

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 237

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*“Verily
thou hast come
by the command
of God.*

*Thou hast appeared
to speak of Him.*

*Thou hast been created
to serve Him
who is the Dear,
the Beloved.”*

-Baha'u'llah

What the Quote Means

As soon as baby is born, the Baha'i father whispers this quote, three times in the baby's ears. It is the first words the baby hears spoken to him. **"Verily thou hast come by the command of God".....**means, you have come because God has ordered it.

"Thou hast appeared to speak of Him".....means, you should always talk about God and not ever forget about Him.

"Thou hast been created to serve Him who is the Dear, the Beloved".....means, you are to always obey and do everything God wants you to do because He loves you.

So, the first thing a baby hears said to him as soon as he is born is why he was created, and how he should live.

It is a very good thing to remember every day. We are here because God wanted us to be, and we need to do what God wants us to do, every day of our whole life. How do we know then, what God wants us to do? The only way we can know this for sure is from the Manifestations (Great Teachers) of God. Do you remember who some of them are? Yes, Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad, and Baha'u'llah are some of them. Baha'u'llah is the most recent, so He has the most recent news from God. We learn from Baha'u'llah what God wants us to do.

When we get older, we will say the Obligatory Prayer* every day. This reminds us every day, what are father said to us on the day we were born, why we were created and what we need to do. Obligatory means "you have to do it". Just like you have to eat every day, for your body to stay healthy, you have to remind yourself every day why you are here on earth, to keep your soul healthy and on the right path towards God.



Here are some stories about children that live in Japan, now. The stories show how these children learned to follow one or more of God's teachings. As you read the stories, try and think, about what teaching from God (virtue) the children learned in each story. I will ask you in the quiz.....so read carefully, and think.



Don't Cry (Nakanaide ne)

Once upon a time, there was a little girl living on an Island in Okinawa with her parents who had come from America. The little girl's name was Shirin.

When Shirin's mom took her to Kindergarten for the first time she was very frightened. All Shirin knew was English, because that is what her parents spoke at home, here everyone one was speaking Japanese.

The children gathered around Shirin, they all wanted to touch her blond hair and stare at her big eyes and light complexion. This frightened Shirin even more. After Mommy had left, Shirin could stand it no more and so she started to cry. The children were surprised. "Why is the strange girl crying?" "We like her, we don't want her to cry!" "We didn't hurt her!"

The children all started talking at once, which just made Shirin more frightened. The wise teacher gave Shirin a hug and told the other children... "say this to Shirin, 'I love you!'" It was the first English words the class was to learn. They each said, "I love you." to Shirin, and sure enough it brought a smile to the tear streaked little face.

The children learned to all play and have fun together, but whenever Shirin would become frightened and begin to cry, because she couldn't understand what was being said around her, the children would remember the magic words. "I love you". And Shirin would stop crying and smile.

At the end of the year when the children were graduating and going to 1st Grade the teacher asked them about the English they had learned while Shirin was in the class. She asked them, "What does 'I love you' mean? The children all answered. "It means, 'nakanaide ne' 'Don't Cry!'" The teacher laughed, but then she thought about it and said, "I guess it **does** mean that!"

The Doll

Little Sara was about 10 years old the day that her aunt took her and her cousin, Mary, with her when she went to visit a friend across town. Mary was only 7 then and was very excited that her big cousin, Sara, was going with them. When they got to the house the ladies sat in the front room drinking tea and chatting. Sara and Mary tried very hard to be little ladies and drink their tea with the grownups but soon they got bored and started looking around at all the interesting little things the lady had on her shelves and tables. “Look, Mary at the cute little ceramic horse.”

Mary liked the set of tiny kittens that were on top the bookshelf. She pretended that they were alive and were playing. Sara said. “Be careful, don’t touch it or we will get into trouble!” Before long Mary’s mother said, “OK girls,



let’s go. Get your coats!” As Sara and Mary were putting on their coats, the kind lady went into the back room and brought them 2 treasures, a carved wooden jewelry box and a beautiful antique doll.



They were both beautiful in their own way, but neither of the girls could take their eyes off of the wondrous doll. It had a ceramic face and old fashion velvet clothes. Remembering their manners both Sara and Mary smiled and said in their sweetest voice. “Thank you, ma’am.” Once they got into the car, though, their sweetness melted away! “She gave it to me!” shouted Mary, “No, she gave it to me!” replied Sara. “Besides I’m older, I should decide!” demanded Sara. “I’m littler, and dolls are for little girls! Let me have it!” shouted Mary. Mary’s mother was getting very angry, but still the girls could not come to an agreement. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, Mary said very nicely, “Here Sara, I want you to have the doll, I will take the jewelry box.” Sara happily cuddled the doll in her lap and peace was restored to the car. After awhile though, Sara started feeling bad. She remembered the lessons she had learned in the Baha’i Children’s classes about generosity and caring about others more than yourself. Mary was younger than her, but she had learned those lessons better than Sara had! The more she thought about it, the worse she felt. The beautiful doll didn’t make her happy any longer. It was just a reminder of how immature she had acted. That lesson remained with Sara all her life. And even as a grownup she sometimes remembers that doll, and reminds herself not to be attached to things, and to think of others before herself.



The Kanji Test

Once there was a little girl living in the Northern part of Japan. Her name was Adora. Her parents were from Iran but, Adora had lived all of her life in Japan. Adora worked very hard to get good grades at school, but because her parents didn't speak Japanese to her or to each other, it was hard for Adora to get good grades on the Japanese tests. The hardest ones were the kanji (Chinese Character) tests.

One morning Adora was struggling to remember the right sounds for the kanji character on the Japanese test. The night before their family had guests visiting until late at night, and she was needed to help entertain the guests so she couldn't study for the test as much as she wanted to.

Suddenly, the boy in front of Adora bent over to pick up the eraser that he had dropped on the floor. While he was bent over, Adora saw the answers that he had written. This boy was one of the best students in the class and always had the right answers. "Oh no!" thought Adora. "His answers are different from mine. He must be right."

Adora thought very hard, she really wanted a good grade on this test. It would be so easy to change her answers and no one would know. She almost did erase her answers and put the ones she had seen, but then, she remembered what she had learned from the teachings of Baha'u'llah. "Let your eye chaste, your hand faithful, your tongue truthful and your heart enlighten." So, she decided to do the honest thing and keep her own answers, even if they were wrong.

As she skipped home from school that day she had a smile on her face, it felt good to do the right thing.

She ran into the house and flew into the arms of her mother. "Look Mom! I got a 100% on my kanji test! I had the right answers and the smart boy had the wrong ones and because I didn't copy his answers I got 100%!"

Adora learned a very good lesson that day. Not just what is the right sound to the kanji, but what is the right sound for your heart.

Quiz

1. When does the father whisper this quote in the baby's ears?

2. Why does he do that?

3. In the quote, why were we created?

4. What are we always suppose to do?

5. From whom do we learn how should we act every day?

6. In the first story, "Nakanaide" what did the children at the kindergarten learn?

7. In the second story, what virtue did the girls, Sara and Mary, learn?

8. In the third story, what virtue did Adora learn the importance of?

9. What was the time you learned an important virtue? Write a story and send it to me.

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



The answers are on the Parents Page.

From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots

and what do you see?

Then color it nicely.



Waxed Paper/Dried Flower Quote



Waxed Paper

Tissue

White glue

Felt Pen (Fine tip Magic Marker)

Favorite Quote

2 thin, small sticks

Dried flowers or leaves

Put a piece of waxed paper over the quote you like. You can enlarge the quote on a copy machine if it is too little. Trace the words of the quote with the felt pen. If the quote is too long, just use the best parts. A couple of sentences are enough.

Glue the dried leaves or flowers around the quote. Glue the small sticks to the top and bottom of the quote to make it like a scroll. Get one piece of tissue and separate the 2 pieces that are stuck together. Place the tissue to cover the whole picture. Put a couple of tablespoons worth of white glue into a cup and add a little water to make it thin. With a big paint brush, gently spread the watery glue over the tissue covering the quote, the dried flowers and the sticks. Be careful to not tear the tissue. If you do, place a little bit of another tissue on top. (make sure you separate the 2 tissues stuck together first).

Let the whole picture dry. When it is dry the flowers and words become very clear and you have a beautiful picture to hang on the wall.



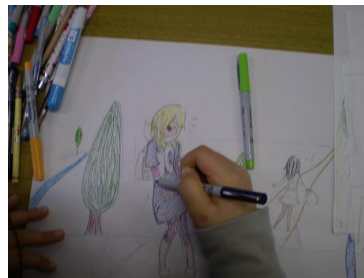
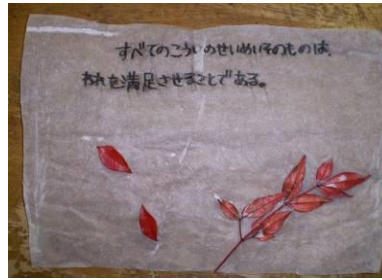
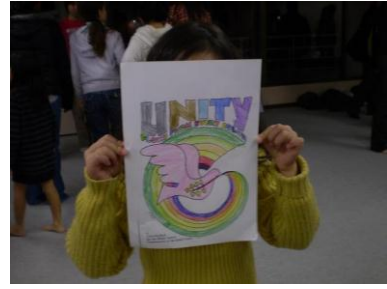
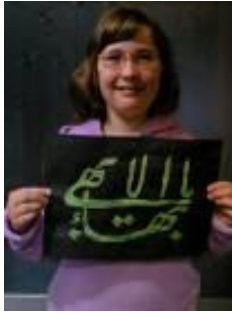
*Thanks to Anna Gardener's mom, Karen, for teaching us this.

Photos Of Winter School





Art Page



Parents Page

Childhood is the time when we can, most easily learn the virtues we will need our whole life, to make us, and those around us, healthy and happy. We need to be on guard for teachable moments. When a child makes a mistake, we need to avoid the instant reaction of getting angry, to keep calm, think what virtue is lacking and to help the child understand how they can put that virtue into practice. Most important, to notice the times when a child shows a virtue, and praise that virtue. We need to remember to....praise the child's acquiring of a virtue, not, the child himself. For example...."That was a very generous thing you did."....not "You are generous." We all only reflect virtues; none of us are that virtue.

Hiru no Hoshi will be looking for stories from you and your children on virtues they have learned, as we examine in the next few Issues our purpose in life and how we can achieve that purpose...Photos and art projects would be nice too.

"Training in morals and good conduct is far more important than book learning. A child that is cleanly, agreeable, of good character, well-behaved, even though he be ignorant; is preferable to a child that is rude, unwashed, ill natured, and yet becoming deeply versed in all the sciences and arts. The reason for this is that the child who conducts himself well, even though he be ignorant, is of benefit to others, while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even though he be learned. If, however, the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light."

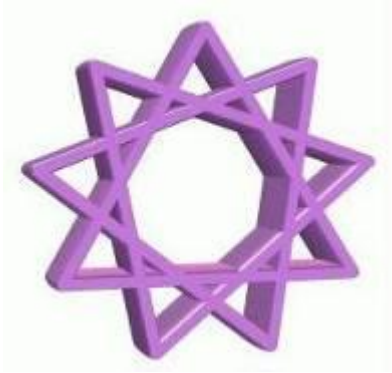
- 'Abdul'-Baha



***Obligatory Prayer:** *"I bear witness oh my God, that Thou hast created me to know Thee and to worship Thee. I testify at this moment to my powerlessness and to Thy might, to my poverty, and to Thy wealth. There is none other God but Thee, the Help in Peril, the Self –Subsisting."*

-Baha'u'llah

1) Right after the baby is born. 2) To let the baby know why he was created. 3) Because God has commanded it. 4) We should remember God and think about Him. 5) From the Great Teachers, in this day, Baha'u'llah. 6) Love, Compassion. 7) Generosity, Kindness 8) Honesty



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 hirunohoshi@gmail.com or vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

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