

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 230

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*“The Creator of all
is One God.”*

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Once upon a time in Okinawa

Once upon a time in Okinawa, there were five little Bahá'í children. Every morning before they went to school, they would gather in the tatami room with Mother and Father for tea, fresh bread and morning prayers. After prayers, Mother would always read to them from the Bahá'í Writings. One day, Mother read "It is the duty of all Bahá'ís to teach."

Riaz said in a loud voice, "Mom, we are Bahá'ís, aren't we?"



"Yes, of course you are, Riaz," said Mother.

"Then we have to teach too, but how can little kids teach? No one is going to listen to us!" shouted Riaz. (He seldom talked in a quiet voice.)

"Well," said Mother, "I guess you will just have to teach other children!"

"How can we do that?" asked Shahla. "We can't give our friends any of the Bahá'í pamphlets; they're just too hard to read."

"Hmm," said Mother. "Maybe you can make a pamphlet, just for kids!"

They all thought that was a great idea! All five of the children ran to get paper, pencils and crayons, and then they all sat down in the tatami room, ready for work. Anisa looked at Shahla, Shahla looked at Riaz, Riaz looked at Asma, Asma looked at Mona and then, they all looked at Mother.

"Where do we begin?!" asked Mona.

Mother smiled and asked them, "What do you think is the most important thing that Bahá'u'lláh taught the world? What do you think the world most needs to know so that everyone will be happy?" The children thought and thought.

Finally Riaz said, "They need to know that God is one, man is one, and all the religions are one." Everyone burst out laughing.

"That's the words to a song!" everyone shouted.

"That's OK," said Mother, "you could put that into a pamphlet, and children would understand that, wouldn't they?" All the children agreed with that. "So how do we show it so that children who can't read very well can understand it?"



"We can draw pictures," said Anisa, who loved to draw.

"Yes, for `God is one` we can draw a big sun with the word God on it, and the rays of the sun warming all the people on the earth." said Asma.

"I know, I know," said Mona. "For `Religions are One` we can have a big school with teachers in different classrooms and each teacher can be one of the Manifestations of God." She was getting very excited about this project.

"Yes," said Shahla, "One classroom can have a blackboard with the name Jesus on it, one with Buddha, one with Muhammad and one with Bahá'u'lláh."

"And children sitting at their desks studying what the teachers say." piped in Anisa.

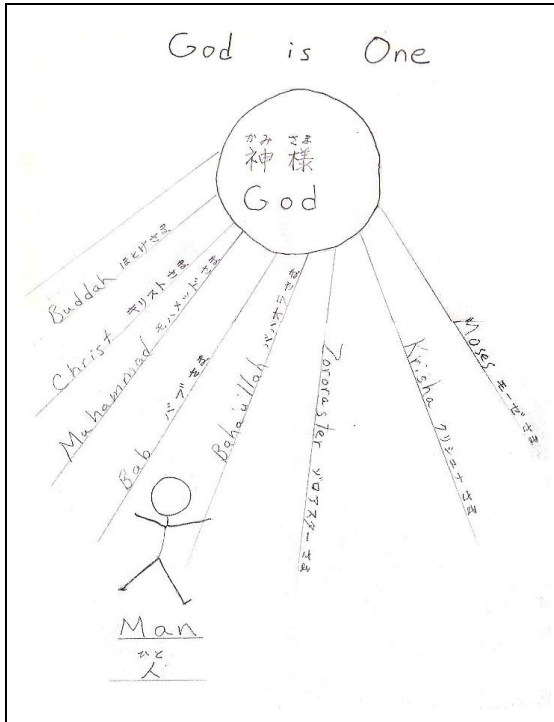
"And for `Oneness of Mankind` we can have a bunch of kids holding hands in a circle around the world!" yelled Riaz, jumping up and down.

So the children got busy and started drawing and coloring their pictures. When it was all finished they put it together to look like a book. It was really too big to be a pamphlet, but it made a very nice thing to show their friends when they came over to play. The five little children were happy because they felt like they were doing what Bahá'u'lláh wanted them to do.

Can you think of what you could put in a pamphlet to share with your friends all the good things that Bahá'u'lláh taught us? Try it!



The Children's Pamphlet



Buddah せんせつ 4年

Christ せしつ 5年

Bahai'llah せんせつ 6年

God is One

GOD IS ONE (調)

God is one, man is one
カッド イスワン、マン イスワン
And all the religions are one
アンド アール オフ リリジヤンズ アーワン
Land and sea, hill and valley
ランド アンド シー ヒール アンド ヴァリー
Under the beautiful sun
アンダー ザ ビューティフル サン
God is one, man is one
カッド イスワン、マン イスワン
And all the religions agree
アンド アール オフ リリジヤンズ アグリー
When everyone learns the three onenesses
ウヘン エヴリワン ラーンス ザ スリー ワンネス
We'll have world unity!
ウィール ハヴ ワールド ユニティ!

神も人も	神も人も	kami mo hito mo
歌えもひとつ	歌えもひとつ	utaemo hitotsu
海にも山も谷も	海で手をつなげば	umi ni mo yama no hikeri kagayaku
光輝く	世界はひとつ	kami mo hito mo oshie mo hitotau
		mina de iso tsunageba seka! wa hitotau

God is One

We pray to God every day. We ask “Please let me have a good day today”, or think about what happened and reflect on the day we just had, and share what we are thinking and feeling in our hearts with God.

But Who is God?

God is the Creator of all things. Only God can really understand Himself.

I'll try and explain:

God created the universe. The world we live in, its mountains and rivers, the forests, deserts and seas were all created by God. All the animals and insects, birds and fish, even human beings like you and me were also created by God. All the creatures and things in this world were all made by God. God created all these things Himself.

God created us because He loves us. So, we have to love Him back, and obey the laws and teachings He gives us.

Human beings can never understand God's essence. But in every age God sends us Manifestations of God, Who tell us what God wants us to do, and His purpose for us. These Manifestations of God are teachers who tell us what God wants us to learn. These teachers tell us whether or not we're living as God wants us to live, and how we can truly be happy.

Some of the Manifestations of God are Buddha, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, and the Manifestations of God for this age, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

We should try and study the things Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb taught us, and grow to love God more and more every day.



Virtues Page

Reverence

Reverence is about knowing what's important and special. It's about always showing respect and love towards God and His creation.

Bahá'u'lláh tells us that God has created us all, that we are all His children. So we should always have a respectful and loving attitude towards Him and the whole world, which He created. When you say prayers and thank God for all the things He has given us, reverence is the sense of wonder, love and gladness you have towards Him.

If we are disrespectful of God, or treat His creation badly, we are not being reverent. That's why you should always be quiet and respectful when someone is praying, because they are talking to God. That's also why you should be loving and respectful towards all people, as well as the Earth and all its trees, flowers, animals, seas, mountains and rivers, because God created everything.



What would you do to practice reverence in these situations:

You walk into the room when someone is saying a prayer.

You're outside and you see a very beautiful flower or tree.

A Christian friend of yours shows you her copy of the Holy Book of Christianity, the Bible.

You go to a place of worship like a temple, a shrine or a church.



Nine Pointed Star Mosaic

Material

Paper plate

Tooth picks

Wax paper

Paper clip

Kami nendo (paper clay)

White glue (watered down)

Colored beads and stones

Paint brush

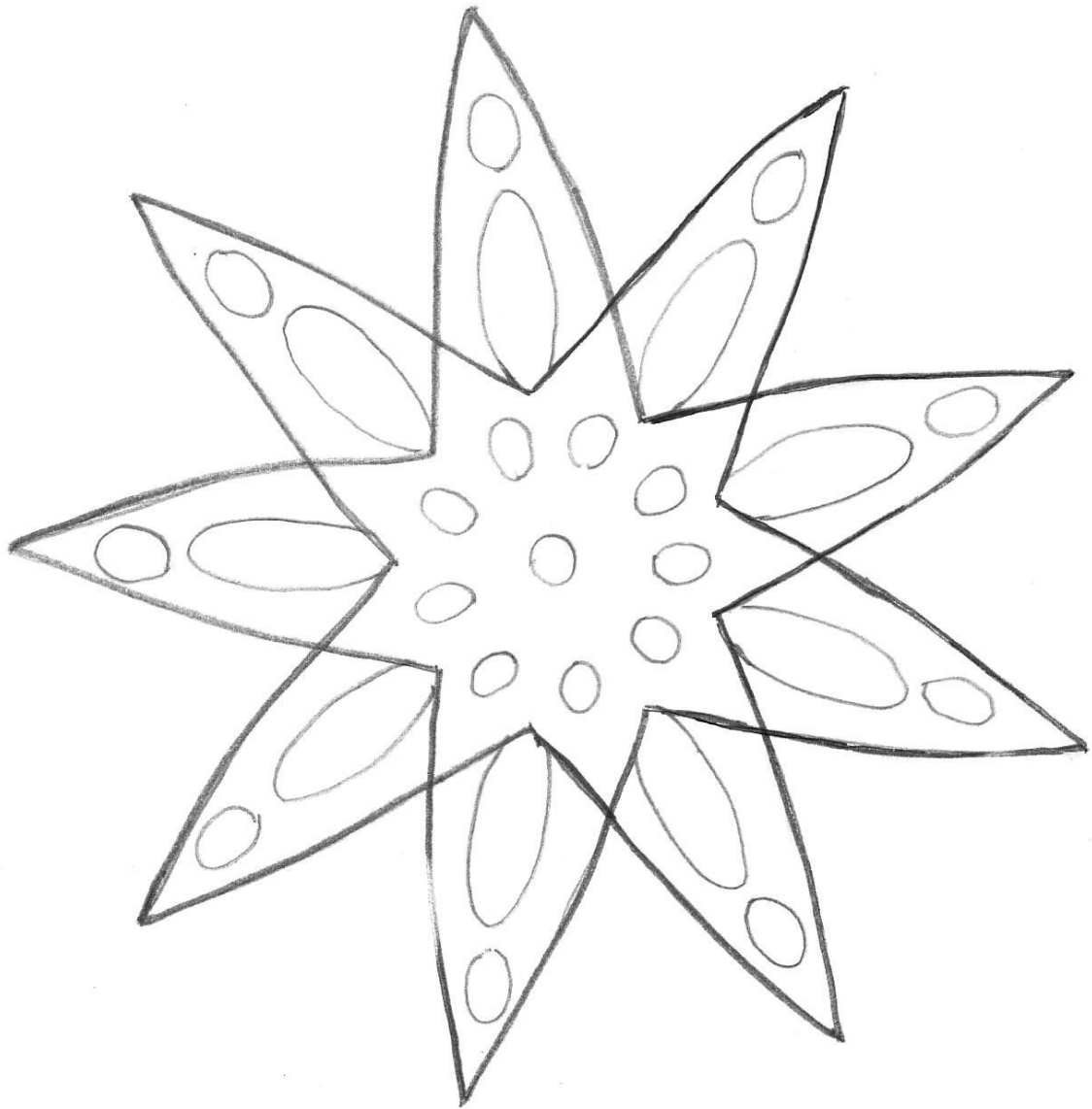
All can be found at the 100 yen shop

1. Trace the 9 pointed star onto the wax paper.
2. Spread the *kami nendo* thickly onto the paper plate, place the wax paper with the star over it, and poke holes through the paper onto the *kami nendo*, following the lines of the star.
3. Remove the wax paper and put beads on the outline made by the holes. Fill in the star with pretty stones and beads.
4. Put a paper clip on the back of the *kami nendo*.
5. When dry, paint your mosaic with watered down white glue.



It should look something like this when you finish!

Copy the Star



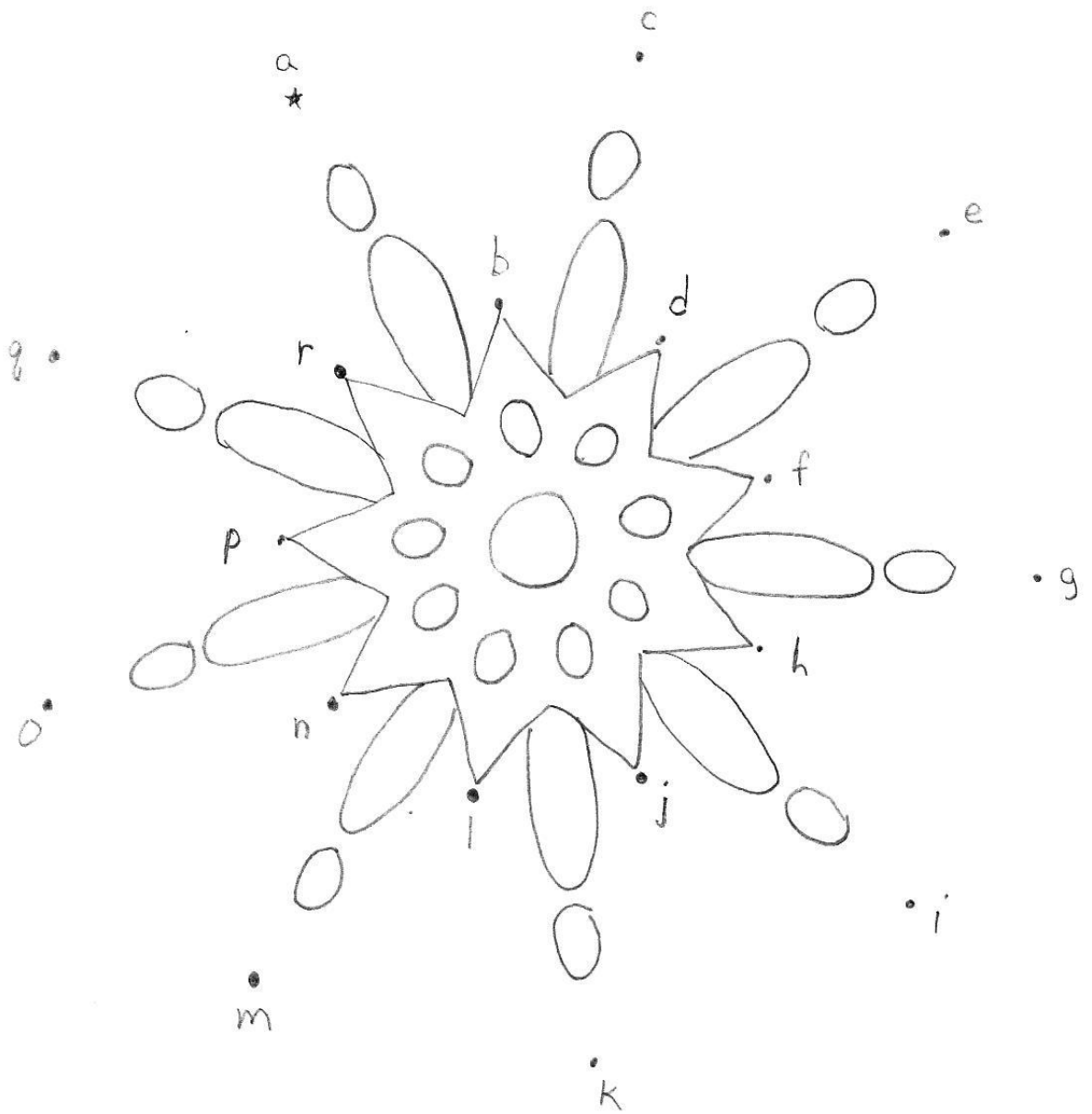
From a to b,

From b to c,

Follow the dots,

To make a star,

Then color it beautifully!



Hello Minna!

Hello Minna is where we show pictures of Bahá'í children's activities all around Japan. Why not send pictures of what you've done to *Hiru no Hoshi*?



Fukuoka Children's Class

Candle making in
Kumamoto Children's Class –



Amagasaki Children's Class

Parents' Page

These days there are many approaches to education. In the modern world, full of materialism and strife, parents and teachers constantly wonder how and what to teach children. In Japan, the education of children is also a hot issue. Children's lives are very full with educational activities - school, *juku*, extra-curricular clubs, English conversation classes. Everybody knows that education is important, everyone is concerned with the question of how to bring up the people who will, in the future, be running the world?

What is the right approach?



Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we should:

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.

(Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings, p. 259)

This is an extremely positive attitude to education! Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we're all full of amazing potential, the value of which is inestimable! Not just a bit, not just a lot, but so much that we can't even begin to guess! In every child, in every person! Isn't that exciting?



However, all this potential, this 'mine rich in gems of inestimable value' won't just jump out of the person. The only thing that can do it is, Bahá'u'lláh tells us, education. That's why education is so important, and why our children must be educated, because it's the vital key to unlock the potential of everyone.

But what kind of education?

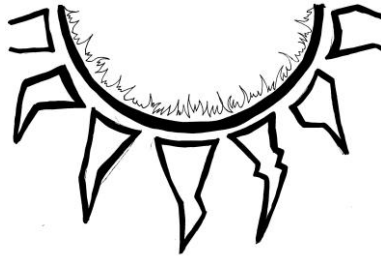
‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us:

Good behaviour and high moral character must come first, for unless the character be trained, acquiring knowledge will only prove injurious. Knowledge is praiseworthy when it is coupled with ethical conduct and virtuous character; otherwise it is a deadly poison, a frightful danger. A physician of evil character, and who betrayeth his trust, can bring on death, and become the source of numerous infirmities and diseases.

(Compilations, Scholarship, p. 21)

So these gems of knowledge, this great potential, the amount of which we can't begin to guess, can be dangerous. We need to educate children not only in English and Japanese, math and science, music and art, but also in virtues and morals. That way when we unlock all this potential in our children, they can use their knowledge for good, and work to make this world a better place.





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. Please send all stories and pictures to vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

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