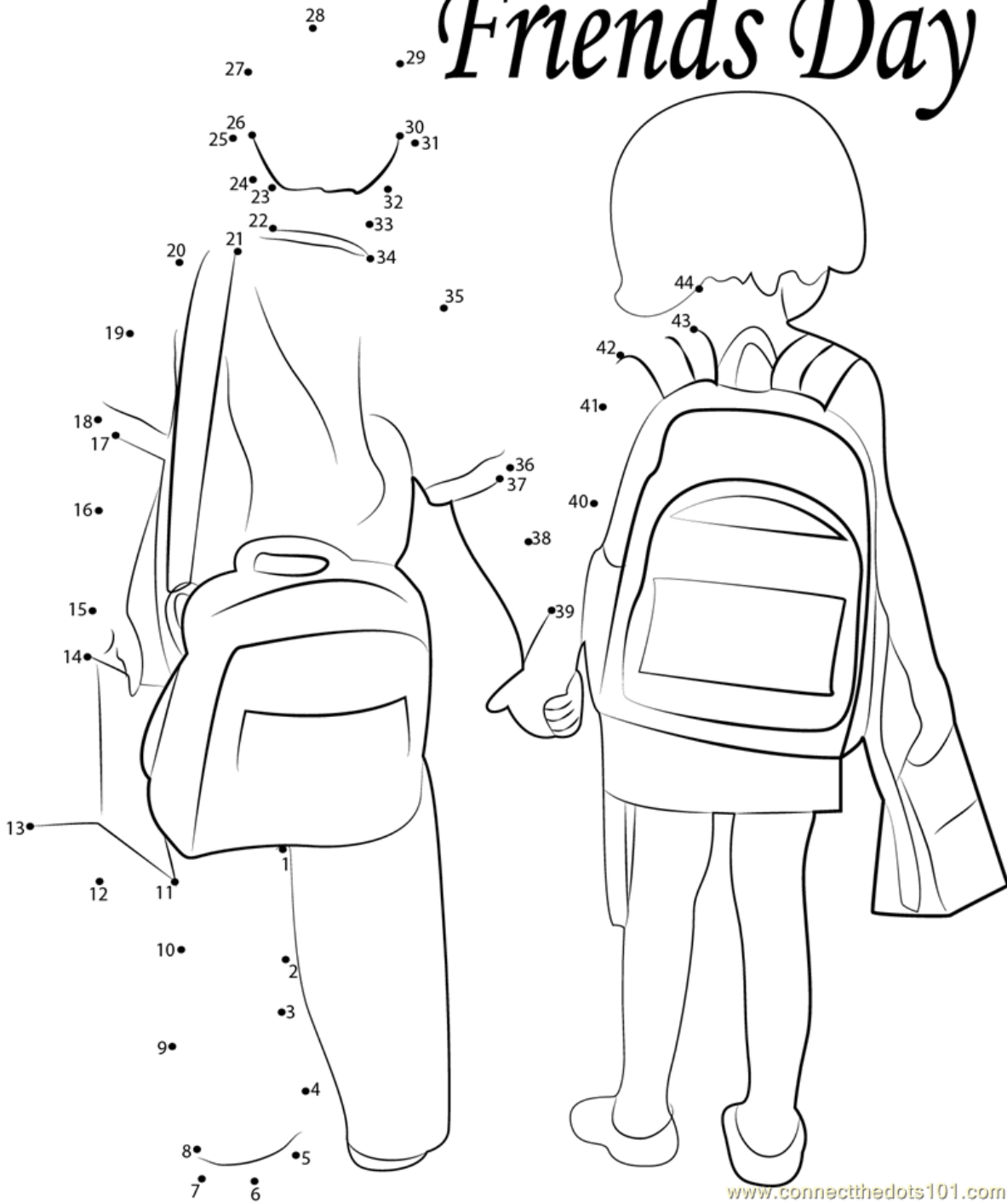
- \*Try as many pictures as you like with different combinations of colors....or only one color.

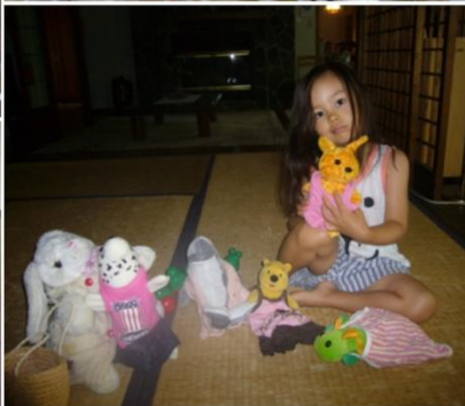




Dot to Dot

# Friends Day





## Parent's Page



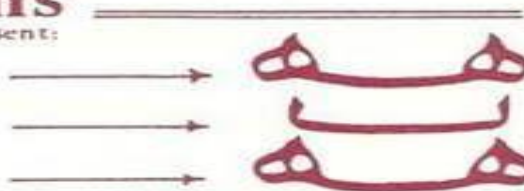
### Purpose and Meaning of the *Bahá'í Ringstone Symbol*

The purpose of the symbol that appears on Bahá'í ringstones and other Bahá'í identity jewelry is a visual reminder of God's purposes for man, and for Bahá'ís in particular. Bahá'í identity jewelry often is a conversation starter about the Faith and may be considered a teaching and proclamation aid.

#### What it means

The three levels of the design represent:

- the world of God, the Creator,
- the world of His Manifestations,
- and the world of man.



The vertical line joins the three horizontal bars together in the same way that the Divine Messengers of God form the link between the world of God and the world of man. The twin five-pointed stars on either side of the design represent the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, the twin Messengers of God for this age.

The ringstone symbol was designed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá <sup>1</sup> and rendered by Mishkin-Qalam, a close companion of His and the leading calligrapher of Persia. <sup>2</sup>

The Ringstone symbol used on this design is a reproduction of the original design by Mishkin-Qalam.



<sup>1</sup> 'Abu'l-Qásim Fa'zi, *Explanation of the Emblem of the Greatest Name*, p. 3.  
<sup>2</sup> 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Memorials of the Faithful*, p. 97.

#### Answers to the Quiz:

1)She had a kanji test at school that day. 2)Mother's necklace. 3)Mona thought the jewel was magic. 4)"O God, Thou art more a friend to me than I am to myself."5)No. 6) It was Mother's Baha'i necklace that Asma broke and so Mother gave it to Mona. 7) The Baha'i ring stone symbol. 8) She studied hard. 9) God helps us by showing us the right direction, but we have to work hard to achieve it. 10) To remind us that we are spiritual beings and should act good and kind to everyone.



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