



# Hiru no Hoshi

No. 241

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*“Do ye know  
in what cycle  
ye are created  
and in what age ye exist?...  
the age of the Sun  
of the Horizons  
and  
the beautiful springtime  
of His Holiness  
the Eternal One!”*

*Abdu'l-Baha*





## *What does that mean?*

This quotation is asking us if we realize what a wonderful time we live in. It is saying that we live in the time of the Spiritual Spring. The phrases “The Sun of the Horizon” and “His Holiness the Eternal One” are two different ways to say “God”.

It means that this is the time when God has sent mankind a new Teacher to tell us all the things that God wants us to know and do.

Just as spring is the beginning of everything in the physical world....so is the Spiritual Springtime the beginning of a whole new world of peace and unity.

We are really lucky to live at such a wonderful time. We should be thankful that we were chosen to be the ones living now at this special time.





The children were having a picnic with Mother and Daddy. It was a beautiful spring Sunday. Daddy had driven them around Okinawa all morning, letting them choose any

playground they liked, to go and play in, until they got tired. Then everyone would pile into the car and go until someone else spotted a fun looking playground. Daddy would again stop and let them play. Mother and Daddy would sit on the bench and watch. They had been at it for hours. Now they were all at a nice park near home eating lunch under the trees. Mother sighed and said, "Isn't this springtime wonderful! Everything smells so clean and fresh! We are so lucky to be alive now, in this Spiritual Springtime!"

"Spiritual Springtime? What does that mean Mommy?" asked Shahla, as she munched on her peanut butter sandwich and reached for another potato chip. Little Anisa was busy playing with a ladybug and didn't pay any attention, but the other three kids looked up at Mother for the answer to that question.

"Well," began Mother, "every year at springtime, the earth is renewed. New plants and baby animals can be seen. Everything is fresh and new. It is a reflection of a greater spiritual truth. Every Spiritual Springtime, The Great Being we call God, who is the Creator of the universe, renews the spiritual life of the world. It is the age of a new Manifestation of God."

"Man a who?" asked Anisa, suddenly interested, because her lady bug had flown away. Mona, Asma and Riaz laughed. "Silly girl," said Riaz.

"Manifestations of God are the Great Teachers God sends people so that they can know about Him," explains Asma. "Yeah," says Riaz, "Jesus, Moses, and Buddha!" "And," continued Shahla, "Muhammad, The Bab and Baha'u'llah".

"Well, I am so glad you guys were paying attention in Children's Classes!" said Daddy, "It didn't look like you were!" With that everyone laughed.

"So, every time one of these Great Teachers came, it was a Spiritual Springtime," began Mother, "then it became Summer, when there were so many strong believers, and civilization advanced, and then Autumn when people started to forget the teachings of God, and finally Winter when almost everyone had forgotten about God, and it was cold and unfriendly.....until a new Springtime, with a new Teacher." "So, who is the Great Teacher for this new Spiritual Springtime?" asked Mother. "I know! I know! I

know!” shouted little Anisa, jumping up and down. All eyes turned on Anisa, which was exactly what she wanted. “OK,” said Mona, smiling, “Who?” “Baha’u’llah!” shouted Anisa, very proud of herself. And everyone clapped. Mother continued, “Just like in spring, with the little green sprouts popping up we can begin to see little changes in this cold world of spiritual winter. Women are becoming equal to men. People are forgetting their prejudices against each other. Countries are beginning to work together for the good of the world. People are seeing that environmental problems, poverty, war, natural disasters, and all the other problems facing the world can only be solved if all the countries, religions and peoples of the world work together.” Daddy who was usually very quiet added, “The Spiritual Springtime is different in one way from the physical spring we see every year. The physical spring is the same every year, but The Spiritual Springtime gets better and better every time it comes. The Light gets brighter and brighter. It’s just like in the days when my grandparents were young. Then everyone only had candles or lanterns to light their homes. Now everyone has electric lights. Every time a New Teacher comes knowledge increases and the world gets better and better, and civilization grows. And now with the coming of Baha’u’llah, He has brought us a World Civilization.”

“Don’t we celebrate the Spiritual Springtime every year at Naw Ruz?” asked Mona. “And at Ridvan too, right?” asked Asma.

“Yes we do,” said Mother. “Very good Mona, and Asma! Naw Ruz means New Year, it is the first day of spring, and the first day of our New Year, and it reminds us of this wonderful, New Spiritual Springtime. Ridvan too, reminds of Spiritual Springtime. It is when Baha’u’llah, in the Garden of Ridvan, announced He was the Newest Manifestation of God. Maybe with the Twin Manifestations, The Bab and Baha’u’llah, we need Twin Celebrations for this Spiritual Springtime,” Mother said laughing.

“Yay! Spring!” shouted Anisa. “Yay! Spring!” shouted all the kids, laughing at Anisa.

With that Daddy grabbed the ball and said, “Let’s play dodge ball! Asma and I will be ‘it’; the rest of you get in the middle!” Everyone scrambled up to go and play....and the birds sang in the trees.





## *Ridvan*

Little Anisa had been “helping” Mother make candle holders out of paper clay. They had just finished painting the last one when Mona, Shahla, Asma and Riaz came running in from School. “Oh what are you guys making?” asked Shahla. “They are for the Ridvan candles. Look we made 12 of them!” “Ridvan Candles?” asked Shahla. Anisa held one up and said, “I don’t know what Ridvan candles are, but aren’t they pretty!” Mona and the boys laughed. “They are for the Festival of Ridvan,” Mona said. “I guess you were too little to remember from last year.” “Me too, I think,” said Shahla, “I don’t know either.” “We light one for each day when we are saying prayers in the morning,” said Asma. “The three big candles are for the three Holy Days, Right Mom?” broke in Riaz. “Wow, that’s right you guys, I’m impressed you remember, go on, keep talking.” Mother said smiling. Mona made a start, “It is for the twelve days when Baha’u’llah was in the Garden of Ridvan.” “Oh, Oh, I remember the roses” shouted Shahla.

“I remember the red roan horse Baha’u’llah rode!” shouted Riaz.

“OK, OK, I think we should start at the beginning,” said Mother.

“Baha’u’llah had been living in Baghdad which is now in Iraq. He had been sent there by the Persian Government to keep His new Teachings of love and unity away from the Persian people. But many Persians would go all the way to Baghdad to find Baha’u’llah to learn from Him, so the Government decided to send Him further away. Baha’u’llah’s friends were so, so sad when they heard that He would be leaving them that Baha’u’llah arranged a way

to cheer them up. He rented a little island on a big river. He called the little island “Ridvan” which means Paradise, or Heaven. It was a beautiful garden with lovely roses everywhere. They all pitched tents there, and many, many of His followers gathered to learn the last bits that He could teach them. There were so many roses piled up every morning when the friends gathered together that they couldn’t see each other over the roses. And at night the nightingales sang all





night long. During those twelve days Baha'u'llah told them that He was the Great Teacher from God that everyone had been waiting for, the Muslims and the Christians and the Jews. Everyone was so happy and excited. Most of them had thought that Baha'u'llah was a very great and special Teacher, but this was the first time He actually told them that He was the long awaited Promised One. On the 12<sup>th</sup> day, His family and a few of the friends who were going with Him all got ready. Baha'u'llah mounted a big red horse (a roan). Everyone was crying and trying to touch His feet or throw themselves under His horse because they didn't want to be separated from Him. Baha'u'llah told them to be brave and to serve God and mankind, the best that they could. Then they left Baghdad.

To this day all around the world people celebrate the Festival of the twelve Days of Ridvan, when the newest Manifestation of God came to guide mankind to make a new, Spiritual Springtime.

On the First Day of Ridvan we remember when Baha'u'llah first went over to the Ridvan Island, on the 9<sup>th</sup> we remember that His family went over to join Him, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> day is when they all left Baghdad.”



“I knew I remembered roses,” said Shahla.

“What’s a nightingale Mom?” asked Asma.

“It is a little brown bird that sings very beautifully, at night.

In the poems it is said that he sings because he is in love with the beauty of the rose. “

Mother got up and started cleaning off the table that had the left over clay and candles on it. The children helped her arrange the 12 candles on the front room table.

“So,” said Mother, “on April 21<sup>st</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will remember the Most Great Festival by lighting one of these candles while we say our Morning Prayers.” Anisa clapped her hands together and said, “And I helped make them!” Everyone laughed and clapped with her.

“OK,” said Mother, “Off to do your home work!” and she clapped her hands twice, which meant, “Hurry Up!”



## Quiz

1. What is meant by “Sun of the Horizon” and “The Eternal One”?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the special time that we live in?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did the children go on that spring morning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Mother explain a Spiritual Springtime was?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is another word for Great Teacher? (hint, Anisa thought it was “Man a Who?”)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Name some of the Manifestations of God.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Daddy say a Spiritual Springtime was different from an ordinary springtime?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who are “the twin Manifestations of God” for this Spiritual Springtime?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What does Ridvan mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What happened at the Garden of Ridvan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. On your own paper please draw a picture of “**What Spiritual Springtime looks like to you**”, and send it to Hiru no Hoshi for the next Issue.

The answers are on the Parents’ Page.





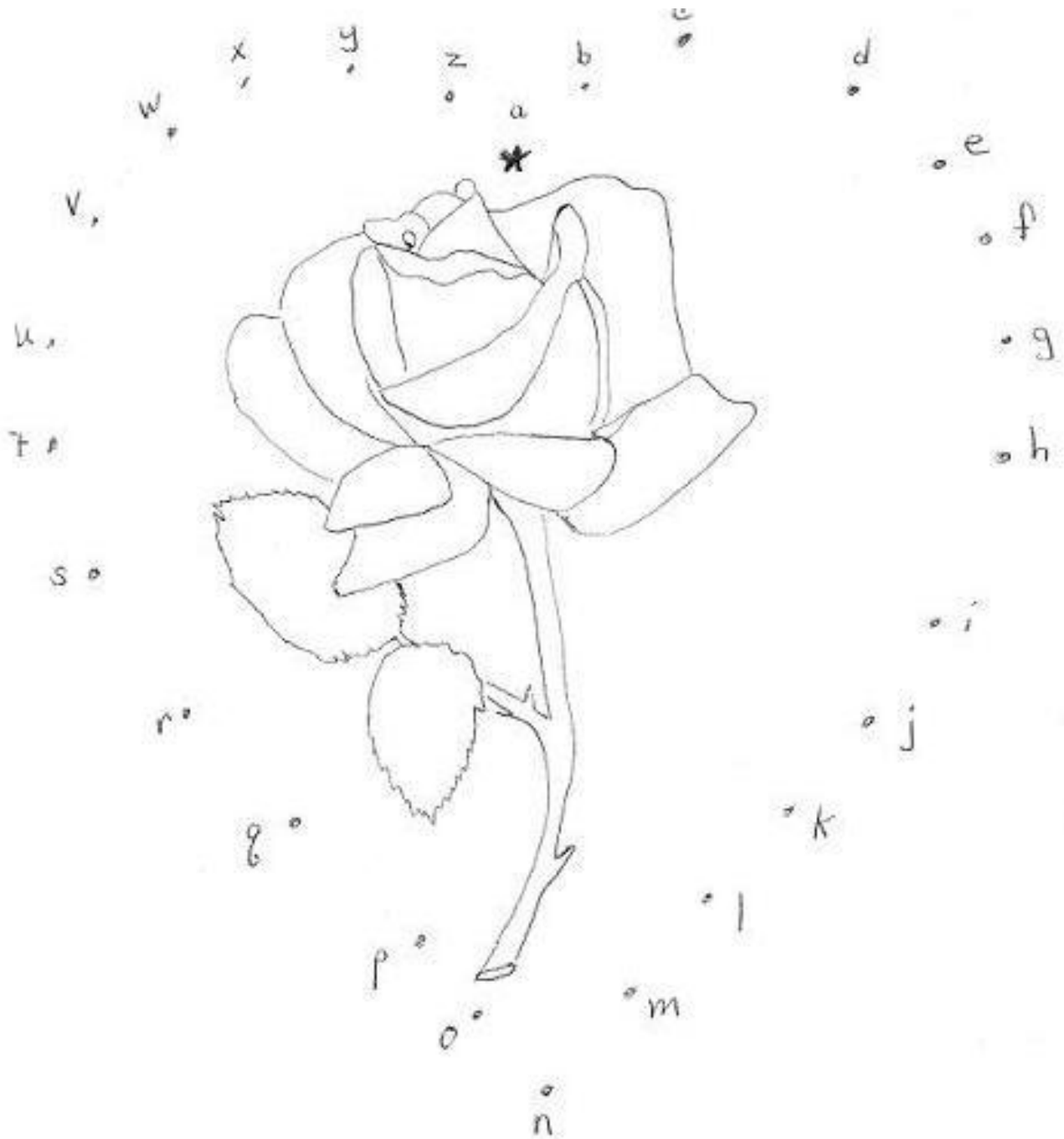
From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots

and what do you see?

A rose from your heart?



## Torn-paper Art





## Materials

Clear piece of plastic or waxed paper

Carbon Paper (1 piece)

Covered Cardboard (to glue the Rose on) can be purchased at a 100 yen shop.

Glue (for paper) and a brush to spread it with

Colored washi (Japanese handmade paper)

red (light and slightly darker), blue, green (light and slightly darker), grey and wine-colored

It is better if the paper is different shades on each piece, like tie-dyed.

## Method

1. Put the plastic or waxed paper on the numbered picture and trace it.
2. Tape it to the top of a covered cardboard (so you can see where the petals go).
3. Using the carbon paper trace #1 petal with onto the red paper. Trace the part of the petal you can't see, as the shape it probably is.
4. Gently tear the petal out of the paper ...the line down the middle you cut with scissors.
5. Brush glue on the petal and glue it to the covered Cardboard on the #1 petal space, under the clear paper, separating slightly the slit that was cut to make the vein of the flower.
6. Do the same thing to petal #2. Remember to trace the whole petal, not just the part you can see.
7. Continue with petals #3 - #9. Try to use lighter red for the lighter petals, and darker red for the darker petals. (# 4 is the whole big oval, while 5 # is a the smaller oval that goes on top of it.
8. Trace #10 out of the green paper...this includes the stem. These small pieces may be cut rather than torn.....Glue them onto their proper spaces. Then do #11 and #12 ... the leaf between them is in the same color, but the bottom part is cut rather than torn as it indicates a fold rather than the end of the leaf.
9. Use the grey color for #13 and the leaf beside it...that upper part is also cut, not torn as it is a fold too.
10. Do the last leaf in blue.
11. Cut the thorn and red long stem out of the wine- colored paper.
12. Remove the clear plastic.

Try this Torn Paper Art with a coloring book page.



14人の和歌古の絵  
教材No.T-99(15)



*Children in Japan*

Yamaguchi



Kumamoto



Tokyo

Takamatsu



Chicago



Guam







### *Parents' Page*

Let's try and make these Special Days, Family Events, as well as a Community Events, so that they will be happy memories for our children. Be creative and start family traditions of your own; Ridvan Candles, or a Ridvan Garden with roses that open up to verses each day, or a Fast Tree that the children can put a virtue egg on each day of the Fast so that you have a beautiful Virtues Egg Tree by the time it is Naw Ruz, or other ideas you can come up with.

Most importantly we need to get away from the idea of holidays being a time for "getting stuff" and to help the children understand the concept of Service. To understand that as humans the purpose of our life is to serve and help each other. So let's plan with the children ways they can work with us to brighten our homes and help our communities.

*"O Thou the Compassionate God. Bestow upon me a heart which, like unto a glass, may be illumined with the light of Thy love, and confer upon me thoughts which may change this world into a rose-garden through the outpourings of heavenly grace. Thou art the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thou art the Great Beneficent God."*

*-Abdul'-Baha'*

This is a very cute Esperanto Calendar with Babies on it, supplied by Dianne Lukes, for you to print out if you like.

<http://worldscouts.googlegroups.com/attach/b146cd9d79d7baa9/Kalendaro-2010.pdf?view=1&part=4&hl=eo>

Answers to the Quiz: 1) God. 2) The Spiritual Springtime. 3) To lots of playgrounds and parks. 4) The time of the New Teacher from God. 5) Manifestation of God. 6) Christ, Buddha, Muhammad, Moses, The Bab and Baha'u'llah. 7) The Spiritual Springtimes get better and better each time as man learns and progresses. 8) The Bab and Baha'u'llah 9) Paradise, or Heaven. 10) Baha'u'llah told the world He was the Promised One.



*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](mailto:hirunohoshi@gmail.com) or [vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp)*

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